

September, 2019

# MT. SYLVAN GRAPEVINE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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SEPT. 7TH  
SATURDAY  
8:00-12:00

Let's pull some weeds and spread 25 yards of mulch! Bring tractors, gloves and hand tools!

September 8, 2019

## Heritage Sunday and Annual Church Picnic

On September 8, Rev. Douglas Byrd will preach at both services. Join us at church that day to celebrate the history and legacy of Mt. Sylvan UMC. Please come to the Chapel Building at 9:45am for refreshments and a special announcement.



Later that day join us at West Point on the Eno Park for the annual church picnic. Please bring sides and/or drinks that go well with the fried chicken, (provided by the church) for dinner. Feel free to also bring your lawn chairs, and portable games. Activities start at 3pm. Dinner is around 5:30pm.

Fall Festival  
October 5  
8am - 12:30pm

See page 10 for details...

# From the Pastor's Desk

## Pastor Larry Writes...

...and teaches, too! Every Tuesday, or most every Tuesday, I teach a Bible Study. We gather at 9:45 in the Sylvan Bible classroom (off the preschool cafeteria), and begin the study about 9:55. We finish at 10:45 am so those who want to, can attend the meetings of the Sylvan Seniors starting at 11. You do not have to attend Sylvan Seniors to come to the Bible Study! And you do not have to be a "senior" (which is however you want to define that!)

We are studying "The Little Letters of the New Testament", starting with 1st Thessalonians. Read the first chapter and join us this coming Tuesday.

There is no substitute for Christians gathering to read and study God's word. Reading it at home devotionally is not the same as allowing the Spirit to enter in and deepen our understanding in a communal setting, to see how God's word, when we make it our home, can lead to transformation.

This past week, I heard a story about Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry. This North Carolina based ministry trains leaders to present Disciple Bible Study in jails and prisons. Now active in seven states, with hundreds of leaders, DBOM brings the transforming power of God's word to incarcerated persons.

A young woman, sentenced to ten years of prison, began taking Disciple Bible Study. She eventually took all four of the Disciple Studies, and a couple of years

ago, began to ask what would be next. Given a work release, she began attending church, and now is being trained as a Lay Speaker and a Stephen minister while serving out the rest of her term. She will be released toward the end of 2020. All because she began to study the Bible.

We are never too old or too young; we have not yet heard it all before. God's word always has surprises, and I invite you to attend Sunday School or Bible Study, or get in a small group this fall. Call me if you can't find one that meets your needs and we will see where the Spirit leads.

We have a wonderful opportunity to form faith in young people at Mt. Sylvan. I challenged the Church Council to step up and volunteer, and now I ask you. What is keeping you from participating in our Children's Ministry as a volunteer in the Sunday School or providing childcare on Sunday mornings?

I suspect that some of us believe it is someone else's job or that it is covered, or we have served our time. Our children need people to show God's love to them. It is one form of evangelism that we can all do. Contact EB ([elizabeth@mtsylvan.org](mailto:elizabeth@mtsylvan.org)) to inquire. She will train you and get you ready to make a difference in the life of a child.

Peace,  
Pastor Larry

## Evangelism

### Open House Sunday

October 20, 2019

This is a Sunday for you to invite someone new to Mt. Sylvan.  
All are welcome in this place.

## Congregational Care

### Dementia Inclusive Durham

The Congregational Care Committee invites you to respond to a survey to help us assess the need and priority of responding to the needs of those experiencing dementia or Alzheimer's. You may respond digitally at this [link](#), or you will find printed copies in the narthex, church office, and in copies of the printed newsletter.

Please respond to this survey and keep watching for further information about opportunities for education and training that will be offered this fall at Mt. Sylvan. Even if you don't have a family member or friend experiencing dementia, this information will be helpful in knowing how to respond in Christian love to those who need our care.

To care for  
Those who  
once cared  
for us is one  
of the highest  
Honors.

### Emergency Contact information

In case of an emergency, who would you want us to contact? We realize that for some members and regular attendees, we would know exactly who to call and how to contact them; but for others, we wouldn't have a clue. Even if we know the names of other family members, we might have no idea how to get in touch with them. We are compiling a confidential database that would be available to Pastor Larry and Pastor Kathie and to Sophia in the church office.

Please fill out one of the forms in the narthex or email a response to [Sophia@mtsylvan.org](mailto:Sophia@mtsylvan.org) with this information. (Please list in order that you would want us to contact them and include at least one that does not live at the same address as you.)

## United Methodist Men

### Men's Prayer Breakfast September Schedule

- 9/05 Resume normal schedule by meeting at Silver Spoon
- 9/12 Fellowship Hall - Terry Rhodes shows a DVD
- 9/19 Breakfast at Silver Spoon
- 9/26 Fellowship Hall - Maybe Jim Polhamus will discuss his Mission Trip to Saipan. If not, Terry may show another DVD.



## Finance Committee

### New Quarterly Statement Email Option

In preparing the 2nd quarter statements for mailing, I thought it would be appropriate to offer the opportunity to receive the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter statements via email instead. This would result in a significant savings in paper/postage, and would also be more . The end of year statements would be printed and mailed as usual. Certainly, it is not a problem if you prefer paper statements

each quarter, and these will continue unless you opt to make a change. If you choose the email option for receiving statements, just send a quick note to me at [donations@mtsylvan.org](mailto:donations@mtsylvan.org) using your preferred email address. Thank you so much for your continued faithful giving, and for considering the paperless option.

