

The Vine

Windsor United Methodist Church

9500 Windsor Lake Boulevard, Columbia, SC
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March 2025

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.

March 1, 2025

“...They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed. All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you.” (Deut. 16:16b-17).

Nobody likes talking about money, especially in church. Why? It's profoundly personal, awkward, and a touchy subject for some of us. Believe me, I'm not a big fan of the conversation either; however, as the pastor, hard conversations come with the territory. I am writing about money because it affects the future of Windsor, your church home. The Finance Committee, the church council members, and I are concerned about Windsor's financial health. The Finance Committee met on January 16, 2025. There was much examination and discussion about the 2025 Windsor church budget, and the committee voted to recommend the 2025 budget to the church council. On January 29, 2025, the Church Council reviewed, discussed, and voted to approve the 2025 budget of \$202,000.00, with a projected deficit of \$49,800.00 for the year. The 2025 budget is cut to the bare bone. There's not one ounce of fat, padding or wiggle room.

Therefore, friends, I must report that Windsor is facing a rough financial patch. After reviewing the monthly balance sheets, the Finance Committee found that \$21,000.00 is required to pay the staff salaries (Pastor, Julie, Katrina, and Rodney), bills and building operations. That \$21,000.00 figure is what it costs for Windsor to remain open and functioning each month; that figure does not include paying ANY money toward our apportionment responsibility to the conference.

Please understand that the Church Council and I are not raising a cry of alarm or hitting the panic

button yet. I do not intend to fearmonger or scare you; however, I feel obligated to inform you that Windsor is facing a serious monthly shortfall. For January 2025, the deficit was \$4,219.31. Rest assured; we are actively pursuing other avenues to generate more income for the church.

As a congregation member and individual, you are very generous and give with your heart. I want to acknowledge that I see your open-handed giving, and I am very privileged to shepherd a congregation willing to return the blessings to God, who has so richly blessed you. Windsor does give monetary donations for flood buckets, back-to-school supplies, backpacks, candy for the Fall Festival, and diapers for Epworth, to name a few. On more than one occasion, I've been told that Windsor church members will dive deep into their wallets and purses when circumstances pull on their heartstrings.

I cannot think of anything that ought to pull on your heartstrings more than giving to your church. Windsor is your church; the local congregation makes and keeps the church alive and thriving. God instructs Israel in Deuteronomy 16:16b-17 that each person was to give according to the blessing God had given them. “... They were to offer to Him what was possible without it being a burden.” Brothers and sisters, the Church Council and I are not asking that you give until it hurts, or you go without. We ask that each of you pray, asking God for His guidance on increasing your giving. I realize it takes a massive leap of faith, and I understand that in the current economic climate we might be more hesitant and cautious in giving, yet we have the sure confidence that God always makes a way where there seems to be no way. God is trustworthy and dependable. I am wholly persuaded that the best days are yet to come for Windsor!

Grace and Peace to you,
Pastor Claire



A Musical Note Just for You

By Kathy Hart

I'm hoping you remember the movie, *Music Man*. Professor Harold Hill, an experienced con man with no musical skills convinces the town of Gary, Indiana that they need a boys' band to keep them out of the pool hall. The town is convinced and pays him a sizable amount to buy instruments. When the instruments arrive on the Wells Fargo wagon, Hill instructs the boys to use the "think system" of music. At the end of the movie, a band marches down the street to the rousing tune of "Seventy-Six Trombones."



Thank goodness we don't have Professor Harold Hill at Windsor but, in my opinion, Windsor UMC is so very, very fortunate to have, Rodney Mills, the best pianist in the area and, Katrina Garvin, the best vocalist/choir director. They are the real thing. At the moment, only four choir members are enjoying the full benefit of these amazing musicians. Honestly, with God's help, they make us sound good. If you feel like you can't sing good enough to be in the choir, you are wrong! God gave us voices to praise His name. He didn't necessarily give us voices like Katrina's, but her God-given talents mold us into expressing our love for our Lord with our voices. It may not be a "think system" of music, but rather a "God thing." Bring your voice on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. We have a seat in the choir for you.



Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday – March 4

Come enjoy food, fun and fellowship on Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday, March 4 at 6 p.m. The UMM will prepare pancakes and sausage to celebrate Fat Tuesday. What is the significance of Shrove Tuesday? Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday) is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, is traditionally a time of fasting, and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins).



Ash Wednesday Service, Wednesday, March 5, at 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday: In Western Christianity, Ash Wednesday marks the first day, or the start of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. During Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent; however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1, Job 2:8, Daniel 9:3 and Matthew 11:21.



