



CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of
CAMDEN METHODIST CHURCH
A Global Methodist Church
March 2024

In This Issue

An Easter Prayer

In the Spotlight—
Behind That Smile!

In and Around the Church

- ◆ Bring Your Craft
- ◆ Bible Time & Tea Ministry
- ◆ Jackie Berry Circle
- ◆ Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center Fundraiser
- ◆ Senior Saints
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Obituary
- ◆ Thank You
- ◆ Help Wanted

Celebrations

Admin. Board Summary

March Calendar

The Church Record

Remember As You Pray



Heavenly Father, as we approach a day set apart to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, please prepare our hearts. We desire to worship You in spirit and in truth. You deserve nothing less than prayers that rise like incense to your throne of grace. You are worthy of all praise. Help us do that, Lord. Prepare our hearts to celebrate You—not focused on our

own standards or traditions—but on Your glory alone. Help us to remember all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. How quickly we forget. Flood our memories with acts of your lovingkindness at work. Let your light shine in the forgetful places of our hearts so that we can once again see Your glory in the face of Jesus. Help us recall the deliverance Your salvation brought to our captive souls. We were once so far away from you, God. Remind our hearts of the adoration we first felt when Christ’s blood brought us near. And through the zeal of our first love enable us to offer You the fruit of our lips—and lives—in true celebration.

Copied from www.crosswalk.com

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
John 11:25-26 (NKJV)

In the Spotlight

Behind That Smile!



At one time or another, most of us have been greeted by a warm smile as we enter the sanctuary at Camden Methodist Church. Debbie Riccui is in the narthex, getting ready to take control of the Power-Point program for the church service. With a big smile on her face, she greets us as we

walk in. What a story there is to tell behind that smile.

Debbie was born in Webster, MA., the oldest of five children. It was a home without a structured routine or parental care. She went to school if she wanted to, bedtime was whenever she felt sleepy. The family ate when they wanted. "God cared for me before I knew Him", she stated.

At the age of twelve, the five children were placed in foster care. When the social worker called the prospective foster parents to tell them she had three girls, and the two boys would go to a home in Boston, the foster parents replied that they wanted all five as they did not want to separate the children. The foster parents had tried for ten years to have a child. Now, just as they were to start fostering children, the lady was eight months pregnant!

Life took a different turn for Debbie. Now there were rules to obey, chores to do, school to attend regularly, a set bedtime and the family together at mealtime. With the new baby, Debbie's main job was to take care of her four siblings. It was a happy home, filled with love!

Debbie was christened in the Catholic faith, attended Catholic grade school, high school and college. After graduating from college, she married and became the mother of two children, a girl and a boy. They lived in an apartment above her sister-in-law, who had left the Catholic faith and joined a Baptist Church. She kept in-

viting Debbie to attend the Baptist Church with her but Debbie declined. In the meantime, they were holding a Bible study in her sister-in-law's home which Debbie also declined to attend. Finally, one day the gentleman leading the Bible study asked, "Do you believe in God? And do you believe the Bible is true?" "Of course I do", Debbie replied. "Then join us in the Bible study. Surely that will not affect your Catholic beliefs", the gentleman said.

Debbie began attending the Bible study and for the first time, her heart was opened to understanding the scriptures. One day her sister-in-law invited Debbie to attend the Baptist Church service because she was singing a solo. Debbie sat in front of the man who taught the Bible studies. Suddenly he said, "Amen Brother! Keep preaching!" Debbie was sure he would be reprimanded for speaking out during the worship service, but the Pastor responded to him!

During this time, Debbie's sister had a house fire which destroyed everything. The Catholic church/school that they attended did nothing to help, but the Bible study group brought food, money, clothing and furniture. Debbie decided to join the Baptist Church a short time later and was baptized, under water.

A few years later her marriage fell apart. She then had a job with Unilever, makers of well known products such as Dove soap and Ponds Cold Cream. First she was a secretary to a vice president of the company and later moved to Customer Service. Her job allowed her to take care of her children.

