

“The key is to learn to trust God, no matter what our fears are. And we can trust Him, because He loves us, and He is greater than anything we’ll ever face.”

Rev. Billy Graham



Volume 1* Issue 1
January, 2023

First Troutman UMC
Troutman, N.C.



“Be quick to listen and slow to speak”

(James 1:9)

At my last appointment, I had a dear ninety plus year old woman who attended our Wednesday Bible studies. One thing she always said that reminds me of the above verse was that she gets in trouble, because her “mouth engages before her brain has time to process and filter what she should say.” I think if we were all honest, that we struggle with this from time to time. The author of James reminds us that we should “be quick to listen and slow to speak.”

God instructs us to listen well. Many verses in the book of Proverbs show us that God wants us to listen to our parents, especially when they teach important lessons. Listening well shows another person respect, love, and patience. Listening is a skill and it takes practice to become a good listener. What makes someone a great listener? Showing interest in what someone is saying and not getting distracted while someone is talking. Making eye contact throughout the conversation, and not interrupting are also ways to be good listeners.

As you pray to God, be a good listener. You can also listen for His loving presence everywhere in your

everyday life, including when a friend speaks.

Jesus said he only spoke what he heard the Father saying. How did he know what those words were if he did not hear them from the Father, presumably in prayer? Is it not possible (even likely) that part of our following Jesus involves expecting something similar in our own experience? He does say that his sheep follow him because they know his voice (John 10:4).

We must trust that **God has a message that is personal** — for our provision, protection and purpose. This means leaning into God during difficult financial or emotional days, as well as joyous or rewarding days. We must realize that God loves us and is the only one that can sustain us, and will provide for our every need. Putting our trust in Him demonstrates a listening and willing heart and ultimately reflects our love for Him. When we listen and obey we discover that life is full of promise and purpose and we become more confident in God’s plan for our lives. So...will you join me as we make a deliberate effort to quiet our heart to hear what God is saying to us today? *“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.*

January Bible Study

Weds. Jan 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
6:30–7:30 PM
Bible Study Topic—1st Samuel

Wonderful Wednesday Meals

Meals served from 5:30–6:20 PM
Weds. Jan 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

:

Methodist Men

Tuesday, January 17th @ 6:30 PM
Meeting & eating At Talley House

Worship Committee Meeting

January 22nd @ 11:30 AM
after Worship

Staff Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 15th @ 11:30 AM
All Staff Parish Members Please attend

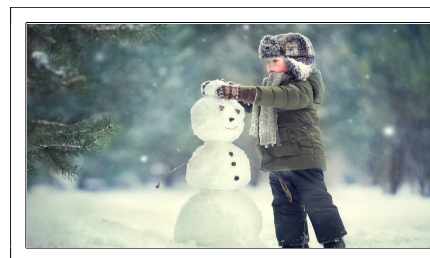
Missional Outreach Network Mtg

Tuesday, January 10th @ 5 pm
Chapel Hill UMC—Statesville
Any interested in outreach efforts in Troutman & Statesville areas



Notable January Birthdays in Past years - Jan 1st (Paul Revere); Jan 3rd (Mel Gibson), Jan 6th (Joan of Arc); Jan 7th (Nicolas Cage); Jan 8th (Elvis Pressley); Jan 10th (Rod Stewart); Jan 13th (Orlando Bloom); Jan 14th (Faye Dunaway); Jan 15th, (Martin Luther King, Jr.); Jan 17th (Betty White) & (Jim Carrey); Jan 17th (Muhammad Ali); Jan 18th (Kevin Costner); Jan 19th (Dolly Parton); Jan 26th (Ellen DeGeneres); Jan 29th (Tom Selleck & Oprah Winfrey)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January 1st - Analee Spath | January 2nd - Dawna Hamrick |
| January 4th - Jackson Yager | January 9th - Patty Wilson |
| January 10th - Austin Dillon | January 13th - Jeff Hamrick |
| January 14th - Skye Adams | January 16th - Hunter Owens |
| January 17th - Jason Yager | January 19th - Savannah White |
| January 19th - Ashley Saleeby Mize | January 26th - Phil Brown |
| January 27th - Phyllis "Jo" Levan | January 28th - Sam Williams |



Troutman First UMC Mission Statement

Discover

All eyes are opened to the grace and love of God and lives are transformed through the act of worship.

Develop

In a love and inclusive environment, disciples of Jesus Christ are nurtured and prepared.

