

# SKYLAND

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LOVE · GROW · SERVE

## Weekly Newsletter



---

### **A Message From Joe: Regarding Updates On Volunteer Positions At Skyland**

We have had several incidents to happen that seem to “cut into” our ability to fill volunteer positions at Skyland. It is totally unnecessary to review why we are struggling just a little to fill these roles; to review the reasons that have led to this “season” in our life together is rather pointless (if you insist on delving deeper into the “whys,” let’s go to lunch and I’ll explain- I’m always looking for a reason to go to lunch with someone).



First, the Board of Stewards- We had more than we anticipated roll off the board (due to maximum time served or to resignations). This has left us with 7 slots to fill for 2025 (some of these slots are for the class of 2025, some are for 2026 and some are for 2027). No one nominated another person for board membership during the “open season” provided back in the summer months (and no one “self-nominated”). That has left the Nominating Committee with the task of finding these 7 persons to serve (having a 12 member board is a very good idea; we can operate with less, but it’s a good number). If you might be interested in being on the Board of Stewards, please let me know. Let’s have a conversation about it as soon as convenient for you.

Second, other ministry leaders- We have several ministry team leaders within our church. These responsibilities range from Grief Ministry to Sunday Morning Coffee Preparation (and all kinds of other roles in between). Our Board has done a remarkable job in securing persons for most of these roles. Some are not filled yet. They include a CHOW point person, Grief Ministry point person(s), Sunday Morning Coffee coordinator, Keep In Touch coordinator (working with our shut ins/nursing facility residents), a Habitat for Humanity “point person,” and someone to assist with Loving Care.

(Continue reading for more from Joe.)

The Loving Care Ministry takes care of preparing meals for people who are just home from the hospital or for receptions at funeral/memorial services; there is an excellent group that is dedicated to making all of this happen, and there is one point person, but a second team leader would be beneficial.

For a while, I am willing to give guidance to many of these things (Jennifer, in the office, will likely help me with some of it- although she hasn't agreed to it).

Over the next few months, if we do not identify the volunteers we need, the assumption can only be one thing—it is not a ministry that is needed at Skyland any longer. I will take the initiative to evaluate whether or not we will engage these ministries. Some of these things may have been passions for some of you (or for some who have moved on to other places); now, we do not have the persons who are passionate about these ministries. And, it is okay.

We may reinvent some of this; we may do brand new things.

Again, it is okay.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. If you want to volunteer for any of the things I have mentioned, if you feel God may be leading you to assume any of these roles, I am eager to talk to you about it.

Thanks for your love and support of Skyland Church!

Joe



## Stewardship Season Is Launched

With Charles Frederick's presentation on Sunday, November 10, and the mailing of stewardship letters this week, we have finally and successfully launched our campaign to encourage our ministry and financial commitments to Skyland for 2025.

We have so much to be grateful for at Skyland; grateful for each other, as we care and pray with each other and practice living together and serving the world as the Body of Christ, equipped with the love and grace of God.



Our blessings at Skyland are shepherded by a committed Board of Stewards, a dedicated staff, and, most importantly, a highly committed constituency of individuals who worship and volunteer here on a weekly basis. All of God's resources are used to the very best of our abilities. Christian formation, leadership opportunities, spiritual and emotional wellness are supported here by your ever-increasing support.

As you fill out your Commitment to Ministry forms and your pledge or estimate of giving forms that represent your support for 2025, we ask you to reflect on all of the blessings that compound our ability to serve God's loving mission in the world. Indeed, our contributions of time, talent and resources play their part in the successful ongoing work here at Skyland.

Please pray and please make your commitments, promising faithfully to support this church. These are the things that sustain us as we approach a new year with new opportunities!

Joe Tarpley, Pastor

**You may present your Ministry Commitment Forms and Pledge Forms at our Consecration Sunday Service on November 24th at the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. We will have a Commitment Sunday Brunch from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Colonnade to celebrate!**

**You may also mail your forms to:**

**P.O. Box 697**

**Skyland, NC 28776**

**Or submit online at: [www.skylandumc.com](http://www.skylandumc.com) under the Giving Tab.**

## Final Blood Drive Of The Year

Our final blood drive for the year is right around the corner. Please mark your calendar and schedule your appointment to ensure your desired appointment slot. **Give one of the most precious gift you can share to someone in need!** To schedule your appointment you may call the Blood Connection in Arden, scan the QRS Code on the flyer or call myself to schedule your appointment. Looking forward to seeing you soon!  
Debra Thornberry, Blood Drive Coordinator,  
828-775-4612



