

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ

2400 Mt. Hope Church Rd.
Whitsett, NC 27377

Office: 336-697-1561

e-mail: mthopecoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.mthopecucc.com

Church Pastor

Rev. Kristin Gerner Vaughn
(336) 402-2897 (cell)

Email: mthopecpastor@gmail.com

Accompanist

Ekin Ustunel

Email: mthopecoutreach@gmail.com

Interim Music Director

Susan Finley

Church Secretary

Stacey Martin

Office hours:

Monday – Friday

9 am – 1 pm

Consistory President

Dallas Belvin

Board of Christian Education

Susan Finley, Director

Outreach & Digital Technology Director

Ekin Ustunel

Email: mthopecoutreach@gmail.com



Mt. Hope Messenger November 2021

Hope Awaits!

Who doesn't like a good superhero? A regular old human being, living a normal ol' human life until the world begins to fall apart, the community becomes tormented with evil, justice is thwarted and then and only then, passion wells-up inside, fears have to be faced and the cape comes out, the muscles bulge, the superpowers are ignited and action is taken. No one ever expect, say, Superman or Batman to show up when evil takes over. The community never expects the superhero to show up, yet just to see them restores hope in darkness and dread.

Who doesn't like a superhero? Soon, we will begin lighting the candles of Advent. John the Baptist is suiting up about now in his camel hair and locust, as Advent is upon us. "John the Baptist is the Advent adventurer, stalking through the wilderness of his time on the trail of the messiah," Heather Murray Elkins once wrote. She continues, "He's the original hellfire-and-brimstone preacher, but he also offers hope to the community he rakes over the coals." A willingness to hope is a willingness to enter the wilderness.

I have to confess that I don't watch all the superhero movies, but I have always been especially drawn to the scene in Batman Returns when Batman has to face his own fears in order to keep his superpower. In order to get his strength back he had to face his wilderness. And he does. In order to be strong we must be willing to be weak. In order to be a person of strong faith, we must be willing to face our limitations. There is hope in believing that when we are at the end of ourselves that is when God is the strongest. In that deep, dark, cold, wet cave, Batman meets his limitations and faces his biggest fear, which oddly enough, was bats. He turns his face toward the emptiness and the bats fly out of the cave and toward him by the thousands. The character doesn't speak, but hope looms large and holds him fast in that place. As often as I have

Mt. Hope United Church of Christ Consistory Meeting 9-9-21

wondered what my superpower would be if I could choose to have one, I watch this scene of the movie and wonder if I would have had the courage to face my fear. Until this scene, I thought Batman's superpowers were flying and super strength, but this scene highlights the superpowers of courage and hope.

Recently, in Bible Study we talked about hope. As it turns out, there are varying opinions about hope. We were asked to share about a person who taught us hope. There were a plethora of answers ranging from grandparents to parents, teachers and then those who had no story at all. "What is hope, anyway?" someone asked. "Is it really that everything is going to be ok? Because I don't know if I believe that." Another responded, "No, hope is precisely what we believe when we know that things are not going to be ok." This is when we need a superhero. This is when the tomb is rolled back, this is when God's power to conquer even death comes shining through the darkest of caves wearing a cape of hope, and promise, and Good News that even in the hardest of times, we will not be alone.

"Hope is not tamed and domesticated. It is wild and wooly, like John the Baptist. It seems to camp out in odd places, crops up at the worst possible times. Just as we resign ourselves to the minimum wages of life with no benefits, hope whispers that we shouldn't settle for despair's bottom line. Hope thrives in the barren places of our lives," says Elkins.

This year as we light the candles of Advent, especially the candle of "hope," we will turn our faces to the great wilderness in certain and undeniable hope that our spiritual superhero will show up. Jesus is coming! In the ordinary mundane events of life, Jesus, a man of Nazareth, son of a carpenter and a teenage mom will come to help us face our fears, to face his own and show us hope. But John the Baptist reminds us to keep a watch out because Jesus, the superhero of our faith, comes when you least expect it, in the most unexpected ways. A little baby. With the animals. And the angels proclaim it to the shepherds in a voice loud enough for the world to hear, but in a whisper that only the shepherds could understand.

