



***“If people can’t see what God is doing,
they stumble all over themselves;
But when they attend to what he reveals,
they are most blessed.***

– Proverbs 29:18, The Message

When I was about ten years old, I convinced my three brothers to go hiking with me in the five miles of woods behind our house. Yes, we got lost. We spent a lot of time walking in circles, trying to find our way back – while crying and yelling at each other along the way. Strange how all the trees look the same when you are lost in the woods. It was only when we found the creek and knew to follow it downstream [thanks to our Scout training] that we were able to get back home.

Churches sometimes get lost, too – sometimes for years. They get lost in the forest of doing. They do not know how it happened, especially when they thought all they were doing was following in the direction they were supposed to be going. However, finding the “why” is not only about the answer, but the motivation behind the doing. The “why” is what gives the doing purpose and meaning.

The January sermon series, “Dare to Dream,” is going to have a twofold purpose. While the series will deal with the vision and goals for Sedge Garden, we will look at our individual lives, as well. The truth is, as Christians we really cannot separate the two and be doing what God wants us to do.

Then on Saturday, February 1st, we will all meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm. First, we will have an amazing breakfast provided by the United Methodist Men (eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, gravy, etc.). Afterwards, everyone will have an opportunity to break out into one of five groups. There will be five groups representing specific goal areas for Sedge Garden UMC to focus on in 2025. The goal areas are:

- ***Become more of the body of Christ – one church together.***
- ***Increase online interaction and information.***
- ***Increase community relationships by being directly interactive with those we serve in the community.***
- ***Increase the ways and opportunities for people to tell their story of how Sedge Garden UMC impacts their life.***
- ***Increase our relationship with the Preschool children and their families.***

You are invited to go to whichever group your passion takes you. It is at these goal area groups that we want to hear your ideas, visions, and dreams.

I hope you will become excited about this new season and the opportunities we all have before us. As we – as individuals and as a church – pursue the opportunity to come together, we can experience where and how the Spirit of God is going to move us in 2025. Not only will we find the path for the journey, but we will be able to determine and experience the “whys” as together we take the risk of obedience in order to touch so many lives – including our own. Let us all come together to have fun and experience an amazing movement and outpouring of God’s Spirit.

Continue to be in prayer.

Love you all,

Pastor Keith

Pastoral Care Notes

We extend ongoing prayers of petition for comfort and healing to the following:
Congregational Care Circle of Concerns

Shirley Ayers
Kevin Love

Shasta Crosby
Sam Moore

Nancy Ellison
Bryan Staley

Vicki Jarman
Robin Weavil
...and prayers unspoken.

Homebound Friends, Nursing Home, Assisted Living & Independent Living Residents

Dare Burge

Nancy Ellison

Dot Sides

Pat Vogler

Zane Chandler (Arbor Ridge, Room 209)

Pratt Dunlap (River Landing, Colfax, Room HT107)

Hugh & Willie Hill (River Landing, Colfax, Room P301)

Jenny Linville (Arbor Ridge, Room 110)

Bub & Karen Manning (Salem towne)

Patsy Rowell (Arbor Ridge, Room 218)

Peggy Smith (Arbor Ridge, Room 111)

Ruth Tucker (Arbor Ridge, Room 202)

Sadie Weavil (Trinity-Elms, Clemmons, Room 402)

Evangeline Davis (Cadence, Huntersville, Room B9)

Linda Heath (Cadence, Wake Forest

Senior Living, Wake Forest)

Becky Hines (Bermuda Commons, Advance, Rm 505B)

Carrie Lowe (Kerner Ridge, Room A-11)

Josephine Mathis (Arbor Ridge, Room 211)

Mary Lea Shreve (Kerner Ridge, Room A-1)

Mona Terrell (Room 17, 1560 Skeet Club Road,

High Point, 27265)

Robin Weavil (Davie Nursing & Rehab Center)

January Feature Members - Denny and Nina Holder

Denny: 92 (DOB: 10.16.1932), **Nina:** 88 (DOB: 1.17.1936)

Anniversary: December 26, 1953 (71 years this next week)

Address: 758 Sedge Garden Road

Kernersville, NC 27284

Denny: Member since 1932 (92 years)

Nina: Member since 1955 (69 years)

Few people get to say they will soon be celebrating their 71st anniversary, but once you get to know Denny and Nina Holder you realize that their story has been God blessed from their first meeting. Nina was a mere freshman at the brand new school Glenn High and Denny was a handsome senior. The school had potbelly stoves for heat and stovepipes out the windows. Truly a case of love at first sight, the two were destined to be married. Nina was 17 and Denny was 21 on the day they were wed. They were married in the old sanctuary and had their reception in the basement. Pastor George Thompson officiated. Nina was actually a Moravian but Denny's family had donated the land SGUMC sits on and he wanted the wedding to be here.

Denny had just finished his second year at NC State College but decided not to return. He was quickly drafted into the army and had to report on January 7, 1954 in New Jersey. During his training Nina went with him until he was sent to Korea. Nina returned home to her parents and had their first child Diane. Denny returned from service and worked at Western Electric for his entire career. Upon retirement at age 87, Denny began farming and had cattle and grew hay. Nina worked in the Sedge Garden School cafeteria for a while then began painting and knitting after her fourth child Ron finished high school. Their other two children are Sarah and Bonnie. Denny and Nina have 8 grandchildren and will celebrate the birth of their 9th great grandchild in May 2025.

For years Nina collected the Sunday school donations and attendance sheets and did the tallies for the office. When Ellis Rouse was pastor, he asked Denny to start the first church garden. The first few years were mostly green beans, tomatoes, and squash. Denny's greatest joy was when he used to drive his tractor to give the youth hayrides during fall festivals and Halloween parties. Denny and Nina are no longer able to attend church but love keeping up with the current events. Cards and calls are most appreciated. They miss being here in person but love everyone and look forward to more days of sitting on their front porch together like those early days sitting by the Glenn High School potbelly stove.



OUTREACH

Congregational Care Communion Outreach "Relationship Building in Action"



A new program, started in November, to reach those at home who are no longer able to attend church services but wish to receive Holy Communion in person has yielded a great return already. Thanks to the help of 11 couples and families, we are reaching 17 members of our church with face-to-face visits and communion on the first Sundays of the month. This is already been found to be a blessing to all parties involved and the development of new relationships. The recipients are calling each other to talk about the joy the visits have brought to them. Some of the communion servers have taken a small gift in addition to the communion as well as copies of the Upper Room and other church related information.

Sharing the Lord's Table is a truly the greatest gift of all. Thanks to all who participate in this ministry.



Coat Collection

In January the collection of coats, socks, gloves and toboggans will once again begin for the local children at Hall Woodward Elementary School. Start looking for great deals immediately after Christmas.

Coats, gloves, scarves, and toboggans can be gently used but please donate new socks and clean items.



Red Bag Food Drive

100 red bags were collected and Shalom identified 100 families to deliver the bags to on the 19th. Thanks to all who made the project another big success!





Garden Kids Ministry

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he shall not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

The mission of Club 3-4-5 is to have opportunities for older Garden Kids to gather for fellowship and service! In November, Club 3-4-5 went to the trampoline park and bounced the

afternoon away! In December, they joined forces with the Youth to bake and decorate cookies for our church members who live at Arbor Ridge! Santa came to our Christmas tree lighting on the first day of Advent and the Garden Kids all shared what they want for Christmas! On the 15th, we hosted our annual Garden Kids Nativity, a birthday party for Jesus!



Amanda Betters, Dir. of Garden Kids Ministry

336-624-1423

amanda@sedgegardenumc.org

Employee Spotlight - Amanda & Chad Betters

Amanda and Chad Betters have been working together in ministry since 2012. As Director of the Garden Kids Ministry, Amanda was recruiting volunteers for Vacation Bible School, and Chad signed up to help out.

He was the puppeteer behind the screen all week—a circus bird puppet!

Throughout their time dating and their engagement, Chad was the number one volunteer in the Garden Kids Ministry, helping out with worship, chaperoning lock-ins, and cleaning up after various events.

