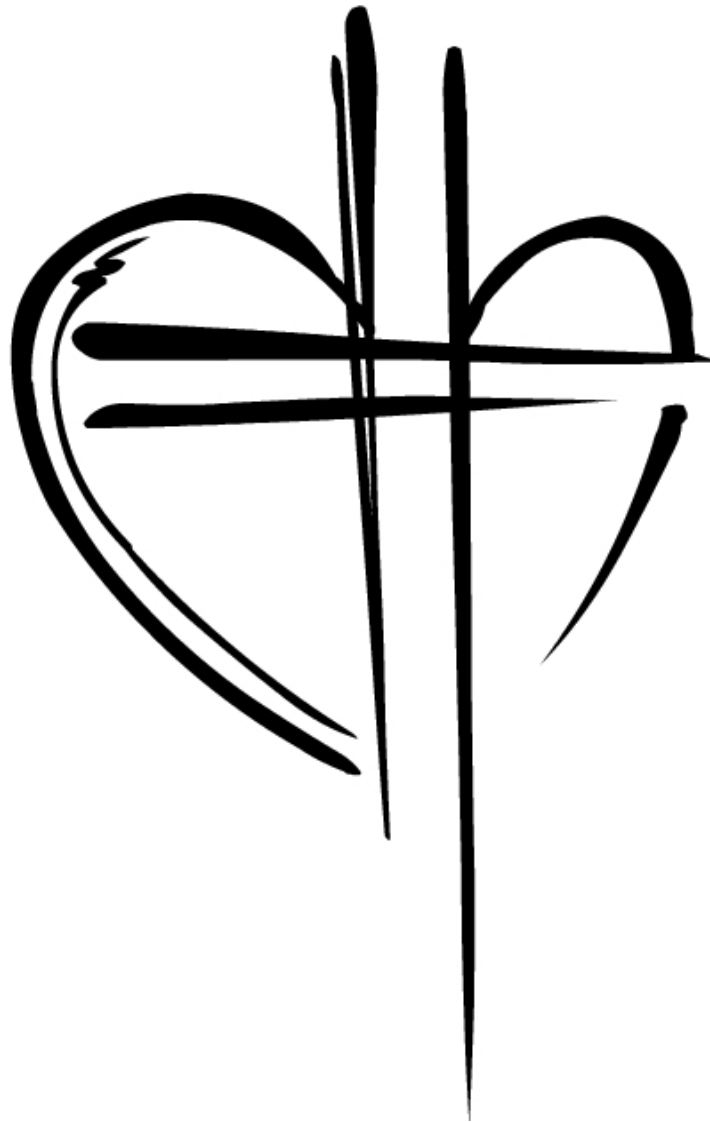


**BOOK OF REPORTS
BUSINESS MEETING
February 21, 2024**



WINFREE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Clerk Report of Membership

February 2023

Total membership as of November 22, 2023.....**1,501**

Since the last business meeting, the following members have joined Winfree:

Glenda Williams	10/29/2024
James Williams	10/29/2023
Charles Shaheen	10/29/2023
Jeanette Shaheen	10/29/2023
Rose Haake	01/07/2024
George "Tuck" Pulliam	01/07/2024
Linda Pulliam	01/07/2024
Lorna Verlander	01/24/2024
Travis Verlaner	01/24/2024
Eddie Wilson	01/28/2024
Jenna Wilson	01/28/2024
Mia Wilson	01/28/2024
Jimmie Miles	01/04/2024
Sharon Miles	01/04/2024
George Pulliam Jr.	02/18/2024
Stacey Pulliam	02/18/2024
Addie Crim	02/18/2024

Since the last business meeting, the following membership status have changed:

.....0

Total membership as of February 21, 2023.....**1,518**

Winfree Baptist Church Business Meeting
November 29, 2023

Sam opened the meeting at 630pm with a prayer. The quorum of 64 attendees was met. The minutes from the September 27, 2023 business meeting were approved. The clerk presented the clerk's report, which was corrected as the names of four new members had inadvertently been left off.

Dan Ogden presented the Treasurer's Report, as Ed Wickham was away. He noted that giving had not been as robust, but had improved over the last few weeks. He also asked that you contact Lindy Moore, our financial secretary, if your church prepared giving record did not match your personal record. He also noted that there is still time to catch up your giving before the end of the year if you have fallen behind in your pledged contribution.

Glen Taylert from Stewardship brought a motion regarding the budget for 2024, which is \$1,599,123.82. Amy Doumlele (assistant Treasurer), Ed Wickham (Treasurer), the Stewardship Committee, and Dan review requests, ask for clarifications, and suggest increases or decreases in the budget where they see opportunities. The consensus was to fulfill our missions and the budget, which includes a 6.1% increase over 2023. The goal is that our budget should meet ministries needs as well as operational needs. Dee Slaughter was recognized by the moderator and he noted that funding for some outreach areas was down (Friends of the Homeless and Caritas). It was stated that we have dedicated funds that we pull from (contributions from individuals) to provide funds for any needs that are unanticipated. Dee wants to increase these budget numbers back to at least what they were in 2023. Hugh Ames noted that the line item for leadership training was only \$250, and that concerns him. It was also noted that Music Ministry had a significant increase due to our need to replace hymnals; while we know some people will donate money specifically for this purchase, not all will be donated. Tony Hayes made a motion that these line items be increased to their previous level of support; this motion was seconded by Richard Paul. The motion carried, and the budget was approved along with the authorization for Stewardship to adjust the budget by up to 2% without coming to the church for approval. Please refer to the book of reports for other Stewardship Actions.

