

**Connecting People with Jesus...
In Us... Among Us... Through Us**



ST. STEPHENS

LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2304 Springs Road NE
Hickory, NC 28601

Church: 828-256-9865
www.sslcms.org

School: 828-256-2166
www.sslswarriors.org

St. Stephens Staff

David Ziehr, Pastor + Shea Pennington, Pastor
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor + Tim Rollings, Vicar
Ross Chiles, Principal + Jessica Westby, Assistant Principal
Randall Cline, Youth Ministry
Donna Lee, Children's Ministry + Brandon Buff, Facilities and Technology
Robert Smith, Traditional Music Director + David Day, Praise Team Director
Jodi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator + Savannah Lee, Communication Coordinator
Sharon Maynor, Administrator + Tashia Fisher, Church Administrative Asst.
Debbi Becker, School Administrative Asst.
Tiffany Sigmon, Receptionist & Visitor Engagement Coordinator
Kristy Smith, New Member Coordinator

Reformation

October 24 & 25, 2026

Welcome to Worship

We pray you will find the presence of God in our worship. We ask that all of our members and all guests to please print your name in the book passed along the pew before the offering. Guest, we encourage you to fill out a Connect Card also.

Holy Communion: We welcome all who have been instructed in the faith, who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and in the true presence of His body and blood in the sacrament. If you are a guest today and would like to participate in the Sacrament, please consult a pastor or elder beforehand with any questions.
We do offer white grape juice and gluten free bread for those who need it.

Children are welcome in our worship services. As an alternative, a nursery for infants through 2 years old is available in Room #101. The nursery is staffed from 8am to 12pm on Sunday mornings. For assistance, please see an usher.

Children's Worship (preschool & early elementary) is offered in the choir room during the 10:30am worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon and return for offering.

Fire Exits: In addition to the main entrance, fire exits are located on both sides of the chancel and are opened for quicker exit from the church after worship.

Broadcast & Photography: Just a reminder that our services are live streamed on YouTube and may include images of the congregation. St. Stephens Lutheran Church reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any service on church grounds or event sponsored by St. Stephens Lutheran Church. A person attending who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer. By participating in a St. Stephens Lutheran Church service or event or by failing to notify your desire to not have your photograph used, you are agreeing to release and the use of your picture.

Sunday School - 9:15am - 10:15am

For room location assistance, please see an usher.

Little Lambs /Preschool (3 & 4yrs) & Kinders:---- Ed Wing Riser Room----Martha Propst, Jane Guelzow, Sue Seabock & Cynthia Hewitt
Kid Connect/ Grades 1 & 2:-----Ed Wing #222----- Andrea Trent
Kid Connect/ Grades 3-5:-----Ed Wing #220 -----Teresa Ritchie
Jr. High Life Group: Led by Randall & Shannon Cline-----Youth House
Sr. High Life Group: Darel Reese & Jon Guelzow-----Youth House
Young Adult Life Group: Led by Taryn Cline & Dalton Powell-----Peace House
Adults: Led by Pastor/Vicar-----Scripture-----Shephard's Hall
Adults-Men's Bible Study: Led by Dwight Hollar--Genesis – Old Conference Room
Adults: Led by Caleb Taylor/Katie Clontz-----Bible Lessons-----Choir Room
Adults – Led by Dean Ledbetter-----Eleven Days-----School Bldg. #109
Adults-Ladies Led by Regina Propst & Cindy Brinn---Ephesians---Creation Room
New Members – Led by the Pastors-----Cornerstone Room

Prayer on Entering

Lord God, Heavenly Father, Your Son gave His life for ours on the cross, granting us forgiveness and righteousness before You by grace through faith in Him alone. Strengthen us to obey, abide in Your Word, and proclaim the Gospel to the world, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Flowers

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God by Paul & Annette Miller in loving memory of Paul's mother, Audrey Miller.

Flowers placed at the altar are given to the glory of God in honor and celebration of our 2026 Confirmands.

