The St. John's Post

-February 2025 Edition-

The 2nd Month of the Year: February

It's true—February is often a time when people start to reflect on their New Year's resolutions and maybe even feel a bit of a dip in motivation. But the longer days with sunsets later in the evening definitely bring a sense of hope and renewal, which is perfect for recharging and getting back on track!

In South Carolina, the warmer temperatures and fewer rainy days can offer a nice contrast to the chill of January, making outdoor activities more inviting. It's quite rare to have a fifth Sunday in February. The last one was in 2004. The next time we have a fifth Sunday in February it will be 2032. It's interesting to think about how much time there is to plan something special for that day in 2032! It gives plenty of time to come up with creative ideas for marking the occasion.

Groundhog Day is such a fun tradition to kick off the month of February! The idea of the groundhog predicting the weather is a quirky and charming part of our cultural folklore. My hope is for an overcast day, so the groundhog doesn't see its shadow. This is something many of us can get behind—especially if we're ready for spring to arrive sooner rather than later! It's always amusing how seriously people take the predictions, even though we know it's more of a fun tradition than a reliable forecast.

February 9th is Super Sunday at St. John's. It will be a special day filled with celebration, community, and service! It's wonderful how so many aspects of the day come together to honor different parts of the church's mission and its connections to the wider community. We will celebrate the success of Pack 130 and Troop 130 during Scout Sunday at our 8:30am worship service. At our II:00am worship service, we will have our first WEE School Celebration Sunday as we celebrate nineteen years of education ministry with young families in our community. We will invite all alumni and former and present staff members who have poured much love and dedication into our program.

The Valentine Tea Party is also this day and another delightful way to bring people together. It sounds like a perfect opportunity to enjoy fellowship and share in the love of the season. Please sign up for this event in one of our usual places!

Our day will also include the Souper Bowl offering! It's a fantastic way to tie in the spirit of the Super Bowl with the heart of giving, supporting those in need through the Fort Mill Care Center. Our youth will collect the offering as we exit church that day. The collection aligns so beautifully with the church's values and provides a meaningful way for the congregation to serve their neighbors.

Valentine's Day is such a meaningful opportunity to show love and appreciation, whether through traditional gifts like cards, flowers, or candy, or by reaching out to those who may need a little extra kindness during a difficult time. The idea of sending a card or visiting someone who's been struggling is a beautiful way to make the holiday more meaningful, especially for those who may feel overlooked or isolated. Will you consider purchasing an extra box of candy or package of Valentine cards to drop off at the Fort Mill Care Center to share with a struggling family? It's a great way to show how much small gestures of care can make a difference, and it also brings back memories of how meaningful those small acts were when we were younger.

February may be the shortest month, but it offers plenty of opportunities to serve others and reflect on our personal commitments. Whether it's through events like the Souper Bowl offering, helping out at the Fort Mill Care Center, or offering kindness to someone who could use a little extra love this month, there's so much we can do to make a positive impact in our communities.

With Lent just around the corner, February is also a time to start thinking about spiritual preparation. Ash Wednesday, on March 5th, marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth. It's a perfect time to prepare ourselves, whether that means setting intentions for the season, focusing on service, or participating in church traditions.

I look forward to seeing you at St. John's, where we try to share the love of Christ every day, not just in February.

Shalom.

Karen



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
Communion (Bethel Shelters) 12:15pm- Care Team (MBC) UMYF @ 4pm in the Zone	7pm Book Club (MBC)	4 6:30pm Handbells 7pm Scouts (FC)	5 5:15pm Music Makers 5:45pm-Dinner 6:30pm- Worship 6:30pm-REAL Kids (MBC) 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Mtgs	6	7	8
9 Scout Sunday (8:30am) WEE School Sunday (Ilam) 12:15pm- Valentine Tea Party-FC UMYF Super Bowl Party	5pm- CP Circle (FC)	10:30am-MG Circle (MBC) 6:30pm Handbells 7pm Scouts (FC)	12 5:15pm Music Makers 5:45pm-Dinner 6:30pm-Newly Wed Game 6:30pm Cub Scouts Den Mtgs	13	Happy Valentines Day	15
12:15pm Stewardship Meeting (Loft) UMYF @ 4pm in the Zone	17	11:30am Lunch Buddies Honey Baked Ham-Rock Hill 6:30pm Handbells 7pm Scouts (FC)	5:15pm Music Makers 5:45pm-Dinner 6:30pm- Worship 6:30pm-REAL Kids (MBC)	5pm-8pm WEE School Spirit Night @ Moe's-Fort Mill	21	22
12:15pm Finance Mtg. (MBC) 2pm-3:30pm UWF-Call to Prayer & Self Denial (FC) UMYF @ 4pm in the Zone	24	25 6:30pm Handbells 7pm Scouts (FC)	26 5:15pm Music Makers 5:45pm-Dinner 6:30pm- Worship 6:30pm-REAL Kids (MBC) 6:30pm Pack 130 MtgSanctuary	27	28 Ipm (FC) UWF Set Up for Mission u	