Dan Opened brought the following recommendations on behalf of the Nominating Committee: following list of people agree to serve as deacons from 1/2024 until 12/26:

Kyle and Kimberly Flynn

Lori Owens
Linda Waytes
Brenda Robertson
Jason Sigler
Carolyn Clements
Bill Peters

Dan also noted that the following current Deacons will extend their service for 1 year, ending 12/2024:

Tony Martin
Denise Merrill
Dewey Lackner

Dan, on behalf of Nominating also brought the following recommendations:

Mission Outreach Team Kevin McGrath term ends 12/2025

Creative Worship Planning:

Megan Doan 3-year term ending 12/26

Marlaina Knowlton 3-year term ending 12/26

Children's Committee Rick Kaerwer 3-year term, ending 12/26

Moderator Sam McNeny 1-year term, ending 12/24

Church Clerk Mary Scott Garrett 1-year term, ending 12/24

These recommendations were all approved.

Meredith Sigler on behalf of the Worship team reiterated that we need new hymnals. The team will offer memorial stickers that can be placed inside a hymnal, and Meredith anticipates that half of the cost of the hymnal purchase will come from the purchase of the memorial stickers.

Upcoming events include a Celebration of the Contemporary Service, a Vespers Service, A Night of Music and a Night of Remembrance.

Angela Godfrey, on behalf of Missions and Outreach, let us know that it had been a busy quarter; in addition to Trunk or Treat with ~1600 people, we had a new outreach related Pregnancy Loss meeting. We had 97 bags for Chasm in November. We are gearing up for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed activity and we will sponsor Appalachian Outreach in June. Please reach out if you are interested. Angela noted that our Backpack Need has increased 100% and they need more help. WMU has been busy with Friends of the Homeless, shoeboxes, and Chasm. We also had a huge response to Samaritan's Purse this year; many donated on line. Angela also wanted to recognize that the Scouts helped with Trunk or Treat and will help with building beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Vivian Sillmon, team lead for Discipleship and Training, thanked the deacons who do so much for our church membership. She is pleased that we have eight new deacons joining the deacon board and thanks those deacons who are going off service. She also announced that we are close to making an offer to our Minister of Congregational Care. She announced that the Preschool is preparing for 2024 signups and that next week there is a breakfast being held for the Preschool teachers.

Old Business - there was none

New Business - Wednesday night dinners are not yet set up for 2024.

Staff Comments:

Cynthia: The Christmas Craft day had approximately 100 participants; many were preschool kids. This appeared to be more of an outreach than Trunk or Treat.

December will be spent cleaning up, since she is leaving and preparing to hand off.

Matt: Please see the book of reports

Jimmy: Please see the book of reports

Josh: Please see the book of reports; of note, he is the staff liaison to Property and Space; he has noted an increase in the number of young adults attending both services. He is working on classes for young adults (they are asking for it!) and he is also working on a Bible Study for young adults who attend the Traditional Service. Please volunteer.

Susan: Please come to the Vespers service; there will be choir chimes as well as the choir. Betsy Brandt will play the harp.

David: The harder you work, the luckier you get! When he works harder, he is blessed:

When he was growing up, his church did Monday night visitation; people do not always come back to church when you visit, but he does see improvement, even if they don't come back. David noted that he recently baptized a father/son of Jewish background. The father read through the Bible six times; God dropped him off. We had a craft fair recently, and a grandmother/child who just moved to Salisbury; she had received a flyer in their mailbox, decided to come. Another man saw David at the Apple Store at Short Pump and spoke to him; he knew David was a preacher because he watches him online on

Sundays. These are just a few examples of how if we put our efforts into ministry, God blesses us.

Sam thanked everyone for coming and for everything you all do for Winfree; meeting adjourned with prayer at 7:25.

Old Business

- Discussion on the motion on Love and Grace Affirmation postponed until 2/21/23.
- New Motion from the Church Council

Motion from Church Council:

The Wedding policies, Building Use policies, and Personnel policies shall be amended to include the appropriate portions of the following statement.

The facilities of Winfree Memorial Baptist Church may be used for the wedding of a biological man to a biological woman only, and the ministers of Winfree may officiate the wedding of a biological man to a biological woman only, whether on or off campus.

