

Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

"God is bigger than you think, and you are a bigger part of what God has in mind than you currently imagine." – Rev. Dr. Sam Wells

I've been sitting with these words since I first heard them during a webinar with a group of pastors I was mentoring through the ordination process. Sam Wells, a former dean of Duke Chapel and the current rector of the congregation at St. Martin in the Fields in London, was discussing the concept of "calling" and how God invites us to behold the face of Christ in the people we encounter in ministry and our own value to the church.

By ministry, I mean the ministry that all baptized Christians share. That led us into a time of self-reflection, reckoning with how we have allowed our identity as Christian leaders to be stymied by busyness, stress, and a lack of community, and intimacy with God and those relationships we depend on the most.

His point was that often our idea of God is rather small, limited by the gravity of our immediate needs or the weight of the burdens of body, mind, and spirit that we take up each day. And as our conception of God narrows, so does our sense of place in God's work of redemption. We get to

thinking we're somehow insignificant and ineffectual as disciples of Jesus Christ. When the dominoes fall this way, we can be left with a rather parched faith, desperate for the nourishment of a living, breathing God.

Psalm 1 offers this token of wisdom to us"

"[Those who seek God] are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves do not fade."

It's never too late to be replanted by the streams of love and purpose that flow from God's presence with us. Each of us has a life that is worthy and enough, that is exactly the kind of life God can use to do remarkable things at Winstead UMC and beyond, precisely because, "God is bigger than you think, and you are a bigger part of what God has in mind than you currently imagine."

Pastor Patrick will return on Monday, August 17.

Office hours are

Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH



*Marty Johnson,
Minister of Children & Youth
336-402-5000*

As we approach going back to school, I would like to remind you of a few dates.

On Sunday, August 23, we will have our traditional Blessing of the Backpacks during Sunday morning worship. We want our youth and children and all those who are a part of our education system to bring your backpack, your briefcase, or any other items that you carry to school that you would like to have as a part of the blessing. This is a special time that we pray for, lift up, and ask God's protection on our schools, our students, the administration, and all of the wonderful teachers that lead our children. What a wonderful way to teach our children that in all the things that we do, we ask God's blessing and protection.

We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, September 13. We are also planning to continue the tradition we have of kicking off the new school year with a churchwide picnic that same day.

If you would like to help teach or assist our children and youth in Sunday School, please contact Marty Johnson or Jodi Routolo.

Also, pray for us and the Disciple Education team as we develop our curriculum for the fall of 2026.

FALL EVENTS

More detailed information will be in the September newsletter.

Thursday, October 15

Pumpkin unloading

October 17-31

Winstead Community Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, October 31

Winstead Community Fall Festival

November 6-8

Pilgrimage 2026 Rocky Mount

ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 2

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Sunday, August 9

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Sunday, August 16

5:30 - 7:00 pm

Youth @ Winstead

Sunday, August 23

No Youth Group

Sunday, August 30

No Youth Group

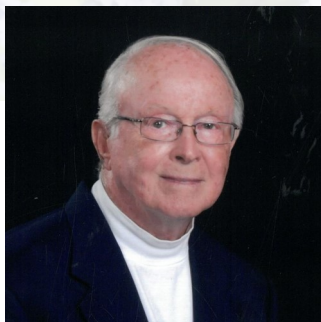
Marty Johnson, Minister of Children & Youth

Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Email: martykeithjohnson@gmail.com or

Cell phone: 336-402-5000

In Memoriam



Don Ray Taylor **June 24, 1932 to July 1, 2026**

Donald Ray Taylor, 94, of Wilson passed away Wednesday, July 1. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, July 8 at Winstead United Methodist, 1851 Airport Boulevard, Wilson. Interment followed in Evergreen Memorial Park, Wilson. Rev. Patrick Murphy and Rev. Rachel Kwashe officiated.

Don is survived by his loving wife of sixty-seven years, Ophelia Ivey Taylor; son, Steve Taylor (Mareva); granddaughter, Brittany Lawhead (Susan); grandson, Mark Taylor (Anna), and his great-grandsons, Jackson Taylor, Foster Taylor and Rhodes Taylor.

He is preceded in death by his son, Doug Taylor; parents, William and Delia Taylor; sister, Betty Sue Butler and his brothers, Bill Taylor and Gary Taylor.

The family would like to express their thanks and gratitude for the compassionate care given to Donald, and special thanks to Gentiva Hospice and all of his caregivers.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials in Don's memory to Winstead United Methodist Church, 1851 Airport Boulevard, Wilson, NC 27893.

