

~THE ST. JOHN'S POST~

February 2026 Edition

Frosty the snowman was a jolly, happy soul,
with a corncob pipe and a button nose,
and two eyes made out of coal.

Frosty the snowman is a fairytale, they say.
He was made of snow, but the children know
how he came to life one day.

There must have been some magic in that old silk
hat they found, for when they placed it on his
head, he began to dance around.

Oh, Frosty the snowman was alive as he could be
and the children say he could laugh and play, just
the same as you and me.

*Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Look at Frosty go*

*Thumpety thump thump
Thumpety thump thump
Over the hills of snow*

Frosty the snowman knew the sun was hot that
day. So he said let's run and we'll have some fun,
now before I melt away.

Down to the village with a broomstick in his
hand. Running here and there, all around the
square saying catch me if you can.

He led them down the streets of town, right to
the traffic cop and he only paused a moment
when he heard him holler "stop"!

Frosty the snowman had to hurry on his
way. But he waved goodbye saying, "don't you
cry, I'll be back again some day".

Repeat Chorus

At the first mention of snow in the forecast, many of us can't help but think of Frosty the Snowman. It's a cheerful children's song that brings back memories of carefree winter days, snow-covered yards, and the simple joy that snow once held. When we were younger, snow meant fun, adventure, and unexpected delight.

These days, I'll admit my fondness for snow isn't quite the same. Now it often feels more like a nuisance—especially when events are canceled and plans are disrupted. Since I can't control the weather (as much as I might like to), I decided to look for a few positive attributes of snow instead.

Snow can be a powerful symbol of purity and forgiveness. It can serve as a visual reminder of God's grace—covering, cleansing, and making all things new. Snow also invites stillness and reflection. I remember past winter storms and how everything seemed to slow down. Maybe those moments are an invitation for us to pause, pray, and listen more closely for the voice of God.

Snow is also a gentle reminder that we are not in charge. None of us controls the weather, and that reality can highlight our human limits. It nudges us away from self-reliance and toward trust, patience, and a deeper relationship with God.

So perhaps instead of stressing over unpredictable weather, we can embrace what God is doing through creation. In its own way, snow does what the church often tries to do: it slows us down, humbles us, brings people together, and reminds us that renewal can come quietly—sometimes inconveniently, yet beautifully. Maybe Jack Rollins, who wrote Frosty the Snowman, was an accidental theologian without even knowing it.

May we pause and reflect on God's mercy, grace, and beauty—even when the weather doesn't turn out the way we want. And after all, snow angels are always fun.



Shalom, Karen

Voyages of Paul

12 Day Voyages of Paul on Celebrity Infinity September 15, 2026 - September 26, 2026

Walk the same ancient roads where the gospel first took root in Europe while enjoying the comfort and simplicity of an all-inclusive cruise.

This Footsteps of Paul experience is entirely cruise-based, allowing travelers to unpack once and wake each day in a new biblical setting as they sail to the historic ports connected to the Apostle Paul's Ministry.

Guided by the pastoral heart and biblical insight of Reverend Karen H. Radcliffe, this pilgrimage invites believers to see Paul not only as a theologian but also as a missionary, pastor, and spiritual father. Shore excursions, combined with onboard teaching, worship, and fellowship, transform familiar passages of Scripture into living testimony.

The Footsteps of Paul is a journey that strengthens faith, deepens understanding, and unites the body of Christ just as Paul intended.

If you would like to go on this journey, there will be an informational meeting on February 2nd @ 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

February Events & Reminders

*If you have need of use of our facilities, please contact the church office for a full list of availabilities

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Hospitality
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

12:15pm Kindness Week Planning Meeting (FC)

The UWF Call to Prayer and Self-Denial @ 2pm. This year the event will be held at Philadelphia United Methodist Church off Hwy. 160 in Fort Mill. All ladies are invited to attend.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

8:30 am Scout Sunday
11:00 am WEE School Sunday
12:15 pm Tea Party (FC)
**sign up on REALM or paper by Sunday, February 1.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper @ 5:30pm.