Treasurer's Report: Ed Wickham

12/31/2023 - Financial Statistics

Budget YTD	2023	\$1,507,157
Receipts YTD	2023	\$1,563,081
Expenses YTD	2023	\$1,524,447
Net Income	2023	\$38,634

Remaining Building Mortgage: \$1,974,656.11

Comments:

- Thank you Winfree Congregation for your generous support of Winfree Missions
- Please review your contributions on-line through your account access in Push Pay. If something is not correct, please let us know.
- If you have any questions regarding financials, contact Amy Doumlele, our Assistant Treasurer, or myself.
- You have generously continued your financial support in 2024.
- Our Financial Administrator, Lindy, continues to recover from her surgery. During her absence, Caroline Hankinson, our Office Manager, is helping manage the mail and drop off items. We are using a manual process to make deposits and pay invoices weekly.

Administration Team: Dan Ogden

Stewardship

Stewardship Committee Mission Summary

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for developing and maintaining the financial practices of the Church. We are charged with the planning and presenting a budget to the Church Council and work diligently and regularly with the Church Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to ensure that Church resources are being properly safeguarded by monitoring receipts and expenditures against the budget.

Nominations for New Stewardship Members:

- New member Carolyn Clements is nominated to serve a 1-year term ending Dec 31, 2024.
- New member Bill Minson is nominated to serve a 1-year term ending Dec 31, 2024.

Summary of Stewardship Committee Activities Since Last Business Meeting

- We have been collaborating with Missions Outreach and the Backpacks Ministry Committee to increase their 2024 budgets to fund an over 100% increase in Backpacks families. The required additional funding source will depend on the 2023 fiscal year ending reports.
- Seeking new members for the Stewardship Committee to serve 3-year terms.

Current Stewardship Committee Activities

- The Stewardship Committee is waiting for the 2023 fiscal year reports to be completed. As soon as these reports are available, the committee will immediately begin work on:
 - Missions Outreach need for additional funds for our Backpack Ministry.
 - 2023 Net Income allocations.

The Stewardship Committee appreciates your support and input.

With Grace,

Glenn Taylert, Chairman, Stewardship Committee

Endowment Committee

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE FOR WINFREE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Report for February Business Meeting

Foundation for the Future -- Winfree Memorial Baptist Church		
Account Value 01/01/2023		\$ 105,108.02
Deposit		\$ 76,108.02
Investment Income		8,013.63
Dividends	3,927.09	
Short Term Capital Gain	594.58	
Interest	44.84	
Long Term Capital Gain	<u>3,447.12</u>	
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)		22,873.92
Account Value 12/31/2023		\$ 212,103.59
Asset Holdings 12/31/2023		\$ 212,103.59
Vanguard Star	134,688.94	
Fidelity 500 Index	77,387.59	
Cash	<u>27.06</u>	
<i>Annual Expense Ratio</i>	<i>0.20%</i>	
YTD Total Return as of 12/31/23		21.58%
Account Value 1/23/24		\$ 212,891.91
Asset Mix Estimate per Morningstar		
Cash		2.07%
US Stocks		62.16%
Non-US Stocks		12.97%
Bonds		22.73%
Other		0.07%
Total		100.00%

We will continue to regularly monitor the investment results of the mutual funds used by the Endowment Fund.

Property & Space

Dewey Lackner - Chair

Chapel Issues:

- a. Plexiglass covering the stained-glass windows is discoloring. We also have one of the smaller stained-glass windows that needs to be repaired. We have a repair solution from a reputable company who specializes in this type of work and has done similar work at other churches. Should have approval done by the 2/21 meeting.
 - b. Working on having the concrete walkway in front replaced.
 - c. One of the front columns needs to be repaired.
 - d. Watch for reminders to all members about the anniversary of the Chapel and make sure the issues on the Chapel are corrected.
2. Pedestal light in the front of the Sanctuary replaced.
 3. New Tree planted in front of the Worship Center in memory of Lou Benjamin.
 4. Manufacturing replacement covers for exterior attic / dormer vents to improve aesthetics (completed)
 5. Working on replacing / recovering furniture in the worship center. The vinyl on several of the chairs / couches have begun to tear / crack.
 6. The youth polished many of the tarnished brass items around the sanctuary. The committee wants to ensure they get recognized.

AV/IT

David Williams, chair

In 2024 we continue to keep our systems up to date and working efficiently. Technology is constantly changing, AV live stream and sound systems are heavily dependent on IT resources, so we must be proactive. We continue to plan and prepare for the future. Thank you for your support and patience as we work through the many projects we have in the queue.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for live stream and ProPresenter (display screens). No prior experience is needed. We will train you and ensure you are comfortable with the technology.

Update about recent activity and projects:

Planning and accessing needed projects for 2024 continues. Bastionpoint continues to provide IT support, which includes a help desk for the staff, security protection for PC's (internet and Email), along with system and hardware updates.