Greeters

October 24th- Keith & Sue Binns & Ethel Baldwin

October 25th 8AM- Sharon Little

October 25th 10:30am - Tim & Tonya Boliek

October 31st - Linda McNeely & Judy Buff

November 1st 8am - Judy Gurganious

November 1st 10:30am - Teri Cain

Communion Assistants

October 25 - 10:30am - David Propst, Jon Guelzow, Tony Cook

November 1 - 8:00am - Steve Cain & David Pingel

Nursery Volunteers - 10:30 am

October 25 - Cynthia Hewitt

November 1 - Betsy & Lila Hendrix

Our Response to God Last Week

Last Sunday's Attendance - 562 (101, 102, 359) Sunday School - 156

General Fund: \$19,491.50 (Regular Offer. needed each week: \$30,392.22)

Church Expansion Fund/Building Fund: \$1,975.00

School Endowment Fund: \$375.25

Construction Loan to Date: \$660,809

**This amount is not final. Some outstanding bills and additional costs remain to complete the project.*

Stay Connected to St. Stephens Lutheran

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship & Holy Communion

SUNDAY – REFORMATION & RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS

8:00am – Traditional Worship

10:30am – Contemporary Worship & Holy Communion

3:00pm – Confirmation Service

NO Pickle Ball

6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – Cornerstone Room

MONDAY

9:00am – Lifelight (Pastor Guelzow) – Cornerstone Room

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry- Youth House

1:00pm – Ruth Circle – Creation Room

7:00pm – Men's Bible Study – Youth House

TUESDAY

4:00PM – MID-WEEK CONGREGATIONAL NEWS DEADLINE

4:00pm – Lifegroup (Pastor Guelzow) – Cornerstone Room

5:00pm – Church Council – Spirit Room

6:16pm – Praise Team Rehearsal – Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

10:00am – Women's Bible Study – Cornerstone Room

10:30am – Rachel Circle – Cornerstone Room

6:00pm – After the Boxes – Creation Room

6:00pm – SSLS Athletic Boosters – Old Conference Room

6:30pm – Lifegroup (Paul Miller) – Youth House

THURSDAY

10:30am – Life Group (Larry Bowman) Cornerstone Room

NOON – BULLETIN & SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

5:45pm – Handbell Choir – Sanctuary

5:30pm – Let's Have Dinner – Shephard's Hall

7:00pm – Life Group (Richard Starnes) Cornerstone Room

7:00pm – Parish Choir – Choir Room/Sanctuary

FRIDAY

10:00am – With Our Hands Ministry – Youth House

2:00pm – Life Group – David Rittenhouse's home

5:30pm – Halo Bible Study – Youth House

6:30pm – SSLS School Dance – Gym

SATURDAY

5:30pm – Saturday Evening Worship

SUNDAY

8:00am – Traditional Worship & Holy Communion

9:15am – Family Bible Hour

10:30am – Contemporary Worship

3:00pm – Pickle Ball – Gym

6:00pm – Life Group (Dwight Hollar's) – Cornerstone Room



Let's Have
Dinner

Are you eating alone?
Tired of the same old same old?
Just don't want to cook?

Let's have dinner together on
Thursday, October 29 at 5:30pm
in the Mission and Ministry Center.

Enjoy a meal (baked potato) and fellowship with others.
No charge, but a freewill offering is accepted.

