



# ***THE BETHEL INFORMER***

***April 2024***

***Pastor Reuben Rinker***

Hello Bethel Church Family and fellow frequent readers,

I do not know exactly when you may end up reading these words, but I know Holy Week will have ended and Easter Day will be past. Yet, that is not the case for me. At this moment, Resurrection Sunday is drawing near, but has not yet dawned. I call this to your attention in hopes that as you read on you will read as if Easter is right around the corner. Especially, if like me, you find the anticipation of the Resurrection Celebration to be what brings the greatest excitement.

Anyone connected to Bethel knows that the past seven days have been heavy and sorrowful. Over a span of four days, Thursday, Friday, and early Palm Sunday morning we experienced three deaths either in or closely connected to our church family. Multiple visits, viewings, and funeral services followed in rapid succession. All three of these men had a great deal of love in their lives, and lament is the result when love and loss combine. Many of you will still be grieving. Yet, as painful as these losses were, and as much as hearts broke - there was an amazing beauty shining out from the dust and ashes.

At the end of church on Palm Sunday Carter Stokes and I were talking, and he mentioned a verse in Ecclesiastes that we chatted about for a minute. I will be honest, in that exact moment, I understood why he had mentioned Ecclesiastes 7:1, but I didn't really think about it much.

*{Ecclesiastes 7:1-4 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.}*

This particular passage is often thought of in terms of Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, being in a depressed and despondent state. A space where he can't seem to find joy in life and so his musings trend in the same ilk, that of moroseness. However, as I began to spend multiple hours in the house of mourning, I began to experience the truth of these words. I began to observe so much beauty, strength, love, and worship that magnified and magnified and magnified in ever increasing crescendos the importance and power of the Resurrection in a way that times of celebration cannot. My spirit began to join with the apostle Paul in asking death the somewhat mocking rhetorical question. "Oh, Where is your Victory?"

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It is not that death did not bring sorrow, brokenness, and pain, but nowhere I looked could I find it winning, but rather time after time it appeared death was losing badly. It was losing in its attempt to bring despair, hopelessness, dread, destruction, and darkness. Rather I saw light, hope, peace, and praise. Instead of dimming the coming proclamation of an empty tomb, a risen Lord! My time in the house of mourning only seemed to make it glow more and more brightly.

I heard about the faith and faithfulness of three men - Leon, Jerry, and Lee. How they loved God and their families. How they didn't simply attend church, but led as examples of leaders, teachers, and hands-on laborers in the body of Christ. Their families and friends were present to testify to the fact that you can love and serve God, your family, and others. *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard Dan tell the story of the uplifting, sustaining power of God's Word, and listened to how God used a message from one called to proclaim His Word to speak to His child in their hour of need! *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard Mark share about the beauty of true friendship that he and Leon had experienced as Christian brothers. A powerful statement, our world is severely lacking, of the possibility, goodness and joy in godly pure male friendships. *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard about the keeping of marriage vows in the constant devotion and sacrificial love poured out from April on Leon and Barb on Jerry through the multiple months of illness. I saw the beauty and strength of marriage in spouses holding and comforting one another in their hour of grief. *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard the testimony of Nathan and Josh and Allen, Erick, and Clint of good fathers. In a world of absentee fathers, that is no small thing. I saw these same brothers looking out for each other and comforting each other, rather than splintering and dividing. I saw the connection, care, and sacrifice of a sister, Nancy, for her brother as his health faded. *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard the testimony from April of God revealing Himself to be the answer at 2:30 in the morning while she walked through Leon's Shadow of the Valley of Death. I saw her hand of faith thrust high when the promise of God's presence was sung! *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I heard Sarah and Hannah speak to the reality of a caring, loving step-father. I saw Steve grieving the death of a brother-in-law who had become a dear brother and friend. *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

I observed how the earthly tents of these men lay in the casket, but they were no longer present, they had escaped their mortal bodies. Bodies which were ravaged with cruel debilitating diseases, cancer, diabetes, infections, illness, blindness, and even the loss of limbs. Barb said it best, when speaking of Jerry she said, **"Cancer lost!"** *"O Death, Where is your victory?"*

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I saw families surrounded with love and support by people who know the reality of the Resurrection. I joined in singing hymns of peace and promise in the midst of the storm. I saw faith that these deaths were not the end, glistening through the tears. I saw in a deeper, fuller way why, for believers, the Resurrection is not simply a far-off hope but a present life-altering life-giving reality. **"O, Death! O, Death! O Death, Where is your Victory?"**

So my dear, dear family of God, stand strong. Do not let anything move you. ... Know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted or useless.

Thanks be to God, Who gives US the victory through our LORD JESUS CHRIST!

**HE IS RISEN, Pastor Reuben**



**Please remember those of our church family whose loved ones have gone to be with the Lord.**

**Jerry Wayne Hedrick — March 20, 2024**

Brother-in-Law of Steve and Debbie Ferguson

**B. Leon McCrosky — March 22, 2024**

Husband of April Wood McCrosky

**Otha Lee Ferrell — March 24, 2024**

Brother of Nancy Ferrell



**Please keep these persons and their circumstances in your prayers:**

Cody Cordell, Judy Harrington, Elsie Joiner,  
Lois Leonard, Butch and Peggy Safrit,

**Nursing Homes/Retirement Centers:**

Evelyn Coggins, Martha Doby, Dolores Richardson,  
Martha Surratt and Shirley Tobin



## Memorials Given to Bethel Global Methodist Church

*Donations Have Been Given  
to the General Fund*

**In Memory of Mac Childers**

By  
David and Donna Smith  
Steve and Debbie Ferguson

**In Memory of Jerry Hedrick  
In Memory of Lee Ferrell**

By  
Al and Linda Finch

*A Donation Has Been Given  
to the Front Porch Project*

**In Memory of Harold Walker**

By  
Shelby Walker and Nathan Walker



***The Sisters of Hope are selling flavoring.***

Please contact **Imogene Garrett at 336-847-5228 or 336-475-2846**  
and leave a message on her answering machine  
or see her at church if you would like to purchase a bottle.



**Flavors**

**Lemon and Vanilla  
(Regular) — \$3.75**

## Bethel Global Methodist Church Pine Needle Sale!!

Proceeds from this project will go to the Playground Fund.



***Tell your friends and neighbors!***

**Long Pine Straw \$5.00**

**508 Fisher Ferry Street Thomasville  
Saturdays — (8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.)**

***We are needing help! Please see Cindy to sign up for a time.***

**For questions contact the church office at 336-476-4222  
or Cindy Simpson at 336-225-1961.**



## Country Breakfast and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 13th  
7:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Bethel GMC Family Life



*Proceeds from the bake sale will go to April Wood McCrosky.*

Country Ham, Sausage, Bacon, Eggs,  
Grits, Stewed Apples, Gravy,  
Homemade Biscuits,  
Coffee, Juice, Tea, Soft Drinks

Cost: \$10.00 (Adults)  
\$6.00 (7-10 yrs.)  
\$3.00 (6 and under)

## Fundraiser Luncheon

11:30 – 1:00 p.m.

Immediately following  
the worship service.

Sunday, April 28th

Spaghetti, Salad, Bread,  
Dessert and Drink

### Cost:

Adults — \$10.00

Children —  
6 & under \$3.00  
7-10 years \$6.00



### *Jit and Imogene's Egg Roll Fundraiser Project*

**Vegetable Egg Rolls  
Meat and Vegetable Egg Rolls  
\$12.00 a dozen**

*Please contact Imogene  
to place your order.  
(Home) 336-475-2846 or  
(Cell) 336-847-5228*

### **We have chicken pies and poppy seed chicken to sell.**



The price of the pies are  
**\$12.00** for the chicken pies  
and **\$13.00** for the poppy  
seed chicken.

*Please call Imogene Garrett.  
(Home) 336-475-2846 or  
(Cell) 336-847-5228*



**Bake Sale Fundraiser**  
**for April McCrosky, Wife of the late Leon McCrosky**  
**Bethel GMC**  
**508 Fisher Ferry Street, Thomasville**  
**Saturday, April 13th**  
**7:00-10:00 a.m.**  
**Please come out and support this fundraiser!**  
**Monetary donations will be accepted.**



## Calendar of Up-Coming Events and Live Streaming

2	6:30 p.m.	Administrative Board Meeting
3		<b>No</b> Bible Study
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
4	5:30 p.m.	CCM Meals of Grace <i>(Team # 5 – Leaders – Sarah Bowling and Wade Loftin)</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Meeting
7		<b>No</b> Methodist Men Meeting
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School in the Family Life Center with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	On-Line Sunday School Lesson with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service in the FLC
	5:00 p.m.	Young Adult Gathering
9	1:00 p.m.	Sisters of Hope
10	6:15 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
11	6:00 p.m.	Youth Meeting
12	1:00 p.m.	Pre-General Conference Clergy Meeting <i>(Central GMC—Asheboro)</i>
13	7:00—10:00 a.m.	Country Breakfast and Bake Sale
	10:00 a.m.	Pre-General Conference Laity Meeting <i>(Central GMC—Asheboro)</i>
14	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School in the Family Life Center with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	On-Line Sunday School Lesson with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service in the FLC
17	6:15 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
18	6:00 p.m.	Youth Meeting
21	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School in the Family Life Center with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	On-Line Sunday School Lesson with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service in the FLC
	5:00 p.m.	Young Adult Gathering
24	6:15 p.m.	Bible Study
	7:15 p.m.	Choir Practice
25	6:00 p.m.	Youth Meeting
28	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School in the Family Life Center with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	On-Line Sunday School Lesson with Donna Smith
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service in the FLC
	11:30—1:00 p.m.	Fundraiser Luncheon

