



Overview of June 2022

A Word From Pastor Scott

A Need for Renewal

Maybe you've "been there". You find yourself tired, weary and worn. It happens to us all at one time or another. Yet, sometimes, after a brief relaxation weekend, you feel renewed and you are ready to get back to work. My question is, what happens if you don't feel recharged and re-energized? What if that weariness continues?

It's hard to admit, but I am there. I am completing my 24th year of ordained ministry. I find myself in a sort of "drained" status, and I need renewal. The United Methodist Discipline outlines a recommendation for Pastors EVERY 6 YEARS to take time (up to 6 months) to refresh and renew their spirits! My District Superintendent has recommended this take place for me this year. I won't take 6 months, but I will take 3 months this summer, beginning July 1st. Let me assure you, they will supply a retired UM Pastor to Stallings to simply "keep things running" in my absence. This is without expense to our church! This interim Pastor will not make any big decisions, but will be assigned our Parrish to actively do all the functions I would normally do. The interim pastor will preach on Sunday mornings, do some visitation ministry, hospital and nursing home visits, hospice visits and yes, even do any funerals. He will be available for any pastoral emergencies that may arise. I have worked closely with our Staff Parrish Relations Committee and the Administrative Council and they have agreed to this renewal leave. They will also work with the interim pastor to help our church with whatever is needed.

I am not going on a "glorified vacation" and am actively planning things that will enable me to refresh my sense of Calling and allow me to rest. I have planned a trip to Montana for fly fishing. I have planned times to be with my wife on vacation, to have some family time with my kids and their spouses. I have also scheduled a time to be at the Abbey of Gethsemani; an active monastery where I will retreat and live with the monks, practicing their Benedictine rule of life, praying with them and having some spiritual direction from them as well. I will read. I will journal. I plan to reengage playing my saxophone. I am planning to do a short trip on the Appalachian Trail on Roan Mountain, a spiritual place for me since I was 16 years old. I may go to London to stay with a good friend of mine and tour some of the beautiful cathedrals. And I will continue to seek God's direction and His restorative ways throughout. My prayer is I will return ready to continue being your Pastor; only hopefully, a better version of that Pastor.

I want to thank you for your understanding about this and for the faithfulness you've shown over these years. I want to thank you for your willingness to allow me some respite and renewal. I know change can be challenging. I will also have challenges as I learn to stay focused on renewal and not the business of the church. Yet, I am so very hopeful of that which is yet to come! God has held Stallings in His Hand for over 106 years, and I am certain He is not losing His Grip now! We have some very exciting and powerful times ahead of us!

Most importantly, please continue to pray. Pray and witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in your lives. I need your prayers for the renewal of my soul and for the church to continue to be vibrant. God can and, I believe, WILL DO amazing things with people who faithfully pray!!!!

I love this church and I am SO grateful for all of you! This can be a GREAT time of renewal for all of us!

Love and blessings,

Pastor Scott



Sunday, June 5th is Promotion Sunday here at Stallings UMC. If your child is starting Kindergarten at the end of this Summer, then on Sunday, June 5th he or she officially "graduates" from Nursery and will stay in BIG CHURCH with you during the 9am or 11am services. From an early age children retain what they hear and see. Children hearing God's Word and joining in Worship is a beautiful thing. Then at 10am, your child will go to the Kindergarten - 5th Grade Sunday School Class! Parents your child's classroom is A-102 down the hallway from the Sanctuary.

In addition, all rising 6th Graders "graduate" up from the Children's Sunday School Class into the Youth Sunday School Class that meets in the Library just next door from A-102 during the 10am hour. And best of all, rising 6th Graders are now invited to join in the Youth Group that meets each Sunday afternoon from 4:30pm to 6pm at the various local churches in our Collaborative Youth Ministry. Please listen for announcements or See Daniel Nelson to be added to the Youth Group email list to know where you are meeting each month. During the month of June, students will be meeting at Faith UMC located in the Lake Park neighborhood just a few miles away.

And finally on Sunday, June 5th we will recognize all these students in a special way during the 9am service. Parents, please be sure your child is present on the 5th so we can love on them and recognize this momentous time in their life!

