



# The Story

January 2018

310 S. Main Street, Lexington NC 27292 • [www.fumclex.org](http://www.fumclex.org) • 336-248-2886

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## **From the Pastor's Corner**

Rearview mirrors, calendars and hope

With the turning of a calendar page, we leave behind one year and begin a new one, full of possibilities. The past is behind us, and the future stands before us. Isn't this how life works? For our family, 2017 is certainly a year we want to put behind us, hoping and praying for better health and strength that has so often alluded us this past year. I've said it many times (and many of you have said it to me) – we can't get out of 2017 fast enough!

And yet...the turning of a calendar page doesn't bring everything to an end. Sure, we'll close the books on some parts of 2017, but the truth is life goes on and most of those lingering concerns of life will go with us. That's life, even as we hope for better outcomes, and new opportunities, the things that follow us will be clearly visible in the rearview mirror.

As I look back on the year, beyond the rearview mirror, I am also keenly aware that our lives have been richly blessed this year, with friends, family and faith communities that have surrounded us and refused to allow us to give up hope. We have been carried by the strength of your love and prayers. Even in the midst of the struggle, we have been blessed. It has been a humbling journey, teaching me lessons of faith and hope along the way.

I've learned again how to pray the Psalms – drawing on the strength of ancient words. As the year comes to the close, my daily prayer time includes the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

*Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations,  
Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God...*

*(Psalm 90:1-2 Common English Bible)*

Into a New Year, with all of our hopes and dreams...and best of all, God is still our dwelling place!

Until we meet again...

Jamie Armstrong  
[jarmstrong1@wnccumc.net](mailto:jarmstrong1@wnccumc.net)  
828-292-3966 (cell phone)

PS. Thank you for your continued prayers and expressions of love and grace shown to me, Elizabeth and my family. My wound issues are as of yet ongoing, with a stubborn little place that is simply not healing, but we are trying everything! I will have a procedure (Cellutome Epidermal Transfer) on January 4th to hopefully help with the healing. Elizabeth's response to chemo continues to be amazing – her blood markers are good, and if all goes according to plan, she will finish her chemo regimen on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Then we hope and pray for a long remission. You can continue to follow Elizabeth's cancer story on [www.CaringBridge.org](http://www.CaringBridge.org) and enter the name Elizabeth Graves.

## **Flower Calendar for the Altar and Narthex 2018**

The flower calendar is displayed on the bulletin board in the main hallway. You are invited to sign up as soon as possible to place flowers on either the altar or in the narthex in honor or in memory of a loved one, celebration or event. Please contact Geryl Myers (336) 249-0455, if you have any questions. Be sure to contact Donna Huskins regarding the information to be printed in the bulletin for the date(s) you select.

## **Member Care Birthday Card Ministry**

Let us joyfully unite to remember the birthdays of our shut-ins and nursing home residents. Card collection baskets are located near the 4th Avenue entrance and the main hallway near the workroom. Pastor Doug will personally deliver the cards to these dear folks.

**January 14—Alvin Pope**

**January 19—Albert Gobble**

## **Dancing (and More!) with the Potential Stars**

**Sunday, January 28 (4p-6p) Smith Civic Center**

This fundraiser is based on the popular TV show that has swept the nation. In our local adaption, community members generously volunteer to perform to raise money for Project Potential. **The Briggs Family Singers: (Laurie, Sidney, Lyndon, Hadley and Jack)** are one of the performers that you may cast voted for to help raise money. Follow the link online: [projectpotential.net/dwts](http://projectpotential.net/dwts)

Project Potential was founded in 1994 by local businessman Tim Timberlake and former superintendent Jim Simeon. Their purpose for starting this program was to encourage more students in our community to enroll in a college or university after graduating from high school. As a result of their vision and commitment, Project Potential raised the funds needed to offer partial scholarships to 13 students in 1996.

