
◆ The Congregational Connection ◆

Volume 69, Issue 2

December 2019



*Pastor Michael C. Dubbs,
Minister*

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

ENVELOPE HUGS

Several years ago, my neighbor Carol Crain came as the program speaker to a Women's Fellowship meeting. Her program, entitled "Envelope Hugs" was shared with the women. Carol has since passed away, but I recently emailed Steve Crain and asked if we could borrow the "Envelope Hugs" name for a program of reaching out to our shut-ins.

His response to that request was simple, "Carol would be honored!"

Recently, when visiting Pat Dupree at The Coventry, I asked her if she would like to

get some cards from folks at the church, even if she didn't know them. She said, "Oh, that would be lovely." I tried to think of a name for the program and kept coming back to Envelope Hugs, so that was when I emailed Steve.

I took the idea of Envelope Hugs to a recent Deacons Meeting for their approval. As a result, there is a basket placed near the atrium containing cards of encouragement and thinking of you. The envelopes are pre-addressed, but not sealed. You may look through the envelopes if you would like to send a card to a specific person, or you can just take one at random and send the card.

As stated, it is pre-addressed, but not sealed. Open the card, write a little note, then seal it, put a stamp on it, and send an envelope hug. I think this will be a great way to let those of our membership who can no longer get to church, know that we still think about them and pray for them.

EVERYBODY LOVES A HUG! EVEN IF IT'S IN AN ENVELOPE!

Pastor Mike



Christmas 2019

MEET THE MINISTER

Pastor Michael Dubbs' first sermon at Community Congregational Church was on Palm Sunday, 2012. But his journey to the Sandhills started long before that. Mike grew up in Bloomsburg - the only 'town' in Pennsylvania. He is the only child of Joanne and the late Michael Dubbs. Mike's education was very Bloomsburg-centric - elementary school, middle school, high school and even Bloomsburg University. As a child he loved the out of doors and spent as much time outside as parents and schoolwork allowed. In high school Mike was the center for the football team. And he has both coached and refereed basketball. In high school he developed his love of photography, a passion that is still very much with him to this day as witnessed by his current involvement with teaching the subject to children. In fact, Mike's first year of college was at Rochester Institute of

Continued on page 2

Technology (RIT) where he was a photography major.

But as a young man Mike's life was touched by tragedy when his father died at the age of 37 and Mike was only 14. To this day the early passing of his father is the most difficult thing that he has had to endure.

After a year at RIT Mike transferred to Bloomsburg University where he majored in Business Administration. Upon graduation Mike worked for several years in nursing home administration. Later he went to work for the Scott Township as Secretary Treasurer where he spent six years.

It was while working at the Township that Mike had perhaps his most important religious moment. His supervisor told Mike that he was not placing his job as his #1 priority. Mike responded that in fact he had given his job too high a priority and that it had affected not only his marriage but his relationship with his children. That night he wrote out his resignation and decided to give himself to God's work.

Mike had grown up in the Baptist church but after his resignation from the Township he became a youth pastor in Millville, PA. During this period he knew he wanted to do even more with God. After four years as a youth pastor he enrolled in seminary at Wesley University in Washington, DC. He was in a commuter program where students would have classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and return home on Wednesday evening. For Mike that was a two and a half hour drive back to Pennsylvania. After a year in seminary Mike became the minister for three (!) Methodist churches in Mount Union, PA. It was a hectic time for Mike. He had three separate churches to attend to while going to school three days a week.

After 7 years in Mt. Union Mike moved to Southern Pines in 2011 to help settle the estate of his late uncle, Lt. Colonel William Dubbs. For about two years he worked as a guard at the nuclear power plant in New Hill, NC.

After preaching a few times as a substitute at Community Congregational Church the Trustees realized what a prize they had and offered Mike a full time position as head minister.

Pastor Dubbs has traveled extensively throughout the world. He has been to 47 of the 50 states. In high school he took trips to both Spain and France. Other trips include Jordan and Israel while in seminary and recently a polar bear photography expedition to Winnipeg. Religious missions have been made to the Dominican Republic, Honduras & Ukraine (three times).

Pastor Dubbs has two daughters – Michelle and Megan – who both live in Pennsylvania. His parents, Joanne and Dick Pileski, still live in Bloomsburg and have been visiting the Sandhills for a month in the spring for the last few years. He is engaged to Donna Myrick of Vass.

Reverend Dubbs has brightened the lives of countless local hospital patients as Dubbsy the Clown. He also has worked with Patch Adams with whom he has been on a mission trip to Peru.

Pastor Dubbs has no lack of hobbies and extracurricular activities outside of the church. He attends many UNC sporting events, golfs, teaches photography (complete with drones), works with Habitat for Humanity and serves as Chaplain for a local

Men's group. He also enjoys spending time with Donna's grandson Tatum.

The Community Congregational Church is truly blessed to have Pastor Dubbs as our spiritual leader. In addition to his inspirational sermons his door is always open to anyone whether or not they are a member of the congregation. He would welcome you to stop in and say 'hello.'

Bob Coates

ANGEL TREE

Community Congregational Church is once again participating in the Angel Tree Program through Christmas for Moore (formerly the Empty Stocking Fund). The Angel Tree Program is a gift-giving community event that has been in existence for over 50 years in Moore County. Through the kindness and generosity of our community, over 1,600 people were provided with gifts of food, clothing and household items in 2018 alone. Since 2015, Christmas for Moore has successfully matched every qualified family with a sponsor with a total of over 5,000 people having received Christmas gifts. Each family requesting assistance applies through Christmas for Moore and undergoes a face-to-face application process. Local businesses, churches and organizations then "adopt" the families in need.

This year our church is assisting 16 families, totaling 65 individuals by providing clothing, household items, personal hygiene items, toys and educational items for children. Additionally, monetary donations were accepted and will provide each family with a food voucher to Food Lion. God's

love was evident by the outpouring of volunteers in our Church who provided assistance with the many facets of the Angel Tree program including the application/interview process, shopping, gift wrapping, organizing, setting up and Gift Distribution Day. The Angel Tree Program has been a tremendous success. Thank you to all who have participated.

Danielle Dana

WHAT DO YOU DO AT BIBLE STUDY?

Several years ago Pastor Mike started a Bible study class. At that time there was a class in the morning and one in the evening. After a period of time the evening class moved to the morning class. Over the last few years our group has gone from a high of 14 people to a low of 6 people. We currently average 9-12 people each Tuesday morning at 10:00 am.

So what do we do? We of course, study the Bible, the people of the Bible and the events that still affect us today. But it is more than just that, its part Bible study, part psychiatry, part social gathering. We are encouraged to give our opinion on our interpretation of the readings of the Bible, but we also relate those readings to our current lives.

We study, we read, we laugh, we cry and we share our joys and pains with the group. Therein we have become a wonderful group of friends that care deeply about one another. I look forward to each Tuesday when we meet and I invite anyone that wants to learn not only about the Bible, but also

about those around us, some who attend but aren't members of our church but want to learn. Bible study is truly a blessing to each of us.

Thank you Pastor Mike!

Lois Womack

Bible Study Program

I Declare War is the title of the current Bible Study program. Created by Levi Lusko, this course is designed to help us understand the negative influences within us and to conquer the impulses and behaviors that impede our ability to be our best selves. Scripture, humor and spiritual guidance will create a path to becoming the person we want to be. Pastor Mike encourages any interested Church members and non-Church members alike, to join in on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Carol Coates

MEALS ON WHEELS OF THE SANDHILLS

If you've noticed a flurry of activity on Thursday mornings in the Fellowship Hall ...

Meals on Wheels is a charitable organization providing hot meals daily to people who are homebound and unable to prepare meals for themselves. Each weekday a team of volunteers will donate their time and the use of their vehicle to deliver approximately 100 hot meals daily to those in need. 260 days per year, these volunteers will each pick up a container of individual meals from Penick Village where the meals are prepared. These meals are then delivered to individ-

uals in Aberdeen, Pinebluff, Pinehurst and Southern Pines. This year volunteers will deliver approximately 24,000 meals. There are no financial or age restrictions for recipients. Recipients are asked to pay for their meals on a weekly or monthly basis at a rate of \$3.75 per meal. Accommodations are made if there is financial hardship and clients are asked to pay a portion of the cost to the best of their ability. Many times, recipients who can pay for their own meals will also donate funds to cover the cost of services for someone else.

Meals on Wheels depends heavily on fundraisers and donations from the community since they are a non-profit, charitable agency receiving no government funding. Referrals are often made through the Department of Aging & Social Services, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital and Home Health Agencies, but typically an individual or family member will request services directly. An added benefit is peace of mind for family members who don't live in the area, knowing that someone is visiting their loved ones on a daily basis.

