

GOOD NEWS OF SHARON



A PUBLICATION OF SHARON METHODIST CHURCH



Spread the Word!

Greetings Sharon Church Friends,

Now that Easter has come and gone it's important that we let the amazing news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ marinate in us deeply. Unless we were distracted, or simply not paying attention, we just heard again about the amazing fact that God loved us enough to send His Son Jesus to offer spiritual healing, restored relationship with our creator, and eternal life through the Cross and the Empty Tomb. This news couldn't be any better. In Jesus we are born again of water and the Holy Spirit and set free in the world to love, serve, heal, worship, and invite other people to join us. The Apostle Paul said it this way in his letter to the First Century Church in Ephesus: "... even when we were dead through our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ." We are a faith family and God wants our family to increase with new believers in the weeks and months to come. We have been saved for a reason; to introduce people to Jesus Christ and to help that relationship to grow.

In the weeks ahead I will be offering a Sunday Morning message series titled "Spread the Word." It will be loosely inspired by an excellent little book titled, *That's Good News: How to Overcome Your Fear and Evangelize* written by Methodist pastor Shane Bishop in 2023. In the series I will share about the importance of evangelism in the early days of Christianity and how we should be seeking to recapture the spirit and techniques used by First Century Christians to grow our church and witness for Jesus Christ in 21st Century American culture. Springtime, when new life is popping up all around us, is a perfect time to be considering our call to be spreading the word with lost, weary souls looking for salvation.

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I invite you to be open minded about what you will hear during this message series. For various reasons, the word evangelism has become a source of dread, and even embarrassment for some of us. My prayer is that by demystifying evangelism and offering a biblical vision for sharing the Gospel we will experience true revival at Sharon Methodist Church as we spread the word about our faith in Jesus to the hungry souls all around us. I look forward to what God will do in and through us as we open our hearts and minds to our mission of making disciples.

Your Partner in the Adventure,

Pastor Jim





Lori Minor and I had the honor and pleasure of supporting two of our Community Partners last week by attending their special community celebrations of Grand Openings and Ribbon Cuttings.

On Thursday, March 21, Lori and I attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting celebration held at the new office/warehouse facility of Brunswick Family Assistance in Bolivia. We met some of their other community partners, as well as staff members. We learned about some special programs offered by BFA such as Summer Food Program, Birthday Wishes, Christmas in July, Fill the Sleigh and Christmas Program. We were able to see where they store the food that is available in their Mobile Food Pantry, and we discovered that their Mobile Food Pantry also offers pet food, supplied by PawsAbility. It was such an eye-opening experience to learn about all that is offered by BFA. Sharon Methodist Church partners with Brunswick Family Assistance by donations from our Missions and Outreach Team, as well as offering them an office space for their community satellite program. You will see BFA on our campus the 2nd Thursday of each month, with their Mobile Food Pantry outside in the parking lot, as well as their representative in the office located in The Crossing. Anyone in the community may apply for assistance, or any of their programs, during this time. Now that their headquarters has moved to Bolivia, it is very important for them to offer these satellite locations so they can reach folks without transportation.

On Saturday, March 23, Lori and I, accompanied by our husbands, Mark and Bill, attended the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting celebration held at the new men's facility for Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. in Shallotte. Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. is a faith-based, 4-6 month residential, non-profit recovery center for men and women. The new facility in Shallotte will house 102 men seeking recovery from substance abuse. We were amazed by the beauty and functionality of this new facility, also to find out that they are already serving 88 male residents. The grand opening was filled with testimonies of faith, and living proof that the love of God can transform people from substance abusers into upstanding members of the community. Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. also operates the Rose House for women. Their residential program offers graduates continuing education at Brunswick Community College, as well as job placement programs. They offer residents an opportunity to work in their small businesses such as Landscaping and Pressure Washing, as well as the CRCI Thrift Store. The Executive Director of CRCI, Josh Torbich, is a graduate of the program, and one of the many miraculous stories to be heard if you visit one of their facilities. Sharon Methodist Church partners with CRCI by donations from our Missions and Outreach Team.

