



Bridgeton Methodist Church



THE ANCHOR



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Bridgeton Methodist Church
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Articles may be delivered directly to the editor at the church or sent via email to the editor. This newsletter is currently being published quarterly, but the schedule may change as necessary.

Inside this issue:

Focus Message.....	3
Birthday/Anniversaries.....	2
Bridgeton Women’s Fellowship.....	4
Second Sunday Luncheons.....	4
Finance.....	4
Musical Notes.....	5
Children’s Church.....	5
Just one more thing.....	6
RCS Monthly Meal.....	6
Anchor Book Corner.....	6
The Teacup Story.....	7
The Worship Committee	7
The Glory of the Unlikely.....	8
Trustees.....	8

Though our size is small our roots are deep. Our calendar is located on our church website:



Bridgeton Methodist Church *extends an invitation* to you and your family to join us for Sunday worship. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere of loving acceptance, where people grow spiritually through earnest worship, honest friendships, caring fellowship and compassionate concern for the world. So if you are a spiritual seeker just beginning your walk toward God, or a committed believer continuing your journey with Him, you can find a home at Bridgeton Methodist Church. The common thread is we are all committed to growing in Christ.

USHERS—STEVE BURTON

Many thanks to all who have volunteered as ushers. If anyone is interested in serving as an usher, please see Steve.



Be on the look out about Poinsettias to be purchased and brought to the Church Sunday the 17th of December. An order sheet will be prepared for you to complete. More information will be put out as Christmas approaches.

Please sign up to donate flowers for the altar starting in December for 2024. This is done on a monthly basis. A signup sheet is in the Narthex or you may contact Doris Gerard.

BRIDGETON METHODIST CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Contact Nancy Robinson to add/delete person(s), sibbys@hotmail.com

- ◆ Pastor David and Barbara Brosnan, *health issues*
- ◆ Tony & Rita Morello, *health issues*
- ◆ Captain Katie's mother who has heart issues
- ◆ Todd Gerard (Doris's Son), *health issues*, & wife Janet for healing & peace
- ◆ Janet Helms, *health issues*
- ◆ Jonah, John and Janet's grandson in Spain for two years
- ◆ Hiram Cuthrell, *health issues*
- ◆ Mike, 7 years, cancer—*physical and mental therapy at St. Jude, friends of Bridgeton Police Department*
- ◆ Randy & Kim's neighbor, Jamal, who suffers from PTSD
- ◆ Joel Easter (and wife Sheila) — Cousin of Kim Alexander, *cancer*
- ◆ Elinore Newhall—*challenges from surgery continue*
- ◆ Bob Dumount who plays taps that he recovers from his stroke
- ◆ Maher Family , *as they journey with Ambra in Heaven*
- ◆ Betsy Hall—*unknown diagnosis*
- ◆ Laura's friend Michelle recovering from brain tumor
- ◆ Jim and Barbara Richardson— *health issues*
- ◆ Bev Phenes, *awaiting a second surgery*
- ◆ Pastor Josh's friend that is supporting FEMA from FL Hurricanes
- ◆ Tony Gerard, husband of Doris, *health issues*
- ◆ Glenn and Ruth Terrill—*health issues*
- ◆ Opal, 1 year, granddaughter of Kim and Randy had seizures and ear infections and is undergoing testing
- ◆ Jim & Nancy's granddaughter's high risk pregnancy
- ◆ Phyllis and John Wiltrout— *health issues*
- ◆ Neighbor of Corrine & Steve Burton who has critical health issues
- ◆ Janet and Don Hickman— *health issues*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

October Birthdays

- 3 - Allen Wood
- 6 - Patsy Sessoms
- 7 - Beth Nelson
- 7 - Jacob Maher
- 9 - Nancy Robinson
- 13 - Bob Cidboy
- 16 - Bill Pikor
- 17 - Tom Mullinix
- 27 - Rubin Maher
Don Hickman
- 31 - Patti Muenchmeyer
Mary Maher

October Anniversaries

none

November Birthdays

- 9 - Kim Alexander
- November Anniversaries
- 15 - Tony & Rita Morello
 - 25 - Steve & Corrine Burton



December Birthdays

- 11 - Corrine Burton
- 16 - Carol Haggett
- 20 - Brad Maher

December Anniversaries

none

BY TONY MORELLO PPRC CHAIR

On behalf of Bridgeton Methodist Church, it is with great joy and enthusiasm that we warmly welcome our new pastor, Reverend Joshua Nichols and his wife Autumn, to our congregation and to our spiritual family.

As we welcome Rev. Joshua, we also want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude to our outgoing pastor, Rev. David, for his unwavering dedication, wisdom, and spiritual guidance during his time with us.