2024 Projects:

- New laptops and Microsoft 365 accounts for new staff **(Q1)**
- Desktop computer for children's Sunday schools' area **(Q1)**
- Upgrade lighting control board (MAC) **[Q2/Q3]**
- iMac's upgrade and refresh (MAC) **[Q1]**
- iMac's upgrade and refresh (Sanctuary) **[Q2]**
- **Infrastructure next step is talk to Comcast and Verizon [Q2/Q3]**
 - Current WAN speed is 300 MB, looking to move to Gigabit
 - Replace access point in MAC, stage ceiling **[2024 project]**
 - *Requires a lift, will coordinate with lighting upgrades.*

Personnel

- Lauren Harrison accepted our offer to become part time preschool director effective February 1, 2024.
- Anne Sciolino accepted our offer to become part time elementary school director effective February 1, 2024.
- Jimmie Mikes accepted our offer to become part time Congregational Care Minister
- Progress is being made on interviewing a part time Traditional Worship Leader

Safety

Mike Oberschmidt and Tim Jackson, co-chairs

The Safety Team has not met since the last Business Meeting but is still in need of volunteers.

Special Receptions

Robin McNeny – Chair

SPECIAL RECEPTIONS COMMITTEE: Since the last Business Meeting, the committee had the pleasure of hosting Pastor Cynthia Collin's retirement party.

We appreciate the congregation's wonderful participation to wish her well and to thank her for her service to Winfree Church.

Nominating:

After several year's hiatus this committee is in the process of staffing up.

Leadership Team:

Mike Oberschmidt and Scott Barlow are nominated as Co-team chair to lead the Stewardship and Administration Team for a three-year period ending 12/2026.

Weekday Preschool:

Denise Walters has been nominated to join the Preschool Committee for a three-year period ending 12/2026.

Children's Committee:

Jess Haynes is nominated to join the Children's Committee for a three-year period ending 12/2026.

Risk Management:

David Krouse as Chairperson to serve a three-year term ending 12/2026

Curt Winter to serve a three-year term ending 12/2026

Safety committee:

Mike Oberschmidt to serve three-year term ending 12/2026

Mike Curtis to serve a one-year term ending 12/2024

Mission Committee:

Beth Brown to serve a two-year term to end 12/2025

Endowment Committee:

Ben Sillmon to serve a three-year term ending 12/2026

Carolyn Clements to serve a three-year term ending 12/2026

Below is the current Counter list followed by the new member:

Shirley Stover

Richard Paul

Bill Minson

Sue Patrick

Bill Thornton

New Member

Brenda Carmichael

Nominations for New Stewardship Members:

New member Carolyn Clements is nominated to serve a 1-year term ending Dec 31, 2024.

New member Bill Minson is nominated to serve a 1-year term ending Dec 31, 2024.

Winfree Risk Management

The Risk Management Team has not met since the last Business Meeting.

Child Care

No meetings

Constitution & By-Laws

Nothing to Report

Worship Team: Meredith Sigler

Worship Attendance 2024

DATE	9:40am	11:00am	Total	9:40 Average	11:00 Average	Total Average
Jan 07	128	284	412	128	284	412
Jan 14	120	291	411	124	288	412
Jan 21	122	265	387	123	280	403
Jan 28	126	300	426	124	285	409
Feb 04	131	258	389	125	280	405
Feb 11	143	249	392	128	275	403

The Advent season at Winfree included many special opportunities to worship and prepare for Christmas. Thank you to all those who planned and participated in the Advent Vespers, Night of Christmas Music, Service of Remembrance, and both Christmas Eve services! The dedication and time that the staff, Adult Choir, Chime Choir, Praise Band, and Children's Choir devoted to our Advent worship experiences is much appreciated! Thank you also to the members who helped to decorate and undecorate our church for the season!

The Worship Team would like to extend a special thank you to Linda Hartz, who played the piano in the Traditional service for years! She used her talents to honor God and help lead the congregation in hymns and contributed to special music, as well. She will be greatly missed!

The Lent season is in full swing starting with the Ash Wednesday service on February 14, 2024. Please join us for Maundy Thursday (March 28, 2024) and Easter (March 31, 2024) services as well.

We are drafting a survey to gather information about people's worship experience at Winfree in the regular, special, and combined services. From there, the Worship and Creative Planning Teams will consider the results while planning new elements for the services.

We are very close to selecting the new hymnal for the Sanctuary and Chapel buildings. The goal is to have them available by Easter. Details will be coming out shortly about purchasing a hymnal with a memorial or honorarium dedication message.

From May 9-19, Winfree will be participating in a global prayer movement to specifically focus on praying for 5 people in our lives that do not know Jesus. This will be an exciting opportunity to pray for seeds to be planted in their lives and also for us to have a reminder of our prayers by writing those names on seed paper, praying over them in each Sunday service as a whole church, and finishing with an opportunity to plant the seeds as a constant reminder of the seeds we can plant in others every day.

On Jun 9th, we will have a special themed Contemporary service - 90s on the 9th - to pull out some much loved older Contemporary Worship songs with the band being led by Jay Carlton.

Matthew Knesal

It has been a great season on praise team, with a lot of great leadership from our singers and band. I have been especially proud of our AV team and how we have been collaborating to improve and help the flow of the service and its technology. I have been so proud of our vocalists and their ability to lead our congregation in worship.

