

The Circuit Writer

A monthly newsletter of
Tryon United Methodist Church

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August-September 2023

Late Summer. Early Fall. Seasons of Change.

When I was a child, I used to think that summer was never long enough. The days of staying up late, sleeping as long as I wanted, eating as much ice cream and as many popsicles as was allowed, and playing outside with my brother, cousins, and friends till dark ended way too soon. Summer as a child was, for the most part, fun. And, while I loved school and loved the excitement of going back to school in September, the mostly unstructured days of my childhood summers were some of my most favorite and hold some of my best growing up memories.

As an adult, I still love the months of summer and early fall. Even as hot as this summer has been, I have found ways to keep cool, mostly through a renewed my love for watermelon (it's always in my fridge now) and my childlike delight in eating popsicles (the sugar-free kind, but still yummy). Walking Jenna is way more fun in July than it is in January, regardless of the heat. Sitting on my front porch, barefoot and wearing shorts and a t-shirt, watching the birds and reading a good book beats bundling up in a coat and trying to convince myself I should find joy in the cold any day.

Every September I find myself thinking of the first days of 2nd grade in Mrs. Shumate's class. I loved her and I loved 2nd grade. I remember that she was big on art projects and holidays. She read to us all the time and let us do puzzles (I still remember the Scooby-Doo puzzle on the back table), and she let us listen to funny records during "quiet" time. I remember one of those records had the song "I Eat My Peas with Honey" on it. I memorized it and went home and sang it for my dad, who laughed as hard as my 7-year-old self did. Even when I grew up, we would sing that song and always laugh. Another good memory I have of childhood and my dad.

As an adult, I still love September and the early days of fall. I always want to go to the Mountain State Fair and eat a funnel cake, ride the Ferris wheel, and go see all the exhibits—the homemade quilts and canned goods and particularly the giant pumpkins. Who doesn't love seeing 600 pound pumpkins??? September doesn't seem quite right unless I get my giant pumpkin fix. (For those thinking I am easily entertained...you are correct.)

While I will be not-so-thrilled when the days get shorter and colder, I will savor each of these long, hot summer days and enjoy them as much as possible. Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything and that it's important to live in the season we're in. We don't have one bit of control over the changing of seasons—not the ones marked on the calendar and not the ones that mark the days of our lives. What we do have some control over is how we live the days we have. Each one is a gift from God. The death of a beloved friend and colleague in ministry recently, reminded me in startling and heart-wrenching ways how much of a gift each day is and how much God invites us to live each one as fully and joyfully as we can. I was also reminded of the ways in which our lives intersect with others and how that matters when we look at the larger picture of our story and journey.

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Late Summer. Early Fall. Seasons of Change.

(continued)

I feel an energy these days that I've not felt in a long while. These late summer/early fall days are preparing us for something. I don't quite know what, but I trust that God does and will lead us together into this next season, hopefully with a renewed sense of purpose and being and living. We've lived a good long while under the cloud of a pandemic and in the tensions of discord and divisiveness. To the extent that we can change that, let's do! To the extent that we can gather ourselves together and lean into that energy of change and the joy of being followers of Christ, let's do! To the extent that we can embrace change and welcome a new way forward, let's do!

Thanks for letting me be a fellow traveler on this journey. You are a blessing to me. May God bless you and keep you. I wish you peace.

Pastor Lynnette

News and Notes

Fall Faith Formation Offerings at Tryon UMC

Sunday Morning Coffee and Conversations with Pastor Lynnette



Begins September 10, 2023
9:45 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Join Pastor Lynnette in the Parlor for coffee and light snacks as we discuss a Scripture of the week. Typically, we'll be talking about the Scripture reading from either the previous week or the current week's worship service. The idea is to allow time for you to ask questions or offer thoughts about the text offered in worship and learn a bit more about it. In the doing of that, we'll enjoy time together with a cup of coffee (or tea if you prefer).

Learning and Lunch: Food for Thought and Lunch with Friends

Begins September 13, 2023
11:00 a.m.



We will begin our Wednesday morning sessions focusing on women in Scripture, using the book ***Hidden Voices: Biblical Women and Our Christian Heritage*** by Heidi Bright Paraless (See the description below).

Following our discussion, all who are able to will pick a local spot to have lunch for further discussion and/or fellowship.

FYI...Used and new books are available through Amazon or through Smyth & Helwys Publishing. If you would like the church to order a copy for you, please let Pastor Lynnette know.

Hidden Voices: Biblical Women and Our Christian Heritage by Heidi Bright Paraless

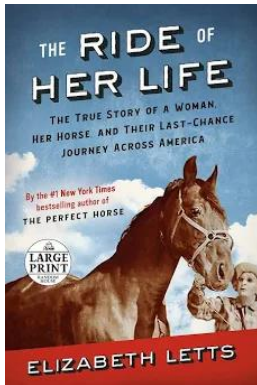
Since the beginning of time, women have lived with single motherhood, domestic violence, and abandonment. There also have been women who have defied the status quo by teaching, leading, and working with men. This Bible study discussion book, for women and men, lends support to women in these roles and provides models for issues affecting contemporary women. Hidden Voices offers a fresh, inspiring look at the stories of women in the Bible, how Jesus treated women, and the difficult passages concerning the role of women.

Heidi Bright Paraless is a graduate of Kansas State University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Page Turners

New meeting day and time

Third Monday of the month at 12:00 noon



For the meeting on **Monday, August 21** the book is *The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America* by Elizabeth Letts.

In 1954, sixty-three-year-old Maine farmer Annie Wilkins embarked on an impossible journey. She had no money and no family, she had just lost her farm and her doctor had given her only two years to live. But Annie wanted to see the Pacific Ocean before she died. She bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men's dungarees, and headed south in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow.

Annie had little idea what to expect beyond her rural crossroads; she didn't even have a map. But she did have her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness.

Annie, Tarzan, and her dog, Depeche Toi, rode straight into a world transformed by the rapid construction of modern highways. Between 1954 and 1956, the three travelers pushed through blizzards, forded rivers, climbed mountains, and clung to the narrow shoulder as cars whipped by them at terrifying speeds

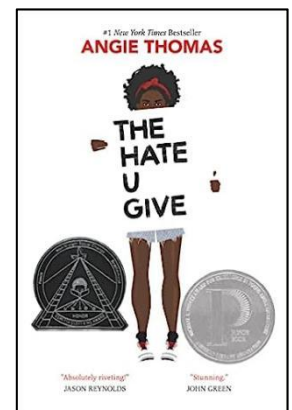
Annie rode more than four thousand miles, through America's big cities and small towns. Along the way, she met ordinary people and celebrities—from Andrew Wyeth (who sketched Tarzan) to Art Linkletter and Groucho Marx. She received many offers—a permanent home at a riding stable in New Jersey, a job at a gas station in rural Kentucky, even a marriage proposal from a Wyoming rancher. In a decade when car ownership nearly tripled, when television's influence was expanding fast, when homeowners began locking their doors, Annie and her four-footed companions inspired an outpouring of neighborliness in a rapidly changing world.

In the meeting on September 18 we will read *The Hate U Give*, by Angie Thomas.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name.

Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what *really* went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Remember, we will meet in the Comfort Shawl room on Monday at 12:00 noon. You are always welcome, whether or not you have read the book.



Calendar

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
		1	2 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	3 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	4 10:00-Qi Gong Kevin McCall	5
6 Communion 11:00-Worship	7 10:00-Teacher Supplies 1:30-Leadership Team 5:30-AA mtg Adam Palmer	8 10:00-Teacher... 10:00-Comfort Shawl	9 10:00-Teacher... 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	10 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Gary Turner	11 10:00-Qi Gong	12
13 11:00-Worship	14 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	15	16 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	17 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean	18 10:00-Qi Gong Greg Turnage	19 Holly McKee
20 11:00-Worship Margaret Kell	21 10:00-Qi Gong 12:00-Page Turners 5:30-AA mtg Gordon & Karen Davidson	22 10:00-Comfort Shawl	23 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	24 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Peggy Henson	25 10:00-Qi Gong	26 Wallace Patrick
27 11:00-Worship	28 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg Jennifer Monterisi	29	30	31		