Rev. Joshua comes to us with a profound love for God, and a passion for serving and ministering to God's people. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to his faith and community.

We believe that under Rev. Joshua's leadership, our congregation will continue to grow spiritually, and our faith will be strengthened. We look forward to the wisdom, guidance, and inspiration he will bring to our church as we embark on this new chapter together.

As we extend our warmest welcome to Rev. Joshua, we also ask for your continued prayers, support, and love. Let us come together as one church family, united in our faith, to help Rev. Joshua fulfill his calling and our shared mission to spread the love and teachings of Christ in our community.

In closing, let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:10, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."

May our unity, love, and faith continue to shine brightly under the guidance of our new pastor, Rev. Joshua. Let us embrace this new season of spiritual growth and renewal with open hearts and open arms.

Once again, Rev. Joshua, welcome to our church family. We are excited about the journey that lies ahead with you as our shepherd and spiritual leader.

God Bless



**BRIDGETON WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CORRINE BURTON**

The Bridgeton Women's Fellowship (BWF) meets at 2:00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. We are a non-denominational group open to the community and dedicated to meeting the needs of various charities.



Many helpful hands went into making the annual yard and bake sale a success. The \$1714.00 raised will go to four local charities: EPIC, Merci Clinic, Boy's Transition Home, and Coastal Women's Shelter. As tradition, these gifts will be presented at our Christmas luncheon on Dec. 8 at the Chelsea Restaurant. One need not be in the Woman's Fellowship to attend the luncheon as all are welcome. Reservation forms will be in the church bulletin as time gets closer. This is always a time of sharing the joys of the season.

At the Oct. 19th meeting, the BWF will be assembling 100 plus fishing kits for Samaritan's Purse Operation Shoe Box program. These fishing kits will be added to the shoeboxes that the Port City Community Church in New Bern are assembling.

**SECOND SUNDAY LUNCHEON
— CORRINE BURTON**

Our 2nd Sunday Luncheon resumed in September and will continue through June 2024. We invite all to join us in the sharing of food and fellowship. We welcome a dish to share but it is not necessary to attend and enjoy. The variety of foods is amazing, not to mention that we have great cooks in our church!



FINANCE—PATTI MASON

Did you know that we have a Finance Committee? Well, we do and if you want to be on it, please let us know. The Finance Committee consists of a chairperson, the treasurer, the finance secretary, the members of each major committee in the church, and at-large members upon request. A request for pledges is sent out each year around the month of August. The importance of pledges is it enables us to project income for the following year. Only the Finance Chairperson/Financial Secretary knows who has pledged. The Finance Secretary never tells the Finance Chairperson the amount people have given to date – the only time the Finance Chair knows is if you ask for an official tax receipt for use on your taxes.

It is the policy of this church that your gift to God, entrusted through the church, is between you and God. Our church has no position in that relationship. This is documented in the Financial Policy along with all other policies, procedures, and instructions. The Budget and Financial Policy are available upon request. This committee also is responsible for the counting of the gifts each week. Several teams have been formed to count money and if you are interested in assisting that would be great – help is always needed in this duty. The Financial Secretary is responsible for the bookkeeping associated with the weekly gifts and for deposits into the appropriate banking account. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the money in the various sub-accounts and creating a quarterly Profit and Loss statement that is presented at the Administrative Council Meetings.

The finance Committee presented a recommended budget to the Administrative Council for approval, which was approved. The budget projected is \$103,232 in income and \$114,400 in expenses. Yes, that means there are more projected expenses than income; however, historically our records show that this gap will be closed by good stewardship by the various each budget line assigned steward.

Thanks to the fantastic stewardship of our predecessors, our church was able to afford disaffiliation from the UMC with relatively low impact. A summary of the costs is:

- Remaining 2023 Apportionments - \$3728.25
- Prepayment of the 2024 Apportionments - \$10,182
- Pension Fund Payment - \$9,890
- Incorporation Legal Fees - \$1,584
- Quick Deed Legal Fees - \$2,025
- Changes to the church - \$216
- Signage changes – donated
- Modification of books – donated

For a grand total of \$27,627.

The church's bottom line is in good shape. Be on the lookout for some fundraisers in the future to add this money back into the bank – each fundraiser will be for a specific budget line! The Budget and Financial Policy are available upon request. Tax receipts are available upon request. The Treasurer's quarterly Profit/Loss statement is available upon request. Our daily attendance average is 36.



MUSIC NOTES: BETSY HALL, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Bridgeton Methodist Church (BMC) Sanctuary Choir has returned from Summer break. So excited that everyone has returned for another glorious year of musical praise. During the summer break, we were blessed with outstanding music from soloists (John Helms, Joy Pikor and Doris Gerrard), duets (Lois Hermes and Doris Gerrard, John Helms and Janice Mathews, Deb Cidboy and Doris Gerrard, John Helms and Doris Gerrard) and the Daybreak Quartet (Deb Cidboy, Joy Pikor, John Helms and Rebecca Wheeler).