Meals on Wheels of the Sandhills was started in 1974 by a local resident, Mrs. Ida Baker Scott who began cooking for friends who needed assistance. When Mrs. Scott passed away her will provided partial funding for continuing service to the community by Meals on Wheels.

But back to that flurry of activity on Thursday mornings ... since Meals on Wheels only provides meals on weekdays, members of the Board of Meals on Wheels come to our church on Thursday

mornings to pack food for the weekend for each client. One of our church members, Kathy Beddow, along with other Board members, Kathy Farron and Carol Rizzo meet weekly at the Church to prepare snack packs for the weekend. They will pick up items from the Food Bank and may purchase additional necessary food items locally. Each client will receive four or five items, including juice, a granola bar, soup, crackers, Macaroni and Cheese. These items are then delivered to Penick Village for the regular Friday drivers to deliver to their clients.

Meals on Wheels clearly provides a valuable service to local residents. Our Church is pleased to support this outreach into our community.

Carol Coates

FROM YOUR BOARD OF DEACONS

If you know of a Church member who is home bound and is in need of food or a visit from the Church, please speak to one of our Deacons and let them know. We will include these individuals on our Cares and Concerns list. Thank you.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

All men of our Church are automatically members of the Men's Fellowship. We meet for lunch on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall, starting at noon.

The Men's Fellowship is involved in a number of programs and activities. We have identified four (4) charitable organizations in the lo-

cal community that we support with annual financial contributions. Those are:

The Ellie Jean Project – building an all-access playground for Moore County residents with disabilities

The Coalition for Human Care – helping people in need with food and other life support

Bethany House – a halfway house for women in Moore County

The Boys and Girls Club – working to inspire, enable and educate young people from all backgrounds and circumstances to realize their full potential as responsible, productive and caring citizens.

In addition, we also offer our Helping Hands ministry. When someone in the Church has a project or "honey do" task that is bigger than they can handle, we have a team of volunteers who are willing to step in.

We sponsor the two (2) annual golf outings for the Church. In the spring, we have the Wade Vollmer Memorial Golf Classic, and in the fall, we have the Pumpkin Open. All you need to participate is a sense of humor.

We sponsor the Annual Christmas Luncheon, the Annual Soup/Chili Cookoff, and the Annual Pancake Breakfast. Can you tell we like to eat?

We encourage all men of the Church to join us. We have a great meal and a good time every month. I hope to see you next month!

Allan Nanney
Chairman

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship meets monthly to enjoy lunch and fellowship. We are now working on our Christmas projects and will meet again in January. We welcome all woman of the church and would love some new thoughts and ideas for the coming year.

Please join us on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 12 Noon. Bring a sandwich to share. Salads and dessert are provided.

Lynn Hammond
Chairman

Christmas Time
By Derrick Lane Thompson

Christmas is a special time of the year.
Your heart should be full of joyful cheer
And when you are alone and thinking,
Hey up there it is Jesus' Birthday.

The giving is great,
The giving presents are nice.
But the reason we are here is GOD paid
The price.

So have a nice holiday and
Don't forget.

*Submitted by Linda Thompson.
We remember Derrick Thompson, who passed
away on June 15th, 2017*

Praying
By Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate; this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Submitted by Emily Tobias

**WE WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Michael Kline
 Angela ‘Angel’ Shackelford
 Charlotte Gallagher (reinstated)
 Brenda Williams
 Doris Bonaldo
 Joe and Ann Shields
 Tom and Kathy Beddow

*We look forward to a long and happy
 association!*



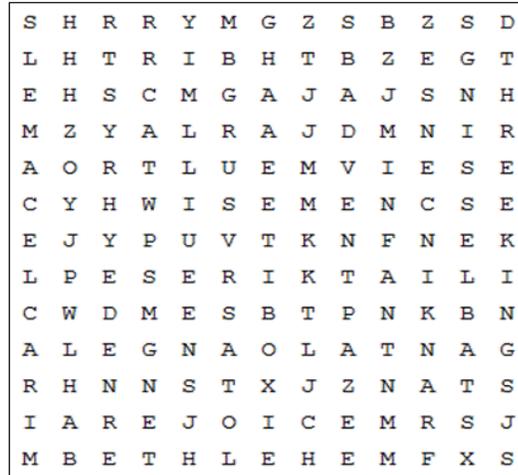
*Chili and Soup Contest—2019
 Congratulations to our Winners:
 Lynn Hammond (Soup)
 Natalie Richardson (Chili).*



Find the words in the Puzzle!



