

THE BRIDGE

JUNE '25 | JULY '25 | AUG '25
CARLISLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



BUILDING HOPE, ONE HOME AT A TIME: CUMC'S VIM TEAM SERVES IN WINDSOR, NC

Earlier this month, a dedicated team of 12 volunteers from Carlisle United Methodist Church (CUMC) traveled to Windsor, North Carolina, on a mission of compassion, craftsmanship, and Christian love. Partnering with Carolina Rebuilding Ministry (CRM), our Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team worked alongside local leaders to restore dignity and safety to the homes of two residents – Betty and Willy – who were in desperate need of critical home repairs.

Throughout the week, the team completed an impressive list of tasks: installing two full bathrooms, replacing three toilets, laying steel roofing, constructing both small and large decks with an accessibility ramp, and making essential plumbing, electrical, and floor repairs. These improvements were not just structural –

they were transformative, restoring safety, comfort, and peace of mind to two beloved neighbors in need.

Mornings began with Holy Communion, centering their work in Christ, and each evening ended with a devotion and reflection, where team members took turns journaling about the day's challenges and moments of grace.

Pastor Quinton, drawing from his South African roots, even brought a touch of home to the mission site measuring using the metric system and using some of the power tools for the first time! Whether they were fitting a doorframe or sharing lunch in the shade of a tree, every moment was shaped by the spirit of togetherness.

North Carolina's rural areas face aging infrastructure, economic hardship, and rising healthcare

costs. Many homeowners are elderly, disabled, or living on fixed incomes, unable to afford essential repairs. Without intervention, the consequences are severe: poor health, unsafe living conditions, social isolation, and a breakdown of generational home ownership.

This Mission Trip was more than patching roofs, it was to build community – empowering homeowners and inspiring hope. When people struggle with health and safety due to substandard housing, their involvement in the community declines. But when dignity is restored, so is vitality.

CUMC's VIM team answered God's call to serve – bringing hands, hearts, tools, and time to be part of that restoration. In the face of need, they showed up with *(continued on Page 5)*



SUMMER PRETEEN

- JUNE 6** - Knoebel's Day Trip.
- JULY 13** - Water Battle, 5-7pm
- AUG 15** - Mini Golf, 5-7pm, Sports Emporium

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SUMMER KIDS AND FAMILIES EVENTS

- JUNE 8** - VBS
- JUNE 9** - VBS
- JUNE 10** - VBS
- JUNE 11** - VBS
- JUNE 12** - VBS
- JUNE 13** - VBS Closing & Picnic
- JUNE 15** - Dads & Donuts
- AUG 3** - Sundaes on Sunday
- AUG 17** - Blessing of the Backpacks during Worship

We had a fantastic spring in Kids Ministry. We continue to have a lot of fun in Kids Worship as we continue to discover what it means to be Simply Loved by God. In March we celebrated that 10 of our kids memorized the books of the Old Testament. We celebrated with a Pajama Party. We had donuts and a paper airplane contest. It was a great morning to celebrate how hard the kids worked this year to memorize their books of the Bible. We have been talking about Jesus death and resurrection in April. We also enjoyed making snack bags filled with goodies and a notes to encourage our mission team. In May we will start learning about how God created everything. Every month the kids have a memory verse and they do a wonderful job of remembering it. We also enjoyed a fun Sunday in May eating pancakes in our pajamas!

In Preteen, we continue to take a look at tough questions while exploring what it means to Be Bold in our faith. We have also had lots of fun getting to play outside again and celebrating the end of our year. We said goodbye to our 5th grade friends and welcomed new friends that will be entering 3rd grade in the fall. Preteens also had a blast on their retreat at the beginning of April. Our theme was Knights and we took a look at the Armor of God in the book of Ephesians and talked about how the Armor of God makes us stronger. It was great to see all the families that joined this spring for activities. We had a wonderful morning at our breakfast and Easter activity in March. We also loved seeing all the kids hunt for eggs at our yearly Easter Egg Hunt. It was such a fun morning! We had over 300 kids at our egg

hunt this year. A huge THANK YOU to everyone that helped with the Easter Egg Hunt!

Looking ahead to the summer in Preteen, we have some fun summer events planned. We are going on a day trip to Knoebels Amusement Park on June 6th from 9:30am-8pm the cost is \$53. We will be having a Water Battle on July 13th from 5-7pm. Please come expecting to get wet. We will also be going mini-golfing on August 15th from 5-7pm. We will be meeting at the Sports Emporium. The cost of Mini-golf is \$15.

We are also really excited for True North VBS June 8th-12th. Vacation Bible School will be from 5:30pm-8pm with an optional dinner at 5pm. We will have our closing program and picnic on June 13th at 5:30pm. There is still time to sign up on the church website. We also have a new small VBS class for preschoolers. More information about that can be found in the Nursery.

On August 3rd we will be having Sundaes on Sunday. This is a chance for those little ones moving up into kids worship to come have ice cream with the kids worship leaders and to make some new friends. It is also a great chance to have some ice cream and play some games with your church family. We will be blessings backpacks on August 17th.

Conference summer camps are starting up in June. If you are interested take a look at the poster by the water fountain in the gathering. This summer we also have a lot of kids going to summer camp. If you would be interested in contributing to the camp scholarship fund please let Christina know.

If you would be interested in helping in Kids Ministry, please talk to Christina.



CELEBRATING OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS: A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND GROWTH

This spring, eight of our 8th graders completed a powerful season of learning, serving, and spiritual growth through CUMC's Confirmation Class. Each student took significant steps in exploring what it means to follow Jesus and to Live Like Jesus.

Throughout the process, students were paired with adult mentors who walked alongside them, both spiritually and practically. Together, they worked through a confirmation workbook that offered a fresh look at foundational topics like God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the purpose of the Church, and how to grow in faith independently.

One highlight of their journey was a day of service at Mission Central, where students and mentors worked together to help meet the needs of others—living out what it means to serve like Jesus.

In addition to mentor time, students also attended special classes with our pastors. These sessions dove into CUMC's history, the United Methodist Church's roots and beliefs, our church's discipleship strategy, and how each student is uniquely gifted for ministry through their spiritual gifts.

Our confirmands also had the meaningful opportunity to lead the Maundy Thursday evening worship service. They not only gave the message about how to love like Jesus but also served communion. Which helped them experience firsthand what it means to be part of the church's mission and worship life.

The season culminated with a beautiful moment of commitment. Each student wrote a personal faith statement and confirmed their faith and baptism in front of their families, mentors, and church community.

We are incredibly proud of these students and

grateful to the mentors, pastors, and parents who supported them. May this season of confirmation be just the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith and discipleship.

~ ERIN FLEET





7000: This is God's Kingdom, and His People Are Here

Sundays: June 15-29
5pm at CUMC

Like Elijah, we all face moments of fear and isolation. And like Elijah, we are called by God to see these moments with new eyes. In this class, we'll approach Mt. Horeb with the ancient prophet, hear God's audacious declaration that no fear or anxiety exists outside the compass of his kingdom, and encounter his invitation to labor with him alongside the countless thousands who have already accepted his call. Led by Eric Born.

Stronger Body, Stronger Spirit

Wednesdays: June 18 & 25
6pm at CUMC (or via Zoom)

A 2-week journey toward health, wholeness, and hope. Join us for an uplifting, practical, and faith-filled series. Learn how to nourish your body, build strength, and care for your spirit - all designed around how our bodies work, created wonderfully by God! Led by Michelle Williams.

Hike the Valley:

A Summer Faith Adventure

Saturdays: June 21, July 19, & August 16
9-10:30am

This program is designed to bring our church family and community together in a refreshing outdoor setting, incorporating light hiking, scripture reflection, and guided discussions. Each session will focus on a faith theme connected to nature, encouraging participants of all ages to experience God's presence in His creation. Led by Michelle Williams.