I am grateful for the blessings that can be found between Sharon Methodist Church and our Community Partners, and I look forward to discovering more about each of these partners!

*Blessings to you all,
Jackie Leonard
The Crossing Network Coordinator*



*Jackie Leonard
The Crossing
Coordinator*



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Debbie Kirby
Team Leader

Sharon's Outreach Team arrived ready to pray at our **Drive Thru Prayer Event** on **Saturday, March 9th**

Rain or shine and God sent us the ones that needed the prayers. We also took time to plan and pray for our church family and Pastor Jim and Susi. We look Forward to next one soon. Thanks team!
Debbie Kirby, Team Leader



Missions received boxes of clothes, shoes, and purses donated by The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store to be given to

Store to be given to **Dominican Republic Mission Trip Team Member, Paulette.**

This mission trip is planned for May 2024.

Also, thanks to our Sharon Church for donating Spanish devotionals to be distributed. Debbie Kirby, Team Leader



Reach out in love and invite someone to **“Sit With Me.”** Cards are available *at* both entrances of the sanctuary.



Methodist Men and Methodist Women came together to refurbish the raised garden beds the Boy Scouts built during the days of Covid. We are enlarging the beds, installing new soil and drip lines. Planting will be next on the agenda. We're hoping for a successful harvest to supplement our church food pantry and our church families. Many thanks to the Methodist Men for support. Stay tuned for more updates! - Lori Minor



Blessings abound from our Sharon Church family!! These very generous toiletry donations will be used to supplement the Brunswick Family Assistance Food Pantry. Many, many thanks to all who donated and/or offered prayers for this very worthwhile program. Paulette Harland delivered the donations. Lori Minor

THE LAY PERSON'S CORNER

Don Bolinger



With Holy Week, which culminated with the glory of celebrating our risen Lord, behind us, it might be a time to look a little bit into the lives and times of the disciples that followed Jesus. A few days ago, I found the following article on Facebook and although a bit long, I would like to share it with all of you.

Author: Michael O.

HOW THE APOSTLES DIED

1. Matthew - suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia, killed by a sword wound.

2. Mark - in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

3. Luke - hanged in Greece as a result of tremendous preaching to the lost.

4. John - faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison land of Patmos. He wrote his prophetic Book of Revelation on the island of Patmos. The Apostle John was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died as an old man, the only Apostle to die peacefully.

5. Peter - He was crucified upside down on an X shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way Jesus had died.

6. James - The leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a fuller's club.

7. James, the son of Zebedee - a strong leader of the church, he was beheaded in Jerusalem.



8. Bartholomew - also known as Nathaniel was hung

9. Andrew - was crucified on an X shaped cross in Patras, Greece, after being whipped severely by seven soldiers and they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony.

10. Thomas - was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church in the subcontinent.

11. Jude - was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

12. Matthias- the Apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot. He was stoned and beheaded.

13. Paul - was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero of Rome in A.D. 67. He endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire.

Perhaps this is a reminder to us that our sufferings here are indeed minor compared to the intense persecution and cold cruelty faced by the Apostles and Disciples during their times for the sake of the faith. Yes, they were all persecuted because of their faith. We sometimes look past what happened then as long ago history and say, "Well, that was then and this is today". Time may have passed, but persecution has not. Each week we pray for a persecuted Christian church somewhere in the world. Lifeway Research revealed that in 2021 more Christians around the world were detained or killed when their churches were attacked than in 2020\1\. That translates to about 1 in 7 Christians were persecuted just for their faith in our God. Aren't you glad you are free to worship in this country? God is good all the time, praise him every chance you get.



Supply Elementary School is requesting baked goods for their Annual Spring Fling

Bake Sale

APRIL 26TH

Any bagged cookies, cupcakes, and cakes for their Cake Walk will be appreciated.