Joy to the World



- | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| ADVENT | INFANT | MYRRH |
| ANGEL | JESUS | NATIVITY |
| BETHLEHEM | JOSEPH | REJOICE |
| BIRTH | MAGI | STABLE |
| BLESSINGS | MANGER | STAR |
| CAMELS | MARY | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN |



Golf Team—2019

Photo Safari—2019

Birthdays in December

Delylah Thomas	12/01
Michael Dubbs	12/04
Barbara Motsinger	12/04
Edgar Smith	12/24
Alex Cameron	12/28
Lois Vollmer	12/29
Lillian Richardson	12/30

Birthdays in January

Catherine Boykin	01/01
William Shockley	01/04
Shelton Raynor	01/05
Shirley Ward	01/11
Sharon Shirer	01/13
Scot Sorget	01/15
Richard Lawrenson	01/19
Eleanore Wallace	01/23
Richard White	01/31

Birthdays in February

Danielle Dana	02/10
Joe Shields	02/10
Linda Thompson	02/24
Brandon Mawyer	02/27
Luellen Sorget	02/28

Recipe

Cinnamon Sugar Blueberry Banana Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup granulated sugar divided
 1/2 cup unsalted butter softened
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 2 overripe bananas
 2 large eggs
 7 tablespoons sour milk
 (make sour milk by adding 1 teaspoon
 vinegar to 6 1/2 tablespoons nonfat milk)
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 2 cups all purpose flour
 2 cups blueberries
 1 teaspoon cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a 9x5x3" loaf pan with butter and coat it with sugar. (You do this like you would grease and flour a pan. Grease it first, then add about 2 tablespoons sugar to the pan. Shake to coat.) Cream butter and 3/4 cup sugar with a hand mixer. Set aside. Add bananas, eggs, milk, vanilla, salt, and baking soda to a blender jar and blend until smooth. Pour half the banana mixture into the butter mixture with 1 cup of flour. Mix with hand mixer until just incorporated, then add the remaining banana mixture and flour. Mix until just incorporated. Stir in blueberries. (Make sure that your berries are dry.) Pour into prepared pan. Combine 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Sprinkle evenly over the top of the batter. Bake for 45-50 minutes until a toothpick comes out with just a few crumbs. The edges will be a dark brown and there will be a nice crack down the center. Cool completely before removing loaf from pan, but you can cut slices from the pan after it's cooled for about 15-20 minutes.

Happy cooking!

Irish Jokes from Joan B. Smith

Paddy was driving down the street. In a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!'

Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

Paddy was in New York .. He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, 'Okay, pedestrians.' Then he'd allow the traffic to pass.

He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk. After the cop had shouted, 'Pedestrians!' for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, 'Is it not about time ye let the Catholics cross?'

MANY THANKS TO REBEKAH SCHAMBERGER, MARJO BROWN AND TO OUR ENTIRE CHOIR FOR THEIR MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS CANTICLES DURING LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE. WHAT A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO US ALL.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS! PASTOR MIKE, THE DEACONS, REBEKAH, MARJO, CYNTHIA AND MADELEINE, WISH FOR YOU A MOST JOYOUS CHRISTMAS AND A NEW YEAR OF GOOD HEALTH, CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU!

WE INVITE YOU! CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF LIGHTS, WITH COMMUNION, WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 24TH, 7:00 P.M. COME WORSHIP WITH US

CARING AND SHARING

The Deacons ask you to remember the following in your thoughts and prayers:

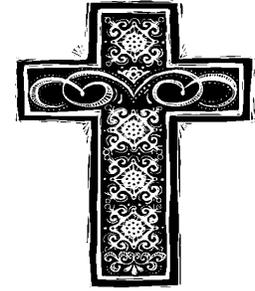
The men and women of the armed forces, all emergency, humanitarian and environmental rescue efforts, especially the explosion in Texas, the victims of the shooting at Pearl Harbor, the devastating fires in California and Australia, the typhoon in the Philippines, the volcanic eruption in New Zealand, the desperation of immigrants who seek asylum and peace in the world.