Spiritual Gifts

Mondays: June 23 & 30
6pm at CUMC

The Bible tells us that we have all been given gifts from the Spirit that we are to use to serve one another and build up the body of Christ. In this class we will introduce the concept of the spiritual gifts and this will allow us to determine where our spiritual gifts lie. This class will give insight into what each gift contributes and how they all complement each other. We will learn about the Servant Profile (what we are equipped to do), Personal Style (how to best serve authentically), and Ministry Passion (where you are most motivated to serve). This class will be an introductory class to a 4-6 week session offered later in the year, but can also serve as a stand-

alone to learning more about yourself and where God has intended you to shine. Led by Stephanie Baity and Sue Baxter.

Philippians

Wednesdays: July 2-23

6:30pm at CUMC (or via Zoom)

This 4-week course looks at Paul's very personal Letter to the Philippians, the first church he established in Europe. Please have a good reference Bible, and something for note-taking. Access to any Bible Study Tools would help. A handout will be provided before class that will include pre-class reading, maps, and other info to prepare you for the study. Led by Charles Reynolds.

Our Hearts were Strangely

Lukewarm

Tuesdays: August 19 & 26

6:30pm at CUMC (or via Zoom)

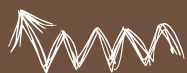
John Wesley was the original advocate for racial justice Methodism. We will talk about John Elford's book, "Our Hearts Were Strangely Lukewarm," which provides a portrayal of the Methodist church's complicated historical relationship with racism. We will discuss why it is important to understand where we've been in order to move toward a more racially just future. Led by Chris Benson.

SAMARITAN FELLOWSHIP

The Samaritan Fellowship is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization whose purpose is to carry out the Lord's command to help our neighbors who, through no fault of their own, have exhausted every other available means to obtain or maintain adequate shelter, utilities, food, clothing, medical care or other services necessary for their lives and livelihoods. Our service area includes the Carlisle (continued on Page 6)



Sign up for classes on the CUMC app or online at carlislepaumc.org/signup



ALL ARE WELCOME.



2025 SPRING EXPLORE CLASS

The 2025 Spring Explore Class has twenty-two members; the class is to teach regular attenders about CUMC: who we are, what we believe and how we want to grow in our faith and serve Jesus and others. The members will decide at the end of the four-week class if they want to join CUMC. The first week they were asked why they first visited CUMC and more importantly why they came back. The answers to why they came back were split between three reasons: the welcoming they experienced from members; CUMC's Welcome Statement; and the Kids and Student Ministry.

It is exciting to me that first time visitors experience the dedication that Erin Fleet and Christina McDermott have for growing children and teens into followers of Jesus. The new potential members who are parents have nine children. I believe their attendance shows that families are thriving at CUMC. We always want to connect with more families. An invitation to worship at CUMC is a great way for people to learn about us.

The class had a discussion on the Welcome State-

ment All are Welcome- ALL Means all -no exceptions. It was truly cool to see how people interpret All means All. I was left with the thought we are all different, but Jesus wants us in relationship and that people come to CUMC to nurture that relationship. They may be a new Christian or a lifelong believer. Many of the class members discussed that the CUMC regular attenders connected with them on their first visit. I know it can be difficult to reach out due to the three services and that we are not always certain the person is new. Let's make it a common place to ask. "Hi , I am _____, I don't know if we have met before."

We also discussed that putting ourselves in a situation to talk to a lot of new people makes some of us nervous. So, remember the 5-10 connect rule at CUMC. The 10 stands for the 10-foot radius from our seat during worship. That may be 1 or two people. You might be the reason a first-time guest joins our Explore Class. If you want to practice what to say to visitors for the first time, please reach out to me.