**Windsor United
Methodist Church**





American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

A Life-Saving Donation During a Time of Critical Need! Red Cross Blood Drive at Windsor

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

Windsor UMC hosted an afternoon blood drive on Thursday, February 13, offering appointments from 2–6 p.m. The Red Cross appreciates hosting sites such as Windsor UMC, especially during the winter months which are usually a time of reduced donations and increased risks of blood shortages due to inclement weather and cold and flu season. This year, though, there is also a critical need as a result of January's severe winter weather and the California wildfires reducing needed blood donor collections. According to the Red Cross website, winter storms have led to about 20,000 blood and platelet donations uncollected since the beginning of the year!

Many thanks to this winter's blood drive 'crew.' Kathy Robinson, Linda Friar and Patty Fowler provided homemade treats of chocolate brownies, blonde brownies and pound cake. Not only were these a delicious treat to add to the prepackaged items supplied by the Red Cross, but the ingredients included those much sought after eggs! Kristen Hill, our nurse volunteer, manned the check-in/registration table and monitored the donors after they gave, making sure they drank enough fluids before departing. And Tremaine Sails-Dunbar organized the drive, making the necessary arrangements with the Red Cross, donors and Windsor.

A special thanks to ALL of the committed blood donors who came to donate. Nine folks from our Windsor community participated along with nine more from the public. The Red Cross collected a total of 15 units of blood. Blood donors are vital because there is no substitute for blood. **Donors provide the only supply of life-saving blood for those in need.**

Thank you for your gift of life!

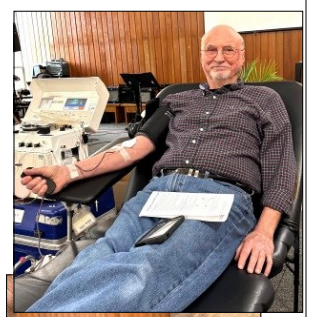


Windsor United Methodist Church
Sponsor Group

February 13, 2025
Date of Drive

15 Total Number of Donors	1 First-Time Donors
5 Type O Donors	15 Units Collected

One single blood donation can help save more than one life.
Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission!



Exciting News for Secret Sisters

By Kathy Hart

The United Women in Faith, the collaboration between Windsor and Rehoboth women, are joining forces for an expanded Secret Sisters project. It's another great way to get to know our sisters in Christ. If interested, please immediately contact Kathy Hart at kathyivey@sc.rr.com. Drawing of names will be in early March. If you have already filled out a questionnaire for this cycle, you do not need to fill out another one.

Sending monthly thoughtful cards and/or letters are a way of connecting and sharing. Do not put your return address on the envelope. The Reveal party will be held in June. A simple, inexpensive gift can be shared at that time.



Stewardship Thought

The world asks, "What does a man own?"

Christ asks, "How does he use it?"

– Andrew Murray

**DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME
SUNDAY, MARCH 9**





WINDSOR SOUP KITCHEN AT WASHINGTON STREET UMC

Article and photos by Becky Leonard

Windsor UMC continues helping with the noon-time meal servings at Washington Street UMC Soup Cellar on the first Monday of the month. The current bagged meal format arose as a necessity to be able to continue to safely provide a meal to those in need in downtown Columbia during Covid. The Soup Cellar has retained this bagged meal format for nearly five years and plans to continue it in the foreseeable future.

On Windsor's January 6 serving day, 105 guests came through to receive a meal. That rainy morning's offering included a cup of vegetable and rice with pastrami and brisket soup, a salmon salad, bologna or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange, a package of wafer cookies and a bottle of Mountain Dew. Michelle Nicholson, Debbo Lackore, Patty Fowler, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar and Becky Leonard were the serving crew that morning.

Windsor served 111 guests the following month. The February 3 noon meal was very similar to January's and included a cup of vegetable and rice soup, this time with chicken and potatoes added. A turkey salad, ham or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, an orange, donut and bottle of Gatorade completed the meal. Michelle Nicholson, Debbo Lackore, Candy DePew, Patty Fowler, Tremaine Sails-Dunbar and Becky Leonard served that morning.

Windsor's next serving days will be March 3 and April 7. If you are interested in helping on either of these days, please contact Becky Leonard at 803-466-4222 or fleonardz@hotmail.com. We begin meal preparation around 9:15 a.m. and finish serving at 12:30 p.m.



Windsor Food Pantry

Many thanks to those who have donated to our food pantry. 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 (please indicate your donation is for *Food Pantry*).

We are requesting donations of canned tuna, vegetable 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.