Please have your donations at the church by Thursday, April 25th by 2:00 PM

Contact Person:
Helen Hamer

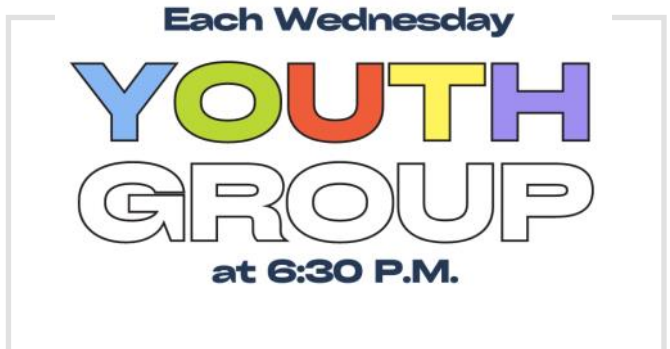
**LET'S
BAKE
FOR
A
CAKE
WALK
TO
SUPPORT
OUR
LOCAL
SCHOOL**

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH US



Join Pastor Jim on Wednesdays at The Crossing where he leads a Bible Study at — 10:30 A.M.

Bible Studies in APRIL will take place on the following Wednesdays:
April 3RD, 10TH, 17TH, AND 24TH





At our March 21, 2024 meeting our program was led by Jordan Anderson. She is in charge of the Foster Brunsco program. They offer help and support to foster families, and other families in need in the Brunswick County. She has been doing this for 5 years. They have been using

some rooms at the Supply Baptist Church, however they are in the process of renovating the church's old parsonage. Hopefully this will be done by the end of this year. At this time, we would like to help them by donating diapers and wipes. They are always run short on these very important items. If you can contribute any of these items to them, it would be greatly appreciated.

Just a reminder that we have on hand some excellent cutlery from Rada! We also have a book if you would like to look through it and place order for something that is not in stock. If you are interested in updating your kitchen cutlery, please see Kim Todd or Jackie Leonard for your Rada cutlery needs.

We want to invite all the women of the church that have not been attending to please join us! We are a small group, but we get a lot accomplished! Our next meeting will be held on April 18th, 2024. Our program will be a speaker from The Rose House, part of Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. In the future our meetings will be held in The Crossing.

Very Important!

Foster BrunsCo
Toiletry Items In Need

Baby
Wash, Shampoo, Lotion, Diaper rash cream

Kid
Wash, Shampoo, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Mouth wash

Adult
Bar soap or Body wash, Shampoo & Conditioner, Toothbrush & Toothpaste, Mouth wash, Deodorant, Razors,



We are a 501C3 offering help & support to foster families & other families in need in our community. We welcome your donations and accept them at all times.

Donation Items We Accept

- Gently used & new clothing, shoes, socks, & accessories (Preemie through jr. girls and young men)
 - NEW underwear (all sizes)
- Diapers, pull-ups, & wipes (unscented)
- Toys & books for all ages (with all pieces included)
- Infant needs (pacifiers, teethers, bibs, bottles, etc.)
 - Cribs, toddler beds, & mattresses
- Bedding for cribs, pack & plays, & toddler beds
- Other linens for infant/toddler (blankets, bath, etc.)
- Large baby equipment (high chair, stroller, etc.)
 - Baby Items (bouncers, walkers, etc.)
- Formula & baby food (unopened & in date)
- Toiletry Items (infant, child, & adult)
 - Luggage, duffel bags, & tote bags

We also have an Amazon Wish List that can be found at:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3G1KFEXSKE
TFP?ref_=wl_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3G1KFEXSKE?ref_=wl_share)

items can be dropped off any time under the carport at
Supply Baptist Church- 88 Ocean HWY in Supply

Contact: Jordan Anderson 910-232-2892

Dominican Missions

Make a Difference with Your Donation!

