

## Our Prayer

Gracious God, we give you thanks for this day. We thank you for Autumn, for its beauty and the newness that comes with the changing season.

As we gather together to eat and share fellowship we ask that your presence would be in our midst. Bless the food we are eating, the time we share and the funds we gather so that our many blessings might be passed on and your name glorified.

Please keep us ever mindful of the needs of others and give us grateful hearts to serve each day in the name and for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## A Brief History of Bethany UMC

The Church was founded in 1857 although there may have been Methodist services for summer residents prior to 1850. By 1861 membership had grown to 44 from the original 17, and a small wooden church was constructed on West Richland Street. Records from the Civil War period are sparse. Two companies of men from the area were organized at the beginning of the war. Several membership lists from the period only contain female names.

In the late 1870s and 1880s, Summerville experienced a period of growth and more space was needed. One acre of land was donated on the present site in 1881. In 1883 a one room wooden church was built for \$3,000 (the West Richland site was sold to another congregation for \$350). The name "Bethany" first appears in a conference report dated June 5, 1886. On August 31, 1886 the earthquake damaged both the Church and parsonage. It took more than a year to raise the funds and repair the Church property, including a new hen house for the parsonage (considered a meaningful perk at the time). In 1887 Bethany organized a church in Stallville and Bethany ministers continued to serve there until the 1930s. By 1899 Summerville had become a winter resort town and an equestrian center. Electric lights were installed in 1911 and an educational building constructed in 1913. During WWII the town's population grew and by 1945 Bethany's membership was 500.

Bethany continues, as it has done in the past, to grow in order to serve the needs of our expanding community. We are currently one of the largest United Methodist churches in the state with over 3300 members. Despite our size, we maintain a warm welcoming atmosphere. Three Sunday morning worship services and one on Saturday evening are offered.

Earlier this year, we sponsored the start of a new United Methodist church just west of town. Ashley Ridge Church offers an exceptional, non-traditional service with a quality nursery provided. Service is at 10:00 am in the Ashley Ridge High School. We are "CALLED to CARE" to serve the community through meaningful worship, providing opportunities for Christian growth, fellowship and outreach ministries.

## All proceeds benefit Outreach Ministries of Bethany UMC, including:

**Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation Center -**  
Group homes for children and adults with Autism

**Children in Crisis -**  
A program for children who are the victims of abuse or neglect

**Help of Summerville -**  
Provides food, clothing, and financial assistance to families in need

**Meals on Wheels of Summerville -**  
Provides hot meals to shut-ins

**My Sister's House -**  
Provides assistance to women in abusive relationships

**Palmetto House -**  
Provides help for the homeless on a limited basis

**The Ark of Summerville -**  
A respite care program for people with Alzheimer's disease

**Backpack Buddies -**  
A nation-wide ministry that provides food for hungry school children who may not have adequate food supplies over the weekend

**Pattison's Academy -**  
Offers individualized programs of therapy and early education to children with severe, multiple handicaps

## Funding Through Fellowship

October 4 - 9 & 11-15, 2010  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm