

The St. John's Post

-April 2024 Edition-



It's March Madness

Spring has always been my favorite time of the year: longer days, warmer weather, opening day of baseball, The Masters and March Madness.

Every one of these events make me happy. Chances are you know that March Madness is well underway and the Final Four men's teams will be determined by Easter evening. The Final Four women's teams will be determined by Easter Monday night.

This time of the year you have teams like UNC, Duke, Connecticut, Kentucky, Kansas and N. C. State who always appear in the final bracket; as usual they made the dance this year. I am sure you know that I am a little partial to The University of South Carolina Lady G's women's team.

Section Sunday is the day that basketball teams gather with their teammates, coaches and fans hoping for an invitation as one of the teams to the "Dance of the Sixty-Four". Teams that won their Conference Championship have already punched their ticket to the dance. One of those teams this year was the Yale Bulldogs. Although Yale is not considered to be a "Basketball Blueblood", they have won 6 national championships. Out of sixty-four teams and two play-in games, only fourteen of those teams have won National Championships. Eight of those fourteen have won multiple championships.

As the Yale basketball team was preparing for their big game against the SEC Tournament Champs, the Auburn Tigers, the Yale pep band and students were preparing to travel for spring break. They would be unable to attend the game to cheer for their team. When the University of Idaho marching band heard this news, available members stepped up and formed a pep band, learned the Yale

fight song and practiced other spirited music for the bulldogs. The newly formed pep band was provided with Yale shirts and gear by the Yale Bulldogs. The bulldogs went on to upset the #3 seed the Auburn Tigers, which was unexpected & highly unusual, and defeated them on Friday, March 22nd. With their hard work and dedication and with the kindness and support of the pep band, the bulldogs brought home the victory.

There's a popular YouTuber that often says, "The kindness you put out into the world has a way of coming back to you." In just a few days, March Madness will be over, a new national champion will be crowned, and we will move on to the next best thing. This year the Yale Bulldogs didn't make it to the final championship game to win the National Championship title, but they did have their one shining moment and they were shown kindness with the support of those who cared.

Has anyone ever extended kindness to you? The weekend of July 24-July 27, we as the members of St. John's UMC, have the opportunity to share kindness with God's people. I ask you to SAVE THESE DATES now, so that we might be able to share kindness with one person at a time. This is your opportunity with your church family to make a tremendous difference. A list of all the service opportunities will be published soon. Please consider being an important part of Kindness Weekend!

I look forward to seeing you at St. John's, where we work together to share kindness with God's people.

Shalom,

Karen



P.S. Hope you all have a wonderful Third Day! Happy Resurrection Day

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Andy Clyburn	2 Max Powers	3 Arielle Damm Ella Brown	4 Linda Anderson	5	6 Mike McGady Nora Emelife Denny Valloric
7 Kirk Hardymon Christine Newland Jake Brown Ruth Brown	8	9 Carsyn Clyburn Cillian Lewis	10 Phyllis Harroff John Vaughan	11	12	13
14 Peg Brust Jessica Hall	15 Grant Robertson	16 Tim Bond Zane Emelife	17 Meredith Jackson	18 David Helms Denise Holland Henry Gieser	19 William Bonéy	20
21 John Johnson	22 JoAnn Kane Ava Mayes	23 Debby Valloric	24	25 Evan Easterling	26 Nick Damm	27 Barron Griffin Finn Miller Jennifer Williams
28 Paige Moore	29 Beth Hozey Lillie Creel	30 Kay Gibson				

Celebrate!

ANNIVERSARIES:

- April 8 Glen & Laura Lindsey
- April 9 Davin & Emily McQuay
- April 12 TC & Kathryn Fuller
- April 16 Mark & Amanda Carter
- April 24 John & Rev. Kristen Frick
Craig & Nancy Neal
- April 28 James & Michelle Messer



Wednesday Night Meal

DINNER BEGINS AT 5:45PM

Vespers Service: begins @ 6:30pm immediately following our meal

APRIL 10

Scrambled eggs

Grits

Sausage

Biscuits

Fruit



APRIL 17

Chicken Pot Pie

Salad

Dessert

APRIL 24

Lasagna

Salad

Garlic bread

Dessert



Costs of meals:

Children 2 & under eat free (Children Age 3-8) \$6 (Age 9 - Adults) \$10

Family maximum - \$25

NEED TO KNOW

LUNCH BUDDIES

Lunch Buddies will gather on Tuesday, April 23 at 11:30! Our place of choice is yet to be determined. We will have the sign up out so go ahead & sign up on Realm or in the Communication Center by Sunday, April 21. New to Lunch Buddies? We welcome all and would love to see you there. We will update you with the name of the restaurant as soon as possible.