Let us pray:

God of hope, help me prepare the way for you in the wilderness of chaos. Give me strength, wisdom, and patience to clear a path for you through my cluttered heart and life. Amen.

Members Present: Gloria Apple, Lorie Arrington, Dallas Belvin, Simon Clark, Janet Ellis, Cathy Gossett, Bob Hamlett, Cole Levens, Dora Moore, and Jim Turner

Pastor Present: Pastor Kristin

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. A quorum was established and Dallas welcomed all and opened with prayer.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We celebrate our past:

Approval of the Minutes: Dora Moore made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Janet Ellis seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dora Moore presented a report on August. The beginning balance for August was \$172,985.85 and the monthly income was \$16,087.71. Expenses were \$23,537.04 which resulted in an ending balance of \$165,536.52. Cole Levens made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Bob Hamlett seconded.

Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kristin reported October 3rd is World Communion Sunday. Consistory members will be going out in pairs to give communion to home bound members, etc. This Sunday begins The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss, which will be leading to our mission Sunday for October which is assembling hygiene kits. The book will be on the website to read before Sunday. September 19th we will be discussing after worship our spiritual gifts inventory booklet. Committee Chairs are to share with the Consistory a report each month on what is going on. Committee chairs also need to speak in front of the congregation. Janet Ellis will be emailing all committee chairs to inform them.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance

We present our offerings

Committee Reports:

BOCE – Working on Mission Sundays
Maintenance – Working to remove the debris at the picnic shelter where the tree fell down.

Stewardship- Gloria Apple reported the cleanup day scheduled for August is cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

She is working on scheduling different steps of the project so there is only a couple of people there at one time.

Evangelism – They are assisting with the Mobile Meals Ministry and WISE team is meeting every third Tuesday.

Music & Worship – They will meet Monday

Meals4kids – Gloria Apple reported they are just waiting on the numbers from Nat Greene. It usually takes a couple of weeks in September before we get the information on that school year.

Greensboro Urban Ministry – Bob Hamlett delivered last week and still taking vegetables to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Blessing Bag Ministry – No report

Social Concerns – No report, but wishing well project is still going on. Watch the fundraiser goal that Cathy Gossett made to see our progress on meeting the goal of \$3000 to build a well for another country.

We offer our concerns for the future (New Business)

Steeple – Bob Hamlett reported still work in progress

Land Swap – Work in progress

Outdoor Ministry – Waiting on clearing to begin.

Task Force – Janet reported they will be meeting again on September 28th. They are allowing the picnic shelter to be rented.

Stained Glass Windows – Work in progress

WISE Team – Mental Health Awareness week is October 4th – 10th. We will be having a mental health week and on October 9th we will be having a NAMI/Crop Walk and proceeds to be split between them. Lorie Arrington made a motion to

approve the NAMI/Crop walk on October 9th and Cathy Gossett seconded.

Motion carried.

Mustard Seed Clinic is having a lunch fundraiser on October 21st with members of the WISE Team and Consistory attending.

PPP Loan – On August 16th we were notified that the

PPP loan (Paycheck Protection Program) was forgiven including interest in the amount of \$22969.03.

Gloria Apple made a motion to donate 10% of the gift we received to Mustard Seed Clinic in Greensboro and Cole

Levens seconded. Motion carried.

Congregational Meeting – We will have our annual congregational meeting in November to approve 2022 proposed budget and elect officers for 2022. Bob Hamlett and Dave Blakesley have completed their terms. Dora Moore, Lorie Arrington, Cathy Gossett, and Gloria Apple term will end 2022. Janet Ellis, Dallas Belvin, Cole Levens, and Simon Clark are up for reelection. Joe Hughes and Jim Turner are completing the first year of their term. For trustee Freddie Gossett has 2 years left on his term, Dean Greeson is up for reelection and Stan Buff is serving his second year.

New Computer – Lorie Arrington is to contact communication team and get with Dallas on a recommendation on the type of computer. Consistory will approve by email when we know the cost.

Land Swap – Work in progress.

Historical Committee – Gathering members to help digitize the historical documents.

