

# The Edge

Edgefield Methodist Church Newsletter

Estel Williams – Pastor

Suzanne Whittaker, Associate Pastor

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January 2026

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Greetings from the Pastor. Welcome to 2026. Another year that you and I have the privilege of being part of. 2025 was a good year for our church and we pray for a good 2026. Thanks to everyone who helped make that possible. The Christmas season brought the passing of Pastor Donnie Humprey. The beloved pastor of River of Life Church in Piney Flats. Donnie was loved by his church and the people of this community. Donnie had been the minister at River of Life, a church start he was responsible for the past 35 years. As I stood on the hillside at Monte Vista Cemetery in Johnson City waiting for the graveside to begin and the wind gusting at 25-30 MPH, I had the opportunity to talk with some of the large crowd of people. One man told me how Jesus had delivered him from drugs and jail. He went to say Donnie had been a big part of bringing him to Christ. This man was now an Evangelist and Donnie still took time to come listen to him preach and support his ministry. Donnie was also chaplain in the Watauga Fire Dept. and the Johnson City Police Dept. There was also a young man who stood shivering in short sleeves. He told me that he had just recently moved to the area and had joined the Watauga Fire Det. He told us Donnie has made him feel welcome and been a mentor to him. I asked him about his coat, and he said it was in the car. The only I have with me is my fire coat from his fire gear. He didn't think it would be appropriate at the graveside. I looked at him and said I'm sure Donnie wouldn't mind. He agreed and went and got his coat. I thought to myself this hillside is filled with stories of Donnie's ministry. What a way to be remembered. Our prayers go out to Sharon, this dear family, and the people of River of Life Church. MAY GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU.

PASTOR ESTEL



New Year, new you! I rarely make a New Year's resolution and when I do it is usually at the last minute (or even during the first week of January). I get the reason so many make one and they are fun. I've seen friends commit to a gym membership and promise to encourage one another all year to achieve their goals. That sounds amazing – except the running on a treadmill part. I am intrigued by those who commit to learning a new skill or hobby – especially those who dare to dream big and commit to a new one each month (they are such beautiful over-achievers!).

One year I committed to read the entire Bible start to finish - Genesis to Revelation. I didn't think I would ever get through Numbers – shew! And then I found myself doing it again the next year. And the next. And now I cannot imagine starting my year any other way. Even though the book of Numbers still slows me down! What amazes, every time, is that each reading of the Scriptures unveils something new for me to learn! Small nuggets of wisdom or bigger connections that link different parts of the Bible together – there's always something new to learn.

Whatever it is that you resolve to do in 2026 – I pray that God will give you a deep curiosity about His Word. If you do, let me know. I would love to celebrate with you as you complete your read through and maybe grab a cup of coffee to talk about the incredible stories of God's love, faithfulness, and amazing grace together.

It may be a New Year and we may seek a new “you/me/us” – but isn't it great that we have the same God! Same yesterday, today, and tomorrow!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Suzanne

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Emme Fox graduated from the University of Tennessee Knoxville on Friday, December 12. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration/Supply Chain Management with a collateral in sales. Throughout her 3 and half years at UT she was involved in Phi Mu sorority, member of the American Marketing Association and the Women of Haslam College of Business. She has accepted a job with Coca Cola Consolidated in Knoxville as a sales account manager.

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Beth Hearn graduated from the Cancer center at Vanderbilt after having a stem cell procedure and she was successful.

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Sympathy is extended to Shirley Smith in the death of her brother, Ivan “Bud” Oliver.

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Sympathy is extended to Melissa Whitehead and family in the death of her father, Terral “Bo” Kell.

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**STATISTICS: November Averages**

Worship – 125  
Sunday School – 39  
Average Budget Offering - \$ 10,078.00  
(Needed – \$4,825.00 weekly)

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Debra Travers	1
Skylan Weaver	3
Vickie Torbett	3
Shuler Moyers	4
Pauline Oliver	11
Melia Fleeman	20
David Gurny	22
Suzanne Whittaker	22
Lucas Tanner	24
Martha Leonard	24
James Collett	26

Ken Turner	26
Jean Sartain	29



**January**

Jim & Verlyn Hearn	27
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### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**Jan. 7 – 7:00 am** – Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles

**Jan. 10 – 10:00 am** – Women’s Group in CLC

**Jan. 11 – 2:00-4:00 pm** – Card Ministry @ Dawn Tuck’s Home (906 Denvers Lane)  
(forms & box in vestibule)

**Jan. 16 – 10:15–** Food Pantry Unload

**Jan. 17 – 8:30 am** – Food Pantry Distribution

**Jan. 23 – 10:15–** Food Pantry Unload

**Jan. 25 – After Worship** – “Table for One?” at Primo’s in Piney Flats

**Jan. 25 – 4:00 pm** – Church Council Meeting

**Feb. 1 – 7:30 am** – Methodist Men’s Breakfast in CLC

**Every Monday, Tuesday – 12:00-3:00 pm** – Saturday – 9 -11:00 am – Quilting for the Homeless

**\* Every Sunday: 5:30 pm** – Bible Study@ St. Paul with Pastor Suzanne

**\* Every Tuesday: 6:30 pm** – Hand Bell Practice

**\* Every Wednesday:**

**9:00 am** – Mayberry Bible Study (CLC)

**10:30 am** – Dulcimer Jam Session

**6:00 pm** – 2 Peter Bible Study in CLC & On-Line

**6:30 pm** – Youth Adults (bi-weekly)

**7:00 pm** – Choir Practice

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## LET US PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Mary Beth Sidebottom	Peggy Pendergrass
Ophelia Olson	Randy Shipley
Shane Malone	Charles Arnold
Carol Williams	Dickie Matney
Jane Howell	Jim Culbertson
Buster Cox	Eric Hughes
Anne Whittemore	Bill Davis
Roger Davis	Sue Smith
Stacy Fox	Santiago Casasola
Marina Williams	Betty Musick
Bill Sawyers	Nancy Broyles
Bill Greene	Brian Ridgely
Warren Torbett	Betty Arnold
Sam O'Dell	Paulette Broyles
Sherry Hensley	McKayla Shaw
Marshall Lineberry	Vickie Williams
Pat O'Neill	Harley Bailey
Johnnie Lee Smith	Katherine West
Tom Pruitt	Vera Lyons

### Homebound

Betty Berry	Betty Birdwell	Eleanor Ensley	Carol Fox	Betty Hale
Junior Smith	Stan & Earlene Strouth			

### Nursing Homes

Margaret Barnes....Colonial Hill Retirement Center, 3207 Bristol Hwy., Room 313,  
Johnson City, TN 37601      barnesmargaret39@gmail.com

Pete Carrier.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Room 180, Bristol, TN 37620

Trula Hodge.....Dominion Assisted Living, Room 223, 2412 Knob Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phyllis King.....Dominion Senior Living of Bristol, 425 Shelby Lane, Bristol, TN 37620

Rena Lewis.....Princeton Assisted Living, 401 Princeton Road, Room 309, Johnson City, TN 37601

Pauline Oliver.....NHC Healthcare, 3209 Bristol Hwy., Room 312, Johnson City, TN 37601

Jean Sartain.....NHC Healthcare, 3209, Bristol Hwy., Room 142, Johnson City, TN 37601