



# APRIL 2025

Archdale Methodist Church  
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## WORSHIP TIMES

9:45 am  
Sunday School

10:45 am  
Worship Service

## MINISTERS

The Congregation

## STAFF

### Pastor

Rev. Mike Lee  
[AMCpastor@northstate.net](mailto:AMCpastor@northstate.net)

### Pastor Emeritus

Harold Shives

### Choir Director

Norma Kennedy  
[hakennedy@hotmail.com](mailto:hakennedy@hotmail.com)

### Office Administrator

Sidney Pace  
[AMCoffice@northstate.net](mailto:AMCoffice@northstate.net)

## ***From Pastor Mike....***

On April 13, 2025, we will gather for worship and celebrate Palm Sunday. We will raise our palms and wave them much like the ancient Hebrews did on that first Sunday when Christ entered Jerusalem to begin what would become known as Passion Week. For Jesus and his followers this was a special and joyous occasion. Only Jesus himself knew what was waiting for him on Friday of that week. Others were caught up in the moment and the excitement of the event. Scripture tells us that psalms were sung, and shouts of acclamation were raised as Jesus rode in on a donkey and countless followers surrounded him and the twelve disciples. It had all the appearances of being something momentous and life changing. However, if we continue to read the scriptures, we know that by Friday the excitement was gone and some of these same folks are seen outside the house of Pilate crying out for Jesus to be crucified. What happened? What could cause the vast difference in the responses to Jesus?

We soon discover that the biggest thing that happened was that Jesus challenged the normative idea of religion and faith of his day. The Pharisees and Sadducees wanted to jump through the same hoops they had always jumped through. They were comfortable with their understanding of faith and did not want to change anything. They liked being in charge and did not want some upstart prophet and rabbi telling them that their actions were useless and empty. So, they decided to kill the rabbi and eliminate the problem. Over 2000 years later we see their actions and label them as heretics and blame them for not recognizing the Messiah long proclaimed and promised by God. However, before we go too far down that rabbit trail, let's take another look. Sometimes we hurriedly pass judgement on these religious types. Are we not guilty of some of the same things? Do we not often exchange authentic ministry for just simply going through the motions?

We come to church, listen to countless Sunday School lessons and sermons, give money to the church, and participate in worship but how often do we extend the grace and love of Christ to those outside the walls of our church? How many times have we shared the good news of salvation with those who we find at the end of our driveways and in the parking lots of the stores we frequent? Do we extend God's mercy and forgiveness to those who treat us poorly and look different than we do? Do we really make a difference in our community by sharing God's love in the lives of the needy and downtrodden? Are we any more authentic and genuine in our faith than the religious leaders of Jesus' time?

If the cross of Christ means anything and the empty tomb is in fact a miracle, it would seem that we as his modern-day disciples must be about the task of living holy lives of love and sharing the "good news" with others. I don't think we can just come to church on Easter Sunday, or any Sunday, and simply go through the motions anymore. We have been given the resurrection power to make a difference in our lives and in the lives of others. I would challenge each of us to allow His Holy Spirit to make that power real in us this Easter season and truly proclaim, "He is Risen. He is Risen indeed" not just with words or proclamation but with authentic acts of re-creation and the sharing of the Way to salvation.

## **OUR SYMPATHIES**

- AMC member, Agnes Teal Frazier, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025 at Westchester Harbour where she had resided for the last 2 years. Agnes son, Rickard "Rick" Frazier is an inactive member of AMC. She is also survived by her other children, Donna Frazier Kennon and Jeff Frazier. She has four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a sister, Carolyn Davis. Her funeral service was held at 2pm on Saturday, March 8, 2025 in the Floral Garden Memorial Park Mausoleum Chapel.
- Priscilla Simonenko, inactive AMC member, lost her husband Nicholas "Nick" Simonenko on March 12, 2025. They lived in Manchester, NJ. He is also survived by sons, Anthony and John Simonenko along with 4 grandchildren. His funeral service was held at the BG Williams C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ on March 20, 2025 at 11:30am.

*We extend our sincere condolences to these families as they grieve the loss of their loved one.*



### **Stephen Ministry**

Suffering alone is not God's intent for us. Jesus promises, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help. Stephen Ministers know all about receiving care. Several of them have been on the receiving end of care at an earlier point in their lives - something that has motivated them to give care now. They know how difficult it is to ask for help, but they also know the great personal and spiritual growth and healing that follows. They know how to respond in a loving, caring, and nonjudgmental manner. They are equipped, ready, and waiting to provide the comfort and care God much desired you to have. If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone.

Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity of a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need, while Christ works inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart.

