

# Ten Dollar Club



North Carolina Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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July 2024

# Give Thanks



by Rev. Dr. Tim Catlett,  
Executive Director,  
Office of New Faith  
Communities

In Ecclesiastes chapter 3, the writer of Ecclesiastes shares a well-known passage that was also famously adapted by The Byrds into a 1965 Billboard #1 Hit, "Turn! Turn! Turn!" The passage (and the song) remind us that "for everything there is a season." I was familiar with many of the claims in the passage (a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to plant and a time to uproot). However, it was during an adult bible study a few years ago, when I paid closer attention to the closing verse in this chapter. Ecclesiastes 3:22 says, "So, I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work".

There have been many seasons of the work of the Office of New Faith Communities over these last three years. We have expanded our work of co-creating new places for new people to gather in communion with Jesus Christ to include equipping congregations through our Lighthouse Congregations initiative, welcoming displaced people

through the UM Collective, and addressing emerging United Methodist deserts through our partnership with The Duke Endowment. We have also remained committed to our core work of equipping churches, pastors, and lay leadership teams to co-create new places to welcome new people. It is truly a joy to see new people gather together and experience the transforming and liberating love of God and the love and support of God's people.

In this newsletter, we pause to give thanks for the work of Rev. Seyun Hwang and the people of Genesis UMC (Cary, NC), and for Rev. Dr. Layne Harpine and the people of Pine Valley UMC (Jacksonville, NC). We also celebrate with Ware's Chapel UMC for receiving the "One Matters" Discipleship award during Annual Conference this year. Thank you for your prayers and support as we strive to co-create new places for new people to gather in communion with Jesus Christ. +



## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PLANTERS

with your prayers for communion to be celebrated in new ways in their lives and in their communities.

**Kelley Finch**  
Mosaic, Wilmington

**Jason Gaskin**  
Storied Church, Mebane

**Elaine Heath**  
The Church at Spring Forest, Hillsborough

**Meg McBride**  
Hope Recovery Church, Wilmington

**Gayle Tabor**  
SALT UMC, Carolina Beach

**Rosanna Panizo-Valladares**  
Iglesia La Semilla, Durham

**Renee Edwards**  
The Mills Church, Rocky Mount

**Laura Wittman**  
Lighthouse Congregations

**Keith Sexton**  
UM Collective

**Seyun Hwang**  
Genesis, Cary

**Saul Gastelum**  
Angier UMC

**Amanda Rigby**  
The Well, Raleigh

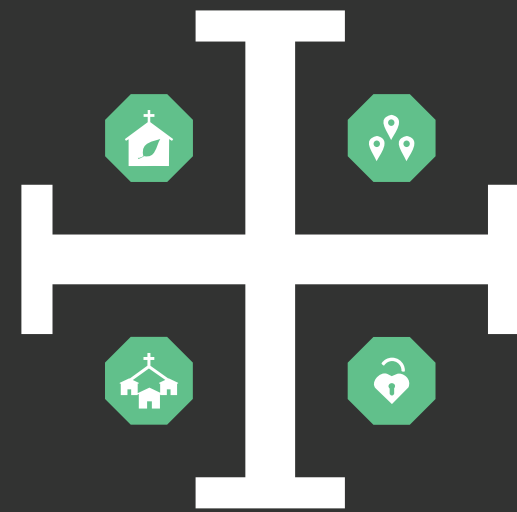
**Mary Frances McClure**  
Moyock UMC, Moyock

**Cassidy Salter**  
Wares Chapel UMC, Washington

**Layne Harpine**  
Pine Valley UMC, Jacksonville

**Mark Lykins**  
Trinity UMC, Fayetteville

**Mark Gustafson**  
Grace UMC, Elizabethtown



An order of laity and clergy dedicated to embodying apostolic hospitality for new people to be gathered into communion with Jesus Christ.

## GOOD NEWS

**Rev. Hope Ledbetter-Bock** has been appointed as **Associate Director for New Faith Communities and Clergy Life**. She will work in a new combined role to intentionally identify and equip potential candidates for ministry who have the gifts for co-creating new places for new people to gather in communion with Jesus Christ. We are so excited to have her on our team! Feel called to participate in planting a new faith community?. You can reach Hope at [discernment@nccumc.org](mailto:discernment@nccumc.org).