The BMC Sanctuary Choir participated in the 911 Memorial Service at Fairfield Harbour. We sang for God and our Country. What a wonderful experience for all of us.

As we continue to grow our musical program for the church, we will be venturing into several areas of worship music. Our traditional hymns will remain the mainstay of our services, but we will be reaching out to experience some unknown hymns and possibly unknown secular music. Do not worry, our traditional standards will always be in the forefront. So when an unknown hymn is introduced, we will let you hear it played, then the choir will sing the first verse, and then the whole congregation will give it a try. Remember, God asks only that we make a joyful noise. How fun for all of us to grow together in praising the Lord!

As always, we would love to have you join the choir. You do not need to read music, you do not need to have sung in a choir previously.....All you need is to want to lift your voice to God and experience the choir community. And, of course, we want to know if you play an instrument. Whether a beginner or an expert, let us know. We would love to have you participate with us from time to time.

One more thing, the congregation is always invited to sing along with the choir. If the spirit moves you, please sing out.

We will be presenting our annual Cantata this December on the 10th. Reserve that date!

Lift your voices unto the Lord and Sing a New Song!



CHILDREN’S CHURCH—CORRINE BURTON

Calling all children! Join us in the exploration of Genesis and learn about the God’s creation of the world. Children’s Church will resume on Sept, 10 right after the children’s message at the 11:00 service. If anyone is interested in joining the teaching team, please see Corrine.

As a means to grow our ministry, we are planning a children's Bible study in the activity building (by Fire Department) on Wednesdays in Fairfield Harbour beginning in January. More details will be forthcoming as details are finalized.

THERE’S JUST ONE MORE THING

“Oh, there’s just one more thing...” There are few things more frustrating than thinking that everything is understood and then there is an addition to the instructions. In the book of Colossians, Paul is addressing a people who have been told, “you have Christ and that’s great...oh yeah, but there’s one more thing you need....” What Paul writes to them is that if they have Jesus, they have it all they need to be fully assured in the faith! They don’t need anything else except to cling to Jesus. Note Colossians 2:6-10 and what he says about our assurance:

We Have Received Christ Jesus (v. 6). We are Christians. We have received “the seed which is the word of God” (Mark 4:14-ff). We have obeyed the gospel. We can rest in the fact that receiving the grace of God by an obedient faith makes us His children (Rom. 6:17-18).

We Are Rooted in Christ Jesus (v. 7). How deep our roots are has a direct correlation to our time spent in the word learning Jesus (cf. Psalm 1:1-3; Jn. 8:31-32; 15:1-5). If we have our roots in Him, then we are able to be built up in Him.

We Are Built Up in Christ Jesus (v. 7). A seed that is planted begins growing downward in its roots, and then begins to grow upward. If we have never allowed ourselves to be built up in Christ Jesus, it could very well be that we have not payed attention to our “Roots” like we ought. Thus, we allow someone or something other than Jesus to try to tell us how to grow.

We are Complete in Christ Jesus (v.10). A plant is not fully mature until it is producing fruit. We are complete in Him and His word. God has given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...” (II Pet. 1:3). There is nothing else we need to bear fruit for the Master than what is established in Christ.

Jesus establishes our faith, grows our faith, and finishes our faith. When challenges arise threatening our faith in Christ, we may say, “He is all I need.” We received Him, we are rooted in Him, we are being built up in Him, and we are complete in Him. That’s the only thing that matters!

Andy Baker
 Graeber Road church of Christ, Rosenberg, TX

RCS MONTHLY MEAL—KIM ALEXANDER

We provide a dinner to RCS every Tuesday. We have two teams so it is only a responsibility every other month. There is always room for more people to share preparing a dish and serving. The Bridgeton Women’s Fellowship provides the paper supplies each month. We have our servers first say a prayer, then serve the food, and then eat with the guests at RCS. The feedback is amazing and the people participating feel they are blessed more than they give each and every time. Please contact Kim Alexander if you would like to participate in some way.



The Love Stories of the Bible, by Shannon Bream, offers biblical accounts of 16 women whose stories remain ever relevant to today. Recommended by Kim Alexander

Jesus & Women, by Kristi McLelland, is both in a study book and video. Take Heart, Daughter, Matthew 9:22 is encouragement from Jesus’ lips that comforted a hurting women’s soul thousands of years ago as well as a similar gospel to others to-



Joy's Blog

The Teacup Story—Author Unknown

A couple was shopping in an antique store and saw a beautiful teacup. They asked to see it and as the lady handed it to them, suddenly the cup spoke. "You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red and I was clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'let me alone,' but he only smiled, 'Not yet.'

