

# NOVEMBER 2025

## *GOOD NEWS OF SHARON*



### *A Letter From The Pastor*

#### **Pastor Paul Dunham** **So What's Next?**



What a celebration of 200 years it has been for our bicentennial!! As we took a great look back at where we also are looking forward. What's next for our church?

This is especially an interesting question, because we have so many areas of the church that are in a time of transition. I think we have gotten new people- or are getting new people- in these roles: Pastor, children's ministry director, finance chair, discipleship chair, lay leader, music director, youth director, and probably some more that I've missed because "new pastor" is on that list.

A few things come to mind when looking at all this newness. First, we are united behind our mission: Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We are all about loving Jesus and sharing the love of Jesus in all we do. Everything we are building towards aligns with that.

Second: We are grace-filled. With so many people in new roles, there will be some growing pains. That's an opportunity, not a problem. "How we've always done it" may not be how we do it moving forward, and we're in a time where trying new things may be the norm for a bit. That's OK.

Third: A very important worship service coming up is Nov. 16. It will be a new way for us to do Charge Conference this year. We are integrating it into a special Sunday morning worship service, commissioning all our leaders and celebrating with the church our vision for the future. You'll hopefully learn both "who does what" and, MORE IMPORTANTLY, "How am I called to be a part of this vision? How can I grow spiritually and serve more faithfully?"

Fourth: Catch me up. It's an exciting time to be at Sharon. If you've asked, "Does Pastor Paul know about \_\_\_my ministry\_\_\_?" Or, "I wonder if they've ever thought about doing \_\_\_\_\_?" Or even "Who's doing what right now?", this is your time! We're going to be looking at all of that. Come into the office, set up a time for us to talk, text or email me. My door is always open. We will be setting up times for us to talk about all of this in the coming months, too.(Cont. on next page)

(Cont. from previous page) Finally, if you're a bit concerned with all the change, remember what I said at first. WHO we are isn't changing: Sharon Church loves God, loves each other, and loves reaching out to the world for Jesus. How we do that will look a little different, but that part isn't going away.

It's our turn to build on the legacy of the past. To God be the Glory!

*Pastor Paul*



We are asking Sharon Methodist Church folks- members and visitors- to help us pick the time when the most people will commit to attending our special Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service. Both services will feature the Christmas Story in lessons and carols, special music, communion, and concluding with candlelight for adults and glow sticks for kids. Participation from the kids in a manner like the spontaneous drama we do during the children's sermon will be a part as well. It's a joyous celebration of Jesus for people of all ages! This is a great opportunity to plan to bring guests, visitors, extra family, etc.!!

Let us know which time you will be able to plan to attend: 3pm or 8pm or either. Also let us know how many you might be speaking for.

Please fill this out soon, no later than Nov. 17, so we can publish in the church newsletter when we will be having this special service.

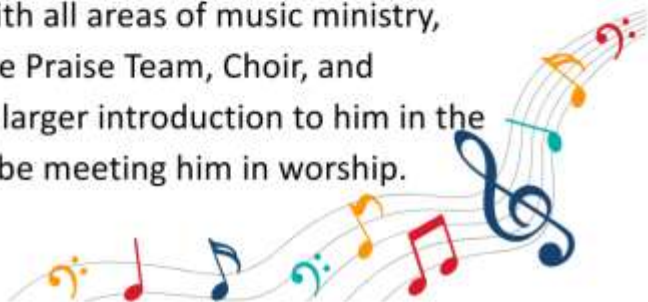
Either drop a note in the basket at church, or fill out: <https://tinyurl.com/SharonCEve25>

☐ 3pm.    ☐ 8pm.    ☐ Either.    ☐ I can do either, but prefer 3pm ☐ or 8pm ☐.



### **Welcome Sean O'Connor, our New Music Director**

We are excited to announce the brand new hiring of Sean O'Connor as our Director of Music Ministry here at Sharon Church. He will be working with all areas of music ministry, from what we have now in the Praise Team, Choir, and anything new. We will have a larger introduction to him in the next newsletter, and you will be meeting him in worship.







## Sharon Methodist Volunteers

*Truly  
Grateful  
for you.*

*Blessed with the best office volunteers!*

Beverly Lenk



Nancy Bolinger



Sherry Zimmerman



We are so thankful to have volunteers like you!













