

# THE EPISTLE

December 12, 2025

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*Find Hope Here*

*Sedgefield United Methodist Church*

*2830 Dorchester Place  
Charlotte, NC 28209*

*[www.SedgefieldChurch.org](http://www.SedgefieldChurch.org)*

*704-523-0077*

*Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor*

## Reflections From Pastor Tom



Dear Friends,

This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. I will be preaching on Romans 13:11-14 and my title will be "Living Wide Awake."

We often hear from medical professionals how important it is for us to get a good amount of sleep. Personally, I have been aware of my own sleep for a long time. The amount of sleep I get makes all the difference in how I feel.

Sleep is also a metaphor used in the Bible (and elsewhere). Paul used it in this week's Scripture lesson to indicate the way we sometimes live without awareness and without intentionality. As we prepare in this Advent season, we should be focusing on our faith, and we should do that fully "awake." What kind of alarm clock do we need? What do we need to see and hear from God to help us live wide awake? We will talk about that on Sunday. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tom

## This Sunday in Worship

December 14, 2025  
10:30 a.m.  
Living Wide Awake

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

### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers for December  
are the beautiful Christmas  
Poinsettias adorning the Altar.

### Future Sermons

*Dec 21 - When Angels Speak*  
*Dec 28 - Frank Fields Preaching*  
*Jan 4 - Pilgrimage*

- ▶ **Serve At Rebound-Dinner**  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
4:45 p.m.  
907 W. 1st Street
- ▶ **Christmas Eve Service**  
Wednesday, December 24, 2025  
5:00 p.m. - Sanctuary
- ▶ **Serve At Rebound-Breakfast**  
Sunday, December 28, 2025  
7:45 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.  
907 W. 1st Street

## Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Youth Group**  
Sunday, December 14, 2025  
12 Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
St. Andrew's UMC  
1901 Archdale Drive  
Charlotte NC 28210
- ▶ **Room In The Inn**  
Serve Dinner and Host  
Sunday, December 14, 2025  
5:30 p.m.  
Avondale Presbyterian Church  
2821 Park Rd, Charlotte 28209
- ▶ **Bible Study - Genesis**  
Tuesday, December 16, 2025  
11:00 a.m. - 12Noon  
Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **Admin Council Holiday Social**  
Wednesday December 17, 2025  
6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **SAIL Fitness Class for Older Adults**  
Thursday December 18, 2025  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall
- ▶ **Gift for Christ**  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
10:30 a.m - **Worship Service**
- ▶ **Kid's Christmas Party**  
Sunday, December 21, 2025  
During JAM



**Sedgefield Church will once again be hosting four Sunday nights at Roof Above. We need Church members and volunteers to host, prepare food and serve on those nights.**

**We will be using the facilities at Avondale Presbyterian Church, 2821 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209**

**Our hosting dates, the second Sunday of each month, are listed below.**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**Sunday, February, 8, 2026**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**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 contact Ellen Lankford  
Email: [ewlankford@gmail.com](mailto:ewlankford@gmail.com)  
Cellphone: 980-722-8435**

**Thank you.**



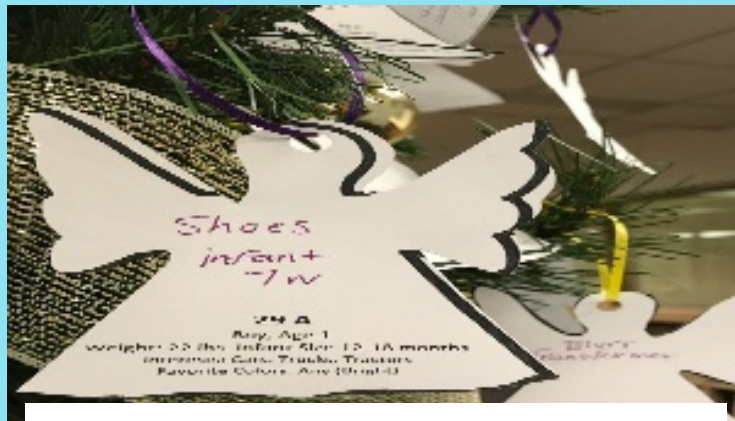
Thank you to everyone who participated in the Rise Against Hunger event on Sunday, December 17th.

Five thousand meals were packed, boxed and sent to people around the world who are experiencing food insecurity.

Through our Love Offering and the Missions Committee we donated \$500.00 to this project.



# Angel Tree



Sedgefield Middle School has 13 families that are in need of sponsoring this Christmas season. If you would like to sponsor a student or parent by purchasing a few gifts, please contact me as soon as possible or look on the angel tree in the narthex. If you choose to sponsor a child, please write your name on the sign-up sheet next to your Angel's number. Wrapped presents would need to be returned to church by **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**. I will be delivering the presents to Sedgefield Middle School on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Blessings!

Mary Jo Bridges

704-617-4056

Well friends....we finished with a bang!

Great day fully staffed with wonderful workers who cleaned windows and floors, painted doors, painted the outside columns, touched up trim...and then some.

Isaias was on hand to install all the knobs on all the cabinets..measuring and drilling the holes first! A very tedious job done perfectly !

Thanks to First United Pres for Subway boxed lunches and inspirational blessings. Not a crumb left!

After lunch we held our dedication ceremony. Great turn out with pastors from 5 churches present. 2 of them participated in our program. Thank you Tamara from Westminster Pres and Justin from Dilworth UMC!

Hard to believe we have completed house 38! A great build in every way. Katie has promised to keep me up to date with the final touches on our house before it becomes a home in February or early March! And Crista has promised to let me know when her new bundle of joy arrives...soon!

What a blessing it is to work with each of you and call you friends. My job is the best!  
Marwen



**House Number 38 Completed**



**Sedgefield Group with Isaias (our Homeowner)**




**Entire Group**




CHARLOTTE CHURCH PARTNERS  
2025


- DILWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- SEDGEMOUNT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
- ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
- ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Building  
Hope & Homes**



Home Dedication  
Saturday, December 6, 2025  
Charlotte Church Partners



**Habitat for Humanity<sup>®</sup>**  
of the Charlotte Region

**Dedication Day  
Ceremony  
Saturday,  
December 6, 2025**

<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>Marwen McDowell CCP Volunteer Coordinator</p>	<p>Leader: May this home serve as a reminder that everyone belongs to this nation, and it is our duty to build bridges across our differences.</p>
<p><b>Opening Prayer and Meditation</b></p>	<p>Tamara Park Walters Westminster Presbyterian Church</p>	<p><b>All: In the dream of inclusive America, we dedicate this home.</b></p>
<p><b>Litany of Dedication</b></p>	<p>Kent Buzard Project Leader</p>	<p>Leader: May this family rejoice in peace and rest and love within these walls.</p> <p><b>All: In our love, we dedicate this home.</b></p>
<p>Leader: May the windows of this home echo with the laughter of this family, and may they share meals and conversation under the shelter of its roof.</p> <p><b>All: In devotion to family, we dedicate this home.</b></p>	<p>Remarks from Habitat Supervisor</p>	<p>Katie Hanchuruck Habitat Site Supervisor</p>
<p>Leader: May they feel the care of their neighbors across our region and rest in the knowledge that they are beloved members of this community.</p> <p><b>All: In investment in our community, we dedicate this home.</b></p>	<p>Remarks and Presentation of Bible and Keys</p>	<p>Shannon Burns Director of Homeowner Services</p>
<p>Leader: May we all remember the human hands who built this home and labored in love to provide for our neighbor, and may we continue to labor for others.</p> <p><b>All: In commitment to service, we dedicate this home.</b></p>	<p>Presentation of Gifts</p>	<p>Marwen McDowell</p>
<p>Leader: May we all feel called to and within our individual faiths and spirits to live out the world we wish to see for everyone.</p> <p><b>All: In belief that everyone should have a decent place to live, we dedicate this home.</b></p>	<p>Blessing Upon the Home and Closing Prayer</p>	<p>Pastor Justin Robins Dilworth United Methodist Church</p>



## **Strength, Balance & Fitness Class for Older Adults**

### **It Works!**

You'll be stronger, have better balance, feel better and this will help you stay independent, active and prevent falls.

### **It's Safe!**

The instructors are experienced and skilled, and exercises have been tested with older adults.

### **It's Fun & Free!**

You'll meet others and make new friends!