Thank you for your generous participation,  
Naida Upchurch,  
Mt. Sylvan Financial Secretary

# In Service

## Sunday, September 1st

### 8:30 Worship

**Trustee to Lock/Unlock:** Chandler Hair  
**Greeters:** Carolyn & Greg Jackson,  
 Cooper Davidson, and Bennie Andrews  
**Acolyte:** Laura Neal  
**Cross Bearer:** Ben Neal  
**Communion:** Kent & Susan Dixon,  
 Cooper Davidson, and Tommy Blalock  
**Ushers:** Michael & Ginny Hall and  
 Wayne & Michele Gilbert  
**8:30 Nursery:** Laurie Flintom and Ruth Booth  
**9:45 Nursery:** Tricia Andrews  
**Sound Technician:** Jim Davidson  
**Slide Operator:** Chandler Hair

### 11:00 Worship

**Greeters:** The Dixons  
**Communion:** Abree and Raeann Spreitzer  
**Infants Nursery:** Annetta Andrews  
**Preschool Nursery:** Carolyn Jackson  
**Sound Technician:** Richard Armour  
**Slide Operator:** Emily Igo

## Heritage Sunday, September 8th

### 8:30 Worship

**Trustee to Lock/Unlock:** Chandler Hair  
**Greeters:** Joan Stubbs, Clif Flintom, and  
 Rick & Kathy Ebersohl  
**Acolytes:** Faye Rodio and John Paul Rodio  
**Cross Bearer:** Kistler Hunt  
**Ushers:** Gerald & Bobbie Reeves and  
 Walter & Anne Young  
**8:30 Nursery:** Lorri Givens & Priscilla Coleman  
**9:45 Nursery:** Yonica Rodio  
**Sound Technician:** Jim Davidson  
**Slide Operator:** Chandler Hair

### 11:00 Worship

**Greeters:** Jim & Cindy Knapp  
**Acolytes:** Luke Rogers and Aubree Spreitzer  
**Infants Nursery:** Jordan Rogers  
**Preschool Nursery:** Katy MacDonald  
**Sound Technician:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Slide Operator:** Richard Armour

## Fifth Sunday, September 29th

### 8:30 Worship

**Trustee to Unlock:** Chandler Hair  
**Greeters:** Sissel Jakobczyk, Jane Watkins,  
 and Larry & Nancy Smith  
**Acolytes:** Faye Rodio and John Paul Rodio  
**Cross Bearer:** Kate Flintom  
**Ushers:** June Armstrong, Herb Cimburke,  
 John Wrenn, and Mike Hall  
**8:30 Nursery:** Carol Thompson and Cooper D.  
**9:45 Nursery:** Tricia Andrews  
**Sound Technician:** Jim Davidson  
**Slide Operator:** Chandler Hair

## Sunday, September 15th

### 8:30 Worship

**Trustee to Lock/Unlock:** Kris Ferrell  
**Greeters:** Roy & Katy MacDonald, and  
 Randall & Bobbie Clark  
**Acolyte:** Kate Flintom  
**Cross Bearer:** Kistler Hunt  
**Ushers:** Horace Clark, Tommy Blalock,  
 Larry Smith, and Mike Gilmer  
**8:30 Nursery:** Hannah Horne and  
 Sissel Jakobczyk  
**9:45 Nursery:** Carol Thompson  
**Sound Technician:** Jim Davidson  
**Slide Operator:** Chandler Hair

### 11:00 Worship

**Greeters:** Darlene Lumpkin and Susan White  
**Acolytes:** Jordan Rogers and Madi White  
**Infants Nursery:** Annetta Andrews  
**Preschool Nursery:** EB Tester  
**Sound Technician:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Slide Operator:** Richard Armour

## Sunday, September 22nd

### 8:30 Worship

**Trustee to Lock/Unlock:** Allen Andrews  
**Greeters:** Mary Ann Sellers, Kit Chappell,  
 Denise Rothman, and Naida Upchurch  
**Acolyte:** Laura Neal  
**Cross Bearer:** Ben Neal  
**Ushers:** Roy & Katy McDonald and  
 Rick & Kathy Ebersohl  
**8:30 Nursery:** Sandy Rowe and Kit Chappell  
**9:45 Nursery:** Kathy Powell  
**Sound Technician:** Jim Davidson  
**Slide Operator:** Chandler Hair

### 11:00 Worship

**Greeters:** Jason & Carmen Harris  
**Acolyte:** Lyla York  
**Infants Nursery:** Cindy Knapp  
**Preschool Nursery:** Annetta Andrews  
**Sound Technician:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Slide Operator:** Richard Armour

### 11:00 Worship

**Trustee to Lock:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Greeters:** Jim & Cindy Knapp  
**Acolyte:** Aubree Spreitzer and Luke Rogers  
**Infants Nursery:** Jane Watkins  
**Preschool Nursery:** Annetta Andrews  
**Sound Technician:** Tim Wilkinson  
**Slide Operator:** Richard Armour

# Prayer Concerns

## Congregational Prayer Requests

**Pres Creery** is in Intensive Care at the VA Hospital with internal bleeding.

Prayers for the **family of Mandy Jeffries** who passed away on August 15.

**Mac** MacDonald went to the ER on Tuesday evening. He came home that night and had a check up with Dr. Fisher the next day who said he looks great. The referral process has begun for an EEG, an MRI and an appointment with a pediatric neurologist. Please continue to keep Mac, Brittany and Zack in your prayers. Their family has certainly felt comforted by them.

**Joanne McLees'** has a fracture in her acromion. And has degenerative joint disease all over the shoulder. She's scheduled for surgery on October 30th at Duke Regional.

**Everett Pace's** After receiving the doctors assessment of all tests and labs, Everett will be seeing another specialist in October for a second opinion.

Continued prayers for **Charlie Lotter**, brother-in-law of Carolyn Harriss, who was hospitalized in Dallas this week and diagnosed with pneumonia in addition to his other health problems. He refused to go to rehab and went home with home health assistance. Pray for Carolyn's sister, Gayle, as his caregiver.

