

Winstead Connection



Pastor Patrick Murphy

During my renewal leave I was fortunate to spend time at rest, in prayer, with my family, retreating to nurture my soul, and nurturing my hobbies. It was time well spent and a gift that you, our church family, made possible. During my weeks away I wondered what word or phrase might encapsulate the experience—that is, what would I be taking away from this time?

Tend. That's the word that bubbled up through prayer. I wondered what God could be speaking through that one word. I'd assumed renewal leave would give me a sense of how much I needed to slow down and rest, and while I 100% believe those realities are contained in the word "tend," I also sensed something broader in its meaning. Here's my best attempt to articulate it.

Take care of and tend to those things that God has given you to do and to the lives entrusted to your care. Do not apologize for needing to say "no" to this or that if your gifts and energy are best spent elsewhere. Do not apologize for being human or for having limits. Tend your soul. Tend your prayers. Slow down and do not rush God's timing. Do everything with the patient love and attention of Christ.

I was reminded of two things.

One, Jesus's words in John 15:

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch cannot produce fruit on its own, but must remain in the vine. Likewise you cannot produce fruit unless you remain in me."

And two, Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem," in which Cohen sings: "Ring the bells that still can ring / forget your perfect offering. / There is a crack, a crack in everything / that's how the light gets in."

Together these verses and lyrics remind me that God redeems the places where I am worn and tired. That's where the light of God's grace enters in, where God trims and restores, and calls me to tend as best I can the work that my gifts allow me to do.

I don't think any of what I'm sharing is novel or revelatory, but these are things that I believe God needed me to hear within the word "tend." I wonder if any of these words may be meant for you, too? In any case, know that I am always here for you and yours as I know you are for me and mine. Let's step forward together and tend what needs tending, and leave the rest to God.

CHILDREN & YOUTH



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

Children & Youth Sunday School

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!!!

Children and youth Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 am. If you would like to help in teaching or assisting 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 and beyond!

Blessing of the Backpacks

On Sunday, August 23 we had our traditional Blessing of the Backpacks. I would like to thank everyone who made the Blessing of the Backpacks possible. This is a wonderful time of blessing our children, our teachers, administrators, bus drivers, cafeteria workers and custodians, and all who help run our wonderful school system.

Please remember to pray for each of these as our children walk through the Fall semester of 2026.

Sunday Night Youth ECHO (MYF)

Winstead's youth group is in need of your help! The middle school and high school students need adults to walk alongside them in their journey to adulthood.

A part of the responsibility of the body of Christ is to walk alongside young Christians during the formation of their discipleship. We are in need of some adults who will come on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00. In doing so, you will support and give value to our youth as they grow in their relationship with Christ. You, as an adult Christian, as adult brothers and sisters in Christ to these youth, are an invaluable asset. We call that a Mentor.

If you are willing to give up one Sunday evening a month or more, please contact me, I would love to talk with you. This is the responsibility of the body of Christ, the church, known as Winstead UMC.

You have always been a gracious and supporting church. Your help is needed in this area. This is

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ECHO YOUTH SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 6

No Youth Group - Happy Labor Day

Sunday, September 13

12:00 pm Potluck Picnic

Sunday, September 20

5:30 - 7:00 pm Youth @ West Nash

Sunday, September 27

5:30 - 7:00 pm Youth @ West Nash



Hand in Hand

by **Sanda Hight, Chair**

Our 25th year of partnership with Vick Elementary School has begun. Our congregation looks forward to opportunities to participate in supporting one of our public schools again with a variety of activities and prayers for the staff and students. Supporting our schools is a way to share our Christian love and support with the community.

The Hand in Hand Committee provided a back-to-school lunch for the staff on August 12 with food and fellowship with the staff on their first mandatory workday. Before the lunch began, we explained our Prayer Partner opportunity and distributed forms for the staff to document their participation. We will again invite the congregation to sign Prayer Partner forms on the first and second Sundays of each month and to be in prayer for the partners throughout the school year.

Also, the school supplies drive is in progress. The school has requested sharpened # 2 pencils and copy paper this year as their greatest needs, although we will accept any school supplies that are turned in. School supplies are due by Sunday, September 6 and can be placed in the designated bin in the narthex.