Since its inception, the focus of Project Potential has expanded to meet the needs of a growing number of economically disadvantaged students in the Lexington City School System. With the addition of services that provide comprehensive support throughout high school, we are now able to identify and successfully address many of the obstacles our students face in the college application and enrollment process.

## **2018 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL and COMMITTEES**

- Chairperson: Linda Saintsing
- Recording Secretary: Glynda Smith
- Lay Member, Annual Conference: Max Lanning
- Lay Member, Annual Conference: Lauren Hall
- Lay Leader: Lauren Hall
- **ALL Committee Chairpersons**
- Boy Scout Ministry Coordinator: Robert Phelps
- President, United Methodist Men: Richard Foust
- President, United Methodist Women: Gay Smith
- Membership Secretary: Sandra Michael
- Senior Pastor: Rev. Jamie Armstrong
- Minister of Congregational Care and Adult Ministries: Rev. Doug Rowe
- Children's Ministries Coordinator: Amanda Bostick
- Director of Youth Ministries: Lee Mabe

**Honorary Members:** Margaret Beck, Adrian Neal, Jo Doris Beck, Bettye Gray, Miheepa Jones, Albert Gobble

## **Committee on Nominations - Rev. Jamie Armstrong, Chairperson**

2018: Ramona Phelps, Betty Caudill, Loyd Leonard; 2019: Jemmietta Allred, Rebecca Hinkle, Lynne Leonard; 2020: Carol Myers, Eddie Allred, Ann Easter  
Ex-officio: Lay Leader: [Lauren Hall](#)

## **Board of Trustees - David Stott, Chairperson**

2018: Don Van Hying, Lloyd Brown, Beverly McKinney; 2019: David Stott, Betty Pope, Mike Hall; 2020: Jim Dillon, Jennifer Everhart, Bill Distler; Ex-officio: Staff:

Senior Pastor (without a vote), Financial Secretary (without a vote)

**Kitchen Sub-Committee:**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS JANUARY 2018

## Worship

### Early Worship

1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30a  
Sanctuary

2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:30a  
Fellowship Hall

### Morning Worship

Each Sunday at 11:00a  
Sanctuary

## Sunday School

All Ages at 9:45a

## Children's Ministries

### Staffed Child Care

Birth—5 years  
Both Worship Services and  
Sunday School (Children's  
Ministry Area, Ground Floor)

### We Worship with the Children

Each Sunday during the 11:00a  
Morning Worship Service

### Children's Worship

Each Sunday following *We  
Worship with the Children*.  
K-3rd graders are invited to  
follow the Worship Leader to  
the Children's Ministry Area,  
Ground Floor.

January 7 Amanda Bostick

January 14 Christa Weeks

January 21 Laurie Briggs

January 28 Emy Garrett

### Children's Ministry (K-1st-2nd)

Wednesdays (6:30p-7:30p)

Children's Ministry Area

Ground Floor

### HIS Club (3rd-4th-5th)

Wednesdays (6:30p-7:30p)

Children's Ministry Area

Ground Floor

## Sermon Series:

*Seeking Christ*

## Sunday, January 7

### Epiphany Sunday

*A Brave New Year*

Ephesians 1:1-2:10

## Sunday, January 14

### Baptism of the Lord

*Down to the River*

Matthew 3:13-4:11

## Weekly Group Meetings

### Youth Choir

To be announced  
Choir Room

### Teens of Life Youth Ministry

Sundays at 5p  
Youth/Scout House

### Boy Scouts & Venturers

Mondays at 7p  
Youth/Scout House

### Cub Scouts

Mondays at 7p  
2nd Floor Classrooms

### Theology Pub

Tuesdays at 7p  
High Rock Outfitters

### Prayer Breakfast

Wednesdays at 7:45a  
Cagney's Restaurant

### Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 7p  
Choir Room

### Men's Devotion & Fellowship

Thursdays at 7:45a  
Biscuit King on Main Street

## Mid-Week Family Fellowship

Wednesdays at 6p  
Fellowship Hall  
Adults \$6 Child \$4  
Family \$20 (maximum)