Prayers of Intercession

Kristin closed in prayer

Charge and Benediction

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm

Next meeting October 14th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Apple, Secretary

MT. HOPE UCC SMALL GROUP GATHERING GUIDELINES

In order to make sure we do not spread the virus, it will be necessary to maintain a few precautions when meeting in our small church groups. These precautions are important as we deal with new variants of the virus, as well as the continuing presence of COVID in our community.

The main ways to protect each other when we meet include paying attention to the practices that have proven to be important in this fight. The guidelines below are intended to help us avoid the possibility of sharing the virus with each other. These steps follow CDC and NCDHHS recommendations and should be used regardless of vaccination status. Individuals responsible for planning and coordinating small group events within the church should follow these guidelines:

For the event:

- plan for outdoors if possible, use any available ventilation when indoors such as running the fan continuously on the heating/cooling system during the meeting
- plan seating with a safe space of at least 6 feet between participants
- wear masks during the event that covers your nose and mouth, for both indoor and outdoor meetings. Remove only when eating or drinking.
- provide additional masks if needed and have hand sanitizer available
- sanitize high contact spaces such as doorknobs or table tops after the event
- Van usage – 50% (7 people counting driver)
Van riders – 1 person per seat, socially distanced and spaced out

Please do not attend if you have any of these symptoms:

-Fever/chills -Cough/Shortness of breath -
Fatigue/Body aches -Headache -Sore throat -New
loss of taste or smell -Congestion/runny nose -
Diarrhea /Nausea/Vomiting.

Communications

Are you receiving our emails?

You might want to check under Junk/Spam folders or under "Promotions". Instructions for Outlook users:

1. Open your [Junk Email](#) folder and select the messages you want to keep.
2. From the top toolbar, select **Not junk > Not junk** (or **Not spam > Not spam**). You can also open the message and select the **It's not junk** link at the top.

3. If you've blocked someone by mistake, open your [Blocked senders list](#) and select the next to their name.
4. Add the sender to your [Safe senders list](#).

Instructions for Gmail users (computer):

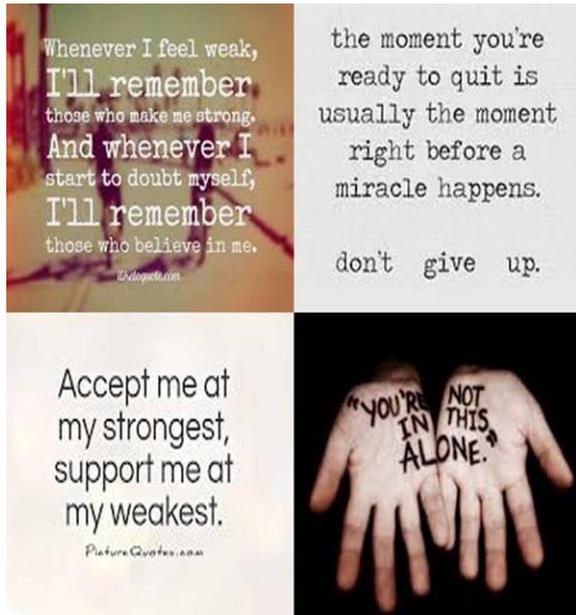
1. Go to your "Promotions" tab (not Primary or Social).
2. Click on the email you want to receive in your inbox.
3. On the same horizontal menu above the email title, go to the very last one, hover on the icon without clicking on it, and make sure it says "Labels".
4. Unselect "Promotions"

You should be all set!

Mobile Meals

Mobile Meals is looking for someone to fix an entrée and a vegetable for 8 people on Monday, Wednesday or Friday every week. If you are able and interested, please let Ekin Ustunel know. She can be reached at mthopeuccoutreach@gmail.com or by calling 336.962.9201. Any meal prepared will be greatly appreciated by those who would not otherwise have a meal on these days.

WISE Moment



November is Alzheimers Disease Awareness and Family Caregiver month. It is also National Gratitude Month.

On October 9th our first WISE Walk for Mental Health was held in combination with the Crop Walk for Hunger. About 48 people participated in the walk and meal at the shelter. NAMI representative, Mary Richardson presented a talk during the meal and representatives were available for questions. Donations totaling \$3060 were split between the Crop Walk and Mental Health. A big shout out to all the participants and sponsors!