- white rice (1 or 2 pound bags)
- dried black or small red beans (in 1 pound bags)
- spaghetti sauce
- pasta noodles (angel hair and elbow)
- vegetable oil
- salt
- canned tuna, chicken and Vienna sausage
- individual fruit/applesauce cups
- Ajax liquid dish detergent and toilet paper are also appreciated.

Thank you for helping those in need, Windsor.



Thank You, BSA Troop 2870!

Many thanks to Troop 2870 scouts. This is the sixth year the troop designated their collections from the annual *Scouting for Food* drive to Windsor's Food Pantry. Troop 2870 works together with Troop 287 and Pack 287 from St. John Neumann Catholic Church in distributing flyers and collecting the food donations. The food is then separated so that Windsor receives those items geared to our food pantry.



Scouting for Food is a national service project of Boy Scouts of America and takes place in our area in February. The 2025 campaign began on Saturday, February 1 with the scouts distributing informational door hangers to neighborhood homes and ended Saturday, February 8 with the collection of bags filled with donated food items.

The scouts, adult leaders and family members all helped to make this a successful campaign. Through their efforts and the very generous donations of our neighbors, Windsor's Food Pantry was stocked. We thank Troop 2870 for their support of the Windsor Food Pantry and joining us in helping those in need.

Debunking the Top Ten Excuses for Not Going to a Salkehatchie Camp

By Kathy Hart

- Excuse #1 – “I don’t know what Salkehatchie is.” The truth is that Salkehatchie Summer Service, LLC is the pioneering in-state mission program for youth and adults who repair the homes of those who are unable to do so. It has existed for 46 years. One-week camps operate in 35 locations during the eight weeks of summer. Go to salkehatchie.org for more information.
- Excuse #2 – “My knees are bad, so I can’t get on the roof.” The truth is that you are not required to get on a ladder or the roof. Most teams tackle several repairing tasks that keep you on the ground. Bring your own folding chair.
- Excuse #3 – “I don’t have enough vacation time.” The truth is that although this is not a vacation, it will take your mind off your job and daily life. By the end of the week, you will feel amazingly satisfied for a job well done and spiritually refreshed.
- Excuse #4 – “I can’t afford it.” The truth is that if you feel called to go, but you don’t have the \$250 registration fee, funding is always available. Lodging is in churches. Bring an air-mattress.
- Excuse #5 – “I’m too old. I’m too young.” The truth is that if you are over 14 years old, you are old enough, and there is no maximum age limit.
- Excuse #6 – “I have no tools.” The truth is the site leaders will supply the tools needed for the job. You can even learn how to use power tools.
- Excuse #7 – “I have no skills.” The truth is the majority of people who attend a Salkehatchie camp for the first time have no skills whatsoever. It is on-the-job training. Salkehatchie camps usually leave plumbing and electricity jobs to the professionals.
- Excuse #8 – “It is way too hot.” The truth is that the work day begins at 7 a.m. when it is cooler. Because it is hot, the site leaders plan lots of breaks. Shade, cool water and snacks are readily available.
- Excuse #9 – “I have no work clothes.” The truth is that you just need old clothes that you don’t care about. This is when thrift stores come in handy.
- Excuse #10 – “I’m an adult woman.” The truth is that women are required on every site.

Is this the year to forget your excuses and consider attending a Salkehatchie camp? Registration begins on March 1. Go to salkehatchie.org.

Kathy and Ivey Hart, with their 61 combined years of participation, plan to attend the Rock Hill Salkehatchie Camp from June 21–28. They will gladly chat with you about going.



United Women in Faith

By Melanie Nanney



United
Women
in Faith

Our next meeting of the United Women in Faith will be on Monday, March 3 at 6 p.m. in Harbor Hall. Kathy Joens from Epworth Children’s Home will be our speaker. She will be collecting diapers and feminine products for the residents at Epworth. We’ll have a light meal, if you are able to bring something to share.

Also, on Saturday, March 1, Wesley Church is hosting “A Day Apart.” It begins at 9 a.m. and is a half day of worship, fellowship and spiritual growth. The church is located at 1727 Gervais Street. The cost is \$20.

Contact Melanie Nanney at 803-530-3134 for more information.



At their February meeting, United Women in Faith met at Rehoboth Church and decorated cups which they filled with sugar free candy. The cups were given as a Valentine’s Day treat to each of the 50 residents at Forest Lake Manor.

