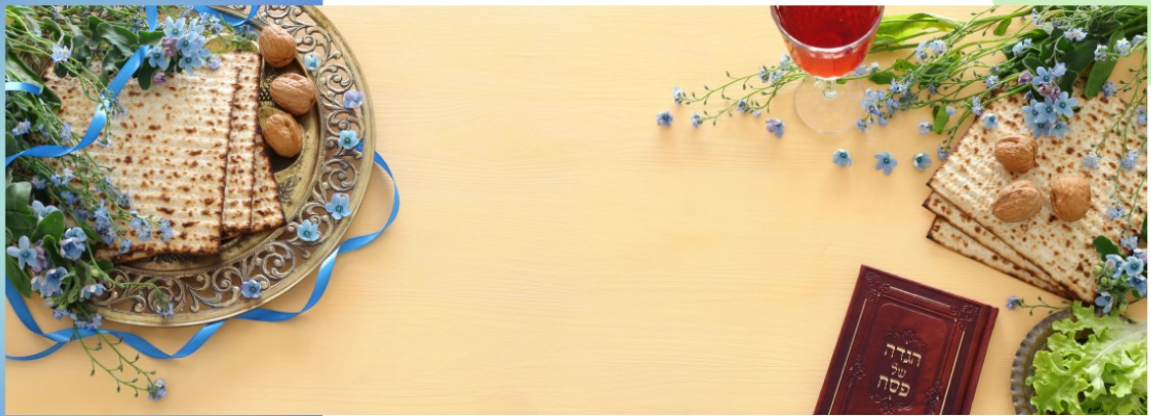


March 2024
Edition

THE ST. JOHN'S POST

THE SEDER MEAL



Lent started with a rare collision of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day. Also, Easter rarely comes in March. Therefore, I thought we would try something new this year for Holy Week. On March 28th, instead of having the traditional Maundy Thursday service with the stripping of the altar, we will have a Seder Meal.

We are reminded in the 26th chapter of Matthew that a plot to kill Jesus had already been put in place. Judas went to the chief priest and asked, "What would you give me if I betrayed him to you"? Judas, was paid thirty pieces of silver and he began to look for an opportune time to carry out his plan.

Later Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate the Passover Meal, which was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Passover celebration was a reminder of God's presence with them as Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Finally, the pharaoh was convinced to let the Israelites go after the death of all the firstborn children in Egypt. The Seder is one part of the present seven-day Passover celebration.

The Seder Meal will be unlike any other meal we have ever shared together. My friend Pastor Matthew Vander Els and I will preside at the table together. You may remember that he led the Founded in Truth Community that worshipped here before COVID. The Seder meal consists of Zeroa-lamb shank bone, Beitzah- a roasted egg, Karpas-parsley, Charoset-mix nuts and apple sauce, Maror-bitter herbs and Matzah-unleavened bread. We will have certain readings to tell the story as we share the Seder Meal together. Then we will share the SHULCHAN ORECH together. The meal that night will be beef brisket, green beans, carrots and mashed potatoes. The meal will be celebrated in the Fellowship Hall and will be limited to 100 people.

Everyone is welcome to this worship service, but please remember this will be a serious time to remember the past that ancestors have journeyed so that we might experience more fully what Jesus experienced. The meal will begin at 6:00pm. The standard sign-up for this worship service will be sent out.



I am very excited to be journeying through these days of Lent with my church family. I pray that we all remember to spend time reading the scriptures, praying, fasting, serving others, and engaging in self-denial. This is a great time to invite a friend to church with you as we get ready to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior and the promise of eternal life for all God's children.

I look forward to seeing you at St. John's, where we celebrate the Risen Lord daily.

Shalom,

Karen



NEED TO KNOW

**Exercise with Avis: Mon–Wed–Fri 11:00 am – 11:30 am
in the Fellowship Center**

**Grief Support Group: March 13 & March 27 @ 4:30pm
in the Men’s Bible Classroom**

Circle Meetings:

Clara Phillips Circle–March 11 @ 5pm (FC)

Morning Glory Circle–March 12 @ 10:30am (MBC)



**Daylight
Saving Time
Begins
MARCH 10**

NETWORKING EMAIL

STJOHNSFM.NETWORK@GMAIL.COM

upcoming meetings:

March 10 @ 12:15pm – Care Ministry Meeting (MBC)

Lunch Buddies

We’re going to Showmars! It’s our first time at this local spot recommended by several Buddies. We’ll meet there on Tuesday, March 19 at 11:30 and be using their party room. 9783 Charlotte Highway is the address but most know it as Highway 521 in Indian Land. Please make your reservation by Sunday, March 17 on Realm or sign up in the Communication Center.