It is exciting to welcome Glenn Maddox on the vocal team, as well as welcoming back Nicole on flute. They are a great addition and leaders to the team, and I am so excited to watch them grow.

Lastly, we had our first meeting of the Creative Worship Team and have begun edits on a worship survey to out to our congregation, our mission and vision is, We the creative worship team working in a collaborative and creative manner desire to enhance the worship environment, flow of worship, and create a service which centers and connects people to Jesus. Excited to see the great collaboration and work this team will do together.

A lot of awesome things are going on as we begin the Easter season, and I'm excited to see how we grow.

Missions & Outreach Committee: Angela Godfrey

Mission/Outreach Team (Angela Godfrey): “We are committed to be a light in the darkness as we serve the least & the lost, leading people to know Jesus in our local community, our region, our world.”

--We had our first Mission Committee Meeting for 2024 on January 28 & did extensive planning for the year. Our fantastic committee members are Suzanne Drake, Sue Patrick, Sarah Roeske, Melanie Rapp, Nathan Tuck, Kevin McGrath, & Josh Roberts. Beth Brown is joining our team this year too.

--The **Appalachia** (now called AMOS) Mission Trip is returning this year & is the week of June 2-7. We will take a group of up to 10 people to Jefferson City, TN. An interest meeting is scheduled for February 18 after church in the Bunker.

--**Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build** was such a rewarding service opportunity that we are planning on hosting it again this year! Stay tuned for the specific date, probably in the Fall.

--We are planning a **pop-up Farmers Market** with the non-profit organization RVAg here at Winfree as a community outreach opportunity on April 24 4-6:30 in the field behind the MAC.

--We are working with the Discipleship & Worship Teams to plan a church-wide prayer initiative called “**Thy Kingdom Come**” May 9-19. This will include devotions, intentional prayer, & worship. More details to come so stay tuned!

--We assisted the youth group on their **Night of Service** on February 4 with organizing 4 stations of service to help Friends of the Homeless, the Backpack Ministry, the Card Ministry, & Property & Space.

--**Donation Bin:** The January donation bin for **Tech 4 Troops** was a HUGE success! Winfree collected 14 monitors, 12 desktop computers, 12 tablets, 18 cell phones, 16 external hard drives, 6 routers, 4 web cameras, 3 handheld cameras & 60 lbs of computer cables. The CEO for Tech 4 Troops was extremely appreciative of the donations & efforts of our Winfree family!

February Bin: school supplies for local Title 1 school

March Bin: Easter eggs & candy; board games to support Eagle Scout project

Needles & Hooks (Debbie Valenti & Alice Bunch): No new report.

Backpack Ministry (Terry Jones & Susan Oberschmidt): The Backpack ministry is currently serving 222 people representing 55 families across 7 schools each week.

This ministry provides weekend meal support for students and their families in need. Paper bags are used for each family. Our focus is on serving students and families who have food insecurity. This ministry currently serves the following schools:

- Watkins Elementary
- Greenfield Elementary
- Bon Air Elementary
- Old Hundred Elementary
- Reams Elementary
- Robious Elementary
- Robious Middle

The Backpack Ministry needs paper grocery bags with handles, like the ones that Kroger gives out. If you can donate some, it would be greatly appreciated.

In December 2023, Watkins Elementary collected and donated nonperishable food for the Backpack Ministry. This was great appreciated and distributed to families.

We were notified in January that The Thrifty Quaker will be donating their February 2024 profits to The Winfree Backpack Ministry and another organization named Backpacks of Love. We are very appreciative of the planned future donation.

The Backpack Ministry plans to serve through the month of May for this school year.

We are so thankful to God and the Winfree congregation for the ability to provide food and show God's love to students and their families in need.

Helping Hands (Doug Garrett): It has been a busy quarter for Helping Hands.

We have helped members move, had many volunteers for yard work for a member that needed special help, and 2 of our members (John and Bill) are currently installing railings for a senior citizen.

Friends of the Homeless (Sara Nunn): This ministry continues to fill the hunger needs of many in downtown RVA.

Winfree prepares and delivers 60-75 hearty chicken lunches and emergency lunches on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Children's Ministry has been faithful in preparing hygiene kits and emergency lunches for the guests at Swansboro Baptist Church, and they are very appreciative. Many THANKS to Cynthia Collins for the YEARS of coordinating these items and having the children decorate and fill each paper bag with care and prayers! The Youth packed emergency lunches for February at the Ministry Night on Feb 4 which will be delivered on the 27th...thank you!

Anyone interested in donating items for the lunches please contact Sara Nunn (saranunn@comcast.net)

WMU (Joann Carter): WMU members may be best known as prayer warriors and we begin our monthly meetings with prayer for our church and the members. Also during our meetings we pray for our missionaries world-wide. Our prayers go out especially to our own missionaries: Jenny Jenkins in Haiti, Mark & Peggy Rutledge in Mexico, Nathan & Cayle Fall in SE Asia, & Elizabeth Rapp in N Africa.

