HARMONY HERALD

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Pastor's letter....

November 2026

Come and Worship

Psalm 100: 4 says, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."

This is worship! Psalm 100 is a joyful call to worship. It's an invitation to everyone on earth to come into the presence of almighty God to praise His holy name. It's an invitation to come with gladness of heart filled with thanksgiving.

Dr. Raymond Edman, a missionary, college president and educator, once shared a personal anecdote. It was about his meeting with the King of Ethiopia. In order to have an audience with the king, he had to observe strict protocol and if he didn't he wouldn't be judged worthy to come into the presence of the king. Then he said to the students in the chapel service, "You have an audience with the King of Kings." That's worship!

It's a call to come and worship. A call to come into the presence of the King of Kings. It's a call to come stand on holy ground.



So how are we to come? Let us come prepared. God is willing to meet us anywhere, anytime but we should come into His presence with heart, mind, body and soul willing and ready to acknowledge that we have stepped into the presence of Almighty God, the Creator of the Universe.
We are to come glorifying God by ascribing to Him the honor and adoration due Him because He is God. A.W. Tozer said that God "wants to cultivate within us the adoration and admiration of which He is worthy. He wants us to be astonished at the inconceivable elevation and magnitude and splendor of Almighty God."

Worship is not entertainment or a spectator sport. Worship is acknowledging the God we serve as the Lord of our lives. Worship is acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God and our Lord and Savior.

During this season of Thanksgiving, let us hear the call to worship with the community of faith as we praise and worship God together.

Blessings,
Pastor Barbara

Sunday School

"Therefore I tell you do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body and what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Matthew 6:25-27

Contentment grows as we learn to see evidence of God's provision in the world around us.
Put God first in your life to fill your thoughts with His desires, to take His character for your life's pattern and to serve and obey Him in everything.

God's word gives us a reason to live our lives in a way that shines so others will want to do the same.

It is God's word that brings love and contentment in your life. God communicates with us through His word.

Come to Sunday School and learn with others how important it is to know God's word. How important it is to have a relationship with Him – for a closer walk with Him!

Meet and Greet - 9am
Sunday School - 9:45am
Worship - 11am

Sunday School Director, Helen Williams





WMU

We are a church very much into missions. It is with joy and love that we work on so many projects during the year.

We have completed 45 blessing bags for homeless men and 25 for homeless women. We have completed 50 sleeping bags for the homeless.

We have a Toys for Tots program, Christmas boxes for children sent all over the world and we make a lot of the things that go into these boxes such as jump ropes, fishing lines, hygiene pads, dresses as well as other items.

Our church also makes back to school packs, and we have an Easter Extravaganza, send items to the Bland Center, and accomplish many other things to make life better for our community.

Thanks to all who give or participate in these projects. All the glory goes to God who makes all things possible!

We would love to have more people join us in all the fun and fellowship we enjoy while doing these projects and are always open to any other projects that would make life easier for those that need help.

Please come and join us.

WMU Director, Helen Williams

Sleeping Bag Ministry

Again, a big thank you for all who worked on the sleeping bag ministry this year. We had a great year. We have 50 sleeping bags to distribute to the homeless in our area.

Thank you goes to:

- Catherine Ferree for sewing the sleeping bags on her machine.
- The ladies who came to the work sessions: Paula Rudolph, Barbara Williams, Phyllis Mahoney, Gailya Gatewood, Ann Leigh, Becky Sibley & Catherine Ferree
- CJ Revere for attaching the "Plan of Salvation" to each of the sleeping bags.
- The members who brought in comforters to be used in making the sleeping bags.

We will begin our 2027 season with our meeting on Thursday, January 21 (note change of weeks!).

Again, thanks and blessings,
Pastor Barbara



"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do."— Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

MEMBER Spotlight



Barry Napp

By Esther Robert

Barry Napp is a man who knows how to use words. He uses them well at our church every week and most don't realize it, for he helps me with the weekly bulletin, monthly newsletters, and he creates the media content for our events. It's not quite like his days in the Army and Pentagon Public Affairs offices, I think Harmony Grove is much more relaxed.