RSVP by Oct. 27 to Kristy at ksmith@sslcms.org



VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION



Wednesday, Nov. 11



Breakfast at 8:15



Chapel at 9:00 am

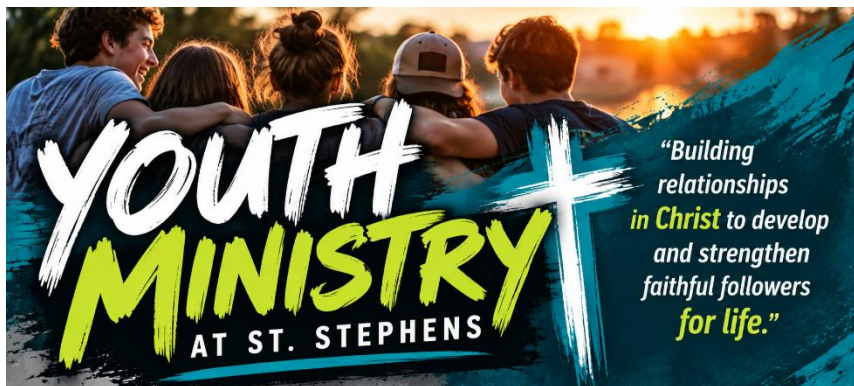
*Join us as we honor and thank the men and
women who have served our country.*

Please RSVP to Debbi Becker 828-256-2166

SAVE-THE-DATE

Town Hall - NOVEMBER 18

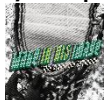
**Congregational
Meeting - DECEMBER 6**



Sunday Morning LifeGroup | 9:15am | Youth House

What's Happening:

10/25 | High School Gathering – Last Day to Register!



Get ready for a weekend of worship, fun, and God's Word! Discover what it means to be Made in His Image. **Registration closes October 25!** Get details & sign up at sslcms.org/youth or scan the code!

10/25 | 3:00–4:30 PM | Confirmation Service



Join us as nine of our youth publicly confess their faith and confirm their baptismal promises! Come worship, celebrate, and encourage them as they continue to grow in Christ.

11/1 | 12:00–4:00 PM | Youth Serve Day



We're splitting into two crews for an afternoon of service! One crew will tackle a painting project while the other gets to work on a deck project. Bring your energy and let's make a difference together!

11/8 | 5:00–8:00 PM | ManHunt!!!



Ready or not, the hunt is ON! Grab your crew for a wild night of running, hiding, and total chaos! Think you can stay hidden or will you be the first one caught? Hide fast. Run faster. Let the chaos begin!

Want to Get Connected?

Parents are always encouraged to reach out with questions learn how to partner in their student's faith journey. Scan QR Code or visit sslcms.org/youth for all the latest.



or to
the

Children's Ministry

Sunday Morning Bible Hour - 9:15-10:15am Ed Wing

Preschool & Kinders: Riser Room

Grades 1 & 2: Ed Wing #222

Grades 3 - 5: Ed Wing #220

CPH Enduring Faith

Children's Worship

10:30AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

Preschool- 5th Grade

Meet in the choir room during the sermon

Opportunities to serve weekly

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

We are looking for caring leaders and helpers to serve during Sunday Bible Hour, Children's Worship, or Special Events. Help us create a safe, fun space for kids to grow in faith!

Receiving of New Members

We welcome the following families to our St. Stephens family:

Transfer In: Sherry Craig, Susan Blizzard, Joel Krenz, Frank & Diana Misemer and Travis & Stephanie Guse.

Adult Instruction: Dee & Leah Beth Hubbard and children Colton & Hadley; Tera Williams and children Matthew & Gabby; Brandon Duncan; and Bruce & Stacie Orlikowski and children Ian & Natalya



St. Stephens Lutheran School News

Excellence in Education since 1943

Rooted in Christ
(Colossians 2:6-7)

School Board Members - Scott Clontz, Chairman, Erica Moretz, David Janisko, Kim Yancey, and Shawn Sigmon

Excellence in
Christian
Education
Since 1943



ST. STEPHENS
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

www.sslswarriors.org

**COME VISIT
KINDERGARTEN**



OPEN HOUSE
For Parents Only

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6:30pm

Please RSVP 828-256-2166

*A discounted registration fee will be given to those who attend.

Reading Round Up!

Book Fair

1:55
BOOK FAIRS

Visit the St. Stephens
Lutheran Book Fair:

**Sunday,
November 8**

after the 8am and
10:30 worship services

Proceeds benefit our school.

We are excited to be partnering
with 1:55 Book Fairs this year.

open house

**MONDAY, OCT 26
6PM**

- Tour the campus
- Meet our students
- Ask questions
- Learn about UCHS
- Current & Future high schoolers welcome!

