

Dear Muir's Chapel,

It is with sadness that I announce I will be leaving Muir's Chapel in March. An unexpected opportunity came up closer to my husband's work next year as the Director of Camp Guilrock, a United Methodist Camp in Reidsville. I have had so many great moments of ministry with you all and we have walked through hard times together. I'm thankful for the ways you have shaped and grown me.

As I wrap up my time at Muir's Chapel I want to say thank you and I would love to share with you some of my favorite moments from Spark. There was one night we were doing embodied prayer. I was teaching about how we can use our bodies to pray and connect with God. One little boy said this reminds me of how they pray at my grandma's church, which I assume was Pentecostal because the little boy put his head down, his hands up behind him and started running. It was not unfamiliar to the rest of the kids because they all joined in cackling and enjoying the moment of sharing their traditions with me. They said come on Mrs. Courtney! Dance with us! Our faith in Jesus was deepened, our connection to each other was strengthened, and each other's trust was gained.

One of my favorite moments of all was the Love Feast 2 years ago. We had hundreds of cookies. The Spark kids showed up. As they crammed cookies the kids said, "this kind of church service is my favorite!" I would be surprised if they did not have a bellyache from the number of cookies they ate. We finished the service holding hands in a circle around the sanctuary singing Joy to the world. It was a diverse representation of the body of Christ that made me hopeful in the possibility of the reign of Christ.

There was another night where Jazzy said, "Mrs. Courtney, can the church be open all the time? This is my second home." Another kid said thank you to this church for loving us and making sure we are fed.

A teenage boy was kicked out of his house. He came to church at 10 am. He said I have been looking forward to Sunday because I knew I had a safe place to come and play basketball and a meal when I'm really hungry. Our Sunday evenings were filled with worship, singing, drawing closer to one another and closer to God, seeking wisdom in God's word, and of course a little chaos. We reenacted the Last Supper and washed one another's hands, we made slime and talked about the ickiness of sin, we made our own bread and grape juice and talked about how Jesus gave his body. We dance, we laughed, we loved, and most importantly we opened our church to a group that desperately needed it.

Thank you so much to Laurie who was there every week. She knows the kids from school and lovingly offers feedback to the kids to make them better. She pours her heart and soul into the Spark ministry and is one of the main reasons the kids see our church as their second home.

Thank you also to Theresa who has provided meals once or twice a month. She always makes double so the kids have tons of leftovers. Her mac and cheese is famous!

Thank you to everyone who has supported my ministry including spark meals, VBS, words of encouragement, camps, Fall Festival, Back to School Bash, Christmas events and so much more. I am so thankful to have walked alongside you all through some really beautiful and some really hard moments. I pray for Muir's Chapel as I leave. I pray especially that you lean on one another for support and next steps.

Love,

Courtney

MCUMC History Corner

Here's a little something you may or may not know about our Glorious Cross, and it's base, that sit upon our Church altar.

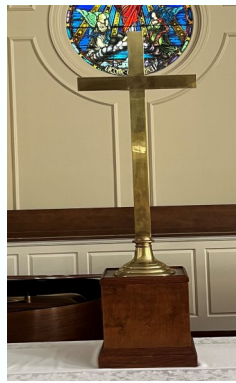
It is the same Cross that glowed for many decades in our previous sanctuary as well, but in 1992 a base was made for the cross, see picture A, by one of our church members, Richard M. Tuttle, probably to lift it higher above the altar flowers and keep it from being hidden behind them.

What most of us did not know is that the base also serves as a small time capsule of sorts. On the back side of the base, see picture B, there is a door with a latch. When you open the door you find that the main part of the base lifts out, and the rest is a sort of wooden container that the base sits in, see picture C.

At the bottom of the wooden container there is an inscription, probably written by Mr. Tuttle himself, that reads: *"Built by & Given by: Richard M. Tuttle, 9-1-1992, To the Glory of God"*, see picture D.

Below the inscription a small note has been added, see picture E, with these instructions; *"The upper part of this stand was sealed 9-1-1992. Please do not open before the year 2000. It contains a Muir's Chapel pictorial directory, bulletins, and weekly newsletter. (To open, remove felt and screws from top of top section.)"*

Mr. Tuttle and his wife Phyllis, left Muir's Chapel at some point, possibly in the late 90's. Mr. Tuttle passed away in 2022.



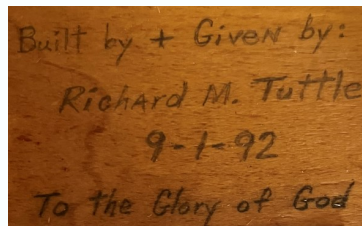
PICTURE A



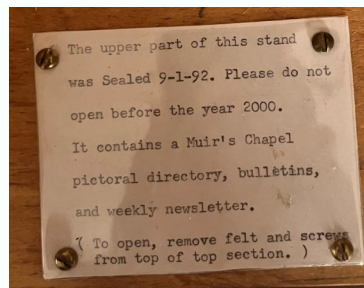
PICTURE B



PICTURE C



PICTURE D



PICTURE E

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In Memory of:

Jackie Sullivan

for the Budget, from:

Maxie Hinshaw

In Memory of:

Jackie Sullivan

for the Budget, from:

Karen Holmes

In Memory of:

Jackie Sullivan

for the Budget, from:

Judy Thomas

In Memory of:

