



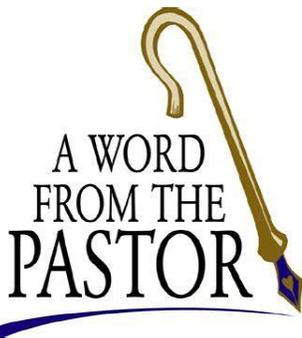
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Shady Grove United Methodist Church is a prayerful fellowship that strives to witness the love of God in our community. With God's grace and providence, we offer outreach ministries to support our church family and the needs of our neighborhood.



**Dear Beloved Church Family,**

As we enter this season of gratitude, our hearts are full of thanksgiving for the many ways God is at work in and through our congregation. We give thanks for the ministry we share—rooted in the love of Jesus Christ and bearing fruit in our community and beyond.

Through your generous hearts and faithful hands, our Food Blessing Box continues to offer nourishment and hope to neighbors in need. Whether it's a can of soup or a prayer whispered at the box, your gifts are making a difference. Likewise, our Free Lending Library is a beacon of learning and encouragement, offering stories that inspire and resources that uplift.

We are honored to support the Simply Angels Project, providing non-perishable food items to military personnel and their families. This outreach reminds us that our mission field stretches far and wide, and that love knows no boundaries.

We joyfully celebrate that we have paid our full conference apportionments for the year! This is a testament to your faithful giving and our shared commitment to the wider mission of the United Methodist Church.

Above all, we give thanks for each of you—faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ—who embody His love through service, prayer, and presence. Your witness is a light in the world, and your faithfulness is a blessing to all.

As we continue to walk this journey together, may we do so with hearts full of gratitude, hands ready to serve, and spirits open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. In the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, may His light shine brightly in your hearts, His peace dwells richly in your homes, and His love guide you in every step. May this holy season renew your spirit, strengthen your faith, and fill you with joy that overflows into the lives of others. From Janet and I, have a Very Merry Christmas and may the hope of Christ be your greatest gift.

***With love and blessings,  
Pastor David***

***“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”  
A Minute About the Finances***

At a December 7th Called Meeting of the Administrative Council, members approved the 2026 Annual Budget. We appreciate all the hands who labored to put this together but more importantly, we appreciate the faithful giving of our congregation. While we are small in number, we serve a big God who can take our tithes and offerings and multiply them in ways we could never imagine.

Our proposed budget for 2026 is \$56,268.00.

And just as we faithfully sing those words each Sunday, “Praise God from Whom all blessing flow...” we offer those words again with the assurance that God will continue to bless our church and its mission to bring the message and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ to our community and around the world.

Paul tells us in his second letter to the Corinthians: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (9:7) Let us continue to follow our hearts.



## ***From The Choir Loft***

Recently, Laura and I had the great fortune to see Amy Grant, Cece Winnins, and Michael Smith in concert at the Richmond Altria Theatre. It was a beautiful night of music and testimony. The auditorium was packed with people proudly professing their faith. It was a great way to start the holiday season.

Music is undoubtedly the universal language, and it has the ability to stir the human soul in a way that nothing else earthly seems to match. Amy Grant once said, “I just think music is such a beautiful thing. It lifts the heart and bouys up your spirits – all kinds of music . . . I need music like I need water.” I suspect most of us understand exactly what she means.

Music is a central part of our worship at Shady Grove, and if you would like to become more involved in this area of praise, the choir would welcome you with open arms. There are no audition requirements beyond loving the Lord and loving to sing. Additionally, we are always looking for new musicians to enhance our singing. If God has blessed you with a talent, please don’t be shy. Instead, give that talent to the Lord and watch Him multiply it! If you have a musical gift to share, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Rev. Craig or to me, Jeff Howard. We would love to hear from you.

***Happy Holidays!***  
**Jeff**

***Can’t you just hear those angels singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward mankind?”***

**“Scotch’s Page”**

*Scotch the Cat, was the late Alberta Pritchett’s well-loved favorite fellow and when she passed away he found a new home with Precious, another cat, and then later Coco, the dog. Scotch had never been around a dog so it was a learning experience. But it took about two months and a lot of prayers for everyone to start seeing eye-to-eye so with Coco’s tail wagging and their noses nudging they became close buddies. To be continued . . .*

*Editor’s Note: This is the First Volume, Edition Number 3 of The Shady Grove Voice, December 2025*