Ash Wednesday Services:
6pm - Interactive Service (FC)
7pm - Regular Service (Sanctuary)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

*Lunch Buddies will meet on Tuesday, February 17 @ 11:30am for a delicious meal at Charanda in Fort Mill. The address is: 1504 Carolina Place (behind Chick-fil-A). Sign up on REALM or on the sign up board by Sunday, February 15 to join us for great food and fellowship!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The Saturday Project-see Missions page for more information.

CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Monday, February 9 @ 5pm
Clara Phillips Circle (Handbell Room)

Tuesday, February 10 @ 10:30am
Morning Glory Circle (MBC)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Game Day Afternoon (FC) 2pm-4pm
Sign up on REALM or on the sign up board.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

February 11 & February 28
4:30pm (MBC)

EXERCISE WITH AVIS:

Monday-Wednesday-Friday
11:00am-11:30am (FC)

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

February 1	Beverly Poissant
February 2	Melissa Remus
February 4	McKinley Shamblin
February 5	Ella Crocker
February 6	Billie Vaughn & Cyrus Sumner
February 8	Brenda Ervin & Matteo Natoli
February 10	Hallie Conrad, Susie Close & Gene Snyder
February 14	Arden Cooke
February 15	Charlene Williams & Marc Vidonic
February 16	Brennan Reavis
February 18	Nancy Lerch



February 20	Greg Griffin
February 22	Karen Rowe & Adriane Starnes
February 23	Melissa Morse
February 26	Jim Harris
February 27	Mary Adkins, Don Fortier & Samuel Emelife

February 1 - Johnny & Ronda Myers ❤

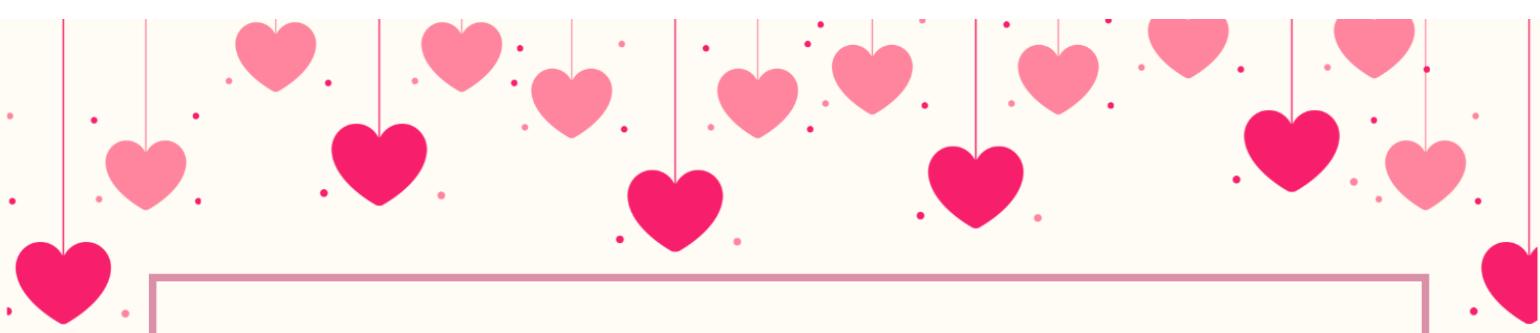
February 2 - Scott & Michele Gainey ❤

February 9 - Richard & Dawna Spilmann ❤

February 27 - Scott & Bethany Stone ❤

February 29 - Kyle & Tara McNitt-Detombeur ❤

PARTY
TIME



February Community Meals:

February 4:

Chili

Cornbread

Salad

Dessert

*chicken nuggets available for children

***Dinner is served
from 5:15pm-6:30pm**

February 11:

Chicken Alfredo

Garlic Bread

Salad

Dessert

*chicken nuggets available for children

Meal Costs:

~age 12 & under (free)

~age 13 & older

(\$8 per person)

~Family Maximum (\$20)

February 18 - NO MEAL

February 25:

Chicken pot pie

Salad

Dessert

*chicken nuggets available for children

SMALL GROUPS

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Prayer Group (Ladies' Bible Class)

5:45 pm - 7:00 pm Bible Study (the book of Matthew) (MBC)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm "The Chosen" Study Group (The Zone)



WEE School News

Beth Meador, Director

2026-2027 Registration

It is hard to believe that it is already February and we are over halfway through this school year. It has been a blessing to open our doors each day to our WEE School children and families. Registration is currently underway for the 2026-2027 school year and we are excited for all of the new families that will be joining our W.E.E. School family in September.