**1.5 hour class will be held on  
Thursday, December 18, 2025  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting place: Sedgefield United Methodist Church  
2830 Dorchester Pl. Charlotte, NC 28209**

**Things to know: We will meet in the fellowship hall. You can sit or stand during this class. Bring water to drink & wear flexible, supportive rubber-soled shoes. Bring 1-5 lb. weights if you have a set.**

**For more information or to RSVP:  
Email: Angela Bryan at [abryan01@novanthealth.org](mailto:abryan01@novanthealth.org)**

# Gift for Christ

On the last Sunday before Christmas, December 21st, 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 21st or at the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, 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 November 30, December 7, 14 and 21 and on Wednesday, December 24.**



## **Poinsettia Dedications 2025**

### **In Honor Of**

### **Given By**

**Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hedberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Little  
Mrs. Tam Thompson**

**Susan Carter-Hope**

**Clara and Carl Hedberg**

**Carol and Tom Little**

**Carol and Tom Little**

**Carl and Clara Hedberg**

**Kimberly Little**

**Kelly Little**

**Steven Hedberg**

**Carson Hedberg**

**Matthew Hedberg**

**Carl and Clara Hedberg**

**Our Children and Grandchildren**

**Jim and Mary Bridges**



## **In Honor Of**

**Myra “Mimi” Arbuckle  
Clemmie “Nana” Clarke**

**Shea, Justin and Rowan Clarke  
Jason Arbuckle and Roya Behrouzjou**

**Virginia Maxey**

**Brenda and J.W. Harbinson  
Jo Anne Horn  
Cathy Straits**

**Polly Willis**

## **Poinsettia Dedications 2025**

## **Given By**

**Justin, Shea and Rowan Clarke**

**Myra Arbuckle**

**Bubba Pearsall**

**Johnny, Kelli and James Horn**

**Karen Willis**



## **Poinsettia Dedications 2025**

### **In Memory Of**

**Mr. and Mrs. Conrad H. Carter**

**Our Parents  
Betty and Bob Neill  
Ann and Jack Sink**

**Aileen and Tom Little**

**Jim Thompson**

**Alf and Edith Hedberg  
Sam and Mamie Morris  
William Pendleton**

**Our Family Members**

**Marion 'Nonie' Clarke  
Virginia 'GG' Fesperman**

**Virginia Fesperman**

### **Given By**

**Susan Carter-Hope**

**Rob and Cathy Neill**

**Carol and Tom Little**

**His Family**

**Carl and Clara Hedberg**

**Jim and Mary Jo Bridges**

**Justin, Shea and Rowan Clarke**

**Myra Arbuckle**



## **Poinsettia Dedications 2025**

### **In Memory Of**

**Wanda Washburn  
Trip Washburn  
Anna Geisinger  
Robert T. Payne**

**Evelyn McGonagle**

**Mae Pearsall**

**Ernest and Lucy Payne  
Gordon and Thelma Lupo**

**Richard and Virginia Judy  
Jane Judy**

**L.H. and Mary Barnes  
Ossie and Jean Fields**

**Jose "Uncle PePe" Garcia  
Ron Furches**

### **Given By**

**Tom and Leslie Anne Washburn**

**Jason Turner**

**Bubba Pearsall**

**Larry and Jan Payne**

**Karen Willis**

**Frank and Mary Beth Fields**

**The Garcia Family**

**DONATE BLOOD**

**Sedgefield United Methodist Church**  
**Sunday, January 11**  
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors receive\*:  
 - **\$20 eGift Card**  
 - **Long-sleeved T-shirt**  
 - **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

*Fact: Only 3% of those who are eligible actually donate blood.*

Appointments are encouraged, please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code **43269**

**ID REQUIRED**  
\*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not transferrable. Gifts may vary. For more information, please visit [oneblood.org/donate](http://oneblood.org/donate).

**oneblood**  
where your power

# *Donate Blood*

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.**

**Sedgefield Church  
 Parking Lot**

Blood donation is a vital act of kindness that saves lives and strengthens communities. By giving blood, donors provide hope to patients in need and help ensure a stable healthcare system. The simple decision to donate can have a profound impact, proving that a small act of generosity can make a world of difference.

**To be eligible to donate blood you must:**

- be at least 17 years old (16 with parental permission in some states)
- meet height and weight requirements (at least 110 pounds based on height)
- be in generally good health

**Before donating you should:**

- get a good night's sleep
- drink plenty of fluids
- eat within 2-3 hours

**We hope to see you at the upcoming blood drive on Sunday, January 11th.  
 The Big Red Bus will be in the church parking lot.**



## **Sedgefield Church Nursery**

**The Sedgefield Church Nursery/WeeJAM is open.  
Adriana Garcia is our Nursery Attendant.**

**In addition to Adriana, each Sunday we need an adult  
volunteer to help in the Nursery during worship service  
to meet our Safe Sanctuary guidelines.**

