



Wesley Memorial Methodist Church

Missions and Community Impact Newsletter

The purpose of Wesley Memorial is to make and sustain spiritually healthy followers of Jesus Christ who live in ways that transform the world

2025 Mission Team Members

Charles Surles Chair
Ken Gullede Vice-Chair

Lisa Cheek Member
Pat Colonna Member
Mary Drummond Member
Matt Heald Member
Brook Moore Member
April Maines Member
Becky Scholtz Member
Buddy Wilson Member

Brenda Coates At Large
Sydney Harris At Large

Rev. Ken Lyon ... Staff Liaison
David Adams Lay Leader

Upcoming Events

Christmas Drive Through
Dec 15th

Angel Tree gift return
Dec. 15th

White Christmas
Dec. 15th

Christmas Offering
Dec 24th

Love Feast
Dec. 24th

Rise Against Hunger
March 9th

Spring Service Engagement
April 5th

Wesley Memorial Christmas Offering

Lagniappe is a word most of us are not familiar with unless we grew up or spent a lot of time in Louisiana “Cajun country”. However, you, both individually and through Wesley Memorial, have been practicing it for many, many years. The word refers to “something given or obtained gratuitously or by way of good measure” – or “a little extra for good measure (think ‘baker’s dozen’)”.

The missions committee works throughout the year with a dedicated group of members to direct the portion of the church budget allocated for ministry and missions. To do this, we have identified a number of deep level partners who do significant work locally like **Community Clinic, Macedonia Family Resource Center, Open Door Ministries, West End Ministries**, and others. In addition, other organizations and programs are identified for shorter periods. These include **Horsepower, Cover the City, Wheels4Hope, Fairview Elementary, Victory Junction, Good Samaritans Clinic in the Dominican Republic, summer and winter homeless kits**, etc. These and the other organizations we partner with have at least one common denominator: **they serve their clients in ways that transform the world** which is our goal also.

Finally, every so often, a major, unplanned event happens like the

disaster in **Western North Carolina** which requires funding and leadership.

Each year these organizations and Wesley fund their programs and add, adjust, expand or other wise change to meet current needs. They consume electricity, insurance premiums, food, salaries, etc. – just like we do and budgets have to be adjusted for higher costs. This year our missions committee has had to reduce some grants or had to say “no” to some opportunities. While this hurts it is a good thing as we have had to re-focus to determine the most important things to support.

Thank you for your support in so many ways and practicing “lagniappe” this year. Each year at Christmas, Wesley offers the opportunity for us to review what the past year has meant and, if so inclined, to say “thank you” and express some of that appreciation through the Christmas Offering. Something magical happens with the offering: your gifts are put in the collection plate and they are converted into lagniappe which will reach many people.

For this year, **Samaritan’s Purse, Camp Linn Haven and Weaverville Methodist Church** will share the Christmas Offering. Please read on the following pages why we are selecting them for support.

Again, thank you for all you do and what you mean to so many people.

Camp Linn Haven

For almost 40 years, the youth of Wesley Memorial attended middle school camp at Camp Linn Haven from the early 1970's through the 2000's. This camp was severely damaged during hurricane Helene. When I saw the pictures from Camp Linn Haven, my heart sank. Myself, my brothers and 100's of other Wesley Memorial youth spent the week in this mountain retreat. This became an annual pilgrimage for myself and my friends. Through this mountain top experience, we either confirmed that we were believers or we became believers during this church camp experience. I was given the opportunity to return as a young adult and witness firsthand the transformation in the youth who attended just as I had been transformed years before. The most vivid memory as an adult was the afternoon when we, the leaders, would reaffirm a believer's baptism in the same creek which flooded the camp. Currently this mountain sanctuary is in need of much help. They have 18 cabins on site and all were damaged. The kitchen was severely damaged. All of the appliances, chairs, and tables will have to be replaced. The pool was a total loss. The church was also flooded and will need repair. The church lost all the chairs as well as its organ and piano. They have had a number of groups come forward to help with demolition, repairs and financial needs. There are multiple opportunities for work groups to help either for the

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day, several days or a week at a time as they are planning to reopen the camp Memorial Day weekend.

Currently they are in need of financial help and hands on service. The estimate is about \$6,000 to restore each cabin. The camp did have insurance but they have only received \$80,000.

I would ask our church to prayerfully consider helping both financially and, if feasible, through work teams. A reasonable goal would be to restore at least one cabin so that others can have a similar mountain top experience in the mountains of North Carolina.

This camp left an indelible mark on my heart and started me and many others on our spiritual journey.

On behalf of the many youth of now many ages, thank you for helping to keep such a significant organization functioning in their mission to create disciples of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Charles Surles



Weaverville United Methodist Church

A phone call started our association with Weaverville and it has been most productive. One of Pastor Ken's church members in Matthews contacted him very early on to ask for help for her community. Her name is Renee Weaver (no connection to the name of the church) and she has been our guide and instructor regarding needs in her community.

Weaverville is located 11 miles north of Asheville in an area that is home to poverty, unemployment and need as well as beautiful scenery. Things were stable until Helene arrived. Almost overnight many people lost their jobs because the businesses that employed them were destroyed and closed. While relief efforts were going on in Asheville the agencies and organizations working there focused on the city and the outlying areas would see help later on.

The first thing she told us of was the need for food, diapers, formula, water, blankets, etc. We started the drive to collect these items and a truck was filled and dispatched to the area. A second collection of items was begun and this time another truck load of items was sent to the church for distribution throughout the area. Items included were blankets, some food, coats, a generator, and many other items too numerous to mention.

Another event at our church was to prepare some 1,000 winter homeless care kits. All of these were skillfully packed in about 30 minutes and finally 500 kits were shipped to Asheville, Weaverville and Burnsville churches. All of these are examples of "We Are Wesley".

Currently, we are working with Renee to address the issue of weather in the mountains as the coldest part of the winter is approaching. A number of people can still live in their homes either because there was no damage or it was slight. Another group can live in their homes but the heating systems have failed but they do have electricity. For those in this group we are going to offer electric heaters which will heat a 200x300 square foot room. To help them with an increased electrical bill we plan to offer \$50 gift cards. Another group of people have neither electricity nor a working heating system. For those we are going to offer a limited number of propane heaters and an extra tank of propane.

Renee anticipates that this plan will get a large number of families through the roughest part of the winter.

Your gift to the Christmas Offering will be used to support the above as well as other needs as they arise.



RESCUE

Begins immediately after a disaster with first responders to save lives, put out fires, etc.

RELIEF

Move critical supplies to distribution points and begin stabilization efforts - removing debris, securing homes

RECOVERY

Rebuilding homes, communities, and lives. This phase can last for years, especially after a storm such as Helene.

Samaritan's Purse

Within hours after hurricane Helene started to subside in Yancy, Avery, Mitchell, Buncomb and other counties Samaritan's Purse started to make their presence known by bringing in needed equipment, supplies, workers, and a field hospital with medical staff with the intention of jumping in and starting to relieve suffering. Like a well oiled machine, they have been through storms such as this and have the organizational skill and experience to know what is needed for each phase of recovery and how to manage people, supplies, donations, etc.

On a trip to Burnsville last week we found out that they are getting ready to pull out of many locations because the relief phase of their efforts are concluding and they are making way for the recovery phase. THEY ARE NOT LEAVING - just changing emphasis.

It is important to note that they are just as active

in South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida recovering from Helene and the previous hurricane.

According to the staff we talked to, they have visions of building 500 homes in the affected areas of North Carolina for people who have lost theirs or that are so damaged that they have to be torn down. In addition, they will supply work teams to rebuild or repair churches and other infrastructure. It sounds really aggressive but the needs are so great that bold actions are needed.

Wesley has been making donations over the past few months to Samaritan's Purse using the funds you have donated.

Their share of our Christmas offering will go to them immediately as they will have teams in the area and will start the re-building phase in January. They are truly transforming the world in North Carolina.

“Helping in Jesus’ name”

Samaritan's Purse



Samaritan's Purse semi returning for another load of supplies



Samaritan's Purse convoy headed to a disaster site



Crews working to repair roof



Field hospital being set up near Linville



“Thank you” for a Thanksgiving meal