### January 10

**Menu:** Pork Chops

**Program:** ALIVE Praise Band

### January 17

**Menu:** Steak Patty

**Program:** The Bible in Black and  
White

### January 24

**Menu:** Ham

**Program:** *Wild Cat Mountain*  
Boys Bluegrass Band

### January 31

**Menu:** Meatloaf

**Program:** Xander Bostick

## UPCOMING Events

### Lunch with the Pastors

Sunday, January 14 (12:15p)  
Fellowship Hall

## Monthly Meetings

### Church Office Closed

January 1—All Day

### United Methodist Women Group 2

No meeting in January

### Evangelism

Monday, January 8 (6p)  
Conference Room

### First UMC Book Club

January 9 (11:30a)  
Village Grill  
*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik  
Backman translated by Henning  
Koch

### United Methodist Women Group 12

No meeting in January or  
February—NEW schedule  
March through December

### Faithseekers Gathering

Thursday, January (7p)  
Home of Judy Deal

### Endowment

Sunday, January 14 (5:30p)  
Parlor

### Trustees

Sunday, January 14 (7p)  
Parlor

### Church Office Closed

January 15—All Day

### Newsletter Articles Due

January 15 for February Issue

### United Methodist Men

Sunday, January 21 (8:30a)  
Fellowship Hall

### Serve meal at Crisis

### Ministries

Tuesday, January 16 (5:45p)

### Missions Committee

Contact: Kim Miller

### Finance

Sunday, January 21 (7p)  
Parlor

### Amazing Grace Seekers

Tuesday, January 23 (7p)  
Home of Lynn Rowe

### Fidget Quilt Ministry

Tuesday, January 23  
(4:30p) and (7p)  
Home of Judy Deal

Calendar Events are subject to change—Refer to the Weekly Calendar in the bulletin or visit us on the web at [www.firstumclex.org](http://www.firstumclex.org)

### **Finance Committee - Paul Crago, Chairperson**

2018: T. J. Strickland, Paul Crago; 2019: Carol Stott, Jim Myers; 2020: Mike Niver, Horace Conner; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Lay Leader: Lauren Hall, Trustees: David Stott, SPRC: Asher Ellis, Lay Member to Annual Conference: Lauren Hall, Financial Secretary (without a vote)

### **Staff Parish Relations Committee - Asher Ellis, Chairperson**

2018: Kathy Oliver, Terri Beck, Tom Foust; 2019: Asher Ellis, Phil Torchio, Barbara McWhorter; 2020: Minnie Dukes, Lynne Leonard; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Lay Leader: Lauren Hall, Lay Member to Annual Conference: Max Lanning

### **Stewardship Committee - Robert Phelps, Chairperson**

2018: Steve Caudill, Robert Phelps; 2019: Jimmie Jean Hunt, Frank Cagle; 2020: Ramona Phelps, Christie Strickland; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Lay Leader: Lauren Hall, Finance: Paul Crago, Financial Secretary (without a vote)

### **Parsonage Committee - Donna Smith, Chairperson**

2018: Gail Biesecker, Kim Leonard; 2019: Donna Smith, Trean Ellis; 2020: Jill Hayes; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Trustees: Mike Hall

### **Evangelism & Church Growth - Doug Clayton, Chairperson**

2018: Doug Clayton, Chris Allred, Steve Jackson; 2019: Bob Burchette, Toni Burchette; 2020: Emy Garrett, Rick Samuels, Loyd Leonard; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Lay Leader: Lauren Hall, Membership Secretary: Sandra Michael

### **Christian Education - Jenny Varner, Chairperson**

Jenny Varner, Deborah Arnold, Judy Deal, Tom Norman, Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Children Ministries Coordinator, Director of Youth Ministries, Minister of Congregational Care and Adult Ministries