Spring Event

Our big event of the year for our W.E.E. School families will be on March 27th from 5:30-7:00pm. Join us to celebrate the W.E.E. School's 20th birthday, 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.

We are so excited to be celebrating the W.E.E. School's 20th anniversary this year.

This will be recognized on W.E.E School Sunday on February 8th & our spring event theme this year is

"Happy 20th Birthday, W.E.E. School!"

March, April & May News



In March, we will be holding a canned good/toiletries drive for the Fort Mill Care Center to help those in need in our community.

We have a wonderful group of parent volunteers who are working on celebrating our staff the week of March 2nd for Teacher Appreciation Week.

May Events

May brings us to our final month of preschool. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held May 4th - 6th in the Fellowship Center and will be open during the Community Meal. We will celebrate our parents during Pastries for Parents: the children have their spring program and our annual art show and our 4-year-olds will have their graduation ceremony.

Spirit/Fundraiser Nights

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Spirit/Fundraising events:

February 10th (4-8pm)

Wing King Fort Mill

March 24th (3-7pm) Abbott's Fort Mill

April 14th (4-9pm) Brixx Fort Mill



As always, thank you for your support of our preschool program and we ask for continued prayers as we move through the last four months of the school year.



MISSIONS



Amy Bartholomew, Committee Chair

Saturday Project

Our first Saturday Project was a big success, and we are excited to continue building on that momentum! Our next Saturday Project will take place on **Saturday, February 21**, and

everyone is welcome to participate. This month, we are offering two meaningful ways to serve our community:

- 1-Meals for Defend the Fatherless &**
- 2-Sunshine Bags for School Resource Officers**

Meals for Defend the Fatherless

Volunteers will meet in the kitchen at 9 a.m. to prepare meals for families connected with Defend the Fatherless. We will also be collecting donated items needed for meal preparation. Sign-ups are available on REALM and the sign up board.



Sunshine Bags for School Resource Officers

We will also be assembling Sunshine Bags to thank and encourage the school resource officers who serve the Fort Mill School District. Volunteers will meet in the Men's Bible Classroom @ 10 am. Donations for the bags are welcome, and sign-ups are available on REALM and the sign up board. We will also need volunteers to help deliver the bags once they are complete.





The Missions Committee will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the handbell room. Feel free to bring your meal with you if needed—everyone is welcome to attend.



Donation Center

Please be sure to check the donation center outside the door to the fellowship hall for current donation request lists. Each quarter, we will focus

on collecting donations for one primary group, while still welcoming items for other ministries.

Our focus for February and March is the Fort Mill Care Center. Their current needs are listed in the donation center.



February Mission Spotlight: Defend the Fatherless

Defend the Fatherless began in 2016 when founder Caitlin Sund felt called to serve vulnerable children and families after spending time in an orphanage in China. What started as the York County Foster Closet has grown into a comprehensive ministry supporting foster and adoptive families.

Today, families receive essential items such as baby equipment, car seats, diapers, furniture, clothing, and gift cards. Through the Frozen Meal Program, families can also pick up a homemade meal during especially busy or challenging seasons. Beyond physical needs, Defend the Fatherless recognizes the emotional and spiritual toll of foster care and adoption. Parents, siblings, and children often experience trauma and benefit from counseling and community support.

Defend the Fatherless exists to meet the social, emotional, educational, spiritual, and financial needs of foster and adoptive families—walking alongside them with compassion, understanding, and hope.

