

BELL'S MESSENGER

The Newsletter of
Old Union Church
& Surrounding Community



Website: www.oldunionchurch.org

Email: oldunionchurch@northstate.net

January 2024

Issue 1, Volume 5

Bell's Messenger is Back

Bell's Messenger is back after an 8 and ½ years pause. Bell's Messenger was founded in January of 2012. The name Bell's Messenger comes from where Old Union was called Bell's Meeting House when it was founded in 1786. Bell's Meeting House was founded by William and Martha McGee Bell.

If anyone has anything they would like included in the monthly Bell's Messenger, please get it to Jeffrey by the last Sunday of each month.

---Jeffrey Smith

Welcome Pastor Robert and Susan Brown

Welcome to Pastor Robert Brown and his Wife Susan Brown.



Service Times Changes

Starting Sunday, January 7th, Sunday School at 9:30 am (Opening Assembly in the Sanctuary followed by Sunday School Classes) and Worship Service is at 10:30 am

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting

Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting will be Sunday, January 14th immediately after Worship Service.

Vacation Bible School Meeting

Vacation Bible School Meeting will be Sunday, January 28th immediately after Worship Service



From Pastor Robert

Where do we begin?

We know that every day, week and year brings fourth new challenges and this coming year 2024 is no different. So let's start at the beginning. Paul said in Philippians Ch 3: verses 13&14 to forget those things that are behind and press toward the mark which is ahead. On January 1 2024 Old Union Church will be merging with Calvary Chapel of W.S into a new journey with the Lord. Our vision as we come together as one in unity, is that Old Union Church will become that place of refuge in our community for people to seek spiritual help in their time of need, as well a place of encouragement for life and direction in the trouble times that we live. As we follow our Lord through the leadership of His Spirit. Our prayer is that we could be a lighthouse for our community for those that may have lost their way. Our hope is that if you and your family are looking for a church home, where there are people that will Love and Pray for you. That you will give Old Union Church a willing try. To all the members of Old Union Church let me leave this verse with you Colossians Ch 3:verse 23&24.

LOVE&PRAYERS PASTOR
ROBERT.

Brief History of Old Union Church

Only a few short years after Methodism began in America, this church came into being. The year was 1786 when a log structure called Bell's Meeting House was used by various denominations. A camp meeting began in December 1801 and ended in January 1802. After that the name was changed to Old Union Church and considered a Methodist place of worship; however, all denominations were still allowed to use the church. In 1853, a new church was built. In 1886, one hundred years after the first log church was built, a camp meeting

was held with an arbor that would seat 1200; however, the crowd on Sunday was estimated at 3000. Just after the close of service on Monday night, an earthquake came which filled the people with awe. The third Sunday morning in October of 1931 the church building burned to the ground. The Congregational Church at Sophia allowed Old Union to use their church until a new brick structure was built in 1932. The new structure consisted of a sanctuary and 3 classrooms all of which are part of the present building.

In 1946, Old Union united with Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church in Randleman to form the Mt. Lebanon-Old Union Charge.

In the mid fifties a fellowship hall was built mainly by the men of church with the ladies serving them lunch on Saturday. It was remodeled, a shelter added and in 2004 a large addition added and is used at present for many church activities such as youth group (UMYF), ladies' group (UMW), men's group (UMM) and other gatherings of food, fun and fellowship.

In 1973 a new charge was formed which became the Old Union-Worthville Charge.

In 1976 an addition to the church was started which consisted of 6 classrooms and 2 bathrooms. Most of the work was done by the men of the church and the ladies served lunch on Saturdays. This project was completed in 1977.

The second weekend in September of 1986, Old Union had a 3-day celebration to mark 200 years as a church. There was preaching, singing and lot of fellowship. In the late 1990s the porch of the church was rebuilt and a handicap ramp was added. Stain glass windows were also put in the sanctuary.

In 2011 a new charge was formed which became the Old Union-Fairview Charge.

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In 2013 for the first time in recent Old Union History we are not on a charge with another church which means we are not sharing a preacher. However, our pastor is still a half time pastor as in the past.

