

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16: 33b (NIV)

*“And all I ever wanted somebody to say was that they were going to take good care of my mom.”*¹ In the book **Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission**, Amy Simpson writes the moving story of living with her mother's mental illness. She makes a compelling case that the church, and all of us, can do a better job of addressing this prevalent illness.

I shared about Amy's story of her mother's psychotic break at a dentist office in a recent sermon. Amy was only 15 and her mother had driven her to the dentist. Amy had realized that her mom was having a rough day, and she wanted to get through with the dentist appointment as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, it was not quick enough. Amy wrote,

*“In my years since the lonely incident in the dental office, I've often thought back to it as a reference point for attitudes towards the mentally ill and their families. The way people in that waiting room responded to my family's public crisis is the way I've seen people in general - including in the church - respond to serious mental illness. To them, my mother was to be feared and I was somehow infected by my association with her. The people around me felt helpless and fearful, and they did nothing to help. I think we can do better. I think we can be more like the church we were made to be.”*²

The nuggets of wisdom and list of positive steps the church can take are plentiful throughout this book. In this article, I want to make certain that we recognize a false assumption that has caused further suffering in the world, rather than helped alleviate suffering. It is the false assumption that the Christian life should be easy, that Christians should not worry or be sad. Even a shallow reading of the Bible confirms that we have trial and troubles and sickness and sorrow and failings. We all deal with suffering. We are all messy people. A person does not choose to have a mental illness any more than they choose to have cancer.

It is important to acknowledge all suffering, and then to help each other walk through it. Amy's words illustrate just how crucial this is, *“The church's silence was painful for me, and as I was growing up, this damaged my ability to believe that God could know the worst about us and still love us.”*³ The reality is that when anyone, for any reason, feels rejected or marginalized by the church, they often feel rejected by God.

In the months ahead, I will continue to share nuggets of wisdom that we might increase our ability to love one another. I was inspired to re-read this book by Simpson when I listened to a recent podcast interviewing our own beloved Rev. Vance Lowe on his own personal struggle with mental health. Rev. Lowe has begun working with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). He is leading sessions with churches on this very issue. I am deeply grateful for the openness of Rev. Lowe in this podcast. I am grateful for his new ministry.

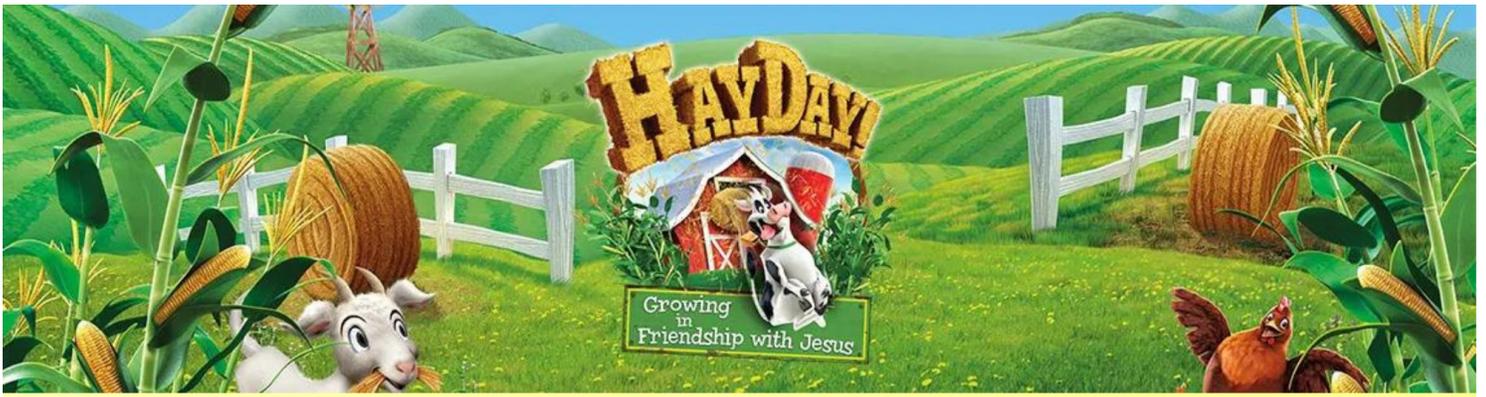
Pastor Brenda

(You can find the podcast *Get Your Spirit in Shape* - “Silent no more: One pastor shares mental health struggles” with Rev. Vance Lowe by clicking [HERE](#).

