

FROM THE BANKS OF THE CURRITUCK SOUND

The E-Mail Newsletter of Sharon United Methodist Church

275 Poplar Branch Road

Poplar Branch, North Carolina 27965

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:

Only a few weeks ago, Queen Elizabeth II died peacefully at her beloved Balmoral. At age ninety-six, she had seen the world change more dramatically than most of us can describe or imagine. She had also known personally most of the key global political figures of the last seventy+ years (including thirteen American presidents during her reign).

Though the Commonwealth certainly changed as her life progressed and even within former British colonies that later declared their independence she remained a subject of respect. A woman who possessed wisdom, strength, and global political influence.

"A royal human," the British press called her, commenting on how fully she lived into both sides of her nature. Were there flaws and failings? Certainly. No one lives five years, let alone ninety-six, without taking a few wrong turns here and there. Being a monarch in a modern world certainly placed her before an often scrutinizing lens. Historians say she will be remembered positively, with love and appreciation, because both in duty to her country and personal life, her intent remained unquestionably honorable and her impact positive. I think it may be discovered in this statement Queen Elizabeth made:

When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat. Instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future. It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps that bring about the most lasting change. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.

The Queen displayed a warmth that made her appealing to this long time “royal watcher.” She took pride in being wife, mother, grandmother, horse-rider and dog lover. She had a wit and sense of humor that brought forth a human side. It’s one thing to lead. It’s another to do it with a smile. This was displayed during her recent platinum jubilee as she allowed a precious video clip to begin the festivities:

Click on the picture or link below to view the video.



[Ma’amalade Sandwich Your Majesty?](#)

Rest well in the joy of your Lord, Your Majesty. Paddington Bear said it best for all of us: “And thank you for everything.”

ESCAPE BOOK CLUB FEATURES “TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE”

Mitch Albom was intent on chronicling the Tuesdays he spent with Morrie Schwartz, his favorite Brandeis University professor who was facing Lou Gehrig’s disease. Albom’s only goal was to write a book to pay for Schwartz’ medical bills.

Publisher after publisher rejected his book proposal, but Doubleday took a chance on *Tuesdays with Morrie*. After an appearance on Oprah, the book took off like wildfire. It’s one of the bestselling memoirs in the history of publishing.

We invite you to join our Escape Book Club on Tuesday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a discussion of this literary lesson on life. Lunch is provided.

The last Escape Club in 2022 will be on Tuesday, December 6 and our book will be *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 9 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the front lawn of the church. Bring your leashed pet to be blessed and learn about the many animal welfare opportunities available in Currituck County. If your pet cannot travel, bring a photo. Donations of canned dog and cat food will be shared with the various rescue agencies and be sure to INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

What a great day of celebration at Sharon Church as we welcomed five new members into our church family on October 2:

- **Danielle Nicole Skinner** joined by Profession of Faith.
- **Patricia Doxey Leary** joined by Profession of Faith.
- **Penelope Leary-Smith** joined by Transfer of Membership from Camden UMC.
- **Joseph Cabell "Sandy" Eanes, III** joined by Transfer of Membership from Kitty Hawk UMC.
- **Stephanie Jan Eanes** joined by Transfer of Membership from Kitty Hawk UMC.



SPECIAL SERVICE OF THE WORD AND SONG - OCTOBER 30



While Pastor Susan is away preaching at the Homecoming Service at First UMC in Hamlet, our Certified Lay Minister, Jeanne Murray is organizing a special service of Word and Song for the worship service at Sharon. Be sure to mark your calendar and invite your friends!!

COMMUNITY MEAL - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 at 5:30 p.m.

Our first Community Meal fulfilled our vision of a time together to get to know each other and celebrate community – those precious threads that connect and strengthen us. Our forthcoming meals will continue to build stronger ties among us. Invite friends, neighbors, and strangers. Sit and eat, sharing our lives and our stories. We meet on the second Wednesday each month.

On October 12, we will enjoy a TACO/NACHO Bar with an ICE CREAM BAR for dessert. If you'd like to contribute in any way, contact Jeanne Murray at 252-423- 0851 or jeannemurray@gmail.com.



CHARGE CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 25 at 7:15 p.m.

Each fall, an annual Charge Conference is held in every United Methodist Church for the purpose of establishing salaries for the pastor and staff and evaluating the ministry of that parish church. Our District Superintendent, David Blackman will preside over the meeting.

It will be a joint Charge Conference with our Mt. Zion neighbors and will be held at Mt. Zion UMC in Grandy. This year will be an exciting one as we celebrate the many ways Sharon has revived and is living into an effective ministry to and with the Poplar Branch community.

Please mark your calendar and plan to show through your attendance that Sharon Church is alive and well. The meeting lasts about an hour.

UMCOR RESPONSE FOLLOWING HURRICANES



Through your gifts, UMCOR is on the ground in areas recently devastated by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian in Puerto Rico and Florida.

In Puerto Rico, many continue without the essential utility services needed to begin recovery. Every day, new needs are identified in multiple areas of Puerto Rico deemed “catastrophic.” Shipments of first aid supplies, non-perishable food, cleaning buckets, inflatable mattresses, baby food, personal hygiene kits, baby food and supplies and nutritional food and drinks are already being distributed.

In Florida, as of October 2, the all clear was given by authorities to enter affected areas. Grants have been issued to both the FL and SC Annual Conference disaster ministries to address immediate needs. Semi-trucks have delivered cleaning buckets, non-perishable food and water, and items similar to those distributed in Puerto Rico have now been distributed into hard hit areas. As one UMCOR coordinator explained, “This effort in Puerto Rico and Florida will be more of a sprint than a marathon” as the long term needs will stretch into years. UMCOR was in New Orleans years after Katrina and UMCOR will be a visible presence of Christ to our neighbors in Puerto Rico and Florida for the long run. All of this, thanks to your support.

So, how can we help? For the next three Sundays (October 9, 16 & 23) Sharon Church will receive gifts to go to UMCOR for hurricane relief. If you would like to help, please make your check payable to: SHARON UMC and note: Hurricane Relief.

NEXT MONTH

Who will be featured in the Sharon Spotlight?
A new series entitled #BEUMC

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