Plans for this year's "Books for Vick" are underway. We are currently making decisions about book titles for grades K-5, and funding for this year's books is in progress.

Thanks to all who help support Vick in so many ways. We might call on the congregation to help Vick with needs as they arise. Let us all be in prayer for safety, academic success, and a pleasant place for the students to grow in their school experience.

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a ministry and we need people to step forward to love, support, and pray for our young people.

I want to thank you in advance for those who step forward and for the church as a whole for your continual support and engagement in the spiritual life of our young people!

Blessings

Mr. Marty

FALL EVENTS

Sunday, September 13

12:00 pm Churchwide Picnic

Sunday, September 20

5:30 pm ECHO Fall Kickoff

Thursday, October 15

4:30 pm Pumpkin unloading

October 17-31

Winstead Community Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, October 31

2:00-5:00 pm Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

November 13-15

Pilgrimage 2026 Rocky Mount

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

Grace Notes

by Joyce Wolfe

Let's Ring!

A bell is waiting for you!

Meet me @ Winstead on Wednesday, Sept. 9th
@ 5:00 pm in the Music Room.

After a short hands-on class, you, too, can make sweet music with Grace Notes! No pressure - lots of helpful, friendly ringers - and an experience you don't want to miss! There's nothing like it! Talk to Grace Notes' ringers - ask them why they ring!

Call me @ 252-299-0981 with questions.

Meet me September 9 and...Let's Ring!

September Birthdays

Jennifer Wilson	5
Katelyn Wilson.....	6
Gary Bass	7
Asher Murphy	8
John Perkins.....	8
Ray Brinkley	10
Elijah Kirby.....	12
Terri Higgins	16
Sandy Pittman.....	16
Jim Higgins	17
Harriett Bennett	19
Ruby Newcombe	20
Elizabeth Lamb	21
Jean Proctor.....	21
Barry Shultz.....	22
Cooper Pitt.....	24
Joyce M Wells	24

September Anniversaries

Cooper & Brenda Pitt	8
Barry & Peggie Shultz.....	12



Women of Winstead

by Sanda Hight

WOW (Women of Winstead) will resume meetings and activities on Saturday September 19 at 10:00 at the church. All women of the church are invited to attend for some exciting and new programs this year, along with activities that support the church and community.

We hope to make this year a time of growth and excitement as we support the church's programs and community outreach. If you have questions about WOW, please contact Karen Rowley, president.

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

July

Expenses	22,717.47
Income	<u>12,735.61</u>
Budget Shortage	\$ (9,981.86)

YTD Expenses	159,949.48
YTD Income	<u>108,057.12</u>
YTD Budget Shortage	\$(51,892.36)

LEADERSHIP SHIFT

Change takes time and intention. As you know WUMC recently made a significant change to the leadership structure of the church, shifting from our traditional committee structure to a simplified model centered on a single board. I know many questions have bubbled up since.

Why?

How will it work?

What about our ministries?

Who will be in charge of this or that part of the church's business?

These are all valid questions.

First, it's important to know that this change was one that was collectively discerned, prayerfully considered, and openly discussed by our Church Council in recent months. The United Methodist Book of Discipline allows for alternate leadership structures within certain bounds that meet the current needs of a local congregation, and we were guided in this discernment process with the help of our former District Superintendent Rev. Alan Felton, and our current one, Rev. Dr. David Joyner.

For Winstead, the main consideration was that the strain of the traditional structure was weighing everywhere. Many faithful members were serving on two, three, and even four committees at once. The Nominations Committee felt the pressure of keeping committees populated annually with people gifted to fill those roles. Many who served and were rolling off one committee were being recruited immediately to serve on another. The number of meetings added up. The question was whether we were "top heavy" for this season of

the church's life. Consensus was reached to make this shift and live in this simplified accountability structure, which we determined would be the only way to know if it was a fit for us.

So what exactly is the change, and what is the trade-off?

