



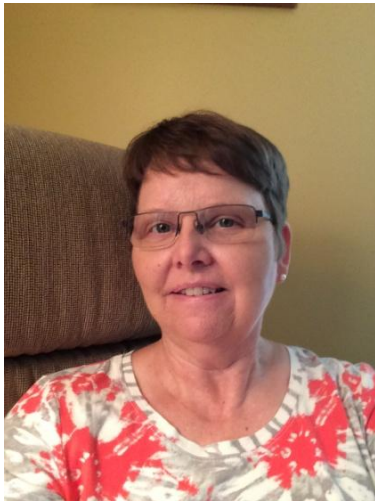
# The Messenger

*South Hill United Methodist Church*

August 2016

## Welcome

It is with much pleasure that we welcome Christine “Christy” West as our new Administrative Assistant.



Following graduation from Longwood College, Christy West spent 30 years as an educator in K-12 public schools in Mecklenburg and Lunenburg counties. She enjoyed being a student so much that she returned to Longwood often where she also earned a Master’s degree in School Counseling and multiple other teaching endorsements. During the 2013 school year, God shared with Christy that it was time to do something different professionally, so she retired from education that July. However, she didn’t stay retired for long. In October of 2013, God placed Christy in a part-time position at Southside Virginia Community College in the Dual Enrollment Office in Keysville where she has worked until being offered the position of Administrative Assistant at South Hill United Methodist Church. Christy is excited about this new opportunity and looks forward to working with the SHUMC members and community. Mrs. West is married to Chuck West and has two adult daughters, Meredith and Kendele Reamey.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group is gearing up for the 2016-2017 school year! For starters, the annual YG Family Cookout will be on Sunday, August 14 at the Calhouns. Parents, be on the lookout for more information. As always, please bring a dish to share and be ready for a good time. This event starts our new year. Then, YG, get ready to make a splash at our kickoff meeting POOL PARTY on Sunday, August 21! Details to follow. Regular Youth Group meetings are held on Sundays from 6-7pm in the Youth Room at SHUMC. New to YG? Welcome! Please email Jeremy Lambert ([jlambert7950@gmail.com](mailto:jlambert7950@gmail.com)) or Angie Calhoun ([angzcal@gmail.com](mailto:angzcal@gmail.com)) with any questions and to be included on emails sent out on a regular basis. Thank you all for your support!



## The Pastor's Pen:

It's hard to believe we've been together for a year already! As I look back, I'm amazed we all survived it. There has been so much going on. This church is *very* busy. But busy is a good thing, as long as it's busy doing Christ's work. We have done much and come a long way, but there is always more to be done. I am so excited to be your pastor here, and love bragging about this congregation as much as I can. I can't wait to see what's coming down the road as we navigate our world together. This year looks great so far, and I hope we continue to be in ministry together in this place for some time.



I will always encourage us to reflect on our actions, declarations, and plans, to make sure that they are both faithful to our faith and done to the best of our ability. The world needs Christ, and there is no reason why we can't be one vehicle by which they experience it. On occasion, we will need to step out in faith and go where we have not gone and do what we have not done when we can't see, yet, how it all fits together. I applaud the Administrative Council for the recent step of faith in approving moving forward with an after school partnership with Mecklenburg County schools.

I know there is anxiety about and that there has been much discussion about the status of our larger church. While the disagreements continue, contained in this newsletter is a letter from the Council of Bishops about where we are as a global church. No matter what happens on the larger level, we need to continue to be witnesses to where we have been sent – South Hill. I fully believe that if we are intentional about seeking God's will and direction, then the matters that divide us will become less and less important.

I also am aware that there is a large amount of anxiety around the world in general. Every time we turn on the news, we hear about violence and fear and severe relational breakdowns across the globe. I would like to remind us all that in Christ, we have an assurance of a future with him. In that assurance, we are able to stand defiant against the forces of evil and destruction. We must be intentional about sharing the love of God in real, tangible, and visible ways. The world desperately needs to know about who Christ is and what he has already done for us. Fear separates. Love brings together. Fear increases violence. Love increases a desire for understanding. Let us not let fear and evil win in our lives today, because God has already defeated them – including death itself – through the life and love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Brian*

## New Initiative

As you may have already heard, we are moving forward with a partnership with Mecklenburg County Public Schools. This initiative that we are calling the “South Hill Educational Excellence Partnership”, or SHEEP, will be working after school Monday – Thursday with students who have been identified by their teachers as needing specific additional assignments to keep up with class and aid comprehension. We are providing a safe, welcoming place for these students to complete their work, interact with others in a positive way, and be touched by the love of God. Nancy Merrel is coordinating this effort. While we do not have all questions resolved at this point, we are working quickly to solidify our plans and prepare to begin when the schools are ready – most likely mid to late September. One thing we do desperately need is many volunteers. We are looking for three volunteers daily. Volunteers do not need to be teachers, have proficiency with computers, nor be familiar with school curriculum. All that is required is heart willing to help children and the patience to work with fourth and fifth graders, as well as run a background check. Please contact Nancy at (434)774-7885 to volunteer or if you have questions.