Jackie Sullivan

for the Budget, from:

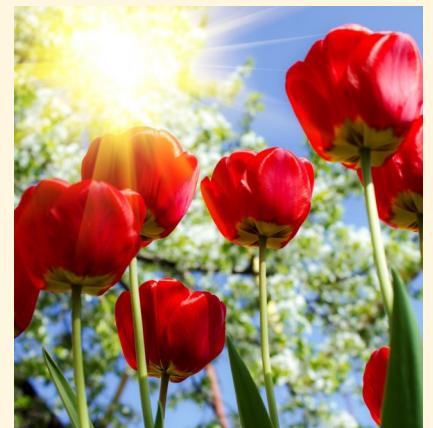
The Fellowship Class

In Memory of:

Monica Moore

for the Budget, from:

The Annie Kincaid
Circle



Thank you all so much for such a beautiful and special shower. Our family is so overwhelmed with love and support as we welcome a new baby. Thank you for the many gifts, diapers, cards, books, and kind words. As we organized gifts and read the notes in the books, we (Courtney) cried knowing how much you all love and support us. Y'all are amazing.

Love,

The Sanfords

OFFERING

February 2nd

Budget Giving	\$5562.75
Designated Funds	\$6364.14
Total Giving	\$11,926.89

February 9th

Budget Giving	\$2532.00
Designated Funds	\$220.00
Total Giving	\$2752.00

February 16th

Budget Giving	\$3263.00
Designated Funds	\$360.00
Total Giving	\$3623.00

February 23rd

Budget Giving	\$2682.10
Designated Funds	\$120.00
Total Giving	\$2812.10

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**



MARCH 5TH 5:30 PM

FOLLOWING THE
10:30 AM SERVICE IN THE
SANCTUARY TO VOTE ON

**MARCH 9TH
CALLED
CHARGE
CONFERENCE**

CONTINUING SUPPORT OF
LAURIN ALLRED'S
ORDINATION PROCESS



In case you missed it...
we had a *great* time
welcoming baby
Eleanor James Sanford!!

**TONS
OF**

GIFTS

**FELLOWSHIP FOOD
& FUN!**

Courtney & Bailey had
a LOT of help opening
all of those presents!

The
excited
Sanford
family!!

Well, at
least
three of
them are!
↓

No midnight
diaper runs
for awhile!

Rev. Michael Flack, *Senior Pastor*
mefflack@muirschapelumc.com

Keith Benfield, *Interim Youth Director*

Kim Hastings, *Director of Muir's Chapel Christian Playschool*
khastings@muirschapelumc.com

Rev. Courtney Sanford, *Director of Children's Ministries*
csanford@muirschapelumc.com

Davide Bianchi, *Music Director*

Martha W. Hill, *Administrative Assistant*
mcoffice@muirschapelumc.com

Jailen Stanley, *Worship Media Coordinator*

February, 2025 Volume 2025 Issue 2

<u>MARCH</u>							
<u>BIRTHDAYS</u>							
		Bruce Cabiness	03/10	Tonya Miller	03/19	Beth Williams	03/29
		Bennett Whiting	03/10	Nikki Tsuji	03/20	Jason Hunter	03/29
Denise Aldridge	03/01	Susan Hall	03/10	Paul Michael Vincent	03/20	Stephanie Southard	03/31
Sydney Alexander	03/02	Jon Daly	03/10	Justin Reiland	03/20	Hannah Pope	03/31
Caroline Eaves	03/02	Hunter Holt	03/11	Michael Bancroft	03/21	Sis Burgess	03/31
Alex Saenz	03/02	Nancy Knotts	03/11	Amanda Browning	03/21		
Richard Hopkins	03/04	Matthew Shina	03/11	Nancy Bray	03/21		
Ayla Haulenbeek	03/04	Nathan Jones	03/11	Kay Hopkins	03/21		
Abigail Hartmann	03/04	Sherry Van Rheen	03/11	Ashley Bergman	03/21		
Maxie Hinshaw	03/05	Anna Peascoe	03/11	Marc Scott	03/22		
Ann Yarbray	03/06	Marcia Rehm	03/11	Phil Herndon	03/23		
Ian Doherty	03/06	Nancy Linton-Hall	03/11	Daniel Smoak	03/24		
Jonah Allred	03/06	Hayley Summer	03/11	Michael Ladew	03/24		
Vicki Smith	03/07	Dominic Wells	03/12	Sam Sciabbarrasi	03/25		
Ezra Sanford	03/07	Judy Adams	03/13	Carey Rongitsch	03/25		
Chip Thomas, Jr.	03/08	Grant Scopel	03/13	Amber Coble	03/26		
Nathan Butler	03/08	Dee Daly	03/14	Lynn Goard	03/27		
Hazel Rongitsch	03/08	Benjamin Smith	03/15	Andrea Saenz	03/28		
Kristin Butler	03/09	Dylan McKelvey	03/15	Ellen Payne	03/28		
Sherrie Wilson	03/09	Serina Byrns	03/16	Tinashe Williams	03/28		
Ellie Lynne Kent	03/09	Rick Gallant	03/17	Susan Wilson	03/28		



It is with sincere Christian sympathy that we extend our hearts & prayers to the families of Hollyce Highfill Kirkland who passed away on February 2nd, and Jackie Sullivan who passed away on February 14th.