New Deacon Officers for the 2024/2025 church year is: Randy Honeycutt - Chair, Felix Smith - Vice Chair, Dale Lakey -Secretary, and Jason Horton - Assistant Secretary.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a Church Council meeting on October 13th at 4:00 pm. We will be planning the calendar for December, January, and February. Per the revised bylaws the following positions should attend this meeting as well as anyone else who would like to attend: Pastor (chair), Deacon Chair, Music Director, SS Director, WOM President, Baptist Men President, Youth & Children Representative, Committee Chairs, and Churchelected Officers.

Crisis Control Food Drive at UC Food Lion will be on Saturday. Oct. 12th at 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. International foods are the items of the month. We will postpone it if it rains.

Sisters in Christ are sponsoring a Game Day Luncheon on the 26th at 1:00 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet for soup, crackers, cornbread, dessert, and drinks. Item donations for Bingo are appreciated. If you have UNO cards, please bring them for us to use. Mark your calendar for this fun event and invite a friend.

New Address for Denny Hester: 2163 Mauney Rd., Bessemer City, NC 28016

Children's Church - Ages 3 to 10

October 6 th	Robin French
October 13 th	Susan Hilton
October 20 th	Marianne Casas
October 27 th	Cindy Clark



October Birthdays

	1.5
Trevor Ward	10/2
Amy Turner, Tina Church	10/5
Dennis Hester	10/7
Michael Buckner	10/8
Jake Weavil	10/12
Kathy Idol	10/13
Ann Canada	10/26
Durham Clodfelter	10/27
Angie Weavil	10/28

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Union Cross **Baptist News**

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Join us on Sunday, October 20th, for our Homecoming celebration. We are excited to announce that Bill Flynn will be our guest speaker. The special homecoming offering received will benefit the Baptist Children's Home. Lunch will follow the service in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite covered dishes and a few extra for visitors and be ready for a wonderful time of fellowship and food. Clean-up day to prepare for homecoming is Saturday, October 12th beginning at 9:00 am. Rain date will be Saturday, October 19th.



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY. This year has flown by & it is already October. I hope you know what that means... **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** SHOEBOX TIME! For those not familiar, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

are one ministry of Samaritan's Purse, but it is not just a gift. Samaritan's Purse partners with churches all over the globe to deliver the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Last year, we were able to send 106 shoeboxes (our highest total recently!), & I have faith we can do that again. Empty shoeboxes will have brochures inside, labels attached & placed in all buildings during October. If you can't fill a whole box, grab some items & place them in the big empty box in the vestibule or you can give me money to go shopping. Get your Sunday School Class, friends & family involved. And the most important thing is to pray over your box & that child.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations." -Matthew 28:19 -Jill Sutphin, UCBC WOM OCC Coordinator

A Word from the Pastor

Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

When a farmer anticipates a windy day, he puts off planting seeds; otherwise, the gusts will blow the seed away before they can penetrate the earth. And when a farmer anticipates rain during the harvest, he puts off cutting wheat or oats; if the grain gets wet it gets ruined. So, a farmer needs to exercise a little caution. Exercise too much caution, however, and your seeds will never get planted and your harvest will never come in.

The Living Bible renders this verse: "If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." (Ecclesiastes 11:4 TLB)

If you need to begin a new project or start a new diet or launch a new ministry or make some big changes in your life, don't wait for the perfect conditions to come along. Instead, seize the perfect moment -- this moment -- and take the first step in moving forward.

Grace and Peace, Adam

Financial Summary

	September 2, 2024			
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 3,014.62		
Designated Gifts		\$ 215.00		
Total Offering		\$ 3,254.62		
<u> </u>	September 8, 2024			
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 1,438.00		
Designated Gifts		\$ 166.00		
Total Offering		\$ 1,604.00		
	September 15, 2024			
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 2,125.00		
Designated Gifts		\$ 695.00		
Total Offering		\$ 2,820.00		
September 22, 2024				
Undesignated Gifts		\$ 3,771.00		
Designated Gifts		\$ 75.00		
Total Offering		\$ 3,846.00		
General Fund				
August General Fund Receipts		\$16,015.00		
August General Fund Expenses		-\$12,527.23		
August General Fund Net		\$ 3,487.77		
August Fund Balance		\$99,797.02		



Women on Mission ladies had their September email meeting on September 5^{th} .

SEPTEMBER WOM ACTIVITIES:

- Hospice Ministry Note: Snack donations were sent to both WS & HP Hospice Homes.
- Requested help from the congregation to purchase the food needed for the Appalachian Backpacks. Thank you to Mark Reavis for once again sharing with the congregation his experience with the poverty situation in the Appalachians during worship service on Sept. 1st.
- Approved purchasing 100 more shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry at a cost of \$66 + \$25 shipping for a total of \$91.
- Continued a partnership with Union Cross Elementary School.
- "Adopted" two residents from Bradford Village West who
 have no family support. Thank you to Melissa Little & her
 mother for providing "goodie/blessing bags" to each one of
 these residents. We further voted it was not feasible at this
 time to make in-person visits as had been requested but
 instead greetings were sent from our WOM group.
- Voted to using approximately \$450 to purchase items on the High Point Hospice Wish List for the patients whose family elected to do in-private resident homes hospice care as opposed to using the Hospice Home in-patient facility. We bought 12 hospital gowns, 10 fitted hospital bed sheets, 48 8oz bottles of Boost Nutritional Drinks, travel size shaving cream, mouthwash, razors & deodorant for the patients. And for their grief counseling sessions, we purchased 8 journals & 8 boxes of Kleenex. Some snacks were also provided for family members. For those of us that have had personal experience with in-home Hospice care can really appreciate the need for our donations.

Upcoming WOM Sponsored Events:

- Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry emphasis during October (see separate announcement)
- Baptist Toy Store emphasis during November
- Hot Dog Luncheon on Sunday immediately following worship service on November 10th with the entire congregation invited to help celebrate Veterans Day

God gives us so much & WOM tries every month to share ourselves & WOM funds with others through our mission projects & it is our prayer that those on the receiving end will know how much we care as "UNION CROSS REACHES TO SHOW HIS LOVE". --Jane Sutphin

World Communion Sunday is October 6th. For nearly 80 years, churches of different faith groups have joined together for World Communion Sunday. Currently, this day is commemorated by 38 different Christian traditions. These various groups each celebrate the day in their own ways and through their own traditions; but even though they're in different settings, everyone gathers together, at least figuratively, around the Lord's Table. Christian unity, specifically symbolized by the act of Communion, is the focal point of World Communion Sunday. This provides us with a powerful reminder that we're one in Christ despite our differences.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD.

All Saints' Day is the day Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives, especially those who are already with God in heaven. It is also a day when Christians give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the lives of all people. It is not because people are special in and of themselves that we call them saints, but it is because they are ordinary, everyday people who allow the Holy Spirit to work through them, doing the mighty deeds of the Lord. Martin Luther writes, "the Holy Scriptures call Christians saints and the people of God. To forget that we are saints is to forget Christ and to forget our baptism." All Saints is a day for remembering and giving thanks, as Christians remember the good people they have known and give thanks for the unending goodness of God. We will be remembering those we lost in our church family since last All Saints' Sunday.



Prayer Concerns: Ellen Bobbitt, Ellen Cook, Bobby & Irene Cheek, Marty & Judy Daniels, Larry Davis (Susan Hilton's nephew), Laura (friend of Kathy Mills), Ritchie Longworth, Juan & Lidia Mendoza (neighbors of Hal &

Melissa Little), Ron Mills, Derek Reavis (friend of Mark Reavis), Darlene Smith (Cindy Clark's mother), Bettie Spencer, Debbie Wyatt (Sara VonCannon's cousin), Roger Burnett (Lisa Young's father), and John Young (Lisa's husband).