

# GOOD NEWS OF SHARON

## A PUBLICATION OF SHARON METHODIST CHURCH

### Advent Schedule

1st Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023



3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023

### With Great Expectation

from Pastor Jim Pegan

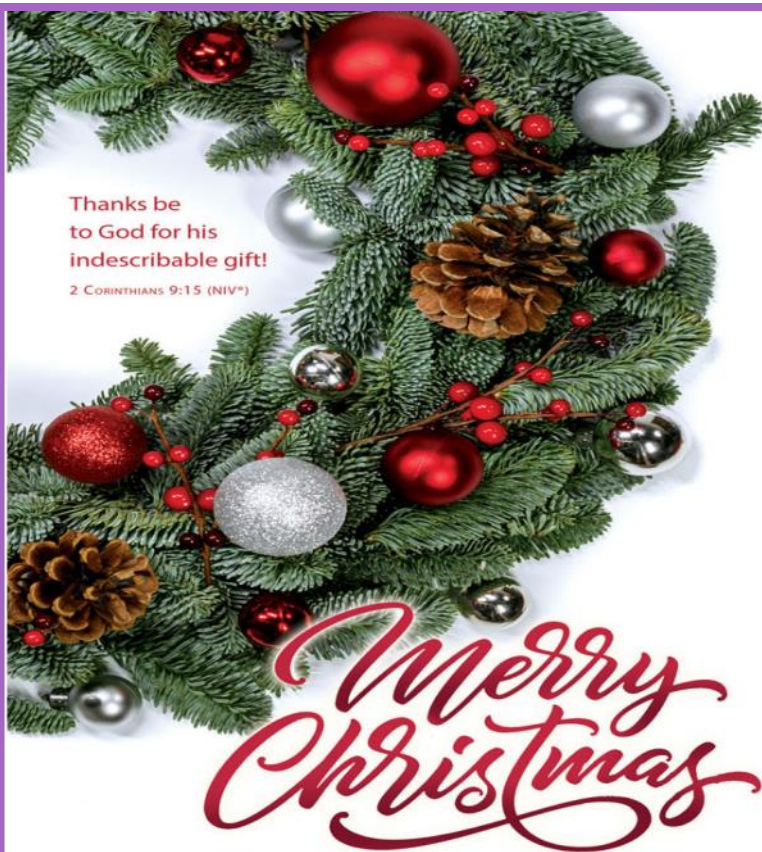
Greetings Sharon Church Family  
and welcome to the season of Advent!

During the month of December as we anticipate the celebration of Christmas and the coming of the Christ-child we also focus our attention on the biblical promise of the Second Coming of Christ. The world was blessed to have experienced the first incarnation of the Lord Jesus and the saving work of His cross and resurrection, and now we await the blessed day when Jesus returns to rule and reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. As the traditional Charles Wesley Advent hymn says, *"Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee."* These lyrics are a beautiful gift for Christian Disciples.

They are important words of expectant faith in the times that we are living in today. Moral decay, economic instability, struggling local churches, skeptical youth, political divisiveness, environmental stress, crumbling family values, and news of war in Eastern Europe and the "Holy Land" have many of God's people looking to heaven and praying, "Are you coming, Lord? Is this the time when you will come, defeat your enemies, and establish your Kingdom once and for all?" The prophets are once again interpreting current events and concluding that all the conditions in the world are ripe for the Lord's near return . . . and yet, we continue to wait. Don't give up.



... continue reading on next page



The painting that I have included with this article is called "Second Coming of Christ." Artist John McNaughten said the following in a recent interview regarding Jesus' return, the subject of the painting: *"When Jesus comes the second time, it will be much different than before. The first time He conquered the spiritual realm by proclaiming freedom to the captives of sin and teaching the Word of Life to all people. The Second time He will come to offer Judgment upon the world, but as I saw this image in my mind, I did not see Him as a God filled with hateful destruction. I saw Him riding upon His horse with his garment red to represent his blood spilt for the sins of the world. His love was so immense that only those whose hearts were not filled with light withered at His presence."*

The older I get the more I focus on that future glorious day when Jesus Christ returns in triumph, but Scripture compels me to remember that in the Gospels Jesus gives concrete instruction about what His Disciples are to be doing as we wait in expectation of his return. If we want to hear Jesus say the words "Well done good and faithful servant," we can't be standing around gazing at our navels or staring out into space. We have been given a mission. We are to be spreading the good news of salvation, baptizing people into the kingdom of God and into Christ's Church. We are to be carrying out acts of justice and mercy to the poor, hopeless, and neglected. We are to be worshiping God and showing love to our neighbors as we deny ourselves and carry our crosses in pursuit of Jesus and God's will.

The Christian world has been waiting for over 2,000 years for the return of the Lord. Each generation has experienced war, poverty, disease, political strife, and immorality and each has expected their time to be **THE TIME**. **Friends, this could be the time** and we must be ready to receive our coming King. So, let's covenant to live well, love well, serve well and worship well this Advent season.

Your Partner in the Adventure,

*Pastor Jim*





## Saturday Night Life Hosts Friends from Vida Church



### SATURDAY NIGHT LIFE

On Saturday evening, November 11<sup>th</sup>, members of our Sharon "Saturday Night Life" Missional Community hosted a fellowship meal, a time of worship, and introductions for 20 young members of Vida Church, a non-denominational multicultural congregation in Wilmington, NC. The word Vida means Life in the Spanish language and we could feel that life as we gathered with our new friends. Please be in prayer for God's will as we explore the possibility of Vida Church planting a multicultural community right here at Sharon. For more information, contact Pastor Jim or Jackie Leonard, our Crossing Network Coordinator.



### Advent and Christmas Season at Sharon Methodist Church 2023

2030 Holden Beach Rd. Supply, NC  
919-842-2929  
[www.sharonbythesea.com](http://www.sharonbythesea.com)

Sat, Dec. 2	Church Decorating	10:00 AM
Sat, Dec. 9	Kids Christmas Party	5:00 PM
Sun, Dec. 17	Choir Christmas Cantata	6:00 PM
Wed, Dec. 20	Blue Christmas Service	7:00 PM
Sun, Dec. 24	Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Sun, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Love Feast	7:00 PM







Heartfelt thank you to all who participated in our Operation Christmas Child ministry! Perhaps you packed a box or two, donated towards items or shipping or prayed for each box, each child receiving these boxes of love and having the opportunity to learn about the Savior who loves them, protects them and offers them the ultimate gift of everlasting life.

- Lori Minor -



Helen Hamer, Debbie Kirby, Dianne Dawkins, and Lori Minor



Audree Riefer





# 2000



## **Boxes are on their way to the Mission Fields from Sharon Methodist Church WooHoo!!**





# **merry CHRISTMAS**

## **KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SHARON METHODIST CHURCH**

**JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING FULL OF  
CRAFTS, MUSIC, ACTIVITIES AND TREATS!**



**DECEMBER 9TH**

**5:00 PM TO 6:30 PM**

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**







Come & See Sunday kicked off with coffee, cookies, gifts of Jesus, and coffee spoon stirrers. The service was amazing with information from all Team Leaders of their ministries at Sharon. Please fill out your interest forms and drop them off in the baskets at both entrances of how you can use your gifts to minister in 2024. We were excited to have our Rose Thrift Store Family present! Also, on membership Sunday, the team presented our church family with coffee mugs. Come and see God at Work at Sharon and invite someone to worship with you. Team Leader, Debbie Kirby



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH





# THE LAY PERSON'S CORNER

Don Bolinger



The year 2023 is about out the door, and soon we will be welcoming a new year and all the blessings God will have for us in the coming year. I think that recapping the past year is a good topic for this final newsletter of 2023.

Last December, we discussed the Importance of separating church busyness from church business. With this being one of our main Christian celebratory months' it is amazing how busyness can shift our focus from working for God to that of making sure everything suits us perfectly. After mentioning all of the activities planned for Sharon, we needed to be reminded that Jesus is the reason for the season.

January and February brought its own challenges of moving from our United Methodist past to that of the Global Methodist Church (GMC). This shift stressed the importance of making disciples of Christ. This also opened up new opportunities to serve God by our worship and work at Sharon, praising him for all the blessings sent down.

