

JANUARY 2025

# GOOD NEWS OF SHARON



*A Letter  
From  
The  
Pastor*

JIM PEGAN

## **Getting Back to our Wesleyan Methodist Roots in 2025**

Greetings Sharon Church Family and Happy New Year!

2025 is a historic year for our local Methodist church as we celebrate 200 years of ministry in our community. We are looking forward to a year of remembering and commemorating the strong heritage that Sharon has as a lighthouse for Jesus Christ and an uninterrupted Christian presence through the ups and downs of our nation's history. It is important that we take this time to recognize our bicentennial and to reach back to our roots so that we may be renewed and inspired by the saints of Sharon who have gone before us. It is also important to reflect on the original mission of the Methodist movement and its founding father John Wesley.

In January, I will be leading us in a message series aimed at honoring the past by considering how we can renew our commitment to traditional Wesleyan Methodism. On October 4th, 2022, our congregation made the historic decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and to join the new Global Methodist Church. God has blessed that decision, and good things have been happening in and through us. During January and on into 2025 I will be challenging us to take a fresh look at the teachings of John Wesley and the high standards he set for Methodists through what he called "The General Rules." We will also consider the Global Methodist Church's emphasis on what Wesley called "spreading scriptural holiness." It is my hope that getting back to our Wesleyan Methodist roots will bring a season of renewal and missional passion to our church.

There are three general rules that Wesley encouraged Methodists to adhere to and live by. They are "Do no harm," "Do good," and "Attend upon the ordinances of God." The first two are seemingly self-explanatory and it is easy to understand why good Christian people would live this way. In fact, I would argue, a large percentage of Christians I have known are satisfied with these two directives alone. The third needs more explanation and is a critical component of life as a Methodist.

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According to Wesley, the Ordinances of God include:

1. The public worship of God (on a regular basis with a gathering of other Christians)
2. The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded upon (hearing the Bible read or preached on)
3. The supper of the Lord (participating in the Sacrament of Holy Communion)
4. Family and private prayer (what many of us call "devotions")
5. Searching the Scriptures (studying the Bible privately or as part of a group to gain insight)
6. Fasting or abstinence (denying ourselves to identify with Christ's self-sacrificial example)

I believe that if Sharon Methodist Church is going to live to celebrate its Tricentennial in 2125 it will be because we recommit ourselves to what some people have called these "Three Simple Rules" of John Wesley. I look forward to taking this journey to renewal with you. We have no greater calling.

Your Partner in the Adventure,

*Pastor Jim*



**Will be January 11, 2025 - 6pm - at The Parsonage**

**Please RSVP to Pastor Jim or Susi Pegan**



**This Year's Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia for the Jeremiah Project will take place July 6-12, 2025. We have reserved space for up to five youths and two adults. Now is the time to commit to this trip and mark your calendars. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord and make some new friends while serving people in need. Please see Karen Bedsaul, Ryan Johnson, or Pastor Jim to sign up right away.**

# Tidbits from The Crossing

## DID YOU KNOW.....

The Crossing Network, through Sharon Methodist Church, partners with many organizations within our community. Through the proceeds of sales at The Rose of Sharon, we are able to pass along blessings by way of monetary support to some of our local Community Partners each year.

At the end of 2024, our Missions Team had the honor of blessing nine of our local Community Partners with monetary gifts to help them in their mission of helping others. These Community Partners included Brunswick Streetreach, Brunswick Family Assistance, Hope Harbor Home, Foster Brunasco, Coastal Carolina Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, Christian Recovery Services, The Rose House and the Boys & Girls Home.

What a blessing it is to have the awesome staff and volunteers at The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store. With the dedication and hard work of each of these individuals, The Crossing Network and Sharon's Missions Team have the opportunity to bless our community partners and support them in this much needed way, which, in turn, allows them to bless and support others.

I look forward to this season of new opportunities to share God's love in so many different ways. To quote our precious Debbie Kirby, "what we have to gain is Blessings, Blessings, Blessings!"

If you would like to find out more about The Crossing Network, The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store, Sharon's Missions Team, or any of our local Community Partners, please see me in the office. I would love to sit down with you and talk about how you can get involved!

Wishing each of you a blessed and happy new year!



Blessings to you all,  
Jackie Leonard  
The Crossing Network Coordinator



# Missions & Outreach

Team Lead: Paulette Harland



November 17th we were blessed to have 30 ladies from The Rose House worship with us!

The Saturday Night Life group hosted lunch for them afterwards and enjoyed a time of sharing our life's stories, delicious food and conversation about becoming more involved in our respective ministries.

