



The Olive Branch



Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church

Worshiping God, Loving and Serving Others, Sharing the Good News

Volume 33 Number 1

<http://mtolivetumc.net/>

January 2016

Grazing on Grace

*I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been given you
in Christ Jesus,
for in every way you have been enriched in him,
in speech and knowledge of every kind ...
1 Corinthians 1:4-5*



I have always loved the way Paul begins his letters with greetings of grace and words of gratitude - "I give thanks to my God always for you..." Can you imagine how the church body must have felt to hear someone read Paul's latest letter aloud and to understand that someone is thankful for you, your faith, and your faithful witness in the world? If you can't imagine that then perhaps it is the Pastor's fault for not following in Paul's footsteps and telling you enough just what a blessing you are to their ministry.

Like Paul, I give thanks to God for you – the appendage of the body of Christ we have named Mt. Olivet UMC. Unlike Paul, I too often forget to tell you that I have thanked God for you or what specifically I said about you to God, so let me do so now...

I give thanks to God for you because:

You laugh with me and bring joyful moments to my life; You question and challenge me to dig deeper in theological thought and understanding; You allow me to be "me" and I trust you enough to let my vulnerability and imperfections show; you love me despite the vulnerabilities and imperfections; your friendships are invaluable to me; your financial support allows me to dedicate my time to the vocation I love without the need for a second job; your financial support allows me to not only exist but to afford moments of enjoyment that I do not take for granted but allow me to be refreshed and renewed.

I give thanks to God for you because:

You are genuinely concerned for me and my family; you allow me to share in the story of your life and glimpse God's glory through your stories of transformation; you have a willingness to follow and trust me, as long as I am following and trusting God.; You share wisdom with me; you leave me tokens of love with no notes attached (sweet potatoes, flowers, fresh fruits and veggies and baked goods); Your love of community is contagious and your dedication to service and missions inspires me; your music touches my soul; the place we gather to worship is indeed holy ground and I am honored to share it with you; you are willing to disagree in ways that are thought provoking and helpful rather than disruptive and divisive; You have given me a great love and appreciation for tradition while inspiring me to give it new expression.

I give thanks to God for you because you are you – faithful servants and repentant sinners. I give thanks to God for you because together we seek the way of Christ – with all our imperfections and fumbles.

As 2015 closes and 2016 begins, I just wanted you to say "Thank you" for the past 3 ½ years – for lessons learned, joys had, sorrows shared, gifts exchanged and time gifted. You are loved and appreciated by your Pastor.

Happy New Year and God bless. Pastor Karen



Our Sympathy

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to the families of Lisa Furches and Christy Duffey following the death of their uncle Johnny Hinkle.

Birth—

A Gift of God

Jeff and Cindy Zimmerman are the proud grandparents of another New Year's baby. **Brantley Wade Nelms** was born at 7:51 AM on New Year's Day, weighing 8 pounds and 6 ounces. He was 21 inches long. His parents are Danielle and Jon Nelms of Louisburg, NC.



Get your recipe ready; it is time for the CCC Chili Cook-off!
 - \$5.00 to come out and taste the entries and vote for your favorite
 - \$15.00 dollars to enter your recipe
 Entrants must have their *full large* crock pots at the church no later than 4:30 pm with a copy of the recipe. No chili kits.

- LFurches

Congratulations to...

- **Dennis Booth** for being a recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award
- **Hannah Mercer** for being named Davidson County Student Athlete of the Month.

Altar Flowers

The 2016 flower list for Mt. Olivet is being compiled. At this time there are four Sundays that are still available. If you are not on the flower list and would like to be included or if you are on the list and wish to have your name removed, please contact Linda Mitchell at bjmlinda@triad.rr.com or 764-3853 as soon as possible.

As a reminder, you have two options to choose from when it is your Sunday to be responsible for flowers. You may place an arrangement on the altar that you provide or you may make a monetary contribution to the church and use one of the arrangements Mt. Olivet has available for this purpose. There will be a complete flower list in the February newsletter.

