

APRIL 2025

GOOD NEWS OF SHARON



*A Letter
From
The
Pastor*

JIM PEGAN

The Mystery and the Majesty of Holy Week

Greetings Sharon Church Family,



Now that April is here, we are well into the season of Lent and are looking ahead once again to Easter Sunday. I pray that your Lenten disciplines have been drawing you nearer to God and giving you clearer vision for the journey that Jesus invites all of us on. This year, Easter Sunday is April 20th which means that Holy Week begins the week before starting with Palm Sunday. Here is a little bit of information about the opportunities that we are offering in observance of this meaningful end to the Lenten season.

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, we will observe the memory of Jesus' Triumphal Entry into the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey as people waved palm branches and shouted, "Hosanna to the King of kings!" Our own Jeux Simmons will give a creative talk from the perspective of the donkey that Jesus rode. That evening, the Choir will offer a musical cantata titled, "The Risen Savior," directed by Gail Beck.

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, the Methodist Men will present their annual "Living Last Supper" in our sanctuary. This is a good reminder of the love that Jesus showed to his disciples right to the end and their struggle to understand the things that he was telling them that night. This unique service offers a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members to experience it with you.

Good Friday, April 18th, we are all invited to a combined service with our friends from Asbury Methodist Church at 6:00 in Mulberry Park in Shallotte. This solemn service commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus through scripture, prayer and song. Bring a lawn chair and someone that needs to know how much Jesus loves them.

(Cont. on next page)

(Cont. from previous page) Saturday is a good day to simply rest in the mystery between the cross and the empty tomb. Holy Saturday is sometime referred to as an Easter Vigil.

April 20th is Resurrection Sunday! We are invited to Village Point Methodist Church for a 6:30 Sunrise Service if anyone would like to ride over on the bus. At 8:00 we will have breakfast at Sharon before Sunday School at 9:00. Our Easter worship service will be in the sanctuary at our normal 10:00 time.

Observing Holy Week traditions is a valuable reminder of the passion of Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Gospel. Our God took on human flesh, lived among us, offered himself as a sacrifice for our imperfections, and rose from the grave to create a portal to heaven for those who believe. Hallelujah!

In the Love of Christ,

Pastor Jim



No SNL for the month of April; will resume in May 2025!



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. We are thrilled to announce that Brunswick County Habitat for Humanity is one of our newest Community Partners. The Brunswick County division was founded in 1993 and is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

Habitat for Humanity believes that safe and decent shelter should be a fundamental human right. Their goal and mission is to end substandard housing by building houses for qualifying families in need, including young families with small children, single parents and those with disabilities. These homes are built with volunteer labor, tax deductible donations and proceeds from their ReStore retail locations. Each homeowner would invest a substantial amount of time and “sweat equity” into building their own home. The house is then sold to the partner family with a below market interest rate. Money collected from these mortgage repayments are used to help finance the construction of future Habitat homes. By working together from beginning to end, prospective individuals are prepared for various responsibilities of home ownership, including learning about personal finances, mortgages, maintenance and upkeep of homes, and so much more.

Habitat serves our local Brunswick County community by increasing the number of homes built for qualifying families, providing high-quality goods to the public at a fraction of normal retail price in their local ReStores, as well as preventing usable or recyclable items from ending up in the landfill.

If you haven't visited one of the local Habitat for Humanity ReStores located in Ocean Isle Beach, Leland or Southport-Oak Island, you will be pleasantly surprised at the reasonably priced, quality furniture and other household goods to choose from! You may show your support, not only by visiting one of the ReStore locations, but also by volunteering in construction, or in one of the local ReStores. Monetary donations, as well as household goods, are gladly accepted.

For more information visit their website at <https://brunswickcountyhabitat.org/volunteer/>.



SCAN HERE

Be open to receiving God's blessings in your life so that you may be a blessing to others!

Feel free to see me in the church office for more information!



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



The Lay Person's Corner

Sharon Shouts: Notes from David Montague



Well, it certainly looks and feels as if spring has sprung, we are experiencing warming temperatures and pine pollen is everywhere. We are celebrating our risen savior, but what is next? Are we as Christians ready to spread the word and tell others?

