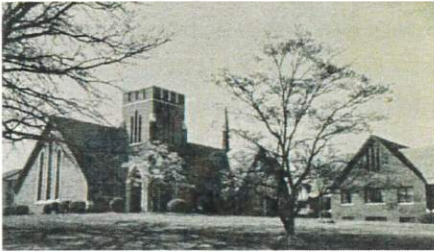


# ST. JOHN'S UMC EPISTLE

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MARCH/APRIL 2025

Pastor: Rev. Chuck Cole



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Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. John's,

On Ash Wednesday March 5th we will enter the season of Lent in preparation for our celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday April 20, 2025. This period of the liturgical calendar is an opportunity for us to refocus our whole lives on the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are numerous possibilities for us to pursue but I would encourage each of us to consider a strategy of subtracting something that is unhelpful in our walk from our lives and adding in its place something useful.

A possibility I intend to pursue is minimizing my consumption of news for the period of Lent and replacing it with Christ focused content and perhaps most powerfully SILENCE at times. News for some of us can take on a far too significant place in our lives. Sometimes we consume news because we think it is a sign of a good or righteous person but our righteousness or goodness is not found in being informed it is found in Christ. Some news is designed to inflame us and ramps up our nervous system and reinforces a polarized, hostile view of our neighbors and the world and it does not tend to help us love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves. If this is a possibility for you this Lent perhaps suspend the delivery of your newspaper, change the dial on your radio, read only a physical newspaper and for a limited time, unsubscribe from news sites in your Facebook feed, turn off notifications from news apps on your phone, perhaps even pause people who endlessly pass on inflammatory articles etc. The list and ways we each might take up this discipline will look different for each of us.

However one observes Lent or does not observe Lent let us rejoice in the Good News of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Let us be reminded that Christ reigns and is making all things new. Above all else hear and absorb the words with which the Apostle Paul closes his proclamation of the Resurrection of Christ and all the Hope it gives for us and the world 1 Corinthians 15

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." [h]

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?" [i]

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

In Christ,  
Rev. Chuck Cole




# Preschool News

We have so many exciting things happening at St. Johns preschool. We have missed some school due to the snow and cold. Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming season and the weather it will bring.

Registration for 2025-2026 is open. If anyone has friends or family with a child between 2 ½ and 4 years old and is interested in a spot at St. John's, please let us know or contact the church office.

March begins with a celebration of Read Across America! We will dress up as our favorite book character to celebrate. We will also visit The Legacy of North Augusta to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Keep an eye out on our school Facebook page for what I know will be some adorable pictures of the kids celebrating.

We will learn about St. Patrick and how he used the shamrock  to teach about the Trinity. We will have a St. Patrick's Day treasure hunt, party and create many crafts.

In April this year we will tell the Easter Story. A couple of our Easter activities include a Palm Parade and our Easter Egg Hunt & Party.

*Hosanna!*

Happy spring!  
St. John's Preschool Staff



# Church News



**April 18<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Service, 7:30pm**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday, 11:00am**



## Trustees

We continue to take care of our Church property here at St. John's as well as the Jollivue property and the parsonage. We recently had to replace the circulator pump on the boiler here at St. John's at a cost of \$4,928.00. We are also going to have to replace the stove at the parsonage( not sure of the cost yet).

We have been going through and cleaning out things at Jollivue. We brought some things in to St. John's and are leaving things to help it sell better. To date, I have sold \$550.00 on FB marketplace of the things we didn't need or decided not to leave there. We have listed the property with John Bowman, a realtor with Old Dominion Realty. He is in the process of contacting the folks that reached out to us before he puts it in the MLS system. So, of course, we are hoping and praying for a quick and easy sale!

Kim Harris, Trustees Chair



## Finance Committee

We often hear that Church members are not aware of our financial situation. So, we will be doing more reporting in this area here in the Epistle. For the month of Jan., our expenses were \$15,533.02. The offering was \$13,272.36 ( which includes \$7,425.05 from a closed Jollivue account). We, of course, do not have figures from February yet, but in most months our expenses have been exceeding our offering income. We have had to draw on money that had been left to the Church or money that was raised. Please continue to keep this in mind as you consider your giving.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kim Harris & Donna Elkins, Finance Comm. co-chairs





## Meals on Wheels

St. John's has been providing volunteers for delivering Meals on Wheels as a mission for many years. We deliver on the 1st Tuesday and the 5th Monday of each month. Most recently, both routes have totaled 25+ meals delivered each time. The food is prepared and picked up at Armstrong's Restaurant in Verona. The recipients of these meals are always very thankful and often times this can be the only contact they have during most days. We can always use more volunteers if you are interested in being part of this mission!

I would like to thank our volunteers for their time. Many of these have been delivering for lots of years!

Cole Family  
Jim & Pam Huggins  
Linda Pancake  
Kim Harris  
Connie Harris  
Mary Ann Bennett  
Nicole Doyle  
Judy Medina  
Lee Hodge

Linda Bradley  
Cindy Phillips  
Vicky Phillips  
Donna Elkins  
Ashley Wilcher  
Cruz Moran  
Dianne Wright  
Courtney Markham

Thank You,  
Kim Harris, Meals on Wheels Coordinator



St. John's hosted the WARM Shelter from February 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Founded in 2011, WARM organizes a cold weather shelter as well as transitional housing and outreach programs. As the host church, along with other local churches & organizations, we provided and served breakfast, lunch and dinner. Thank you to each and every one of you who volunteered your time during this week! If you would like to learn more about the WARM shelter, please visit their website at [warmwaynesboro.org](http://warmwaynesboro.org).

# This and That



## Stewardship Thoughts

In this new section of the Epistle I hope to offer quotes, anecdotes or teaching that will help us think about our relationship with the resources God gives us. I begin with two quotes from the works of Randy Alcorn.

“Materialism is the mother of anxiety.”

[Money, Possessions, and Eternity: A Comprehensive Guide to What the Bible Says about Financial Stewardship, Generosity, Materialism, Retirement, Financial Planning, Gambling, Debt, and More, Tyndale Press, 2011.](#)

A distraught man furiously rode his horse up to John Wesley, shouting, “Mr. Wesley, Mr. Wesley, something terrible has happened. Your house has burned to the ground!” Weighing the news for a moment, Wesley replied, “No. The Lord’s house burned to the ground. That means one less responsibility for me.”

[Randy Alcorn, Money, Possessions, and Eternity: A Comprehensive Guide to What the Bible Says about Financial Stewardship, Generosity, Materialism, Retirement, Financial Planning, Gambling, Debt, and More \(Tyndale Press, 2011\).](#)



DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME BEGINS





## DID YOU KNOW???? - Mar – April 2025

Here's a gentleman that was very instrumental in the early Methodist church that I never heard of. This is Richard Boardman. He was born in England in 1738.



He became a Wesleyan minister preacher in 1763 at the age of 25. He serves in the Grimsby, Limerick, Cork and Dales circuits in Ireland. In January 1769, Boardman's wife, Olive and their daughter Mary die. His wife in childbirth and the daughter 3 days later. Several months after their deaths, Boardman volunteers to go to America and is accepted by John Wesley. On the way, he preaches to a small Methodist society about Jabez, with its' references to the pains of childbirth. It made an impression to a young girl at the sermon. She later had a son whom she named Jabez. He grew up to become a leading Wesleyan Minister.

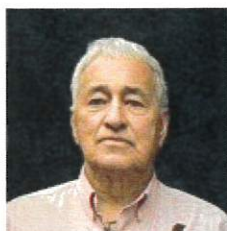
In October 1769 he sails to America with Joseph Pilmore. They are the first 2 Methodist preachers sent by John Wesley. While there is much more known about Joseph due to him leaving a journal, there is little known about Boardman.

In November 1769, he writes to John Wesley that "people were too hungry to hear the word of God that only one-third of them could cram into the preaching place". Frances Asbury wrote about Boardman, "My friend Boardman is a kind, loving, worthy man, truly amiable and entertaining, and of a child-like temper".

As the Revolutionary War approached, numerous Church of England clergymen, branded as

Tories, returned to England. Wesley's missionaries also fell under suspicion, even persecution. Eventually, most of them left. By 1774, Boardman and Pilman returned to England.

While his tenure here was short, (Oct 21, 1769 – Jan 2, 1774), he ranks among those significant British benefactors whose lives and labors contributed much to American Methodism.



Kenneth (Pete) Wright  
28 May 1945 – 9 Jan 2025

There was an interesting line in the obit for Pete. "Death comes in its own time, in its own way, and is unique as the individuals experiencing it". That is also a good way to describe how Pete lived.

I always thought God broke the mold when he made Pete. He was one of the most exasperating (as Diane will tell you) person I have ever met. He was also the most giving and kind person. He was willing to help anyone at any time.

I know that his family is heartbroken now, but they also know he is at peace, without pain and is trying to tell St. Peter how to do things. Rest in peace Pete!



I'm writing this at the end of our time for the WARM Shelter. I want to send a great big thank for out for all the folks who helped with this mission. Not only for those in the Family Committee, but those who donated monetarily, the prayers sent our way, and the other organizations and churches who helped out with

the meals. We couldn't have done it without ANY of you. Thanks again so much.



### WHAT WAS HAPPENING 25 YEARS AGO?

- Rick Ecklund was minister
- A reception was held for Ernest Durrett on 12 March
- Flowers for Easter were \$12.00 for lilies and \$17.50 for azaleas.

### WHAT WAS HAPPENING 50 YEARS AGO?

- Marguerite Waybright Hanger passed away on 15 Feb.
- On 9 March, Frank Baker was guest speaker.



- *March to the beat of Spring.*
- *The days of March creeping gustily on like something that man couldn't hinder and God wouldn't hurry.*
- *April prepares her green light and the world thinks, 'Go'.*
- *It's not about the bunny; it's about the lamb.*

*Hope everyone has a great Easter.*

*Cindy Phillips*





11<sup>th</sup> - Charlie Cole

22<sup>nd</sup> - Sara Sochor

25<sup>th</sup> - Kim Harris



5<sup>th</sup> - Amanda Riley

9<sup>th</sup> - Grace Daughtrey, Charlie Myers

14<sup>th</sup> - Betty Hairfield

22<sup>nd</sup> - Mary Anne Bennett

25<sup>th</sup> - Linda Hamrick, Jan Humphries, Patsy Myers

27<sup>th</sup> - Alex Daughtrey

28<sup>th</sup> - Lori Lewis

30<sup>th</sup> - Jim Huggins

