

# THE BEACON

Brookstown  
United Methodist Church  
Rev. James T. (Chip) Webb, Jr.

May 2025

## A Message from Pastor Chip

### Lent: Begins and Ends in a Garden!

The garden of Eden, a garden of delights and pleasure, is where it all began according to the Hebrew Scriptures. One might expect that Eden was exceptional since it was planted by the Master of all gardeners.

***And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. ~ Genesis 2: 8-9a***

Located on the southwestern side of our church buildings lies the **Brookstown Community Garden**. This garden was cleared recently and has some new plants that were planted by the Children & Youth in celebration of Earth Day April 23! Gardening is an inspirational, informative, and spiritually-beneficial practice of faith-ing. The very first vocational instructions given to human beings related to garden responsibilities. Each seed sown and each fragile plant placed into the soil raises the endless possibilities of collaboration with the Almighty. Planting and prayer is intertwined – both are acts of faith!

***The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ~ Genesis 2: 15***

It was the greatest of all places to work until we lost our privileges there.

Ash Wednesday launches Lent with a reminder that human beings (adam) were created from the ground (adamah) and to the ground we shall return. It is a somber reminder that our days are numbered; that we are creatures of the Almighty; and that our very being is dependent upon the sustaining grace of God. After the transgression of Adam and Eve, the LORD God spoke of the consequences of their sin, and our labor outside of the pleasure garden. Yet, even in judgment, there is the redeeming grace of labor amidst the subdued blessings of the land.

***By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return. ~ Genesis 3: 19***

Several adults at Brookstown, under the direction of our Children & Youth Ministries Coordinators, Marsha Campbell and Jonna Lasley, are sowing seeds by working with our young people and children – sowing the essential seeds of our faith into the "community garden" that we call Brookstown Church. Yes, our congregation is like a beautiful garden to God. We are called and equipped to grow, flourish, and bear fruit! We are grateful to everyone who gives service to the church on behalf of our youngest disciples!

***At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ~ John 19:41***

(continued on next page)

## A Message from Pastor Chip (continued)

Upon Jesus' resurrection from the dead, the disciples cautiously approached the tomb in the garden as the sun began to rise. Surely the beauty of the garden was diminished by their sadness and fear. The risen Christ was mistaken for the gardener!

**Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus said to her, "Mary!"**

~ John 20: 15-16a

From Eden to the garden Tomb, from sowing seeds in our congregation to labor in our community garden, may we experience the blessings and presence of the Lord in our midst. At first, we might not recognize Him.

*He who sows courtesy reaps friendship,  
and he who plants kindness  
gathers love.  
~ St. Basil*



*The mere whisper of the Holy Spirit  
can drown out the thundering  
noise of an entire world.  
~ David Jeremiah*

### Pastoral Appointment

We are pleased to announce that we have received a letter from the district advising that Chip Webb has been appointed as Pastor to Brookstown UMC for the year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. This will be Chip's 18<sup>th</sup> year at Brookstown.

Please take a moment to congratulate Chip on this appointment, as we welcome him back for another year in the continued work and growth here at Brookstown.

~ Charlie Sharpe,

Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair



### Special Offering

Sunday, May 4

The Native American Ministries offering supports Native American outreach within annual conferences, and provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. It also strengthens, develops, and equips Native American rural, urban, and reservation congregations, ministries, and communities. Thank you for your generous gifts.



### Brookstown Church Conference

Sunday, May 4 @ 12pm

The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the new Fellowship Hall/Kitchen, conceptual drawings. As most of you know, it is not feasible to add on to the current Fellowship Hall for many reasons, most of which are the restrictions of the current utilities.

Our Engineer and Architect suggested a new stand-alone Fellowship Hall and Kitchen. The Architect drew up conceptual drawings; it is designed very much like the current Fellowship Hall, but the Kitchen will be much larger. A print-out with detailed information is available upon request.

The building in the current sketches is 92' x 52' (4784 sq. ft.). Of that, the kitchen is 52' x 22' (1144 sq. ft.) with men's and women's bathrooms, storage, and a utility room. The original cost from the Architect was \$900,000 to \$950,000. The District Building Committee members think \$1.2 to 1.4 million is a more accurate estimate. After reviewing further with our Architect, and considering a project he is involved with at Harmony Grove, he thinks we should plan for around \$1.2 million. I will do my best to keep costs down without skimping.

