

Therefore, we were buried together with him through baptism into his death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too can walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4



REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM AND CELEBRATING NEW MINISTRY...

In baptism God declared Jesus a beloved son and sent him forward to begin new ministry, to bring new life. From there Jesus traveled from community to community sharing the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand, that God desires to be connected to us, that God desires for us to be connected to each other in love and covenant. Two thousand years later, we continue to receive this gift of God's grace. We believe that through baptism we are born anew in Christ and we join in God's unfolding story of redemption. Praise God for this beautiful gift given to us through water and the Spirit!

There is also much for which to praise God within the **North Stanly Missional Network**. For many months our missional network has been dreaming of **Crossroads Connection**, a ministry focused on connecting neighbors for a stronger and more compassionate community. We already have many partners, including Richfield UMC who has offered their building as a community center, the Uwharrie District who has funded programming and a part time coordinator, Jennifer Orr, for the past 6 months. Now we have a new partner in the **Duke Endowment!**

The Duke Endowment strengthens communities in North Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. They have awarded a \$200,000 grant to our missional network to help us follow God into a new ministry for our community! Disbursed over three years, these grant monies will help fund salary for a coordinator, breaking ground on renovations to the community center space at Richfield UMC, and for programming.

There are many ways that you can participate in the new ministry of Crossroads Connection.

- 1. Pray** Many are praying with the words of Psalm 145 on Thursdays at 1:45 p.m.
- 2. Give Financially** The current directional team has set a goal of \$10,000 that we plan to raise through local community members, businesses, and churches to help begin renovations on the future community center. Checks can be made payable to the Uwharrie District of the UMC with "Crossroads Connection" written in the memo line. Mail donations to: P.O. Box 1307 Albemarle, NC 28001
- 3. Host listening session with your neighbors.** Would you like to make a space to talk about the gifts and needs in our community? Contact Nikki Raye Rice at nrice@wnccumc.net for ways to help with listening sessions.
- 4. Follow the North Stanly Missional Network Facebook page for continued updates.**

Praise God for our baptisms, for the gift of new life, and the gift of new ministry! May we find and share Christ in our connections and with the help of God; may we build a stronger and more compassionate community together.

Grace and peace,
The Crossroads Directional Team

Rev. Sherri Barnes	Rev. Maeghan Habich	
Rev. Martha McDowell	Rev. Jennifer Orr	Rev. Nikki Raye Rice
Zena Risley	Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe	