

OCTOBER 2025

GOOD NEWS OF SHARON

A Letter From The Pastor



Paul Dunham

God is in our midst. We are about to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Sharon Methodist Church, all while we look ahead to see what God has in store for us next. I am excited to be a part of both.

Allow me the chance to introduce myself. I'm Paul Dunham, your new pastor here at Sharon. My wife, Holly, and I are moving in right now, and can't wait to get started! But what can I say that tells you who I am?

Maybe the best way is to tell you who God says I am.

My favorite Bible verse is Romans 8. The whole chapter. Yes, I know that's not one verse. But it runs the full spectrum of the life of faith: God forgives us from our sin, so we are not condemned. God sent Jesus to redeem us, and to free us to live Spirit-filled lives, full of God's Presence and Power. If we ask him to, that is. And when he does, his Spirit lives in us, prays for us when we don't know what to say, and uses all things for the good of the kingdom, even when hard times come or tragedy strikes. And no matter what, no matter what tomorrow holds, God's Love will never leave us. Even if we die, we cannot be separated from God's Love.

I also love to sing. One of my favorites is "Because He Lives". It has that same message: Because He Lives, I can face tomorrow! I know He holds my future! Life is worth the living, just because He Lives!

Basically every sermon I preach, every song I sing, every prayer, every action- it all comes down to this: Jesus loves you and gave his life and conquered death so he can live with you forever. We love God with all we have, and then love our neighbors as ourselves. God's love reaches out to us, so we love him so much we reach out to others. Worship and Missions are all a reflection of our vibrant, life-changing, eternal relationship with God. (Cont. on next page)

(Cont. from previous page) I do have a question for you, too. What's your story? How has God impacted your life? If someone crossed your path today and God nudged you to speak up, what might you share? One of my new neighbors introduced himself, and asked what I do. When I said that I was Sharon's new pastor, he laughed, saying, "Well, I guess that answers my next question. I was going to invite you to church with me." He then shared with me how God had been moving in his life, and how blessed he'd been even in having to retire. He was ready to share how "all things work together for good", and how even in suffering he'd experienced the love of God. Not knowing I was a pastor, he was ready to share. We all need to be keeping our spiritual eyes and ears open for those opportunities. "But preacher, I'm not sure what I'd say." Read through Romans 8, and see what it says about the Spirit and your having to know what to say...

If you want to know about one of my other favorite Scriptures, check out Acts 4 in preparation for our first Sunday together: Praying for the Power of the Spirit and our testimony for our Lord Jesus Christ. Changed lives. Changed families. Changed community. Changed world. Faith put to prayer, lives launched in mission, Jesus proclaimed, and worlds changed. Do we not need that Holy Spirit power once again in these troubled days? Amen. Come Lord Jesus, empower us again. Amen!



And now, Lord ... grant to
your servants to continue to
speak your word with all

BOLDNESS

Acts 4:29, ESV

200TH

— ANNIVERSARY —

Bicentennial Celebration Approaching!

We hope everyone has received their letters and marked their calendars for October 26, 2025. We are preparing for an exciting day of festivities! Please submit your RSVP forms to assist us in planning for food and seating arrangements. This celebration is for ALL members of our church family, past and present, including all who participate in our worship, whether members or non-members.

- Everyone is encouraged to prepare your special “Taste of Sharon” dishes to share in a big pot.
- This invitation extends to both our male and female cooks!

Many attendees are planning to embrace the theme by dressing in the style of 1825. Be sure to visit The Rose of Sharon for assistance in selecting the perfect outfit! It promises to be a fantastic day.

Great is Thy Faithfulness!

For any questions, please reach out to Debbie Kirby.



Missions & Outreach

Team Leader:
Paulette Harland

Matthew 13:16 - But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

Our eyes saw compassion, love and service on Thursday during our Missions Outreach!! Our ears heard folks being lifted up in prayer, words of encouragement and wrapped in words of love! We were able, with help from Kathy & Tina with The Rose, to outfit a woman starting a new job the next day!! Tears of joy!! Donna Phelps, with StreetReach, was able to arrange placement on the spot at The Rose House to two women, homeless & struggling!! Tears of joy!! Folks were clothed, fed, showered and belongings laundered!! God is good and he used our partners, our volunteers and Sharon Church mightily!!!

We will keep you all updated on our next scheduling!

Drive-Thru Prayer will be happening October 18th!! Come out and be a blessing and be blessed!! Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be available October 12th!! Please keep this incredible children's ministry in your prayers and get ready to PACK!! I will send out an email for volunteers to help assemble boxes. Many, many THANK YOU's to all who serve in our Missions in any capacity. Grateful to all who cover our Missions in prayer, please continue!!

You Sister in Christ,
Lori Minor



TREASURY NOTES

This month marks the anniversary of John Wesley's departure from England in 1735 as he set sail for America, ultimately arriving in Savannah, Georgia, in February 1736. Due to his firm belief in God and his outspoken criticism of several leaders of the time, he faced considerable ridicule and even an arrest warrant for his efforts. After leaving Savannah, he journeyed to Perrysburg, South Carolina. Unfortunately, his reputation preceded him; he was met with curses in the streets, became lost in the South Carolina wilderness, and faced physical abuse, as local leaders resisted the truth he represented. In December 1737, he returned to England, yet his efforts in America bore fruit as Methodism continued to flourish.

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 is underway, and during this time, known recurring expenses will be entered into our QuickBooks program, allowing us to prepare a comprehensive budget for 2026 by mid-November or early December for approval.

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

As always, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of Sharon Church for your contributions in helping us fulfill the vision that God has for Sharon.

In Christ,
Don Bolinger



RECREATION TEAM NEWS



Bingo will be on Friday October the 10th 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 October the 23rd 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!

To follow up with Sharon's 200 years Anniversary celebration in singing the Recreation Team has got tickets to the US Army Field Band Concert at Brunswick Community College, Odell Williamson Auditorium for Sunday, October the 26th at 3:00 PM. We will meet at the church & the bus will leave at 2:15. There is no charge for the tickets & there will be a signup sheet in the foyer side of the church carport if you are interested in this event. There is a limited number of tickets & they are first come so be sure to get your name on the list if you would like to attend.

Trunk or Treat will be Friday evening, October 31st from 6:00-7:30pm. We need trunks to fill up the fellowship hall parking lot so we can tell the kids about the love of Jesus & give them some treats! For anyone that can & would like to do a trunk there will be a signup sheet in the foyer side of the church carport. You will need to arrive at the church by 5pm to get your trunk ready & set up. We are taking donations for candy & your help is greatly appreciated with that.

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

Your Recreation Team

Lance, Gretchen & Audree'



Trunk or Treat

The Admin Corner

by Mel Sellers



In the quiet moments of sincere prayer, have you felt your spirit reaching out to connect with the Divine? I have also traveled through the experiences of heartfelt prayer, ranging from the softest whispers to the complete surrender of my spirit to our Heavenly Father. In these sacred moments, we find ourselves in the company of the apostle Paul, who was familiar with human weakness and divine assistance.

Paul, burdened with his struggles, sought the Lord's release from his persistent challenge, a thorn that humbled him. Yet, through his requests, he did not receive the answer he anticipated but instead a revelation that would resonate through time. In a gentle voice, the Lord conveyed the profound truth that in our weakness, His strength reaches its full extent.

Life, with its unending challenges, will test our determination and stretch our faith. However, amidst our trials, let us open our hearts to God's gentle grace. Look forward to the moments when the Almighty will fill you with courage, strength, and the comforting presence of His spirit.

Take confidence in the fact that in your vulnerability, God's power is fulfilled, shining through every flaw and every period of struggle. Listen carefully for the voice of the Father, for within His words lies the promise of strength perfected in our weakness.

Peace & Grace,

Mel Sellers





News From The Rose



Volunteer Spotlight

Lisa Hildebrand

Lisa is originally from PA (Harrisburg, Lancaster and York). She spent her career as an art teacher in the Dallastown PA school district. She and her husband Steve moved to Holden beach 13 years ago "to retire at the beach!" Lisa is one of the longest-term volunteers at The Rose. Several years ago, she befriended Darlene Teeple while shopping at The Rose. She would stop in to say hello and do a little shopping but end up being there for hours. "The next thing I knew, I was an official volunteer!" Lisa is one of the volunteers essential to the reorganizing, cleaning and reopening of The Rose after the Covid closure. When asked why she continues volunteering she answered "It's simple, The Rose makes me happy! I feel like I belong there & it's a privilege to be part of the mission". She remains an integral part of the team, volunteering, serving on The Rose Board and playing a key role in the layout design and decorating of the store expansion. Lisa and Steve have been members of SMC for about 10 years.

Expansion News

WOW!!! Have you seen the Rose Expansion? Work is coming along so well. Thank you to Ricky Hewett and his company Pinnacle Southeast Contracting Group. He and his workers have been great to work with!

The siding is on, roof shingling completed (including replacing the ones on the current building). Electrical, HVAC and drywall are next.

Donations and sales have been amazing. Even with the Half Price Sales we've been having to reduce inventory, the store is doing well.

A couple Requests:

* Do you have Librarian experience? Been a librarian, library volunteer, or just love 'playing' with books? The Rose needs you. When we expand into the new space we want to have a great Book Section, so we need help. If you, or someone you know, is interested please stop by The Rose and talk to Tina.

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

Donation hours:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 2pm.

Sat by appointment.

Please do not bring donations to the front of the store. They are now being accepted BEHIND THE STORE, ON THE LEFT SIDE. Come in through the church parking lot past the dumpster. Thank you for your understanding during our period of construction.

Thanks to all who patronize, donate to and volunteer at The Rose! We could not accomplish our mission without you.

Kathy Rudnicki

Rose of Sharon Board Chair

Little Snippets of Joy!

The Beauty of Stewardship

Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It's a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God's creation and of God's gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God's help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God's provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God's work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.



Little Snippets of Joy!



Holy Interruptions

Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

“Interruptible faith” is a posture of openness. It’s saying, “Lord, here’s my plan—but I trust Yours more.” It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.” May we have the courage to let Him.



After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, “Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery.”

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!

“Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you’ll love him. And the more you love him, the more you’ll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you’ll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself.”

—Ned Erickson



Medicare & Insurance **EDUCATIONAL**

**Wednesday, October 8th
2:00pm at The Crossing**

SIGN UP OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND (SIGN UP SHEET LOCATED IN THE NARTHAX)



**For more information: Contact
Jackie Leonard The Crossing
Network Coordinator**

**(910) 842-2929 NO SELLING -
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