We started 2024 doing a mission project for the Friends of the Homeless and enjoying treats for the New Year. February we celebrate 136 years of WMU. On February 7 in the Bryan-Mapp Hall we learned about missionaries who accepted the call of the Great Commission.

For more info please contact Joann Carter at 804-897-4379 or Boluke2018@aol.com.

Operation Christmas Child (Susan Ratliffe): Winfree reached the 1000 shoebox goal for 2023 with Shoeboxes completed online! Many thanks to our gracious benefactor who covered the shipping and Greatest Journey cost for these boxes.

The Operation Christmas Child "Build a Shoebox Online" is available on the church website for 2024 under Global Missions. Shoeboxes can be completed anytime to honor someone, celebrate a special occasion, or spread out the expense over months to be able to fill more shoeboxes. Don't forget to include the Greatest Journey discipleship program!

Scouts (Jon Haynes): Winfree continues to sponsor three Scout Units: Pack 876 (Cubs), Troop 897 (Scouts-Boys Troop), Troop 888 (Scouts-Girls Troop). All three units continue to experience immense success.

Pack 876 consists of 104 scouts and is the largest pack in the district. Their success stems from their mission to teach life skills, ethics, and leadership in the context of family adventures, being outdoors, and having fun. They hold monthly pack meetings and several units are utilizing our space for regular den meetings.

Troop 888 now consists of 19 scouts. The Troop has attained the highest level of Gold for the Journey to Excellence each of the past three years, a performance management system designed to help units plan, monitor, and evaluate scouting programs. The Troop took second place at Camp Pipsico's Zomboree in December competing against more than 30 troops. They had at least one outing each month of 2023 including completion of the Cycling Merit Badge in which they finished 10, 15, 25, and 50 mile rides. 2023 saw the first Eagle Scout from the troop, which also was the first female Eagle Scout in the Huguenot Trail District.

Troop 897 now consists of ~40 scouts. They sent three crews to Northern Tier in upper Minnesota to canoe for a week during the year and are sending an additional three in June to Islamorada in the Keys for a week to sail and snorkel. They are continually active in camping as well as summer camp with several scouts even applying to be camp staff this coming summer. They are very active in the Order of the Arrow, a scout's honor society, with two scouts helping to run the local chapter.

The Scouts continue to integrate into the life of Winfree, most notably through service opportunities to include: Winfree Trunk or Treat, Easter Eggstravaganza, Food Trucks, and various service projects both inside and outside of the church. The units continue to look for ways to serve Winfree Church.

All units continue to express gratitude for the relationship with Winfree.

Discipleship Team: Vivian Sillmon

Ministry to Young Adults – Joshua Roberts

Young Adults:

Lighthouse—9:40 Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Lighthouse Class which is led by Jon Haynes, Tom and Sarah Roeske is beginning to grow again. Over the past few months, the class has increased its average attendance on Sunday mornings. The group has also spent time together outside of the church and it is building connections with one another beyond the walls of Winfree. The leadership of the group has met to plan out the calendar and the curriculum. The group will commit to doing four (4) group outings that will consist of family and class only events. The Lighthouse Class will also commit to doing (4) community outreach projects. These events will allow the group to grow together in both social settings and service. On Super Bowl Sunday, a couple from the class opened their home to the class and their families for a Super Bowl party.

On Sunday, February 25, 2024, from 3-5 in the Worship Center lobby, this class will be hosting an opportunity for parents and members of Winfree to meet and hear from Anne Sciolino and Lauren Harrison who are the new Interim Children and Preschool Ministry Directors. During this time parents of elementary and preschool children may send their children to BAM.

Lighthouse and other Young Adult ministries are looking into other opportunities to create churchwide events. Stay tuned.

Monday Night Hangouts—6:30 Monday Night

There has been an effort to grow the 35 and below demographic. Over the December to February time frame there have been ongoing group hangouts to invite people to Winfree in a non-intimidating fashion. For the first few months the hangout took place at my home and has grown too large to remain there and has now transitioned to the Young Adult space at Winfree on Monday nights.

Beginning in March, the group will transition from just a hangout time to a Bible study and hangout time in the same location. This is open to people 35-years-old and below. This group also had a Super Bowl party and where more than half the people who were in attendance were invited to Winfree by members of the class.

Collegiate Young Adult Ministry

During winter break when our college students were home, they were invited to Monday Night Hangouts. Jimmy and I also hosted a Collegiate Christmas party which had about 20 people in attendance.

Jimmy and I hope to continue our visits to college campuses this semester. This semester includes colleges of William & Mary, Liberty University, Christopher Newport, Virginia Tech and VCU.

Sunday Morning Bible Study 11:00

This is the next major place to begin shifting our focus to grow community space for Young Adult Ministry. There are certain challenges that must be addressed such as: what is there for children and youth during this hour? Who will be facilitators of this group? What will the established group age be? Is there an interest for a group based on the current attenders of the Traditional Service?

All these are conversations that are happening in the background and will be addressed in the future few months. The first step is to establish an age range and then meet with that group who attends the Traditional Service to get their thoughts on establishing a group.