**We need your help!  
Please consider signing up to volunteer in the  
Nursery on a Sunday using the Sign-Up link below.**

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
20F0C4DA5AE29AAF94-59236691-nursery#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C4DA5AE29AAF94-59236691-nursery#/)**

**Thank you.**

# Job Posting

Sedgefield United Methodist Church is seeking candidates for the position of Office Manager. This person reports to the Pastor and interacts with the congregation and community to build connections and facilitate participation. Responsibilities include weekly production of worship communication, secretarial and general office organization, and administration of software programs related to church programs and finance. Minimum qualifications include:

- Knowledge of and appreciation for the Christian faith and local church administration
- High School Graduate; two years of college or business school desirable
- Excellent composition and verbal skills, grammar, spelling and clarity of presentation
- Computer skills and a willingness to learn about office software and equipment
- Courteous and diplomatic
- Minimum of five years secretarial or administrative experience
- Excellent organizational skills
- MacOS experience a plus

Work schedule is typically 20 hours per week, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Days and hours may be amended to four (4) days per week as determined in conjunction with the Pastor. Starting salary is \$22,000.00 per year with a review after an initial 90 day probationary period. Interested parties should mail, or email, a cover letter and resume to:

**Attn: SPRC Committee**

**Sedgefield UMC**

**2830 Dorchester Place**

**Charlotte NC 28209**

[office@sedgefieldchurch.org](mailto:office@sedgefieldchurch.org)



## **Donate Altar Flowers**

**Use the Sign-up Genius Link Below  
to Donate Flowers in 2026.**

**[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/  
10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-60388805-2026](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5AB2AAB9-60388805-2026)**

- **pick an available date**
- **write a message to let us know who/what you want to memorialize, honor or celebrate**

**You can also just call the Church Office  
at 704-523-0077 to order flowers.**

**In order for your flowers to be announced in the Newsletter  
and in Church on a particular Sunday, your order must  
be placed by Wednesday morning of that week.**

**The Altar Flower donation remains the same at \$40.  
Payment can be made by mailing a check payable to  
Sedgefield UMC, 2830 Dorchester Pl, Charlotte, NC 28209 or  
pay online using your usual method of giving.  
Note for “Flower Fund” on the payment method you use.**



## **Serving Meals at Rebound part of the Charlotte Rescue Mission**

Rebound provides Christian residential recovery services at no cost for men seeking freedom from drug and alcohol addiction.

**A team from Sedgefield Church serves meals twice a month at Rebound, 907 W. 1st Street:**

**On the 3rd Sunday of each month  
we serve dinner from 4:45pm - 5:45pm.**

**On the 4th Sunday of each month  
we serve breakfast from 7:45am - 8:45pm.**

If you are interested in serving at one these meals, please go to the Church Website and click on the Ministries tab, click on Outreach from the dropdown tab, click on the Charlotte Rescue Mission. If you have not volunteered through this Website before, you must create an account.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office at 704-523-0077 during Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:00am-1:00pm.

**Thank you.**

## Ways to Give Your Offerings to Sedgefield UMC



### **Online Through**

[sedgefieldchurch.org](http://sedgefieldchurch.org)

Make a credit card  
or electronic  
contribution.



### **Bank Draft**

Set up  
automatic  
contributions  
through your  
bank's Online



### **Church**

Mail your check to:

Sedgefield UMC  
2830 Dorchester Pl  
Charlotte, NC



### **Online Through**

[wnccumc.org](http://wnccumc.org)

Make a credit  
card or  
electronic  
contribution.



FIND  
HOPE  
HERE

**SEDFIELD**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



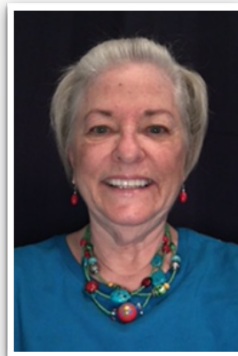
**Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley**, Pastor  
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



**Ron Aldridge**  
Worship Leader



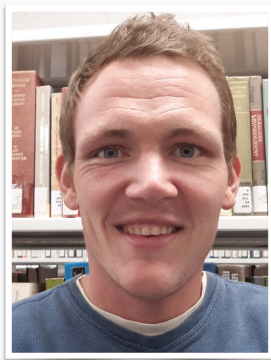
**Mary Jo Bridges**  
Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Ellen Freitas**  
Office Manager



**Adriana Garcia**  
Nursery Attendant



**Bradley Kirksey**  
Youth Director



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