In 2014 a new charge was formed which became the Old Union-Burnett's Chapel Charge.

In 2016 we are not on a charge with another church which means we are not sharing a preacher. However, our pastor is still a half time pastor as in the past.

In 2018 we bought out Worthville UMC's half of the parsonage. We now own 100% of the parsonage.

In 2022 a new charge was formed which became the Old Union-New Salem Charge.

Up to December 31, 2023, Old Union was the oldest Methodist Church in Randolph County.

Effective January 1, 2024, we are now Old Union Church.

Old Union Men's Club

The Old Union Men's Club does not have a monthly meeting currently. We only have called meetings when needed currently.

The Men's Club has 4 different fund raisers throughout the year, they are 3 Country Breakfasts, and we sell Cooked Pork Shoulders at Thanksgiving

The Men's Club pays the power bill for both the church and Fellowship Hall and we pay the dumpster bill for the church.

Old Union Youth Ministry

The Old Union Youth Ministry meets the 4th Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm.

This is open for not only the children of the church but also ones in the community.

Old Union Women

The Old Union Women meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm by Zoom.

The Old Union Women sells Happy Home Flavoring year-round. They also have a Vendor Event and Hot Dog Lunch Fund Raiser on the second Saturday in November.

The Women pays for the telephone bill for the church each month, pays for the paper products that are used in the Fellowship Hall and pays for the cleaning products in both the Church and Fellowship Hall.

The Women also has 4 missions they do one each quarter, this year they are 1st quarter: Cancer Center in Asheboro, 2nd quarter: Emmy's Place, 3rd Quarter: Family Room in Greensboro (For Foster Parents and 4th quarter: Hospice of Randolph County. More information will come with what each place needs as each quarter comes.

Young Adult Class

The Young Adult Class has 3 events they have for the Community each year. First, End of Summer Party held in August of each year with games, inflatables, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Homemade Ice Cream. Second, Halloween Party held every October with food, games, hayride, games and haunted trail. Third, Barbecue Meal after the Christmas program in December.

They sell Rada Knives year-round. You can find the books on the table in the vestibule and on the table in the Fellowship Hall. We also sell Cooked Pork Shoulders at Christmas.

Food Collection for Christian's United Outreach Center (CUOC) in Asheboro

The Items to be collected for the next 12 months are:

- January: Soup & Crackers
- February: Pancakes Mix & Syrup
- March: Canned Tuna & Mac & Cheese
- April: Instant Potatoes & Dried Beans
- May: Cornbread or Biscuit Mix & Pork N Beans
- June: Pop Tarts & Ramen Noodles
- July: Cereal & Pasta Salad
- August: Peanut Butter & Jelly
- September: Spaghetti Noodles & Sauce (In Cans not Jars)
- October: Rice & Canned Beef Stew
- November: Canned Vegetables & Fruit
- December: Sloppy Joe Mix & Gits/Oatmeal

Church Cleaning Schedule

- January:
- February: Seth & Kelli Smith



Psalm Reader

If there is anyone that wants to be added or deleted as a Psalm Reader for Worship Service let Jeffrey Smith know.

Guidelines for Anyone from the Community Requesting Assistance

At the July 22, 2018 Board Meeting it was voted that if anyone comes to the church wanting money, food, etc. that they be sent to CUOC to get help. There are information sheets about CUOC to hand out to anyone requesting assistance. They are on the desk in the hall in the folder titled CUOC Assistance.

Christmas



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**OLD UNION CHURCH
UPCOMING EVENTS**
(as of Saturday, January 6, 2024)

- **Sunday, January 14th:** Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting immediately after Worship Service in the Sanctuary
- **Sunday, January 28th:** Vacation Bible School meeting immediately after Worship Service
- **Saturday, March 16th:** Country Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, 7 am until 10 am
- **Saturday, March 23rd:** Easter Egg Hunt (More information will be coming later)
- **Saturday, May 16th:** Country Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, 7 am until 10 am
- **Sunday, September 8th:** 238th Homecoming
- **Saturday, September 14th:** Country Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall, 7 am until 10 am