Trustees, Finance Committee, Brookstown's Church Council, and the District Building Committee have all approved these conceptual plans. In order to move forward with architectural drawings, the Engineer and Architect fees are \$40,000. Before we spend that much money for drawings, we want to make sure the majority of members also agree on this project. It would be a waste of time and money if we have drawings made first, and then have the Church members vote no.

Hope to see you May 4<sup>th</sup> after the 11am Service and God bless. ~ Chris Dzula, Trustee Chairman



## *The Brookstown Express*

Hello friends,

Thanks to everyone who helped us prepare for the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week, as well as those who visited them. The children were excited to be part of our meditative walk this year, and some of them made the journey with the booklet, visiting each cross. Next year, we hope to have them take part more by making some of the crosses and having their own "Guide for Children" to experience the Stations and the beauty of the message of Easter.

We hope you enjoyed the Children & Youth Easter presentations! Thanks to Roberta Lasley & Kelli Rush for working with the Children on their Easter music. The play "From Caterpillar to Butterfly", written by Jonna, our Youth leader, spoke to us about new beginnings. Our Children and Youth are new beginnings for our church. If we nurture them with the knowledge of God's unconditional love for *all* of His beloved children of *all* ages, they will spread their wings of faith and carry the wonderful story of the Cross to others.

We continue to make plans for our Vacation Bible School: "Wonder Junction". It will be a fun week of learning about God and all the things He does for us. See the note below about an important planning meeting.

Thank you, Church Family, for your support of our Children and Youth!

Marsha Campbell, Children's Ministries Coordinator  
Jonna Lasley, Youth Ministries Coordinator

*If they see God's love lived, they learn to live God's love.*

### **Earth Day Project**

Thanks to everyone who helped the Children & Youth on their "Grilling & Gardening Day", held on April 23, in commemoration of Earth Day. We shared a delicious meal and then planted flowers and vegetables.

We appreciate everyone's donations and help, and look forward to watching our garden grow!

#### *Rules for Your Garden*

##### *Plant 3 rows of Squash:*

*Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference*

##### *Plant 3 rows of Peas:*

*Purity, Patience, Perseverance*

##### *Plant 6 rows of Lettuce:*

*Let us be unselfish and loyal, Let us be faithful to duty,  
Let us search the scripture, Let us never weary in well doing,  
Let us be obedient in all things, Let us love one another.*

##### *Plant 3 rows of Turnips:*

*Turn up for church, prayer meeting and Bible study;  
Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult;  
Turn up with determination to do your best for God's cause.*

### **Vacation Bible School Meeting**

*Sunday, May 18, following the  
11:00 Worship Service*

Anyone who is interested in helping with VBS this year, please plan to attend this meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Several things will be decided and we need your input!

*See the  
following page  
about the  
Mother's Day Tea  
Youth  
Fundraiser!*





# Thank God for Mothers

*"To the world you are a mother, but to your family you are the world."*

~ Dr. Seuss

## Mother's Day Tea Youth Fundraiser

Saturday, May 10 at 2pm  
Fellowship Hall

Please join us to celebrate Mother's Day with "Tealightful" tea tasting, featuring Martha Isenberg's specialty teas. We'll enjoy delicious snacks, a heartfelt devotion, and take a glimpse into the "History & Mystery of Tea"!

Tickets: \$20 Per Person  
Event is Open to Everyone!

Please register in advance by contacting:  
Jonna Lasley 336-995-2861  
Roberta Lasley 336-817-3051

## A Sign of Honor

Even He who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought — the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight to heaven.

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A Mother holds her children's hands for awhile . . .



. . . but she holds their hearts forever.

*"Nothing is so strong as gentleness,  
and nothing is so gentle as true strength."*

~ St. Francis de Sales

## My Mother Kept A Garden

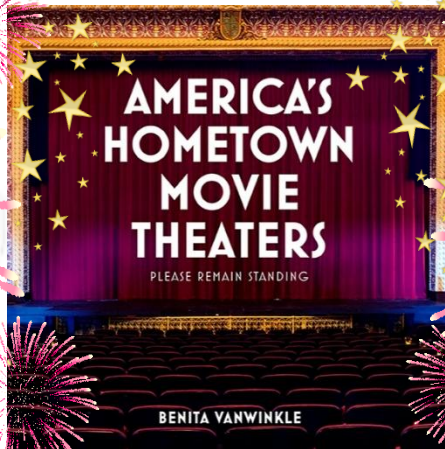
My Mother kept a garden,  
a garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
that gave my life its start.  
She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream,  
Fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem.  
And when the winds and rain came,  
she protected me enough,  
But not too much, because she knew  
I'd need to stand strong and tough.  
Her constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong-  
Markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.  
I am my Mother's garden.  
I am her legacy-  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.