Shortly after getting married, Amanda and Chad were hired to direct the Youth Ministry, and have spent the last ten years learning, worshipping, and serving alongside the middle and high schoolers of the church. As we have led confirmation classes, retreats, mission trips, and weekly devotions we have grown our own faith and together have grown closer to God. Leading ministry together has been a huge blessing to our lives and to our family.



grounded

YOUTH MINISTRY 24/7

UMYF Schedule

- January 5th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM
- January 12th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM
- January 19th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM
- January 26th -
 - 9:45-10:45am - Small Groups
 - 2-3pm - HS Confirmation
 - 3-5pm - GYM

A month full of fun and celebrations!



Our Juniors and Senior, Amber

Fackrell, Caroline Kearney, and Addison Locklear enjoyed a fun-filled weekend in Raleigh. We talked about living independently and honoring God with our daily routines.

The Youth built three boxes for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoebox drive. In teams, they chose the gender and age of the recipient of their box, and shopped for the perfect Christmas surprises!

We enjoyed a competitive afternoon of laser tag at Kersey Valley.

The Youth and Club 3-4-5 joined forces to bake and decorate cookies, and then we delivered them to church members who live at Arbor Ridge.

We capped off the month with our annual Christmas party and gift exchange!



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU DECLARES THE LORD PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE.
JEREMIAH 29:11

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."
2 Corinthians 5:17

Chad & Amanda Betters, Co-Directors of Youth Ministry
chad@sedgegardenumc.org amanda@sedgegardenumc.org
 336-682-6899 & 336-624-1423 youth@sedgegardenumc.org

Gifts have been given to the following ministries...

In Memory Of

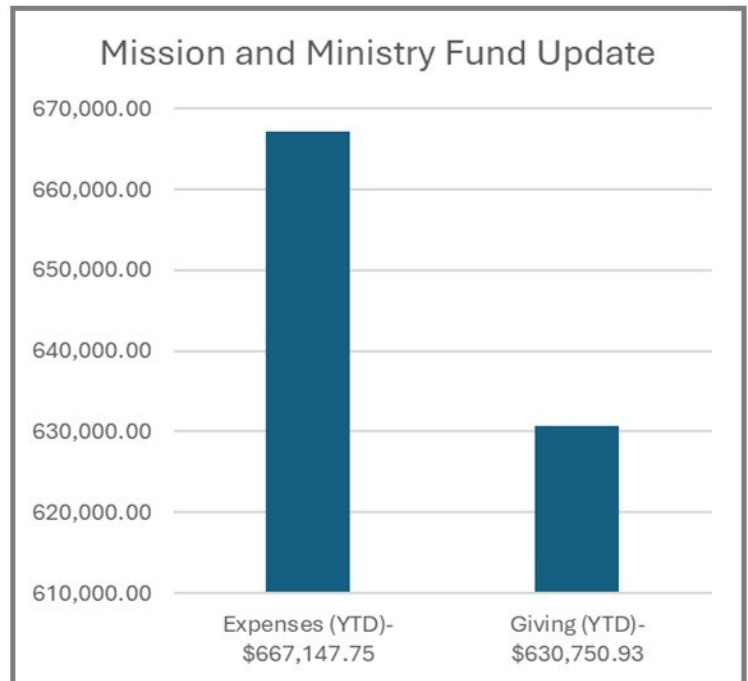
<u>Buck & Arlene Campbell</u> Adult Fellowship	Greg & Brenda Roth
<u>John & Jessie Roth</u> Adult Fellowship	Greg & Brenda Roth
<u>Madelyn Gibson</u> General Fund	The Manuel Class
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> Golden Agers	Richard Hoover Gale Love
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> Stitches of Love	Scott & Kay Bailey Yvonne Motsinger
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> United Women In Faith	Peggy Conoway
<u>Myrtis Holder</u> General Fund	
Mike & Barbara Berry	Ann Clark
Otis & Linda Eubanks	Martha Griffin
Larry & Sheila Hicks	The Justice Family
Bub & Karen Manning	David & Jan Marshall
Terry & Ellen Motsinger	Jerry & Denise Ring
Suzanne Ross	Patti B. Smothers
Mary Stratton	Judge David Warren
Bob & Anne White	

From the finance committee...