~ **ANDREA KATZ**



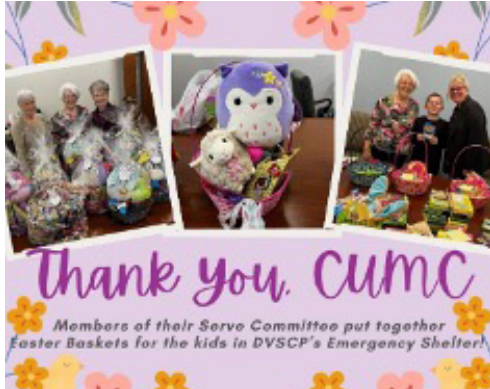
(VIM...continued from Page 1)
generosity, humility, and the love of Jesus Christ.

Join the Next Mission!

Our next VIM trip is scheduled for October 5-11 in Burnsville, North Carolina. Whether you're handy with a hammer or faithful in prayer, there's a place for you on this team. Contact Pastor Quinton De Beer to learn more and take your next step in serving others and sharing the hope of Christ.

~ **QUINTON DE BEER**

CELEBRATING SERVE VOLUNTEERS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER



The CUMC Volunteers were honored and humbled to receive the Volunteer Appreciation Award at the 24th Annual Victims' Rights Rally, hosted by the Cumberland County Victim Services Division of the District Attorney's Office. This recognition reflects the deep compassion, tireless energy, and consistent generosity that our vol-

unteers pour into serving the most vulnerable in our community. The Serve team impact is felt throughout the year in countless ways. From preparing monthly lunches for clients at the Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties (DVSCP), to donating thoughtful Easter baskets (continued on Page 7)

(Samaritan...cont. from Page 4)

Area and South Middleton School Districts, and Middlesex Township. We began as a ministry of **Allison United Methodist Church** in late 1958 as a single act of love by a men's group. As other churches joined and it broadened into a community-wide organization, Samaritan Fellowship became a separate entity in 1963. We operate with all-volunteer help from many participating churches.

Our volunteers comprise the Board of Stewards, from which we annually elect our officers. Our funding comes from the participating churches and from other churches in our area; private individuals; the Friends of Samaritan Fellowship; the George B. Stuart Charitable Foundation; and the proceeds from the Today & Tomorrow endowment funds. We convene every Saturday morning throughout the year at **CUMC**, and receive applications in person from 7:45 until 10:00 A.M. We accept only applicants who live within our service area. Our Stewards interview the applicants to determine their true needs, acting as advocates for their requests. The Stewards review the request and any case history, examine alternative ways to address



cants may have. The interviewing Stewards present the requests and recommendations to the Decision Board. In some situations, we require that applicants receive personal and/or financial counseling before we will assist financially. In other circumstances, we make referrals or recommendations to other local government and non-profit agencies that are better suited to assist. Samaritan Fellowship does not give funds directly to applicants; our treasurer makes all approved payments directly to the landlord, utility company, or other approved recipient. We work closely with other government and non-profit human service entities and organizations in the Carlisle area. These include the Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, the County Homeless Assistance Program, Maranatha Financial Services, Project SHARE, the American Red Cross, Safe Harbour, the Salvation Army, the Todd Baird Lindsey Devlin

Foundation, and C.A.R.E.S.

There are no typical cases; each applicant is treated uniquely and with respect. Besides attending to the applicant's immediate crisis needs, Samaritan Fellowship seeks to enable the applicants to take the first steps toward stability and security for themselves, and their families. In 2024 we disbursed or obligated **\$180,224.31** in funds to assist 586 applicants. The funds allocations were as follows:

- * Rent and emergency shelter: 55%
- * Food: 2%
- * Utilities (electricity, heat, water): 21%
- * Auto, Travel, and Transportation: 18%
- * Miscellaneous: 0.1%
- * Administrative: 3.9%

For more information on Samaritan Fellowship, please visit our website, www.samaritanfellowship.org. Here you will find information on applying for assistance, making financial contributions, tracking our weekly activities, and volunteering.