Deborah Anderson (Sharon Shirer), Jack Barron, Doris Bonaldo, Carolyn Buchan, Norris Camarena, Jack Carter, Scott Chase, Valerie Dancik (Madeleine Katavolos), Clifford Dawson (326 Bowman Road, Candor, NC 27229), Curtis Holt, Bill Hogan (Sharon Hogan), Eli Jaksic, James McDonald, Frances Monroe-Craft (Quail Haven), Barbara and Fuller Motsinger, Jay O'Shaunessy (Sharon Shirer), Brenda Richardson (Jack Barron), Kevin Schaefer, (Cary), and Jack Schaefer, (Cal.), Glenda and Larry Snider, Lottie Sue Williamson.

Remember the joy that can be shared in a telephone call, card or visit!

If you know of anyone who wishes to receive communion, please contact Lois Womack, Chairman of the Deacons (295-5296) or the Church of fice (692-8468).

Due to the implementation of the Healthcare Information Privacy Protection Act (HIPPA) several years ago, we wish to remind everyone that it is the patient and/or immediate family members and/or person holding a power of attorney who must notify the hospital and/or health care facility of the patient's religion and the desire of the patient to receive visits from the Minister or Deacon.



IN MEMORIAM

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation go to the family and friends of:

**Gerald Abram Blik
04.22.2019**

**Joan Marie Smith Bouchard
06.17.2019**

**Bobby Tew
Friend of the Church
06.23.2019**

**William Seward Dietrichson, M.D.
06.27.2019**

**Wade Crosby Vollmer
08.27.2019**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace, Amen

"That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet." Emily Dickinson

Operating Income and Expense

December 8th, 2019

Total operating income:

YTD \$180,178

Total operating expense:

YTD \$169,499

Membership total: 145

The church needs your help with the operating budget. If possible, please include a little extra. Thank you for your support!



**The Community Congregational Church
United Church of Christ, Inc.
“The Church of Wide Fellowship”
P.O. Box 62
Southern Pines, NC 28388-0062**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Office Telephone Numbers

Church Office 692-8468
Church Fax 692-8468
e-mail: cccpnc@outlook.com
website: www.communitycongregational.org

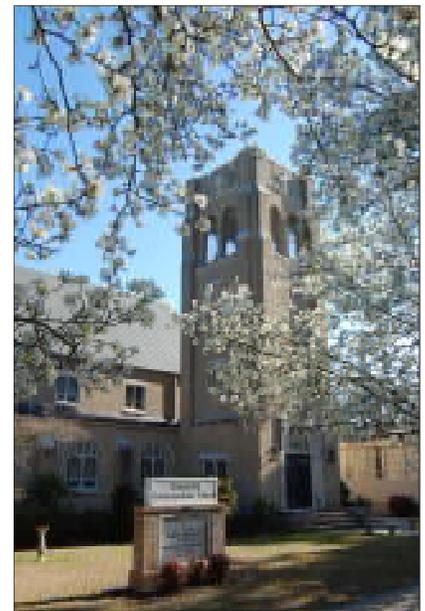


**The mission of this newsletter is
“To write about the happenings and the
membership of the congregation”**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
9:00 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY
10:00 A.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 P.M.**

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** *Minister’s Message*
- Page 1** *Meet the Minister—Bob Coates*
- Page 2** *Angel Tree—Danielle-Dana*
- Page 3** *What do you do at Bible Study?—Lois Womack*
- Page 3** *Meals on Wheels of the Sandhills—Carol Coates*
- Page 4** *From Your Board of Deacons*
- Page 4** *Men’s Fellowship—Allan Nanney*
- Page 4** *Women’s Fellowship—Lynn Hammond*
- Page 4** *Christmas Time, by the late Derek Thompson*
- Page 4** *Praying*
- Page 5** *We Welcome New Members*
- Page 5** *Photos*
- Page 5** *Puzzle*
- Page 6** *Birthdays: January, February, March*
- Page 6** *Recipe—Cinnamon Sugar Blueberry Banana Bread*
- Page 7** *Caring and Sharing*
- Page 7** *In Memoriam*
- Page 7** *Operating Income and Expense*



*The Community Congregational Church, UCC
1895-2019
Photo by Renee Shawn Clement*

May you always have in your arms the one who is in your heart.

“Our newsletter will be interesting and helpful to our congregation, if YOU help us make it so! Call the church office with your news.”