***March
Communion
offering
donations
will be for
Defend the
Fatherless**

Bible Quiz: WHO NAMED JESUS ?

How parents go about choosing a name for a child is always an interesting subject for me. Some people choose a name that is unique they think. My sister-in-law chose the name Nevaeh for a granddaughter. It is heaven spelled backwards. Some people pass along family names. My grandmother named her first son John after his father and her second son Joseph after her father.

My question for you is, “Who named Jesus?” You will find the answer in Matthew 1:21 and in Luke 1:30–31. In the Matthew passage it states that Jesus will save his people from their sins, and, as you already know, how Jesus did it is what Good Friday is all about. John 3:16 is far more than ink on paper. We are a blessed people indeed.

by Rev. Bob Romanello

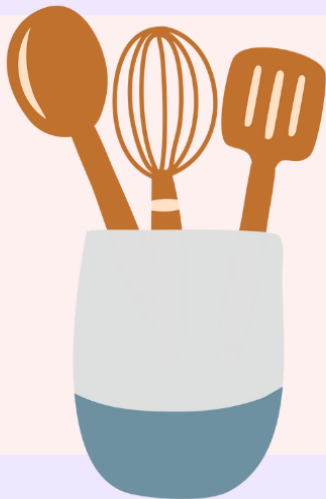
Wednesday Night Meal

DINNER BEGINS AT 5:45PM

VESPERS SERVICE: BEGINS @ 6:30PM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR MEAL

MARCH 6TH

Pasta with meat sauce
Salad
Garlic bread
Dessert



MARCH 13TH

BBQ chicken
Baked beans
Cole slaw
Dessert

MARCH 20TH

Baked Ham
Scalloped Potatoes
Bean Salad, Rolls
Dessert



Costs of meals:

Children 2 & under eat free (Children Age 3-8) \$6 (Age 9 - Adults) \$10
Family maximum - \$25

March 1 James Easterling
Hayes Harroff
 March 5 Wayne Bouldin
 Anna McAteer
 March 7 Joan Pate
 March 8 Doris Massey
 March 9 James Wolfe
Holland Majors
 March 11 Cori Mitchell
 March 13 Don Whelchel
 Reggie Adkins
 March 15 Nancy Stark
 Anne Purcell
 Michele Gainey
 March 16 Lise Turner
 March 17 Greg Bonéy
 Jennifer Mayes
Cru Young
 Johnny Myers
Sarah Ochoa
 March 19 **Tyler Edwards**
 March 20 Colton Clyburn
 Myra Vaughn
 March 22 Emily McQuay
Brianna Messer
William Isenhour
 Bryson Newland
 March 23 **Joe Brown**
 March 24 Ruth Orwig
 March 25 Chip Heemsoth
Luke Henley
 March 26 Tracy Olinger
 Jim Walker
Charlotte Walker
 March 27 David Hord
Emory Mae Creel
 March 28 Phyllis Helms
 March 29 Faye Hill
 Rob Robinson
 March 31 Leslie Nielsen



March 2 David & Rachel Cameron
 March 10 John & Mary Vaughan
 March 11 Steve & Minda Siebert
 March 20 Zeke & Jan Patterson
 Jonny & Sherri Bivins
 March 22 Benny & Joyce Patterson
 March 23 Anthony & Nancy Rivers
 March 24 Michael & Anissa Miller

Christian Sympathy

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Henry Luther Capps, Jr., uncle of Mallory Capps, who passed away February 3, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Christopher Lee Starnes, grandson of Brenda Stowe, who passed away February 6, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Belinda Carlisle, sister-in-law of Rebekah Conant, who passed away February 7, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Jack Lyles who passed away February 21, 2024.

In Memory of:

Rosanne Spinelli
by
New Wesley Fellowship

Lee Starnes
by
New Wesley Fellowship
Karen Vinson

Special Donation:

The Debi Edmondson
Scholarship Fund

by
Bill & Ellie Davies

Thank you

Dear St. John's,

I want to thank you for all of your prayers and cards while I have been dealing with health issues.