# Report from the Council of Bishops

## The Commission on a Way Forward

The Council of Bishops Executive Committee's July 19-20 meeting in Chicago devoted much of its agenda to finalizing plans for launching the Commission on a Way Forward. The full Council had previously referred the design and implementation of the Commission to the Executive Committee.

We began by acknowledging the profound dissonance between what the Council had proposed to the General Conference in May and the reality within the church in July. The landscape has changed dramatically. The reported declarations of non-compliance from several annual conferences, the intention to convene a Wesleyan Covenant Association and the election of the Rev. Karen Oliveto as a bishop of the church have opened deep wounds and fissures within The United Methodist Church and fanned fears of schism.

The church finds itself in an extremely fragile, highly contested season. We lament that, for some, these actions disrupt and detract from the effective ministries of congregations across our global connection. We confess that we have all played a part in delaying God's kingdom reign.

We also affirm that God is steadfast in love and faithfulness, and is with us in all circumstances of our shared journey. We affirm that, as disciples of Jesus, we are all called to maintain unity in the bond of peace. As a Council, we re-affirm our commitment to lead the church in discerning and charting a way forward. We intend to do so with prayerful attention to both urgency and thoughtful preparation. To these ends, the Executive Committee approved a framework for implementing the Commission on a Way Forward.

A purpose statement was adopted for the Commission. The statement is intended to guide the selection of the Commission members and define the scope of the Commission's work. The statement follows:

### **Mission**

The Commission will bring together persons deeply committed to the future(s) of The United Methodist Church, with an openness to developing new relationships with each other and exploring the potential future(s) of our denomination in light of General Conference and subsequent annual, jurisdictional and central conference actions. We have a profound hope and confidence in the Triune God, and yet we acknowledge that we do this work in a climate of skepticism and distrust, from a human point of view. We are a connection, and we admit that our communion is strained; yet much transformative mission across our world is the fruit of our collaboration. The matters of human sexuality and unity are the presenting issues for a deeper conversation that surfaces different ways of interpreting Scripture and theological tradition. The work is meant to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the Council of Bishops in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.

### **Vision**

The Commission will design a way for being church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible, that allows for as much contextual differentiation as possible, and that balances an approach to different theological understandings of human sexuality with a desire for as much unity as possible. This unity will not be grounded in our conceptions of human sexuality, but in our affirmation of the Triune God who calls us to be a grace-filled and holy people in the Wesleyan tradition.

### **Scope**

We should be open to new ways of embodying unity that move us beyond where we are in the present impasse and cycle of action and reaction around ministry and human sexuality. Therefore, we should consider new ways of being in relationship across cultures and jurisdictions, in understandings of episcopacy, in contextual definitions of autonomy for annual conferences, and in the design and purpose of the apportionment. In reflection on the two matters of unity and human sexuality, we will fulfill our directive by considering "new forms and structures" of relationship and through the "complete examination and possible revision" of relevant paragraphs in the Book of Discipline. We will give consideration to greater freedom and flexibility to a future United Methodist Church that will redefine our present connectionality, which is showing signs of brokenness. If we ignore this work, fracturing will occur in more haphazard and



**COUNCIL OF BISHOPS**  
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

even self-interested ways across the church. If we do this work only to address our preferences and self-interest, we will fail to place our complete trust in God's steadfast love and faithfulness. If we do this work with complete surrender to God's unlimited imagination and kingdom purposes, we will be blessed beyond our limited human imagination. God remains God; God is with us; God will never let us go. To God be the glory!

The Commission will be composed of 20-25 members to be identified by the end of August. All bishops will be asked to nominate up to five potential members. Names that have already been submitted to the President or the Executive Secretary of the Council will be included in the pool of nominees.

The Executive Committee is targeting October for the first meeting of the Commission. This will ultimately be dependent on coordinating schedules and visas for all Commission members.

The committee began the process toward a called special session of the General Conference in early 2018, and will bring the matter to the full Council for consideration at their meeting in November. Only the full Council could authorize such a session.

A professional facilitator, with proven international and multi-cultural mediation/negotiation skills will be employed by the Council to design and guide the Commission's discernment process. The search for this facilitator is currently underway.

Bishops Ken Carter, Sandra Steiner Ball and David Yemba have been selected to serve as a moderator team for the Commission. They will preside, provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care.

Beginning now, the Executive Committee will issue regular updates on the Commission's work every 4-6 weeks.

All bishops, and the entire church, will be invited to continuous prayer for the Commission through a "Praying Our Way Forward" initiative to be launched by the Council in October.