# 200<sup>TH</sup>

## — ANNIVERSARY —



Sharon's 200th Bicentennial was a wonderful day in the life of Sharon Church. Thanks to all those who helped in any way to help make this happen. An awesome day of worship in God's word, song and fellowship was had by everyone.



I even think that we actually surprised Geraldine Elliott honoring her for 50 plus years as a faithful Sunday School teacher.

Again. thank you for your Faithfulness!!  
Debbie Kirby





# Missions & Outreach

Team Leader:  
Paulette Harland

**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. Romans 10:14-15**

Your Missions/Outreach Team has been super busy doing just that! Bringing GOOD NEWS, GREAT JOY through our Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry!!

Our boxes were made available on 10/12 during Sunday morning service. We ask you prayerfully consider packing a box, or 2 or 3! 😊 If shopping & packing is not your thing, please remember you can donate for shipping or to have a box packed for you. Of course, your prayers over this ministry, the boxes and most important, the children already chosen to receive each and every box - a tangible gift of love & the opportunity to learn of the love Jesus Christ has for them!! Please return your boxes to the Sanctuary around 11/16. Many thank you's to the ladies who came out and assembled the boxes!!! We enjoyed some time of fellowship, laughs & love!!



Our Drive-Thru Prayer on 10/18 was fruitful & sooo uplifting!! The weather was perfect! We had the privilege of praying with several passer-by's & got a kick out of all the waves, honking horns & thumbs up!! Grateful to all who showed up to hold signs, hold down the fort and pray. We were all so intent on our work we took no pictures!! Looking forward to our next outreach in November!



**Suds of Love & StreetReach Mobile Shower Trailer will be back at Sharon on 11/20!! Stay tuned for further info on how you can be involved!!**



Missions has Thanksgiving & Christmas plans in the works so be alert for upcoming ways to give input & volunteer. You may have noticed something missing in the parking lot! Yes, the Blessing Boxes!! Missions & Facilities are working up a plan for new & improved boxes, a little library & a pet food box.

You, as part of the Sharon Church Family, make such an impact in our community by supporting your Missions/Outreach Team & we are so grateful!

In His Service,  
*Lori Minor*





# Discipleship

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

The Discipleship Team has been working to build some structure for several ministries. Below is an update for Small Groups and Children Ministries. We appreciate all those who have signed up to be part of one of the several teams under discipleship. Those who signed up have been entered into a group within Realm and should be receiving a direct email in the near future about their team. We are working to keep this list active and would be happy to add anyone interested. Please see the signup sheet as you enter the church that lists the different ministry areas.

## Small Group Ministry Update

### Meeting - November 5th at 6:45 pm in the Crossing

Come enjoy a Taste of Sharon and then participate in our first small group kick off meeting. Kathy Loes has been working to help chart a path forward for this ministry area. We are challenging church members to attend and become more active as we look ahead to 2026. We will focus on why the GMC has elevated the importance of small groups in local churches and invite participants to start reading "The Class Meeting" by Dr. Kevin Watson. The goal is to study this book over the holiday season as a group and move into 2026 with a renewed perspective for this vital ministry.

If you cannot make this meeting but would still like to participate feel free to email me comments for the group and let me know if you would like a copy of the book (bcnoll09@gmail.com).

Brian Noll – Discipleship Team

*"Dr. Kevin Watson has written a fresh new guide to the theory and practice of the Wesley class meeting, an essential element of truly Wesleyan spirituality. This book is for clergy and congregations who are looking for ways to develop deeper discipleship. The class meeting is made workable without losing its essential dynamic as a gospel-based accountable community. Watson has resurrected the class meeting and given it new meaning, showing its relevance for the church today and how it may be a perfect means for church renewal."*







# Discipleship

## Children's Ministry Update

Meeting - November 12th at 6:45 pm in the Crossing

Hi there everyone, Martha Leagon here, the new Children's Ministry Leader. Several of us went to a conference in Washington, NC titled "Equipped & Empowered to Serve." The workshop I participated in was fun, informative with ways to engage children of all ages in learning about God's love! Kids love music and we have great new songs we will share!