**Rowena Piper** was transferred from Duke Medical Center to Hillcrest for rehab.

**Gail Duncan** is recovering at home after hip surgery.

**Mike Lasher** is recovering at home from double knee surgery.

**Jim Lyon** is having injections for back pain.

Continued Prayers for:

**Barbara Berry, Elliot Bowman, Lou Corr, Tricia Deal, Rick Fisher, Donna Hunter, RB Poole, David Robertson, Terry Rhodes, Katie Smith, Sandra Spruill, Chuck Sorrell, Jean Weathers, and Susan Weldon.**

## In Medical Care or Assisted Living

Brookdale Durham: Sylvia Venturini

Croasdaile Homestead: Norma Clements

Croasdaile Pavilion: Shirley Wollner

Brian Center: Carla Coltrane

Hillcrest: Neda Hendrickson  
Rev. Bess Smith  
Rowena Piper

Treyburn: Sue Van Rood

Emerald Pines Roger Minion

Rose Manor William Sellers

## At Home

Doris Coltrane Grace Moore  
Lou Corr Wade Tilley  
Doris McBroom

## Partners In Ministry

Pastor Leon Dorleans and the Churches of Haiti Outreach.

## Serving Our Country

Dan Armour, Mike Armour, Nick Farlow, Jonathan Lecky, Thomas Lecky, Craig Taylor, Bryan Thompson, and Madison Thompson  
*(If you know of church members missing from this list please contact the church office at 919-471-0032)*

## Connectional Ministry

Bishop Hope Morgan Ward,  
D.S. Rev. Mike Frese, A.D.S, Sarah Carter

## Church Staff:

Jim Bock, Rev. Larry Bowden, Sophia Clark, Bobby Pettiford, Rev. Bess H. Smith, Lindsey Spain, EB Tester, Jeff Whicker, Rev. Kathie Wilkinson, and Preschool Staff

# From the Cemetery Committee

## Special Offering Sunday for The Cemetery

The Cemetery Committee has a solemn obligation to the maintenance and beauty of the Mt Sylvan Cemetery. Many dear saints, family and friends rest in this space reminding us of their love for Mt. Sylvan and service in years past. Other than routine lawn and garden maintenance, we have several items that need to be taken care of. A list of those needs by priority are as follows:

- Repair a number of head stones that are in danger of falling over, or other issues.
- Performing a radar survey of the cemetery to identify unknown gravesites and mark them accordingly. This will help us to identify available grave site spaces throughout the cemetery.

- Place markers on the graves of the unknown.
- Clean headstones that have been invaded with algae, mold etc. in an effort to preserve them.
- Repair of the railing and painting the gazebo.
- Repair sections of and paint the metal portion on top of the brick fence.

Heritage Sunday September 8th has been designated as the day to receive special gifts to the cemetery fund to assist us with the maintenance needed.

We gratefully appreciate your contributions to the fund so that we may proceed with this needed work.

Cemetery Committee

## Fellowship

### Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners at Mt. Sylvan

We are starting weekly Wednesday night Fellowship dinners beginning September 18 from 5:30pm-7:00pm. \$6 per person, \$20 per family. Menus will be posted soon. Sign up sheets will be available for helping with set up/clean up/providing desserts. See below information of what is needed during these times. These dinners are a fun time of fellowship and good food that will be an easy and inexpensive for your family to dine out. The Fellowship Hall makes for a laid back atmosphere for your kids to be themselves and for you to get to know other people from the congregation and community with whom you've not yet gotten to know. Be on the lookout for dinner reservation sheets to come soon.

Set up/greeter Coordinator-Susan Dixon:  
She needs teams of 3-4 each week.  
-arriving 4:45-5. Make sure tables and chairs are in place, set them up if needed. Put out place mats, utensils, plates/bowls/

napkins. Set up dessert table with small plates, napkins and serving utensils. Help with serving meal. Inventory of paper products. A reservation list will be provided to you for checking people in. Have basket out for money to be placed in and signup sheet for the next week's meal.

Dessert Coordinator: We need a volunteer to be point person: please let Susan Dixon know if you are interested. You'll need at least 3-4 people each week to provide desserts

Clean up Coordinator-Charlie:  
He needs teams of 3-4 each week  
-cleaning up fellowship hall and washing tables, washing pans/cooking utensils, sweeping floor. Putting tables/chairs back in order. counting money and taking to the church office. Taking out trash to dumpster. Locking up all doors. Usually done with clean up and leaving by 7:30-7:45.

## Kinder Garden

### The Mt. Sylvan Kinder Garden

The kids are heading back to the classrooms and the Kinder Garden sunflowers are loaded with seeds and bowing their heads. Sunflower bird feeders as well as canned goods from the garden will be available at the church Fall Festival. We hope to continue to stay connected to our youngest gardeners through our Kinder Garden website and encourage you to visit and check for new updates regarding future gatherings for "Story Time in the Garden" or dates to clear off our precious garden for next year. We believe that there are many ways to plant seeds. Each week, we will feature a picture book and a "digging deeper" devotion (for parents). Stay connected at:

<http://www.mtsylvanumckindergarden.com/>.

For questions or concerns, contact [Kathy Powell](#).



## Community Garden

### From the Mt Sylvan Garden Shed Where Does it All Go?

Over the past few months we have shared why and how we garden at Mt Sylvan. This month we are sharing about what we do with our harvest. Changing from a seasonal row garden to a raised bed year-round garden has also changed our harvests. Instead of getting large harvests in a short time, we now have continuous, smaller harvests. We always have something ripe but in smaller amounts (which is easier to handle by fewer workers).