SOCIAL MEDIA EMAIL

Networking
stjohnsfm.networking@gmail.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

April 10 & April 24
4:30pm
Men's Bible Classroom

CIRCLE MEETINGS

April 8 @ 5pm
Clara Phillips (FC)
April 9 @ 10:30am
Morning Glory (MBC)

EXERCISE WITH AVIS

Mon-Wed-Fri
11am-11:30am
Fellowship Center

St. John's Members in Our Prayers

**Carla Vowell
Kay Gibson
Peggy Powers
Bill Tilly
Margaret Bryson
Jeannie McCormick
Kirk Hardymon**

**Loyce Sutton
Rev. Bob Romanello
Sandra Wallace
Terry Kearns
H.F. Jackson
Betty Ervin**

**Odell & Patsy Pettus
JoAnn Becknell
April Brown
Carolyn Griffin
Judy Helms
Jo Ann Kane**

**Marty Burns
Bill Davies
Brenda Little
Bethany Stone
Debby Valloric
Mia Anderson**

In Loving Memory

Jack Lyles by Russ & Elisabeth Williamson, Karen Vinson, Senior Seekers (Mixed Adult Bible Class), Fred Blackwelder, R.W. Edmondson, John & Renee Howard, Don Littlejohn & Mary Ellen Rothert, Joy Honeycutt and David Rowland.

Kenneth Meche by New Wesley Fellowship
Belinda Carlisle by New Wesley Fellowship & Karen Vinson
Henry Capps by Karen Vinson
Elise Vandergriff by Karen Vinson
Cathy Maynard by Karen Vinson

Liz Harris by Brent & Bonnie Meche, Bill & Ellie Davies, Russ & Elisabeth Williamson, Joy Honeycutt, George Rhinehardt, Fred Blackwelder, Steve & Minda Siebert, Jason Weaver, Bernice Clark, Art & Karen Harris, Phil & Cynthia Lewis, Karen Vinson, Elizabeth Newman, Todd & Kathy Wickmark and Hallie Conrad.

Christian Sympathy

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Kenneth Meche (brother of Brent Meche) who passed away February 24, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Liz Harris who passed away March 7, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Elise (CeeCee) Vandergriff (aunt of Tevis Vandergriff) who passed away March 19, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Cathy Maynard (sister of Nancy Rivers) who passed away March 22, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Kenny Martin (uncle of Jessica Hall) who passed away March 26, 2024.



PRAYERS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Friends in Need of Prayer

Jean Aseret (Phyllis Helms) **Psalm Brantley** (Nancy Rivers) **Ann Foster** (former member)

Family in Need of Prayer

Rhonda Buckner

Amber Boan's mom

Rickey Witherspoon

Amber Boan's uncle

Cindy Capps

Mallory Capps' mom

Wayne Meador

Bryan Meador's dad

Joan Booth

Sharon Booth's mom

Amanda Burkhamer

Shawne Heeren
daughter-in-law to be

Barbara Carson

Bill Bagwell's cousin

James Henry Carlisle

Rebekah Conant's brother

Richard Edkins

Glen & Laura Lindsey's son-in-law

Jean Farmer

Beverly Anderson's mom

Tori Fulton

Nancy & Anthony Rivers' daughter

Jerry Hunter, Sr.

Billie Vaughn's brother-in-law

Micki & Jim Tuck

Billie Vaughn's sister & brother-in-law

Lincoln Johnson

Sandra Wallace's great-grandson

Nancy Jerrolds

Mary Sue Smoot (under Hospice Care)

Ellie Davies' sisters

Melanie Lee

John & Sherry Ede's daughter

Daniel & Judy Murr

Phyllis Helms' cousins

Kara Mitchell

Marty Burns' sister

Bernice O'Rourke

Heather Taylor's mother-in-law

Jim Patterson

Barri Helms' uncle
David Rowland's brother-in-law

George Reeves

Nancy Neal's dad

Revé Richardson

Kristen Richardson-Frick's mom

Eddie Ryman

Dawna Spilmann's mom

Matthew Starnes

Brenda Stowe's grandson

Jeff Stuck

Martha Jones' son-in-law

Rheanon Thomas

Bethany Stone's sister

JoAnn Meece

Barbara Williams

Janet Tracey's sisters

Gwen Vandergriff

Tevis Vandergriff's mom

Sandy Vinson

Margaret Bryson's sister

Price Yount

Chris Yount's brother

Bible Quiz

by Rev. Bob Romanello

Woven throughout the Old Testament Books of First and Second Kings we find the stories of two spiritually anointed prophets of God who confronted the wicked kings and queens of Israel with their sins of idolatry.

One Queen became so irate at the death of her idolatrous prophets at the hands of one of God's prophets that she swore to kill him within twenty-four hours. In fear of his life, he survived by leaving the country.

What were the names of this prophet of God and this idolatrous and evil Queen? (See First Kings 19: 1-3)

Later, God told this prophet to anoint another man as a prophet who would eventually perform more miracles than the first one. What was this prophet's name? (See First Kings: 19:19-21)

Eventually, in God's timing, the first of these two prophets would depart this world in a very interesting way. What way was that? (See Second Kings 2:1-12).

For those of you who want to know more about these two prophets and this period of time in the history of Israel, you will find the books of First and Second Kings to be very interesting reading indeed. I have.

←.....→
In Honor Of: James & Joyce Kimbrell by Loyce Sutton

←.....→
I want to thank St. John's for allowing me to hold my Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the church and thank you to those who attended. I would also like to thank Pastor Karen and the entire church for supporting me throughout my 12 years of scouting in Pack & Troop 130.

Ben Vidonic



It's a Baby Girl

Congratulations to Meghan & Joe Goering on the birth of their 4th daughter, Margaret Louise Goering on March 12, 2024. Meghan is the granddaughter of Henry Gieser and little Margaret is the 10th great-grandchild of Mr. Henry. She is named after her great-grandmother, the late Mrs. Margaret Gieser.

Congratulations to Mr. Henry as his family continues to grow!



Congratulations to Austin & Emily McCall on the birth of their son on March 12, 2024, Wyatt Charles McCall. Wyatt is Mrs. Peggy Powers great-grandson. Congratulations to Mrs. Peggy!

Welcome to our St. John's Family



Margie & Lou Singer



1015 Falling Leaf St
Fort Mill, SC 29707

Glen & Laura Lindsey



31439 Royal Tern Ln
Indian Land, SC 29707



Rachel McConaghy



2060 Bristol Pkwy
Rock Hill, SC 29732

***All joined
March 24, 2024**



Camp Firelight

Vacation Bible School

St. John's UMC-Fort Mill, SC



June 17-21, 2024

9:00am-12:30pm

Registration opens April 15th for church members and April 22nd to the public visit our website for the link @

www.stjohnsfm.org

Age Levels: Rising Kindergarteners through 8th grade.

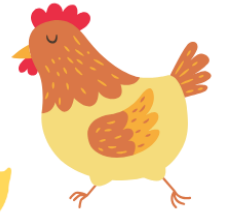
Cost is \$20 per child - Family maximum is \$50

***processing fees may apply**



WEE SCHOOL NEWS!

BETH MEADOR, DIRECTOR



BARNYARD SPRING EVENT

Please join us on April 19th from 5:30pm-7:00pm in the fellowship center for an evening of Barnyard Fun! This is a family event/fundraiser, we will have games for the kids and concessions, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and more. We will have a silent auction with fun items to bid on from local businesses. Tickets for the games will be available at the door. Concessions are cash only.



Spirit/Fundraiser Event

April 23rd 4pm-8pm Super Chix Fort Mill, near Brayden subdivision. Please mention W.E.E. School when placing your order. This is our last spirit event for this school year. Thank you to everyone who supported the W.E.E. School this year.

Scholastic Book Fair

The W.E.E. School will be hosting a book fair April 29th-May 3rd! The book fair will be open Monday–Thursday 9:00am-1:00pm, Friday 9:00am-12:00pm as well as Wednesday evening 5:30pm-7:00pm. Come by and see us and as always thank you for your support of our W.E.E. School!

*We still have a few spots available for the 2024-2025 school year.
For more information or to register please contact Beth Meador
(803)548-6557 or sjumcweeschool@gmail.com*

2024 CONFIRMATION CLASS

SERVICE PROJECT

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Every year the Confirmation Class does a service project! This year we have decided to do something to help our fellow peers in the community!

We would like to raise money to pay for field trips, school events, and school lunches for those who cannot provide it for themselves. These funds will go to Springfield Middle School Students.

