

# May 2024 Newsletter

## A Word to the Wise

*All extremes are to be encouraged. Not always, of course, but at this period. Some ages are lukewarm and complacent, and then it is our business to soothe them faster asleep. Other ages, of which the present is one, are unbalanced and prone to faction, and it is our business to inflame them.*

*How? By treating patriotism as part of religion until, under the influence of a partisan spirit, the adherents come to regard patriotism as the most important part. Then quietly and gradually nurse them on to the stage at which religion becomes merely part of the “cause,” in which Christianity is valued chiefly because of the excellent arguments it can produce in favor of a partisan agenda.*

*The attitude which you want to guard against is that in which temporal affairs are treated primarily as material for obedience. Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your battle, and it makes very little difference what kind of worldly end is being pursued.*

*Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades, matter more than prayers and sacraments and charity, you have won. And the more “religious” the more secure the victory.*

These words are part of a letter published in a church magazine in 1941, in London. It is part of a series of letters, 31 in all, one for each day of the month, written by C. S. Lewis. These letters were collected and published in one of his most popular books, *The Screwtape Letters*, February 1942.

The letters portray Hell as a bureaucracy. Lewis took great pleasure in working out the kind of advice that the shrewd Screwtape might give to the novice Wormwood about how to keep his “patient” safely out of the Enemy’s hands. The idea for the letters came to Lewis while “listening” to a sermon in his parish church.



Good becomes bad and bad good, “Our Heavenly Father” is replaced with “Our Father Below,” and the “Beatific Vision” that Christian mystics seek gives way to a “Miserific Vision” out of the depths of Hell and its devilish Proprietor. Not all readers got the joke: one clergyman wrote in to cancel his subscription on the grounds that the advice given by Wormwood was “not only erroneous but positively diabolical.”

I was struck, upon rereading these letters (I first read them forty plus years past), with how timely they are. It seems the “devil’s playbook” hasn’t changed much, hasn’t need ed to change because we haven’t changed much. What has changed is technology, which allows extremism to be inflamed with grater alacrity.

What struck me hardest was how coming to regard patriotism as the most important part of religion until partisan politics becomes religion so accurately describes the current moment. Maybe it is time we wake up and realize this is the work of the “adversary,” the one who is opposed to all that is good and true and beautiful.

Jerry Harris

Greetings Messiah Family,

I looked back at my message for the April Newsletter, and I saw where I talked about springtime and how beautiful it is. While it is still beautiful, now I am going to complain about springtime. Pollen is everywhere, I mean everywhere. Cars, clothes, furniture, driveways, parking lots. I pet Hank and Maizy, our two dogs, after they have been outside, and the pollen will fly off their fur into house. Don't get me started on those little things that fall off the oak trees. A friend of mine called them "oak worms." What a great name for them. They look like tumble weeds rolling down the street. Plus, springtime is about the only time of year that you run the heat in the morning and the air conditioner in the afternoon. Am I right? A season of change they say. Well, it changes every hour here in North Carolina.



Change is a good thing people say. It keeps you on your toes. Some say change is bad, no one likes change. You have to keep the tradition the same. We have always done it this way and it works, why change it.

Change is something the Church Board has done with Youth Sunday and I for one am excited about it. Youth Sunday has always been a tradition on Mother's Day at Messiah. The youth of the church run the service at Messiah and over the years they have done a great job. But each year it seems to get harder and harder to get the youth together due to family's obligations with extended families during Mother's Day. Plus, Father's are left out. Our day is never celebrated, wait a minute, that's my house not church. Anyway, the Board decided to have Youth Sunday on June 2. It will be the same format as the Mother's Day service, the youth of the church running the service. The title of the service will be Celebrating Parents. Mom's and Dad's will be celebrated during the service, and we will have one of Messiah's Potluck lunches after the service. The Board is excited about this change, and we hope you are too. Change is good. Especially when you add a potluck lunch to it.

Yours in Christ,

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*Dear Messiah Family,*

*There is some wonderful news in our family that we are sharing with everyone, and we figured the newsletter is the best way to share the news with our Messiah family.*

*Our son Jay has accepted an admission offer from Duke University's English-Ph.D. program for the 2024 fall term.*

*There were 170 application submissions and Jay was one of only 8 chosen. He was also accepted at the University of Oregon.*

*Not only are we excited about his academic success, but we are thrilled to have him back in North Carolina. He has been in Oregon since 2020 obtaining two Masters' Degrees in Fine Arts and English. These two degrees are supported by his two undergraduate degrees from Appalachian State University-one in History and one in English.*

*As you can tell we are extremely excited and proud. We feel he has made an excellent decision. Jay told us after he made the decision that he felt good, and his heart felt good about it also.*



*Dick and Lynne Butler*

## May Worship Calendar

See below for a link to sign up for worship volunteers. The worship calendar is below. As you can see, we are in need some nursery volunteers, a Children's Message leader and a Get Acquainted Time Hosts. If you want to volunteer by phone or email instead, please let me know and I will put you down. Thanks so much!! [Click Here for Google Sheet](#)

Date	Lay Reader	Children's Message	Adult Nursery	Youth and/or Adult Nursery	Get Acquainted	Com-munion Acolyte/ Sacristan
05-May	Bryan Scott	Stuart Pungler	Barb Mory			
12-May	Cyndie Tomlin	Dane Perry				*May 19 . John Combs Kitty Grubbs Nancy Bramlett
19-May	Gray Wilson	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX				
26-May	Marshall Marvelli					

No need to plan a meal on **Wednesday, May 8**. Drop in for a casual dinner at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall!