This in turn, has changed how we share our bounty. The Community Garden and the Sylvan Seniors have a long-standing partnership for sharing, and our Tuesday harvests are put out at the Seniors meetings. Other groups we have shared with included UMD, Caring Hearts (recovery) house, and the Mt Sylvan Preschool parents. In addition, we have shared produce as spontaneous acts of hospitality with community folks who happen to be at Mt Sylvan at times. Delivery folks, people who have helped

advise on projects, and who have stopped by to see what is going on in the garden, leave with unexpected fresh produce, flowers, and smiles.

Finally, we have shared with you, the congregation. You may have seen produce at the church door after Sunday services. Yes, this produce is meant for you! It is a gift, take what you want and enjoy it. Even though many of our family members and neighbors have plenty of food for their bellies, they may need your smile and a small gift of produce to remind them that God and the church cares about them. Take what is offered and share. God feeds the body and soul.

### Needed in the garden this month

We always need more hands working in the garden. If you can spare an hour or so on Tuesday or Saturday mornings, we need folks to help wash and basket the harvest, and help wash and put up our tools. Could this be you? Remember, everyone is welcome in the garden. No special skills or physical abilities are required to support the garden.

# Missions Ministry

## **Mt. Sylvan Golfs For Habitat For Humanity Of Durham**

In honor of Sylvan Saint, Herb Cimburke, Mt. Sylvan has set a goal to raise \$10,000 for Habitat for Humanity of Durham and to have a great time of fellowship through a golf tournament on **Monday, September 30 at Treyburn Country Club**, a premier golf experience. Tee times begin at 10:00 a.m., with 4 players per group. If you don't have a team of 4, we will pair you with players of similar skill. You will be provided a boxed lunch and a heavy hors d'oeuvres meal at the end of the tournament with prizes and awards. There will be giveaways, raffles, and silent auction items. The cost is \$125 per player, or \$500 per team. Our target is to have 80 players, so please share with your friends. The format of play will be Captain's Choice. Payments can be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/yd5aradd> or via check to Mt. Sylvan. Click the following link to **FILL OUT FORM**. Paper registration forms are also available in the Narthex and church office.



## **COME MAKE BREAKFAST WITH US**



Mt Sylvan provides two Breakfast teams to UMD each month on the **SECOND FRIDAY**, and **THIRD TUESDAY** of every month. The Friday Team, is headed by

Terry/Kathy Rhodes and the Tuesday Team, is headed by Jim/Phyllis Polhamus. Fellowship and preparation begin at 7am at the UMD Café and we serve from 8 - 9am. Carpooling always available for either breakfast. We regularly feed about 200 people with the joy, laughter, and sharing of Jesus Christ. For more info contact Jim or Phyllis Polhamus, at 919-479-2021 [jpolhamus@nc.rr.com](mailto:jpolhamus@nc.rr.com). Each Team needs your help, particularly those that could serve as backup members.

**Serve at UMD with Mt. Sylvan Youth Families: Help Needed:** On the fourth Sunday of each month Mt. Sylvan Youth families serve breakfast to people in need, at Urban Ministries of Durham. This month (9/22) we especially need help since that is the same day the pumpkins arrive. A group will meet at the church at 10:30am and be ready to work by 11am. We are finished serving by 1:30pm.

## **Needs for the Urban Ministries**

**Food Pantry:** For years Mt. Sylvan has been a consistent source of donations for Urban Ministries' Food pantry. Of late, our donation barrels have been less than full. With food bank donations down across the country, we should step up and have a heart to fill this need for those that have less than us. The pantry is in need of the following items:

- ◆ Sweet peas
- ◆ Corn
- ◆ Canned meats
- ◆ Baked beans
- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ Canned pasta
- ◆ Pasta sauce
- ◆ Pasta (dried)
- ◆ Oatmeal (packets)
- ◆ Grits (packets)

Thank you for your generosity!

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

November 3, 2019, Mt. Sylvan will be hosting our annual **Rise Against Hunger** event in the Fellowship Hall. Be on the lookout for opportunities to help with this event as well as ways to raise money to help pay for the meals. If you have any questions or are interested in helping with this event, contact Jennifer Rogers at 919-201-7504 or [jenrogers616@gmail.com](mailto:jenrogers616@gmail.com).

# Missions Ministry

## Families Moving Forward

Mt. Sylvan will be hosting the parents and children at Families Moving Forward (the largest housing and services provider for homeless families in Durham) beginning Monday, September 23. Our church, along with Abundant Hope Church, is responsible for serving the catered meal Monday night and afterwards caring for the young children while their parents are in a house meeting. Then Mt. Sylvan alone will be responsible for serving the meal (prepared by the UMW circles) on Thursday evening, September 26. We need volunteers to help serve the meal and then care for the younger children for an hour after dinner both nights. Each night we will meet at Mt. Sylvan and plan to leave on the church bus by 4:30pm and then return back to the church, arriving around 8pm.

Please contact Kit Chappell (919-280-0379), Katy MacDonald (919-479-3031) or Susan White (919-475-5648) if you can help.

The FMF Barrel of Joy (a collection point at church for items needed) will be in the narthex starting September 1. Due to several families moving into their own housing this summer, **FMF desperately needs twin or twin XL comforters, full size comforters, and pillows. These are given to the families when they move into FMF and they take with them when they move into their own housing to help them get started. If you would like to donate some of**

**these, you can either purchase them yourself or give a donation to the church office or to Kit Chappell for Kit to purchase. Other items needed are:**

- School Supplies
  - Colored pencils
  - Tape
  - pocket folders
  - Calculators
  - Pens
  - kid scissors
  - clear sheet protectors
  - construction paper
- Cleaning Supplies
  - dish towels
  - dish detergent
  - Windex
  - Comet
  - toilet bowl cleaner
  - toilet brush
  - scrub brushes
  - Sponges