Missions

Mission and Outreach has wonderful opportunities for service this year. We are looking to work with Sleep In Heavenly Peace again along with identifying strategic partnerships with other mission opportunities.

Thy Kingdom Come: One of the churchwide opportunities that we are excited about is a prayer initiative that will involve Bible Study Groups, Sunday worship services and all the members of our church. This prayer initiative will take place May 9-19, which is Ascension Sunday to Pentecost. During this time, we will ask the church to think of five (5) people they know and to commit to praying for them over those ten days. We will also offer moments within the service to pray for those names. Winfree will also publish a devotional written by members of the church for the congregation to help aid them in their daily quiet times.

Ministry to Children and Families –

Cynthia Collins retired at the end of January, and we are so thankful for her service and leadership at Winfree for the past 11 years. We wish her the very best in her retirement.

A search team will be put together to look for a new Minister to Children and Families. However, until that time one is found, we enthusiastically welcome **Lauren Harrison as Interim Preschool-aged Children’s Ministry Director**, and **Anne Sciolino as Interim Elementary-aged Children’s Ministry Director**. Lauren can be contacted at LHarrison@windfreechurch.org and Anne at ASciolino@winfreechurch.org

Before Cynthia retired she submitted the following information to be included in the BOR:

I. Activities and events since the Church Council Meeting:

- a. **Winfree Preschool Chapels** –These are monthly for each class. Cynthia and Matt provide the content and music. Lauren Harrison will help Matt beginning in February 2024.
- b. **Parents Night Out** was Friday, December 1 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. 40 children were in attendance with 14 adults and 5 youth as helpers.
- I. **Sunday Morning Bible Study:** We continue to be in need of volunteers.
 - a. **Preschool SMBS:** The 9:40 a.m. hour continues to have low attendance. However, the 11:00 a.m. hour is increasing in attendance. **Lauren Harrison** is helping in each hour.
 - b. **Elementary SMBS:** In the 9:40 a.m. hour only. **Anne Sciolino** will begin leading in February.
- I. **B.A.M. (Bible, Arts and Missions):**
 - a. **Preschoolers and Children’s Missions** Sundays, from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Beth and Jerry Stevenson lead elementary. Jeanette Shaheen and Megan Reed lead PS.
 - b. **Preschool and Children’s Choirs** Sundays, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 - i. Preschool Choir is led by Rick Kaerwer, Julia Wilmoth and Jessica Taylor.
 - ii. Elementary Children’s Choir is led by Amanda Alley, Rosey Haake, with Shirley Stover as accompanist, and Amanda Smith and Jeanette Shaheen as helpers.

iii. The Preschool and Children's Choir will be sharing their Spring Music Program on Sunday, April 28 at 5:00 p.m.

I. **Children's Worship:** Anne Sciolino will begin leading in February 2024.

I. **Upcoming Events and Activities:**

The maximum will be 90 preschoolers and 200 elementary children.

a. **Vacation Bible School** June 22 – 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

i. Online registration form will be emailed to Winfree parents, and Winfree Weekday Preschool parents February 1.

ii. Online registration will begin for the public on April 1.

b. **Passport Kids** camp for grades 3-5 at Eagle Eyrie will be June 12 – 15. Currently we have 5 children and 3 chaperones registered.

Ministry to Youth – Jimmy Doan

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the overwhelming support and heartfelt prayers you extended to me during my recent surgery. Your kindness has been a source of immense comfort and strength throughout this challenging time. I am on the road to recovery and am slowly working my way back to full health. I also want to say a special thank you to the Youth Leadership Team of Lynn Kaerwer, Abi Rutledge and JP Cheyne for stepping up and leading the youth in my absence. That team and the rest of the youth ministry leaders did a great job of running things while I was away.

We are currently continuing to meet as one combined class on Sunday morning down in the Bunker. We just finished a 6-week series on Resetting our lives to focus on growing closer to God. It was a great way to start off the new year and put the focus on our relationship with Jesus. Any given week between Sunday Morning AMP, Church Service, Sunday Night SURGE, and Midweek Bible Study we are reaching around 60 different youth per week.

Online Sign Ups are now available for upcoming youth trips – Mission Madness, FUGE, and Impact. There is also an online sign up to help feed our youth on Sunday night a meal at the end of our time together.

We are asking if every student can bring \$2 to help offset the cost of dinner and .25 to donate to Jean Phenix each week to SNS. Winfree Youth continues to sponsor

our Compassion child through our weekly Sunday night offering. His name is Jean Phenix, he is 15 and lives in Haiti with his family.

Upcoming Events:

- 2/24 : Ice Skating @ Richmond Ice Zone 2-4 pm \$20
- 4/19-21 : Mission Madness weekend in Chesapeake, VA

Regular Weekly Events:

- Sunday Morning AMP 9:40-10:40 am in the Bunker
- Sunday Night SURGE 5-7 pm in the Bunker
- Wednesday night Midweek 6:30-7:30 pm in the Bunker

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the leaders and students in the Youth Ministry of Winfree Church!