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the cup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around, 'Stop it! I'm getting dizzy!'" I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in an oven. I never felt such heat!" the teacup said. I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him thru the opening, and I could read his lips and he shook his head, 'Not yet.'

Finally, the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better,' he said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I would see him through the opening, nodding his head and saying, 'Not yet.'

Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened, and he took me out and placed me on the shelf.

One hour later he handed me a mirror and said, 'Look at you.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

"I want you to remember, he said, 'I know it hurts to be rolled and patted but if I had left you alone, you'd have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened; you would not have had any color in your life. And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't have survived for very long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

WORSHIP TEAM—JOY PIKOR

As Roseanne Roseanna Danna from Saturday Night Live used to say. "If it's not one thing it's another." And so the Worship Committee has been meeting as we adjust to new leadership. Things are going quite well.

In August I gave a sermon called "A Bend in the River"

based on the premise that churches go through changes through the years as do most things in life. The river has bends and turns but we don't get out of the boat because we would miss the beautiful ride.

We are so blessed to have a Pastor who grew up in this church and whose father is also a minister. Pretty nice credentials to start with.

We had said in the beginning to the congregation that our Order of Worship would not change and except for a few tweaks it has stayed so. We are looking at some ideas to make for a better flow of the readings etc. Scripture will always take center stage as Pastor Joshua loves it as much as we do.

Music wise. Betsy Hall, our co-chair of Worship and our Music Director is doing wonders. Even throughout the summer she arranged to have special music going on most of the time. She has dubbed us "The Sanctuary Choir", created a Quartet, is introducing new music to us and has us performing at various venues. I'll leave the particulars for her article.

We are working on perhaps doing some work with the Reelsboro church on Christmas Eve. Pastor Josh is a part-time pastor there as well as here in Bridgeton.

Doris Gerard keeps the altar beautifully decorated. If you'd like to donate flowers just give her a call. Elinore Newhall sees to the Communion elements every month. The ushers do more than seat the congregation, they watch the doors, help the handicapped, set up offertory





The Glory of the Unlikely—author unknown

Perhaps the great glory of Christmas is that in the birth of His only Begotten, the Lord revealed to us that He is the God of the "unlikely"...

For how unlikely is it that the King of the universe should be born in a stable normally reserved for animals which children's tales tell us were the only witnesses to His arrival. How unlikely that nation which had so long awaited her Messiah should completely miss the fulfillment of her dreams and reject her only salvation. How unlikely that this Messiah should live the great majority of His life in obscurity without the pomp and circumstance befitting Royalty, and indeed without "form or comeliness that we should desire Him". And perhaps most of all, how unlikely that such a One should die in shame and degradation, apparently discarded upon the trash heap of history, a just another well-intentioned zealot without the means to accomplish His desired end.

This is the glory of Christmas, a glory which fills the present as well as the past. For how unlikely that the humiliated is now the Glorified and the possessor of that Name at which one day all will bow. How unlikely that the Satan who apparently destroyed Him was and is the unwitting servant of the God who "works ALL things after the counsel of His own will". How unlikely indeed that tragedy should eternally breed triumph in the purposes of that One in whom all wisdom resides. And perhaps most of all, how incredibly unlikely that Wisdom Herself should deign to fill the seemingly marred, broken and useless vessels that we appear to be that He might live His perfect, complete and loving life in and as us. How unlikely and how unspeakably wonderful that in our weakness, His strength is made perfect and that He actually NEEDS us to be AS WE ARE that the glory of His Person alone might be revealed by us.

He is the God of the unlikely, the God who requires stables in which to birth His Beloved rather than the pristine palaces we might anticipate. So let us expect to find Him there, in the stables of our lives and worlds- the circumstances, situations and people where we least expect Him to be. Indeed let us see that the glory of His presence is most often in direct proportion to the appearance of His absence, and let us rejoice that Christmas above all proclaims that we have found the King of the universe in the most unlikely place of all...

"IT PLEASED GOD...TO REVEAL HIS SON IN ME"

The Trustees will be reorganizing this fall. We will hold a meeting to establish a Trustee committee for the next three years. The Global Methodist Church (GMC) only requires us to have 5 trustees so I will propose we reduce the size of our trustee committee. Also, the GMC doesn't allow trustees to serve more than six years in a row. If we include the time served prior to disaffiliation most of the current trustees will be timed out or will soon time out. I will announce the Trustees meeting sometime in the next couple weeks. If anyone is interested in participating in a Fall Clean-Up day I am thinking about having one in November and am interested in hearing from everyone about the best time to schedule it.