VALENTINE Tea Party

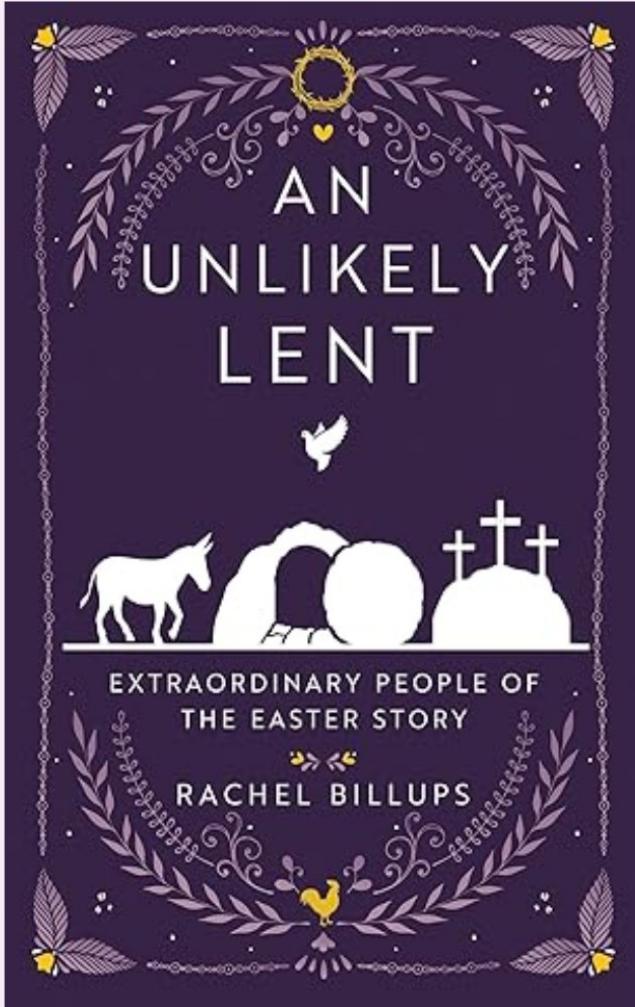
*Celebrate love and fellowship at our
Valentine's Tea Party!*

Join us as we gather to share a cup of tea and sweet treats.

*All are welcome whether you are mother - daughter or son, grandparents, or singles.
Sign up on REALM today or on the sign up board and be part of this special time of
connection and celebration for all ages.*

*Sunday, February 8, 2026
following the 11:00am service.*





An Unlikely Lent

Extraordinary People of the Easter Story

As we prepare for the upcoming Lenten season, we are offering opportunities to study together in the morning & the evening as we prepare ourselves for Easter.

Morning Sessions

10 am - 11:30 am

(Loft)

Led by Barbara Gaither & Lizann Rex

Evening Sessions

6:30 pm - 8 pm

(Loft)

Led by Rev. Karen Radcliffe

February 19 - Unlikely Offering: Mary of Bethany

February 26 - Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl

March 5 - Unlikely Freedom: Barabbas

March 12 - Unlikely Companionship: Simon of Cyrene

March 19 - Unlikely Courage: The Woman at the Cross

March 26 - Unlikely Allies: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Books can be purchased on Cokesbury website or Amazon:

<https://www.cokesbury.com/An-Unlikely-Lent>

<https://www.amazon.com/Unlikely-Lent-Extraordinary-People-Easter/dp/179103733X>

Cokesbury Cost is \$15.99 + tax & shipping

Amazon Cost is \$17.99 + tax & shipping (or free shipping)

Children and Youth Newsletter



REAL KIDS

REAL Kids has moved! We meet weekly on Wednesday Night from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. We meet in the Children's Music Room and we will walk them back down to the Fellowship Hall for Pick Up!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets weekly on Sunday at 4pm in the Zone. All are welcome ages 6th grade through 12th! Join us for games, snacks, and devotion. See you there!



SUPERBOWL PARTY

On February 8th at 6pm, the Youth and friends are meeting in the Zone to watch the Superbowl! Bring a snack to share and St. John's has the wings and the pizza! Come cheer on your favorite team!!!

VALENTINE'S DAY TEA PARTY

On February 8th after the 11:00am service, we will be hosting a Valentine's Day Tea Party and ALL ARE INVITED! Join us for tea and finger foods as we celebrate love in all its forms! Sign up available on REALM or on the Sign Up Board.





We are excited to announce the launch of a new Pet Ministry at St. John's! If you love animals and see pets as part of the family, we invite you to be part of this growing ministry.

Our first Pet Ministry meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 17, following the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in a room near the Fellowship Center (location to be announced).

This ministry was created to celebrate and support the important role pets play in our lives. We would love to hear about your pets—new additions, beloved companions who are ill, and those who have passed away. We also hope to create opportunities for meaningful outreach, including community events such as animal adoption days, rabies clinics, and partnerships with local rescue organizations.