Debbie continued her walk with God in the Baptist faith. A Franklin Graham Crusade was coming to a nearby city, so she volunteered to serve as a counselor. There was much training to be done before the Crusade. One day as she was on her knees praying, she heard God say, "Invite your mother to the Crusade". "But God, you can't mean this. I don't even have my mother's telephone number. We have had no contact for ten years". "Invite your mother to the Crusade" was the answer she got.

Being obedient, Debbie called her sister and got the telephone number. She then called her mother and was totally surprised when her mother agreed to



Continued from previous page

attend the Crusade. Unfortunately, her mother called two days before the Crusade and was not able to attend because she was in the hospital. However, since then, her mother has become a Christian.

Debbie met Mike Ricculti in 2001 and they were married a year later. Mike has four children, two girls and two boys. When Mike retired they decided to leave the cold winters of Connecticut and move south. They planned a trip to NC to find the perfect place, which turned out to be 108 Driftwood Drive, Shiloh, NC. They moved in 2017.

Gretchen Carter had been friends with the previous owner of the house and had the keys and garage door opener. One day she called Debbie to get her the keys and invited her to church. "No, I am going to look for a Baptist Church as soon as we get settled in", Debbie responded. Fifteen minutes later the phone rang and again it was Gretchen. "We have the nicest Bible study, held weekly at a friend's house. How about coming with me to that until you can find the right Baptist Church?" Gretchen asked. Debbie agreed to attend. When she walked into Karen and Pat Seigh's house, she was warmly greeted by a group of women. She felt loved, welcomed and that she was among Godly women. The rest is history as she joined this church the same year.

Debbie is a very talented craftsman. Perhaps the most beautiful item she has made is a jewel studded cross and clock which decorates our Pastor's desk. She quilts, sews, and crochets as well.

Her favorite foods are steak and pasta.

Debbie's favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6. Currently she is studying the book of James. Her favorite hymns are "Just As I Am" and "In the Garden".

You often find working the PowerPoint for our Sunday services. She also types and prints the weekly bulletins. Her hope for the church is that we will continue to grow, reach more young people, and spread the Word of God wherever we are.

Debbie's story is not finished. She and Mike nursed his mother through all the stages of Alzheimer's, keeping her at home until her death. Now Mike has been diagnosed with dementia. She works from home most days, for the Coast Guard, while keeping a keen eye on Mike. The future is uncertain. She needs to downsize, but should she move to be nearer one of the children or stay here, caring for Mike, with the help of our church members?

Life has tossed Debbie more trials than many of us will ever experience, yet she continues to serve God with perfect faith that He will be with her. Her bright smile is a testimony to her strong faith that God will be her strength. After all, "God cared for me before I knew Him!" What a beautiful testimony to the faith of a woman who walks with God daily. We are so blessed to have her in our midst! This family needs our prayers and support. Will you reach out to them in love, faith, and support as they face yet another journey into the unknown?



Some of Debbie's beautiful art work is pictures above.

IN AND AROUND THE CHURCH



BRING YOUR CRAFT

Bring your craft and join the Gloria Wesner Craft Group when they meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A recent visit to the craft group found ladies working on beading projects, paintings, felting, and diamond dots. Don't have a craft but would like to learn one? I am sure the ladies would be glad to share their talents with you. Bring a friend and join the group on March 12 and 26. If you have questions you can contact Marsha Sanderlin at 252-339-4569.



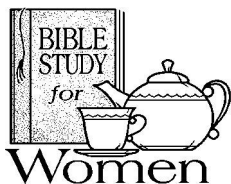
coached us on a little tea etiquette!

Kellie followed by giving her testimony and sharing why she felt led to start this ministry. Next she introduced the book we would be studying which is entitled **A Woman After God's Own Heart** by Elizabeth George. Each lady in attendance was given a complimentary copy of the book.