### Memorials

*In Memory of Ray Cecil*

*Given by:*

*Hoyt & Kay Nichols*

*Chuck & Marsha Gentry*

*Mary & Rebecca Kidd*

*Dr. Athelene Carter*

*Linda Game*

*Joan Younger*

*Bobbie Finch*

*Fred Turner*

*Gladys Suggs*

*George Elder Sunday School Class*

*Peggy Johnson*

*Rosemarie Foster*

*Doug Harmon*

*Carole Webb*

*Louis & Dixie Lamphear*

*Leslie & Carole Lowe*

*In Memory of Maxine Sechrest*

*Given by:*

*Linda Game*

*Shirley Cecil*

*Bobbie Finch*

*Fred Turner*

*Chuck & Marsha Gentry*

*Mary & Rebecca Kidd*

*George Elder Sunday School Class*

*Peggy Johnson*

*Hoyt & Kay Nichols*

*Leslie & Carole Lowe*

*Carole Webb*

*Gladys Suggs*

*Louis & Dixie Lamphear*

*Mickie Gable*

*Steven & Rhonda Craven*

*Donald & Martha Embry*

# Happy Birthday!

04/01 Eliana Lawrence  
04/03 Samuel Huthmaker  
04/03 Peggy Johnson  
04/05 Heather Teater  
04/08 Eric Buchanan  
04/08 Rob Lance  
04/09 Angela Dyson  
04/09 Kerry Gallimore  
04/09 Courtney Gentry  
04/11 Jim Aspley  
04/11 Mylynda Ross  
04/12 Susan Daniels  
04/12 Gage Hamilton  
04/12 Phyllis Maine  
04/13 Sean Kilby  
04/14 Mark Clodfelter  
04/15 Sherry Thomas  
04/16 Raquel Alwan  
04/16 Benjamin Dowling  
04/16 James Harris  
04/16 Emmalina Stevens  
04/16 Myndy Walden  
04/16 Teresa Wood  
04/16 Tanya Work  
04/17 Kevin Work  
04/18 Colin Ceiswich  
04/18 Kim Chapman  
04/18 Jo Carol Dobbins  
04/22 Bill Maine  
04/23 Alex Kilby  
04/23 Jack Pascual  
04/25 Ezra Hollifield  
04/26 Chris Game  
04/26 Joe Hoover

04/27 Tom Anderson  
04/28 Kym Simpson  
04/29 Andrew Hamilton  
04/29 Matthew Hunt  
04/29 Ashley Lanier  
04/29 Steve Stutts  
04/30 Baylor Lance  
04/30 Lisa Smith  
04/30 Kevin Teater  
04/30 Mary Yow



### Memorials

*In Memory of Judy Williams*

*Given by Hoyt & Kay Nichols*

### Honorariums

*In Honor of Betty Knox*

*Given by: Mary & Rebecca Kidd*

*In Honor of Peggy Johnson*

*Given by: Mary & Rebecca Kidd*

## **Missions' Outreach Report:**

For several years, Matthew Hunt has functioned as a liaison for our church with the local Baptist Denominational Office of Ministry for the Aging. Him and his dad have worked with the group to help needy folks in the Archdale area with home repairs and mobility needs for the handicapped. This past month some of our men have joined in this process and have completed three projects in our local area. The Baptist Ministry on Aging will talk with the folk's needing assistance and determine if the project is one that they want to pursue. The family involved is asked to provide some assistance in paying for the materials if at all possible and encouraged to help with the actual work being done if they are able. One project involved hanging two interior doors for a family that could not afford to have this work done. Archdale Methodist Church paid for the materials and our men supplied the labor. A second project involved the replacement of an outside door that was no longer keeping the rain and cold air from getting into the home. The third project was a project completed with Medicaid money which made it possible for a family to have a ramp installed at their front door so their wheelchair bound mother and wife could safely enter and exit the home. Matthew and Gary Hunt instructed and supervised our men in these projects. The building teams consisted of Phillip Hollifield, Vance Hollifield, Judah Hollifield, Art Johnson, Tim Kennedy, David Stewart, and Fred Turner.

Anyone is invited to help with these mission projects by simply getting in touch with Matthew Hunt or Pastor Mike and we will get your names on the list for upcoming projects. Also, if you know of someone with a need, please contact Pastor Mike. Our desire is to serve the needy folks in our church and in this area as the hands of Christ reaching out in love.

### **Where We Were Last Month**

| <b>Date</b>       | <b>Offering Received</b> | <b>Budget Amount Received to Date</b> | <b>Budget Amount Needed to Date</b> | <b>Week #</b> | <b>Sunday School</b> | <b>Worship Attendance</b> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
|                   |                          |                                       |                                     |               |                      |                           |
| <b>03/02/2025</b> | <b>\$10,719.00</b>       | <b>\$38,599.00</b>                    | <b>\$47,277.36</b>                  | <b>9</b>      | <b>77</b>            | <b>100</b>                |
| <b>03/09/2025</b> | <b>\$1,925.00</b>        | <b>\$40,524.00</b>                    | <b>\$52,530.40</b>                  | <b>10</b>     | <b>71</b>            | <b>86</b>                 |
| <b>03/16/2025</b> | <b>\$2,766.00</b>        | <b>\$43,290.00</b>                    | <b>\$57,783.44</b>                  | <b>11</b>     | <b>65</b>            | <b>80</b>                 |
| <b>03/23/2025</b> | <b>\$2,953.00</b>        | <b>\$46,243.00</b>                    | <b>\$63,036.48</b>                  | <b>12</b>     | <b>78</b>            | <b>84</b>                 |
| <b>03/30/2025</b> | <b>\$6,843.00</b>        | <b>\$53,086.00</b>                    | <b>\$68,289.52</b>                  | <b>13</b>     | <b>81</b>            | <b>99</b>                 |

### **Capital Improvements Fund**

**Given in March:     \$1,625.00**

**Received to date:   \$3,190.00**