## Supporting Eno Valley Teachers

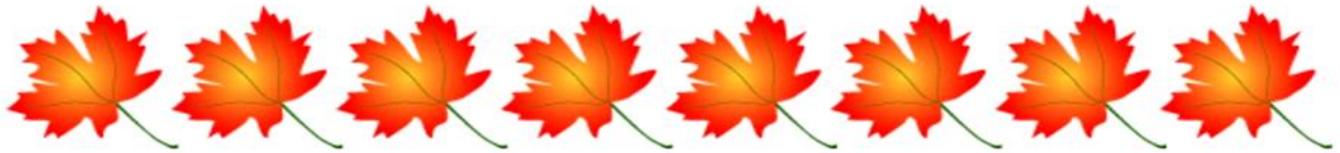
One of the ways Mt. Sylvan has showed support for Eno Valley Elementary School is by providing a monthly treat for the staff and teachers. This is such an encouragement to them as they teach and care for the children at Eno Valley. We have provided a variety of treats -- breakfast, lunch, snacks, goodie bags for many years. If you can help or have questions, please contact Katy MacDonald at [katymac0615@gmail.com](mailto:katymac0615@gmail.com).

# Birth Announcement

Thanksgiving for the birth of  
**Hudson Phelps Booth**  
 on August 5, 2019,  
 to parents William & Lauren Booth  
 and grandparents Wayne & Ruth Booth.  
 He was 7 lbs. 4 oz.



# United Methodist Women



## Fall Festival

October 5, 2019

8:00 - 12:30

**Mt Sylvan United Methodist Church**  
**5731 N. Roxboro Rd. Durham, NC 27712**

**Breakfast 8:00 - 10:00**

**Children's Activities 10:00 - 12:00**

**Silent Auction 9:30 - 10:30**

**BBQ Lunch 11:00 - 12:30**

**Live Auction 10:45 - 11:30**

**Baked goods and crafts on sale throughout the day.**



[www.mtsylvan.com](http://www.mtsylvan.com)

(919) 471-0032

**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS**

### Fall Festival Auction Items

The Fall Festival Committee needs your help! We are in need of live auction items such as tickets to a show, concert, or game; sports memorabilia; artwork of any type; special vacation packages, etc. 100% of the proceeds go to missions both locally and globally. Please contact Michele Vincent or Jane Sellars with items.

# Mt. Sylvan Emergency Response News



**DISASTER RESPONSE TRIPS – Southeast North Carolina Fall 2019** Schedule is **September 27-28; October 17-19 (UNC Wesley Fall Fellowship- Whiteville, NC); November 22-23; and December 13-14, 2019.** We are continuing our trend of scheduling combined Friday and Saturday workdays thru the fall of 2019 to help survivors of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

The UNC Wesley Fall Fellowship trip to Whiteville, NC, will leave Mt Sylvan UMC after work on Wednesday. We will work Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in one of the hardest hit areas from Hurricane Florence. We will worship with UNC Wesley in a host Methodist church, and return Sunday afternoon.

Come join us as the Hands and Feet of Christ helping those survivors impacted by disasters. The work we know is fulfilling and the Team has the skill sets to meet most challenges. The North Carolina UMC Disaster Recovery Centers always accommodate our skill set to help our neighbors get closer to moving into their homes. I prayerfully ask you to consider one or more of these dates. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Phyllis Polhamus at [jpolhamus@nc.rr.com](mailto:jpolhamus@nc.rr.com); H: 919-479-2021, or c: 919-210-4938.

## Music Ministry News

### Mt. Sylvan Music Gearing Back Up

All music groups at Mt. Sylvan will resume regular rehearsals in September shortly after the Labor Day break. The choir, which sings regularly at the 8:30 service, will begin regular rehearsals on Sunday, September 15 at 6:00 in the choir room. Plans are underway to do a special Christmas Cantata this season and we will begin preparing music for it almost immediately. We are always looking for singers and no level of time commitment is too small! Typically we rehearse anthems for about a month in advance, so even if you are out of town occasionally, you can pick up music quickly. Join us and share your musical gifts with the congregation!

Our Praise Band sings at the 11:00 contemporary service and rehearses Wednesday nights at 7:30. We sing four or five songs every week but generally only introduce one new song every month. Because of the amount of music performed each week, we generally only rehearse music for the coming Sunday. If you are traveling and aren't always in town, the Praise Band is a great opportunity to share your musical gifts. Presently we are looking for instrumentalists but singers are always welcome as well!

Mt. Sylvan Ringers will resume handbell rehearsals on Wednesday night

September 4 at 6:30pm. They perform about 5 or 6 times a year, and like the choir, they rehearse songs a number of weeks in advance. The ability to read music is definitely helpful, but ringers generally only play bells for 2 or 3 notes so it's not as daunting a task for non-readers as it may seem. If you are interested in joining this wonderful group, contact Kathie Wilkinson at [kathie@mtsylvan.org](mailto:kathie@mtsylvan.org).

Our middle and high school choir, CREW, rehearses on Sundays at 5pm. Because of the church picnic on September 8, they will not resume rehearsals until September 15. The group typically performs 5 or 6 times each year at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. They generally perform more contemporary anthems, though generally accompanied only by piano. Rising six graders through high school students are welcome!

Music is such a vital component of worship and we are blessed to have a tradition of musical talent at Mt. Sylvan. Please think about participating in a music group; it's a great opportunity for fellowship and a wonderful way to share in ministry. If you have questions contact me, [jeff@mtsylvan.org](mailto:jeff@mtsylvan.org). Hope to see you in September!

# Thank You Notes

Dear Members of Mt. Sylvan Church,  
Thank you so very much for the prayer quilt that you made for Ken. He has already covered his chest with it sitting in his easy chair. Your prayers are very welcome and mean so very much. Sissel and Richard are very dear to us, and I know that they are dear to the Church too. When this disease is gone perhaps we can come and visit you one Sunday. Thank you again. Blessings to you all.