March, April, and May were discussions of new opportunities as they had evolved from the change to GMC, and how this change impacted us by reducing our apportionments and now becoming owners of our properties and facilities on the Sharon campus. New people have stepped up and helped make the missions of Sharon a reality to answering God's call to help others. We were also reminded that we are truly God's hands here on Earth.

With June, came a discussion of how God sent the Holy Spirit to each of us to help us and guide us in our quest to follow the scriptural truth. We also discussed how the Holy Spirit gave each of us 'gifts' of ways to serve the Lord with the talents bestowed upon us. Emphasized, also, was the importance of the Holy Spirit being an important leg in the Triune of whom we worship. It certainly pointed out that as paraphrased in Romans, 'with God for us, who can be against us'?

July was filled with the discussion of how important it was to make disciples of Christ through our 'Bold Witness' of what God has done for us at Sharon. It did not request that we knock on doors around the neighborhoods, but to understand where some of our brothers and sisters were in their beliefs and meet them where they were, and not where we may be.

Getting back to the basics of John Wesley's beliefs and direction for the church was the topic for August as we started the formation of additional small groups. Also, discussed was the fact that John did not start out to form a church, but through events in his life, Methodism became a reality.

September brought a discussion on how key it was to 'Love Extravagantly' in making disciples of Christ. Through loving actions, Jesus was able to do things that the religious leaders of the time could not accomplish. It was a lesson to all of us how importance forgiveness was in being a true disciple of Jesus. Yes, and a reminder that he paid for all our sins on the cross.

In October the need to Witness Boldly was revisited. We discussed that one never knew when they might be either serving an angel or touched by one. It just paid to be ready, in either case.

In November, 'Worship Passionately' was discussed. This topic was saved til then, as we were about to have the first Provisional Annual Conference of the GMC held in Fayetteville. It could not have been better timed, because as it turned out, that conference was worshiping passionately for about 80% - 90% of the time, with only a small portion devoted to the business of needed resolutions governing the working of the newly formed GMC. That showed the importance of passionate worship in the making of disciples.

Well, we have come full circle for 2023 and are now back with the season of celebration of Jesus' birth. There is not much to say except to remind you that apparently 'God is for us' and to thank each of you for helping to make Sharon everything God intended for us to be. May this Christmas season be a joyous one for everybody and may 2024 be filled with God's blessings for all.



The BBQ was a great success - thank you to the many hands that volunteered!



New flooring for the Outreach Building looks great!  
Thanks Dave & Kim Keech and Mark & Lori Minor!!



Forms to submit recipes for the Cookbook will be available in December



A cookbook is being planned for the celebration of Sharon's 200th Anniversary 2025.

We are asking members and friends of Sharon Methodist Church to contribute greatly as the tentative number of recipes needed is between 500 - 600. This will give us a nice sized book and varied categories.

So, begin thinking of what you could contribute. More details will be forthcoming as committee decisions are completed.

SHARON METHODIST  
CHURCH IS  
PLANNING A  
**COOKBOOK**  
*200th Anniversary in 2025*  
CO-CHAIRS:  
LAURIE SYPOLE & MARILYN HOMMER



# Gratitude Journaling



The Women's Journaling Group Invite You to their  
**1st Annual "Na-tiv-i-tea."**

**Join us Tuesday, December 12th - 4:30 to 6 PM**

**Light refreshments will be served.**

**To RSVP contact Kim Gregg at:**

**[kgregg396@gmail.com](mailto:kgregg396@gmail.com)**

## Gratitude Journaling News



Beginning **January 2024**, the **Women's Journaling Group** invite you to join them as we explore the biographies of our biblical heroes. We hope to use the valuable lessons from their lives to encourage us in our own faith walk. For more information, please email Kim Gregg at: [kgregg396@gmail.com](mailto:kgregg396@gmail.com)



# Methodist WOMEN'S MINISTRY



At our November 16th meeting we packed Thanksgiving baskets with food to be delivered to (5) families we adopted for the holidays. We would like to invite all women that have not been attending to come join us in January.

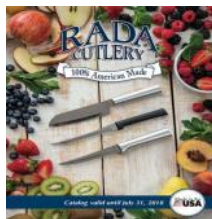
During our January meeting, we will decide on speakers and discuss programs that will be interesting for the New Year.