You may be wondering, well that sounds great but where are the kids? So glad you ask! We do have a handful of wonderful children that attend this church regularly. We need to love on these children and make sure they know Sharon is their home. However, we need to turn this handful into a church full. This is a seasonal area with kids/families here mostly in the warmer time of the year! But we all see school buses heading to schools everyday! You know what they have in them – KIDS!!

Keep a lookout for kids in your neighborhood or if you have friends that have kids! You can let us know or talk with the parents, grandparents yourself! We will have fliers made up with our church information, description of our activities and times of church services and Sunday school! We are working to use our buses to pick up kids/families that need transportation!

For our church to grow we must have children here and pray the parents will come as they see the change in their children! Please pray with us as we spread the good news of God's love to our community and help our church grow! Feel free to contact one of our leaders on the Children's Ministries and join our team. A sign up sheet is available as you enter the church. For more information feel free to call me at (910) 448-2336, Pastor Pual Dunham at (252) 414-0558, or Brian Noll (910) 616-7874.

Martha Leagon - Children Ministries Leader





# TREASURY NOTES

In February 1736, John Wesley departed from England and sailed to America, ultimately arriving in Savannah, Georgia. His unwavering faith in God and his outspoken criticism of various leaders of the time led to significant ridicule and an arrest warrant. Afterward, he left Savannah and headed north to Perrysburg, South Carolina. Unfortunately, his reputation preceded him, resulting in curses from locals, disorientation in the South Carolina wilderness, and even physical abuse, all because the leaders were resistant to the truth he preached. In December 1737, John returned to England, but his efforts were not in vain; Methodism began to flourish in America.

Last month, I mentioned that we would be assigning finance personnel to reach out to leaders of various mission groups to assess their needs for 2026. This process has now begun, and during this time, the known recurring costs will be recorded in our QuickBooks program. Our aim is to prepare a complete budget for 2026, ready for approval by mid-November.

Please remember that once the budget is finalized and approved, a copy will be accessible in the office. Additionally, there will be a monthly report detailing Sharon's expenditures in relation to the budgeted amounts. Members of the leadership board will also receive updates on the monthly balance sheet.

As always, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of Sharon Church for your support in helping us fulfill God's intentions for our community.

In Christ,  
*Don Bolinger*





# RECREATION TEAM NEWS



Bingo will be on Friday November the 14th at 6:00. Hotdog & drink for \$5.00 as well as some other goodies to munch on. We look forward to seeing you all there! Come on out & have some fun with us!

We are taking donations for prizes & gift cards if anyone would like to contribute or if anyone would like to donate a cake or any baked goods that would be great also.

Bowling will be on Thursday November the 20th at 7:00 at Planet Fun in Shallotte. The cost is \$2.00 per game & \$3.00 shoe rental. Pizza is provided by the Recreation Team. Come on out for some fun! We hope to see you there!

Any ideas that someone may have for the Recreation Team or an outing please feel free to share it with us. Also if anyone would like to be a part of the Recreation team please let us know. We will be glad to have you join us.

Come join us for fun & fellowship! We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Recreation Team  
Lance, Gretchen & Audree'





# *The Admin Corner*

by Mel Sellers



As we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, it's a season that naturally invites us to reflect on gratitude and blessings. For Christians, this time of year is not only about savoring the turkey and enjoying the company of loved ones but also about giving thanks to God for His eternal grace and love, exemplified through Jesus Christ.

Jesus, throughout His life and teachings, embodied the essence of thankfulness and generosity. As we read in the Gospels, Jesus always gave thanks to the Father before performing miracles or sharing meals. From the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:11) to the Last Supper with His disciples (Matthew 26:26-27), Jesus demonstrated that gratitude is a vital part of faith.

Thanksgiving allows us to pause and acknowledge the blessings we've been given. It's a time to remember that no matter the challenges we face, we have a Savior in Jesus who walks alongside us, offering His peace and comfort. His ultimate sacrifice on the cross is a profound reminder of His love for us, and there's no greater gift to be thankful for.

This Thanksgiving, let us emulate Jesus' example by expressing our gratitude not just through words, but through actions. We can show kindness to those in need, share our blessings with the less fortunate, and strengthen our relationships with family and friends. By doing so, we honor Christ and His teachings.

