# THE EPISTLE

December 13, 2024

*Find Hope Here*

*Sedgefield United Methodist Church*

2830 Dorchester Place
Charlotte, NC 28209

www.SedgefieldChurch.org
704-523-0077

Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor

# Reflections From Pastor Tom

Dear Friends,
This Sunday, I will be preaching on Luke 3:7-16 and my title will be "Prove It."

Every year in the Advent season, we get a "visit" from a special character. No, I'm not talking about Santa Claus. It's John the Baptist and we don't look forward to him but we get him anyway. We get him because he is an essential part of the Advent/Christmas story. He is the prelude and yet more than a prelude.

John came with a multi-faceted goal. He was there to call people to repentance, to baptize, to hold the religious and political leaders accountable for their sins, and to tell the people the Messiah was coming. He delivered his message in a strange, counter-cultural manner. When the crowds asked him "What, then, should we do?" he told them to live by a higher righteousness. He wanted them to live morally, and treat others fairly. His manner might have been rough and startling but his message was actually quite reasonable.

What will we do in this season to prepare for the coming of the Messiah? We should use this Advent season as if we were among the crowds hearing John's proclamation. We'll talk about that on Sunday. I hope to see you there.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

# This Sunday in Worship

December 15, 2024
10:30 a.m.
Prove It


Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m.
in Room 203 in the Education Bldg.

## Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers during
Advent are the beautiful
Poinsettias Plants.

Do you want to honor or remember
someone by donating Altar Flowers?
You can do so by using the Altar Flower
Sign-Up Page in this Epistle (you can now
sign up for flowers in 2025). You can also
call the church office to order flowers at
704-523-0077.

## Future Sermons

*Dec 22 - **Blessed Is She Who Believes***
*Dec 29 - **Frank Fields Preaching***
*Jan 5 - **Take A Bath***


▶ **Susanna Wesley Circle**
Thursday, January  9, 2025
6:30 p.m
Room 204 in the Education Bldg.

# Upcoming Events

▶ **Youth Group**
Sunday, December 15, 2024
12 Noon - 2:00 p.m.
Christmas Party
South Park Church
3151 Apex Drive
Charlotte NC 28211

▶ **Serve At Rebound-Dinner**
Sunday, December 15, 2025
4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
907 W. 1st Street

▶ **Serve At Rebound-Breakfast**
Sunday, December 22, 2024
7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
907 W. 1st Street

▶ **Kids Christmas Party**
Sunday, December 22, 2024
10:30 a.m.

▶ **Christmas Eve Service**
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

▶ **Bible Study - Romans**
Tuesday, January 7, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon
Fellowship Hall

▶ **Trustees Meeting**
Wednesday, January 8, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

# Welcome New Members

We want to acknowledge our new members who joined Sedgefield United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Jake and Tiffany Stork - Their Fellowship Friends are Rob Neill and Mary Jo Bridges

Diana Orth - Her Fellowship Friends are Joyce Bergantino and Polly Willis

# Volunteering at

RISE
AGAINST HUNGER

On Sunday,September 8th, some of our members helped to assemble 4,000 meals combining rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a packet of 20 vitamins and minerals into life-changing meal packages. The packages will be distributed to people around the world who are facing food insecurity.

# Angel Tree



Thank you to those who took a name from the Angel Tree and are sponsoring a child/parent from Sedgefield Middle School by purchasing Christmas gifts for that child or parent.

Wrapped presents need to be returned to the church on or before Monday, December 16th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and left in the church nursery which is across from the church office.

I will be delivering the presents to Sedgefield Middle School on Tuesday morning.

Blessings!
Mary Jo Bridges
704-617-4056

# Gift for Christ

On the last Sunday before Christmas, December 22nd, we will take up a special offering called the Gift of Christ. The idea is that in this season of shopping and giving, we keep Jesus on our list. You are invited to present your Gift for Christ at the altar rail at the 10:30am Worship Service on December 22nd or at the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, December 24th.

You can wrap it like a little present or simply put it in an envelope.

If you are not able to attend on those days, you can bring it to church another Sunday or send it to the Church Office.

The Church Council will decide the area of greatest need and the offering will go to that area.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tom.