~ Author Unknown

*"A mother never quite leaves her children at home, even when she doesn't take them along."*

~ Margaret Culkin Banning

*LOOK! We Have Our Very  
Own Celebrity!*



For 43 years, I have been crossing every back road, traveling across America, photographing movie theaters and drive-In theaters built before 1965. Forty-three years, all 50 states (and the District of Columbia!); 1,100 theaters; hundreds of thousands of images; lots of charming small town motels and cafes; 8 different cameras; one patient, supportive, and awesome husband; one son who now thinks this is cool (not so sure he bought into this while sitting in the car, waiting for his mother to get done making 'one more shot!'); the support of many friends and former students; and one editor who has been working with me for 10 years, who made me believe this could happen.

YES - it is REAL!!! Or at least it will be, when we reach 1,000 pre-orders so it can go to press! To receive updates, you can find me on FaceBook, and you can pre-order there and at [baueranddean.com](http://baueranddean.com). Thank you!!! ~ Benita VanWinkle

*A clue as to how much a person loves is how much he or she gives in terms of time, talent, friendship, service, encouragement, and prayers on behalf of others.*

*The Committee on Superintendency  
and the Presiding Elders of the Yadkin Valley District Cordially  
Invite You to a Retirement Celebration Reception  
Honoring the Ministry of  
Reverend Doctor Samuel H. Moore, Jr.*

*Sunday, June 1, 2025, 2:00 – 4:00pm  
Remarks To Be Made at 3:00*

*Hosted by Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church  
3543 Robinhood Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27106*

*Your congregation is invited to collect a love offering  
for Dr. and Mrs. Moore, and to bring notes of appreciation  
to Dr. Moore for his ministry.*



## United Women in Faith

All women in the church and community are invited to join us for our May meeting on Wednesday, May 21 at 11am in the fellowship hall. We have been having pot luck lunches, but this month, we plan to try a pot luck **brunch**. Bring a favorite type of brunch recipe to share as we enjoy brunch, followed by a business session and program. The May program is "How Do You Define Faith?"

Our regular meeting time is the third Wednesday of the month at 11am. Our group decided to meet at this time instead of night because many of us have problems seeing to drive safely in the dark. However, for the summer we plan to meet at 6pm, so that hopefully some of the working women will be able to join us. Eventually, we hope there will be enough interest among working women who can't attend a midday meeting to form a new circle that will meet in the evening.

Our members have been quite active this spring in addition to the regular monthly meeting. We have had members participating and representing us at the District Prayer Breakfast and the District Mission Study. We have assembled UMCOR feminine hygiene kits and regular hygiene kits for these events that were distributed to hurricane victims in Western NC. We have also made a commitment to volunteer on the first Monday of each month at the Second Harvest Foodbank of NW NC, with 8 to 10 of us helping in their community kitchen. Our job is to work in an assembly line, preparing plates of food which will be served to hungry people in our district. Some of the meals are for adults and some are especially selected for children. The staff at the foodbank has been wonderful to work with, keeping the large containers of food refilled as we empty the food into serving plates.

Another district event, the "Wear a Hat, Bring a Hat Tea" is coming up May 31 from 11am to 1pm at Pine Grove UMC on Jonestown Road, WS. There is no charge for this, but everyone who attends needs to wear a hat and bring one or several hats. The hats will be donated to Cancer Services for cancer patients. The hats can be new or gently used hats for men, women and children. If you can't attend, but want to donate hats, bring them to our meeting May 21. We'll also get an attendance list that day. Any non-members who wish to attend need to contact me by May 21 so I can include you in our reservation number.

~ Martha Isenberg, UWF President

### Expanding our View of Service

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25. But we can also serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love. For example, there's a barber who devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts.

Imagine Jesus saying, "For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it" — or "My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it."

Then the King will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (*Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV*).