Jesus told His followers to love their enemies and pray for those who mistreat them. Paul specifically said to pray for all people, including government leaders and those in authority. Given the politically polarized atmosphere in the United States, that may be more difficult for some than praying for someone who physically harmed them. Steve Phillips



Visit with your friends while you linger over the delicious soup, sandwiches, and cobblers at the fellowship meal hosted by the Bruce Salley Class. (*Please bring your own bowl.*)

The cost is only \$4 for adults and \$1.50 for children with no family paying over \$12. Plan to attend! Reservations aren't mandatory but it helps us plan if you let us know you are coming by filling out a reservation slip in the Sunday bulletin or calling 764-3853.

Graduation

Congratulations to **Holly Templeton**, who graduated on December 18 from Belmont University in Nashville, TN, with a Bachelor's of Business Administration with Music Business Emphasis. She made the Dean's list her last semester also. Holly hopes to stay in Nashville and has started her job search!



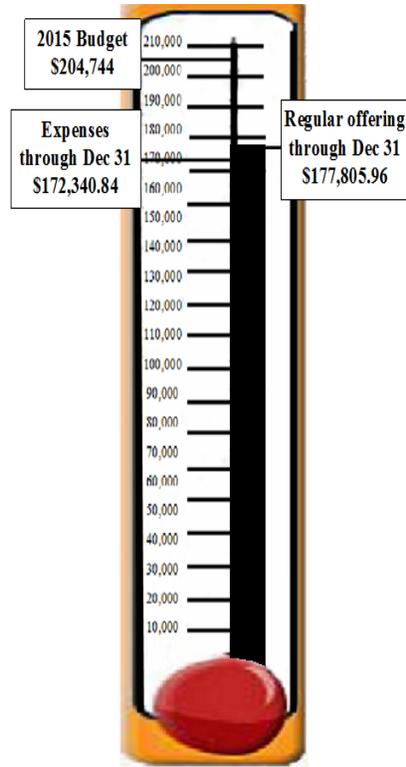
Tuesday, Jan 26
 Hoyt's Restaurant

Record of Our Faithfulness

“I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and support the ministries of Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church by my prayers, my presence, my gifts and my service.”

By Our Gifts

Regular offering	\$23,937.05
CCC	345.00
Fitzgerald Fund	1,565.00
S C Flood Relief	50.00
Youth Fund	50.00
Power Point Fund	115.00
Thanksgiving eve offering (Enterprise Moravian)	98.33
Evans Scholarship Fund	50.00
Advent Mission (Alpha Pregnancy Ctr.)	993.00
Total	\$27,203.38



Our regular offerings for December were \$23,937.05. This is by far our largest offering this year. With expenses of \$14,871.23, we had a surplus for the month of \$9,065.82. Praise God!

For the year, our total offerings were \$177,805.96, and our total expenses were \$172,340.84, resulting in a surplus for the year of \$5,465.12. I am certain this is the largest surplus we have had in recent years, and we have truly been blessed. Thanks to all who have given so generously this year for the support of the church. May God bless you for your faithfulness!

Charles Craver, Treasurer

***Our Presence:** December Sunday School attendance wasn't available. Look for it in next month's newsletter.

Additional Giving and Serving

Each year you generously give to many different church funds, mission projects, and other causes in addition to your regular offerings. We have tried to recap some of those here. Sunday School classes and the Heart Circle also supported a variety of other projects. In 2015 we collected clothes, food, school supplies, baby necessities, tents, sleeping bags, mittens, gloves and hats. Groups and classes from Mt Olivet also provide overnight volunteers and meals for the homeless shelter and volunteers to stock and give out food at Greater Things Outreach Center.

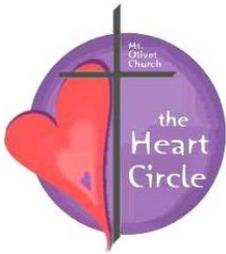
Church wide

Bereavement Meal Fund	\$ 100
Power Point Fund	165
Fitzgerald Trust	1,565
Fellowship Hall Flooring	10,500
Scholarship Fund	5,106
Stop Hunger Now	1,894
- VBS-1,194	
- Christmas Prog-602	
- Thanksgiving Off -98	
Advent-Alpha Pregnancy	993
Carolina Cross	12,305
Gideons	1,391
SC Flood Relief	5,509