Every Sunday (Unless Otherwise Noted):

8:30am & 11:00am: Worship Service

9:45am: Hospitality 10:00am: Sunday School 2:00pm: Choir Practice

Every Monday-Wednesday-Friday:

Exercise with Avis (llam-11:30am)-FC (Changes to schedule will be given in previous class) **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:**

February 12 & February 26 @ 4:30pm (MBC)

February Reminders:

February 2nd

Communion Sunday - Our offering will support Bethel Shelters

February 3rd: Book Club (MBC)

February 9th Souper Bowl Sunday: Our youth will be collecting money after both services for the Fort Mill Care Center.

Exercise with Avis: 11am - 1130am in the Fellowship Center Monday - Wednesday - Friday

February 9th

Scout Sunday 8:30am WEE School Sunday 11:00am Valentine Tea Party 12:15pm February 10th:

Clara Phillips Circle @ 5pm (FC)

February 11th:

Morning Glory Circle @ 10:30am (MBC)

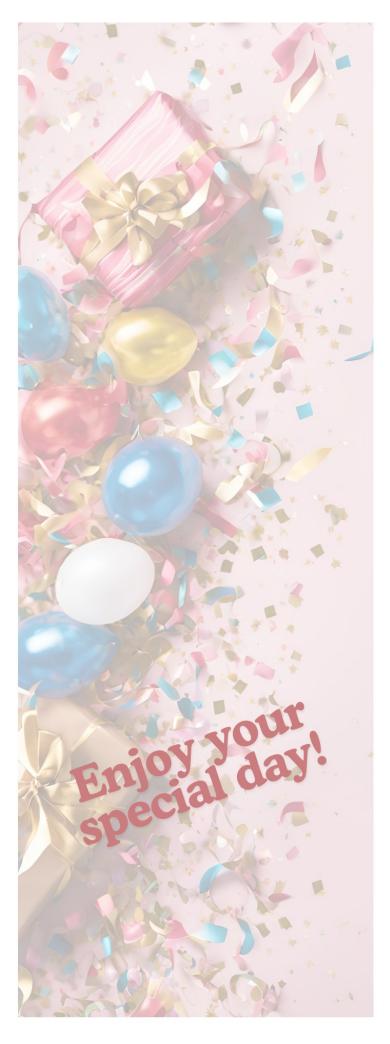
Lunch Buddies - Tuesday, February 18 @ 11:30am We will head over to the Honey Baked Ham on Cherry Road in Rock Hill. Sign up on REALM or in the Communication Center by Sunday, Feb. 16!

Meetings

February 2: Care Team @ 12:15pm (MBC)

February 16: Stewardship @ 12:15pm (Loft)

February 23: Finance Committee @ 12:15pm (MBC)



February 1 Eli Patterson **Beverly Poissant** February 5 Ella Crocker Frank Gravely February 6 Billie Vaughn February 7 Phoebe Howie February 8 Brenda Ervin Matteo Natoli February 10 Hallie Conrad Gene Snyder Kathy Marakoff February 13 February 15 **Charlene Williams** February 18 Nancy Lerch February 20 **Greg Griffin** February 22 Karen Rowe Adriane Starnes February 26 Jim Harris Mary Ann Pinson Jacob Siebert February 27 Mary Adkins

February 1 Johnny & Ronda Myers

February 9 Richard & Dawna Spilmann

Samuel Emelife

February 27 Scott & Bethany Stone

Christian Sympathy:

We extend our Christian Sympathy to Ben James on the passing of his grandmother, Mary Bamford October 25, 2024.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to Eric Hughey on the passing of his grandmother, Margie L. Watkins January 3, 2025.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to Emily Williams on the passing of her birth mother, Beth Varner, January 14, 2025.