The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 5. All ladies are invited to come fellowship over a cup of hot tea and join us as we seek to be the women God calls us to be, women after His own heart.

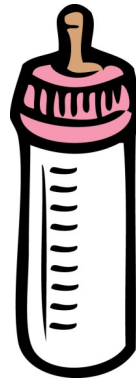
If you did not attend the first meeting or have not previously signed up to attend, but would like to become part of this group, please text Kellie @ 252-339-1612.

Below are pictures from the first meeting.



A new women's Bible study met for the first time on Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 pm. The **Women's Bible Time and Tea Ministry** is being led by

Kellie Berry. As the ladies fellowshiped around the tables and enjoyed hot tea and treats, Mrs. Doris Nixon enlightened the group about the development of tea drinking which began in the 2nd century B.C. She also



Again this year the Jackie Berry Circle has decided to support the **Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center** through participation in the **Baby Bottle Campaign**. During the month of March we will be distributing baby bottles to members of our congregation who wish to participate in this worthwhile fundraiser. Last year through the generous donations of our congregation, we raised \$1,430.23 for the

important work of this organization. Below is just one of the inspiring success stories shared by the clinic.

ANOTHER LIFE SAVED!

Charlotte (not her real name), a mom to eight children, came to the clinic seeking confirmation of her home pregnancy test and an ultrasound. She has two full-time positions and is in school to earn her degree; she also volunteers in the community. She loves her kids and has never had an abortion, but said, "I feel so conflicted. I love my children and I could never adopt because I get too attached, but I don't know how I could have 9 kids though. It wouldn't be fair to the other kids, our finances, and the struggle it places on them. It's not fair to them. My only real option is to have an abortion." After the ultrasound and speaking with clinic staff about the financial and physical resources available to her, Charlotte chose life for her baby.

The work we do here saves lives. In speaking with Charlotte before the ultrasound, biblical truths were shared with her about the lies we're told versus the biblical truths. In Jeremiah 1:5 it states, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." God has a wonderful plan and purpose for each life. He knows what Charlotte's baby will grow up to be and do and the ripples that this baby's life will make for His Kingdom. At the end of her session she states, "I know I can't terminate an actual life." Charlotte got plugged into the parenting program, was given an Embrace Grace box, prenatal vitamins, and a handful of resources to help her and her family with the finances she had originally been concerned about (including Medicaid, WIC and the Albemarle Food Bank). She left the clinic smiling and went over to the parenting program suite to get signed up that very same day.

Copied by permission from the APRCC Newsletter.

Happy Easter!

The Jackie Berry Circle held it's monthly meeting on March 21. Members had been anxiously waiting to hear what our speaker, Cynthia Haynes, had to tell us about angels. She did not disappoint! Here are some facts about angels, all supported by the Bible. Did you know:

- Angels are servants and ministering spirits sent to encourage us during our lives on earth.
- Angels are guardians who protect us from earthly attacks that would otherwise incapacitate us.
- Angels rejoice in the throne room of God when even just one person comes to faith in Christ.
- Angels stand at the ready to go on assignments to protect God's children.
- Angels played a significant role in biblical stories.
- Before being known as Satan, the enemy of every Christian was known as Lucifer, an angel who worshiped God in heaven.
- While there are good angels who worship and serve God, there are evil angels who fell with Satan.
- As believers, we cannot be controlled by the enemy or his angels because the spirit of God dwells in us.
- Angels are fierce warriors of heaven, not harp playing babies.
- Jesus is referred to as the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament.
- The four names of angels given in the Bible are: Gabriel and Michael (good angels), and Lucifer and Abaddon (fallen angels).

The Jackie Berry Circle wants to thank Cindy for taking the time to research and present such an informative program to us.