**Our CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place during our December meeting.**

Every woman (plus one) is invited to join us for our Christmas Party to be held at **Oak & Anchor Restaurant at Lockwood Folly Golf Course** on **December 14th** at **7:00 PM**, at a **cost of \$17 per person**.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Debbie Kirby before December 10th so we can make our reservations. Payment is required by December 10th. The menu will consist of: Grilled chicken, pasta dish, roasted potatoes, mixed veggies, salad, roll, carrot cake, and tea or soda.

Our **New Year Meeting** will be held on **January 18, 2024**. We would love for each woman to participate in this wonderful time of fellowship!



We have on hand excellent cutlery from Rada! If you're interested in updating your kitchen cutlery, please see Kim Todd for your Rada cutlery needs.



**Global Methodist Church  
Brochures are Available at  
Our Welcome Center**

Feel free to take a brochure to better understand ministry opportunities and share with a friend.

Also, at our Welcome Center you will find devotionals, outreach opportunities, newsletters, etc.

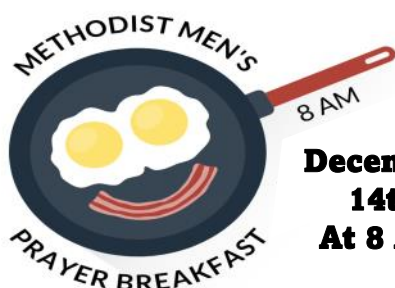


**Sharon Methodist Men**

**Don Bolinger, President**

To say that 2023 is winding down is an understatement. Wow! where has it gone seems more appropriate. Last month I thanked all in advance of our BBQ drive thru dinner fund raiser. This month, with all proceeds tallied and the joy of watching the blessings of fellowship unfurl during that day, all I can say is thank you so much for all the help of the Sharon Church family. Whether you were involved in cooking, serving, ticket sales, running and bulk purchasing of BBQ, or just telling someone about the event; thank you, thank you for making the day a success netting over \$2,500 for the day. Hummmmmmm!!!! What to do with the funds?

Last month was the annual Thanksgiving dinner at SMM where everyone brought a side to go with the turkey. As for the meal, when all was said and done, we should have made it a church-wide event with all the food that showed up. Thanks guys and ladies for making that happen! All is in place for the new electronic Sharon Church sign and it will proceed just as soon as we get county approval on the footings.



**December  
14th  
At 8 AM**



**Join Us for Our  
Meeting  
-THURSDAY-**

**December 7, 2023  
At 6 PM**

December is when it is time to look for leadership of SMM. November was voting time and the officers for 2024 will be; President-Don Bolinger, Vice President-Jim Whitehead, Treasurer-Chuck Wilson, and Secretary-Doc Ferrell. There also was a vote for the SMM Man of the Year, and that award will be handed out at the annual Christmas dinner at Jerome's on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

One of the final decisions was to purchase a brick for Rudy Beck and Shirley Huffstetler to be placed in remembrance of them for all of their service to Sharon over the years.

Gentlemen and ladies, we will see you on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Jerome's. The main item of business that night will be fellowship and a wonderful meal. See you there.





## THE ROSE OF SHARON THRIFT STORE

# *Will be Closed*

## THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

### The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store



What a crazy, busy, blessed summer it has been at The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store. Thinking things would slow down after the main tourist season ended has not happened. But that is a good thing! We have been as busy as ever.

I would like to introduce you to Diane Beaman, our “not so new” paid employee. It’s hard to believe Diane has been a member of The Rose team for a year now. Diane is a native North Carolinian, hailing from the Winston-Salem area, though she has lived in many places before settling here in Supply six years ago.

Diane has three children, ten grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. She loves travel and history, especially Civil War history. She

loves to research all kinds of historic areas and people. She especially enjoys searching out historic cemeteries.

Diane has been a lifetime “thrifter”. She loves finding old or unused items and flipping them. As a matter of fact, shopping at the Rose led to her meeting Tina, volunteering at the store and eventually becoming an employee. Diane also loves people! She believes helping/serving is her spiritual gift. We are so happy to have Diane as a member of The Rose family. She has been a true blessing to Tina and all the volunteers. Please come into The Rose and meet Diane.