RSVP to Tracy please if you are planning to attend. As always, if you forget to RSVP or decide at the last minute that you can make it, you are welcome. (There is always plenty and we share well.) Email Michelle Lawrence if you plan to bring a dessert at :

([mhopkins@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:mhopkins@alumni.princeton.edu)).

### JUST A REMINDER

This is to remind the congregation that the organ will be out of commission for about 3 to 4 months for it to be repaired and restored to its original state.



During this down time, Ricky will magically change from our organist into our pianist. He will play the piano in the sanctuary.

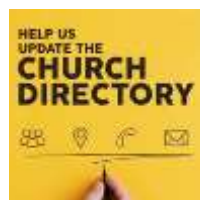
### Food Drive

Saturday, **June 8** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Fairview Moravian Women's Fellowship Food Drive to benefit Bethabara Moravian Church Food Pantry.



Bethabara's food pantry is running low and the needs of their community will be in greater need when school lets out.

### 2024 Church Directory



The 2024 church directory is available in the fellowship hall or come by the church office. Please let me know if there needs to be any changes to the directory.

Thanks, Tracy

### Join Messiah Moravian News Group

Are you interested in receiving emails about information from the Province, other Moravian Churches, Old Salem, Sunny Side Ministries and Salem Band?



If you are, please contact the church office at [messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com) with your email address and you'll be added to the group. You can always be removed at any time if you sign up and change your mind. So give it a try! Tracy



**Plan to join us on Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 for the 33rd annual Hope du Jour**, where participating restaurants donate 10% of their proceeds to Crisis Control Ministry, Forsyth County's largest non-profit provider of emergency assistance. Hope du Jour is a day when food and beverage establishments come together for breakfast, lunch, dinner and more in a day of feel-good eating to make a difference in our community.

**Click the link below for the list of 2024 Hope du Jour participating restaurants.**



*If you would like to donate more, click the "Extra Helping" link.*



Jon Hus Class

The Jon Hus Study one again extends a warm invitation to join the group for its Sunday morning discussions. If you are looking for an interesting and intriguing preparation for our Sunday worship services at Messiah, consider joining the Jon Hus Study Group. This long-running and eclectic collection of fellow searchers meets every Sunday at 9:30 in the Fidelas Room in the Fellowship Hall. No expertise is required. Our reading selections can be provided free of charge. All that is needed is a willingness to join.



Currently, the members are reading Howard Thurman's classic book-length essay, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, a piercing vision of the American church that has, in large measure, failed the African American community in the church's essential task of spreading the message of Jesus of Nazareth. The core of the book is a review of what Thurman calls the "Three Hounds of Hell:" fear, deception, and hate. He concludes with a discussion of how the only appropriate response to the attacks of the three 'hounds' is love. Our next book will be a departure from the normal selections, *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, a German author. The book's subtle provides a glimpse into how trees feel and communicate. Maybe the fictional 'Ents' in J.R.R. Tolkien's "Ring" trilogy are not that far off the mark.

Marshall Marvelli



Tour de Llama is an annual bike ride fundraiser benefiting Samaritan Ministries' mission of providing food, shelter, and hope through Christian love to those in need. All proceeds will go towards helping us continue to serve those in our city every day.

Remember to **SAVE THE DATE** to participate in Tour de Llama, enjoy Divine Llama Vineyards and support the most vulnerable in our community.

To Find Out More: There's llama lots to know about this unique event! Click [here](#) for more info.

To help at the event contact our Volunteer Coordinator Shirelle Stewart- Riddick at:

A poster for a Provincial Men's Spiritual Retreat. The background is a scenic landscape with mountains and trees. A white box in the center contains the title and dates. Below the box, there is more text about the event, including the speaker and schedule.