GIVE OR JOIN TODAY!  
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# LOVE, Translated

By Rev. Seyun Hwang



“The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.” (John 1:14, MSG). God embodied the Word among us through an unexpected man with a heavy Galilean accent—Jesus. Then, how can we, the body of Christ, translate this transformative move into the world in an audible, readable, and palpable way while not losing its uniqueness?

Before my appointment, Genesis United Methodist Church was already a mission-focused congregation, living out its core values of “love God, love neighbor, and serve others.” However, we struggled to reflect the community’s demographic changes. Within a 5-mile radius, Asian Americans comprise 20% of the population, the fastest-growing racial group. Yet, Genesis had less than 3% Asian members.

To bridge this gap, we launched an English as a Second Language (ESL) program in March 2024. Genesis aimed to create a space where students and volunteers could experience mutual growth with cultural humility exemplified by Christ’s love, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, or religion. We designed the curriculum to exclude discussions of Christianity unless participants asked, expressing our faith only through Christ-like self-limiting acts of love and service.

The program’s fruitfulness surpassed our expectations. Forty-four students from twelve different linguistic backgrounds benefited, with twenty-two completing the course, supported by two teachers and fifteen volunteers, including six non-church members. As relationships grew, participants began to visit our church services with friends. Moreover, in July, five non-student participants joined our membership, including two white young adults and a young international couple with a newly baptized Korean American child—one of the very first persons Shawn and I baptized at Genesis.

Who could have imagined our young adult ministry would be revitalized through the ESL program? This journey has humbled us, revealing our own illiteracy in understanding how God’s love can be translated beyond our imagination. With this lesson in mind, Genesis will continue to dream and act, faithfully embodying the Word in love to serve our local community. +



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# CONNECTION & COMMUNITY

By Rev. Dr. Layne J. Harpine, Pastor Pine Valley United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, NC



One vote is all that kept Pine Valley United Methodist Church (PVUMC) from disaffiliation. This Jacksonville Lighthouse congregation only had a few faithful remaining and now regularly has 45 or so in attendance each Sunday. The established Crystal Coast Area United Methodist Connection Model, with its anchor church Swansboro United Methodist Church, has organically grown collaborative programs and shared resources. The Holy Spirit is at work and this Church remains strong and committed to being a lighthouse along the coast for the Lord.

There has been some heavy lifting with the members and leaders in rebuilding PVUMC. As the faithful are hitting a stride, new faces have appeared and some who were greatly missed have returned home to the PVUMC Church Family! In the last year there have been both adult and children baptisms along with twelve new church members. Many have stepped up into new roles, including a new One Church Board structure as a leap of faith for a calling to carry out God’s work. We have established ourselves as a church that is “community” and have become known as a place that welcomes everyone.

PVUMC is growing in a variety of ways and the make-up of the church congregation is evolving. Gracious gifts helped pay for needed building improvements. There is a new roof, HVAC, several exterior doors, an open and welcoming chancel area in the sanctuary, repaired lighting, and fixed toilets. There is much excitement about the refurbished outside pavilion area. This space is used for picnics, events, and concerts as we engage with and connect to the community in fun new ways like our bi-weekly Sunday Lunches to Go, monthly themed family fellowship nights, weekend Community events, The Chosen viewing and Bible study, and a week day lunch prayer group. You will see a new welcoming center just inside the entrance, a new migrated interactive website, a text in church communication platform, events geared specifically towards Marines and Sailors, and lots of planning around our student ministries program for families with young children.

PVUMC will continue to seek innovative ways for families to grow in faith, provide loving arms to give what our congregation and community need, and be a place for individuals to grow spiritually as they build closer relationships with God and each other. PVUMC looks forward to growing together in partnership, ministry, and community in the days to come! +



Representatives from Ware’s Chapel UMC, including Pastor Cassidy Salter, receive the One Matters Discipleship Award from Jeff Campbell, General Secretary of the UMC General Board of Discipleship at NCCUMC Annual Conference 2024.