Lori Minor

Missions/Outreach Coordinator

There is no shortage of LOVE at Sharon Methodist Church! Evidenced by the 176 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on our altar! 176 opportunities for children around the world, some in the most remote and restrictive countries, to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!! Many, many THANK YOU'S to all the volunteers who assembled and helped pack extra boxes, to our church family who packed individual boxes, those who donated for shipping costs and fillers and most importantly, those who prayed over these boxes and for the children who will receive them. To God be the glory!!

Lori Minor

Missions/Outreach Coordinator

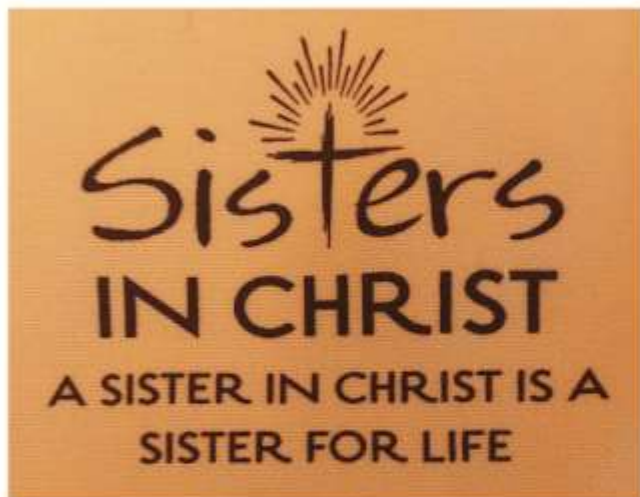




Sharon Methodist Church 1825-2025 "Bicentennial Celebration" will be October 26, 2024. We are planning a great year of celebrating beginning with a Women's Prayer Retreat January 24-25. Events will be planned throughout the year as we celebrate this wonderful event in the life of Sharon. So mark your calendars, spread the word to former members that may have moved away to plan to attend.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness!!

Debbie Kirby



Sharon Women's Prayer Retreat will begin our Bicentennial Celebration year!! It will be January 24-25, 2025, Friday night thru Saturday 2pm. Location is "Heaven Sent" oceanfront beach house: 1285 Ocean Blvd West. Donation by James Hobbs in memory of Betty Hobbs who sponsored our first prayer retreats at Sharon. Guest speaker will be Phyllis Ellington who will focus us on being a "Sister In Christ". Philippians 1:7 "It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart". Phyllis is an amazing speaker with the love of Christ!! Sign up sheet is in the hallway entrance next to The Crossing. There is space for about 20 people to stay Friday night. If you don't stay Friday night just plan to come on Saturday 9 am. Everyone please bring a container of salad to be shared for lunch on Saturday. Contacts: Kim Todd, Debbie Kirby, Gail Beck.



**Sharon enjoyed spreading Christmas cheer with our Kids' Christmas Party!! Singing, crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, hot chocolate bar and wonderful hotdogs were delicious. Thanks to everyone that helped to make this happen.**



# Men's Ministry

Don Bolinger, President

The annual Christmas meal at Jerome's was well attended with over 40 SMM and ladies present. A good time and filling meal set the theme for the rest of the month. Most of the time was spent in fellowship with just a couple of announcements one of which was that the man of the year plaques would be presented during the church service on December 15th when the awardees would be present. Yes awardees, this was the first time since it was initiated that there was a tie after multiple rounds of voting. Larry "Doc" Ferrell and Chuck Wilson shared the honors this year. Both were well deserved as they both exhibited, thru their service, a humble walk with God.

Teams wound up the service year by placing grab bars in the shower area for Nancy Hewett and another team helped move boxes into storage for Dianne Peek while a third dug out and assembled the church manger scene. The SMM also voted to fund a guaranteed spot on the "Jeremiah Project" team for our youth in 2025.

For this month we will be reorganizing the cooking teams, planning for a special event around Valentine's Day, shrimp/fish fundraiser, helping with The Rose expansion, helping others who need odd jobs done, and cooking for the 'Taste of Sharon'; plus who knows.

Men of Sharon don't forget we meet on the first Thursday at 6pm for our monthly meeting and the second Thursday at 8am for our prayer breakfast. The main requirement for these get togethers is just turn the door knob of fellowship hall and come on in. See you this month?

*Don Bolinger*

# TREASURY NOTES

From Your Finance Team

One of my favorite bible verses that I came across several years ago, was Romans 8:31 "...if God is for us, who can be against us?" And it has been proved over several times of late when financial situations that we have hoped for have floated to the surface. As promised last month, the first was the good news that the new refinanced sanctuary loan monthly payment is going to be \$3,280 which is about half of what was estimated in the 2025 draft budget. The process for final documentation was done in December and loan documents signed and ready to go this month.

The loan for the expansion of The Rose of Sharon thrift shop was also approved. The Rose of Sharon board has submitted planned fund-raising events to the finance team, and they have been accepted in November. You will find out more about this project elsewhere in upcoming newsletters.