¹ Amy Simpson, Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission (Downers Grove, Ill: Intervarsity Press, 2013) p.92

² Simpson, p.29

³ Simpson, p.112



JOIN US FOR VBS - JULY 29TH & 30TH

Kids ages 3 years through 5th grade are invited to attend. Invite your friends and family! Scan the QR Code to register online.



DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JULY 23RD

YOUTH MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE YOUTH AND LEADERS AS THEY SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF WOONSOCKET, RI. THEY WILL BE GONE FROM JULY 16TH-24TH.

GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY

Don't forget to bring canned good donations to drop in our GUM boxes! They are in extra need of food as kids are out for the summer!

UPPER ROOMS

The July/August Upper Room Devotionals are ready to be picked up. Pick up one on Sunday morning or stop by the church office for a copy. If you need a copy mailed, please contact the church office.

HELP US WITH WORLD VISION UPDATES

In 2006, members of Muir's Chapel began sponsoring children in Kasangambe, Uganda through World Vision. In an effort to get an update on this, the office would like to discover how many of you are still sponsoring children in Kasangambe, and hear any stories or updates you have from those children sponsored. Please send this information to the church office at mcoffice@muirschapelumc.com.

NEW MEMBER

We rejoice to welcome Carol McKenzie into our church family! Carol joined on Sunday, July 10th at our 11:10 am service by transfer from Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Greensboro. Welcome to Muir's Chapel!

BUILDING TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

WNCC Disaster Ministries needs your help rebuilding in Haywood County. Our calendar is wide open for the month of August and we need your help filling it with rebuilding teams. Please consider getting a group, team size 4 to 12, together to volunteer in Haywood County. Come for a day, a few days, or an entire week! WNCC provides housing for groups, the only expense is getting to Haywood County and the cost of providing your own meals (housing locations have full kitchens).

Please reach out to Ben Rogers (Mission Response Associate) at 910-336-7692 if you have questions or would like to discuss getting a team to Haywood County in August.



**NOW HIRING:
Director Children's Ministry**

Are you ready to:
BRING CHILDREN TO CHRIST, GROW THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT MUIRS CHAPEL UMC, ORGANIZE CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, MANAGE THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BUDGET, CHANGE LIVES, HAVE FUN?
CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS.

Muir's Chapel UMC, Greensboro, NC

Send your Resume to: Kathryn.Peascoe@gd-ms.com

- Flexible hours
- Supportive Staff and Congregation
- Amazing Children

Action Plan for 2022- "We need you!"

We began 2022 with a set of goals to help us rebuild as we emerge from the pandemic. Our NUMBER ONE goal is an "Intentional laser-focus on growing the children and youth ministries."

All of you have the opportunity to help us reach this goal:

We are looking for a full-time **Director of Children's Ministry** ASAP. Kim Hastings will continue as our Playschool Director, but is retiring from the role of Children's Ministry.

We need you: **To get the word out!**

Director of Children's Ministry – 12 month full-time staff position

General Responsibilities:

1. Coordinate and organize regular activities for the children birth-5th grade.
2. Responsible for children's curriculum development, planning and execution of outings and summer activities.
3. Organize and recruit teachers for Children's Sunday School, and Children's Church, and Vacation Bible School.
4. Lead Vacation Bible School.
5. Hire and oversee nursery workers.
6. Work closely with the Youth Director and Playschool Director to creatively plan joint projects with the youth and playschool families.
7. Proactively reach out to the community with an invitational stance to grow the Children's Ministry.
8. Provide leadership development, motivation, and encouragement for church volunteers.
9. Submit annual budget and monitor spending to ensure the ministry stays within the budget guidelines.
10. Maintain Safe Sanctuary guidelines. Train and communicate with parents about this policy.
11. Keep abreast of current trends and developments in the area of children's ministry and seek training opportunities to strengthen knowledge of children's ministry.
12. Be a resource for children and their parents in times of need.
13. Attend Weekly Staff Meetings.
14. Other duties as needed.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field or equivalent experience.
- Passionate Christian faith.
- Passion for teaching children.