If you have a passion for pets and a heart for service, please join us as we brainstorm ways to be Christ to all people—and their pets—by living out God's call to love, serve, and transform the world.

If you have information to share about your pets, are unable to attend the meeting, or would like to be involved in the Pet Ministry, please contact Ann Troiano by call or text at 518-932-9119, or by email at Greyarabian436@aol.com.

Everyone is welcome!

Bible quiz

REV. BOB ROMANELLO



Romans 3:21-25

When I was a boy in the 1930's and 1940's, revivals were commonplace in the various churches in the southern Ohio area where I lived. The usual topic was sin, and nobody was left out of the condemnation of Romans 3:23 nor the promised redemption of Romans 3: 24-25.

My question for you is: Do you have a firm hold on the promised redemption of verses 24-25?

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 and are justified by his _____ as a _____, through the _____ that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom _____ put forward as a propitiation by his _____, to be received by _____.

Help words: grace, gift, faith, redemption, blood, God

May your faith in what God has done for you in Jesus Christ be obvious in your daily walk through life.



Connections Team

Co-Chairs: Barri Helms & Denise Holland

Game Day Afternoon:

Connections has planned a game day afternoon on Sunday, February 23 @ 2pm. We hope to have a huge, competitive crowd of all ages join in on the fun!

Rules of the game:

Sign up so we know you will be joining in on the fun, bring your favorite game to play, a snack to share and something to drink! We will provide water. But most of all, have fun and enjoy the fellowship!

The Gathering Table:

There's still room at the table for you and your family! This new ministry is designed to bring our church family together - one shared meal at a time. Sign up is still available on the sign up board.



STEWARSHIP COMMITTEE

In my almost 70 years of attending United Methodist Churches around the country, I never came across a Stewardship Committee. When I was asked to chair this committee, I did some homework to learn more about what is expected of this group and here's what I discovered, the "Three Ts" of Stewardship which seem to be followed by most organizations:

- ***Time: Dedicating hours to prayer, worship, and serving the community.**
- ***Talent: Using unique skills, such as teaching, administration, or music, to build up the church.**
- ***Treasure: Financially supporting ministry through tithing and also other non-financial offerings.**

Strong stewardship can also help create a culture of gratitude and generosity within the church community. When members see how their contributions are being used for the greater good, they are more likely to feel grateful and encouraged to continue giving, whether that be financial or with their skills and talents.

And one point I came across I think is very important to remember; ensuring all efforts directly supports the church's specific mission and vision.

Do you know St. John's Mission Statement? It's always on the bulletins and in the newsletters but I think it bears mentioning again:

Mission Statement: ***To be Christ to all people by living out God's call to love, serve, and transform the world.***

If any of these parts of Stewardship speak to you, please let me know and I will make sure you are invited to our committee meetings. I would love to hear your ideas and also get your feedback on the new ideas that are already being discussed.

You can reach me at melissa.kay.morse@gmail.com



submitted by Melissa Morse, Stewardship Committee Chair

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Katherine Burns, Epworth Representative



AN EXPANDING CIRCLE OF LOVE:

Growing up in Tennessee amid divorce, addiction, and mental health struggles, Brittney Conroy often found refuge with friends' families who welcomed her into their homes and churches. Watching foster families care for children planted a seed in her heart—one she didn't fully recognize until years later.

Today, Brittney and her husband Frank are the adoptive parents of four sisters they first welcomed as Epworth foster parents. Already raising three biological sons, the Conroys opened their home in 2020 to young sisters Gia and Renny, who had experienced trauma and developmental challenges. With patience, therapeutic support, and deep commitment, the girls began to thrive. Brittney and Frank also worked intentionally to keep sibling bonds strong, eventually welcoming the girls' older teenage sisters, Taalyiah and Monica, into their home as well.

After a difficult and uncertain season—including a brief reunification attempt—the children returned to the Conroys' care. In March of this year, the adoption of all four girls was finalized, marking a joyful milestone for the family.