## Next Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Please mark your calendars! Our next opportunity to volunteer to help with construction on a Habitat for Humanity house is **Saturday, November 23, 2024**. This SUMC Build Day is open for anyone age 16 and older, and no skills are necessary. We hope you can join us to help provide affordable housing to less fortunate families. The event will begin at 8:15 and end around 3:00 PM. The site will again be the housing development on Glenn Bridge Road S.E. in Avery's Creek. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Colonnade. Please contact Bob Blanke at [bblanke07@gmail.com](mailto:bblanke07@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



## Youth Hosting Soup Luncheon

On Sunday, November 24th, following the church service, the youth will host a soup luncheon. This is a donation-based event, and all funds raised will go towards their upcoming mission trip to Charleston, SC. We hope you will join us, and enjoy this time of fellowship with one another. Deadline to sign up is November 20th. Use the Sign Up Genius by clicking here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EA5AF2CA7FBC34-53037114-soup>



## Hanging Of The Greens 2024

Join us for the Annual Hanging of the Greens immediately following the luncheon. Help us get the church campus ready for the holiday season!



## ATSP Is Thankful

Our fall semester is moving along here at Around the Son. Our classrooms are full of curious little minds. We have enjoyed diving into new books and learning all about the fall season. The community the Lord has created through ATSP is so special. We are thankful!



## Blessing Box Bin To Basket

Check out our **new collection spot** for donations to our pantry! You'll find this **basket** near the entrance in the colonnade for ease of dropping off items as you enter. The basket replaces the outside donation bin which has been removed. If you have questions, or need assistance in donating when the church is locked, feel free to contact Patty Olbrantz.



## Last CHOW of the Year

This season's CHOW is coming to a close! As in the past, our chefs take a well deserved break during the holidays, so there are only **one** CHOW meals left this year! Please take the opportunity to thank them for feeding us so well in the past few months, and take time to reserve your place now! The menu for the last CHOW night, and the SignUp Genius to get you started are below! Please sign up by the Monday prior via the link or by signing up in the Colonnade. The menu is chicken teriyaki, Japanese rice, and salad by Chef Chin. Sign up for the LAST CHOW of the season by clicking [HERE!](#)



## A Thanksgiving Opportunity

You are invited to join Joe in providing 10 Thanksgiving Baskets for families this holiday season. A sign up sheet will be made available in the Colonnade immediately that indicates items of foods needed to fill these baskets. This will include 10 Turkeys! On TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, the baskets will be assembled and delivered to the families who have need of them. This will be a relatively simple way for us to say "thanks" while "giving" to our neighbors.



# Hurricane Relief Concert

## A Big Success

**Thank you** to everyone who helped make our Hurricane Benefit Concert a success! We cleared **\$3,856** from last Saturday evening's quilt auction and concert with the local band, **Lyric!** A special thanks to **Candace Hall, Sylvia McCollum, Judy Grobe,** and **Myrtle Kinyon** for their help coordinating the quilt auction; to Candace Hall and **Linda Gelzer** for collecting donations for the evening; to **Shane Lympany** for his work with the band on the sound system; to our safety team led by **Dennis Hobbie**, and to our greeters led by **Dahlene Hultberg**. It was definitely a team effort! The way people from all walks of life came together (and even danced together!) was surely a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. The band said that it felt like one of the most special concerts they had ever performed.

Thank you, church, for helping us open our doors even more widely last Saturday evening to the community. Widening our doors to assist those in need in the aftermath of the hurricane is surely pleasing to our Lord.

Joy Moss



### **LIVESTREAM SERVICE**

Want to watch service but can't be there in person? Our worship service is livestreamed on our YouTube page. Click [here](#) to go to our YouTube page, where you can also see previous livestreamed services.

<https://www.youtube.com/@skylandunitedmethodistchur651/streams>

### **SKYLAND PASTORAL CONTACT**

Need to reach out to a pastor?

Rev. Joe Tarpley, Senior Pastor [jtarpley@skylandumc.com](mailto:jtarpley@skylandumc.com)

Rev. Joy Moss, Associate Pastor [revjoy@skylandumc.com](mailto:revjoy@skylandumc.com)

Find more staff contact information on our website [www.skylandumc.com](http://www.skylandumc.com).

## **Submitting to the Newsletter**

WANT TO SUBMIT SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Skyland, as we continue to navigate this trying time together, feel free to contact me at any point with all things communications for Skyland. In order to best serve you, we ask that newsletter submissions be submitted on Wednesday (for the newsletter to go out on Thursday morning) to my email: [newsletter@skylandumc.com](mailto:newsletter@skylandumc.com)

Please include information about the who, what, when, where, and why of what you need to share, and the Communications Team will take it from there.

Thank you!

Megan Prestridge, SUMC Communications Coordinator