Deploy—*We respond to needs locally and throughout the world as the Holy Spirit sends disciples forth to serve.*



First Troutman United Methodist

C O N T A C T



704 528-5110



www.troutmanmethodist.com



P.O. Box 717
204 Mills Avenue

S O C I A L



Facebook
[Facebook.com/TroutmanUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TroutmanUMC)



Upcoming Sermon Topics

January 1st - Gifts to Christ!
Matthew 2:1-11

January 8th - Baptism of Jesus
Acts 10:34-43 & Matthew 3:13-17
God gives Jesus all Authority!

January 15th - Second Sunday Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:4-9 & John 1:29-42
Finding the Messiah!

January 22nd- 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Drawing Lines in the Sand!

January 29th - Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
God Chose You!



During the month of January - **This month, we will examine the fact that God chooses us!** We didn't deserve to be chosen, but God loved us enough to choose us in spite of our sins. Come worship a God who loves us.

Welcome New Members

Sunday, December 11th, Troutman First UMC welcomed Timothy "Sandy" & Teri Marley to our congregation membership. Teri & Sandy transferred their membership from St. Luke's UMC in Goldsboro. Welcome Teri & Sandy.

Bible Study Series Taste and See

January 4th, we will continue with our **study of 1st Samuel**. We are now finding out God's plan for David as he is anointed King of Israel, replacing Saul.

January 4th—1st Samuel Chapters 16 & 17

January 11th—1st Samuel Chapters 18 & 19

January 18th- 1st Samuel Chapters 20 & 21

January 25th—1st Samuel Chapters 22 & 23



The New Year

Another year is coming to a close.

We can forget our troubles and woes.

For me, this year was tough.

It brought many emotions, was tearful and rough.

Now another year is approaching fast.

Let's hope it's a New Year with love and health;

let's hope it's a blast.

May all of your dreams come true

And you find peace and love in all that you do.

May this world know the gentle sound of a hush.

May it calm all its anger and

slow its pace from the rush.

May we all hear the sound of joy

And push away all that hurts, all that destroys.

The New Year I hope will be good to us all.

Care and calm, a helping hand when we fall.

Listen more, slow down, and say I love you.

Stop for a moment; take a breath, take in the view.

Appreciate your family; tell them you care.

Do something exciting, a thrill or a dare.

Enjoy all that the New Year may give.

We have but one life, so let's learn to live.

It's a New Year, a brand new start.

Always remember, live and love from your heart.



Brunch with Santa Claus

On Sunday, December 18th, our church had a visit and brunch with Santa Claus during our 9:15 AM Sunday School hour. The kids enjoyed sitting on Santa's lap (some adults tried to get on the Nice list, before it was too late). The kids received a small treat present from Santa Claus.

A delicious breakfast brunch was enjoyed by all who attended. A special thank you to those who helped prepare and set-up for our Christmas Brunch with Santa Claus. Please enjoy our pictures.



News from Troutman First United Methodist Youth Group

Happy New Year from the Youth at Troutman 1st! Hope everyone has had a wonderful time with family and friends!!

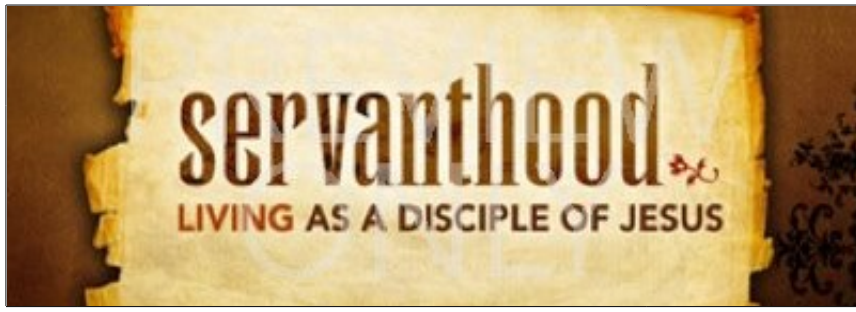
Lots of things going on with the Youth! I would like to thank everyone involved with the Youth skit on Christmas Day! They all did a fantastic job and thank you to Alice and Leigh as well with their help with the younger kiddos!

We are in the planning stages for new service projects and activities for the year! More to follow soon! We are still working on our study of the (5) most influential women of the Bible!