In a related action, the Executive Committee voted to respectfully urge the Judicial Council to place the request from the South Central Jurisdictional Conference regarding the election of Bishop Oliveto on their October 25-28 docket.

The Council of Bishops continues to maintain that the Commission on a Way Forward is the best path for discovering God's vision for our connection. We have a strong bias toward unity, reflected in our consecration vows. We are open to unity being defined in new, innovative ways. We are committed to being a global church, respectful of the contextual realities and complexities that are inherent in such. We are driven by our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are a people of prayer and enjoin the entire church to fervently pray that the Holy Spirit will breakthrough and lead us into a future with hope.

*Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President Council of Bishops The United Methodist Church*

## Renovations



Anyone who has been in the church has seen the updated sanctuary. Not only are there no more water spots and paster damage, the new paint and lights make it look brighter and better than ever. Thank you to the property committee and Stuart Taylor for his efficient project management. Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support the capital improvement fund, which funded much of the renovation costs. Please continue to support this fund, as there are yet more projects to keep up with that we already know about, and more on the horizon that have not yet shown their hand.



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|----------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|
| August 1 | Linde Green    | August 10 | Doris Peters         | August 23 | Betty Burnette   |
| August 1 | Susan Ponton   | August 11 | Lacie Sadler         | August 23 | Rick Faulconer   |
| August 3 | Robin Newton   | August 14 | Jimmie Keith Crowder | August 25 | Curtis Glasgow   |
| August 4 | Cameron Shook  | August 14 | Sydney Niblett       | August 25 | Cynthia Thompson |
| August 5 | Dylan Willis   | August 15 | Mark Crocker         | August 26 | Betty Tanner     |
| August 6 | Ryan Black     | August 15 | Jeanne Faulconer     | August 27 | Diane Nichols    |
| August 6 | Tony Thompson  | August 15 | Katlyn Lynch         | August 27 | Andrew Ponton    |
| August 7 | George Ringo   | August 18 | Kelli Burton         | August 29 | Debra Crowder    |
| August 8 | Gerry Nash     | August 19 | Jackson Taylor       | August 30 | Olivia Harris    |
| August 8 | Joshua Nichols | August 20 | Ferriel Thomas       | August 30 | Altana Legg      |
| August 8 | Tricia Ward    | August 21 | Nancy Jacobs         | August 31 | Sean Shafer      |

If your birthday is missing, please notify the church office so we can add it to our records.

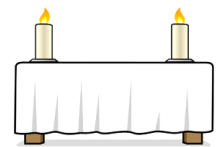
## Mission Update



The missions committee and the Upper Room have been very busy this year. In the second quarter meeting, we were able to send \$7,800 in support of missions locally and internationally. It is truly a wonderful thing to be able to simultaneously help those who need low cost items and support the wide variety of work that the body of Christ does. Please continue to support the mission outreach of the Upper Room, and keep bringing to our attention causes worthy of the support of South Hill United Methodist Church.

## Acolytes

As we prepare for our fall restart, we will be holding an acolyte training on Sunday, August 28. After the 11:00 worship, stay after for some pizza. Then, we'll get together in the sanctuary with Pastor Brian and he'll help us fine tune what and how we assist worship in this important role. This training is for continuing acolytes as well as those who would like to start.



## United Methodist Men Stew

Tickets are on sale now for the annual United Methodist Men stew at a great price of \$7/quart. Again this year, Rodney Elmore is the stew master, so we know it will be wonderful. The stew will be cooked and ready for pickup on the morning of October 1, before South Hill's Heritage Day celebration (formerly known as Farmer's Day). Buy your stew tickets early to make sure you get some, and tell all your friends and neighbors.



# The Messenger

South Hill United Methodist Church  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Church Staff

<b>Rev. Brian Siegle</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
Jimmie Crowder, Jr.	Music Director/Organist
Christine West	Administrative Assistant
Carolyn Black	Sexton

**Worship Services: Sundays 8:45 a.m.** (in the chapel) **and 11:00 a.m.** (in the sanctuary)  
**Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.**

## Upcoming Events

August 1	8:00 AM	New Administrative Assistant begins
August 7	10:00 AM	Education Committee
August 14	6:00 PM	Youth Kickoff family cookout
August 21	8:00 AM	United Methodist Men breakfast
	6:00 PM	Youth Kickoff pool party
August 28	10:00 AM	Promotion Sunday
	12:15 PM	Acolyte Training
	6:00 PM	First regular youth meeting
September 5		Labor Day
September 6	10:00 AM	morning Bible Study resumes
September 7	6:30 PM	evening Bible Study resumes
	7:30 PM	Choir rehearsal resumes
September 13	5:30 PM	Missions Committee
September 18	6:00 PM	Council on Ministries
	7:00 PM	Administrative Board
October 1		United Methodist Men stew sale
		Heritage Day (Farmer's Day)