Special Donation:

The Debi Edmondson Scholarship Fund

by

Ted & Kathy Campbell
Bill & Ellie Davies

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Revé Richardson (mother of Kristen Richardson-Frick) who passed away January 18, 2025.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Ray Dauer (step-father of Lisa Henley) who passed away January 18, 2025.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Vicki Miller (sister-in-law of Judy Tilly) who passed away January 20, 2025.

In Loving Memory of Betty Tysinger by Loyce Sutton

From the Helms Family:

We praise the St. John's UMC family for the overwhelming support we received during the loss of our home. Your prayers and presence gave us hope. The gifts of meals, household items, groceries, muscle, a treasured grandchild's dollhouse, and much loved stuffed animals were true acts of love for our family. We are blessed to have St. John's as our church. Much Love,

Terry, Barri, Maggie & Tallulah

Congratulations to Doris Marks and her family on the birth of Juniper Rose Reeves on November 25, 2024. Juniper is Doris' great-granddaughter. Proud parents are Rylie & Thomas Reeves and grandparents are Garrett & Kerri Marks. Congrats to all!

BIBLE QUIZ

In our Mixed Adult Bible Class we are walking along with Paul on his Missionary Journeys finding acceptance in some cities and being run out of others. We have learned about many persons that Paul encountered during his life while at first being a persecutor of Christians, having a life changing experience, and then being among the persecuted for preaching Jesus Christ. My questions below concern what you may remember about Paul and these persons through chapter eighteen of Acts.

1	was stoned to death while Paul stood by. Acts: 7:54-60			
2	and Paul were sent on the first missionary journey. Acts 13:1-4			
3	chosen to join Paul on Paul's second journey. Acts 15:36-41			
4	4 part Jew and part Gentile chosen to follow Paul. Acts 16:1-3			
5	a seller of purple was converted at a riverside. Acts 16:12-15, 40			
6.	and were tentmakers as was Paul. Acts 18:1-11			

so he worked with them while witnessing in Corinth 18 months. It was at Corinth that he announced he was turning his witness to Gentiles.

Possible answers:

Aquila, Barnabas, Lydia, Priscilla, Silas, Stephen, and Timothy.

submitted by Rev. Bob Romanello

Connections

The Connections Team met in January and we have planned a lot of really fun events for this year!

We had our very first Family Game Day Afternoon on Sunday, January 26th. Another game day is scheduled later on in the year.

We look forward to our 5th Sunday Breakfast this year and we will plan a trip to see the water lilies. Last year we had to cancel due to the weather. We have a few more new events on the calendar and we can't wait to share more information about those.

Thank you to those who attended our meeting!
Please consider being a part of the Connections
Team or attending one of our family events.
We have a lot of fun!

Joan Pate & Barri Helms, Co Chairs

February Community Meals

Wednesday Nights @ 5:45pm Worship @ 6:30pm

February 5th

Baked Chicken Tenderloins
Mac & Cheese
Salad
Dessert

February 19th

Taco Bar Corn Salad Churros

February 12th

VALENTINE MEAL:
Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Valentine Dessert

February 26th

Lasagna Garlic Bread Salad & Dessert

Cost of Meal:

\$8 (age 13 & older); FREE (age 12 & under); Family Maximum is \$20

REAL Kids meets @ 6:30pm in the Men's Bible Classroom!



Valentine's Tea Party

you are invited!



When: February 9, 2025 @ 12:15pm Where: St. John's UMC-130 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Register: Online by following the QR code below!

Cost: Donations accepted for our annual

Kindness Week





WEE School News

2025-2026 School Year 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 2025-2026 school year and we are excited for all of the new families that will be joining our W.E.E. School family in September.

March Events:

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 10th for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Spring Event:

Our big event of the year for our W.E.E. School families will be on April 11th from 5:30-7:00pm. Join us for an evening of "sports" 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.

Book Fair & lots more:

May brings us to our final month of preschool. Our Scholastic Book Fair will be held May 5th-9th 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 4 year old students will have their graduation ceremony.

Spirit Nights:

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Spirit/Fundraising events: February 20th 5-8pm - Moe's Fort Mill March 11th 4-8pm - Wing King Fort Mill April 1st 3-7pm - Abbott's 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.



Children and Youth News

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

We began meeting again for REAL Kids and UMYF.
This month we will have our first ever W.E.E. School Sunday and our annual Tea Party! Please join us for those special events!
Also, mark your calendars for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4th. All proceeds

will go to Kindness Week 2025.

2025 is off to a great start!!!!





REAL Kids will be February 5th, 19th, and 26th during our Community Meal and Worship on Wednesday night!

This is open for all children 3 years old- 5th grade!

UMYF will be on February 2nd, 16th, & 23th at 4:00pm-5:30pm. On February 9th, we will have our Super Bowl Party.

"Road Trip" Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20, 2025!

Please plan to join us for a fun filled week as we learn about how being on the go with God! Registration will open on April 7th for church members and April 14th for the public! More information to come!

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS!

submitted by Amy Bartholomew, Committee Chair

In December, Missions delivered 235 Christmas cards to three different nursing homes. We also delivered a bag of clothes to the Bethel Day Shelter. A group of members organized the clothing and hygiene closets on Dec. 27th. We delivered 64 pounds of deer meat to the Fort Mill Care Center and delivered two large bags of clothes and shoes to Tender Hearts.

CURRENT NEEDS:

Bethel Day Shelter is currently in need of men's underwear (all sizes). They also need trial size shampoo, hand sanitizer, and kleenex. Trial size is best so the items are more portable. They can also use the plastic utensil sets that restaurants give with take out orders. These are in plastic bags and usually contain a napkin as well as the utensils.

We are collecting spaghetti sauce, pasta, toilet paper, cereals, and oatmeal for the Fort Mill Care Center. Plastic grocery bags are also needed. These items, along with donations for Bethel Day Shelter, can be placed in the collection center beside the fellowship hall entrance.

Please join us for our next meeting on March 2 in the Men's Bible Classroom after the 11:00 service. Everyone is welcome to attend, not just committee members. We would love to have some of our youth come to the meeting to share their ideas!

Education Team

Nancy Rivers, Committee Chair nriversnc@gmail.com

Have you ever thought about the fact that we are all called to be in ministry? We are. Do you feel equipped for lay ministry? Would you like to be better equipped? At the time of this writing, I know of two opportunities open to help you in this:



Did you know that it is generally agreed that John Wesley established the first Sunday School in what would become the United States in 1736 in Savannah, Ga? St. John's offers several adult, child, and youth Sunday School classes. I would love to help you find a class where you can connect with others and grow.



Rock Hill District Lay Servant Ministries has announced the first set of Lay Servant classes for 2025. These classes can be taken by anyone. You might take them because you wish to be a church lay servant, a certified lay servant, certified lay speaker, a certified lay minister, or *just because* you want to better equip yourself for your Christian walk and witness. The first class to take is "Basic".

This class is being offered at Woodland UMC, 801 N. Cherry Rd. in Rock Hill over two days. (Lay Servant Ministry classes are each 10 hours.) This set of classes will be on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM and Sunday Feb 16 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Saturday lunch, snacks, and beverages will be provided. The class has a cost of \$30.00 and participants pay for and order their own books.

Basic: Taught by ShaRome Henry & Lynne Tyner: This class gives a brief introduction into leadership in the church by exposing them to personal spiritual gifts, development of leadership skills, maintaining consistent spiritual practices and being part of an accountability group.

Book: Lay Servant Ministries – Basic Course: Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson. DR626 978 0 88177 626-3 \$12.00 available ePub, Kindle, UpperRoom.org and Amazon. I have one Basic book that someone could borrow.

At this time, the registration form is not yet available. If you are interested in taking this class, just let me know and I will get the form to you as soon as registration opens. Other classes are available for anyone who has completed this Basic class.

United Women in Faith

What do you LOVE about your church?

(The responses below are from ladies who attend St. John's.

"The lovely church family."

"Our favorite part of our church life is the family-like comfort. We are far from family, so this helps!"

"I am grateful our church supports an active program for children & youth with Miss Mallory."

"We Praise God, Friendly People, Family Oriented"

"Not Formal, Wear Anything, Friendly"

"I have attended since I was 15 years old, St. John's is doing God's work and doing things together."

Sunday School Class Bob Romanello-Teacher Pastor Karen Many Things! People Worship Service Sunday School

Hove the DIVERSITY:

- *of music in worship
- *of learning opportunities
- *of ages in the congregation
- 1. The Music Program
- 2. Sunday School Class
- 3. Congregation of Believers

"I enjoy the music & the friendly atmosphere."

"I love how caring & loving the people are here. They are welcoming to all."

"I love the welcoming & loving community. I love all the beautiful music."

"The welcoming & open nature of our church family."

"I love how welcoming everyone in this church is & that there are so many events/activities going on, and support of the community." "I love, love, love our pastor & the friendly congregation."