Every Sunday from March 10th-April 28th, a confirmand will be at the doors of the sanctuary after the 8:30am service and before the 11:00am service.

We ask that you support our project and donate to our friends in need

With love,



PIPER B, EMORY MAE C., GRANT E., KATELYN E,
& AUDREY J.

SIT DOWN AND SIP

It's a Spring Tea Party!

....

You're invited! Tea, petit fours,
and tea sandwiches provided.

• April 14th • 12:30pm •

Donations accepted.
All proceeds go to the
Kindness Weekend Fund.

130 Tom Hall Street Fort Mill, SC 29715

Register by April 7th by using the
QR Code Below.

(All Ages, Families, Stuffed Animals and Baby
Dolls welcome!)



April 2024

Children and Youth News

Children and Youth Director: Mallory Capps- stjohnsumc.youthandchildren@gmail.com- (843)-504-5419

Happy Spring!!!! We have had a great Easter season and are enjoying the Spring! We had a great Easter Egg Hunt and was able to host our friends at Defend the Fatherless for a Foster Parent Day Out! Our Children and Youth Sunday is April 28th at the 11:00am service! Please come and support our children and youth in this special service! VBS is coming soon and we need VBS volunteers! It will be June 17-21st! VBS registration will open on April 15th for church members and April 22nd for the public.



UPCOMING EVENTS COME JOIN US!

REAL Kids will be April 7th & April 21st directly following the 11 am service. This is open for all children Kindergarten- 5th grade!

UMYF will be on April 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th at 4:00pm-5:30pm.



Epworth Children's Home

Katherine Burns, St. John's Epworth Representative

Full House Fuller Hearts



During pre-marital counseling at their Baptist church, Sarah and Justin Weller were advised to think through where they wanted to be in five years as a couple. "We realized we both wanted to live our mission, to serve, to be a light in our community," Sarah said. "We weren't sure how we would do this, but we knew it would be important to our marriage."

After the Wellers tied the knot in 2018, they became close friends with another church couple who were applying to become foster parents. "Suddenly, there were children around our friends' table," Sarah said. "We watched and saw that while they had lots of challenges and it was very hard, they survived each situation as it arose. They told us they felt more joy than ever."

The Wellers, in their twenties, did not see themselves as foster parents, but they were happy to babysit their friends' foster children on weekends while they spent the next few years focusing on their careers. Sarah worked for a church and Justin maintained computer software systems. Life was good, but as time went on, the commitment they'd made to their five-year marriage goals weighed on their minds. "We were happy, but we felt like something was still missing," Sarah said.

In 2021, the couple went to a Christian concert where a children's charity made a brief presentation. "They told a compelling story about giving of yourself to make it possible for a child who is lost to be found," Sarah recalled. "Later I looked at Justin, and I said, 'There's something I just can't get off my mind,' and he finished my sentence and said, 'fostering.'"

It turns out that for months both Sarah and Justin had been thinking about fostering and praying for guidance, but each had been nervous to share their thoughts with the other in case that's not what their partner wanted. They soon chose Epworth as their foster care licensing agency. "We wanted to go through an organization that had a focus on the Gospel, but we also wanted to be licensed to offer therapeutic foster care," Sarah said. "Some faith-based fostering organizations do not offer that option, but Epworth does. And we heard that Epworth provided a lot of support to foster parents."

Full House Fuller Hearts continued...

Within days of being approved for a foster care license, a post appeared on the Facebook page of a foster care group that the Wellers were following. “A foster parent posted that a 2-year-old boy in their care needed to go because he didn’t fit in with the other kids,” Sarah said. “I felt bad for that baby.” They arranged to have the child transferred into their care until he was returned to his biological mom four months later.

Soon after, in July 2022, Epworth asked the couple if they could take in two elementary school children. They agreed, and when they learned that the two children’s two older siblings – adolescents – were being placed in Epworth’s group cottage, Sarah and Justin asked to take in those children as well. At first, the Wellers feared they’d overcommitted. All four children were in counseling for trauma and other diagnoses, one needed speech therapy, and each had an Individual Educational Plan at school. On average, the Wellers had to coordinate about 15 appointments a week. The two older children were “a bundle of emotions” and even made a halfhearted attempt at running away shortly after moving in. Sarah ended up quitting her full-time job a few months later to stay home with the children.

“At the time, we weren’t sure how we could make it without my salary...but we stepped out on faith,” she said. “Soon after Justin was offered a new opportunity that made up for the lost income.”

The Wellers have since worked hard to guide the four children into steady routines and wholesome activities. They all eat together at the table each evening, and they focus on providing a nourishing diet, which has helped one child who was greatly overweight lose 30 pounds.

“It took some time for them to realize that this was all out of love,” Sarah said. “But they went from trying to run away to considering us their family. Consistency is what pays off.”

Sarah said one key to fostering is having people “holding the ropes for you.” The meals that churches deliver, the babysitting offered by friends, the laundry help offered by Justin’s mom – all make a difference. Today, their home is filled with the bustle and hum of family life – children yelling and joking as they bounce on the trampoline, dogs barking, and Sarah and Justin directing traffic. They go on lots of walks and the children enjoy helping in the backyard garden. Negative behaviors have diminished.

“It is very clear to them now that they are loved, not just by us but by Epworth ... by the therapists, the caseworkers, all the people involved in their care,” Sarah said. She and Justin know it will be hard when the children are reunited with their birth family, but they are at peace about it. “God has a vision for families, and it is restoration,” Sarah said. “We tell the children that even after they go back to their parents, they will always be our kids too.” Not only has fostering brought the couple joy, it also helped them meet their five-year marriage goals. “Bringing the nitty gritty of ministry into our home escalated our growth as a couple and deepened our love,” she said.



A Prudent Spender

**A Prudent Spender is
a Generous Giver first,
a Wise Saver, and a Cautious Debtor.**

But what is meant by “**a Prudent Spender**”? The Prudent Spender is one who enjoys the fruits of their labor while guarding against materialism.

The “Prudent Spender” understands these core truths about spending:

1. God is the source of all that we have (James 1:17)
2. He has provided resources for our use and enjoyment (1 Timothy 6:17)
3. Prudent spending has limitations:
 - a. We don't spend everything we make (Proverbs 21:20)
 - b. We reserve some for giving to God and to those in need (Ephesians 4:28; Acts 2:44-46; 4:32-37)

Recognizing God as our Provider, prudent spenders view their resources with gratitude and contentment. They are not given to greed or envy. Like the woman in Proverbs 31, they are not given to impulse spending.

A Prudent Spender is a Generous Giver:

The “**Generous Giver**” is one who gives with an obedient will, a joyful attitude, and a compassionate heart. Jesus said that our treasures lead our hearts, not the other way around. Additionally, giving is a scriptural mandate; therefore giving is an act of obedience. But God is interested in our heart behind our giving. He’s not looking for us to give because we have a sense of obligation. He wants us to give joyfully, cheerfully, to praise and honor his goodness to us.

A Prudent Spender is a Wise Saver:

The “**Wise Saver**” is intentional about how they manage their finances. Because saving is an important goal, they dial back on spending in order to make a priority out of setting aside for the future. Wise Savers understand the value of delayed gratification. They practice patience and planning.

A Prudent Spender is a Cautious Debtor:

The “**Cautious Debtor**” avoids entering debt, is careful and strategic when incurring debt, and always repays debt.

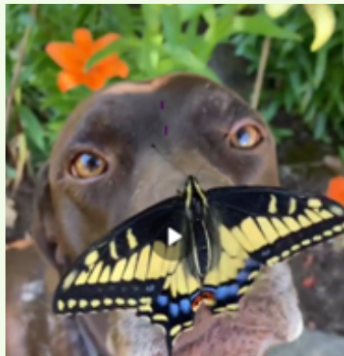
Submitted by Martha Jones Co-chair, Stewardship Committee

Missions Committee News

Shawne Heeren, Missions Chair

Butterflies

The butterflies were released on
Easter Sunday, March 31st
Happy Spring Everyone!



Prayer

Please, Lord provide strength and perseverance when missions seem fruitless. Help us join and be strong and work in our community and beyond, in Jesus' name. Amen

Our next meeting:
APRIL 14 @ 12:15pm (Loft)

Salkehatchie

Salkehatchie's registration is open for all who would like to go.

Missions will be preparing a dinner to take to the Fairfield-Winnsboro Camp for the volunteers sometime during the week of July 13-July 20. We should have the total number of registrants the closer we get to the beginning of July.

We will need volunteers to help with the dinner. More information will follow at a later date.

Kindness Weekend

Kindness Weekend is July 24 - July 27 and lots of ideas were considered at our meeting on March 10th.

There will be a variety of opportunities to serve for all ages at all times (morning, afternoon & evening).

We will be doing a variety of events from organizing closets and storage spaces at local non-profits, sewing clothes for children in El Salvador, making first aid kits for the homeless, and a lot of other options to serve in various capacities!