As I mentioned, it has been a great year so far at The Rose. We are constantly blessed by so many people donating amazing household items, tools, furniture, shoes, clothing etc. And we LOVE our customers, many of whom come in weekly or several times a week. Due to all this generosity, The

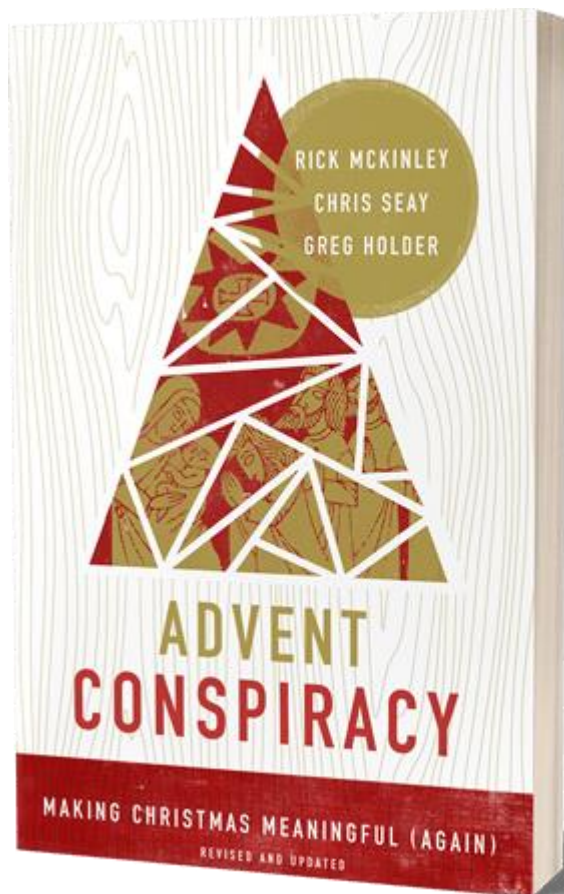
Rose has been able to support our Missions Team with the funds needed for the amazing work they do throughout our community.

It is the Christmas Season, and The Rose has an entire tent full of Christmas décor items! We have many sets of Christmas dishes, serving platters, cookie plates, and lots of great gifts.

Please come into The Rose and shop, donate, just say “hi”, or **VOLUNTEER!**



*From Kathy Rudnicki*



Join the groundswell of Christ-followers who are choosing to make Christmas what it should be—a joyous celebration of Jesus’ birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us. This book is the foundation of the Advent Conspiracy movement and unpacks the four tenets that guide our Christmas celebrations – Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All.

## December Book Study

### Advent Conspiracy

Making Christmas Meaningful (Again)

**w/Pastor Jim**  
**Wednesday at 10:30 AM**  
 (The Crossing)

## A LETTER TO SHARON

Dear Sharon Methodist Family,

It is with humble and grateful hearts that we thank our wonderful church family for the continuous outpouring of love and support as we convalesce from our recent traumatic experience. In all our church encounters both prior to and during our years of ministry, we have never experienced such true Christian spirit. Sharon Methodist Church completely demonstrates what being the hands and feet of Jesus exemplifies.

The emails, cards, texts, food and visits have kept us going with positive and motivated attitudes as we long to be back in person to worship our Lord with you in Spirit and in love as a fellowship of believers. We are grateful for the beautiful “his and hers” prayer shawls and the beautiful booklet of prayer journaling! We are thankful for the amazing ramp to accommodate the wheelchair. But most of all we are grateful for all the prayers of our church family and those prayers of the people beyond our church circle with whom you have shared our needs.

Psalm 66:16 tells us, “Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what He has done for me.” He has blessed us with *you*! God knew what adversity we would be facing and He sent us to Sharon so that His people could help us weather the storm.

An Irish blessing: ***If God sends you down a stony path, may He give you strong shoes.*** Dear friends, God gave us strong shoes in you!

With gratitude and love,  
 Laurie and Jeff Sypole





Poinsettias Will be Placed in the  
Sanctuary on both Sundays  
December 17th & 24th

You may place a poinsettia order for the  
sanctuary in memory of -or- in honor of  
your loved for \$15 each.