The change takes our four administrative committees (Church Council, Staff-Parish Relations, Finance, and Trustees) and consolidates them into a single board that is supported by a small Nominations Committee. We are calling this lead team the *Ministry Board*. It brings together people with leadership skills and good Christian character to administer the life of the church alongside the pastor, much like the Church Council did previously. The former committees are not disappearing, as the Discipline requires them for every local church. In this new, simplified structure, they simply exist in a single body.

What has changed is that the *Ministry Board* will not just champion the mission of the church and approve other committee work. It will be the place where the mission is championed *and* the administrative work of Finance, Trustees, and Staff-Parish Relations is done directly.

These are those who have agreed to serve on the Board for its first iteration:

Sandy Lamm (Lay Leader)	Fred Hight
Peggie Shultz	Linda Lane
Jodi Ruotolo	Randy Marshburn
Edwina Kaeser	Denise Lamm
Nancy Elliot	Mary Ellen Bass
Diane Barker	Pastor Patrick

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Leadership Shift (cont'd)

To maintain balance we will employ the same class structure that we have used all along: three classes of servant leaders each serving three-year terms, ending on different years. The reformed Nominations Committee will bear the responsibility of calling and equipping folks to serve on the board as each class fulfills their commitments.

The goal with this is less meetings, quicker and nimbler decision making, and greater freedom for folks to focus on stewarding the ministries of WUMC that serve the congregation and the wider community.

The biggest trade-off is that we have fewer people overseeing the administrative work of the church. However, this simpler model enables the *Ministry Board* to champion our mission and practice delegation so that we maintain momentum as we focus on the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Is this a permanent change?

We hope that this shift will be permanent. We anticipate this simplified structure will streamline the church's administration and strengthen our accountability to each other and to God in our shared work. Its adoption has been an overwhelming success in recent years with churches across the connection, with a significant number right here in our own North Carolina Conference.

However, if after a time we discern that this arrangement has not served the mission of Winstead UMC, we will consult with the District Superintendent with the option to return to a more traditional committee model.

Who can attend Board meetings?

The simple answer is, anyone connected to our church! *Ministry Board* meetings are open to all,

and though only Board members have a vote on agenda items (exactly like Church Council members previously), anyone who attends may lend their voice to the discussions taking place. You may even be called on to share testimony, give a report, or request guidance for a ministry area where you serve.

The only matters that must be held in confidence and thus closed to anyone not serving on the Board are matters related to Staff-Parish Relations. SPRC business has always been privileged because of the delicate nature of those matters. If an executive (closed) session needs to be called during a Board Meeting, everyone will receive advance notification. SPRC business will be held as the last item on the agenda that night so that it does not interfere with the public nature of other agenda items.

What about our other ministries?

Our other ministry teams and committees remain unchanged. We have our Worship Team, Outreach Team, Youth and Children's Team, and the leadership of other ministries at Winstead that are not affected by this change. They will function as they always have in seeing that we grow and serve well as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As these ministry areas partnered with Church Council previously, so now they will work alongside the *Ministry Board*.

As always my door is open to you if you would like to discuss anything further, or have additional concerns or questions. Anyone serving on the Board would be happy to receive the same.

With gratitude for our ministry in Christ,
Pastor Patrick

SEPTEMBER AT WINSTEAD

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

Tuesday, September 1

9:00 am Worship Team
10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Hand in Hand

Wednesday, September 2

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 6

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

Monday, September 7

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 8

10:00 am Wellness Class

Wednesday, September 9

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

9:30 am Bible Study at Wolfe Home

Sunday, September 13

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Drive-In Food Drive
12:00 pm Potluck Lunch Picnic
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 15

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, September 14

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 15

9:30 am Bible Study at Wolfe Home

Saturday, September 19

10:00 am Women of Winstead

Sunday, September 20

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, September 22

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Ministry Board

Wednesday, September 23

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

9:30 am Bible Study at Wolfe Home

Friday, September 25

Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, September 27

9:30 am Sunday School for All
10:15 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Worship
5:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal
5:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 pm ECHO Youth

Tuesday, September 29

10:00 am Wellness Class
2:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, September 30

5:30 pm Grace Notes Rehearsal
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Pastor Patrick's office hours are
Monday - Wednesday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Email: pmurphy@nccumc.org



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

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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
5:00 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!

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