### **Sub-Committees**

**Children's Council:** Amanda Bostick, Children's Ministries Coordinator

Jenny Varner, **Chairperson**, Laurie Briggs, Judy Deal, Mary Niner, Woody Smith, Melinda Miller, Debra Craver, Christa Weeks, Joni Rivas

**Youth Council:** Lee Mabe, Director of Youth Ministries

Deborah Arnold, **Chairperson**, Emy Garrett, Dan Smith, Leslie Hall

**Adult Ministries:** Rev. Doug Rowe, Minister of Congregational Care and Adult Ministries  
Lynn Rowe

**Family Life:** Judy Deal, **Co-Chair**, William Deal, Tom Norman, **Co-Chair**, Mary Norman, Elizabeth O'Connell, Pete Murray, Cheri Murray, Steve Caudill, Betty Caudill

### **Mayme Weaver Preaching Mission - John McWhorter, Chairperson**

2018: Maywood Wilkerson, Cheri Murray; 2019: John McWhorter, Dan Smith; 2020: Larry Swing, DeLee Mabe; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Church Council Chair: Linda Saintsing, Trustees: David Stott

### **Missions Committee - Kim Miller, Chairperson**

2018: Buddy Taylor, Gay Smith, Gail Clayton; 2019: Judy Deal, Jenny Varner, Kim Miller; 2020: Kathy Conner, Christa Weeks, Rebecca MacNeilage, Mark Hall; Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor, Disaster Coordinator: William Deal

### **Member Care Committee - Helen Fitzgerald, Chairperson**

2018: Frances Sink, Karen Coleman, Suzanne Niver; 2019: Hilda Flynt, Harvey Dick, Stephanie Berrier, Amy Horn; 2020: Helen Fitzgerald, G. F. Smith  
Ex-officio: Staff: Minister of Congregational Care and Adult Ministries, Bereavement: Peggy Everhart

### **Scholarship Committee - Joyce Inabinett, Chairperson**

2018: Joyce Inabinett; 2019: Jane Hedrick; 2020: Libby Samuels  
Ex-officio: Trustees: Beverly McKinney, Church Council Chair: Linda Saintsing, Lay Leader: Lauren Hall, Christian Education: Jenny Varner, Staff: Senior Pastor

### **Worship & Music Committee - Wayne Michael, Chairperson**

2018: Becki Foust, Mike Fisher, Nancy Conrad; 2019: Kay Wilson, Elaine Cory; 2020: Wayne Michael, Abby Smith, Cheri Murray; Director of Music: Lee Mabe; Organist: Phyllis Jones, Head Ushers: Richard Foust, Jimmy Everhart, Altar Guild President: Geryl Myers, Sound: Ron Leonard, Staff: Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, Children's Ministries Coordinator

## **Endowment Committee - Olen Easter, Chairperson**

Investment Advisor: Steve Jackson, Ex-officio (without a vote), Accountant: Laurie Briggs, Legal Advisor: Clark Smith, Past Chair of Finance: Monty Oliver  
Ex-officio: Staff: Senior Pastor

**Representatives Appointed Annually:** Trustees: David Stott, Finance: Paul Crago, Church Council: Linda Saintsing, At-Large Member: Olen Easter

## **Archives & History Committee - Terri Beck, Chairperson**

Adrian Neal, Betsy Cook, Ramona Phelps, Curtis Leonard, Ginnie Easter, Peggy Everhart, Max Lanning, Jimmy Shoaf

**Other Officers of the Church:** Brotherhood/Sisterhood: William Deal

**Certified Lay Speakers:** Chris Allred, Lauren Hall

**Altar Guild** President: Geryl Myers • Vice President: Kay Wilson

Secretary: Wendy Norris • Treasurer: Terri Beck • **Staff:** Senior Pastor

2018—Joan Bisbee, Carolyn Briggs, Gail Clayton, Karen Coleman, Kathy Conner, Mary Kathryn Cooper, Jill Hayes, Rebecca MacNeilage, Cheri Murray, Mary Niner, Wendy Norris, Lynne Rowe, Libby Samuels, Glynda Smith