Sign-ups for Kindness Weekend will go out in May!
Keep an eye out!!

Betty's Blessings

Many in our congregation participated in Betty's Blessings since its creation.

We will be doing another round of clothes for Betty's Blessings this year. We will be sending Bibles provided by the W.E.E. School! Please be in prayer about how you can serve in this ministry to bring joy to those in need in El Salvador.

Missions Committee News

FMCC

For those not familiar with Fort Mill Care Center, it is a non-profit center that provides assistance with food, utilities & prescriptions to residents living within the Fort Mill School District Boundaries.

Donations:

We recently delivered 133 lbs of food to the Fort Mill Care Center.

The Missions Committee has bins located in the Fellowship Center hallway labeled for the care center for anyone who would like to donate items.

Items currently needed are:

*instant coffee *rice *grits *spaghetti
*canned pasta *canned meat
*pancake mix/syrup *hams
*baby food *Ensure/Boost

Please Note: If you have a ham to donate, please let Shawne know.

You may also take your donations directly to the care center warehouse during their hours of operation.

Monday-Wednesday-Friday

9am-12pm

Tuesday Evenings

5pm-7pm

Address:

2760 Old Nation Road, FM 29715

Bethel Shelters

www.bethelshelters.org

Donor Appreciation Day

Recently, Missions attended the Bethel Shelters Donor Appreciation Day where we had the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at how the shelter accomplishes the day to day task for our homeless population. This is an amazing organization and I encourage you to visit their webpage and read their story under the "About Us" tab.

Afterward, scroll down to their Annual Reports and take a look at their statistics and how they have been able to help these men & women in our community.

***On April 5th, we will travel to the day shelter to unpack boxes of clothes, organize the sizes and put the clothes back into the closets. I need 10-12 volunteers. We will meet at the church at 9:30am to arrive at the shelter by 10:00am. Please let Shawne know if you are available to help. There is no lifting, just sitting & folding clothes.**

Shelter Donations Needed:

Men's Briefs: S-M-L-XL **Men's & Women's Sweatshirts/Pants:** S-M-L-XL-6XL
Short & Long Sleeve T-Shirts: L-5XL-6XL **Jeans:** 30x32 32x32 34x32 **Belts:** Sizes 34 36 38 40
Tennis Shoes: Sizes 9 9.5 10 10.5 & 13 **Backpacks, Duffle Bags & Roller Packs**



Education Committee

“John Wesley had a significant interest in and concern for education. At the Methodist Conference in 1744 Wesley posed three questions: "What do we teach? How do we teach? What do we do?" Wesley printed and distributed tracts. He urged that persons read and study the Bible and a broad range of other books. He sold books in paperback so more persons could afford to purchase them. His sermons were instructional. He started a school for boys at Kingswood. He actively supported the fledgling Sunday School movement.”

--- excerpt from John Wesley and Education by Duane A. Ewers

<https://oimts.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/1987-2-ewers.pdf>

Thoughts on Spiritual Education and Growth

Submitted by Nancy Rivers

This month I want to begin offering thoughts on Sunday School by members of our church family as well as random quotes from John Wesley and Wesley scholars. The Education Team is working on a few upcoming events. Stay tuned each month for details as they are worked out.

“Sunday School is a relaxed time when you can get to know others from the church, ask questions about the Bible, express your own ideas. I miss our SS class.” ---Sherry Ede

What Sunday School means to me:

1. “The opportunity to study the scripture at the detail level to achieve a deeper knowledge and understanding of God's plan for everyone's salvation.
2. It also affords me the knowledge and deeper understanding of not only WHAT Jesus commands his followers to do, but why I should follow his commands. (To honor him and show my love for him - not to earn my way into heaven.)
3. To be taught by someone (Rev. Bob Romanello) who has studied God's word throughout his life, and ministered to others - to bring them to salvation first and then to assist them in living a joyful life after they have been saved.
4. To learn from and have opportunities to support the precious souls of other class members - and to get to know them so much better as part of the body of believers.
5. To be able to support other ministries of our church as part of this small subgroup of the body of believers through our aggregate contributions of time, talent, and treasure.” --- Martha Jones

When asked for his thoughts on Sunday School Owen Isenhour replied, “Fun, entertaining, you get to learn about God, community, your friends are there.”



Connections

co-chairs Joan Pate & Barri Helms

Hello April!



The Connections Team has 2 events coming up for our church family.