What You Can Donate:

Used Items:

- Gently used clothing/shoes - medium jackets/ sweaters
- Housewares- sheet sets, blanket, towels, pots & pans, small appliances, kitchen utensils.
- Toys/ Games (all pieces needed)

New Items:

- Toothbrushes/Paste
- Shampoo/body lotion
- Bar Soap
- Q-tips/band aids/ ibuprofen
- School Supplies
- Arts & Crafts (for groups)
- Crayons/ coloring books

Paulette Harland
(732) 249-0852
pah1958@gmail.com



Realm Training

with Carol Daughtery and Jackie Leonard

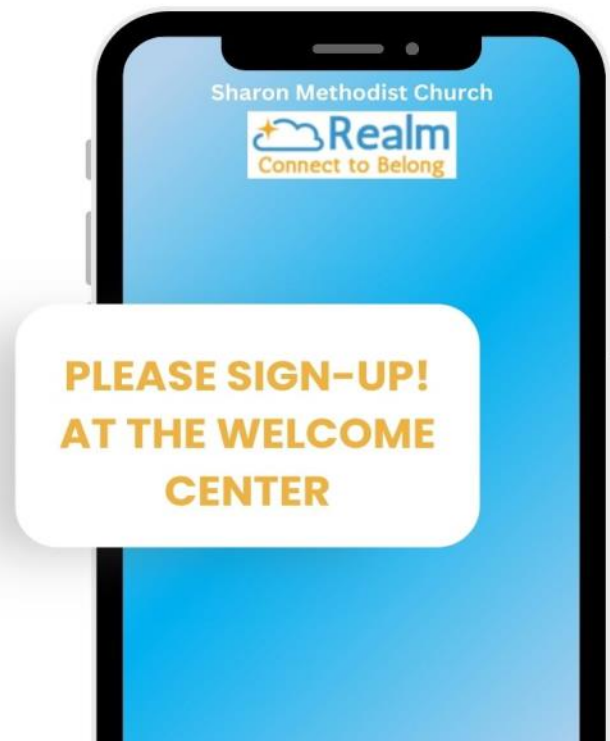
Wednesday April 17th

6:45 - 7:30 PM

Held at **The Crossing**

WHAT TO BRING:

Bring your laptop, tablet, or cellphone to follow along



On the sign-up sheet there is a place for you to comment on where you need help the most with Realm, so make sure you sign-up.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Don Bolinger, President

Fifteen Methodist Men met on March 7th and enjoyed a fine ham meal with all the trimmings provided by Team 3 (Sam Lewis, Scott Anderson, Kevin Harland, and Larry Sellers). Martin Hommer delivered a Max Lucado devotional that reminded us that when we experience difficulties in life, God will show up and provide a way.

First, on the agenda, Jonas Daugherty reported on the need for an electronic switching component for the computer system in the Sanctuary to maximize the visual media potential of the new system. This device will allow several media sources to hook easily into the overall system without endangering our computer by using people's thumb drives which might contain viruses. The overall quality will benefit greatly, also. A vote was taken and SMM voted that we provide the funding for the switch for Sharon media programs. Next, Kevin Harland reported that several members of the Sharon Methodist Women would like to revamp the raised beds that the scouts put in a few years back. The new beds with a self-contained watering system could supply some fresh vegetable for the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Pantry. The men agreed to help with the heavy lifting of this proposal. Jonas Daugherty gave an update on establishing an underground electrical cable to the digital

sign. This option has been chosen to eliminate any overhead wires and poles in the vicinity of the sign. The Facilities Team has agreed that underground is the way to go for a esthetics and maintenance benefits. He also stated that a church workday will be scheduled for later this Spring, so stay tuned for the date and what needs doing.

15 large tents in storage have been used in the past for large gatherings and are not being used regularly and may dry rot in the containers. A proposal was made to keep the best 7 or 8 complete sets for church events and The Rose can sell the remaining while they are in good condition. The proposal carried.