If you would like to use a box for your *Gift for Christ* offering, boxes will be available on Sunday December 15 and 22 and on Tuesday, December 24.

# In JAM on Sunday, December 8th

The children and middle school students packed 12 breakfast and 12 lunch bags for our homeless guests at *Room In The Inn* last Sunday morning during JAM. They also decorated Pillow Cards with a Bible verse and picture. The Pillow Cards were placed on the guests' pillows before bedtime. A big thank you to the parents and grandparents for their donation of food items for our bags. What a wonderful way to learn about showing kindness to others!

Blessings!
Mary Jo Bridges
Children's Program Director

# ROOM IN THE INN

We want to thank the members of our church who volunteered at Room in the Inn this past Sunday, December 8th.

Members of Sedgefield Church will again be hosting at Room in the Inn on the 2nd Sundays in January, February and March.

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Remaining Dates</u> |
|---|---|
| Avondale Presbyterian Church | Sunday, January 12, 2025 |
| 2821 Park Road | Sunday, February, 9, 2025 |
| Charlotte, NC 28209 | Sunday, March 9, 2025 |

We need Church members and volunteers to host, prepare food and serve on these dates.

We need your help. Please use the Sign-Up Link below to volunteer or to fill a need.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
20F0D4EACAB23A64-46252965-room

If you have any questions, please email Ellen Lankford at ewlankford@gmail.com.

Thank you.

# Altar Flowers

Use the Sign-up Genius Link
Below to Order Flowers.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/
10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-sedgefield

- pick an available date

- write a message to let us know who/what
  you want to memorialize, honor or celebrate

Or you can just call the Church Office
at 704-523-0077 to order flowers.

The Altar Flower donation remains the same at $40 which
can be paid online using the Church Website
sedgefieldchurch.org or by sending a check to
Sedgefield Church, 2830 Dorchester Place,
Charlotte NC 28209.

Please note "for flowers" online or  your check.

# How To Help With WNCCUMC Hurricane Helene Relief

**Step 1: Sedgefield UMC Will Collect Supplies.**
Current list of supplies needed:
- Water
- Flood Buckets
- Non-perishable food
- Diapers
- Baby Formula
- Cleaning Supplies

**Absolutely NO clothes or food items that need refrigeration.**
We will work on a more detailed list over time. This list may change quickly, and we will keep you updated.
Please leave your donations under the sign next to the stairs in the Narthex.

**Step 2: We Will Deliver Our Donated Supplies to:**
**Woodlawn Community Fellowship** (our District Collection Hub).
Ann Davis - Collection Hub Coordinator
704-502-9265 (Please text.)

Call Woodlawn Coordinator to schedule a time to drop off supplies.

**Donate directly to WNCCUMC**
**Online:** Use this Link: https://bit.ly/WNCCHurricaneReliefDonations
**Checks:** Checks can be made out to WNCC Treasurer and mailed to PO Box 2757, Huntersville, NC 28070 with memo Disaster Response.

You can also donate through Sedgefield UMC by whatever method you currently use (**note for Disaster Relief).** We will forward to WNCCUMC.

# 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.

# FIND
# HOPE
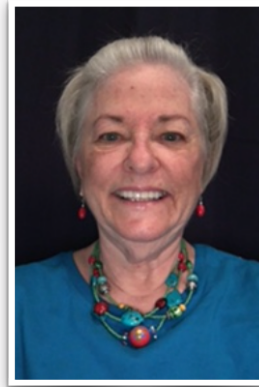# HERE

# SEDGEFIELD
## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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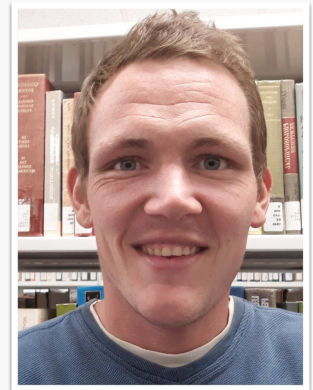pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org

**Ron Aldridge**
Worship Leader

**Mary Jo Bridges**
Director of
Children's Ministry

**Ellen Freitas**
Office Manager

**Bradley Kirksey**
Youth Director

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