ARE YOU READY FOR ANOTHER GAME NIGHT? WE HAD SO MUCH FUN IN FEBRUARY WE WERE ASKED TO BRING IT BACK AGAIN SOON. WE HAD 5 DIFFERENT TABLES GOING WITH 6 OR MORE PEOPLE AT EACH GAME, LOTS OF GOOD DESSERTS, A ROWDY BUNCH! BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EVENING FULL OF FUN AND GAMES!



COME OUT SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, AT 6:30 PM TO PLAY GAMES & ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY! BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND A DESSERT TO SHARE. SIGN UP ON REALM OR IN THE COMMUNICATION CENTER SO WE KNOW HOW MANY WILL BE JOINING US! SEE YOU AT GAME NIGHT!!



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!!



WE HAVE 45 TICKETS RESERVED (WE CAN GET MORE) TO THE CHARLOTTE KNIGHTS VS THE MEMPHIS REDBIRDS ON FRIDAY MAY 3RD AT 7 PM.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A LARGE GROUP REPRESENTING ST JOHN'S AT THE GAME. THIS IS ALSO A FIREWORKS NIGHT. IT IS SPECTACULAR TO SEE!

Tickets are \$15 each two and under are free.



SIGN UP ON REALM OR IN THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER NO LATER THAN APRIL 11TH!! WE HAVE TO HAVE THE FINAL COUNT AND PAYMENT BY APRIL 12TH TO SECURE OUR SEATS TOGETHER!! JUST LIKE LAST YEAR WE WILL ALSO BE CARPOOLING FROM THE CHURCH. LET'S GO ST. JOHN'S!

*FRIENDS, ON MAY 18, 2024 CATHY DAMM'S SON, JASON DAMM WILL BE IN CHARLOTTE FOR A GAME WITH HIS LACROSSE TEAM! PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHERE AND HOW TO ATTEND!

United Women in Faith

Clothed with Joy was the theme of the Rock Hill District Day Apart hosted by our unit of United Women in Faith on Saturday, March 16. Great food, lovely table settings, fun games, beautiful music, and inspiring messages from Jennifer Davis and Pastor Karen – it couldn't have been any better! And many, many thanks to the United Methodist Men for their help from beginning through clean-up!

"You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy."
Psalm 30:11b

"It was great! Everyone had a great time." ---Joyce Kimbrell

"I am so encouraged by the abundant, joyful participation of our St. John's ladies. Working together to make this happen and then worshipping together to celebrate." ---Brenda Stowe

"It was perfect." ---Brenda Ervin

"I just felt so good when I got home." ---Jo Ann Kane

"What a joyful time to greet friends from our district and to enjoy the marvelous decorations, food and uplifting messages."
-Elaine Cryderman

"It was a marvelous event, a Day Apart that elevated the level of joy in everyone present." ---Nancy Rivers

"It was definitely a team effort with lots of good women and men."
-Karen Vinson



In addition to the April circle meetings, we will also be gathering on Saturday, April 6 for a conference-wide Spiritual Growth event "God is the Sower in Faith and Hope," being broadcast over Zoom. The scripture base for this is Matthew 13:3-9. We expect to meet in the Loft for the 10:00am program which will last around 90 minutes. Please bring your own beverage and join us as we learn and share together. If you are unable to meet at the church, please contact Barbara Gaither for a link to view the program at home.

In cooperation with the Missions Committee, we are collecting shampoo, deodorant, and sanitary products for women to be delivered to the Bethel Shelter in Rock Hill. Deadline for the collection is Mother's Day, May 12, or the May circle meetings. A special UWFaith collection box is located in the Fellowship Hall corridor.

Barbara Gaither, UWF President

United Methodist Men

In March the United Methodist Men assisted the United Women in Faith with directing traffic for our many visitors to St. John's on Saturday, March 16. This was a fun time for all, and a special "thank you" to George Rhinehardt, George Dickinson and Benny Patterson for helping me that morning.






On Saturday, May 4th St. John's will again be one of the city-approved parking spots for the annual Strawberry Festival. This is one of the biggest fundraising events of the year, and we will need lots of helpers in order to make this another successful event. Be on the lookout for various announcements in advance of this event during the month of April. Also know that even if you miss the chance to sign up to assist that day, we can always use additional help during this day-long event so just stop by any time and lend a hand.



Please let me know if you have any questions about United Methodist Men or have any suggestions regarding future activities involving UMM.