**A 501(C)(3) Nonprofit
Organization**

**Serving the Carlisle Area
for 67 years**

~ WAYNE HENDERSON

THE TECH TEAM UNPLUGGED: IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTION

*"Camera 1, get a half shot on Jake,
Camera 2, get a full shot please.
Camera 1, just zoom in a hair more,
thank you. Ready 1, dissolving 1.
Camera 2, please follow Jake."*

These are just some of the words that you will hear spoken by our Video Switcher back in the Tech. room every Sunday morning, as they direct and produce the livestream for the 8 and 9:45 AM services. For roughly 4 years, I had a fabulous opportunity to become Video Switcher for our Tech. team, and I am so glad that I was able to serve all those years. I was in 9th grade when I began volunteering on the team. I had no experience with the technology and at first it all seemed very intimidating. I remember walking in and seeing all the strange buttons, random blinking lights, and weird noises. I was then directed to the video switcher (a device that allows for the switching between camera shots and other forms of media) and briefly trained. The following Sunday, I was placed on doing a service, with only the training I received the week before. It felt like the whole world was watching me direct/choose camera shots and produce the service on the livestream. Although I was stressed for the entire service, I fell in love with being Video Switcher

and producing CUMC's online services. Weeks went by and my powers grew only stronger in the video switcher field. Those weeks then turned into years, in which almost every Sunday I would video switch. I even was able to learn about the other technology like the lighting board, sound boards, ProPresenter (slides), etc.

In the fall of 2024 I had to "retire" from the team due to college. Before heading off to college, I began training multiple people to fill the role of Video Switcher. It was a joy to be able to see how my training paid off, by watching the livestreams every Sunday from my dorm. I am proud of everyone who has volunteered and stepped up to fill the role. They have all grown significantly in their skills since last year and their skills help to produce exceptional services both online and in person. Although college kept me away from being Video Switcher for a couple months, I volunteered over my breaks, and I plan on helping out during the summer while I am home. It is always a pleasure to be able to serve on such a great Tech. team that we have here at CUMC. The technology may be really fancy and great but it's the people that make our services exceptional and make it such a great

team to be a part of. Over the years I have made many friends who serve wholeheartedly on the team, just to name a few, Mike Landis, Lydan Taylor, Roger Woods, Chad Chenot, Stephanie & James Baity, A.J. Gessner, Melissa Loh, Yancy Edwards, Michelle & Greg Williams, Emily Clepper, Pam Reynolds, Chris Matangos and our Tech. Director, Dan Robinson. I am truly so grateful that I joined the Tech. team here at CUMC, and I encourage you to think about joining it as well. We have everyone from middle schoolers to the baby boomer generation and they all do their part well in creating an exceptional worship experience both in person and online for members and non-members alike. If you are worried that you won't have a clue on how to operate a device or that you will make a mistake, don't worry I was once in those shoes, but it was because of the people and their guidance and support that I am where I am today on the team. We will train and work with you to make you feel as comfortable as possible. So if you feel called to serve or just want to check things out, please feel free to stop by after a service on Sunday morning, or contact Dan Robinson (drobinson@carlislepaumc.org) for more info.

~ PARKER HEBERLIG

(SERVE..cont. from Page 6)

for children staying in the shelter, and Mother's Day goodie bags that help moms feel seen and celebrated – their actions embody the love of Christ in tangible form.

Last October, the team also hosted DVSCP's "Red Ladies" awareness event, creating space for crucial conversations during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. And they've gone beyond emotional

care – partnering with "Blessed to Serve" now to take care of repairs around the shelter building, meeting both practical and pastoral needs.

Sandy Evans graciously accepted the award on behalf of the Committee, standing in for the many hands and hearts behind CUMC's Serve team. We couldn't be prouder of all of the 15 members who make this ministry possible.