Crisis Ministry	(budgeted) 100
Greater Things	600
Lent- GTOC	1,836
Pennies/Crisis Min	4,149
Methodist Men	
Dav Co Med Min	250
Dis Relief Team	100
Carolina Cross	500*
Fellowship Hall	500*
Greater Things	500*
Pennies/CrisisMin	400*

*included in church wide totals

Do all the good YOU CAN.
BY all the means you can.
 IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN.
IN ALL THE PLACES
 YOU CAN.
 At all the times YOU CAN.
 To ALL THE PEOPLE
AS LONG as you ever can.



Welcome 2016!!!!

This will be the 21st year for our Heart Circle. As we reflect on

the past and look forward to our future, we would love to increase our membership. January would be a perfect time to come give us a "test drive". We will be meeting at the Knox home Monday, January 18, at 6:30 for time of fellowship, delicious meal, and the planning of our new year.

-CVaughan

CCC Campers

Our campers will be going to Carolina Cross Connection the week of **June 19-25**. Your non-refundable payment of \$135 needs to be given to Mary Kathryn Patterson or Lisa Furches by March 1 to hold your spot.

Son Games



VBS 2016
Coming July 24-28!

When making your summer plans, be sure to save these dates!

What's Up(stairs)?

On January 3 our elementary students discussed that even though we don't know what the future holds, we know Who holds the future! The future is in God's hands, so we can rest easy in the plans that He has made for us.

The rest of the month we will be learning about the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego as told in Daniel 3. These young men, along with their friend Daniel, were carried off by King Nebuchadnezzar, when he captured Judah around 605 BC. They were being trained to be in the king's service and lived in the king's court. However, they continued to live by the laws and religious practices, which they had before becoming captives. All four won the king's favor, and were promoted to high places.



Their troubles began when Nebuchadnezzar wanted to use his image as an idol for his people to bow down. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow. Rather, they continued to worship their true God. Because, they trusted their God, and chose to be faithful to Him, the king had them thrown into the furnace. When the fire did not burn them, the king had them released, and made a new vow—to serve the God of the Hebrews. He realized the power of God, and added the God of the Hebrews to the list of other gods that they worshiped. God, once again, showed His power over evil.

This month we will:

- Locate the book of Daniel in the Old Testament
- Discover those things in our lives that receive our loyalty
- See how these youth put their trust in God, stood up for what they knew was right, and were given victory
- Discover how we put our trust in God

We will learn that God protects the faithful even in the midst of persecution.

Our key verse is Isaiah 41:13: For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

-scraver



Heads Up!

Don't forget that our annual **clothing drive** is in February. Start going through your closets now and you'll be ready on February 1.



December was full of fellowship, fun, and laughter for the Mt. Olivet Youth.

We had a wonderful time with the Progressive Dinner! Thank you to all who hosted (appetizer, dinner, or dessert), helped at a host home, provided goodies, or drove the youth from house to house. The first annual progressive dinner is now on the books. Also, thank you to the Mabes who led a meaningful discussion on texting and driving (distracted driving) on the 20th. An ESPN article is posted on the youth bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall for any who are interested in learning more about this discussion. And lastly, we had a youth Lock-in at the Parsonage on New Year's Eve. Whew! It was great to bring in the New Year as brothers and sisters in Christ.

January Housekeeping Items:

- There is a sign-up on the youth bulletin board for any individuals, Sunday Schools classes, or groups that would like to provide a small snack for youth on Sunday nights.
- The youth calendar for the remainder of this academic year will be discussed at this upcoming youth group meeting (January 10). A calendar will be sent home with the youth and additional copies placed on the bulletin board for any youth that cannot attend.



All youth are invited to come out on Sunday nights at 6:00 (fellowship hall) for our youth meetings!