Desired Traits:

- Solid Biblical foundation.
- Self-starter.
- Able to work independently.
- Energetic.
- Outgoing.
- Skilled in Social Media.

Salary Range: Depending on experience

Please forward resume and/or questions to: Kathryn.Peascoe@gd-ms.com.

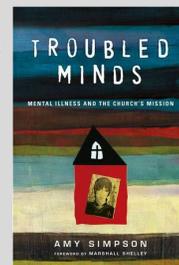


JULY

BIRTHDAYS

16	Buddy Nance
LeAnn Love	24
18	John Cord
Joan Noell	26
19	Jo Kay
Nancy McGee	28
Archie Morris	Blake Cummings
20	Alana Nottage
Bud Maxson	31
21	Leanne Sessoms
David Coleman	31
Cathy Ferguson	Sammy Southard
Josie Peascoe	Collin Whiting
22	
Melinda Mann	

**TROUBLED MINDS:
MENTAL ILLNESS
AND THE CHURCH'S
MISSION BY AMY
SIMPSON**



You are invited to a study of this book by Simpson. In the midst of a mental health crisis in our society, this resource by Simpson is a gateway for greater understanding and empathy of mental health disorders. It helps us understand both ourselves and others. Contact Pastor Brenda or the church office if you are interested. Time and dates of study will be determined by participants.

(pastorbrenda@muirschapelumc.com)

Rev. Brenda Newman, *Senior Pastor*
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Kim Hastings, *Director of Children's Ministries*
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Laurin Daniels Allred, *Director of Music & Creative Arts*
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Blake Cummings, *Facilities Manager*
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Sandy Cantliffe, *Office & Financial Manager*
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Alison Ludemann, *Church Secretary*
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Kenny Phillips, *Accompanist*

July 14, 2022 Volume 2022 Issue 13

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In memory of Robin Bass' mother
For the Good Samaritan Fund
By Howard and Jackie Sullivan

THANK YOU

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards. The radiation treatments are now complete. I am now in therapy to control swelling in my leg. The next step is surgery, but I don't know when.

Thanks,
Raymond Davison

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

We will be closing the office on Monday, July 18th. If you have an emergency, please contact Alison Ludemann at 336-317-8243.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to several families in our church:

- ☞ Sympathies to Ellen Hopkins and family on the passing of her mother, Hazel Johnson, on July 10, 2022.
- ☞ Sympathies to Mitch Owens, Joslin Owens, Ashley Rand and family on the passing of Donna Owens on July 11, 2022. A service will be held on Saturday, July 23rd at 1:00 pm at Muir's Chapel UMC with visitation to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- ☞ Sympathies to Sandy Cantliffe and family on the passing of her father, Bob Swann, on July 13, 2022. A service will be held on Monday, July 18th at 1:00 pm at Glenola Baptist Church in Archdale, NC with visitation in their sanctuary from Noon until 12:50 pm.

OFFERING

July 3rd

Budget Giving	\$10,945.00
Other Income	<u>\$125.00</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$11,070.00</u>
Designated Funds	\$540.00

July 10th

Budget Giving	\$10,467.02
Other Income	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Budget	<u>\$10,517.02</u>
Designated Funds	\$801.00

OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office will be open Monday-Thursday. If you need to reach us on Fridays, please call Alison Ludemann at 336-317-8243 or Sandy Cantliffe at 336-908-4777!

***Don't forget you can reach Pastor Brenda anytime at 704-785-7948.**