Matthew 28: 16-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

This scripture is known as the Great Commission commanding Christians to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples in all nations. It is also a promise made by Jesus giving you assurance that “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

So how do we share the good news of Jesus with others?

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The scripture is truly clear on whose authority we go, and what we are to do, and what power we will receive as we go. Our message being "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Witnessing where you are, being prepared to share your story as the power of the Holy Spirit leads you. Sharing how God changed your life and how Jesus can change you and help you change your life. If you believe in him, confess your sin, and follow him, find a church congregation, and begin a new life.

Beloved as followers of Christ, we must feel the burden of the lost and obey Gods command to spread his word and make disciples. It starts with your belief and confession of your faith and sharing your personal “story” with the lost.

Happy Easter Christ has Risen!

In Christ,

David

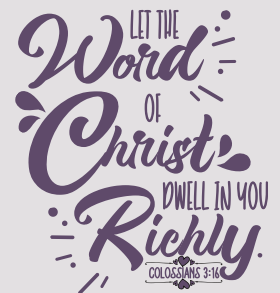
Lay Leader





Sisters in Christ Women's Prayer Retreat was a refreshing and uplifting event shared by the women of Sharon. Our guest speaker, Phyllis Elvington, shared with us a wonderful path for Sisters-in-Christ.

Debbie Kirby



The Memorial Brick Program is officially underway! Established in 2007, this initiative provides families and friends the opportunity to honor the lives of their loved ones connected to Sharon. The completed bricks will be showcased along Sharon's memorial walkway, linking the Sanctuary to the education building.

You can acquire a memorial brick with a donation of \$100. Each brick can feature up to three lines, with a maximum of 20 characters per line, including spaces. Order forms are accessible at the Church office with the administrative assistant, and completed forms along with payment should be submitted there as well.

The funds generated from this program will contribute to renovations for the Rose of Sharon building.

Missions & Outreach

Team Leader:
Paulette Harland

On Sunday, March 16, Sharon Church hosted the Catalyst Workshop: A Pathway to Great Commission Engagement, presented by One Mission Society Church Partners. OMS was founded on the principle that the most effective way to spread the Gospel is by training the nations' sons & daughters to multiply believers and churches to reach their own people for Christ and then partner with them to reach the rest of the world. We had approximately 25 participants attend from local churches and as far as Burgaw and Mt. Olive.

The goals of our Workshop were to help us DISCOVER, DISCERN, DEVELOP & DEPLOY strategies, in obedience with God, to find pathways that will increase our impact in Missions within our church, community and globally.

We, as a church, need to prayerfully seek where God's inviting us to join Him!

Acts 1:8 - "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



Men's Ministry

Don Bolinger, President

ISAIAH 6:8 READS “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘whom shall I send and who will go for us? Then I said, ‘here am I! send me’”.

After a great meal by Team 3, the Sharon Methodist Men got down to the business of the month. Good news started off with positive comments about the Sweet Heart dinner resulting in a commitment to do it again in 2026.

Going along with one success was the pancake supper which put \$350 into a newly started Handy Man account which will be used to help those who have a special need above and beyond what we would normally do. Note was also made that it had been a while since the Fellowship of Christian Athletes from West Brunswick High had joined us for a meal and update on their activities. They will be contacted and invited to our April meeting.

Pastor Jim reported on the possibility of being a satellite group for the sponsorship of the Trail Life program. He also reported that we have purchased a copy of the movie, “The Forge” and it will be available to any Sharon group that wishes to show it. Stay tuned for an initial showing open to the entire Church. An appeal was also made for male participation in the Drive Thru Prayer event held every Saturday in Lent.