SENIOR SAINTS

LOVE was in the air at the gathering of Senior Saints on February 17. Alberta Cox did it again! She never disappoints. The fellowship hall was decorated beautifully with red table covers and red hearts hanging on the walls. Entertainment was provided by McKinley Riggs and Jimmy Eason from Trinity Methodist Church along with Pastor Wayne. A delicious meal consisted of fried chicken, barbecue, coleslaw, green beans, collards, potatoes and corn bread was provided. It was topped off with fruit and cake for dessert. After lunch it was a couple of bingo games with prizes for the winners. AND the gathering would not be complete without drawings for the many door prizes Alberta provides. In total about 55 people attended the event. We welcomed members from our church along with members from Sharon Methodist, Trinity Methodist, Old Trap Methodist and members of the community. We hope each one enjoyed themselves and will join us at our next Senior Saints gathering.





Summer is fast approaching and it is time to begin planning for our Vacation Bible School. If you would like to be a volunteer, please let Beth Upton know.

We are in search of someone who is willing to help with publication of our newsletter, The Circuit Rider. It is currently being published using Microsoft Publisher, but any platform or newsletter template you are familiar with can be used. We are willing to work with or train anyone interested in volunteering for this position. See Mike Gall for more information.

OBITUARY

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

MARCH Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Zoe Schmutz (1) | Shirley Doxey (6) | John Berry (14) | Marsha Sanderlin (15) | Michael Reese (24) | Sal Scotto DiVetta (30) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|

MARCH Anniversaries

Bob and Beth Woodhouse (28)
Chris and Emily Williford (28)

"The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor".

Charles Stanley



Thank you from the Jackie Berry Circle and the Camden Middle School teachers to those who contributed to the collection of school supplies.



If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion or in honor/memory of someone, please contact Wrae Collins @ 252-335-7049.

APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
March 25

Camden Methodist Church

Administrative Board

January 31, 2024

Pat Seigh opened the meeting with devotion and prayer. Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

Reports

| | |
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| Treasurer's Report | November and December 2023 financial reports were reviewed and approved. In addition to the required payment we were again able to pay an additional \$1,000 toward the principle owed on the mortgage. |
| Finance Committee | All 2023 year end payroll tax forms, W2 and 1099 forms, and giving statements have gone out. Audit date has been set. Connectional funding calculation has been made and payments are being sent monthly. \$30.51 remaining in an account in the Memorial Fund has been moved to the Hands and Feet of Christ Fund. |
| Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee | Mid-Atlantic Christian University said they will post jobs for choir and youth directors |
| Memorial Fund | Balance is \$2,582.87, all designated. |
| Trustees | Someone is coming to look about window repair and roof leak. Covering over office door is in process. Parking lot drain is in process. Church and parsonage being treated for pest control. |
| Communications Committee | Due to issues we are having with the live feed, we need to purchase additional equipment. The anonymous donor continues to give monthly to communications fund. |
| Event Coordinator | The Charge Conference meal went great with over 70 people in attendance. Senior Saints event is scheduled for February 17. |
| Sunday School | Sunday School attendance for the month of January was 114. Ping Pong table needs repair and some chairs need to be reupholstered. |
| Food Pantry | Needed electrical outlet has been installed. AC should remain on at all times in kitchen for food storage. |
| | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Membership Committee | Meeting weekly to do data entry on all members. Rachel and Sal's son is helping with setting up membership form and spread sheet. |
| New Business | Beth Upton has agreed to lead Bible School this year. Social hall floor needs to be stripped and waxed. |

Pastor Wayne closed the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting of the Administrative Board will be February 28, 2024.