2019—Terri Beck, Debra Craver, Minnie Dukes, Gerda Elkins, Betty Frick, Diane Hedrick, Joyce Inabinett, Peggy Lamoureaux, Donna Long, Louise Van Hying, Kay Wilson, Judy Stoner, Barbara McWhorter, Suzanne Niver, Frances Sink, Toni Burchette, Donna Smith, Carol Stott

**Communion Stewards:** Jemmetta Allred, Gail Biesecker, Sandra Michael, Geryl Myers

## **Housekeeping Note**

Please do not leave items in the stairwell at the State Street entrance. The clutter has recently been removed and a “new” storage closet has been built. You may contact the church office if you need to access the closet.

## **SCOUTING FOR FOOD with Pack, Troop and Crew 200**

Our Boy Scouts are participating in the annual Scouting for Food drive in early February. Instead of the Scouts going door to door, you are invited to bring non-perishable food items (canned tuna/salmon, Ramen Noodles and canned vegetables) to the church on Sunday, **February 4 & February 11** and leave them in the collection area just outside of the workroom. If you prefer to make a cash contribution, we will have Scouts available at the back of the church to receive your monetary gifts. All food items and cash contributions will be delivered to Pastor’s Pantry. Thank you for your support of Pack, Troop, and Crew 200—Mickey McCrary

## **Coming in February—Six Week Church-Wide Lenten Study**

*The Creed* by Adam Hamilton

Do you have questions about foundational Christian truths such as the purpose of life? Believing that powerful answers are embedded in the Apostles’ Creed, Adam Hamilton examines it to explore *what* Christians believe and *why* it matters. Topics include: *God, Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, The Church and the Communion of Saints, The Forgiveness of Sins, and The Resurrection of the Body.*

**February Blood Drive Tuesday, February 20 (2:00p-6:30p) Fellowship Hall**

## **Teens of Life Youth Ministry Events & Happenings** **Day Trip—Skiing Saturday, February 3** **Details TBA**

Sunday, January 7	Happy New Year! No meeting
Sunday, January 14	Happy MLK Weekend! No meeting
Sunday, January 21	5:00p-6:30p Review of 2017 and Plans for 2018 — Details of Youth Day Trip—Skiing
Sunday, January 28	5:00p-6:00p Belize Mission Trip planning meeting with FBC at First Baptist Church

**For more information about Teens of Life Youth Ministry:**

**Lee Mabe, Director of Youth Ministry 336-248-2886 or [maestromabe@gmail.com](mailto:maestromabe@gmail.com)**

# The Story

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We're on the web!

[www.fumclex.org](http://www.fumclex.org)



## Sympathy

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to Larlie Mae Knight and family upon the death of her sister, Maude McCann from Henderson, NC, on October 28, 2017.

Sympathy of the ministers and the members of the congregation is extended to the family of Georgianna Hayes Niven upon her death on November 1, 2017.

Sympathy of the ministers and members of the congregation is extended to Jo Doris Beck and family upon the death of her sister, Billie Pickett Sink, on December 17, 2017.

## Church Staff

### Rev. Jamie Armstrong, Jr.

Senior Minister

[jarmstrong1@wncmcc.net](mailto:jarmstrong1@wncmcc.net)

### Rev. Doug Rowe

Minister of Congregational

Care and Adult Ministries

[drowe003@triad.rr.com](mailto:drowe003@triad.rr.com)

### Lee Mabe

Director of Music and Youth

[maestromabe@gmail.com](mailto:maestromabe@gmail.com)

### Phyllis Jones

Organist

[phyllis.smith@yadkin.k12.nc.us](mailto:phyllis.smith@yadkin.k12.nc.us)

### Amanda Bostick

Children's Ministries

Coordinator

[aebostick@gmail.com](mailto:aebostick@gmail.com)