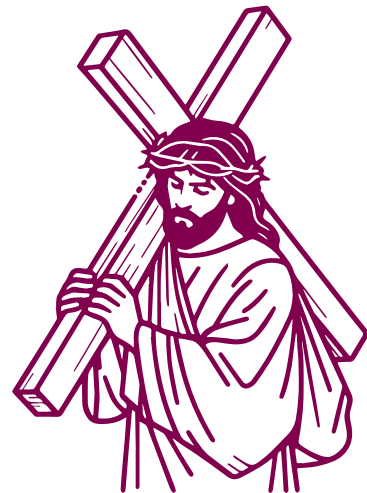
The Men of Sharon are preparing for the presentation of the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday April 17th. It was great to know that the entire cast from 2024 will be available again this year. The final discussion of the evening was the Spring Fish Fry planned for April 26th. A chair or co-chair of volunteers were called for. Final prayer was given and adjournment was at 7pm.

In Christ,

Don Bolinger

(for David Montague)

SMM Vice President



TREASURY NOTES

From Your Finance Team

A term that has been tossed around when talking of financial records at Sharon is the term **Dashboard**. It is a summary of income and expenses which indicates and summarizes the financial health of an organization. In short form, it is like your check book record of expenses and deposits. Ready for another financial term Sharon uses? A **statement of activities** takes this data and develops the costs and balances for a given period of time as it applies to each category in the budget for a particular calendar year. Both are valuable tools for your finance team to make sure that 1) Your financial wishes are credited where you wish, 2) We do not over spend the total budget for the year. Both documents are reviewed each time the finance team meets and if needed adjustments are made. It is important to note that there are two basic funding categories: 1) Funding used for the operation of Sharon Church i.e. Mortgage, salaries, insurance, etc. 2) Funding for the various programs of the church i.e. music, recreation, bible school, etc. Any adjustments have to be made within the category and not between them.

The completion of projects in category two relies on the continued funding of category one (General Fund), which is why it is important to be able to meet our weekly/monthly expenses. These expenses are approximately \$7,200 weekly or \$31,000 each month, respectively. You can keep track of the General Fund income and expenses by checking the weekly bulletin or on the wall in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Thank you all for helping Sharon being able to be what God has intended. *Jeremiah 29:11 says-I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*

In Christ,

Don Bolinger



RECREATION TEAM NEWS



**Bingo will be on Friday, April 11th, at 6:00pm
in The Fellowship Hall**



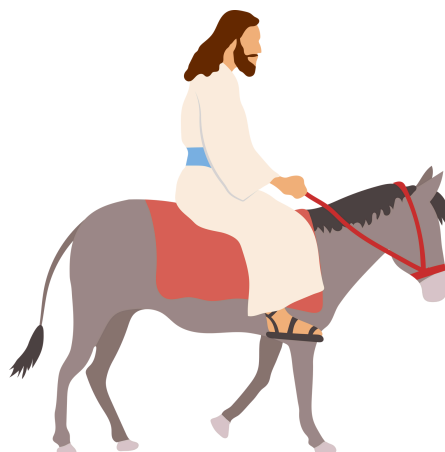
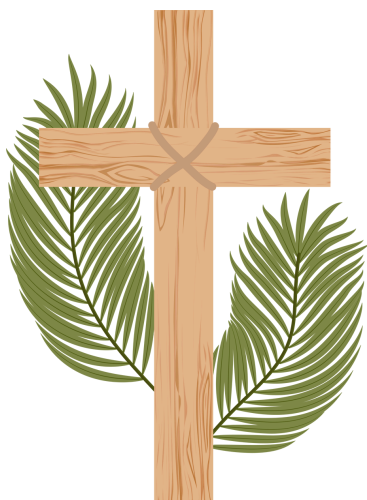
**Bowling will be on Thursday, April 24th, at
7:00PM at Planet Fun in Shallotte**

We are still taking donations & gift cards for prizes, if you have anything you would like to contribute.

Any ideas that someone may have for a Recreation 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.

We enjoy the fun & fellowship that we always have and we hope you do too.

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



The Admin Corner

by Mel Sellers



Picture life as a journey in a cherished vehicle. As we travel along, the importance of a well-balanced wheel becomes evident. A wheel that is out of alignment can disrupt the smoothness of our ride, causing vibrations that throw us off course. It's a lot like how we navigate the complexities of our daily lives, isn't it? We may not think about the spiritual alignment of our hearts and minds until we feel the tremors of life's challenges, until our spirit wavers under the weight of unaddressed burdens.