September 2023

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					1 10:00-Qi Gong	2
3 11:00-Worship	4 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg	5 Jim Holly Leslie Turnage	6 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	7 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean Bob & Lynn Montgomery	8 10:00-Qi Gong	9 Karen Davidson
10 9:45-Coffee and Conversations 11:00-Worship	11 10:00-Qi Gong 5:30-AA mtg Pat Cowan Nancy Hiley	12 10:00-Comfort Shawl	13 11:00-Lunch & Learn 5:00-Choir 6:00-Handbells	14 4:30-Girl Scouts 6:00-Living Clean -Pat Turner	15 10:00-Qi Gong	16 Pam Monterisi
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A Summary of the 2023 Western North Carolina Annual Conference

Local church apportionment levels for 2024 will remain the same as they were in 2023. And, there will be a 2% decrease in the conference and general church apportionment to each local church. The Conference was able to pass along this good news for local churches due to several factors:

- collective best efforts at Conference level and well-managed investments
- 757 churches should not be punished for remaining with the UMC
- 75% of the 192 disaffiliating church apportionment payments were applied to offset the total 2024 WNCC budget needs. Bishop Carter is forming a task force to study the long-term financial impact of post disaffiliation on the WNCC's 2025 budget and beyond.

There were eight petitions brought for discussion and vote at this year's Annual Conference. Each of the eight petitions was APPROVED without amendment. Delegates will now bring these eight approved WNCC legislative items to General Conference next April. The essence of each petition is summarized in the chart below. If you wish to read the complete petitions, please see Pastor Lynnette or Pam Monterisi who will provide those to you.

Petition 14: Local Church Creation Care Teams

God gave air, water, soil, sun, plants, creatures, and human systems to have all these work together in harmony to be life-sustaining. Every church is urged to integrate creation care and justice in all areas of ministry.

Petition 15: Add Fossil Fuels to United Methodist Investment Screens

The inclusion of "fossil fuels" to the present list of investment screens presently included in Paragraph 171 used by the UMC to make sustainable and socially responsible investments. It will encourage conversations with companies who want to create positive change.

Petition 16 Parental Leave in the WNCC

Appointed clergy is permitted to collect compensation for up to one quarter of the year for parental leave. The Book of Discipline already grants up to one quarter year of parental leave. This petition simply insures that compensation will also be granted for up to the full quarter year.

Petition 17: Encouraging Leadership with Integrity

This petition involves requiring that all lay and clergy, who intend to disaffiliate from the UMC, to recuse themselves from all leadership roles in all areas of the United Methodist Church. Codes of conduct should be developed to manage conflicts of interest that may arise around disaffiliation discussions and agreements.

Petition 18: Voting at Church Conferences

This petition prevents often decades-long inactive church members, who have shown no signs of participation or support of the church, from determining and voting in critical decisions of the church. Administrative Councils of each local church will determine baseline standards for three quantifiable categories of membership vows.

Petition 19: In Support of Creating a U.S. Regional Conference

This resolution would establish structural parity throughout the worldwide church. The existing UMC structure at the general church level diminishes our country's ability to be a vital and effective church at General Conference.

Petition 20: Removal of Discriminatory Language

The General Conference must consider all legislative items it receives. All legislative items have no force unless a General Conference approves them. The 2024 the General Conference will certainly consider legislative proposals that would drop several existing prohibitions.

Petition 21: Justice and Empowerment for LGBTQIA+ People

People who identify as LGBTQIA+ want equal treatment to be seen as truly human and should be protected, affirmed, and empowered throughout the life, mission and ministries of the church.

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Annual Conference Lay Delegate,
Pam Monterisi*



TEACHER SUPPLIES

PACKING AND DELIVERY

August 7, 8, 9 & 11

Tryon UMC is partnering again this year with Outreach to pack and deliver classroom supplies to all teachers in Polk County Schools for the 2023-2024 School Year.