Love,  
Ken and Julie

Dear Mt. Sylvan,  
Thank you so much for your gifts and your prayers during this difficult time. I appreciate you all very much. I love my prayer blanket. God bless you.

Love,  
Brittany

Thank you to all who donated items for the Estate/Yard Sale, the UMW members, their spouses, sons and daughters, and non UMW members who worked so hard to make this event a success. The total of \$10,327.98 will be added to the proceeds from the Fall Festival to sponsor 38 missions. While this event funds our missions, we go even further by opening our doors and providing an outlet for the community to shop, showing that Christ is alive here and working through us making Mt. Sylvan as more than just a beautiful building. It is a real church. Thank you again for making this event so successful.

Blessings,  
Cindy Bryant, Gail Duncan, Sue Lindsey, Jan Pinkerton, Joan Stubbs, and Bobbie Reeves

I appreciate so much your thoughtfulness and kindness expressed through your generous gifts...the lovely walnut cling to the cross and the lovely teal lap blanket. Your prayers have touched my heart. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Linda Ellington (friend of Jane B. Watkins)

Mt. Sylvan Methodist Church Family,  
Thank you for all the prayers,  
Donna Hunter

Dear Mt. Sylvan's wonderful congregation,  
We thank you so much for your kindness, prayers, and support during my time of illness. Your love and thoughtfulness is so appreciated. The prayer shawl is so beautiful. I wrapped the shawl around me and prayed. I felt the love that went into making it! We feel so blessed by the prayers that are being prayed for us! I truly feel so blessed! Please thank all of the sweet ladies for the prayer shawl! Thanks to the men at Mt. Sylvan as well for the special hand carved cross. They mean the world to me and I will treasure them forever! Please pray for me as I work hard to recuperate.

With much love,  
Aris and Danielle Dixon

## **GREAT BIG THANK YOU**

Thanks to a special Team of folks for making dinner for our neighbors at Urban Ministries on July 17, one of the hottest days of the year. To the "**GIT HER DONE TEAM**" of Nancy Smith, Priscilla Coleman, Barbara Peoples, and Janet Lipman - you all sure lived up to that name, and Al appreciated all the extra prep work you did to get ready for the next day. Thanks to Bob Rowe for hanging in there the whole 4 hours and being the only guy on the team- **extra brownie** points to him! Naida Upchurch, Katy MacDonald, and Kit Chappell - thanks for picking up the chicken- (and giving me one less thing to worry about) and of course for serving! I don't know exactly how many neighbors the 5 of us served, but I think the number was close to 200- not to mention all the seconds and thirds... One last thank you to Barbara, Naida, and Bob for pulling double duty this week- breakfast AND dinner- wow!!! Thank you for being the Hands and Feet of Christ,

Blessings to you all,  
Phyllis



# Disaster Response Thank You Notes



## THANK YOU SAIPAN 2019 UMCOR MISSION TEAM 09

### PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Thank you very much for providing a prayer quilt and prayer squares for the Saipan UMCOR Team 09 trip in July. The Team presented the prayer quilt to Immanuel UMC, Saipan, as a token of our Christian love. As a small church of only 15 members, they were excited to receive and honor the prayer quilt. The prayer squares were given to each Team member and Debbie Wise, pastor of Immanuel, as part of our rededication devotion the second week of our trip.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN** - Thank you very much for providing Clinging Crosses for the Saipan UMCOR Team 09 trip in July. The Team presented the Clinging Crosses to each Team member and Debbi Wise during the Team commissioning devotion as a token of our Christian love.

Thank you for sharing your servants, Roy MacDonald and Jim Polhamus, with us during the UMCOR Team 09 mission trip to Saipan in July 2019. Their perseverance, adaptability, and creativity in overcoming obstacles helped the Team accomplish its goal of helping over 70 survivors of Typhoon YUTU come closer to attaining normalcy in their lives. As a Team, we exhibited that we <sup>30</sup>Love the LORD our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this: 'Love our neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 12:30-31.



# MSUMC Disaster Response Team



**Saipan Team 09** is an experienced Early Response Team (ERT) that traveled to Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands in July 2019 to repair homes badly damaged by Typhoon Yutu on October 24, 2018. Typhoon Yutu hit the island of Saipan as a Category 5 Typhoon (Hurricane) with winds between 150 – 180 mph, gusting to 220 mph. The American Red Cross identified of the 6,300 homes on Saipan, 1450 homes were destroyed, and 3700 residences suffered major damage. Five hundred (500) homes have serious roof damage and exterior damage. Roof repair includes repair/replacement of roof trusses, sheathing as necessary, purlins, and corrugated roofing. Survivors of Typhoon Yutu are living in temporary shelters (beige tent in picture) anxiously waiting for assistance.



Saipan is the largest island (44 square miles) of the Northern Mariana Islands, a commonwealth of the United States, and is the capital. Saipan is located in the western Pacific Ocean, 3700 miles west of Honolulu on the Marianas Trench, the deepest part of the Pacific Ocean. The Island was inhabited by about +50,000 people before Typhoon Yutu.

The advance party of three (Gail Clower, Roy MacDonald, Jim Polhamus) arrived on Saipan on July 5th after flying +8,591 miles, over 24 hours to an overnight stop in Guam. The next morning, we flew to Saipan, a short 45 min flight of 130 miles. The party was met by the FEMA liaison, checked into their hotel, and did several work assessments visiting three project homes. The remaining four Team members flew in on Sunday, July 7, just in time for Church.



*The United Methodist Church has one church of 15 servants on Saipan.*



# MSUMC Disaster Response Team

The Team worked 2 weeks on seven homes to help + 70 survivors of Typhoon YUTU come closer to attaining normalcy in their lives. The Team added hurricane straps to the roof frame to improve roof resistance to wind and uplift.