Thank you to all the parents and families and friends of our youth. We appreciate all of you and can't thank you enough for all of the support you all provide to make this youth group such a success!! We have grown from two to five this year with prospects of a few more in the coming months! Exciting for sure!! Can't wait to see what this year and God has planned for these very special Youth!!

Enjoy some pictures of Christmas Day and our Skit!!





Thanks for doing God's work through your donations!

Thank you Troutman First United Methodist for being the “hands” and “feet” of Jesus Christ by reaching out with love for our December Mission Project for 5th Street Ministry. It was great seeing our Narthex tree decorated with so many hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and other items for residents at 5th Street. We also had six (5-gallon) trash bags full of new and slightly used coats that were donated. Thank you for all you do to help others who are in need.

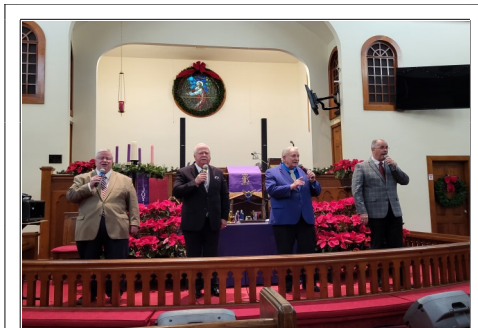
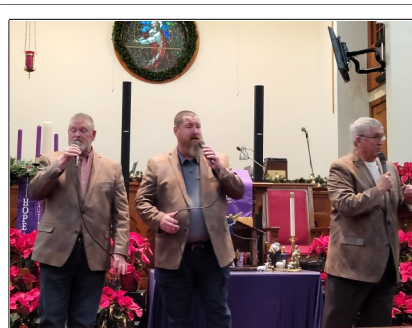
UMC Missional Network Meeting

On Tuesday, January 10th, at 5:00 PM, at Chapel Hill UMC (Statesville), the twelve United Methodist churches in the Statesville & Troutman areas will meet to discuss ways we can partner in missions and outreach to our communities. We need a volunteer or two to represent our church in this effort. Pastor Jeff will be attending, but we need some laity to go with us for the meeting. If you could participate, please see Pastor Jeff and let's ride together.



Southern Gospel Concert in December

Thank you to the Worship Committee for sponsoring the Southern Gospel concert on Saturday, December 10th at Troutman First. Servant's Voices and Southern Sounds Quartet performed a wonderful concert. The love offering collected for the groups was approximately \$400. If you enjoyed and would like more events similar to this, please let Pastor Jeff or Worship Committee know.



Greetings from the Children's Ministry

January (New Year's Note from Alice Ward (Children's Coordinator))

Greetings from Children's Ministry!

December was an exciting time for the children with lessons, crafts, and games on Advent, singing with Kenny Overcash, a visit from Santa at Breakfast Brunch, and participating in the play, "A Visit from the Animals." The youth and children did a wonderful job! A big thank you goes out to the Youth leaders for all their hard work and dedication to sharing the Nativity story through the eyes of the animals!



The children and youth also worked on the "Blessing Box." We will add some more handprints and items to the top of the box. Books will be selected to go inside and will provide literacy opportunities for children in our community. Ralph Dagenhart and Virgil Crater have placed the Blessing Box in the playground area. We would like to thank Danny Ervin and Jim Wollin for building the Blessing Box and Ralph Dagenhart and Virgil Crater for securing the box in the ground! When it gets warmer, we would like to have a dedication.

In Sunday School, children are learning their way around the Bible. Having a Bible of their own will help to increase their knowledge and develop their faith. Bibles have been ordered and will be presented soon to some of the children in church. We will contact parents to notify you of the date.

I am currently planning for the 2023 year. Please pray for the children's ministry to grow in faith and to provide meaningful experiences and lessons for the children. Invite children to come and participate! We would love to have them with us.

Congregational Care

Please remember these shut-ins during the month of January by sending them a card letting them know you are praying for them. These notes are always encouragement and support to our friends as they wish they could be with us for worship. Some are recovering at home, while others are in nursing facilities.