Think about this: Each new day presents an opportunity to tune our hearts to the divine frequency, to check the alignment of our soul's compass. Our thoughts, words, and actions should reflect the love and grace that has been given to us. In every interaction, every task, every quiet moment of prayer, there is a chance to embody the Creator's intentions. This is the essence of walking in His wisdom, where every gesture, no matter how small or significant, is an expression of gratitude, a reflection of His limitless love.

If we find ourselves straying off course, let us remember that the Word of God is the ultimate guide, the manual for life that covers every detail. Within the sacred text, we can find the instructions to realign our lives, to prevent the imbalance caused by neglect, unresolved pain, or wandering.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, let us approach each day with purpose, aligning our desires with His, steering our lives with the assurance that comes from being rooted in His everlasting promises. May every action we take be a song of praise to the One who created us, who knows the path ahead, and who lovingly invites us to a life filled with unity and meaning.

Peace & Grace,

Mel Sellers





News From The Rose



We are starting a couple new features to our monthly newsletter article. "Volunteer Spotlight" and "What is That?"

Volunteer Spotlight:

If you've been to The Rose, I'm sure you've met Edna Allen. She is one of our longtime volunteers. Edna is originally from Matthews, NC and moved here in Sept 2020. She has been steadily volunteering at The Rose since 2021. Edna is a retired LPN. The thing she values the most from volunteering is the friendships she has made over the years. Here is a quote from her "I personally have a much more personal relationship with God! Growing up I wasn't given a good father figure. But, since being here I realize I've had the best father of them all!"



The Rose continues to thrive, watered by God's mercy and grace. We are so thankful for the many generous donors who make it possible for our church to be a blessing to others in our community. The Rose received an amazing donation! A beautiful camping trailer was given to us by a very generous member of our church family. We sold the trailer for \$10,000! This marks the first big donation toward our new store expansion. We cannot express how much we appreciate this gift! Thanks to our donors and the volunteers who process the thousands of items that come in. The Rose generates from \$6000 - \$11,000 in profits monthly. This money feeds into our capital reserve, the Church's general fund and Missions & Outreach. It is so exciting to be a part of God's work at The Rose of Sharon!

What is That?:

This is an antique nutcracker. It was in a box of donations we received. If you like unique items, come on into the store and pick this baby up!
It'll make a great gift!



Kathy Rudnicki

The Rose of Sharon Board Chairperson



HOLY WEEK HAPPENINGS:

**13TH
SUNDAY**

PALM SUNDAY
Come, worship with us for a
day of celebration.
9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Worship

**17TH
THURSDAY**

LIVING LAST SUPPER 7PM
7:00pm - A Tradition at
Sharon Methodist Church
the re-enactment of the final
supper.

**18TH
FRIDAY**

**COMBINED GMC SERVICE
GOOD FRIDAY**
6:00pm at Mulberry Park
Shallotte with Asbury
Methodist Church. Bring
your own chair.

**20TH
SUNDAY**

EASTER CELEBRATION
6:30am Sunrise Service at Village Point Methodist Church
8:00am Son Rise Breakfast at Sharon Fellowship Hall
9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Worship



SHARON METHODIST CHURCH

You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!



Where: **Sharon Methodist Church**
2030 Holden Beach Rd SW
When: April 17, 2025

Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Screenings.**

Trusted by over 10 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend: Anyone over the **age of 40**

Special Pricing for \$159

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Plus a FREE Hypertension Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Scan here:



Call 888-814-0466
and use promo
code: HSCA001

Visit
[LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA](https://llsa.social/hscas)

Text the word
"circle" to
216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease.

Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

SHARON METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

KID'S EASTER

Celebration

CRAFTS-GAMES-EGG HUNT-SNACKS

FRIDAY

APRIL 11, 2025 - 6:00PM - 7:30PM

sign up here!



2030 HOLDEN BEACH ROAD ~ SUPPLY, NC 28462

910.842.2929