



# The Williams Bell

Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church  
4700 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, NC 28216-2845

Vol. 58

*January/February 2020*

No. 1/2



I'm writing this a week before Christmas, but I find myself already thinking about the year ahead. On New Year's Eve, I will do some wondering, as in, "I wonder how I survived last year" or "I wonder why things happened as they did" or more importantly, "I wonder what this next year will bring"? As a pastor and teacher who does a bit of counseling, I encounter people who struggle to make choices regarding themselves, their relationships with spouses, family, friends

and in their careers. I have learned that if we don't make choices about the direction of our lives, we are going to be reacting to what others do. Often that leaves us dealing with the consequences of the foolishness and mistakes of others. Many of us are too trusting of the good will and "fairness" of others, not realizing that the agendas they have often have little to do with our well-being. We sometimes end up feeling used or mistreated, and we then try to make ourselves feel good by blaming others for our misery. We blame our spouses/significant others, our parents, our bosses, the economy, the world situation, Elvis, or whatever person or phenomenon we have encountered - and here's the kicker: nothing ever changes.

So... what's wrong in your life? What's missing? What mistakes have you made that need fixing? What is left undone? As you ask these questions, notice how easy it is to blame others for the holes in our lives. I work with too many couples who needlessly blame and harangue the other for their unhappiness.

What do we do?

Is that the solution? Just mellow out? Take something to push the pain or discomfort away? Blame is a good mellowing agent, whether it's directed at others or ourselves. It diffuses the issues enough that we are soon mellowed into an uncomfortable inactive state.

Followers of Christ have other options. You only need study the scriptures which will understand:

- Look realistically at your life (don't just accept the view that others put on you, and get rid of what you know to be sin in your lives - see James 1:22-26, Colossians 3: 1-4),
- Accept the forgiveness that is offered you in Christ (this releases us from being controlled by guilt and self-blame - see John 3: 14-18),

- Forgive others (this releases US from the power that blaming others to excuse our problems has over us - see Ephesians 4:31-32),
- Ask God for guidance and power to live out your faith, and begin to move out in new or better directions (see James 1:5-8); and, finally,
- Cut the strings, break the chains, find joy and peace in Christ as you serve him and his people.

John-Nelson Pope

## *January Birthdays*



Jan 2	Glenn McLeroy
Jan 10	Florence Alexander
Jan 22	Nathaniel Jones

## *February Birthdays*

Feb 12	Wendy Leatherwood
Feb 19	Edith Morgan
Feb 22	John Auten, Kevin Auten, Fran Wynn

### **Food Drive - January 6 through Super Bowl Sunday (February 2nd)**

We will be collecting donations to be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina supplies food and essential grocery items to over 700 agencies feeding hungry people in 19 local counties. A food donation to the Food Bank helps people who live in our region.

**Williams Bell Deadlines** Our goal is to make the Bell available on the last Sunday of the month. In order to make that deadline please provide March/April Bell submissions by February 16.

### **Memorials Received:**

In Memory of Sara Puckett from Fleeta Windell

## Thank Yous:

Dear Saints of Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church,

What an incredible privilege it is for me to serve as your pastor. Each day, I'm reminded what a wonderful opportunity it is for me to know you, serve you, and encourage you. Each week, I'm reminded what an incredible responsibility it is for me to bring God's Word to you in a relevant and informative way.

Each week, you remind me that Williams Memorial is a congregation of generous people who understand the value of community, who minister to their neighbors and one another in Christ's Name. Each week, you bless Joy and me with your love!

We thank you for your generous Christmas gift!

Merry Christmas!  
*Pastor John*

Thanks to Williams Memorial Presbyterian Church members for the generous Love Offering. We appreciate your continued support and friendship at this holiday time and always.

*Billie McConnell, Ted Auten, Amy Auten  
and Wendy Leatherwood*

Thanks everyone for all the contributions to Children's Hope Alliance. Thanks to thank Nancy Lewis, Cooper and Lindsay for adorning our sanctuary with such beautiful poinsettias and wreaths. The Chrismon tree was as illuminating as always. Thanks to Billie McConnell and the choir provided inspiring music and we appreciate all their hard work throughout the year.

*WMPC Congregation*

## Fun and Fellowship Plans:

**January meeting**— We will meet Tuesday, January 14th at 12:00 noon Huntersville Fire Station #4-8826 McIlwaine Rd Meal provided.

**February meeting**— We will meet Tuesday, February 11th at 12:00 noon at the home of Billie McConnell

**In the event of an emergency or a phone tree request** please contact Pastor John, Cell 941.704.0561 or [john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu](mailto:john-nelson.pope@montreat.edu)

**Prayer Request for:**

**Members and Friends...** *Florence Alexander, Roy Baker, Janet Hubbard, Diane Keever, Nancy & Dickson Skipper, James Watson, and Rev. Phillip Williams.*

**Members in the extended community** *Lydia Pope.*

**Those in military service**

US Army –*Sam Caldwell, Justin Jackson*    US Army Reserve – *Benjamin Glover*  
US Coast Guard – *Matthew Baker*

**Volunteers & Helpers for 2020**

**USHERS**

**January: Kevin Auten**

February: Fred Hunter, Bobbie Reid	March: Marc Leatherwood, Laura Stroupe
April: Wendy Leatherwood, Alex Leatherwood	May: John Auten, Laura Stroupe
June: Ty Leatherwood, Ted Auten	July: Nancy Lewis,
August: Lisa Fisher,	September: John Auten, Sarah Kiser
October: Alex & Mary Leatherwood	November: Marilyn Earnhardt, Ted Auten
December: Ty Leatherwood, Jon Leatherwood	

**COLLECTION TABULATORS**

**January: Kevin Auten, Lisa Fisher**

February: Don Fisher, Marc Leatherwood	March: Nancy Lewis, Bobbie Reid
April: Amy Auten, Kevin Auten	May: Mark Auten, Jon Leatherwood
June: Kevin Auten, Lisa Fisher	July: Marc Leatherwood, John Auten
August: Don Fisher, Mark Auten	September: Nancy Lewis, Kevin Auten
October: John Auten, Amy Auten	November: Bobbie Reid, Lisa Fisher
December: Don Fisher, Mark Auten	

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

**January: Kevin Auten**

February: Bobbie Reid	March: Laura Stroupe
April: Wendy Leatherwood	May: Mark Auten
June: Nancy Lewis	July: Amy Auten
August: Lisa Fisher	September: Sarah Kiser
October: Ted Auten	November: Fred Hunter
December: Jon Leatherwood	

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## January/February 2020

Phone 704 392-8816

E-mail [wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com](mailto:wmpcsecretary1885@yahoo.com)

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

### **Church Staff**

*John-Nelson Pope – Pastor*

*Billie McConnell – Music Director*

*Ted Auten – Custodian*

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*Amy Auten – Editor Secretary*

*Wendy Leatherwood – Financial Secretary*