**More information at
www.uchigh.com**

***only a few spots remain for
26-27 school year**

Register Here

**REGISTRATION ENDS
OCTOBER 30TH**

**ST. STEPHENS
WARRIORS**

**SSLS WARRIORS
INTRAMURAL
BASKETBALL**

PLAY • COMPETE • HAVE FUN!

 K-1 COED	 2-3 COED	 4-5 COED
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ALL GAMES PLAYED ON **SATURDAYS** | GAMES WILL START IN **DECEMBER**

REGISTER HERE

<https://shorturl.at/WHibN>

PARENT MEETING DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Confirmation

Service

Sunday,
October 25
3pm



JOIN US FOR
PICKLEBALL
THIS SUNDAY

NO PICKLEBALL
10-18 & 25-2026

PICKLES



SSLS COLOR RUN

Get ready to walk, run & get colorful!



Saturday, November 7 · 9:00am



SSL Greenfield Track



\$25 per participant



No race clock, No pressure.
Just fun, memories and Warrior spirit.



Open to church and school families,
friends and our community.



2026 Color Run



Fall Festival Thank You

Thanks to all who joined in the celebration of the completion of our new Mission & Ministry Center at our Fall Festival. We had a great time on a beautiful day! Special thanks go to Chuck Justice and Jeff Eddins for the hours spent (all night long), and to their wives, Tia and Dinky, for the effort of preparing some truly wonderful BBQ. We appreciate everyone who helped set up and take down afterwards, including the Men's Club and many others. The gifts of food and drinks from many individuals, especially John Link, John Tuft and Tony Cook made for a good meal. Thank you, Kristy Smith, for organizing the events and vendors. Truly, it was a wonderful blessing to gather together - and you make it special!

Used Bicycles Needed for CCM

The Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) in Hickory, takes in used bicycles (as well as clean, untorn and useable clothes, shoes, sleeping bags and tents) as donations from the public at large. The bicycles are inspected and fixed if necessary, and then given to homeless men and women in need of basic transportation.

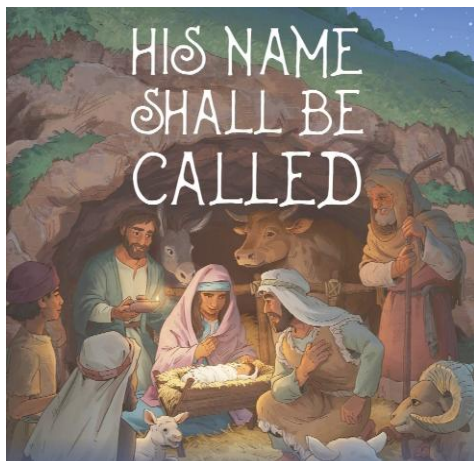
If you have any items you wish to donate, please contact Ken Manfredi at 828-320-1822, and he can pick up such items from donors at their homes and at their convenience or you may take them directly to CCM at 31st Avenue SE, Hickory, (8-4 M-Th, 8-12 F).

Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations world wide through gift-filled shoeboxes and the Good News of God's love. These will be available for you today in the narthex. **The shoeboxes must be returned by Sunday, November 22.** Thank you for your participation.

Out of the Office

Sharon will be on vacation October 29-30



Time to register...
Children's Christmas
Service: His Name Shall
Be Called

Don't miss out on a
chance to be a part of
this special evening
worship service on
Saturday, Dec 19th.
Information about
rehearsals and further
details can be found
through the registration
link.

Opportunities for musicians, singers, readers, & ushers. **All
Ages Welcome.**

Special Request: O Come, O Come... All Dancers!

We are seeking dancers of all ages to participate in a
liturgical dance during our Children's Christmas
Service. Whether you're an experienced dancer or simply
have a heart for worship through movement, we'd love for
you to join us in this beautiful expression of faith and
celebration. Come help us make this Christmas season
even more meaningful through dance! *We hope you'll
prayerfully consider joining us!*



Registration required by October 31 to
receive a T-shirt.