Respectfully submitted by Jimmy Doan, Youth Minister

Sunday School Administrator – Aggie Blocker

Thank you to all those leaders who continue to keep their class rosters updated. This is a tremendous help. Also, please take advantage of the 3rd floor library to see what materials may be available to you, your class or small group.

Nov. Avg. Attendance: 167

Total Enrolled (from end of Nov. adjustments): 322

% Attendance/Enrollment: 52%

Dec. Avg. Attendance: 171

Total Enrolled (from end of Dec. adjustments): 321

% Attendance/Enrollment: 53%

Jan.'24 Avg. Attendance: 184

Total Enrolled (from end of Jan. adjustments): 329

% Attendance/Enrollment: 56%

Deacons – Marie Peters – Chair

At the end of 2023, the following deacons were recognized for their many years of service as they stepped down from the deacon ministry: **John Dangerfield, Jo Gates, Anna Lee, Alma Cheyne, and Betsy Harris**. At the December Deacon Luncheon, these deacons were recognized and the new deacons were acknowledged. These new deacons are **Bill Peters, Kyle and Kimberly Flynn, Lori Owens, Linda Waytes, Jason Sigler, Carolyn Clements, and Brenda Robertson**. The following new deacons were ordained: **Bill Peters, Kyle and Kimberly Flynn, Lori Owens, Linda Waytes, Carolyn Clements, and Brenda Robertson**. **Jason Sigler** had previously been ordained at Winfree as a deacon.

Beginning with the first deacon meeting in January 2024, each new deacon was assigned a mentor, a member who was an experienced deacon, to whom they could ask questions and gain a better understanding of their service to their Winfree families. All the new deacons received a deacon's handbook with the dates of their service duties, contact information of other deacons, their family assignments, and other applicable information. A budget was approved to cover the deacon committee charges that are incurred throughout 2024.

Assignments were given for the February 25th and Maundy Thursday Communion Services. Two changes were made in the ministering of the Lord's Supper. In the Traditional Worship Service, an additional tray is to be prepared to serve those sitting in the balcony area. In the Contemporary Worship Service, a fifth table and Communion tray (bread tray included) were added. The reasoning behind these changes was to do with the increased number of people who are taking Communion, the flow of the congregation in the Contemporary Worship Service as people come forward to receive the elements, and with respect for the time during the Worship Service in which to provide the Lord's Supper for people attending in the Traditional Service.

The attendance at the deacon meetings has been excellent. The service of the deacons to their assigned families has been outstanding. Measures are being made by the deacons to help our Winfree families remember who their deacons are in times of difficulty by providing the families with Business cards with each deacon's personal contact information, and by sending the families refrigerator magnets with each deacon's personal contact information. The deacons have sent letters and e-mails to their assigned families. Hospital and home visits are being made, when appropriate, and phone calls are also being made.

Winfree is blessed with men and women who serve our Winfree family selflessly, tirelessly, and in the love of Christ. We are blessed indeed!

Marie D. Peters, Deacon Chairperson

Minister of Congregational Care - Caring Ministry/WeCare – Jimmy Miles

We welcome **Jimmy Miles** as the new Minister of Congregational Care at Winfree and we look forward to hearing from him soon. If you need to contact him, his email is JMiles@winfreechurch.org or you can call the church office.

Weekday Preschool – Becky Pizzini – Chair

It has been full steam ahead at Winfree Memorial Preschool since returning from Christmas break. Some of the recent happenings at the Preschool include:

- In December, Cynthia Collins was recognized for her years of dedication to the Preschool and was presented with a gift of gratitude. The Preschool teaching team recently had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Harrison, the new interim Preschool Ministries Director.
- In January, a new faith-based juggler was welcomed to the school – Jesse Joyner. Preschool parents and the Church were invited to attend.
- Also in January, the Preschool had a visit from the Teddy Bear Clinic (Plush Mobile Clinic). The Clinic brings a full-service emergency room for stuffed animals to the school; students can take their teddy bears through a pretend emergency doctor visit.
- In February, the teaching team attended a professional development day hosted by the Richmond Association for Directors of Early Childhood Education (RAD). This symposium allows teachers to hear various speakers on educational topics.
- Also in February, the preschool added a new enrichment – Bricks for Kids – to go along with other enrichments offered by the Preschool: Katie's Dance, Soccer Shots, and Music by the Speech Path.
- On February 27 the Preschool will welcome its new alligator climbing piece to be constructed on the playground.

- The Preschool's Financial Administrator, Megan Corbett, has been working on the 2024-2025 school year budget and will meet with the Preschool Committee in the coming weeks to finalize a budget.
- The Preschool is still in the self-study process for accreditation renewal. This process will take months to complete.

Nominations:

Denise Walters has been nominated to join the Preschool Committee for a 3 year period ending in December 2026.

Bereavement Committee – Robin McNeny – Chair

Since the last Business Meeting, the Bereavement Committee has not been called upon to provide any funeral receptions. In 2023, in total, we hosted three receptions.