We worked on unfinished homes installing roof seals to ridge caps and wall fascia to keep wind and rain from entering the home.



The Team installed replacement windows and doors severely damaged by the Typhoon.



The Team spent over 680 manhours in tropical heat and humidity to helping others

Battle of Saipan – In June-July 1944, Saipan was the site of a major Pacific military campaign to provide the US with B29 bomber bases for air bombardment of Japan. In the fighting, American forces sustained +14,111 killed, wounded or MIA. Japanese losses were +29,000 killed and over 20,000 civilians killed (in action and suicides). The Team visited several WWII sites including the American Memorial Park and Mt Tapotchao.



The Team enjoyed the natural beauty of Saipan, snorkeling on the beaches and the Grotto, and visiting beautiful Bird Island.



Saipan UMCOR Team 09 was composed of local and national members - Ed Barrows, (St Francis UMC, Cary, NC); Gail Clower, (Union Grove UMC, Bahama, NC); Jeff Hunter, (Latrobe UMC, Latrobe, PA); Roy MacDonald (Mt Sylvan UMC, Durham, NC); Ron Miller, (Latrobe UMC, Latrobe, PA); Jean Mortellaro, (St Andrews UMC, Centennial, CO); and Jim Polhamus (Mt Sylvan UMC, Durham, NC).

# Mt. Sylvan Youth News

## IMPORTANT YOUTH DATES:

- September 1: No youth group – Enjoy the Labor Day holiday
- September 8: Youth Group will meet at West Point on the Eno from 3pm to 7pm for the Church Picnic. Bring a side or dessert to share.
- September 15: Youth Group from 6:00-8:00
- September 22: Urban Ministries from 10:30-1:30
- September 22: PUMPKINS ARRIVE Lunch will be served immediately following the 11:00 service and then we will unload the pumpkins. No regular youth group that night.
- September 29: Youth Group from 6:00-8:00
- September 23-October 31: Many opportunities to work in the Pumpkin Patch, so please sign up when you can!
- SAVE THE DATE: November 8-10 Pilgrimage at Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville. See Jennifer Rogers if you have questions about registration.

## Confirmation Class is now forming!

Are you in the sixth grade or above?

Confirmation is a faith formation experience for young people that helps them understand more about what they believe. They will study worship, the Bible, Methodist history and much much even more exciting topics.

Pastor Larry and others will be leading Confirmation. It will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. There will be field trips, retreats, games, and more.

To register, email him at [larry@mtsylvan.org](mailto:larry@mtsylvan.org).

## Scouts

### Community Rocket Academy

**Sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 440**

**Join us for an out-of-this world family rocket  
adventure including rocket building, rocket  
launching, & rocket refreshments!**

**Monday, September 9th from 6-7:30pm**

**Watts Street Baptist Church**

**This is a FREE event for Boys & Girls in the community  
who are in grades K-5 (5-10 years old)!**

Questions? Contact us! [wattstreetcubspack440@gmail.com](mailto:wattstreetcubspack440@gmail.com)

**Information about joining Cub Scout 440 will be available.**



# Pumpkin Patch

## The Pumpkins Are Coming!

Our pumpkin shipment arrives Sunday  
September 22 at 12:30pm.

Help us unload the truck to get the patch  
filled and ready for business.

Sign up to volunteer in the pumpkin patch selling pumpkins  
by visiting

[www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4aa5ae29aaf58-pumpkin](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4aa5ae29aaf58-pumpkin) or scanning this qr code. Proceeds go to children  
and youth ministries.



On September 15 there will be two  
pumpkin patch training sessions:

- ⇒ 9:45am in the Armstrong Room
- ⇒ 5:00pm in the Youth Room

## Emmaus

**DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE COULD USE A JUMPSTART?** The **Walk to Emmaus** is a caring fellowship of Christians committed to the tangible expression of Jesus Christ's agape love and the support and development of Christian disciples in our Church. The spiritual retreat is three-days filled with praise, worship, testimony, and Christian fellowship. The **Women's Walk is Oct 10 thru 13, 2019**. There still is space available. Don't miss out on this wonderful worship experience! The Candlelight Service for members of the Emmaus Community is Saturday, October 12, at 8:00 PM, Fuquay Varina UMC. For more information and applications, contact Jim or Phyllis Polhamus, at [jpolhamus@nc.rr.com](mailto:jpolhamus@nc.rr.com).