I have missed seeing my church family and hope to be back soon.

Sandra Wallace

Thank you

I want to extend my sincere, heartfelt appreciation to my church family for all the expressions of love and sympathy since the loss of my grandson, Lee. We share the faith and belief that makes it possible for the loss of a loved one to be endured. We endure because we believe there is a better life after this life of struggle. This church family prayed for Lee on several occasions, because Lee struggled for years.

I wish you all could have known him. We did projects together, he drew pictures for me and he was quite a good cook. I have many wonderful memories which will see me through, knowing that Lee has finally achieved his reward with Jesus.

Please remember my daughter Barrie and Lee's daughter, Makalah during this time.

Thank you again,

Brenda Stowe

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER REQUEST:

Jean Aseret - mother of Phyllis Helms' friend

Joan Booth - mother of Sharon Booth

Psalm Brantley - child of family friend of Nancy Rivers

Rhonda Buckner - mother of Amber Boan

Barbara Carson - cousin of Bill Bagwell

James Henry Carlisle - brother of Rebekah Conant

Richard Edkins - son-in-law of Glen & Laura Lindsey

Ann Foster - former St. John's member

Jean Farmer - mother of Beverly Anderson

Tori Fulton - daughter of Nancy & Anthony Rivers

Jerry Hunter, Sr. - brother-in-law of Billie Vaughn

Lincoln Johnson - great-grandson of Sandra Wallace

Nancy Jerrolds - sister of Ellie Davies

Melanie Lee - daughter of John & Sherry Ede

Jo-Ann Meece - sister of Janet Tracey

Cathy Maynard - sister of Nancy Rivers

Daniel & Judy Murr - cousins of Phyllis Helms

Kara Mitchell - sister & s-i-l of Marty & Katherine Burns

Bernice O'Rourke - mother-in-law of Heather Taylor

Jim Patterson - b-i-l of David Rowland & uncle of Barri Helms

George Reeves - father of Nancy Neal

Revé Richardson - mother of Kristen Richardson-Frick

Edie Ryman - mother of Dawna Spilmann

Mary Sue Smoot - sister of Ellie Davies

Matthew Starnes - grandson of Brenda Stowe

Jeff Stuck - son-in-law of Martha Jones

Rheanon Thomas - sister of Bethany Stone

Sandy Vinson - sister of Margaret Bryson

Barbara Williams - sister of Janet Tracey

Rickey Witherspoon - uncle of Amber Boan

Price Yount - brother of Chris Yount

Marty Burns

Shawne Heeren

April Brown

Carolyn Griffin

Peggy Powers

Terry Kearns

H.F. Jackson

Betty Ervin

Jeannie McCormick

Chip Heemsoth

John & Mary Vaughan

Jo Ann Kane

Brenda Little

Bethany Stone

Odell & Patsy Pettus

JoAnn Becknell

Liz Harris

Judy Helms

Carla Vowell

Kay Gibson

Bill Tilly

Margaret Bryson

Loyce Sutton

Rev. Bob Romanello

Sandra Wallace

Easter Egg Hunt

**March
24th**

**St. John's
UMC-
Fort Mill**

**Join us for an afternoon
full of fun!**

Hunt begins at 3:00 PM
Bring your own basket

Age groups will be divided:
Preschoolers
Kindergarten-2nd grade
3rd-5th grade

We will have a Jelly Bean
Guessing Contest, Coloring,
Bingo, Snacks and...
OUR EGG HUNT!!!!

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**

March 2024

Children and Youth News

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

Spring is in the air!!! This month will be busy as we gear up toward Easter! We will be growing our butterflies, gearing up for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, and decorating our eggs! VBS is coming soon and we need VBS volunteers! It will be June 17-21st! Lastly, Confirmation is in full swing and we will be going on our retreat the first weekend in March!



UPCOMING EVENTS COME JOIN US!

REAL Kids will be March 17th directly following the 11 am service. This is open for all children Kindergarten- 5th grade!

UMYF will be on March 10th & 17th at 4:00pm-5:30pm.



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.