Dementia is a general term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimers is a specific disease requiring a medical diagnosis and the most common cause of dementia. About 40% of adults over 65 experience some form of memory loss without an underlying medical condition, known as age-associated memory impairment and is a natural process of aging. What is the difference between Alzheimers and typical age related changes?

What is the difference between Alzheimer's and typical age-related changes?	
Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia	Typical Age-Related Changes
Poor judgment and decision-making	Making a bad decision once in a while
Inability to manage a budget	Missing a monthly payment
Losing track of the date or the season	Forgetting which day it is and remembering it later
Difficulty having a conversation	Sometimes forgetting which word to use
Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps to find them	Losing things from time to time

Many of our members, family, friends, and neighbors are, or have been, Family

Caregivers. If you know a caregiver give them a hug today! Caregivers provide assistance related to an underlying physical or mental disability for at home care and assist with activities of daily living, have no formal training and are unpaid. Caregiving requires patience.

Visit aarp.org/caregiving for tools and resources and Caringbridge.org.

Some simple things to do for caregivers include:

- Learn to ask for and accept help.
- Find ways to care for yourself in order to stay strong to care for your loved ones. Exercise, use meditation, laughter, be social, eat healthy foods.
- Don't neglect your physical healthcare visits.
- Shift your thinking into new patterns of doing family celebrations that make room for the reality of your caregiving.
- Pat yourself on the back or take yourself out to lunch, a movie, or some kind of treat - as a way of saying thanks. You deserve it!

During November National Gratitude Month, as every day, remember to thank God for His mercy and grace. Take time for a simple "thank you" to those around you or show your gratitude with kind deeds. "Count your Blessings One by One". Each day in November write down 1 different thing for which you are grateful.

"Watch for coming attractions" 



We were thrilled to have Linda Ayers, Tracy Brady, Peg Burns and Linda Shue join us at our October meeting!

We still have some tomato juice to sell at \$7.00/quart. If you would like some juice, call Dee at 336-697-8396.

Our next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be held in the new fellowship hall on Tuesday,

November 9th at 6:30 p.m. Marcia Cham will lead us in the study of her book *Holy Moley God, You've Got to be Kidding*. We will continue to discuss Book II - Silence and Solitude. In preparation, Marcia has asked us to sit in silence several times for a few minutes to center ourselves and then read selections from Psalm 139.

Please consider joining our group. We would love to have you!



Can you believe it's time to decorate for Christmas? With the blessing of the Covid team, we are going to decorate the church this year for Advent and the Christmas season. Please join us on Monday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m. to put up the Christmas decorations!

We will be serving a light supper before we get started provided by the Music & Worship team. We will follow Covid protocol by wearing our masks and spreading out to eat as much as possible. We hope you will join us for this fun event!

Make A Difference Day

My name is Andrew Beach and I am the music education director for Young Musicians of Alamance. We are a non-profit El Sistema based music program offering music classes for elementary, middle, and high school students in the Alamance and Guilford county communities. The majority of our students (>85%) qualify for free and reduced lunches. Students learn the joy of music making and how to become the best musicians they can be. In the general music class, students learn through movement, singing, and playing a variety of instruments such as ukuleles and bucket drums. In the orchestra class, all students also learn how to play the violin and other orchestral string instruments such as cello and viola. In

addition to learning about music, students learn important lessons about character, integrity, self-respect, self-discipline, collaboration, and assisting others. Our goal is to help students achieve their full potential both as musicians and as people.

On **November 21, 2pm at Alamance Plaza**, the Young Musicians of Alamance will be putting on a performance for the residents living there. The Mt. Hope UCC youth will be providing baked goods as well for residents to enjoy while they listen to the performance. We are thrilled to be collaborating together for this event! This performance will be a meaningful and delightful experience for everyone involved.

We hope that you will be able to attend this event and are thankful for your continued support.

For more information about Young Musicians of Alamance, you can follow the link to our website here:

<https://www.ymofa.org/>

Greensboro Urban Ministry:

The wonderful generosity of Mt Hope Church of Christ congregation and Sawyer Farm continues. This congregation provided **440 lbs.** of food in July.