# September 2019 at Mt. Sylvan Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
1 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Traditional Worship <b>9:35 Blood Pressure Checks</b> 9:45 Sunday School 11 Contemporary Worship	<b>2 LABOR DAY</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b> 8p AA Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:45 Seniors Bible Study 11 Sylvan Seniors 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p AL-Anon <b>7p Missions Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 Habitat 9 Food Bank <b>6p Mt. Sylvan</b> 7:30 Praise
<b>8 HERITAGE SUNDAY</b> 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11 Contemporary Worship <b>3p Church Picnic</b>	<b>9</b> <b>10a Corridor District Meeting</b> 8p AA Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:45 Seniors Bible Study 11 Sylvan Seniors 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p AL-Anon <b>7p Staff-Parish Meeting</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 Habitat 9 Food Bank 11 Preschool <b>6p Mt. Sylvan</b> 7:30 Praise
<b>15</b> 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:45 Sunday School <b>9:45 Pumpkin Volunteer Training</b> 11 Contemporary Worship <b>4p Fall Festival Meeting</b> <b>5p Pumpkin Volunteer Training</b> 5p Youth Music 6p Youth Gathering 6p Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> <b>10 McKay Circle</b> 5:30p G.S. Troop 2010 <b>7p Preschool Meeting</b> 8p AA Meeting	<b>17</b> 9:45 Seniors Bible Study 11 Sylvan Seniors 1p Staff Meeting 6:30p AL-Anon	<b>18</b> 7:30 Habitat 9 Food Bank <b>10 Beulah C</b> 11 Preschool <b>5:30p Week</b> <b>6:30p Mt. S</b> 7:30 Praise
<b>22 PUMPKIN DAY!!!</b> 7:30 Breakfast 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:45 Sunday School <b>10 Youth Serve at Urban Min.</b> 11 Contemporary Worship <b>12:30p Pumpkins Arrive</b> <b>4p UMW Executive Committee</b> 6p Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> <b>4:30p Families Moving Forward</b> 5:30p G.S. Troop 2010 <b>6p UMW General Meeting</b> 8p AA Meeting	<b>24</b> <b>6:30 Serve at Urban Ministries</b> 1p Staff Meeting <b>4:30p Families Moving Forward</b> <b>6p AL-Anon Anniversary</b> <b>7p Trustees Meeting</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 Habitat 9 Food Bank 11 Preschool <b>4:30p Famil</b> <b>5:30p Week</b> <b>6:30p Mt. S</b> 7:30 Praise
<b>29</b> 8:30 Traditional Worship <b>10:30 Fifth Sunday Brunch</b> 11 Contemporary Worship 5p Youth Music 6p Youth Gathering 6p Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> <b>10 Golf Tournament</b> <b>5p AA Anniversary Event</b> 5:30p G.S. Troop 2010 8p AA Meeting		

	Thu	Fri	Sat
Building Crew k Pickup <b>an Ringers</b> e Band Practice	5 9 Free Fitness Class 8 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6:30p G.S. Troop 3799 <b>6:30p Precinct 25 Meeting</b>	6 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 <b>8 Church Workday</b> <b>9 Faye Watkins /LGS Circle</b> <b>12p Poer Wedding Shower</b> <b>1p Quilting Group</b> 5p AA Meeting
Building Crew k Pickup ol Chapel <b>an Ringers</b> e Band Practice	12 9 Free Fitness Class 10:30 4C's Bible Study <b>6p Ruth Cook Circle</b> 6:15p G.S. Troop 810	13 <b>6:30 Serve Breakfast at Urban Ministries</b> 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry	14 5p AA Meeting
Building Crew k Pickup <b>ole Circle</b> ol Chapel <b>ly Fellowship Meal</b> <b>ylvan Ringers</b> e Band Practice	19 9 Free Fitness Class <b>9:45 Mildred Cook Circle</b> 10:30 4C's Bible Study 6:30p G.S. Troop 3799	20 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry	21 <b>Emmaus Men's Walk</b> <b>Candlelight Service</b> 5p AA Meeting
Building Crew k Pickup ol Chapel <b>ilies Moving Forward</b> <b>ly Fellowship Meal</b> <b>ylvan Ringers</b> e Band Practice	26 9 Free Fitness Class 10:30 4C's Bible Study <b>4:30p Families Moving Forward</b> 6:15p G.S. Troop 810 <b>7p RosaBelle Mangum Circle</b> <b>7p Finance Committee Meeting</b>	27 <b>ERT Trip</b> 10 Prayer Shawl Ministry <b>4:30p Families Moving Forward</b>	28 <b>ERT Trip</b> 5p AA Meeting

Jim Bock, Business Administrator  
jimbock@mtsyvlan.org

Larry Bowden, Lead Pastor  
larry@mtsyvlan.org

Sophia Clark, Office Administrator  
sophia@mtsyvlan.org

Patricia Deal, Preschool Director  
mtsyvlanpreschool@msn.com

Priscilla Jaiah, Missionary to Liberia

Bess H. Smith, Pastor Emeritas

Elizabeth "EB" Tester  
Children's Ministry Coordinator  
elizabeth@mtsyvlan.org

Jeff Whicker,  
Director of Music Ministries  
jeff@mtsyvlan.org

Kathie S. Wilkinson,  
Pastor of Congregational Care  
kathie@mtsyvlan.org

Staff-Parish Chair and Vice Chair  
sprc@mtsyvlan.org

**Find us on the  
web at  
www.mtsylvan.org**

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm,  
Friday 9 am - 12 pm  
office@mtsyvlan.org



## Monthly Missions Calendar

Urban Ministries of Durham

2nd Friday of the month

Help serve breakfast 7 am - 9 am  
Contact Terry Rhodes (919-477-8593)

3rd Tuesday of the month

Help serve breakfast 7 am - 9 am  
Contact Jim & Phyllis Polhamus  
(919-479-2021)

4th Sunday at 10 am

Youth Serve lunch

Contact Susan White at [sbwhite04@yahoo.com](mailto:sbwhite04@yahoo.com)

For new volunteer opportunities at Urban Ministries go to  
<http://www.umdurham.org/get-involved/httpumdurham.orgservice.html>  
Complete volunteer application, and send to Viki Baker  
at [vbaker@umdurham.org](mailto:vbaker@umdurham.org)



### Habitat House Projects

Habitat work teams go out each Wednesday morning

Contact Herb Cimburke at (919-477-9298)

### Backpack Program

Help pack or deliver backpacks Wednesday evenings or  
Friday mornings (during the school year)



Contact Katy MacDonald (katymac0615@gmail.com) to volunteer

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Each Friday from 10 am-12 pm in the Children's Center

Contact Nancy Smith (ncsmith2155@gmail.com)

## Sylvan Seniors September 2019 Calendar

**September 3** Members sharing their Job Experiences - 1st Job,  
Job they liked the Least, Job they liked the Most

**September 10** Ford Bradshaw - Outsmarting the Scammers

**September 17** Jeff Whicker - "Rockin" in the Fellowship Hall  
with 50's and 60's Music

**September 24** Homeless Students in Durham City Schools



*Calling All Seniors!*