



## **The Shady Grove Voice**

A quarterly newsletter of church happenings!

***11007 West Catharpin Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22551***

***Pastor: Rev. David E Craig, Retired***

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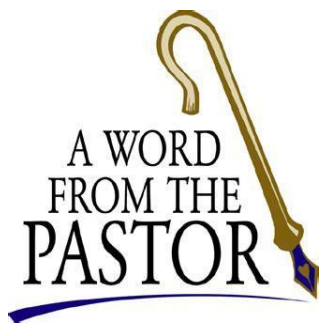
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*Shady Grove United Methodist Church is a prayerful fellowship that strives to witness the love of God in our community. With God's grace and providence, we offer outreach ministries to support our church family and the needs of our neighborhood.*

***Sunday Service: 11:00 am -12:00 pm***

***Fellowship Hour: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm***



**Welcome** to the first edition of The Shady Grove Voice. We are excited to have Judy Rodgers as our editor. Let me introduce myself, I am David E Craig, a retired United

Methodist Clergy. I served twenty-three and a half years in active ministry serving eight churches across four appointments. I retired with my bride of fifty-three years, the former Miss Janet Marie Loy, to Fredericksburg to be closer to our son and the grandchildren. As it happens, you can leave active ministry, but you can't really retire. God called me back into active ministry in July of 2023. Entering our thirty-third year in ministry Miss Janet and I are honored and pleased to be serving the people called Methodist here at Shady Grove United Methodist Church.

Our vision as a church is to be a prayerful fellowship that strives to witness the love of God in our community. With God's grace and providence, we offer outreach ministries to support our church family and the needs of our neighborhood. One of our outreach ministries is in partnership with Brock Road Elementary School through our communion offering to pay down the student lunch debt. We believe God is calling us to help support the community families by supporting their financial needs.

Our **reading ministry** will soon place a **Free Lending Library** near the roadside, where the community is invited to take a book, and if possible, to leave a book. We hope the library will offer families the opportunity to have books to read to their children, and books that children can read. We plan to have children's books, novels and Holy Bibles available.

During the season of Lent we will once again be having Wednesday Lenten Services. We will meet at different local United Methodist Churches at Noon for a 30-minute service, with a soup lunch afterwards provided by the host church of the day.

Pastor David E Craig



## ***Lenten Service Schedule***

**March 12 - Hillcrest UMC** - 2208 Lafayette Blvd.,  
Fredericksburg 22401

Rev. Jon Poarch (Eastland) preaching.

**March 19 - Zion UMC** - 8700 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania 22553

Rev. David Craig (Shady Grove) preaching.

**March 26 - Peace UMC** - 801 Maple Grove Drive, Fredericksburg  
22407

Rev. Justin Williams (Hillcrest) preaching.

**April 2 - Shady Grove UMC** -11007 West Catharpin Road,  
Spotsylvania 22551

Rev. Scott Hopkins (Peace) preaching.

**April 9 - Eastland UMC** -10718 Courthouse Road, Fredericksburg  
22407

Rev. Barb Jacobs (Zion) preaching.

I invite everyone to come and join us in ministry rejoicing in all that  
God has for us.



### *From the Choir Loft*

The tradition of song is deeply rooted in Methodism. In his *Directions for Singing* (John Wesley, 1761), Wesley lays out seven foundations for the way hymns should be sung in the Methodist Church. Of his seven tenets, I must confess that number three is my favorite: ***Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung [sic] the songs of Satan.***

Throughout my 65 years at Shady Grove UMC, joyful singing has always been an important part of the worship experience, and I cannot remember a time when the church choir was not an active and vibrant part of church life here at Shady Grove. If you've ever considered being in the choir, there's no better time than now to join in. Our requirements are simple: ***love the Lord and love to sing!*** **We currently meet at 10:30 a.m.** on most Sunday mornings in the practice room, and we'd love to have you join us!

Jeff Howard, Pianist

Mark your calendars for **6 p.m., March 15, 2025** for the **upcoming gospel sing** brought to you by the Shady Grove United Methodist Church Choir.

# GOSPEL SING

SHADY GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEATURING:  
*RONNIE WILLIAMS AND  
THE CARTER FAMILY SOUND AND  
LITTLE FALLS BLUEGRASS  
GOSPEL BAND*



**Saturday**

March 15, 2025

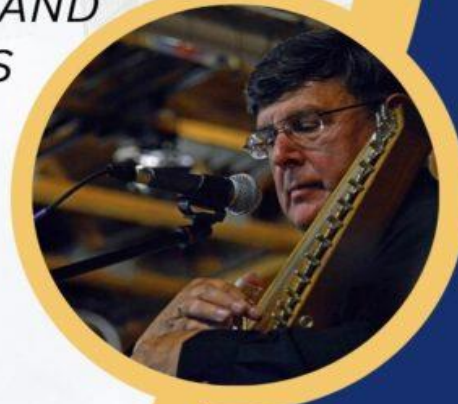


**Time**

6:00 PM



11007 West Catharpin Rd.  
Spotsylvania, VA 22551



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED  
AND A LOVE  
OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN.,



540-846-3209