Order forms will be available on  
Sunday, December 3rd.

Accepting cash or checks payable to SMC  
in the memo write: Poinsettia Order

Sharon Methodist Church

# Blue Christmas Service

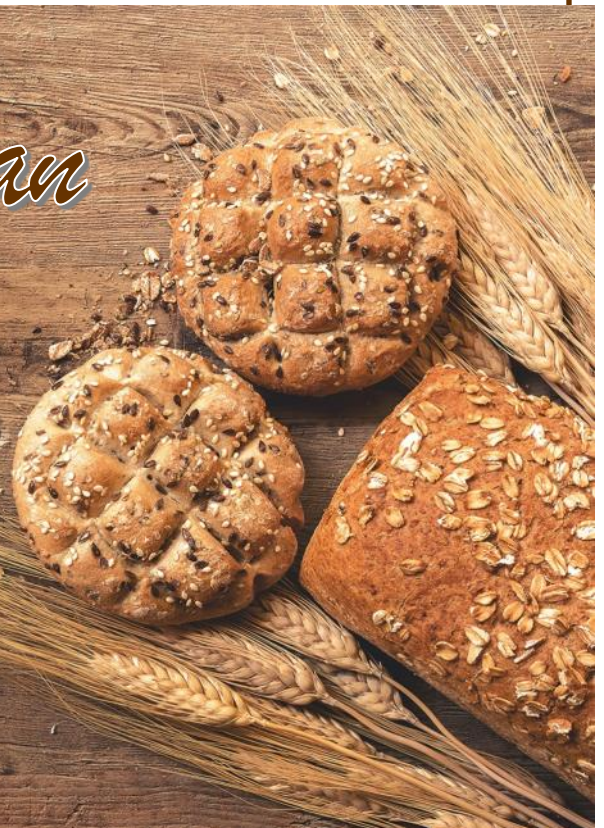
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM



Sharon Methodist Church

*Moravian*  
**Love  
Feast**

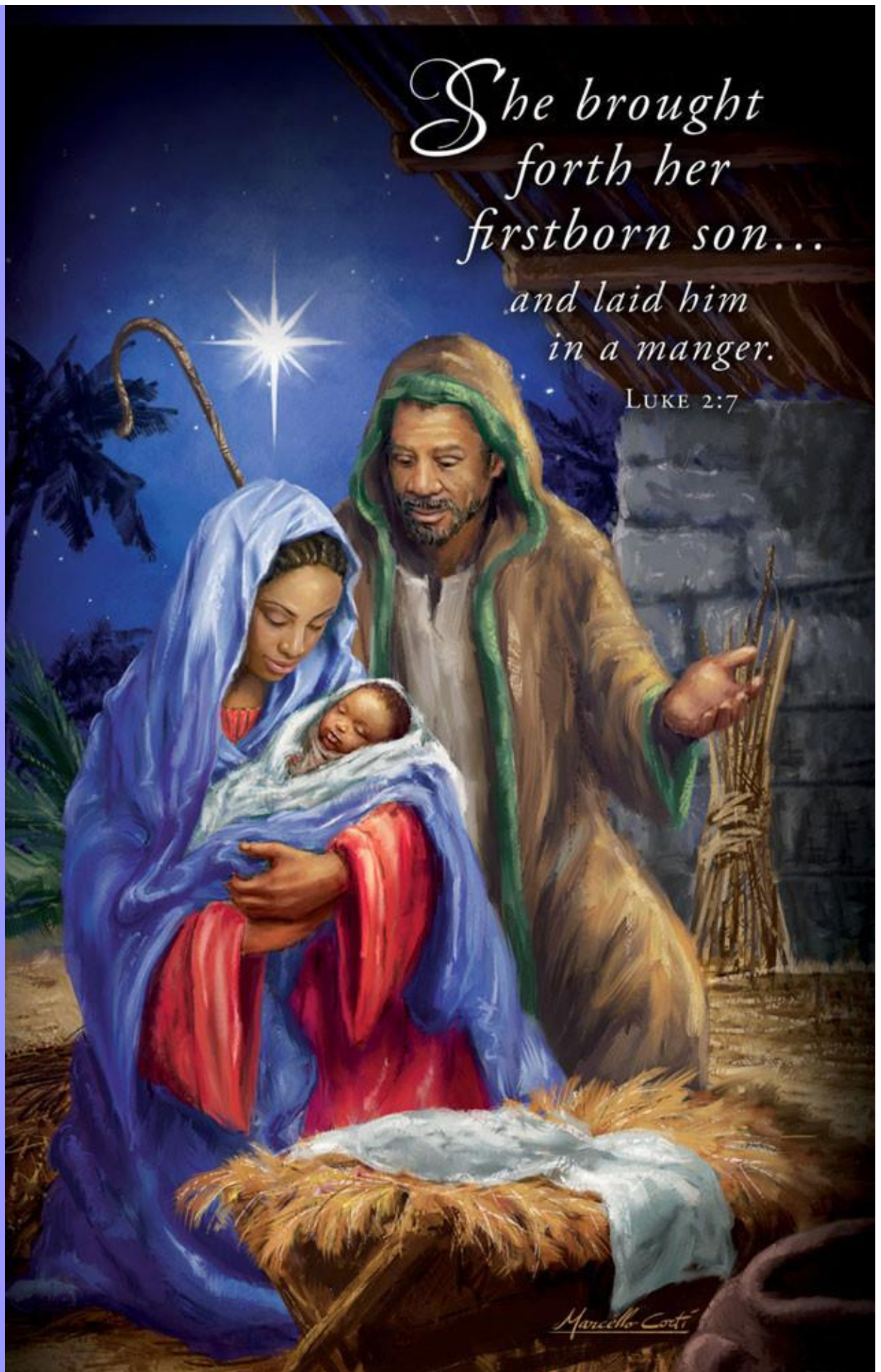
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
at 7:00 PM