In events prior to Super Bowl XLI and in news conferences that followed, Tony Dungy, coach of the winning Indianapolis Colts, boldly confessed his faith in Jesus Christ before a listening and watching world. His good friend Lovie Smith, coach of the opposing Chicago Bears, was no less eager to share his faith in Jesus as Savior. They were confessing Jesus 'before men.'" [Mat 10:32] - C. Ferris Jordan



It's time...

to update our church website— <http://mtolivetumc.net/>. It's an introduction to our church for those wanting to find out more about our ministry. Whether they're looking for service times and directions or trying to understand more about our church, our web site needs to be current! Please take time to email Gary Patterson (garyjohnpatterson@hotmail.com) with your latest information and pictures. He can't do it without our help!

Birthdays

Please get in touch with Susan Craver (764-2983) if your birthday wasn't on the newsletter calendar last year .



Join us at 7 PM on February 10 for our Ash Wednesday Service marking the beginning of the season of Lent and our preparation for Easter.

During the service, Pastor Karen will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto our foreheads as a sign of mortality and repentance. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Please Remember in Prayer

If you would like to receive prayer requests by e-mail, please email Susan Craver (smcraver@aol.com). We also need your help to keep our prayer list up to date. Please email Susan or call 764-2983 with additions, deletions, or corrections. We would love to hear how these folks are.

Diane Adams	Charlotte Clodfelter	Trecia Gibson	Len Mashburn	Brenda Sowers
Dallas Anderson	Donna Clodfelter	Lyda Hawn	Larry McAlpine	Alda Stanley
David Anderson	Ruby Cook	Gavin Hill	Hinton Meyer	Trevor Staup
Nick Antich	Lisa Coley	Dennis Houck	Tommy Mitchell	Eugene Taylor
Steve Arnold	Betty Craver	Bill Huneycutt	Mabel Molinaro	Luke Terrell
Brenda Barker	Elaine Craver	Brenna Husel	JoAnne New	Madison Thomason
Matthew Berry	Kitty Craver	Melissa Jessup	Bryson Patyk	Angel Thompson
Dennis Booth	Larry Craver	Doug Kirk	Adalyn Peeler	Barbara Trivette
Anita Bowlen	Michael John Craver	Judith Kurtzrock	Julia Peele	Hank Ulfrey
Betty Brown	Pat Craver	Dolly Knox	Danielle Phillips	Hal Varner
Heather Brown	Brodie Curtis	Ollie Kyzar	Emmett Pope	Martha Varner
Otha Bumgarner	Clark Dail	Larry Lineberry	Tiffany Prior	Meggi Wassiler
Kelly Chesnut	Sue Davis	Jacob Little	Jennie Reaume	Debbie Weaver
Barbara Chesnut	Darrell	Ray Little	Mary Schaeffer	Larry Weaver
Gretchen Clark	Missy Flannery	Betty Ruth Mabe	Patty Scott	Bonnie Williams
	Marian Funderburke	Dick Martin	Donese Sink	



A Prayer for the New Year

God make me uncomfortable with easy answers to difficult questions. Make me miserable with half-truths, so miserable in fact, that I do the difficult work of ferreting out truth.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

Use my righteous indignation at injustice, inequality, oppression and exploitation and show me how to harness it in love to work for your justice, your equality and your peace.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

God bless my tears shed for those who suffer and let them water the ground so that peace springs up where war chokes you out. Let empathy flow out of hearts hardened by years of belief in self-sufficiency.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart.

Finally, Lord help me have faith that I, all alone, can make a difference in the world, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Only then can you take up dwelling in my heart. AMEN

