

The Vine

Windsor United Methodist Church

9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard, Columbia, SC
803-788-1858 www.windsorumc.org Windsorumc@bellsouth.net

January 2024

Our Mission: To connect Christ and community and to demonstrate the love of God to all through Jesus Christ as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

A Time for Everything!



It's a New Season - Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

As we start a brand new year of expectations, wishes and desires I want to invite us to embrace the phrase, "It's a New Season," for all it means. It is a time for hope, renewal and unity within our church and within our nation. As the world says goodbye to 2023 and embraces the dawn of 2024, the church community anticipates the opportunities, challenges, and blessings that are ahead of us. Each new year in the life of the church brings with it a sense of hope, renewal and a chance for the congregation to come together in unity. I want to share how we the church can embrace this fresh start and make the most of the new year.

1. Remember, the Bible tells us there's a season for everything.

Firstly, we need to reflect with gratitude. Just as individuals take time to reflect on the past year and set goals for the new one, the church, together, can engage in reflections. We can look back on the victories and the challenges faced as a community, expressing gratitude for the blessings received and the growth experienced.

Seasons come and go—but it's important to remember that whatever you're experiencing right now, you're experiencing it for a reason. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 reminds us that there is a season for everything. God knows our story, and He knows our seasons, so we don't have to be ashamed as we transition our lives and our hearts to new journeys and habits. No matter where we are, God will be there with us and eager to hear from us in times of joy, sadness, confusion, excitement, and anything else we're feeling. This year make reflecting a priority.

2. Know that God cares more about our hearts than our habits.

Secondly, having a solid daily routine for connecting with God is a great way to keep growing in our faith. But, when we're entering a new season of life, it may mean that routine needs to change a little, whether it's the time of day it happens, how much time we spend in that particular thing, or even how we find that connection. The good news is that God doesn't care about our habits nearly as much as we do. He cares about what is in our hearts above everything else. So, while it may be frustrating to us that we aren't able to have our chair time in the mornings with a cup of coffee anymore, God is just as eager to speak to us on the drive home as we listen to worship music and spend time in prayer.

3. Find your people. We weren't created to go through seasons alone.

Lastly, there's a reason that a big life change feels less scary when you have a friend or family member by your side. As people, we crave connection with God and with others, especially when we're in the middle of transitioning to a new season of life. Sometimes just having someone who can say, "I've been there," makes everything easier, and having people who can point you back to God in the tough times can strengthen your faith. I want to encourage you to find a prayer partner or ask God to put positive people in your life.

There may be times in life when we can prepare for new seasons in life, but a lot of the time we'll face new seasons totally unprepared and that's okay! One of the most important parts of prioritizing our relationship with God is recognizing that we have to be intentional about our time with Him. Take time to talk to God about your new season and ask Him to help you get in the habit of growing even closer to Him. He will meet you where you are. This year, make the resolution or declaration—or whatever you choose to call it—a new season for real. How are you planning for your new season?

Happy New Year and God's best to all of you in 2024.

Pastor Leatha Brown





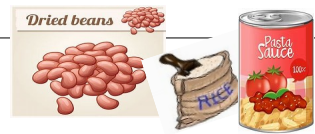
SC Thrive – First Distribution of Perishable Food

By Becky Leonard

Windsor UMC is among several churches who have begun a new partnership with SC Thrive. SC Thrive partners with organizations to provide direct services to communities, and one of these services is providing perishable food boxes.

December 13 was Windsor’s first pick up of food. This was not only Windsor’s first time to participate, but also SC Thrive’s first time providing the boxes of perishable food. Windsor picked up 25 large boxes containing sweet potatoes, kale and collards grown by local farmers. The boxes were brought to Windsor where volunteers sorted and bagged up each food item so that it could be handed out to families in the Skills for Life and Work Program and members of the Windsor and Fil-Am congregations. A total of 75 families were served. Many thanks to Charles Shipman, Rodney Mills, Calvin Edwards, Tremaine Dunbar, Tina Hathaway, Felicia McCoy, World Changers students, Rock Schmidt and Pastor Brown for their help that morning.

Future plans also call for coordinating with the social workers at E. L. Wright Middle School and Windsor Elementary to provide food to families attending their schools. If you would like to help, please contact Julie Milhouse in the office (803-788-1858) or Becky Leonard at fleonardz@hotmail.com and 803-466-4222. Our next opportunity with SC Thrive will be January 2024. A specific date has not been set.



Windsor Food Pantry—Updated List

The number of families facing food insecurity continues to increase. Windsor’s food pantry helps families who come to the church office in need of food as well as some of those who attend the Skills for Work and Life Program on our church campus.

If you would like to help, please consider donating food items from the following list or donating funds so that we may purchase the food. For monetary donations, please indicate that your offering is for FOOD PANTRY in the memo section of your check. Donations are also accepted online and may be directed to the WINDSOR FOOD PANTRY. Thank you to those who have donated to our food pantry!

We are requesting donations of vegetable/canola oil and white rice in 1 or 2 pound bags, however, any of the foods on the following list would be appreciated! Bins are located outside the sanctuary or you may drop off your food items at the church office.