*She brought  
forth her  
firstborn son...  
and laid him  
in a manger.*

LUKE 2:7



*Marcello Corti*





**Sharon Methodist  
Church**

# CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

**December 17, 2023 |  
6:00 PM**



## Once A Week Events at SMC

### SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday School: All Ages (The Crossing)  
10:00 AM W O R S H I P (Sanctuary)  
2:00-4:00 PM Girl Scouts (The Crossing)  
6:00 PM NA (The Crossing)

### MONDAY 9:00 AM

TOPS (Fellowship Hall)

### TUESDAY

8:00 AM Women's Prayer Group (The Crossing)  
9:30-11:30 AM KALEIDOSCOPE LEARN & PLAY (The Crossing)  
6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### WEDNESDAY MORNING

10 AM to Noon Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry  
10:30 AM Book Study w/Pastor Jim (The Crossing)

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:00 PM Taste of Sharon (Fellowship Hall)  
**CHANGE: NO TASTE OF SHARON THE 20TH & 27TH**  
6:30 PM 6-12th Grade Youth Group (The Crossing)  
**TIME CHANGE: Choir Practice (Choir Room)**  
**7:00 PM DECEMBER 6TH & 13TH**  
**7:30 PM DECEMBER 20TH & 27TH**

### THURSDAY

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (CMR)  
3:00 PM GriefShare (The Crossing)

### FRIDAY

10 AM to Noon Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry  
7:00 PM Women's NA (The Crossing)

## Once A Month Events at SMC

3RD MONDAY	2ND TUESDAY	4TH TUESDAY	1ST THURSDAY	2ND THURSDAY	3RD THURSDAY
<b>6:30 PM</b> Leadership Board Meeting (The Crossing)	<b>4:30 PM</b> Gratitude Journaling (Fellowship Hall)	<b>7:00 PM</b> Finance Team Meeting (Choir Room)	<b>6:00 PM</b> Methodist Men's Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	<b>8:00 AM</b> Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)	<b>7:00 PM</b> Methodist Women's Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
-----				-----	
4TH MONDAY				9:30 AM	
<b>7:00 PM</b> Facilities Team Meeting				Brunswick Family Assistance (The Crossing)	

**2ND SATURDAY  
6:00 PM  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT LIFE  
at the  
PARSONAGE**

## Sharon Methodist Church



2030 Holden Beach Road, SW  
Supply, North Carolina 28462

Visit us at:  
[www.sharonbythesea.com](http://www.sharonbythesea.com)