Ms. Shirley Boger
219 Skyuka Road
Statesville, NC 28677

Mr. Jack Ervin
P.O. Box 394
Troutman, NC 28166

Mr. Melvin Ervin
233 Lytton Street
Troutman, NC 28166

Mr. Don Levan
Autumn Care Room # 303
2001 Van Haven Drive
Statesville, NC 28625

Ms. Pam Bendele
463 Georgie Street
Troutman, NC 28166

Ms. Jo (Phyllis) Levan
Maple Leaf Care Room 214
1101 Maple Care Lane
Statesville, NC 28625

Interview With Melvin Ervin

A few years ago, I interviewed several of the older members of church to learn more about the church so that we could save their memories for future generations to read. Well, I was looking thru these interviews the other day and realized that Melvin Ervin's interview was never submitted for the newsletter. Melvin, for this I sincerely apologize as your interview was one of the most interesting ones.

I also think this interview is a good way to start off the New Year.

Melvin was born on July 24, 1937 and lived on Gibson St. while growing up. He spent a lot of time outside, under the house playing with his cars and making roads. Mama didn't like him doing this as there was a big king snake that lived there also.

This was the schedule for the Ervin household when the children were growing up. Monday was wash day, Tuesday ironing, Wednesday evening prayer meeting, Thursday cleaning, Friday clean the church, Saturday shopping and Sunday attend church.

For church they would sit in the 2nd row on the left. Mama had 5 children on one side and 4 children on the other. She also had a long stick that if one of them misbehaved she would just reach over with it and hit them on the head. Mama believed in Proverbs 22:6: *"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*

There would be church revivals in the summer with about 10 preachers. A preacher said that children should be made to go to church. Melvin told him that children should be taken to church. Melvin also believed the Mama would be the only Jesus that some people would see as she lived by the Bible. Melvin graduated in 1956, enlisted in the Air Force and left for Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He served 20 years, 6 months, and 17 days. Went around the world twice and almost three times. He served 3 years in England, 4 years in Turkey, 1+ years in the Philippines and 1 year in Vietnam (1966-1967). In 20 years, he was stationed in 19 different places. His last duty station was the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

When he would come home the newspaper would say that the International Family was home visiting. Melvin has five children, one born in NC, one in England, one in Florida, one in Turkey and he adopted a child from the Philippines.

When Melvin retired from the service he moved to Tipton, Oklahoma. After six years and encouragement from his wife he became a Baptist Preacher. He refers to II Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 9. *"And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. "*

He was a pastor in El Reno, Oklahoma and then became an associate pastor in a non-denominational church. In 1978 he went to college to become a teacher. He graduated in 1984, taught school and preschool in Kansas. Then back to Tipton. He went to work with the Job Corp and taught school for 16 years. During that time, he also did substitute preaching. He had a ministry in state and federal prison. He would bring some of the prisoners from the state prison to church for service and then feed them afterwards before returning them back to prison. He would also minister at retirement homes and his sermons would be, "You're Never Alone".

Melvin always put his notes for his sermons on 5 x 8 cards and he still has them from all his sermons. Melvin moved back to Troutman in 2010. He also filled in as pastor at Troutman First United Methodist Church prior to Mike Carr becoming pastor.

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendars

January 1st—Happy New Year (Communion during worship)

January 8th—Discernment Team Meeting after church

January 10th—Missional Outreach Network Meeting

January 15th—Staff Parish Committee Meeting

January 17th—Methodist Men's Meeting @ Talley House

At 6:30 PM (Eat/Program/Discussion)



Prayer List at TFUMC

Please join us in prayer for the following people:

Joe Burchette (cancer—Adenocarcinoma)

Mr. Jack Ervin (recent hospitalization)

Ms. Jean Brown (recent hospitalization)

Family of Jean H. Ervin

Mr. Mac McCabe

Ms. Alma Murdock (Rosemary's mother)

Family of Robert Garrison (Brandon Garrison's father)

Ms. Becky Bost (recovering from heart ablation)

Ms. Dottie Bradburn Boucher

Ashley Bradburn

Lorraine (Rosemary Alexander's sister—cancer)

Edrie Schade

Conflict in Ukraine & Russia

David Dobrozsi

Jerry & Dianne Lippard

Family of Terry Flohr

Family of Jake Sherrill

Shut-ins (Ms. Maxine Warren, Ms. Phyllis "Jo" Levan, Mr. Don Levan, Mr. Jack Ervin, Ms. Shirley Boger, Ms. Carleen Willard, Mr. Melvin Ervin, Ms. Pam Bendele)



Troutman First United Methodist
P.O. Box 717
Troutman, NC 28166

First Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
City, ST
Permit # 000

The MESSENGER

Volume 1 * Issue 1
January 2023