The business meeting ended with an update on the personalized Brick program (between the Sanctuary and The Crossing). More have been ordered and we need someone in the church to step up and spearhead the program, which includes the ordering and record-keeping for the program. The SMM will do the placement of the bricks in the walkway.

Pastor Jim reminded us all to keep several members of our congregation in prayer and make contact when we can.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast on March 14th had 21 in attendance enjoying a full breakfast and fellowship. We had a good discussion when we noted God working in our lives.

Exciting things are happening at The Rose!

We continue to be blessed with generous donations for our sales floor and with the continued support of our regular customers as well as new faces every day. Word is spreading about what a treasure our store is. Thanks to all of this, we have been able to fund our Missions and Outreach ministry, contribute to Sharon Church's General Fund, the Rose Capital Reserves and give greatly needed items directly to those in need who walk through our doors.

In 2023 alone, the store has achieved the following:

Net Sales: \$162,000

Profit after expenses: \$94,500

Monetary support to our community thru missions: \$71,900

Sharon Church General Fund: \$18,000

Rose Capital Reserves: \$4,700

Clothing and household goods directly to those in need: \$2,300



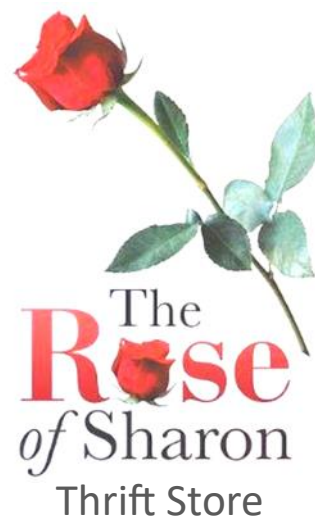
If you have been to The Rose, you know we have a lot of 'temporary' sales space in use. Two Conex trailers, a tent, metal shed, and a portion of the donation sorting area. To rectify this situation, we are planning a long-needed expansion of The Rose. We are still in the very early stages of planning, but this is a rendering of one possibility (view from rear of building). We plan on adding an additional 1,500 to 2,400 square feet to the current 1,600 square feet building.

To help fund this project, we will be mailing letters to local businesses and organizations soliciting donations. We will also be restarting the 'Tree of Life' fundraiser, for those who would like to donate in their name or in memory of someone else. More information about this opportunity will be published soon.

Once again, The Rose Family would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support to this vital mission of Sharon Church. Every day we thank God for the blessings we receive and that The Rose is able to share.

If you or someone you know is in need of clothing or household items, please contact either Tina Kenerson at The Rose (910)-842-9130 or Debbie Kirby through the church office (910)-842-2929.

Kathy Rudnicki



The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store

2060 Holden Beach Road, SW Supply, NC 28462

Hours of Operation

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, & Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM

Wednesday 12 PM - 4 PM

Sunday & Monday - CLOSED

Donations Accepted: Tuesday thru Friday 10AM - 2PM

Or by appointment: (910)842-9130

Memorial Walkway – Brick Program



The memorial brick program was initiated in 2007, providing a way for families and friends to honor the lives of members of Sharon and secondly, as a way for everyone to assist in the mortgage debt reduction of the church. Sharon's memorial walkway, from the sanctuary to the education building, was started shortly after the building completion. Ms. Genita Cohen of the original fundraising committee started and maintained the program through 2015. In 2023 we updated the program, renewed supplier relations with the Brick supplier, and established an overall procedure for the program.

Since our last placement in 2019 the program has been in the background or very low key (lack of a coordinator). There have been a few requests but we haven't reached a minimum quantity for the next order. Anyone that has an outstanding request or wanting to place a new request we ask you to contact the church office.

Brick requests will be taken at any time thru the Church Secretary. The procedure:

Visit or call the church office with your request.

Fill in the form or provide the exact wording to be printed.

3 lines of print, 20 characters including spaces per line.

Pay the brick donation price at the time of your entry.