Overview continued...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

Ken Matthews	06-01	June Surratt	06-09	John Boles	06-18	Haley Williams	06-27
Jerry L. Smith	06-01	Patty Morris	06-11	Heather Ireland	06-18	Trent Tice	06-28
Gary Scott	06-02	Michelle Mullinax	06-13	Lindsey Lee	06-19	Michelle Williams	06-28
Beth Granger	06-04	Chuck Lawwill	06-14	Alyssa Lawwill	06-22	Steve Rodden	06-29
Kathy Rushing	06-05	Stella Bigham	06-16	Doug Brooker	06-23	Lauren Frye	06-30
Brandon Chandler	06-06	Megan Hazelton	06-16	Robin Farrell	06-23		
Carol Bulla-Smith	06-07	Dustin Bramhall	06-17	Jason Morris	06-23		
Kathy Broadway	06-08	Sheila Herron	06-17	Ed Murphy	06-24		
Sherri Edwards	06-08	Lisa Moore	06-17	Megan Estep	06-26		

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Happy Father's Day

~ Psalm 32:8 ~
I will instruct you and teach you
in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with
my loving eye on you.



Giving

Date		Budget/Tithe	Building Fund
May	01	\$ 7,517.15	\$ 770.00
May	08	\$ 3,720.40	\$ 250.00
May	15	\$ 5,751.18	\$ 750.00
May	22	\$ 3,384.96	\$ 440.00
May	29	\$ 6,015.87	\$ 760.00

*Please do not forget your church when you go out
of town or on vacation.

...For God loves a cheerful giver! ~ 2 Corinthians 9:7b

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

The United Methodist Men are holding their monthly breakfast on the **FIRST Saturday** of the month in June. This is normally on the second Saturday, but for June it will be held on the first Saturday, June 4th at 8am in the Fellowship Hall. This allows more time to finalize last minute details for the Golf Tournament.



Summer Youth Ministry

Our Youth Ministry will continue meeting throughout the summer months. During the month of June, we are meeting on Sunday afternoons at Faith UMC from 4:30pm to 6pm. In addition to Sunday afternoon Youth, we have a pool party or two in the works for the summer months. Also, our Carolina Cross Connection Mission Trip is scheduled for July 24th - July 30th. Cost is \$335 per person, and scholarships are available. Email Daniel Nelson for details at stryperfan1701@gmail.com.



Annual Men's Golf Tournament

Stallings United Methodist Men's Annual Golf Tournament is shaping up nicely! The Tournament is being held Monday, June 20th at Monroe Country Club. Format is Four Person Captain's Choice. Registration begins at 11am, and lunch will be provided at that time. There will be a Shotgun start at 12 noon. We have 15 confirmed teams thus far. There is still space for you! Men, let's make it at least a 20 team tournament. Everyone knows golfers! Call your friends. Awards will be given out at the end of the tournament. Also, make a hole in one on the 11th hole and win a NEW CAR from Kia of Union County. Don't miss out on this day of fellowship! And remember, all funds raised go to local, national and international missions! See you on the greens! Call the church office today to register your team!



SUMC Preschool



Class of 2022

This past Thursday, SUMC Preschool graduated their first class since the shut down due to COVID. Like so many other things, the Preschool certainly took a hit due to COVID, going from 4 different ages of classrooms down to 1 Pre-K class due to lack of teachers. However, this might have been the sweetest year yet. Such a Spirit of the Lord was present with these children and their families. And Graduation proved to be just as moving.

With the Preschool taking a more Nature-Based approach this year (spending more time outside), the children have enjoyed countless hours in and around the Mark McKechnie Prayer Garden. As only fitting, Mark's parents and several other church members who put much time and energy into building and maintaining the Prayer Garden were invited and recognized at the graduation. We want parents and children to be able to put names with faces of those that have created these spots their children so greatly enjoy and continue to bridge that relationship between church and school. In keeping with that theme, Mr. Tommy Stilwell assisted the children in building their Class Gift, the bird bath that you see in the picture below. As you can imagine, the children just love Mr. Tommy, and I believe the feeling is mutual. Thursday was a true celebration. Pray for the coming Preschool year; that God brings MORE teachers, classrooms OPEN and children and families are ministered to.