Let us also remember to extend our thanks beyond this holiday. Cultivating a heart of gratitude through daily prayers, bible study, and acts of service can transform our lives and deepen our spiritual journey. With Jesus as our guide, our lives become a continuous Thanksgiving, filled with joy and hope.

May your Thanksgiving be rich with God's blessings and full of warmth, love, and gratitude. As we give thanks for our earthly harvest, let us also celebrate the spiritual harvest in our hearts.

Happy Thanksgiving and may the peace of Christ be with you all,

*Mel Sellers*

*IN ALL  
Things  
GIVE  
Thanks*





# News From The Rose

*Congratulations to our manager Tina!*

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> was a record-breaking sales day for The Rose! Tina has operating The Rose down to a science and her team of volunteers work tirelessly (actually, they were REALLY tired). I ask you all to go into the store and express your appreciation to her and her team for their dedication to spreading God's love through the Mission of your Church.

## Volunteer Spotlight

Vicki was Born and raised in central Pennsylvania and attended Penn State, Music education. Her deceased husband was in the Army, so they moved around but settled in Northern Virginia. Vicki commuted to Wash DC for 40 years where she worked as a Legal library and records manager.

She has been a lifelong church musician and have served as organist/pianist/choir director for various churches. Her family vacationed at Holden Beach for decades and it's always been a special place for her. It just made sense to retire to her "happy place". Vicki heard about The Rose when she was a pianist at Sharon and started volunteering there. When asked why she continues to volunteer she answered "It's so gratifying to be of some assistance to those in need. Tina and the other volunteers there are such wonderful women! I feel blessed to be part of this group."



Vicki Bayer

(continued on next page)





# News From The Rose

(Continued from previous page)

## Expansion News

As I write this, we are awaiting county inspections for the new wiring. Then, insulation and sheet rock will be ordered and installed. To keep costs down we (Church and Rose volunteers) will be building the privacy fence and doing all the interior painting. We hope the painting will happen mid-November.

Business continues to boom! We think people who never noticed us before are seeing our addition and are stopping to check out what is happening. We believe this will continue and get even bigger when we open the addition. If you have ever considered volunteering at The Rose, 2026 could be THE year! Once the store reopens with the expansion, Tina will need more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider donating some of your time to your Rose of Sharon Thrift Store.

### REMINDER:

#### Donation hours:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 2pm.

Sat by appointment.

**\* Please DO NOT take donations to the store on Saturdays unless you have prearranged your drop off with Tina.**

The ladies at the store have been busy getting out all the donated Christmas items. They are putting out new things every day. Come in and start getting ready for the Christmas season.

*Kathy Rudnicki*

Rose of Sharon Board Chair





# Little Snippets of Joy!



## **Sharon Cookbook Update**

**For those who have purchased the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook , I hope you have enjoyed cooking several of the recipes contributed from past and present members.**

**Initial sales were very good and with initial investment/costs met a nice profit was realized. However, at this point we still have several boxes remaining.**

**With our 200<sup>th</sup> celebration now celebrated we are reducing the price to \$10.00 to encourage sales. This might also help you out with some Christmas gifts.**

**Books are available in the church office.**

**Thank you for your support!**

**~Marilyn Hommer**

## **Giving Thanks for All Things**

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these? Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?





# Little Snippets of Joy!

## A Day to Honor Our Veterans

On November 11, 1918, the Germans and the Allied Nations, which included the United States, signed a document to initiate an armistice (cessation of hostilities), thus ending World War I. A year later, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation designating November 11 as Armistice Day. It was to be a day of reflection — a day to remember those who died in the country's service and to offer Americans the opportunity "to show sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Wanting to recognize more specifically America's veterans, Congress passed a bill changing the name of the day from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. The change was made in May 1954.



On this national holiday, churches around the nation hold services of prayers and praise. Followers of the Prince of Peace pray for peace among the nations of Earth and for the day when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4, NRSV).



The Sunday School teacher asks the children to draw Christmas pictures. She goes over to one student and sees he's drawn a picture of four people on an airplane.

"What is this?" she asked.

"Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus on a flight to Egypt," he says.

"Well... who's the fourth person?"

"That's Pontius, the pilot."

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### Gratitude Shift

When we look at what we want, and then compare that with what we have, we shall be unhappy.

When we think about what we really deserve, and then compare that with what we actually have, we shall thank God.

~unknown

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