For the time being we have removed canned chicken, tuna and Vienna sausages from the list. We are waiting to hear about a large donation the schools are to receive of these items the beginning of 2024.

- white rice (1 or 2 pound bags)
- spaghetti sauce
- salt
- Maseca
- individual fruit/applesauce cups
- Ajax liquid dish detergent and toilet paper are also appreciated
- dried red and pinto beans (in 1 pound bags)
- vegetable/canola oil
- sugar (2 or 4 pound bags)
- pasta noodles (angel hair/elbow)

Thank you for helping those in need, Windsor.

UNITED METHODIST MEN BREAKFAST MEETING

All men are invited to join Windsor’s United Methodist Men the first Sunday of the month at Lizard’s Thicket on Two Notch Road near I-20. We meet at 7:30 a.m. Please join us for food and fellowship at our next meetings on **Sundays, January 7 and February 4.**



Blessings for the New Year

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11



WINDSOR SOUP KITCHEN AT WASHINGTON STREET UMC

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

Windsor's November 6 serving was a special meal provided for guests upstairs in Threatt Hall at Washington Street UMC. Guests sat at tables complete with tablecloths and silverware, and were served a meal that included baked spaghetti, bread, salad, dessert and a drink. Toiletries were handed out, free haircuts were given and music played. Volunteers from Washington Street UMC assisted in the event. Ferrie Ward and Debbo Lackore helped early in the morning with the meal preparation and Michelle Nicholson helped with table set-up and serving the meal. These special meal events began shortly before Covid and were held on a quarterly basis. Due to Covid they were placed on hold for the past few years. Washington Street UMC has plans for more of these meals in 2024.



Windsor returned on Monday, December 4 to help with the bagged meal serving which Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar began at the beginning of Covid. The Soup Cellar has retained this format for more than three years and plans to continue it in the foreseeable future.



For our December serving, Soup Cellar manager Terrence Chisolm made ham, potato, and vegetable soup. Along with a cup of hot soup, the bagged meal included a tuna fish sandwich, a cup of applesauce or an orange, a doughnut, and a bottle of Mountain Dew. The Mountain Dew replaced the customary bottle of water as it was an item at Harvest Hope that was being given away free of charge. Ferrie Ward, Debbo Lackore, Michelle Nicholson and Becky Leonard helped serve the 102 guests who came that morning.

Windsor's next serving day is Monday, February 5. Windsor will not be serving in January as our regular Monday falls on New Year's Day, which is a holiday for the Soup Cellar. If you are interested in helping on February 5, please contact Becky Leonard at 803-466-4222 or fleonardz@hotmail.com. We begin meal preparation around 9:15 a.m. and are finished serving at 12:30 p.m.



BLOOD DRIVE

Windsor United Methodist Church
9500 Windsor Lake Blvd., Columbia, SC 29223

Thursday, February 15
2:30 pm—6:30 pm

To make an appointment, please scan the QR code on the left or visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: **WindsorUMC**



ALL DONORS WILL RECEIVE A \$20 E-GIFT CARD FROM AMAZON!

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:
Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org
1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Veterans Moment

During the November 12 Worship Service, Colonel Rock Schmidt, USA, retired, presented a Veterans Moment honoring all those who have served and are currently serving our country. A POW/MIA table was set-up to honor the missing men and women of the U.S. military services and civilians, and the symbolism of the table and its displayed items was explained.



39 Shoeboxes! *By Becky Leonard*

Many thanks to those who turned in traditionally filled shoeboxes, built shoeboxes online or made a donation so that more shoeboxes could be built.

Our total for this year's drive was 39 shoeboxes! Windsor delivered twenty shoeboxes to a local collection site and a total of 19 shoeboxes were built online. Our online total included those built by folks through the Windsor goal page link and shoeboxes built with donated funds.

Thank you to Gene and Kara Lewis who organized this drive, and to you, Windsor, for your support in helping to take the Gospel to children around the world.

Windsor Families Helping Families

By the Outreach Team

Thank you for helping make this Christmas much brighter for the 17 children in eight families in need in this year's Windsor Families Helping Families program. Several of the children and their families – which were provided by Ms. Nelly Jolley, outreach worker for Richland School District 2 – have faced and continue to face unemployment issues.

Many thanks, Windsor, for your support, donations and sponsorship. BSA Troop 2870 (all female troop) sponsored two sisters on Ms. Jolley's list. Together, we provided much needed shoes and clothing, and wish list items of toys, art supplies, books, games and sporting equipment for the children.

Friday, December 8, was our gift distribution day. The rain had stopped and all of the moms were able to come pick up their children's gifts. The mothers were welcomed into the annex garage with Christmas music, your beautifully wrapped gifts, and greeters Nelly Jolley, Kathy Hart, Becky Leonard and Pastor Brown. Along with gifts, families received a Christmas card from Pastor Brown and a box of candy canes.

With Nelly Jolley as interpreter, we were able to converse with those moms who needed a little extra help with English. They all were very grateful for the blessings received through this Windsor ministry. One mom commented that each time she walks through Windsor's hallway she says a prayer of gratitude that our church is here.

