

THE EPISTLE

October 29, 2021

Find Hope Here

Sedgefield United Methodist Church

**2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209**

www.SedgefieldChurch.org

704-523-0077

Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

All Saints Sunday

*During our worship service on Sunday, November 7 we will pause to remember those from our church family who have passed away since last All Saints Day (November 6, 2020). If you have lost a friend or family member this year and would like to have their name included in this special service of remembrance, please **email** or call the church office by November 3, 2021.*



Prayer Request

Janie Ailshie

c/o Sardis Oaks
Room 414
5151 Sardis Road
Charlotte, NC 28270

Reflections From Pastor Tom



Dear Friends,

This Sunday, I will be preaching on Ruth 1:1-18 and my title will be “Stand By Me.”

Life is about relationships. Christianity is also about relationships - our relationship with God, and our relationships with each other. The Book of Ruth tells a story of two women who endured significant tragedy. Their commitment to each other helped them get through the sadness and grief. Ruth said to Naomi: “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” This statement of commitment is so powerful it has become commonplace to have it read in wedding ceremonies.

Perhaps there is no more important quality in a friend than commitment. Knowing that someone will stand by you gives you hope and confidence in facing life’s challenges.

Blessings,
Tom

This Sunday in Worship

October 31, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Stand By Me

Ruth 1:1-18

Attention Church Family & Friends



Help our church lawn stand out! Please join your church family and friends for a yard work day on Saturday morning, November 6 at 10 o'clock. We will be **pressure washing sidewalks**, **trimming limbs**, **washing outside window seals**, **etc.** Please let Judy Harris know if you are willing to help.

jharris@he-nc.com or 704-907-9133

Saturday
November 6
10:00 a.m.

Altar Flowers



The altar flowers for Sunday, October 31, 2021 are given in celebration of the upcoming wedding of Kelli O'Neil and Johnny Horn. Johnny and Kelli wish to thank everyone at Sedgefield for the warm welcome they have received.

Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed



To sign up to be a JAM volunteer, **visit**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FABA92AA4F58-jamvolunteers>

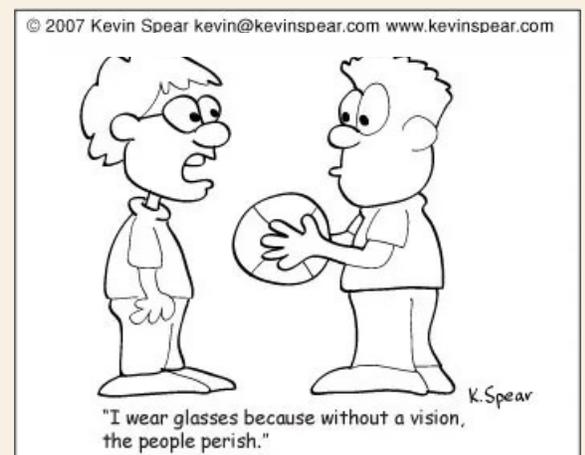
? ask Pastor Tom

As a part of Clergy Appreciation Month, we have asked Pastor Tom to respond to

What is your vision for Sedgefield UMC?

Sedgefield Church is a friendly, mission-minded congregation located within a neighborhood that seems to want to be connected to each other. I believe we can be a neighborhood church that offers the connection people desire. Also, we can provide spiritual education and nurture that busy people often neglect. We want to meet people where they are and help them get to where God wants them to be.

My two priorities in the next few months: (1) Reconnect us to each other. The new Shepherd program, led by Tom Little, Carol Little, and me, will reach out to those who are already in our church and find out how they are doing and how the church can help them. (2) Strengthen our connection with our neighbors. I want to continue to offer programs like Vacation Bible School, Fall Festival, and Blessing of the Animals targeting our immediate neighbors so we can get to know them and they can get to know us. Partnerships with the schools are also a crucial part of this effort.



(Used With Permission)

How To View Sunday Services

We invite those who cannot attend our Sunday morning service to join us online. Visit www.sedgefieldchurch.org/sermons for our live broadcast which begins at 10:30.

facebook

You Tube

A recording of the live service will be available on Monday via our website.