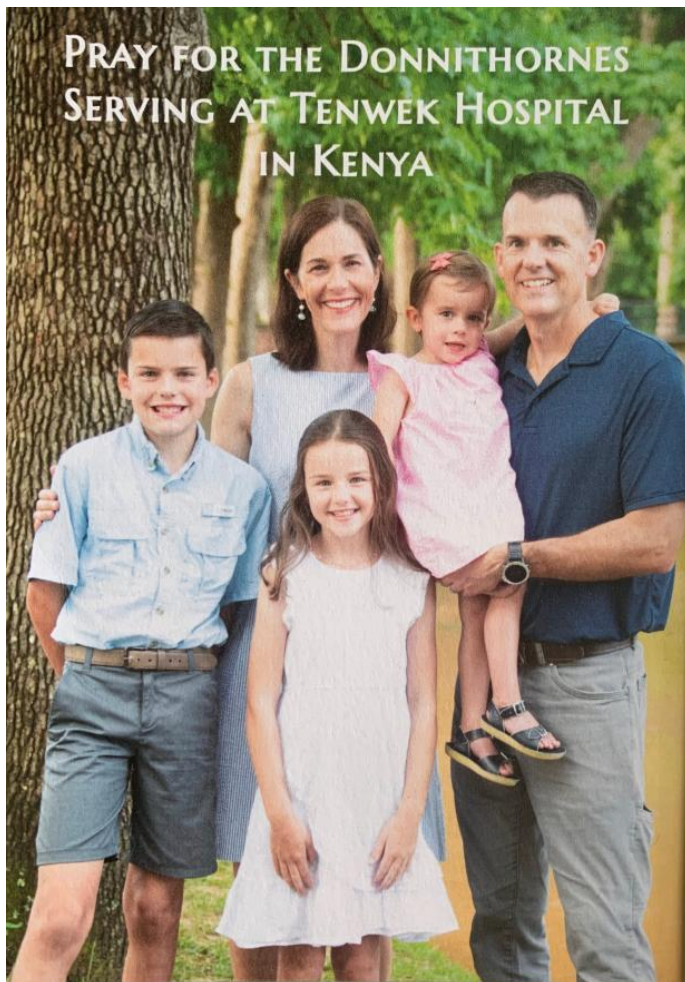
❖ **PACKING: August 7, 8 & 9 from 10:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m.**

❖ **DELIVERY: August 11 from 10:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m.**

To sign up to pack and/or deliver,
contact Pastor Lynnette in the office or email at lrj.sills52@gmail.com

An invitation to follow the Donnithorne family and pray for them this next year.

You may remember meeting Nancy Hiley's sister, Fran Donnithorne, when she visited Tryon a couple of years ago. Fran's son Jeff and his wife Katherine recently made the decision to move their family to Kenya for a year, where Katherine will serve as an ophthalmologist in a mission Hospital. Nancy asks for your prayers for the family and notes that Jeff plans to share some of their experiences in a blog, which you can access at <https://the-donnithorne-family.epistle.org/subscribe> or via the QR code below.



Our family plans to serve at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya from September ('23) through May/June ('24). Katherine will be serving as an ophthalmologist, while Jeff and the kids homeschool with other missionary families and find ways to serve in the community. We are so grateful for your prayers and encouragement as we embark on this new missions adventure. We would love to hear from you!

Tenwek Hospital

Attn: The Donnithorne Family

PO Box 39, Silibwet Road

Bomet 20400 KENYA

Jeff, Katherine, Jackson (11), Charlotte (9) & Lydia (2)



Gallery



We thoroughly enjoyed a visit from our missionary family, Jamie and Holle Wollins and their sons Thomas, Eli and Luke. They ask for our prayers and are always eager to hear from us. Their mailing address is:

Rruga Ilia Shyti
Nr. 17/1
Tirana, Albania



A reception after church



Passing the Peace during worship



Cookies!

July 2 Ice Cream Social