Liturgical Dance Director, Jennifer Colato [609-220-1169](tel:609-220-1169).
Worship Leader, Teresa Ritchie [336-408-3776](tel:336-408-3776)
Children's Ministry Director, Donna Lee [828-381-5391](tel:828-381-5391)

Celebrate the Church workers of St. Stephens Lutheran



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now," writes St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (PHIL. 1:3).

With this same gratitude, we thank the more than 11,000 church workers who serve our Synod with the Word and mercy of Christ. Throughout this month, congregations and schools are encouraged to show their appreciation for all church workers.

For teachers especially we give thanks, who teach God's Word to our children, dedicate countless hours to the classroom, who love the children of God they teach and who live a life of service to Christ and His church.

For all church workers, from pastors to deaconesses to directors of Christian education, parish music, family life and outreach, who teach God's Word and point us to Christ.

Tell them "Thank you!" this month for all they do!

Some ways to thank a Church Worker

- **Thanks.** Send a "thank you" card or note.
- **Prayer.** Your church workers need prayer.
- **Honor.** Make a donation in church workers honor to a church/school mission ministry.
- **Personal.** Gift cards to local restaurants, stores, online shopping

The staff of St. Stephens Lutheran Church and School

Debbi Becker, School Admin Asst.	April Bell, Middle School Teacher
Amber Boston, Music	Brandon Buff, IT & Facility
Kelli Butler, Middle School Teacher	Ross Chiles, Principal
Randall Cline, Youth Ministry	Kimberly Clontz, PS teacher asst.
David Day, Praise Team Director	Amity Enci, Lunchroom
Beverly Fagan, Morning Care	Kathryn Fisher, Kindergarten
Tashia Fisher, Church Admin. Asst.	Rebecca Flowers, 1 st grade
Laura Frank, Middle School	Rae Fritz, Physical Education
David Guelzow, Visitation Pastor	Jadi Gurganious, Mission Facilitator
Erin Hackney, Counselor	Ragan, Hayman, 3 rd grade aide
Kelly Hooper, 4 th Grade	Gina Houston, Kindergarten
Kevin Johnson, Media	Mark Jones, Media
Bethany Kahill, PS Teacher	Donna Lee, Children's Ministry
Savannah Lee, Communications	Karen Ly, PS teacher
Pam Manfredi, Cafeteria	Sharon Maynor, Administrator
Mary Grace Neill, 2 nd grade aide	Angela Parlier, Preschool Director
Devon Payne, 2 nd grade	Shea Pennington, Pastor
Sheila Poovey, Cafeteria	Kristin Priola, Resource
Ariana Rollings, Cafeteria	Tim Rollings, Vicar
Tiffany Sigmon, Recep. & Visitor Engmnt.	Kristy Smith, New Member Coord.
Robert Smith, Trad. Music Director	Cheryl Stiles, Middle School
Renee Stiles, Cafeteria	Kim Stout, PS Teacher
Cassie Todd, PS Asst.	Krystal Travis, Athletic Director
Jessica Westby, Asst. Principal	Natasha Whitaker, 3 rd grade
Adam Wilson, Maintenance	Rachel Wilson, 5 th grade
David Ziehr, Pastor	

Today's Readings

Revelation 14:6-7

6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7 And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Romans 3:19-28

19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it – 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

John 8:31-36

31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”
34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



A festive poster for a Christmas shopping event. The background is green with gold and red streamers. At the top left, there's a graphic with holly leaves and berries, with the word "Merry" in a cursive font and "MARKET" in bold red block letters. To the right, a red banner says "50+ VENDORS Christmas Shopping Event". Below that, a list of items is shown with red dots: Sewing, Pottery, Jewelry, Woodwork, Bakegoods, Knitting, and "and much more". At the bottom left, a yellow banner says "SATURDAY November 21 9am-2pm". At the bottom right, a yellow banner says "LUNCH Soup / Sandwich Provided by Alaska Mission" with a small illustration of a bowl of soup and a sandwich. At the very bottom, it says "Proceeds benefits Alaska Mission team".