Needed to meet weekly budgeted expenses:

\$11,137.00

Giving in November: \$40,132.50



Thank you for the many ways that you have supported Sedge Garden UMC in 2024. From special gifts, tithes, prayers, and service, your dedication has made it possible to do ministry in the wonderful ways that we have throughout the year. If you wish to make a final end-of-year gift, you can drop it in the church office before December 24th, or use the QR code here to give online.



January Sermon Series

People are making New Year’s resolutions, again.
 The reason is they never completed the ones they made last year.
 We tend to do that, don’t we?
 Year after year, we write down not just our goals, but our visions and dreams.
 But then that is all that they become – a list.
 And life just becomes normal and mundane – turning into an unfulfilled life of not living our God-given full potential.
 The truth is God created us for more than most of us try to live out, especially as Christians, especially as a community of faith.
 In some ways, God created us not only to be like Jesus, but to be the God-given dream to the world.
 Come to worship or join us online as together, we **“Dare to Dream.”**



January 5th
“Dare to Dream: Beyond Ourselves”
 Deuteronomy 8: 1–10

January 12th
“Discovering Our Identity”
 Genesis 28: 16 – 22

January 19th
“Discovering Our Burning Bush”
 Exodus 3: 1 – 15

January 26th
“Discovering Our Failures to Success”
 Deuteronomy 4: 1 – 12

Don't forget!



Check the boxes in the Welcome Center for Christmas Cards!



May the faith of God be with you this year. May the peace of God surround you, and may you be blessed each day!

Happy New Year

Open House at the Parsonage

PLEASE JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

Saturday, January 4, 2025
from 2:00 until 5:00 pm

PASTOR KEITH & ANITA EDWARDS
6045 AARON PLACE LANE
KERNERSVILLE, NC 27284
(ANITA @ 336-250-5082)



Stitches of Love

**January 6th
10am-12pm
Nooma Classroom**

Rachel's Roses

**January 9th
6:30pm-8pm
A.S.K. Class**



PIZZA PARTY & BINGO!

Golden Agers
January 13th @ 1pm
Bring a white elephant gift for prizes!

UWF Tulips

January 22nd

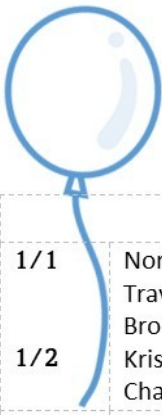
1:30pm-2:30pm

Conference Room



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

January 26th @ 7am



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays				Anniversaries	
1/1	Norma Joyce Travis Karr Brooks Parker PFC	1/18	John Hester Shelby Manuel	1/2	LeRoy & Becky Honeycutt
1/2	Kristen Craver Chase Langham	1/19	Easton Swicegood	1/8	Harry & Vicki Jarman
1/3	Jakob Desmond Nancy Swaim Alyson Totten	1/20	Kelli Westfall Quinn Roth	1/9	Derek & Tammy Caudle
1/4	Josh Miller Scott Sapp	1/21	Mike Berry Nancy Blue Jamey Dobson		
1/5	Paul Miller	1/22	Jim Hand Andy Holder		
1/6	Megan-Riley Gauss	1/23	Gwen Ashley		
1/7	Tracy Manuel	1/24	Courtney Barwick Jonathan Sapp		
1/8	Bryan Staley	1/25	Josh Weaver Tate Bennett Cyndi Miller		
1/9	Benjamin Robert Karr Tom Tomlin		Cheryl Summerville Janet Truitt		
1/10	James Alley Kevin Craver	1/26	Evangeline Davis Dana Shetzler		
1/11	Becky Karr Mike Powell Alisa Saunders	1/27	Melinda Graves Susan Sapp		
1/12	Zachary Shearer	1/28	John Wesley Miller Jr.		
1/16	Dorothy Branch	1/30	Scott Swaim		
1/17	Nina Holder Mary Katherine Kearney Elaine Sapp	1/31	Lynn Julian Jennifer Pike		



SGUMC Contact Information

Mailing Address

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Preschool Office Phone

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Cindy Darden

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Director of Contemporary Music

Tommy Holder

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Director of Children & Youth Ministries

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