

## A Word Of Encouragement

### “Who We Actually Are In Christ”

I read an article a few months back by Dr Alvin Summers, the Pastor of FBC Indian Trail East Campus in Marshville. It was entitled “On the Other Side of Easter”. I found the piece most encouraging and challenging at the same time! The article reminded me that on the other side of Easter, we have countless things to show gratitude for and give thanks for. To quote Pastor Alvin, “His act of resurrection is the bedrock and stability of the life we live and enjoy...It proves how much God cared about our condition as human creatures and how much He loves us despite it.” Our omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient God knew we would continue to sin without regard to His immense sacrifice. Yet, He sent Jesus to die for us anyway! His love for us is amazing, it’s marvelous, it’s beyond comprehension.

To quote Pastor Alvin, “He knew that at times we would make grace ‘cheap’ and mistake His kindness for weakness. He knew that simply because He did not punish every sinful act, that we would think that He was okay with us as we are. That my friend is a colossal representation of His love. Only God could see the potential of what we were created to be, send Jesus to die on behalf of it, and then raise Him from the dead to ensure it. Only God would make that kind of investment, and because of that we can do and be what we were created for. We can be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus...Weapons may form, **but they will not prosper**. The reason for this incredible victory in life is because of the resurrection. It is all about what He did and not what we are.”

If you are like me, these type of Truths really “hit” home for you at Easter. We are having special services around the Resurrection of Christ. So many gatherings and reminders of who we actually are in Christ. But then, let’s be honest. It’s almost like being a teenager at church summer camp...constantly worshipping Jesus with your buddies, and then back to the reality of everyday hum drum life. We slowly begin to lose that “high”. We go back to coasting on auto pilot through our Christian lives. We were never meant to live this mediocre Christianity. As Christ-Followers, we have the Holy Spirit abiding in us 24/7. We can live each day as if it were Resurrection Sunday. Notice I said ‘can’. We are human, so we won’t get it right each day. But God has given us the ability to do so. What we should do is strive for excellence. Press On! Never give up! Fight the Good Fight! We are more than conquerors in HIM! We don’t have to wait for a holiday to live out our faith! We are created to worship Him! We are created to share Him with others!

Pastor Alvin alluded to the fact that we, as true Believers, can be the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus! This comes directly out of Scripture. In II Corinthians 5:21, the Apostle Paul wrote “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” In Romans 5:8, he states, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”. If those Truths don’t make you shout “Hallelujah!”, I don’t know what will! It’s time for us as Christ-Followers to live the VICTORIOUS lives He gave His life for us to live! On the other side of Easter, the church of Acts was formed. And those people knew what Christ-centered living and worship was all about. Fast forward to 2022, and we find it difficult to get up on Sunday in time for church. May God have mercy on us. May we get back to the heart of worshipping HIM and serving HIM! Don’t make His grace cheap!

Worshipping Our King Together,  
*Julie Simpson*



### *Children’s Creed*

I believe in God Above  
I believe in Jesus’ Love  
I believe His Spirit Too  
Comes to tell Me  
What to Do

On a Sunday morning in worship the Apostles’ Creed is spoken aloud in unison. Why? To remind and to reconfirm in our hearts and souls the spiritual beliefs of every Christian. ( I remember as a young child hearing and speaking this creed.)

The Children’s Creed (above) is a precious one for our young children in our weekday Preschool! Each child will learn it during this coming school year. The words are repeated with their teachers (they have not learned reading yet) and is memorized very quickly! Once that is so, the words change to WE...WE... because, just as a congregation, the class is a group committed in love and respect to each other.

Your church Preschool Ministry has the mission of reaching out and sharing Jesus and His love for all. Yes, each child comes to know that *God loves us, God is always with us, we can love God, and Jesus teaches us about God’s love in the Bible.*

As the school year begins on September 6th, we invite you to pray for the SUMC Preschool Ministry. Pray that the families God sends us who are seeking a Preschool will indeed discover so much more...they will encounter Jesus Christ, our Savior! Thank you, Stallings Church!

Mrs. B  
Barbara Stegall, Director

# Overview continued...

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Ruth Mather	08-01	Doris Barbee	08-10	Sunday Toler	08-19	Coleman Broadway	08-30
Dan Clifton	08-02	Ken Broadway	08-10	Cheryl Parrish	08-20	Matthew Davis	08-30
Bob Flippin	08-03	Evan Surratt	08-10	Michael Helms	08-22	Thomas Duncan	08-30
Keara Vigil	08-04	Doug Blomstrom	08-10	Claire Howell	08-23	Kenny Hopkins	08-30
Cathy Mullis	08-05	Mary Lauzon	08-10	MaryFrances Greene	08-28	William Reinke	08-30
Furman Williamson	08-05	Doug Davis	08-11	Dot Moore	08-28	Taylor Estep	08-30
Steve Hehr	08-06	David Hazleton	08-11	Tracy Evink	08-28	Angie Miller	08-31
Carlton Smith	08-07	Ben Davis	08-12	Rhonda Reinka	08-28	Sara Paxton	08-31
Emilie Frazier	08-08	Emma Efirid	08-16	Terri Manring	08-29	Sherry Cottingham	08-31
Jamey Czagas	08-09	Brandon Estep	08-16	Kevin Mullis	08-29		

Sunday, August 7th  
1pm - 3pm

# B2SB

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH  
UNION COUNTY

Carolina  
Courts

## Giving

Date	Budget	Building Fund
July 03	\$ 15,340.32	\$ 624.00
July 10	\$ 6,104.60	\$ 100.00
July 17	\$ 5,650.36	\$ 400.00
July 24	\$ 5,869.69	\$ 300.00
July 31	\$ 7,039.78	\$ 700.00

\*Please do not forget your church when you go out of town, on vacation or watching online due to health reasons.

*"...God loves a cheerful giver."  
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7b*

*In Loving Memory of*



### In Memory of Boyce Paysour

- ◆ Tommy & Judy Stilwell
- ◆ Susan Bivens & The Federal Reserve  
Inside Sales Team

### In Memory of All The SUMC Saints Who have Gone Before Us

- ◆ Dan and Paulette McLelland

*Precious in the sight  
of the Lord is the death  
of His saints.*

*—Psalm 116:15*



## Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Most of you know SUMC Praise Band members, Jake Forwerck and Jess Strzepek. Jess is the founder of Legacy Theater & Music Company and Jake is the Vice President of the Company. Legacy Theater presents Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat August 5th - 13th at Hickory Grove UMC (6401 Hickory Grove Rd., Charlotte, NC, 28215). Go to [www.eventcreate.com/e/legacydreamcoat](http://www.eventcreate.com/e/legacydreamcoat) for show times, pricing and more.



## SUMC Annual BBQ

It will be Fall before we know it. Along with Fall weather in this area comes lots and lots of BBQs! Stallings UMC is known for its annual BBQ! This year the Stallings UMC BBQ is slated for Friday, October 21st from 10am to 8pm. The BBQ runs like a well oiled machine. But this doesn't happen by chance. It happens because of all the dedicated volunteers. This occasion is bar none one of the most team building events held at Stallings. Everyone pulls together to make the BBQ a success. I am sure this year will be no exception. In about a month or so, you will see various sign-up sheets. Don't wait till the last minute. When you see the registration sheets, go ahead and sign up for the areas you are willing to help with. This allows the BBQ leadership team to know they have adequate support. As always, the Thursday before will be prep day! What a fun time to fellowship and reach out to the community!



# B2SB

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH  
UNION COUNTY

Thank you to all who gave to the Shoe Sunday Collection Offering for the Back to School Bash. Our Methodist Men's Group donated \$4000.00 of the proceeds from the Golf Tournament. The SUMC congregation itself collected \$4,690.64, for a grand total of \$8,690.64. To God be the glory great things He hath done. Thank you for giving to these children in need, so they will be better equipped to begin their school year.