Trustees Report by Fred Hight, Chair

The lock on the front door of the church has been repaired.

A short dedication for the playground equipment was led by Pastor Patrick Murphy after worship on July 12, with members of the congregation in attendance.

Also, we are working on getting the stained-glass pieces from the windows at the Tarboro Street location repaired, with plans to hang them in locations around the new church on Airport Boulevard at a cost of \$300 per window. Funds for repairs for five of the twelve windows have already been promised. If you would like to donate to this project to help preserve our church's history, please place your donation in the offering plate or see someone in the office.



A stained glass panel from Tarboro St.

The Trustees continue to take care of the church's needs for safety, comfort, beauty, and preservation our church's heritage.

SUNDAY, JULY 12



Blessing of the new playground.



Jim Higgins, center, joined Winstead by transfer of membership. He is shown with his wife Terri (l) and Pastor Patrick.



A potluck lunch to send off Pastor Patrick on his renewal. As usual, tons of good food and good fellowship.

New Member Jim Higgins

Jim and Terri are from Maryland, growing up a few miles from Washington, DC, but spent most of their lives in Anne Arundel County, about 15 minutes from Annapolis. They have a daughter, Kathy, who lives in Raleigh with her husband, Lars, which explains how they came to live in beautiful North Carolina in 2016. Jim retired at the end of 2017 as a project manager under contract to the US Treasury Dept. Terri retired at the end of 2022 as a financial analyst. They have been members of the UMC for about 50 years! After commitments to Knightdale UMC are completed this year, Terri plans to join Winstead.

Serving in the Community

Sandy Pittman, Minister of Music, directed the Community Orchestra at Wilson Community College in a program of patriotic music on July 14. Members of Winstead's Chancel Choir also participating were Debbie Williams and Becky Holland in the choir and Lance Downing in the orchestra.



Finance Report

By Linda Lane, Chair

Please take time to review the financial state of our church. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Gretchen Hunt or Linda Lane.

General Budget Totals

June

Expenses	23,364.28
Income	<u>20,653.10</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (2,711.18)
YTD Expenses	137,232.01
YTD Income	<u>95,321.51</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(41,910.50)



Quilt Raffle

Seeds of Hope Wilson Presents:

The American Stars Quilt



Sewn & Quilted by Joyce Wolfe—size 75" x 90" (Queen)

TICKETS:

\$5 for 1 ticket ~ \$20 for 5 tickets
\$50 for a baker's dozen (13)

Purchase Tickets at SOH Booth at Wilson Farmers & Artisan Market
or call Priscilla at 252-236-8673

Drawing will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026
Proceeds benefit Seeds of Hope programs

AUGUST AT WINSTEAD

See the online calendar for the most current information - winsteadumc.org/events

Sunday, August 2

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm ECHO Youth

Monday, August 3

9:00 am Cooking Peanuts

Tuesday, August 4

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Hand in Hand

Thursday, August 6

6:00 pm Sunday School Meeting

Sunday, August 9

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
5:30 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, August 11

10:00 am Wellness Class
11:15 am Outreach Committee

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, August 18

9:00 am Worship Team Planning
10:00 am Wellness Class

Sunday, August 23

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship

Tuesday, August 25 - Newsletter Deadline

10:00 am Wellness Class
6:30 pm Ministry Board

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Adult Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship



August Birthdays

Ophelia Taylor.....	3
Peggie Shultz.....	6
Josiah Kirby	9
Brenda Pitt.....	13
Kathy Creech.....	19
Finley Murphy	21
Carey Griffin	23
Lisa Tedder.....	27

Sunday, August 9
Leave your items on the table
in the foyer.





1851 Airport Blvd. W
Wilson, NC 27893

Pastor Rev. Patrick Murphy
Minister of Children & Youth.....
.....Marty Johnson
Minister of Music..... Sandy Pittman
Organist & Handbell Choir Director.....
..... Joyce Wolfe
Church Musician Faye Jones
Office Administrator Gretchen Hunt
Lay Leader Sandy Lamm



The Winstead Connection

Published monthly by:
Winstead United Methodist Church
1851 Airport Blvd.
Wilson, NC 27893
252-237-3709

WinsteadUMC@gmail.com
www.WinsteadUMC.org

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday Schedule

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth
5:30 pm WAM (Children's Choir)

Pastor: Rev. Patrick Murphy
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org

Come, grow closer to God with us!

Donate Online

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings online, please scan this QR code.