Merry MARKET

50+ VENDORS Christmas Shopping Event

- Sewing
- Pottery
- Jewelry
- Woodwork
- Bakegoods
- Knitting
- and much more

SATURDAY
November 21
9am-2pm

LUNCH
Soup / Sandwich
Provided by Alaska Mission

Proceeds benefits Alaska Mission team

LET US PRAY FOR.....

SPECIAL PRAYERS

BUILDING A FIRM FOUNDATION - MISSION & MINISTRY CENTER

ST. STEPHENS LUTHERAN SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

SHAUN & KRISTA TRUMP, Missionaries in Africa

TRINITY HMONG LUTHERAN CHURCH & PASTOR ZANG YANG

OUR COMMUNITY, COUNTY, STATE, NATION, AND THE WORLD

FIRST RESPONDERS/FIRE FIGHTERS

POLICE/CIVIL SERVANTS

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

KEITH & DEVON PAYNE FAMILY. Her father, Andrew Shell, was called to glory on October 18.

DAVID & SANDRA MCCRARY FAMILY - David's brother, Ernest McCrary, was called to glory on October 19

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOME MEMBERS

CAROLYN GARREN

PHIL GNADT

AMY HALL

FIVE FAMILY PRAYER

SANDY MATTHEWS

MIKE MILLER

KENNY & CRYSTAL MULL FAMILY

WALT & NANCY SUDDERTH

BARBARA UNDERWOOD

PRAYERS OF PRAISE & THANKSGIVING

Our 2026 Confirmands: **JENNA CLONTZ, ISABELLA EDGELL, LILA HENDRIX, ELYIJAH JOHNSON, LUKAS JOHNSON, MAGGIE POOVEY, KARIS TAYLOR, BRILEY TRAVIS, & ISAIAH TUFT**

St. Stephens Staff Celebrating Milestones: **DAVID GUELZOW** (35 yrs), **KELLI BUTLER** (25 yrs), **REBECCA FLOWERS** (15 yrs), **PASTOR SHEA** (5 yrs), **KELLY HOOPER** (5 yrs), and **RAE FRITZ** (5 yrs)

The marriage of **MADELYN BECKER** to **JOE VENAZIO** on October 23.

HOSPICE CARE

KEITH SMOTHERS, ALS, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

MATTHEW JOHNSON, son of Linda Bristow

JOYCE MCCARTY, grandmother of Adam Wilson

RANDY CONWELL SR., father-in-law of Katrina Conwell

HOSPITALIZED

JERRY RITCHIE - Baptist

TIM CLINE, CVMC

UPCOMING PROCEDURE

TIM HERMAN - upcoming shoulder surgery 10/27

DAVID DRUM, upcoming lung surgery 10/28, Novant Charlotte

MEGHAN MORETZ, upcoming breast cancer surgery November 5. Daughter of Ken & Kathy Moretz.

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING TREATMENTS

KEVIN CARPENTER, treatments for PTSD

PAULA SPENCER, cancer treatments, friend of Martha Propst

CAROL EWALD, dementia

DAVE KRYDER, stage 4 cancer

JEFF KUYKENDALL, cancer

MARC SIGMON, cancer treatments, friend of David & Jennifer Eckard

CHRISTA RISSER, cancer, mother of Heidi Beliveau

SHEILA RODRIGUEZ, breast cancer, friend of Brian & Myrna Boman

RECOVERING

KELLI BROWN, recovering from shoulder surgery

NANCY BEAN, health issues

ANDRA PINGEL, recovering at home

BARBARA RILEY, home recovering

LYNN TEETERS, Conover Rehab, recovering

EDDIE LAWING, brain bleed following a serious car accident, family friend of Shannon Cline

SARAH KANIPE, complications after a serious surgery, friend of Laura Pennell

SHARON JONES, home recovering from surgery

PAT SEALE, home recovering from surgery

CINDY HOWVER, health issues, friend of Gail Drum

BONNIE SHAVER, aunt and godmother of Kristy Smith. Health complications