

THE EPISTLE

December 19, 2025

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 is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will come forward with our special Gift for Christ offering at the close of the service. I will be preaching on Matthew 1:18-25 and my title will be “When Angels Speak.”

Angels are very popular in our modern culture. It is surprising, therefore, to read the Bible in a thorough manner and recognize that the Bible doesn't actually mention angels much at all. Angels are important in the Bible, and they cause quite a commotion when they show up, but they don't show up often, and the Bible doesn't say much about them.

One thing we know about angels is they are scary. They must have been because virtually every time one appears, part of their message is “Do not be afraid!” In our Scripture lesson for this week, Joseph received a slightly different version of the do-not-be-afraid message. He was told, “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” That was a specific type of fear the angel was addressing. Joseph had every reason to be afraid to marry Mary. We will talk about in this sermon how God, apparently, sometimes with some help, responds to our fears. I hope to see you in worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Tom

This Sunday in Worship

December 121, 2025

10:30 a.m.

When Angels Speak

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 28 - Frank Fields Preaching

Jan 4 - Pilgrimage

Jan 11 - Humility

- ▶ **Room In The Inn**
Serve Dinner and Host
Sunday, January 11, 2026
5:30 p.m.
Avondale Presbyterian Church
2821 Park Rd, Charlotte 28209
- ▶ **Trustees Meeting**
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall w/ Zoom Option
- ▶ **Admin Council Meeting**
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Rm 204 in Ed. Bldg. w/ Zoom Option

Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Celebration of Life Service
for George Byrum**
Saturday, December 20, 2025
11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary
Reception in 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
- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Susanna Wesley Circle**
Thursday, January 8, 2026
6:30 p.m
Room 204 in the Education Bldg.
- ▶ **Blood Drive**
Sunday, January 11, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Church Parking Lot

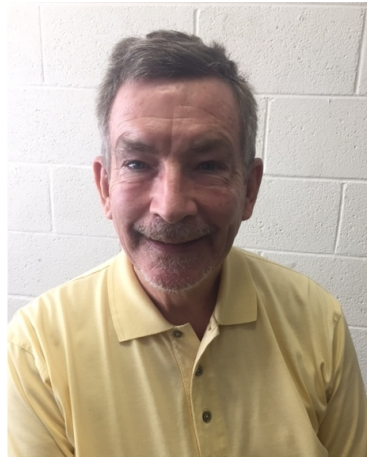
**This is the last Newsletter/Epistle for 2025.
The you will receive the next one on Friday, January 2, 2026.
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Joyful New Year.**



In Memoriam

*Our Beloved
Brother in Christ*

George Byrum



Gift for Christ

This Sunday, 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.

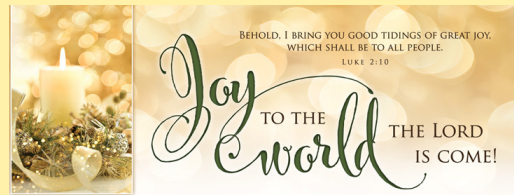
The Church Council will decide the area of greatest need and the offering will go to that area.

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 this Sunday December 21 and on Wednesday, December 24.

*To Our Church Family,
On behalf of the entire church staff, thank you
for your generous Christmas gifts to us. We are
so blessed to serve you and serve with you. We
hope that this season is a wonderful Spirit-filled
experience for all of you.*





Sunday in JAM

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





**Thank you for your generosity.
This week Sedgefield Church delivered
190 pounds of food to Nourish Up.**

Our Food Collection for 2025

January **70** pounds
February **65** pounds
March **118** pounds
April **68** pounds
May **118** pounds
June **60** pounds
July **80** pounds
August **168** pounds
September **75** pounds
October **105** pounds
November **279** pounds
December **190** pounds

On Communion Sundays we have a tradition of collecting food for Nourish Up our neighborhood food pantry. Items most needed are: canned meat, canned fish, canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, boxed or canned pasta, variety of cereals, crackers, powdered milk and shelf milk.

The collection of non-perishable food items is an ongoing mission opportunity. Collection baskets are in the lobby each Sunday. Food donations can also be dropped off at the church office from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday.



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 and use sponsor code 43269

ID REQUIRED
*One offer per donor per donation. No cash value. Not transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/facts

oneblood
There's your point.

Donate Blood

Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

Sedgefield Church
 Parking Lot

Appointments are encouraged.
 Use the Link below to Sign up.

oneblood.org/donate-now
 Enter sponsor code 43269.

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 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. Arrival time is 5:30 p.m.

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
Cellphone: 980-722-8435**

Thank you.



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.



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 Sedgewfield UMC



Online Through

sedgewfieldchurch.org

Make a credit card
or electronic
contribution.



Bank Draft

Set up
automatic
contributions
through your
bank's Online



Church

Mail your check to:

Sedgewfield UMC
2830 Dorchester
PI



Online Through

wnccumc.org

Make a credit
card or
electronic
contribution.



FIND
HOPE
HERE

SEDFIELD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



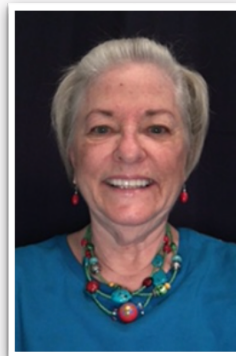
Rev. Tom Stinson-Wesley, Pastor
pastortom@sedgefieldchurch.org



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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