Today, the Conroy home is full, lively, and thriving. Monica is attending the University of South Carolina, Taalyiah is preparing for college, and the younger children are flourishing in school and activities. Despite personal losses and ongoing challenges, Brittney and Frank see their journey as a calling—an extraordinary life shaped by faith, perseverance, and love.



For full article visit:

<https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/carestories/an-expanding-circle-of-love/>

Music News



Rehearsals!

We are thrilled that rehearsals for the Chancel Choir have resumed! Join us every Wednesday at 7:10 PM in the choir room upstairs for about an hour of music and fellowship. No professional experience is necessary, just a love for music, community, and singing for the Lord.

Easter Cantata

We're gearing up for our Easter Cantata on March 29th, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Come and try it out.

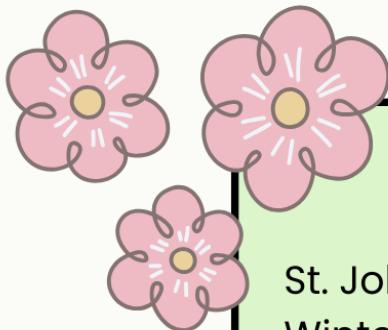
The Golden Ringers & The Music Makers:

The Golden Ringers, 7 yr olds – High School, and the Music Makers, Pre-k – 5th Grade, are welcoming new members. This is a wonderful opportunity for kids to grow in faith, confidence, and musical skills while serving in worship. All are welcome—no experience required.



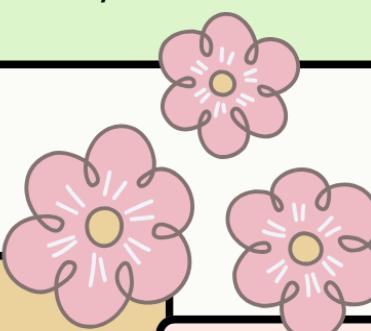
submitted by Sarah Ochoa Hughey, Interim Music Director

United Women in Faith



Winter Luncheon

St. John's United Women in Faith celebrated their Winter Luncheon on January 11 with a lovely meal provided by Tevis Vandergriff. The program recognized past President: Barbara Gaither, Vice President: Nancy Rivers, and introduced Secretary, Joyce Kimbrell and Treasurer, Elaine Cryderman.



Special Recognition

Special Recognition Award pins were presented to three deserving individuals.

*Larry Taulbert was recognized for his work during the Helene Disaster where he organized, collected, sorted, loaded and delivered 5 truck loads of needed donations to The Blessing Project to help victims.

*Brenda Little was recognized for being a long-time music teacher in Fort Mill Schools as well as Adult Choir director for 16 years. She currently is accompanist for the Music Makers Children's Choir.

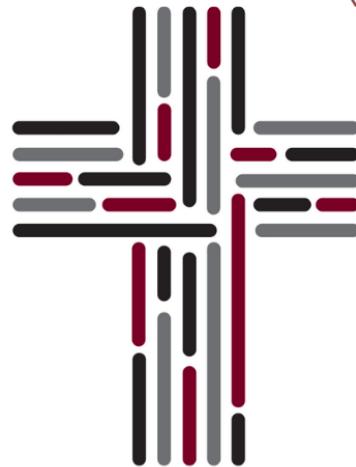
*Amy Bartholomew was recognized for teaching for 27 years in the Fort Mill Schools as well as being rotating teacher of the Ladies Sunday School Class. She is also Chair of the Mission Committee.

All these individuals are well deserving of this award so remember to thank them for their good work.



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

Robert E. (Bob) Romanello	Pastor Emeritus
Lisa Henley	Administrative Coordinator
Mallory Capps	Director of Church Ministries
Beth Meador	W.E.E. School Director
Minda Siebert	Finance Coordinator
Terry Helms	Building Administrator
Sarah Ochoa	Interim Director of Music
Karen Rowe	Interim Accompanist
Nancy Rivers	Handbell Director
Jennifer Isenhour	Music Leader- Wednesday Worship
Suzanne Fisher	Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms	Custodian
Katherine Burns	Music Makers Director
Amber Boan	Children/Youth Handbell Director
Oriana Gilmore	Nursery Worker

*...TO BE CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE BY LIVING OUT GOD'S CALL
TO LOVE, SERVE, AND TRANSFORM THE WORLD.*