Steve Siebert (803) 389-3952 Steve.Siebert@Domtar.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
	<p>1 <u>Easter Monday</u> <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u> 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)</p>	<p>2 6:30pm Handbell practice 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice</p>	
<p>7 <u>Communion Sunday</u> (Offering for Confirmation Class Mission Project) 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Hospitality 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation Class 11am Worship Service 12:15pm REAL Kids (FC) 4pm UMYF (The Zone)</p>	<p>8 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 5pm Clara Phillips Circle (FC) 7pm Book Club (MBC)</p>	<p>9 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 10:30am Morning Glory Circle (MBC) 6:30pm Handbell practice 7pm Scouts (FC) 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice</p>	
<p>14 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Hospitality 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation Class 11am Worship Service 12:15pm Missions Committee Meeting (Loft) 12:15pm SPRING TEA PARTY (FC) 4pm UMYF (the Zone)</p>	<p>15 <u>VBS Registration-Church Members</u> 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 6:30pm Church Council Meeting (FC)</p>	<p>16 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 6:30pm Handbell practice 7pm Scouts (FC) 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice</p>	
<p>21 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Hospitality 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation Class 11am Worship Service 12:15pm REAL Kids (FC) 4pm UMYF (the Zone)</p>	<p>22 <u>VBS Registration-Opens to the Public</u> 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)</p>	<p>23 <u>WEE School Spirit Night</u> <u>Super Chix (4pm-8pm)</u> 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC & Sanctuary) 11:30am Lunch Buddies (TBD) 6:30pm Handbell practice 7pm Scouts (FC) 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice</p>	
<p>28 <u>Children & Youth Sunday (11am only)</u> 8:30am Worship Service 9:30am Hospitality 10am Sunday School 10am Confirmation Class 11am Worship Services 12:15pm Finance Committee Meeting (MBC) 4pm UMYF (The Zone)</p>	<p>29 9am-12pm WEE School (FC) Pastries for Parents & Book Fair 11am Exercise with Avis (The Zone)</p>	<p>30 9am-12pm WEE School (FC) Pastries for Parents & Book Fair 6:30pm Handbell practice 7pm Scouts (FC) 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice</p>	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) NO MEAL/NO VESPERS NO MUSIC PRACTICE</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 9:30am Volunteers leave the church to go to Bethel Day Shelter to organize closets</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am-11am UWF Spiritual Growth Zoom Event (Fellowship Center & Loft)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 4:30pm Grief Support Group (MBC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Meetings 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>3pm-7pm Fellowship Center In Use</p>
<p>17</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:30pm Vespers Service 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Meetings 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5pm WEE School (FC) Set Up for Spring Event</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (Zone) 5:30pm-7pm WEE School (FC) Spring Event</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm Family Game Night (FC)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 4:30pm Grief Support Group (MBC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:30pm Cub Scouts Pack Meeting (Sanctuary) 6:30pm Vespers Service 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 11:30am WEE School Early Dismissal</p>	<p>27</p>
<p><i>April 2024</i></p>			

FORT MILL CARE CENTER

Care Center Sunday is April 28th

Current Needs:

*hams *pancake mix & syrup *canned pasta *spaghetti *instant coffee *rice *grits

fortmillcarecenter.org

CARE CENTER ADDRESS: 2760 OLD NATION ROAD FORT MILL, SC 29715 (803) 547-7620

**CARE CENTER HOURS: MON-WED-FRI 9AM - 12PM
TUESDAY EVENINGS 5PM-7PM
EXCEPT HOLIDAYS**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Karen H. Radcliffe, Pastor
864-313-9348 (Cell)
khradcliffe@umcsc.org

Robert E. (Bob) Romanello Pastor Emeritus
Lisa Henley Administrative Coordinator
Mallory Capps Children and Youth Director
Beth Meador W.E.E. School Director
Sharon Booth Finance Coordinator
Jonathan Hall Director of Music
Jessica Hall Accompanist
Nancy Rivers Handbell Director
Jennifer Isenhour Music Leader-Vespers Service
Dawna Spilmann Custodian
Suzanne Fisher Kitchen Coordinator
Katherine Burns Music Makers Director
Jemma Hardinger Noteables Director
Lauren Meador Nursery Worker
Abby Tate Nursery Worker

***THE VISION OF ST. JOHN'S UMC IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST BY REACHING OUT
TO GOD'S COMMUNITY THROUGH WORSHIP, WITNESS, NURTURE, AND SERVICE.***