WEE School News

Beth Meador, Director



This Month in Preschool

W.E.E. SCHOOL FUNDRAISING SPIRIT NIGHTS:

Mark your calendars and come out and support our W.E.E. School!

March 5th 3pm-7pm
Abbots Frozen Custard Tega Cay

April 23rd 4pm-8pm
Super Chix Fort Mill Hwy 160

SPRING EVENT:

Please join us on April 19th from 5:30pm-7:00pm in the fellowship center for an evening of "Barnyard" fun, which will include games for the children and concessions.

This event is open to everyone; we would love to have you join us for an evening of family fun. More information coming soon.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held April 29-May 3 in the Fellowship Center and will be open during Vespers and Wednesday night meal.

sjumcweeschool@gmail.com

(803)548-6557

www.sjumcweeschool.org





W.E.E. SCHOOL PARENTS NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

5:30PM-8:30PM



Open to W.E.E. School
families and church members
only

Ages 2-10

Cost: \$40 per child
\$60 per family

Scan the QR code to
register



Leave the kids with us for a fun-filled evening, including dinner, while you enjoy a well-deserved break! Staff will include some W.E.E. School Staff!

Space is limited so reserve your spot ASAP!
Registration opens on February 20, 2024
Questions? Contact Beth Meador sjumcweeschool@gmail.com

CONNECTIONS

JOAN PATE & BARRI HELMS, CO-CHAIRS



IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO CONNECTING WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND ENJOYING SOME FUN EVENTS.

On March 10th at 5:30 pm please join us for a Chili and Biscuit cook off. Let's see who makes the best Chili and bakes the best biscuits at our church. There might even be an award or two. Please register by March 7th on Realm or sign up sheets. We also want everyone to come and eat a bowl of chili, have a biscuit, and vote for your favorite! So please sign up if you are coming.

Our team is working hard to plan some fun events this year. Some things in the works are a Charlotte Knights Baseball Game, Lansford Canal Spider Lilies and picnic, a "Mrs. St. John's beauty pageant with a twist 🤝", a Family Feud night, River Tube and Float, Game nights and more surprises. Take a chance, come have some fun and fellowship, and connect with us!

MARCH 10

Chili & Biscuit Cook off

EVENTS THIS YEAR!

Charlotte Knights
Baseball Game

Lansford Canal
Spider Lilies & Picnic

A "Mrs. St. John's beauty
pageant with a twist

A Family Feud night

River Tube and Float

Game nights
& more surprises

Care Ministry

Charlene Williams & Joy Honeycutt, Co-Chairs

Charlene Williams joined the Care Team as a co-chair in January of this year. We will be working together along with our volunteers.

Our next meeting will take place on March 10th at 12:15pm in the Men's Bible classroom. We welcome anyone who would like to become a part of the Care Team.



Sunshine Box Project

Our sunshine box project was completed and boxes were either mailed or hand delivered in early December 2023. Our shut-ins were very pleased with their boxes.

Thanks to Mary Johnson & Johnny Myers for lap quilts for our shut-ins. We are trying to get caught up on making sure everybody receives a quilt.

Flower Vase Donations

Thanks to everyone for the vase donations. We have so many now that we don't have anymore room to store them! A notice will be made when more are needed!

Sanctuary Flower Donations

If you would like to donate sanctuary flowers to our shut-ins, please let our Care Team or the church office know. Thank you!



United
Methodist
Men

Hello Everyone!

St. John's United Methodist Men met on the last Saturday in February. This was our first time to meet this year and we worked on creating a calendar of events for 2024. We will be sure to share more details about our 2024 schedule in the near future.

Please remember, ALL MEN of St. John's are welcome to attend any of our meetings so please do not hesitate to attend in the future.

As always, feel free to reach out to me or any other UMM member if you have any questions or suggestions for future activities.



Steve Siebert

UMM President

steve.siebert@domtar.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

God said,
"See, I have given
you every plant
yielding seed that
is upon the face of
all the earth and
every tree with
seed in its fruit:
you shall have
them for food."

GENESIS
1:29

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the blessing of the bread of life you have bestowed on us which is more than what we could have ever hoped for.

Finda Quiwa

UW Faith Regional Missionary, Africa

"Let Us Break Bread Together" is the title of UW Faith's 2024 prayer guide, from which the Scripture and Prayer were taken. We will have an opportunity to break bread together with UW Faith members of other churches in our Rock Hill District as we host the Day Apart on March 16, 2024 from 9:00 to 11:00.

