

## August News

**Sunday, August 4:** Celebration of Holy Communion  
Extra offering for Ashure Ministry received during worship

**Tuesday, August 13:** Morning volunteering at Ashure Ministry, 10:00 until noon

**Sunday, August 18: Worship at Mount Bethel Reformed Church in Blowing Rock**  
**Worship begins at 11:00**

**Monday, August 26:** First day of school in Catawba County—don't forget to pray for students, teachers, parents, and all those working in education

**Tuesday, August 27:** Afternoon volunteering at Ashure Ministry, 1:00 until 3:00

### August Food Item for Ashure

The item of the month for August is canned food with pop-tops. These are very important donations. Also, the food pantry can always use gallon zipper bags and recycled grocery bags. As always, you are invited to place your food pantry donations in the baskets outside the sanctuary doors.

### August Birthdays

Aug. 8—Karen G.  
Aug. 10—Darlene C.  
Aug. 15—Judy K.

### Property Updates

Many thanks are due to the powerhouse team of volunteers who cleaned up the church basement after our recent re-construction project was completed. You did us all a great service!

### Season of Change

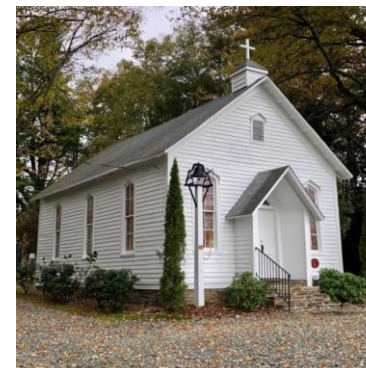
We're continuing our "Season of Change" at Bethany, with all the loose change you place in the offering plates going to the purchase of diapers for infants and toddlers in foster care. From now through Christmas, you are invited to empty your change into the offering plates every Sunday. Rather than count it weekly, we'll save it in one large Change that Counts jar that we can place on the altar on Christmas Eve, as we celebrate that Jesus came into this world as a baby, too. We'll use the total amount offered to buy diapers for Fostering Hope. There is also a box outside the sanctuary doors for donating diapers and baby wipes to

Fostering Hope. Some people no longer carry or use cash in their daily lives, but no worries! As we approach the Christmas season, a true "Season of Change," we will include opportunities to increase the ways to participate in the offering to this ministry. For now, keep the change coming as we collect even the smallest coins for our youngest neighbors.

### Heritage and Horizons

Mount Bethel UCC is the one of the oldest church buildings in western NC and definitely the oldest church building in Blowing Rock. The congregation was organized in 1882 and the church building was constructed soon after on land provided by Jacob Kluttz. From 1886 until 1921, the building was in constant use for worship and praise. Now, for more than 75 years, sister congregations have been visiting and holding worship during the summer months, enjoying the coolness of the mountains and sharing covered dish lunches on the Blowing Rock Assembly Ground, now the Blowing Rock Conference Center, directly adjacent.

Eventually the sanctuary fell into disrepair but Andrew Critcher, the great-great-grandson of Jacob Kluttz, established a non-profit, and with community help, provided for the restoration of "the little white church" and its cemeteries. Andrew's dream was to put it back exactly the way it was, maintain it, and "make it a holy place and a place of peace." As you can see from the picture, that dream has been realized!



Our chance to continue this long-standing tradition comes on August 18 at 11:00 a.m. We will worship at Mount Bethel UCC as we give thanks to God for our heritage and pray for the horizons we have yet to encounter. You're encouraged to bring family and friends to share in this unique time and place of worship. And, include your guests in the lunch options that follow. The dining hall at the Conference Center will be serving lunch, but you may make your own plans in Blowing Rock if you choose. There is a sign-up sheet outside the Fellowship Hall with three categories to check: attendance, carpooling, and lunch at the Conference Center. **Mount Bethel is located at 100 Rankin Road in Blowing Rock.** Plan to worship there together on Sunday, August 18, at 11:00 a.m. as we continue Bethany's tradition and make new memories in this "grace-filled place."