# Happy Anniversary!

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

22 Mark and Sheila Myers



*If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or not listed please call the office and let Wanda know.  
336-476-4222 Thank You!*

**Email Address:**  
***[bethelthomasville@gmail.com](mailto:bethelthomasville@gmail.com)***



Find us on Facebook at:  
**[Bethel GMC Thomasville](#)**

**The webpage has a link  
to our  
YouTube channel.**

Check it out! *Bethel's Webpage*  
**<http://www.bethelthomasville.com>**



**If you need to contact Pastor Reuben Rinker,  
his number is: Mobile: 336-689-3181  
Email: [pastorreuben7@gmail.com](mailto:pastorreuben7@gmail.com)**



# Happy Birthday!

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Kathy Aldridge  
2 Amanda Cole  
2 Tru Joy Starbuck  
5 Lance Thomas  
9 Kelby Starbuck  
10 Beverly Creech Gore  
11 Joel Ferguson  
16 Ciara Bums Taylor  
16 Emilia Cole  
17 Kim M. Arnold  
17 Aubrey Brown  
18 Keaton Tobin  
27 Alexis Debty  
28 Alvin Sigmon  
29 April McCrosky  
29 Kemp Tobin



*If you need to contact our  
church secretary, her hours  
are as follows:*

***Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
4:00 — 7:00 p.m.  
Phone: 336-689-1701***





# On-Going Schedule



# Monthly

1st Sunday  
*Methodist Men*  
7:30 a.m. @ Family Life Center

2nd Tuesday  
*Sisters of Hope*  
1:00 p.m. @ Family Life Center



# Weekly

## Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School in the FLC with Donna Smith
- 10:00 a.m. On-Line Sunday School Lesson with Donna Smith
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service in the FLC

**Methodist Men**  
**No Meeting**  
Sunday, April 7th



## Wednesday



- 6:15 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Reuben
- 7:15 p.m. Choir Practice

## Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Youth Meeting with Pastor Erick

**Youth Ministry**

**Youth Meetings**  
*6:00 p.m.*

April.....	4
April.....	11
April.....	18
April.....	25



**Young Adults Gathering**  
*5:00 p.m.*

April..... 7th  
April..... 21st

**April**



<b>Children's Church and Nursery</b>	
<b>April 7th</b>	Children's Church .....Cindy Simpson and Talon Rinker Nursery.....Emily Woods and Robert Young
<b>April 14th</b>	Children's Church ..... Sue Tobin and Angelyn Rinker Nursery.....No Nursery
<b>April 21st</b>	Children's Church .....Kayla Smith and Kallie Rinker Nursery.....Irene King and Lori Donovan
<b>April 28th</b>	Children's Church .....Paige Simpson and Travis Bowman Nursery .....No Nursery

**Children's Church/Nursery**

**During March**, the children learned about Holy Week. They re-enacted Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the donkey. They also saw a video about Holy week and played a game with palm leaves, had their feet washed by Jesus and participated in a Passover meal as Jesus had with his disciples. Jesus told the disciples that bad things would happen.

**During April**, the children will study about those bad things that led up to Jesus death and resurrection.








**Vacation Bible School ...  
Coming Soon!**



**Cosmo**



**Ringo**



**Luna**



**Sol**



**Halley**



**Astro**

**A huge thanks** to everyone who donated towards and/or served in any way to make this community event so awesome! We thank and praise God for sending us about 25 children and their families to whom we could share his love. It was a great time of fun and fellowship and God was present as well as the best Easter bunny ever!!



## Sisters of Hope

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

**Tuesday, April 9th**  
**1:00 p.m.**

**All women are invited to come  
and be a part of this  
wonderful missions group.**



**We love and appreciate our friends.**

**The Sisters of Hope** gathered in March for our monthly meeting. Wavel Surrett led our business meeting, Brenda Draughn did our devotions and presented each lady with an egg containing a personal devotion as well as sweet treats. Dianne Fore served delicious refreshments with a St. Patrick's Day theme.

A craft was completed for our friends that are homebound and in care centers. The ladies delivered the craft and our friends were excited.

Upcoming plans include going out to eat, inviting community speakers and attending special events as a group.

Next meeting is **April 9 @ 1pm.**  
Sarah Bowling will lead our devotions and Peggy Holden will provide refreshments.