Pop Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House



Ronald
McDonald
House
Charlotte

Tabs Collected in October: 7.5 pounds

Each four pounds of pop tops covers the cost of a family's food and lodging for one day.

Operation Christmas Child Project



Our Operation Christmas Child Mission Project will begin this Sunday, October 31. Boxes will be available in the narthex to pick up. Please look inside the box for a pamphlet for directions on “How to Pack a Shoebox!” You may return your filled shoebox anytime on or before November 21. Pastor Tom will bless our OCC Shoeboxes on that Sunday. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Blessings!

Mary Jo Bridges

Children’s Program Director

704-617-4056

marycbridges@yahoo.com



2021 Report of the Pastor to the Western NC Conference

As the new pastor at Sedgefield UMC, I see the challenges of this bizarre and troubling time. I also see the hope that God continues to provide. This congregation has energy and vitality. We are located in the midst of a vibrant community. Our task: nurture the relationships we have within the church while we reach out to our neighbors and develop new relationships.

We are a mission-minded, caring congregation. We have a good reputation in the neighborhood. We have good partnerships with Keystone Montessori (we host them in our Educational Building), Dilworth/Sedgefield Elementary, and Sedgefield Middle School. We have the opportunity to grow those relationships. We are great supporters of Habitat, Rebound, Roof Above, Loaves and Fishes, and many other helping agencies in the Charlotte area. Our children's ministry is well-established and we have seen impressive attendance for Summer Fun Days, Vacation Bible School and Fall Festival.

There are also many opportunities for growth. Although we do not have a large number of youth, we can work with other churches to provide service and educational projects for them. I am hoping to lead a Confirmation Class in the Spring, and that will probably be combined with another UM Church in the area. This church has had a wonderful mentoring program in the past, but currently we are not able to provide that program. We are hoping to bring back mentoring in the future with a special emphasis on learning challenges related to the pandemic. We hope to host (and continue to host) multi-generational events for the community that will allow us to create and nurture relationships with our neighbors. I am starting a Shepherd program so that we can keep up with people in our congregation whose attendance patterns may have changed (a particular challenge when some are worshipping online). I am planning special worship services: Baptismal Renewal, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week.

Since I have been at Sedgefield, I have presided at communion three times and we have received two new members. I have also led the Bible Study at Merrywood twice.

My plan for continuing education includes following the Messy Church resources, attend the Anti-Racism Workshops, participate in Mecklenburg Ministries programming, and other District and Conference offerings as they become available.

Tom Stinson-Wesley



**Watch Recent
Sunday Services**

Previous sermons can be viewed at
<https://sedgefieldchurch.org/sermons/>

October 24, 2021

To See and Be Seen

Mark 10:46-52

October 17, 2021

What's In It For Me?

Mark 10:35-45

October 10, 2021

When Money Is Everything

Mark 10:17-31

CALENDAR

▶ **Board of Trustees Meeting** ◀

Thursday, November 4

6:30 p.m.

Education Building - Room 204

▶ **Missions Committee Meeting** ◀

Sunday, November 14

11:45 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

▶ **Church Council Meeting** ◀

Thursday, November 18

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

▶ **Blessing of Operation Christmas Child Boxes** ◀

Sunday, November 21

10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary

Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



Online Through

sedgefieldchurch.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



Bank Draft

Set up automatic
contributions
through your
bank's Online
Bill Pay.



Church

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC
2830 Dorchester Pl
Charlotte, NC 28209



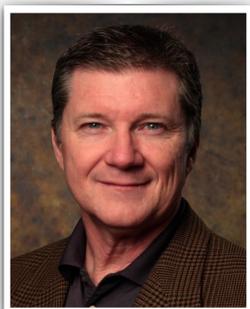
Online Through

wnccumc.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



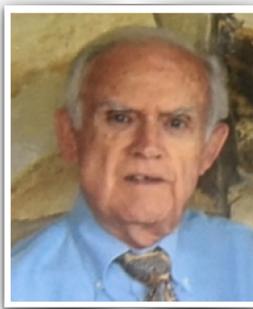
Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



Ron Aldridge
Worship Leader



Mary Jo Bridges
Director of
Children's
Ministry



Bud Davidson
Treasurer



Robin Moore
Nursery Caregiver



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