~ From "The Newsletter Newsletter"

### Volunteer Perks

*Volunteering not only helps the people we serve, it also has surprising benefits for the volunteer. Serving others builds social and relational skills, increases self-confidence and boosts physical health. Studies show that volunteering can even ease chronic pain and heart disease. So do yourself and others some good by following Jesus' example of serving.*

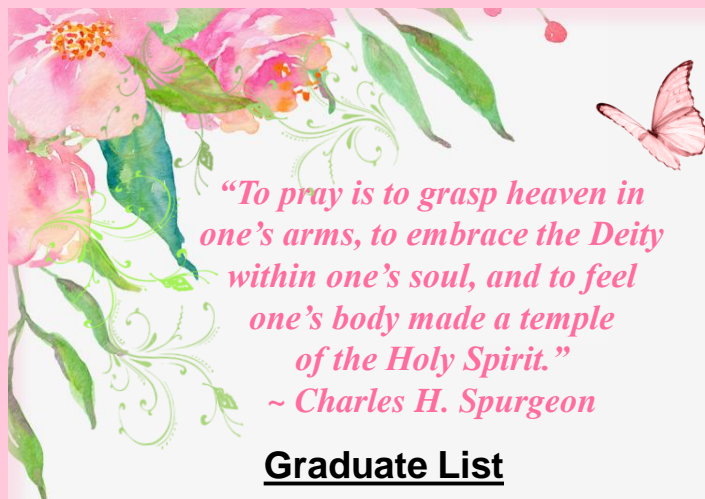
## Brookstown Summer Care

The last day of school is May 23, so the Brookstown Summer Care Program will begin on Tuesday, May 27, for elementary aged children. There are 22 children enrolled so far, so there are spaces available. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call the church right away. There are lots of fun activities in store for the children this summer!

We will have an Open House and Spaghetti Dinner on May 2 at 6pm, for all the parents, families, and children signed up for our Summer Care Program. This dinner meeting is mandatory for parents and children so they can be familiar with the upcoming Summer schedule, and hear about the rules and regulations of the program.

Remember to drive safely if you come through the parking lot during the day. We pray all children have a safe and happy summer!

~ Margarita Burton, BSSC Director  
The Brookstown School & Summer Care Board



*“To pray is to grasp heaven in one’s arms, to embrace the Deity within one’s soul, and to feel one’s body made a temple of the Holy Spirit.”*  
~ Charles H. Spurgeon

## Graduate List

During May we will compile a list of 2025 Brookstown Graduates. If you or someone in your family is graduating, please let Chip or Lavonda know **by May 25**. We need the graduate’s name, school, program from which he/she is graduating, and future plans, if you would like to include that.

Graduates will be recognized on Sunday, June 1. We will need to know which service you will attend that day.

*National Day of Prayer is an annual observance day on the first Thursday in the month of May. On this day, Americans are encouraged to give thanks and to turn to God in prayer and peaceful meditation. This year it falls on May 1.*

## Applications for the William Shelton Scholarship

Those students who will be attending college for the year 2025-2026, and would like to be considered for the William Shelton Memorial Scholarship, should submit your letter of application by **June 30, 2025**.

Your letter should include the following:

*Current address ~ College you plan to attend ~ Status: full time or part time student*

*Please include a brief summary as to why you feel this scholarship would benefit you, and any other information about yourself that you would like to share with the Scholarship Committee.*

Applications may be submitted by a third party. Only one application will be considered for the same applicant per year (July 1 through June 30).

You may send your application to the church office or directly to:

Susan Jameson  
2105 Pendragon Court  
Pfafftown, NC 27040

May God bless each of you as you continue your education.

~ Susan Jameson, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

## Teacher Appreciation Week: May 5-9

*This is an opportunity for students, parents, and communities to show their appreciation for teachers’ hard work, and the long hours they dedicate to our children.*

*From the bottom of our hearts,  
“Thank You, Teachers!”*



# Ordinary People, Extraordinary Results

Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship, and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

~ Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon,  
"Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony"

## CCM Hope du Jour

**Eat Out. Take Out. Help Out!**

Tuesday, May 6

Plan to join us for the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Hope du Jour, where participating food and beverage establishments donate 10% of their proceeds to Crisis Control Ministry, Forsyth County's largest non-profit provider of emergency assistance.