As the DVSCP team shared: "We are so grateful to everyone at CUMC for their compassion and generosity." And we at CUMC echo that gratitude – to every person who donated items, gave of their time, prayed for these efforts, and showed up to serve.

Let us continue to live out our mission: "Live Like Jesus" and Love Like Jesus.

~ QUINTON DE BEER



It is hard to believe how quickly 5 months pass. When my family and I arrived in Carlisle, we were filled with excitement, anticipation, and perhaps a bit of nervous energy. We were crossing not only oceans and borders but also cultures, traditions, and rhythms of life. Yet from the moment we stepped into the life of Carlisle United Methodist Church (CUMC), we were welcomed with warmth and kindness that made us feel at home not only in the sanctuary but in the hearts of those who call this community their spiritual family.

Coming from the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, where I served as a Deacon and Mission Director, I had long believed that Christian ministry is fundamentally about presence - about showing up, about walking alongside others in faith, about holding space for both lament and celebration. That conviction has only deepened in my time here at CUMC. It is in the everyday moments - a shared cup of coffee after worship, a prayer whispered over someone in the hospital, a child's smile during Kids Ministry, interaction with a student, or the quiet awe during Communion - where I've encountered the sacred again and again.

What continues to bring me joy is not only the work we do but the people we do it with. Ministry, at its heart, is relational. The gospel is most clearly revealed when we show up for one an-

GLIMPSES OF GRACE: A REFLECTION ON SERVING AT CUMC

other - not just on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week in small ways: writing cards, making meals, delivering groceries, praying together, holding each other in sorrow, and laughing until tears roll down our cheeks. You, the community of CUMC, have shown our family what it means to live like Jesus, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

In the first few months of serving here, I often found myself reflecting on the beauty and differences between church life in South Africa and the United States. Here at CUMC, I have encountered a passionate and generous spirit, rooted in hope. Whether we gather around on a Sunday, on a mission trip, or at Christ's Table, the Holy Spirit is alive in our midst. I am reminded that while the accent in my voice may be different, the voice of God speaks the same language of love in every place.

One of the most moving lessons I've learned here is how often we are offered glimpses of grace, those fleeting, holy moments when heaven touches earth and our eyes are opened to God's nearness. It might be in a volunteer's quiet act of service. Or in the joy of seeing a Confirmand light up with understanding. Or in the way the sanctuary stills during the final notes of a hymn from the piano. These are not grand miracles. They are ordinary mercies, easy to miss, but life-changing when we notice them. And so often, we do take them for granted. We rush from task to task, conversation to conversation, and forget that each moment holds the potential for sacred encounter.

Serving at CUMC has been a daily invitation to slow down, to pay attention, and to see these glimpses for what they are: reminders that God is with us. Every hospital visit, every conversation, every potluck, each one is an opportunity to

discover God again in the faces of those around us.

Thank you for allowing me to witness these moments in your lives and to be welcomed into them with such trust and openness.

It has also been a gift to share this journey with my wife, Lizel, and our daughters - Caitlin, Kaylee, and Kristen. Up-rooting a family and moving across the world is no small thing. But you have embraced them as your own, and because of your welcome, our girls have found a second home.

And perhaps this is one of the most profound insights I've come to treasure here: hospitality is holy. When we open our lives to one another, we participate in the very heart of the gospel. We mirror the hospitality of Christ, who welcomed the stranger, the weary, the sinner, the seeker and called them beloved.

As we look ahead, there is still much to learn and be done, many lives to reach, many needs to meet, many prayers to lift. But I am hopeful. I am hopeful because I have seen your hearts. I have seen how you serve with humility, how you worship with sincerity, and how you love without condition. In this place, Christ is alive. In this place, the Church is real. Here, All are welcome!

Thank you for the joy of serving here, for the sacredness of worshipping together, and for reminding us again and again that we are all part of God's story, woven together by love, sustained by grace, and sent out to shine that grace into the world.

~ **QUINTON DE BEER**



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