### Kimberly Leonard

Toddler Nursery

### Alma Carlton

Financial Secretary

[acarlton@firstumclex.org](mailto:acarlton@firstumclex.org)

### Donna Huskins

Administrative Assistant

[dhuskins@firstumclex.org](mailto:dhuskins@firstumclex.org)

## Prayer Requests

Rev. Jamie Armstrong

Steve & Betty Caudill

Doug Clayton

June Craver

John & Judy Hench

Earl Hester

Miheepa Jones

Lib Samuels

John Scarff

Donna Smith

Paul Smith

Susan Terry

Dare Wilson

### Shut-Ins

Dot Kinsey

Caroline McCree

Evelyn Sink

### Alston-Brook

Isabelle Trimpey

### Bethany Woods (Albemarle)

Alvin Pope

### Brookdale

Opal Bloome

Betty Darr

### Brookstone

Albert Gobble

### Genesis House (Salisbury)

Julee Smith

### Rolling Green Village

(Greenville, SC)

Peggy Trollinger

### Spring Arbor (Albemarle)

Bonnie Cates

### Wood Haven (Albemarle)

Louise Pope

### Piedmont Crossing

Health Care

Margaret Beck

Margaret McCrary Carver

Barbara Proctor

Margaret Ragan

### Residents

Jo Doris Beck

Herman & Naoma Crabtree

Richard & Camille Lawrence

Madeline Palmer

Jim Ragan

Nancy Wilkinson

### Extended Family & Friends

Mike Daniel

Patricia Addair

Craig Thompson

Lynn Mack & family

Jennifer Bagby

Rev. Elizabeth Graves

Jimmy McDermott

Helen Hall

Katrina Hunt

Bailey Christensen

Rev. Russell Brownworth

Maretha Melton

Gary Leonard

Lillian Shearin

Tami Robinson

Kelli Jones

Tom Sigmon

Chris Hunt

Spencer Davis

Faye Graham

Gracie Joy Hedrick

Kendall Conner

David Ogle

Tempie Almstead

Kelly Michael

Kristin Harris

Claire Dowling

Ann Schaefer

David Stafford

Cliff Lopp, Jr.

Cameron & Pete Dunlap

Linda & Tom Dunlap

Carol & Steve Harris

Peggy Sisk

Anna Smathers

Pat Wilson

Jack Smith

Gene Oldham

Nakajah Vaughan

Brenda Hipp

Jane King

Breanna Wilson

Ethan Reavis

Jason & Stacy Heitman

Jenny Rains

Jimmy Davis

Bentley Leonard

John Bruce Davis

Eric Leonard

Robert, Doris, & Keith Hunt

Martha Daniel

Debra Ann Leonard

Betty Jean Whitaker

Len & Dottie Harris

Jack & Susan Phillips

Jordan Beswick

Susan Fritts

Regina Chrest

Bruce Thornton

### Serving in the Armed

#### Forces

### Capt. Jarrad Thorley

321 Avondale Lane

Bossier City, LA 71112

Birthday: August 17

### SMS Jason Brownworth

128 Barkley Street

Ft. Leonard Wood, MO 65473

### SGT Alan R. Ingram.

#### USMC

200 Cattle Court

Jacksonville, NC 28540

### SGT John Hall

Deployed to Afghanistan

Birthday: August 7

**FUMC Inclement Weather Policy** For **events during the week**, if the Lexington City Schools are dismissed early or closed for winter weather, our events, day and evening, will be cancelled. If a decision is made to cancel **Sunday morning services and/or evening events**, the announcement will be posted as soon as possible.

Look for closing and/or cancellation announcements on **WFMY 2, FOX 8, WXII 12, Facebook** and **First UMC website [www.fumclex.org](http://www.fumclex.org)**.

At the heart of this policy is a deep concern and care for the safety of our members, friends and staff. And as always, we encourage everyone to use their best judgment when making the decision to venture out.