Plan to visit participating establishments for breakfast, lunch, dinner and more in a day of feel-good eating to make a difference in our community.  
~ Crisis Control Ministries

## Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 7, 1:30-5:30pm

Make plans to come out to Brookstown and give the gift of life by donating much-needed blood! The Red Cross will set up in the Fellowship Hall, and will take good care of you. You can make an appointment by calling Tim Lasley at 336-817-4593, or sign up online:

[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Use Sponsor Code: Brookstown

If you would like to volunteer to help that day, let Tim know.

## Crisis Control Gifts of the Month

**Baked Beans (Pork & Beans, Beanie Weenies, etc.)**

**For Kids: Cereal Bars**

*"Live simply, love generously, care deeply,  
speak kindly, leave the rest to God."*

*~ Attributed to Ronald Reagan*

## 2025 Brookstown Community Festival Update

### *Festival Bible Verse:*

*"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,  
not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another –  
and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

*Hebrews 10:24-25, NIV*

Preparations are underway for our upcoming Community Festival, to be held September 20, 2025. We are all looking forward to another great Saturday filled with delicious food, inspirational entertainment, lots of great vendors, helpful volunteers, and wonderful fellowship!

We already have some vendors registered, with a variety of items for sale. Roberta Lasley is our Vendor Coordinator, so contact her if you have any questions or know of possible vendors.

We are working on filling volunteer slots, so please contact Tim Lasley, Jimmy Holder or Roberta Lasley if you are able to help. We will need help for set-up, breakfast, lunch, Country Store, Bakery, Tractor Pull, frozen baked goods, vendor assistance, and clean-up.

Our Festival planning meetings will begin soon and the dates will be published. Anyone who would like to help with planning is welcome!

~ The Festival Committee  
Jimmy Holder, Tim & Roberta Lasley



# May

## ANNIVERSARIES

Bobby & Judy Macemore	4
Seth & Amy Lowrance	5
Tyler & Hannah Steppe	14
Jim & Marcia Downey	19
Kevin & Karen Procter	20
Trey & Faith Greenwood	21

If your birthday or anniversary needs to be added, please let me know.  
Lavonda

*“Kindness is like a garden of blessings.”*  
~ Sirach 40:17

## Church Contact Information

336-945-3029  
6274 Yadkinville Road  
Pfafftown, NC 27040  
brookstown@triad.twcbc.com  
brookstown.umcchurches.com  
We're on Facebook!

*“Butterflies... flowers that fly, and all but sing.”*  
~ Robert Frost

## A Prayer for Strength and Peace

*O Lord,  
You are the Light that guides my feet.  
You are the Map that gives me direction.  
You are the Peace that makes me strong.  
You are the Leader whom I faithfully follow.*

*May Your light illuminate my life,  
And Your guidance bring direction.  
May I find inspiration in Your Word,  
And peace in my heart as I follow You.*

*Amen.*

## Flowers for Worship Services

All Sundays in May are open!

*“The earth laughs in flowers.”*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Memorial Day

Monday, May 26

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend, the unofficial start of summer. While we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, “Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared. We carry in our hearts the memory of those who have died in U.S. military service. May they remind us of God's Son, who bought our ultimate freedom with the sacrifice of His life. Amen.”

## BIRTHDAYS

Jimmy Holder	3
Aubrey Apperson	5
Seth Lowrance	5
Dakota Dzula	10
Carey Mock	11
Rebecca Allen	14
Garland Apperson	14
Whitney Sharpe	16
Johnny Reed	16
Opal Lewis	17
Nancy LaPrad	17
Jennifer Carr	18
Kathryn Webb	24
Sadie Lasley	24
Stefen Quiros	31

## Flower Chart

You can help beautify our services with one of God's loveliest gifts: FLOWERS! Sign up for your special Sundays on the flower chart in the vestibule, or call Lavonda to reserve a Sunday.

*“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.”*  
~ Lady Bird Johnson





*Alive!*

*By Peggy Ferrell*

*What a glorious, bountiful, sunshiny day,  
With a sky washed in bright azure blue.  
There's a wisp of a cloud that is lulling about,  
Just relaxing, with nothing to do.*

*See the oak trees' new buds, still a yellowish green,  
Inching out to achieve their full size.  
And the breeze-stirring pine holds a nest in its arms  
Filled with three little chirping young cries.*

*Feel the warmth of the sun flooding comfort and health  
To a world that's alive with rebirth.  
And now pause to absorb what we share with all life:  
Being alive! On God's beautiful earth.*