  
**Provincial Men's  
Spiritual Retreat**  
**June 28-30, 2024**  
Laurel Ridge Camp &  
Conference Center

Men Whose Hearts God Has Touched  
1 Samuel 10:26  
Rev. Dr. Dion Christopher, Session Leader

Schedule:  
Friday 4-6pm - Registration  
Dinner - 6:00pm, Worship 7:00pm  
Sat All Day - Worship, Sessions, Fellowship, & Free Time  
Sunday 10am - Morning Worship & Depart

Registration Fee (Includes Meals)  
\$317/Single Occupancy  
\$192/Double Occupancy  
\$152/Triple Occupancy

[Click Here to Register!!](#)

**Salem Band 2024 Summer Concert Series**

**Tuesdays in Salem Square, 7:30 pm, FREE:**



**May 07, *MARCH MADNESS* with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Flute - Ensemble; and soloist!**

**May 28, *PUPPET MAGIC* with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Brass Quintet and Guests, Paper hand Puppet Intervention!**

**June 18, *OLYMPICS* with 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the SB Tuba Quartet; and Community Choir**

**July 04, *THURSDAY, STARS & STRIPES* with 6:45 pm pre-concert Jazz; & vocal soloist Mignon Dobbins (July 05 rain-date)**

**August 06, *DISCO & DANCE!* With 6:45 pm pre-concert music by the Community Ensemble**

**August 20: Summer rain-date (as needed)**

**Historic Bethabara Park Trail Tours**

**Bethabara Birding Outings**

Learn about birds who call the Park home; be introduced to 5 birding identification tools; and hear historical information pertaining to Bethabara's natural environment

**April 28, May 18, & June 12  
8:30-10:00 a.m.**

Suitable for all ages; be prepared to walk over uneven terrain.



**Photography Outings**

Explore several photographic points of interest and learn a few, fascinating facts too!

**April 20 & June 9  
9:00-10:15 a.m.  
May 24 & June 20  
7:00-8:15 p.m.**

Recommended for persons 18+; bring your own camera.



**Mill Site Outings**

Take a walk to the mill site to learn about its purpose, operation, and importance.

**April 13, 27/ May 4, 25  
June 1, 29/ July 6, 27  
August 3, 31/ Sept. 7  
9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

Recommended for persons 10+; be prepared to walk over uneven terrain.



Trail tours are \$5.00 per person. To learn more, or to register, contact Diana Overbey at [dianao@cityofws.org](mailto:dianao@cityofws.org) or (336) 397-7587. You can also register online at [www.cityofws.org/3462/online-store](http://www.cityofws.org/3462/online-store)



124 Pendry Drive  
Laurel Springs, NC 28644  
laurelridge.org

## Spring Family Camp

[Register Here!!](#)

May 24-26, 2024

For families of all ages. Stay in a summer camp cabin with your family, enjoy the beautiful mountain along with program, canoeing, fishing, and other great camp activities.

### Cost

Adults \$65.00

Children 4-12 \$40.00

Children 3 and under are free



### Bulletin and Scriptures

If you would like to receive by mail or email the bulletin, scriptures and sermon, please contact

Tracy at:

[messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com) or  
by phone at: 336-765-5961.

### Volunteers Needed



Messiah is in need of volunteers to help in many areas of worship. Prayerfully consider helping. The **Nursery** is one of our greatest needs as well as Children's Message teachers. Please consider volunteering. You can serve as often as you like or just once in a while. Call the church office if you would like to volunteer at 336-765-5961 or email at [messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com).

*Prayer Requested for:* Ruth Brandquist, Marilyn Stowers, Michael James, Bill Porter, Kim Shonzz (Randy Speas' girlfriend), Denise Calderwood (Cyndie Tomlin's sister), Sabrina Maksi, (Nancy Bramlett's niece), Jane Butler (Dick Butler's mother)

## **May Birthdays**



- 8 Jerry Colyer
- 8 John Scott
- 9 June Cook
- 17 Elizabeth Bankson
- 20 Melinda Weaver Knight
- 20 Becky Connelly
- 23 Elias Bankson
- 25 Jared Davis
- 27 Rickey D. Johnson



## **Mission Awareness Dinner**

**Home Moravian Church  
Sunday, June 2, 2024 at  
5:30 PM**

**Speaker: Sylvie Hauser  
Moravian Board of World Mission  
\$12.00 per person**



## **Sanctuary Flowers**

If you would like to remember or honor someone with sanctuary flowers, please contact the church office at 336-765-5961 or by email at:

[messiah1401@gmail.com](mailto:messiah1401@gmail.com)  
and call Daisy A Day at 336-723-1925 and they will deliver to the church the Saturday before.

On a side note: If you order flowers, please pick them up or let us know if you want us to donate them. You may return the vase if you do not need it.

Please join the Mission Society for the Mission Awareness Dinner featuring Sylvie Hauser from the Board of World Mission who will share about their Blessings Flow Project. Short-term mission teams sponsored by the Mission Society will also be commissioned at this event. The meal will be provided by Home Moravian's World Mission Awareness Team and others. The cost is \$12 per person and payment can be made at the door. We hope you will join us for this great mission event.

If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Boles, Mission at 336-773-1732 or [jboles@mcspp.org](mailto:jboles@mcspp.org).