"St. John's is such a friendly church. Plus, we have a great pastor, Karen."

"Having such a dedicated Christian lady for our minister. She tends to all needs of the church's members.

"What I like about St. John's.....the people who come here are the best. Also, we have a good leader -Pastor Karen."

"I like my friends in Sunday School. Bob Romanello is a good teacher, and he is teaching about Jerusalem."

Very Good Pastor

Pretty Church

Friendly

Mission Minded

Friendly People



Care Team

Our Care Team is dedicated to remembering those who are shut ins or currently in the hospital. We enjoy sending out cards and bringing flowers to brighten up their day!

The Care Team will be having a very brief meeting on Sunday, February 2nd @ 12:15pm in the Men's Bible Classroom. All members are invited to attend! If you would like to join the Care Team, please come to the meeting! All are welcome!

Thank you to everyone who participates in this important mission. Your cards and prayers are very welcome to the people who need an extra kindness.



submitted by Charlene Williams, Committee Chair

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS



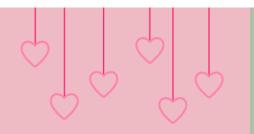
WE WANT
YOU TO
JOIN THE
CHOIR!

THIS IS A
GREAT TIME
TO JOIN THE
CHOIR!!

The adult choir has recently began rehearsals on our upcoming Easter Cantata, "Glorius Cross".

If you are interested in joining the choir, attend a rehearsal on Sunday afternoon from 2-3 p.m. in the choir room.

Dr. Jonathan Hall, Music Director



Stewardship Committee submitted by Martha Jones

GOD will supply every need of those who trust and obey HIM.

Just as God provided for Adam and Eve's needs, He also provides for us. Although He frequently allows deprivation and want to plague those who are poor stewards, He is ultimately our Provider and Sustainer.

I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging for bread. (Psalm 37:25)

For this reason, I say to you do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing. Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Notice that a farmer must work hard to prepare the soil, plant the seed, cultivate the plants, and harvest the crop. Yet when it really comes down to it, he is powerless to cause the seeds to grow into a useful crop; only God can do that. No matter how hard a farmer works, he would harvest no crop without God's providence.

Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has proposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Likewise, the Apostle Paul recognized that God took care of him, and that as a result, in all circumstances, he could be content. As with Paul, our contentment in God's provision depends both on our obedience to God and our faith in Him as our Provider.

EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME

Katherine Burns, Epworth Representative



Mission & Vision

Since 1896, Epworth has been a place for children to grow, learn and be loved. Children ages 12 and up come to us from severely stressed family systems and our goal is to nurture and love them by providing education, counseling, medical care and spiritual enrichment. Our aim is to break the destructive cycle of abuse, neglect and shame and replace it with an opportunity for each child to live a life of self-respect, responsibility and productivity. Epworth is licensed by the SC Department of Social Services and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) private, child and family service organization. We are also members by the United Methodist Association of Health & Welfare Ministries.

Mission Statement

The mission of Epworth is to serve children, youth and families through caring, safe, Christian communities, where hurts are healed, hope is nurtured, and faith in God, self, and others is developed.

Vision Statement

The vision of Epworth Children's Home is to provide superior services for the greatest number of individuals through competent, caring adults who are trained in the most effective, research-based methods of child and family care.

Values Statement

We value the children whom we serve and the families they represent.

Give & Volunteer

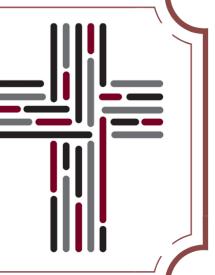
Support for the children who call Epworth home comes in all shapes and sizes. It includes financial and gift-in-kind donations, volunteering, sharing the Epworth story, advocating and remembering the children in your will or estate planning. As a non-profit 501 (c)3, your gift to Epworth is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. To find out more about Epworth, visit their website at: https://www.epworthchildrenshome.org/support/

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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	Children and Youth Director
Beth Meador	W.E.E. School Director
Minda Siebert	Finance Coordinator
Terry Helms	Building Administrator
Jonathan Hall	Director of Music
Jessica Hall	Accompanist
Nancy Rivers	Handbell Director
Jennifer Isenhour	Music Leader- Wednesday Worship
Suzanne Fisher	Kitchen Coordinator
Maggie Helms	Custodian
Katherine Burns	Music Makers Director
Jemma Hardinger	Noteables Director
Oriana Gilmore	
Rhonda Goodwin	Nursery Worker