Friday March 1
World Day of Prayer

Sunday March 3
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Worship Service

Monday March 4
Pastor's Day Off
9:30 am Pre-Bag Food for Food Pantry
4:00 pm Food Pantry Board

Tuesday March 5
8:30 am Minister's Council
7:00-11:30 am Food Pantry set-up, food distribution,
clean-up
5:30 pm Women's Bible Time & Tea Ministry-Net Room

Wednesday March 6
10:00 am Membership Committee
10:30 am Praying Disciples
4:30-6:30 pm Drive Thru Spaghetti Dinner

Thursday March 7
10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Strummer's Practice

Saturday March 9
7:30 am Men's Breakfast

Sunday March 10
Daylight Savings Time Begins
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Worship Service
5:30 pm Dinner and a Movie (The Chosen)

Monday March 11
Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday March 12
10:00 am-2:00 pm Gloria Wesner Craft Group

Wednesday March 13
10:00 am Membership Committee
10:30 am Praying Disciples
6:30 pm Jackie Berry Circle
7:00 pm Trustee's Meeting

Thursday March 14
10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Strummer's Practice

Sunday March 17
St. Patrick's Day
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Worship Service

Monday February 18
Pastor's Day Off
9:30 am Pre-Bag Food for Food Pantry



Tuesday March 19
First Day of Spring
7:00-11:30 am Food Pantry set-up, food distribution,
clean-up
5:30 pm Women's Bible Time & Tea Ministry-Net Room

Wednesday March 20
10:00 am Membership Committee
10:30 am Praying Disciples

Thursday March 21
10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Strummer's Practice

Sunday March 24
Palm Sunday
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Worship Service

Monday March 25
Pastor's Day Off

Tuesday March 26
10:00 am-2:00 pm Gloria Wesner Craft Group

Wednesday March 27
10:00 am Membership Committee
10:30 am Praying Disciples
7:00 pm Administrative Board

Thursday March 28
Maundy Thursday
10:00 am Bible Study
7:00 pm Strummer's Practice

Friday March 29
Good Friday

Sunday March 31
Easter Sunday
10:00 am Sunday School
11:15 am Worship Service



The Church Record for JANUARY

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Avg. Worship Attendance | 85 |
| Mortgage Fund Income | \$ 3,050.00 |
| Mortgage Fund Expense | <u>2,819.93</u> |
| Net Surplus | \$ 230.07 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$ 321,203.89 |
| Operating Fund Income | \$ 11,146.98 |
| Operating Fund Expenses | <u>8,386.63</u> |
| Net Surplus | \$ 2,760.35 |
| Capital Improvement Income | \$ 210.00 |
| Capital Improvement Fund Balance | \$ 1,010.00 |

Please be Praying for...

At Home

Ann White
 Paula Ledbetter
 Gladys Clow
 Mike, Janet & Kirk Barkley
 Rose & Pete Kornegay
 Jerry Leitch
 Gail Umphlett
 Ada Sailer
 Pastor David & Myrna
 Stuart Dillon
 Addyson Singleton
 Matt Hite
 Chris Leary
 Diane Ledbetter
 Marsha Beatley
 Lori Hunt
 Maureen Kennedy
 Jimmy Brickhouse
 Tommy & Linda Dilday
 Nicholas Bundy
 Karen Seigh
 Sheila Aldrich

Mary Pritchard
 Kay Pierce
 Gloria Spence
 Callie Barker
 Gary Knudson

Unable to Attend

Anne Harrell
 Melva Hardison

In Service to Our Country

Owen Games
 Jeff Asper
 Jake Drahos
 Logan Munro
 Cameron Perry
 Drew Latham

*If you need to add or remove
 someone from the prayer list
 please email:
 camdenmethodistcommunica-
 tion@gmail.com*

GREETER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Wrae Collins & Peggy Gibson



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

3 Avery Holt
 10 Bentley Shockley
 17 Jaxen Schmultz
 24 Bentley Shockley
 31 Avery Holt



Camden Methodist Church

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Camden, NC 27921

Website: <http://camdemethodist.org>

Facebook: Camden Methodist Church of Camden, NC

Email: camdenmethodist@gmail.com

Pastor Wayne Wood Cell #: 252-312-8152

Email: rwood125@gmail.com

*If you have anything you would like communicated to the
 church or community then please E-Mail it to the Com-
 munications Team at [camdenmethodistcommunica-
 tion@gmail.com](mailto:camdenmethodistcommunica-

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