There are going to be several new opportunities to serve The Sharon community coming up this year. Please keep tuned into those as they arise and continue your generous support. There is no telling just how much we can do with God being for us, but I am betting that by this time next year we will be surprised how far we have come toward being all that god has intended for us to be. See you next month.

*Don Bolinger*





# RECREATION TEAM NEWS



**Bingo will be on Friday, January 10th, at 6:00pm in The Fellowship Hall**



**Bowling will be on Thursday, January 23rd, at 7:00PM at Planet Fun in Shallotte**

We are working on planning a Karaoke & Bible Trivia night...  
Stay tuned for more information to come.

We would like to Thank everyone for their help and support that you give to the Recreation Team. We enjoy the fun & fellowship that we always have and we hope you do too.

**Happy New Year & Many Blessings to you all in the New Year:  
Lance, Gretchen & Audree**



A new small group is being offered by Kathy Loes, at her home (1486 Kyle St., SW, Supply, 28462). Come join Kathy for some fun while enjoying the Bible. Starting Thursday, January 2nd at 7:00pm. If you have any questions you can reach Kathy at 910-368-6105

# *The Admin Corner*

by Mel Sellers



Picture yourself getting ready for a lavish celebration. As you stand in front of your closet, carefully choosing the perfect outfit for the event, each piece of clothing you select not only reflects your personal style but also tells a story about who you are. The soft touch of fabric against your skin whispers of your individual spirit. Now, imagine in the spiritual realm, we are presented with a collection of divine garments crafted by the Holy Spirit himself.

These are not just ordinary clothes, but virtues of the highest caliber: hearts filled with compassion, acts of kindness, displays of humility, demonstrations of meekness, and moments of patience. Each virtue intertwines with the next, creating a beautiful tapestry of grace and goodness that envelops our souls. However, among these magnificent garments, there is one that stands out above the rest, one that ties everything together with its timeless elegance—love.

Love is the ultimate treasure, the divine element that ties all other virtues together in perfect harmony. It is not just a fleeting emotion reserved for those closest to us, but a boundless, grace-filled love that reaches out to touch the lives of everyone we encounter. This love reflects the very essence of Christ, inviting others to witness a beauty that is truly unmatched.

As people of faith, we are called to clothe ourselves in this love, making it the defining piece of our spiritual wardrobe. With love as our foundation, let us confidently step into the world, showcasing the transformative power of Christ's love. Let us wear this love with purpose, so that others may be drawn to its warmth and inspired to seek its source.

Peace & Grace,  
*Mel Sellers*

# LOVE





# NEWS FROM THE ROSE

*The Rose of Sharon*

Wishes You

*A Very Merry Christmas and  
A New Year Filled with Many Blessings!*



2024 was another outstanding year for The Rose of Sharon Thrift Store. We want to thank all our generous donors, our loyal customers, our dedicated volunteers and Joel, our 'energizer bunny' of a manager, Tina and our wonderful Pastor and Church support staff.

**2025 is going to be an exciting year for us! Our store expansion has been approved, the loan secured, a builder hired, and the plans have been submitted to the county for approval.**

We look forward to seeing ALL of you in the store next year. We know you will continue to support us and our growth. REMEMBER - As The Rose grows, the money that supports our Church's missions grows, and thus Sharon's ability to help our community continues to grow.

*Merry Christmas*

*Kathy Rudnicki*

The Rose of Sharon Board Chairperson



(Some of the wonderful Rose Volunteers at our annual Christmas luncheon)

Dear Pastor Jim & Sharon Church,  
We extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you for your thoughtful and generous gift to those in our community affected by recent storms. We had one household in our membership whose home was damaged by flooding, and your gift will cover most or all of the expense to have the sheetrock and painting completed. May God continue to bless your Missions & Outreach ministry.  
Thanks & Love  
Pastor Rick & Southwest/Dak Tri-lan A.M.C.



# Letters



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH

PO Box 667 | Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Sharon Methodist Church, Inc  
2030 Holden Beach Road SW  
Supply, NC 28462



Truly  
Grateful  
for you.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your generous contribution to the North Carolina Global Methodist Conference for your support of our brothers and sisters in Western North Carolina in the wake of Hurricane Helene. Your contribution of \$8,000.00 and your prayers are greatly appreciated!

With your help we have been able to support many relief efforts such as feeding people when food banks and community kitchens had been destroyed, providing support to Eight Days of Hope for food and supply help, assisting families at risk of losing their homes, helping to build temporary housing, clearing closed roadways, and helping people to clean up and fix damaged homes.

The road to recovery will be long, and we couldn't do it without you. Thanks again for your support!

Blessings in Christ,

The North Carolina Global Methodist Conference Leadership Team