Brick orders will be placed on a semiannual basis or sooner if a standard order quantity is reached.

Once received Sharon trustees will arrange for the installation of bricks into the Memorial Walkway.

Brick Description and Pricing:

Memorial bricks are all 4" x 8" x 2¼" kiln fired clay brick in Regimental Red color. Engraving is Laser etched and permanent.

Price of the Memorial brick is \$100 each. As the manufacturing costs varies this price has not changed since the program inception. Funds raised thru this program go directly to the Sharon Church building fund.

As mentioned above, we do need someone to step forward and coordinate or administer the program. This would include collecting and organizing forms, placing an order when appropriate and following up with the supplier, finally notifying the facilities team when they are ready to be installed. Contact the church office if this is an area of ministry you could support. - Martin Hommer

The Crossing Network Event LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENING

**It was a successful
day of outreach to
our community.
Thank you to all who
participated!
And thank you to
Jackie Leonard, our
Crossing Network
Leader!**

APRIL

Happy Birthday

6th Ernest Worley

19th David Montague

11th Sylvia Ludlum

22nd Sarah Wilson

11th Betty Lauer

26th Chuck Wilson

11th Alison Holden

28th Jay Hamer

16th Ruth Fiesenthaler

29th Shannon Adams

16th Debbie Kirby

29th Willis Bonkemeyer

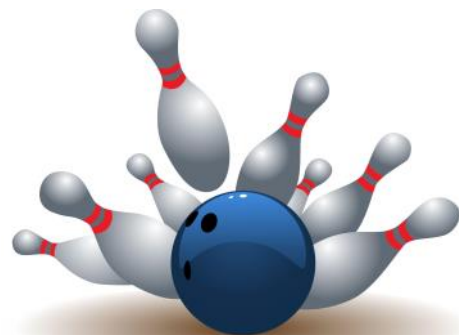
Happy Anniversary

9th David & Judy Montague

Recreation Team

Lance & Gretchen Verzinskie
Team Leaders

Let's go **Bowling** this April!



Friday, April 12th at 6:00 P.M.

Thursday, April 25th at 7:00 P.M.

Join us in the **Fellowship Hall** for
Fun, Fellowship & Prizes
(Hot Dogs & Chips \$5 plate)

Meet at Planet Fun of Shallotte
for Fun & Fellowship!
Pizza is provided by the Recreation Team

Reminder: Accepting donations for prizes

\$2 PER GAME & \$3 SHOE RENTAL

APRIL 2024

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 Bible Study w/Pastor Jim (The Crossing)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

6:00 PM Taste of Sharon (Fellowship Hall)
 6:30 PM 6-12th Grade Youth Group (The Crossing)
 7:00 PM Choir Practice (Choir Room)

THURSDAY

1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (CMR)

FRIDAY

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



Sharon Methodist Church
 2030 Holden Beach Road, SW
 Supply, NC 28462
 (910) 842-2929

Visit Our Website
www.sharonbythesea.com

Facebook: SharonbytheHBSea

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCe4QACeqwJDUUp3xc9eEt-Og

Once A Month Events at SMC

3RD MONDAY	2ND TUESDAY	4TH TUESDAY	1ST THURSDAY	2ND THURSDAY	3RD THURSDAY	4TH THURSDAY	2ND FRIDAY	2ND SATURDAY
6:30 PM Leadership Board is Meeting Bi-Monthly & WILL MEET MARCH 18TH (The Crossing)	4:30 PM Women's Gratitude Journaling (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 PM Finance Team Meeting (The Crossing)	6:00 PM Methodist Men's Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 AM Methodist Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 PM Methodist Women's Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 PM Recreation Team Bowling at Planet Fun of Shallotte	6:00 PM Recreation Team Bingo! (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 PM SATURDAY NIGHT LIFE at the Parsonage
-----				9:30 AM Brunswick Family Assistance (The Crossing)				
4TH MONDAY 7:00 PM Facilities Team Meeting								