Our thanks to those who helped with this effort: Nancy and Mel Wolff, Anita and Rock Schmidt, Janice Negus, Donna Benson, Dottie Cronise, Kathy and Ivey Hart, Becky McMillion, Lisa McAlpine, Kara and Gene Lewis, Michelle Nicholson, Kristen Hill, Barb Hamilton, Debbo and Dan Lackore, Peggy Hill, Isaac and Joyce Byrd, Becky and Fred Leonard and BSA Troop 2870. This was the fifth year BSA Troop 2870 participated and we thank them for their tremendous support.

Thank you all for the love shown to these families in need. You helped to make their Christmas special knowing that others care about them.

Thank You!

On behalf of Richland School District Two, our children and our families, I would like to send Windsor United Methodist Church and members a very special THANK YOU for making a VERY SPECIAL Christmas for dozens of our neediest R2 students. Your kindness, emotional hugs, beautiful and abundant wrapped gifts, and love filled all of us with joy and gratitude. Words cannot express how much your efforts, attention to details, and care have warmed our hearts. Thanks for more than 12 years supporting our children on Christmas. You all exemplify the meaning of love, compassion and generosity.

May this Christmas and new year bring to you all health, happiness and great success.

Love, Nelly



Photos by Nelly Jolley and Becky Leonard

2023 Advent at Windsor



**Hanging of the Greens
December 2**

UMM Christmas Dinner—December 14—90 Folks!



**Secret Sisters Party
December 16**



LRE Christmas Party

Advent Wreath Lighting



Financial Summary through November 30, 2023

	Income through November 30, 2023	Expenses through November 30, 2023	2023 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 212,124.74		\$ 213,550.00	99%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 216,814.24	\$ 219,792.00	99%
Apportionments		2,586.70	2,845.00	91%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		2,739.74	3,796.00	72%
Outreach		200.00	TBA	over
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		635.15	850.00	75%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 212,124.74	\$ 222,975.83	\$ 227,283.00	98%



**God Bless
America!**

**Please Pray for:
Our Military,
Law Enforcement Members,
First Responders,
Healthcare Workers
and their families.
People affected by the ongoing
violence, fire, hurricanes, tornadoes
and other bad weather.**



Average Attendance

10 a.m. Worship Service—Sanctuary		
November 1 to November 30, 2023	63	
December 1 to December 31, 2023	44	

All Sanctuary worship services are held with COVID-19 protocols in place.

Sunday School

November 1 to November 30, 2023	11
December 1 to December 31, 2023	10

Sunday School figures reflect those participating in Zoom, GoToMeeting, conference call and in-person classes.

Terra Bella Worship Service

November 1 to November 30, 2023	6
December 1 to December 31, 2023	8

Our Windsor Family

WINDSOR'S DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

- † Family of John Poole, a Windsor member who passed away on December 1.
- † Stan Patrick and family, on the passing of his wife, long-time member Verlie Patrick, on December 15.

If you have a "Windsor Family" item that you would like to share with our church family, please notify the church office at windsorumc@bellsouth.net or 803-788-1858.



Calendar January 2024

Monday, January 1



Tuesday, January 2

1:00 PM Bible Study - Winter Break

Friday, January 5

9:00 AM Briarwood Board Meeting - Rm 10

Saturday, January 6

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 7

7:30 AM UMM Breakfast - Lizard's Thicket

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 8

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrms, HH/Pav

6:00 PM United Women in Faith - HH

7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

1:00 PM Bible Study - Rm 1

2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Worship & Music Meeting - HH

Thursday, January 11

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, January 13

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 14

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 15



9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - No Classes

7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 16

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

1:00 PM Bible Study - Rm 1

2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, January 18

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Trustee Meeting - Annex

Saturday, January 20

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

Sunday, January 21

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 22

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 23

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

1:00 PM Bible Study - Rm 1

2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, January 24

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Thursday, January 25

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Richland Herb Society - Rm 10

Saturday, January 27

8:30 AM Prayer Group (Conference call)

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal - HH

6:00 PM Prayer Meeting - HH

Sunday, January 28

9:00 AM Sunday School (see *Leaf* for details)

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

7:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, January 29

9:00 AM WCLA CoOp - All Classrooms, HH/Pav

7:30 PM AI Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, January 30

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

1:00 PM Bible Study - Rm 1

2:00 PM SL&WP Speech & Audio - Rms 5&10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Rms 5&10

Wednesday, January 31

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

If you have any additions, changes and/or corrections to the calendar, please notify Julie in the office (803-788-1858). Thank You.




Bradley Meade	3
Tina Hathaway	3
Barbara Catoe	6
Charles Shipman	17
Joyce Byrd	20
Janice Negus	25
Diana Stout	27
Shah Hussain	31



Nancy Wolff	3
Brianna Hinson	6
Rev. Franklin Buie	7
Ben Catoe	13



**Christmas Concert
December 23**



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™

THE VINE

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Send articles by the 20th of the month by email to Julie at windsorumc@bellsouth.net or place articles in **The Vine** mailbox in Room 10.