This is a great opportunity to meet and spend time with women from neighboring churches as we provide hospitality and together enjoy the program "Clothed with Joy," based on Psalm 30:11. Jennifer Davis, an energetic and fun speaker, will be featured; there will be games and prizes. Pastor Karen will be serving Communion and Jessica Hall will be our musician during our time of worship. Circle members are being asked to assist in the planning and serving that morning. Please respond as you are able, for this is the time to highlight our church and what the women of St. John's do so well.

It's not too early to start planning to attend Mission u July 18-20. Our Unit has budgeted for two \$50 scholarships to help with the cost, with priority given to first-time attendees. Look for more information in coming months.

In His Service, Barbara Gaither-UWF President

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS



3 BIG IDEAS OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP OF OUR MONEY

A FAITHFUL STEWARD IS A DILIGENT EARNER:

A Faithful Steward is a Diligent Earner. But what is meant by “a Diligent Earner”. The Diligent Earner is one who works with commitment, purpose, and a grateful attitude.

The ‘Diligent Earner’ understands these core Biblical truths about work:

1. Work was created by God as part of mankind’s purpose (Genesis 1:27-28)
2. Work is part of what it means to be made in God’s image – he himself created us in his own image (John 5:17)
3. The ability to earn is a gift from God (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)
4. Our value in God’s eyes is NOT based on how much we earn or our title. Instead, it is based on Christ’s work on the cross by which we are made children of God - by the gift of His Grace. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8).

God also intends us to work diligently in work that doesn’t earn money – such as raising our children, volunteering in support of the missions of our church or to help others in our community who are in need. (Ephesians 4:28)

While work itself is important, the attitude we bring to work is also important to God. For most of us, our work is the environment where we most consistently find ourselves in the company of non-believers, and the attitude we bring to work can be a testimony to them. Remember we are the body of Christ, his hands to work, his heart to show his love, his feet to carry the word of life to the ends of the earth. But, earning is just one side of the equation. The other side is spending.

*In next month’s newsletter we will look at BIG IDEA #3 –
being a Prudent Spender*

Submitted by Martha Jones, Co-Chair, Stewardship Committee

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



March 19 @ 7pm

On Tuesday, March 19th, at 7:00 p.m., join us for what is sure to be a moving and emotional concert at Unity Presbyterian Church. Reprise, under the direction of Jonathan Hall, will present Kim André Arnesen's Stabat Mater. This work uses the traditional 13th-century Latin hymn Stabat Mater dolorosa, which depicts the suffering Mary experienced at the crucifixion of Jesus. Also included are two English poems: "What are children to the Lord?" and "A Mother's Prayer," which add a fresh new depth to the ancient text. Arnesen dedicates the work to all parents who have lost a child. Reprise is a twenty-person semi-professional choir comprised primarily of area music educators performing with a chamber orchestra. Tickets for the concert are \$20 and available at reprise.booktix.com. Mallory Capps, Jessica Hall, Sarah Ochoa, and Eric Hughey perform with this ensemble.



Please Welcome Wren Thompson!



Wren Thompson is our newest choral scholar. Wren is a Winthrop University percussionist and sings in the choral program. Please extend a warm welcome to Wren!

Dr. Jonathan Hall, Music Director





MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4



GET INVOLVED IN MISSIONS!!

Want to be involved in the missions group? By all means, join us! We have meetings once a month after the 11am worship service in the men's Bible classroom. Our meetings usually last about an hour. During this time we pray and talk about what we can do to reach out to folks in our community around us to extend love and care & provide for the things they need.



FAST APPROACHING DATES:

Foster Parent's Day Out (March 23)

*We could use a few more volunteers!!!

Salkehatchie-Fairfield (July 13-July 20)

Kindness Weekend (July 24-July 27)

FORT MILL CARE CENTER

Missions delivered 37 lbs. of food to the Fort Mill Care Center. The Care Center is open now on Tuesday evenings from 5pm-7pm for donation drop off.

Missions has bins in the fellowship center hallway labeled FMCC for donations if you would like to bring them to the church.

Current needs of the care center:

1 lb. bags of rice
Canned Pasta (ex: Spaghetti-O's or Chef Boyardee)
Coffee & hot chocolate
Oatmeal, Cereal & Grits

*FMCC is also taking donations of coats, winter hats and gloves. Those donations can be brought to the church and placed in the bins in the fellowship center hallway, too. All sizes are needed.





MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS, CON'T

"My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4



SHELTER NEEDS:

Travel Size: Shampoo, bars of soap, travel size deodorant and shaving cream, disposable razors, Chapstick, small Kleenex packets and feminine hygiene products

Recently, Missions took 3 large bags of clothing & 24 prayer bags containing gloves, hats, scarves & body warmers made by a grandmother & grandson team to the men's shelter.

BETHEL SHELTERS

We will be heading over to the shelters to help organize & clean out two closets. Volunteers will be needed for this project! The date and time are to be determined. Keep an eye open for that information coming soon!

*Men's & Women's sweat shirts & pants:
S, M, L, 2XL, 3XL
Men's briefs: S, M, L, XL



HAPPY SPRING!

Shawne Heeren, Committee Chair



Epworth Children's Home

Katherine Burns, Epworth Representative



I WORE THE UNIFORM OF A CRIMINAL

On a cold night in February, 16-year-old Trevor found himself with his face and stomach pressed against the side of a police car. His hands were being cuffed behind his back and as he looked to his left his younger brother starred at him with tears streaming down his face. A police officer was tightening his wrists in cuffs as well. "Stay calm," Trevor told his brother. "Do everything they ask. I'm going to fix this."

Forty-five minutes earlier Trevor and his brother had entered their kitchen for something to drink. Their mother was standing at the kitchen sink with her back to them. In an instant, she turned with a knife and pointed it at them. "She was screaming at us, and I had no idea why. It wasn't anything new really, but it still scared me every time," Trevor said. "I worry about my brother. We don't have a father figure, so I have to be a good man for him. I have to protect him." Trevor, older and larger, positioned himself between the knife and his brother. His mother lunged at him, cutting him on the arm. Using a maneuver he learned as a member of the wrestling team at Dreher High School, Trevor wrapped his arm around his mother to try and take the knife from her. She bit him, and drew blood. He let her go at the same time their neighbors entered the kitchen. The neighbors were known drug dealers, and Trevor feared them. Trevor's mother began to scream, "They're trying to kill me."

By the time the police arrived, the mother and neighbors were repeating those words. The police took both boys into custody immediately. Trevor can tell you the exact moment – date and time. "I was in Cell A3 for 72 hours. It felt like 72 days," he continued. "I wore the uniform of a criminal. I rode in the back of a patty wagon with my wrists and ankles shackled to my brother."

Trevor's brother was in a cell on a different block and they weren't able to speak to each other until their court date. Trevor worried about how his little brother was holding up or if others would try to hurt him. They were each assigned a defense lawyer to represent them in court. Trevor doesn't fully understand what happened in the court room, but he remembers his mother's outbursts and the judge making her be quiet. He also remembers seeing his wrestling coach, Mr. Brooks, and school social worker in the back corner. They had been there for a different case and stayed when they heard Trevor's name called.



Epworth Children's Home Con't...

"I saw my coach after that in the hall," Trevor said. "He is a good man. He is good to me. What he said helped me through that. He told me the team missed me; they didn't know what happened to me or why I didn't come back to school. He told me they needed me; that the other team members looked up to me." Trevor thought for a moment, "Wrestling saved my life that day. My mother was coming after us and she wanted to hurt us. My wrestling moves helped me stay calm and restrain her until my neighbor came in and knocked me down. He was a big man." After the court hearing, Trevor and his brother were placed in a foster home zoned for a different school. The lady was nice, but Trevor really wanted to return to Dreher, so he began advocating for himself and his brother. He had been in foster care before and had been returned to his mother. "I have an imprint of a belt buckle on my back and scars on my hand from where the jewels on the belt pierced my skin," he said. "I wanted to be some place that was close to Dreher. I wanted life to be stable for me and my brother." Trevor remembered seeing other teens walking to Dreher from Epworth. He knew some of them, and started researching online. He wanted to admit himself and his brother, but learned he had to work through his lawyer and case worker to help make that happen. Finally, it did.

"When they arrived, they were all smiles," said Deborah Keller, Intake Coordinator for Epworth. She began asking the normal questions she asks during an admission, and Trevor told her the whole story. She asked him why he worked so hard to make sure he and his brother were at Dreher. "I had to. The system is broken," he said looking at his case worker. It has been five months since that day. He finished out his junior year at Dreher with a 3.3 GPA, up from his previous 1.75. He was able to finish on the wrestling team, and plans to do track and football during his upcoming senior year as well. He has a job this summer working Monday – Friday mornings. He appreciates the calm worship presence where he can reflect on his life. "I still haven't forgiven my mother," he said. "I don't know if I ever can, but I hope to." Trevor has been on beach trips where Rev. John Holler, President of Epworth, helped teach him to swim and day trips with cottage partners. But his most recent trip, is his favorite.

Trevor paused for a moment and gathered his thoughts. "My deepest fear in life is being a failure – not being a provider or protector," he said sincerely. Trevor wants to be a police officer. He is beginning his senior year at Dreher and is in the process of deciding whether or not he wants to go straight to the Police Academy or if he wants to get a Criminal Justice degree first. He knows that Epworth will walk with him regardless of his choice. "The police have been an important part of my life. I don't blame them for arresting me. They were doing their job. That's why I stayed

Epworth Children's Home Con't...

calm. I would hear them when they pulled up to my house again and again, 'watch out for the woman in here.' They knew how my mama could behave." He stopped and gathered his emotions, "I want to make sure other children don't have to grow up like I did. I want to be a protector. I want to provide for my family. My deepest fear is that I will fail at that."

Ask Trevor and he will tell you that advocating for himself and his brother to be at Epworth is the best thing he has ever done. "Some of the kids here complain that there are too many rules," he said. "They just want to think they can do whatever they want, but I tell them that Epworth has rules because they care about us. The people in our lives before just let us do whatever we wanted because they didn't care." He continued, "I just tell them that Epworth is perfect for us. It's comfortable, stable and safe. Those are things that really matter to us right now. I never had people in my life I could count on. I can count on the people here."

His teachers and Epworth are very pleased with his progress, but another important audience took notice—college admissions counselors! Trevor's transformation inside and outside the classroom allowed him to be accepted to multiple colleges. With plenty of options in front of him, Trevor decided to take a college tour of his top choice with Mrs. Laurie Brandes, Director of the Independent Living/Higher Education Program at Epworth. As they began the tour, the admissions counselor started to tell Trevor about life as a student at the college. Trevor smiled and laughed a little, but did not say a word. The guide continued the tour and at least three times Trevor repeated these small outburst of laughter. When the tour concluded, Mrs. Brandes turned to Trevor and asked, "What was all of that laughter about, Trevor?" Trevor responded with...more laughter and smiles! "Mrs. Brandes, I couldn't help it," he finally responded with words. "For so long no one believed I would finish high school, even I wasn't sure. But now, I'm not just finishing high school. I'm going to college. I couldn't help but laugh."

Next fall he will be attending Lander University and intends to follow his dream of receiving a degree in criminal justice. He has already received multiple scholarships. His younger brother, now in high school himself, is very proud of Trevor and is already showing signs of following in his older brother's footsteps.

Trevor's transformation has not just transformed his life but it is breaking the cycle for his entire family. He is serving as a role model for his siblings and for other residents here at Epworth. The teen who faced an uncertain future just a few years ago is now walking confidently across the stage at graduation and right into college.



Education Committee

Nancy Rivers, Committee Chair

Consider This:

*When you learn to stay up on ice skates all the way around the rink, you don't yet know how to do a double axel.

*When you learn to color within the lines, you aren't ready to paint like Michelangelo.

*When a baby first learns to stand on their own, they aren't ready to run a marathon.

*When you learn the names of the notes on the treble clef, you aren't ready to compose a symphony.

*When you have mastered your ABC's, you aren't able to write that great novel.

*When you can finally stack a block tower 15 blocks high, designing a sky scraper is beyond your reach.

*When you first meet a person, you don't know everything there is to know about them.

That's how it is with God. Making a profession of faith does not fill us with complete knowledge of God, Jesus, or the Trinity. Just as performing a double axel, painting like a master, running a long race, etc. take time, work, effort, and dedication, so does our Christian Walk.

John Wesley spoke of "moving on to perfection". Our faith is not a static thing.

Consider Hebrews 5:12-13:

12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.

The United Methodist Church values Christian Education. Did you know that our Book of Discipline requires each church to have a Sunday School? I don't know if you need milk or solid food at your current stage of your journey, but we can all learn and grow as we "move on to perfection." Let's grow together!

Won't you join us in Sunday School?

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

MARCH 2024

3
 8:30am Worship Service
 9:30am Hospitality
 10am Sunday School
 11am Worship Service
 *No UMYF/No REAL Kids today!

4
 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)
 7pm Book Club (MBC)

5 [WEE School Spirit Night](#)
[Abbott's Frozen Custard](#)
 3pm-7pm
 6:30pm Handbell practice
 7pm Scouts (FC)
 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice

10 **Communion Sunday**
 (Offering for Defend the Fatherless)
[Daylight Saving Time Begins](#)
 8:30am Worship Service
 9:30am Hospitality
 10am Sunday School/Confirmation Class
 11am Worship Service
 12:15pm Care Ministry Meeting (MBC)
 4pm UMYF (the Zone)
 5:30pm Chili & Biscuit Cook Off (FC)

11
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)
 5pm Clara Phillips Circle (FC)

12
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 10:30am Morning Glory Circle (MBC)
 6:30pm Handbell practice
 7pm Scouts (FC)
 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice

17
 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)

18 [WEE School Teacher Appreciation Week!](#)
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)

19
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 11:30am Lunch Buddies-Showmars
 6:30pm Handbell practice
 7pm Scouts (FC)
 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice

24 **Palm Sunday**
 8:30am & 11am Worship Services
 9:30am Hospitality
 10am Sunday School & Confirmation Class
 3:00pm Easter Egg Hunt
 *No UMYF today!

25
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)

26
 9am-11am WEE School Music (FC)
 6:30pm Handbell practice
 7:30pm Handbell ensemble practice

31 **Easter Sunday**
 8:30am & 11am Worship Services
 9:30am Hospitality
 10am Sunday School & Confirmation Class
 *No UMYF today!

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 11:30am WEE School Early Dismissal Confirmation Retreat Weekend	2 12pm-4pm (FC) Ben Vidonic Eagle Scout Ceremony
6 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:30pm Vespers-Butterfly Assembly 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Meetings 7pm Choir Practice	7 10am Bible Study (Loft) 6:30pm Bible Study (Loft)	8 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 7pm Scouts Pinewood Derby Set Up (FC)	9 9am (All Day Event) Scouts Pinewood Derby (FC)
13 9am WEE School Exotic Animals (FC) 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 4:30pm Grief Support Group (MBC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wednesday Night Meal 6:30pm Vespers Service 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Meetings 7pm Choir Practice	14 9am WEE School Exotic Animals (FC) 10am Bible Study (Loft) 6:30pm Bible Study (Loft) 6:30pm WEE School Board Mtg. (FC)	15 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 1pm-4pm UWF Set Up (FC)	16 9am-12pm UWF District Event (FC & Sanctuary) 2pm-5pm FC in Use 5:30pm-8:30pm (FC) Parent Night Out WEE School & Church Families
20 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 5:15pm Music Makers/Noteables 5:45pm Wed. Night Meal-Easter Dinner 6:30pm Vespers Service-Egg Dyeing 7pm Choir Practice	21 10am Bible Study (Loft) 12pm-2pm WEE School Teacher Luncheon (FC) 6:30pm Bible Study (Loft)	22 No WEE School 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)	23 1:30pm-3:30pm (FC) York County Foster Parent Day Out
27 11am Exercise with Avis (FC) 4:30pm Grief Support Group (MBC) 6:30pm Cub Scout Pack Mtg. (Sanctuary) NO MEAL/NO MUSIC PRACTICE	28 6:00pm Seder Meal (FC)	29 Good Friday No WEE School 11am Exercise with Avis (FC)	30

FORT MILL CARE CENTER

Care Center Sunday is March 31st

Current Needs:

- *1 lb. or smaller boxes/bags of rice
- *canned pasta (Spaghetti-O's or Chef Boyardee)
- *coffee
- *hot chocolate
- *grits
- *oatmeal
- *cereal

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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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.***