Your generosity, especially during the summer months, is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you give. Containers are located in the entry ways and in the breezeway as usual. May God richly bless you for your continued generosity!!

Second Harvest Food Bank

Mt. Hope Church as donated **932 lbs.** of squash to Second Harvest due to the generosity of Sawyer Farms.

What's happening at Mt. Hope?

If you haven't seen our picnic shelter area lately, you need to check it out. We have included a photo.



Ron Clapp did a wonderful job clearing more trees and making more parking. Clapp and Sons did a wonderful job fixing the drainage issues at the playground and picnic shelter area. A huge thanks to Gloria Apple, Bennie Gerner, Freddie Gossett and Ray Mims for leading the efforts to reseed and make final preparations for the long-awaited installation of the playground.

We are **EXCITED** to announce Phase III of the Outdoor Ministry Projects, both playgrounds, is scheduled and on the books.

Weather permitting we should see installation in 4-5 weeks or sooner if possible.

See you on the merry-go-round 😊



Grady Nutt was a humorist and theologian who told stories. In his book, *Agaperos*, one of his chapters was entitled, "Thanksgiving." He wrote that we should live our lives with the practice of "Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Thanks." The chapter title was prompted by an encounter Grady had with a seatmate on a plane. The young man, Wesley, was a high school senior who wanted to be a psychiatrist so he could "help people's minds."

At one point in the conversation, Grady asked Wesley if he had any hobbies. Wesley's response

was “Just doin’ it.” When Grady asked him what he meant by that, he responded, “You know...just bein.”

“Grady said he hadn’t had such a sneaky blessing in a long time, a blessing that spoke to him of a special attitude. ‘Just being...his hobby!’ *Just bein’!*” Thus, Grady’s new word, “Thanksgiving.”

“Grady defined Thanksgiving as ‘an attitude that finds treasure in the plowed field of routine...that sees daily bread as a provision of the Bread of life...that holds a cup to the water of life and drinks the mystery of being with zest.

Thanksgiving. An eye for perspective, for color, harmony and balance...that sees how ‘all things work together for good to them who love God’...who find in life that God loves them...

Thanksgiving. Seeing, hearing, feeling the ‘God-with-us’ in simple truth, in complexity: an umbrella in a rain/a convertible in sun...wool for a sheep in winter and shears in spring...salt on meat and sugar in tea...coping and hoping.

Thanksgiving. Seeing that the beauty of life is in its pace, direction, movement, ebb, and now...falling in line with its current...conquering in adversity...rejoicing in joyful splendor.

Thanksgiving. To live and give, to ‘do it...,’ to make a ‘hobby of being.’”

May we all experience an attitude of Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Thanks today, throughout the upcoming holiday season, and all the days that follow! Let’s start counting those blessings.

Mission: Be the Church – Sunday, November 21 immediately following worship – Please join us as we make placemats to be delivered with the Thanksgiving meal to Alamance Plaza. Each placemat will have a bible verse, and a turkey created with your own hand, and feathers! And our creative time together will be led by our own Karen Mounce. Don’t miss this opportunity for fellowship, creativity and missions.

Mission: Be the Church – Sunday, December 5 immediately following worship – We will be making clay Christmas ornaments for the residents at Alamance Plaza, for our shut-ins, and for our youth and children. This would be a good day to

wear your old clothes, just in case! Another opportunity to do something nice for others, and fellowship with your friends at the same time.

Children’s Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 12 during worship, and then the children will visit with Santa immediately following worship. Practices are each Sunday immediately following worship at the front of the sanctuary with Pastor Kristin and Susan Finley. (Remaining practices – 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/28.) It is not too late for your child or grandchild to join us! Please join us this Sunday!

Special thanks go to Cathy and Katelyn Gossett, Becky Stafford and Gloria Apple for preparing and serving our “Green Eggs and Ham” breakfast. We greatly appreciate you! Who knew green eggs and ham could be so tasty?

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss –

November 21 – *The Zax*

December 5 – *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*

And don’t forget to check out our Facebook page where you can hear Pastor Kristin reading the Dr. Seuss books the week before they are helping inform our Sunday worship time together.