Born into a family who served in WWII, Barry spent a lot of his childhood in Wrightsville Beach, NC. And like so many children whose parents served, he too joined. He enlisted during the Vietnam War. He said it was better to enlist than be drafted. He was at Ft. Hunter Liggett, CA as an infantryman, with a lot of time in the field. Then to Ft. Benning, GA, followed by Ft. Sill, OK, where he trained to be an artillery officer, which was his first duty station as a lieutenant. Then he went to Korea for the first time. He ended up serving three tours in Korea. He served in the 2nd Infantry Division with onetour on the DMZ, where peace talks still take place. He was sent back to Ft. Sill, OK to complete Army Field Artillery Advance Course. He then left the Army to complete the final 2 years of college. When he finished his degree at Cameron University at Lawton, OK, which is outside Ft. Sill, he went back to the military but this time to Ft. Ben Harrison, Indiana, for the Department of Defense, Public Affairs Officers course to learn how to handle media relations, speech writing, communicating internally and externally, by this time he had been promoted to captain. On his third tour of Korea, 2nd Infantry Division, he served on the division staff as Assistant Public Affairs Officer. Then back to Ft. Monroe to be a part of Training and Doctrine Command. Then the Gulf War started. He volunteered for duty in Saudi Arabia, where he was on the DOD team setting up Joint Information Bureau for all journalists arriving in the theater. His last tour was a Ft. Monroe. He says he completed the circle when he returned and retired. He spent another 21 years with the Department of Army as a civilian, doing public affairs missions. He retired a second and final time as a GS13 in 2015. He and Brenda moved to Mathews in 2018 from Newport News.

I asked Barry how he found Harmony Grove and he was quick to tell me it was due to his wife, Brenda. When they decided to retire to Mathews, it was an easy decision for them to make. As it happens, Brenda is part of the Franklin Miller line of the Millers, known at our church for generations, so the choice was simple - go to your family church and make it your new home.

Barry is a constant for me in the church office. He helps proofread the bulletins and newsletters, provides guidance on wording and structure, using AP style, of course. He also serves our church by participating in many children's events such as the pancake flipper, grill master and candy distributor. He sometimes drives the van for church outings, sings in the choir, participates in exercise class, creates all content for our events for the news media, serves on the Special Funds committee and is a deacon. He's all in on supporting our church and it's missions!

continued on next page >

General Fund Update:

Funds collected for November 2026	$ 11,524
Funds collected YTD	$ 147,542
Budget for 2026	$ 191,054

Other Funds Update for November:

Children's Ministry	$ 655
Restoration & Repairs	$ 200



In all things, give thanks



Ushers for November:

Danny Crowe
Sonja Shy
George Snead
Helen Williams



"The last thing I remember is Thanksgiving dinner. I asked for wings."

Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

Nov. 1st - Canceled due to funeral
Nov. 8th - 2:30-3:45pm
Nov. 15th - 2:30-3:45pm
Nov. 22nd - 2:30 - 3:30pm
Nov. 29th - Canceled due to Thanksgiving

What was the turkey thankful for on Thanksgiving?
Vegetarians

What sound does a limping turkey make?
Wobble, wobble, wobble!



What's the difference between a turkey and a chicken? Chickens celebrate Thanksgiving.



Harmony Grove Missions

Out in the Community



Young at Heart providing a meal for Middlesex High School football players and staff.

Jamie and Callie Revere, Julie Bray, Etta Taylor, Lynn Eanes, Amy Blake

Bland Ministry Center

FOOD PANTRY • CLOTHES CLOSET • DENTAL CLINIC • HOME REPAIR



Barry Napp and Robert Miller

Packing the van for delivery



Helen Williams, Shannon Gimbert and Ellis Leigh

OCC Packing Party



Mary Johnson and Kay Gimbert,



Leona Brownley, Peggy Eutsler, Sonja Samples, Becky Sibley, Shannon Gimbert



"Offer unto God thanksgiving..."
~ Psalm 9:1

November
2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Day Meet & Greet 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	2	3 Exercise 10am	4 Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	5	6	7
8 Meet & Greet 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	9	10 Exercise 10am	11 Veterans Day Mission Council 5pm Bible Study 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	12 Joy Club 12pm	13	14 Church Clean-up 8am
15 Meet & Greet 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	16	17 Exercise 10am Deacon Meeting 7pm	18 Joy Club to Fredericksburg 9am Choir Practice 7pm	19	20	21
22 Meet & Greet 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	23 Joy Club Thanksgiving Meals Prep and deliver 10am	24 Exercise 10am	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Hanging of the Greens Meet & Greet 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Worship 11am	30					

OCC Collection Week: 16–21

OCC Collection Week: 22–23

Anniversaries

9 Jamie & Callie Revere
11 Charlie B. & Bee Miller



Birthdays

1 Callie Jo Revere, Barry South
3 Charlotte Copley
8 Hallie Eanes
9 Ashley Daniel
11 Lynn Blake Payne
14 Trevor Batley
18 Kay Gimbert
19 Glenn Ballantyne
21 Tristan Taylor
29 Bea Fleet, Ross Payne