

Pastor's Corner

February 2020

We live in grief but in the light of the grace of Christ that continues to call us to a hopeful future.

Many of us have stated how sudden Ruth's death has happened. I agree, but I celebrate how God answered Ruth's prayers. God allowed her to go to heaven without an extended illness or dependence upon others for her daily needs.

I will grieve Ruth for the rest of my life. She and I loved each other; we disagreed with respect; we learned together; we grew in our knowledge of our Lord. We also provided many opportunities for people to laugh with us. Ruth's great hope and constant prayer focused on her love of this church: its mission in our community and to the world.

I want to encourage us to keep our focus on Christ and the places, things, and dreams that the Holy Spirit brings as we contemplate the future at Lake Toxaway UMC. There were changes under way and Ruth's absence brings other changes. I, like many, struggle with change. I pray that we remain open

Lake Toxaway UMC February Newsletter

Updates from your Administrative Council

It's mid-winter in Toxaway and we miss our seasonal congregation but there is plenty of activity at our church.



Attendance has been in the range of 30 to 60 for most Sundays but for Ruth's Memorial service it was about 100.

LTUMC Budget 2020	
INCOME	
General Contributions	\$263,974
Restricted Funds	\$30,450
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,576
TOTAL INCOME	\$300,000

EXPENSES	
Operating & Staffing Expense	\$175,945
Gifts/Outreach	\$124,050
Total Expenses	\$299,995
NET INCOME	\$5

Above is a summary of the budget for 2020. Please note that Gifting/Outreach is two times the 2019 amount!

to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we have some necessary changes and dream big for a small church.

I am excited about a budget that will begin to get us to a 50% level of outreach giving while meeting the operational needs of the church. I am excited about moving to engage members in the ministries that the church supports. I am excited to continue to explore new opportunities to be in ministries together. I am excited about new faces in worship and return visitors in worship. I am excited to hear members tell me about new people that you are inviting to worship at Lake Toxaway UMC. I am excited to think about the return of seasonal members and the excitement of a full sanctuary.

Yes, I am excited about our Lord and his love that is poured out for us and that we are invited to share with others. And yes, I grieve as well. We can live in excitement and grief; that is where we find ourselves most dependent upon God's grace.

Faithfully,

Marcus

Actions from Administrative Council Meeting

Budget – We have a budget for 2020 and it is the first one in several years. The budget is highlighted on page 1. We are excited about the growth of Gifting/Outreach as it will be twice of what it was in 2019 and 47% of Total Income less Restricted Contributions. Please pray for our faith-based budget – that we increase the strengths of our gifts and the strength of our ministries; that we expand the nets of our love, that we may reach deeply and share abundantly; that we stay Christ centered with all of our actions.

Interim Organist - We have hired Charlie Steele as our interim organist through May of 2020. Please extend a welcome to Charlie. Charlie lives in Brevard with his wife Patti. He retired from Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church where he served for 15+ years. He also served at First United Methodist Church in Brevard. Please send him a note of welcome to 1215 Knob Road, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 or email at cwsorgan@comporium.net.

Organist – We approved a search to find a fulltime organist for our church. The search will begin soon.

Administrator – We have approved a new position for LTUMC. This person will report to Marcus and will be key to making us worship ready every Sunday. The person will handle much of the communications for the church including social media. The job will maintain data on our worshipers and visitors so that we can maintain communications with them. The job will also maintain all data for our scholarship program including critical contact information. This person will assist our volunteers by taking their good work and making sure that it is captured and accessible on our website, so the next volunteer does not have to start all over. The job will be the “go to” person for anybody having a question or wanting to volunteer for one of the many opportunities with our outreach partners. We estimate that this position will be a part time (50%) job. We will begin the search for the person to fill the position of Administrator soon. We will keep you posted on our progress for each of these positions.