-by Karen McIntyre

Jan-  uary—FEBRUARY 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>10</p> <p>Adm Bd</p> <p>Jennifer Craver Bonnie Hege Erika West</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Kick Start</p> <p> Morning Journeys</p> <p>Kathy Knox</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Daylen Hill Landon Perry</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Myles Brown Allison Johnson</p>	<p>14</p> <p>TommyVaughan Marissa Furches</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Michael Foy</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Christina Vanderzee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Kick Start</p> <p> the Heart Circle</p> <p>Shirley Blakley Pat Woosley</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p> Fellowship Meal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Nancy Miller</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ashley Houck Jeff Henderson Todd Miller Lane Rumley</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Missy Fitzgerald Anna Carter Tim Newman</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Jason Beck</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Kick Start</p> <p> Morning Journeys</p>	<p>26</p> <p> 55 AND HOLDING</p> <p>Tanner Scism</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ronnie Essick</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Mark Brown Sabrina Furches Chip Vanderzee Noal Templeton Anna Carter</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Kim Bauer Michael Zimmerman</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Kick Start</p> <p>CoM</p> <p>Thom. Hege Jordan Fitzgerald</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Sam Vanderzee</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Cindy Augenstein Renon Brinkley Lisa Foster Walker Schaeffer Kathy W. Walker</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Rowdy Powers Lara Duffey</p>
<p>7</p> <p> METHODIST MEN</p> <p> CLOTHING DRIVE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Kick Start</p> <p> Morning Journeys</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Elaine Craver Bob Mitchell</p>	<p>10</p> <p> ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Cameron Black Lisa Beck Kim Tannehill</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lily Craver Sue Davis Carole Martin</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ben Abood Pat Craver Brenna Husel</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Kayla Brinkley Jackie Jarnagin</p>

Sundays, 8:15AM—Early service choir practice, choir room; 6 PM—youth; Mondays, 6:45 AM—KickStart; 6:30-8:30 PM—scouts; Tuesdays, 7:30 PM—Early service choir practice; Wednesdays, 7:30 PM —11 o'clock choir

Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church
 1082 Community Road, Lexington, NC 27295

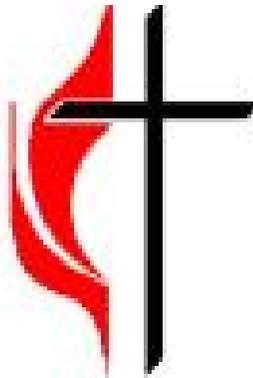
**US POSTAGE
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 PERMIT NO 16
 WELCOME, NC
 27374**



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

GREETERS

- Jan 17 8:45 The Mercer Family
- 11:00 Sue Anderson, Jennifer Weisner
- Jan 24 8:45 Gary and Cindy Augenstein
- 11:00 Dan and Sally Hosey
- Jan 31 8:45 Jim and Lynette Wikle
- 11:00 Gary and Mary Kathryn Patterson
- Feb 7 8:45 Hubert and Rosemary Hege
- 11:00 Trish and Gray Hutchens
Grayson and Britt Sink
- Feb 14 8:45 Paul and Isabelle Evans
- 11:00 Danny and Penny Beck



FLOWERS

- Jan 10 Web Zimmerman Family
- Jan 17 open
- Jan 24 Franklin Smith, Sharon
Anderson and Nadine Lohr
- Jan 31 Corky Clodfelter
- Feb 7 Jane Zimmerman
- Feb 14 Jon & Nancy Oakley

NURSERY

- Jan 17 8:45 Amy Mercer
- 11:00 Mary Kathryn Patterson
- Jan 24 8:45 Emily Hedrick
- 11:00 Jade Essick
- Jan 31 8:45 Cindy Zimmerman
- 11:00 Suzanne Koontz
- Feb 7 8:45 Janis Faye Troutman
- 11:00 Michelle Powers
- Feb 14 8:45 Lynn Lemly
- 11:00 Jennifer Craver

ACOLYTES

- Jan 17 8:45 Leslie Mashburn
- 11:00 Olivia West
- Jan 24 8:45 Emma Frye
- 11:00 Levi Jackson
- Jan 31 8:45 Grayson Frye
- 11:00 Sydney Bumgarner
- Feb 7 8:45 TBA
- 11:00 Avery Garmon
- Jan 14 8:45 TBA
- 11:00 Caitlyn Bauer

LITURGIST

- Jan 17 8:45 Danny Hedrick
- 11:00 Lisa Foster
- Jan 24 8:45 Linda Mashburn
- 11:00 Christy Chesnut
- Jan 31 8:45 Pastor Karen
- 11:00 Bonnie Beck
- Feb 7 8:45 Kaye Powers
- 11:00 Jim Bumgarner
- Feb 14 8:45 Susan Craver
- 11:00 Jim Knox

...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

SHELTER VOLUNTEERS

- January Charles Craver, Mike Bradley
- February Bill Huneycutt, Charles Craver
- March Mike Craver, Danny Hedrick