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, March 2 and April 6.**



Financial Summary through December 31, 2024

	Income through December 31, 2024	Expenses through December 31, 2024	2024 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 201,956.51		\$ 225,000.00	90%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 252,448.16	\$ 249,544.00	101%
Apportionments		517.34	2,845.00	18%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		2,761.72	2,450.00	113%
Outreach		0.00	0.00	0%
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		411.19	790.00	52%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 201,956.51	\$ 256,138.41	\$ 255,629.00	100%

Financial Summary through January 31, 2025

	Income through January 31, 2025	Expenses through January 31, 2025	2025 Budget	Percent of Total
Regular Income (offering, Sunday school, fees, other)	\$ 16,480.30		\$ 202,000.00	8%
Administration (buildings, staff, & staff expenses)		\$ 20,546.60	\$ 248,569.00	8%
Apportionments		0.00	0.00	0%
Nurture (worship, communications, education, family ministries, music ministry & youth)		152.83	2,816.00	5%
Outreach		0.00	0.00	0%
Witness (evangelism & LRE)		0.00	415.00	0%
Total Regular Income & Expenses	\$ 16,480.30	\$ 20,699.43	\$ 251,800.00	8%



**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

January 1 to January 31, 2025 42
 February 1 to February 28, 2025 40

10 a.m. Worship Service—YouTube/Facebook

January 1 to January 31, 2025 39/61
 February 1 to February 28, 2025 31/41

Sunday School

January 1 to January 31, 2025 9
 February 1 to February 28, 2025 11

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

Terra Bella Worship Service

January 1 to January 31, 2025 4
 February 1 to February 28, 2025 4

Our Windsor Family

WINDSOR'S

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO...

- † The family and friends of Mary Ruth Rogers Breedlove, who passed away on December 20.
- † The family and friends of Maudistine (Tina) Hathaway, who passed away on January 26 in Columbia.

**Try the QR code for
 electronic giving
 with Vanco.**



Calendar March 2025

Saturday, March 1

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

Sunday, March 2

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

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 3

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

6:00 PM UWF Meeting - HH/K

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 4

9:00 AM SL&WP - All classrooms

12:00 PM RL Here Comes Kindergarten - HH

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

6:00 PM Fat Tuesday - HH/K

Wednesday, March 5

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service - Sanctuary

Thursday, March 6

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Friday, March 7

9:00 AM BNA Board Meeting - Classroom 10

Saturday, March 8

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

Sunday, March 9

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

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 10

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 11

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 12

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

11:00 AM Lenten Book Study - Annex

6:00 PM Lenten Book Study - Lizard's Thicket

Thursday, March 13

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, March 15

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

Sunday, March 16

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

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 17

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 18

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:00 PM RL Here Comes Kindergarten

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, March 19

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

11:00 AM Lenten Book Study - Annex

6:00 PM Lenten Book Study - Lizard's Thicket

Thursday, March 20

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

Saturday, March 22

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal

Sunday, March 23

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

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 24

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

Tuesday, March 25

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

12:30 PM Richland Library Storytime - HH

1:00 PM Bible Study - Classroom 10

3:00 PM Richland Library - Classrooms 5&10

6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Classroom 9

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

11:00 AM Lenten Book Study - Annex

6:00 PM Lenten Book Study - Lizard's Thicket

Thursday, March 27

9:00 AM SL&WP - All Classrooms

6:00 PM Richland Herb Society - Classroom 10

Saturday, March 29

3:00 PM Fil-Am Praise Band Rehearsal

6:00 PM Fil-Am Prayer Meeting

Sunday, March 30

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

9:00 AM Filipino American Church - HH

10:00 AM Worship Service - Sanctuary

6:00 PM BSA Troop 2870 - HH/Pavilion

Monday, March 31

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

6:30 PM Al Anon - Rm 8

**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.



March
BIRTHDAYS

March

Ivey Hart	1
Norma Thompson	11
George Ruppe	11
Kathy Hart	14
Madison Blanding	14
Sharon Emory	19
Stephanie Kitchens	20
Crawford Latham	26
Sam Frierson	26
David Williams	28



April Birthdays

April

Steve Finley	3
Kris Hartley	9
Suzanne Frierson	12
Kalani McCoy	12
Karri McCoy	13
Nicholas Kitchens	18
Deborah Lounds	18





Thanks for the Memories

By Kathy Hart

During the serving of a delicious feast of spaghetti, tossed salad, crusty Italian bread and dessert, Wayne and Melanie Nanney expressed their appreciation to their Windsor family for the unconditional love and support they received during the recent difficult months of Wayne's recovery. Diners at the February 15 Sweetheart Dinner were treated to a reel of 1960's commercials and the 1975 classic, *Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown*. It was a lot of good memories and great food. Thanks to our faithful men for the food preparation, and Kathy Hart and Melanie Nanney for the seasonal table decorations.

Photos by Noreen Doughty



UMM SWEETHEART SUPPER



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

THE VINE

Published by Windsor United Methodist Church

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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.