The Board of Christian Education will meet Sunday, November 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Choir rehearsal 11/3, 11/10 and 11/17.

The choir will NOT meet on Wednesday, November 24.



We are planning a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal for the residents at Alamance Plaza again this year. Please consider donating, so we may continue this wonderful ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Stafford or Gloria Apple



Monday, November 1

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, November 3

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, November 4

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia

7:00 pm, Consistory Meeting

Sunday, November 7

10:30 am, Worship

11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

5:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, November 8

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Tuesday, November 9

6:30 pm, Women's Meeting

Wednesday, November 10

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, November 11-Veteran's Day

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia

Sunday, November 14

10:30 am, Worship

11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

1:30 pm, BCE Meeting

5:00 pm, Youth Meeting

Monday, November 15

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, November 17

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, November 18

8:00 am, Yoga with Sonia

2:00 pm, Music & Worship Meeting

Sunday, November 21

10:30 am, Worship

11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

Monday, November 22

6:00 pm, Yoga with Sonia

Wednesday, November 24

6:00 pm, Bible Study

7:30 pm, Choir Practice

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 28

10:30 am, Worship

11:30 am, Gather, Learn Grow

11:30 am, Christmas Pageant Practice

**Please have your newsletter articles in by
November 26.**

November Birthdays

- 1st Nathan Wilk
- 2nd Lisa Andrews
- 3rd Graham Greeson
- 4th Nicholas Belvin, Carter Nelson
- 5th Kevan Moore, Cliff Greeson, Jr.
- 6th Diane Neese,
- 7th Ricky Knowles, Jr., Harden Phipps
- 9th Debbie Harris
- 12th Byron Greeson, Zachary Kilby, Lilly Moser,
- 13th Bob Branard
- 18th Tammy Chapman, Emma Jean Greeson,
Neal Greeson,
- 19th Reed Kirkman, Dennis McGee
- 20th Jordan Neal, Lyndsey Neal
- 22nd Dean Greeson
- 23rd Jane Fittante, Cora Shinn, Ellis Stewart
- 24th Amanda Freeman, Cynthia Morris
- 25th Jennifer Stroud
- 26th Brooke Woollett
- 27th Marianna Fittante, Geraldine Greeson
- 30th Gloria Apple, Emmie Belvin, Shirley Smith

November Anniversaries

- 2nd Randy & Debbie Underwood
- 12th Todd & Tammy Chapmon,
- 23rd Freddie & Cathy Gossett
- 25th Gary & Anne Owens
- 26th Ray & Sharon Mims



Prayer Requests

Health Care Center

Alamance Health Care Center	Teresa Oakley (#83)
Alamance House	R. Denny Ingold (#112)
Clapp's Nursing Center	Robert Ingold (#807)
Ralph Scott Homes	Betty Kim Settlemyre
Woodhaven (Albermarle)	Annie Lee Apple
Brookdale Burlington	Peggie Coble (#74)
Twin Lakes	Darlene Cherry
Clapp's Assisted Living	Jeanne Ingold (#315)
Guilford House	Blanche Greeson
Heritage Green	Helen Smith

Mt. Hope Military Connections

Scott Amick	Grant Harden
Kyle Gerner	Megan Moore Hughes
Michael Clapp	Josh Ellis

Michael Terraforte
Abigail Thompson

Members/Friends & Relatives

Betty & Richard Kime	Jeanette Apple
Pat Levens	Dennis McGee
LuEller Ingold	Tray Hilliard
J.R. Shoffner	Cole Yedlowski-healing
Laurie Baker	Nelson Ingram
Steve & Peg Burns	Nancy & Jim Wimbish
Dean & Peggy Greeson	William Tickle
Shane Swaim	Karen Mounce
Adelita Swaim	Cheryl Clark
Bill & Peggy Welker	Austin Prevost
Lloyd & Sylvia Gilliam	Leaila Tincher
Sharon Nance	Robin Gerner
Nancy & Jim Wimbish	Family of Frances Enochs
Wesley & Esther Clark	Family of Walter Puryear
Chad Levens	Family of Dottie Deeter
Jeannette Kirkman	