

CONNECTION

September 1-15, 2019

1401 Washington Street | Columbia, SC 29201 | wsmethodist.org | 803-256-2417









Potluck Picnic...glorious weather, good times & togetherness!

Numbers With Neal

hope that each of you, your family, and friends are enjoying the summer! As promised in my last installment, I wanted to share with you, on a more frequent basis, the financial results for the Church. In this version of "Numbers with Neal" I am going to share with

you the financial results for the January to July period. However, before I get to the numbers, I want to say, in a very humble way, thanks to each of you that take the time to read through my installments in order to understand the Church's finances. Recently, and in person, I have been acknowledged as the "finance" or "numbers" guy by various members. I can tell you, sincerely, how very satisfying it is to hear about members sharing the experience of their reading through my portion of Connections. To all of you, I would like to extend a very deep "thank you," and I will

Variance

continue to strive to prepare "Numbers with Neal" in a way that hopefully you find informative, and maybe a little entertaining.

With that being said, the Church's financial results for the January to July time period are presented to the left below.

From the above-noted chart, the Financial Summary is broken down into two areas: Church activities, excluding those pertaining to the FACE ministries; and, FACE ministry activities alone. The following is a short summary of each area:

Church Activities:

From January to July, total contributions and other revenues were \$444,495 versus the budget amount, for the same period, of \$542,036, resulting in an unfavorable budget variance of \$97,541. However, Total Expenses for this period were \$509,582 versus a related budget amount of \$542,036, resulting in a favorable budget spending variance of \$32,454. Overall, the net amount of total contributions and other revenues and expenses resulted in a Church Net Deficit amount of \$65,086.

Looking at some key components of the Financial Summary, I would like to comment on the following:

Pledges:

For pledge commitments, actual pledges, relative to budgeted pledges, revealed a

Washington Street UMC <u>Financial Summary</u> January to July 2019—Year To Date

Church (excluding FACE activities):

Contributions:

	Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Pledges	\$293,175.71	\$306,616.38	(\$13,440.67)
Non-Pledges	\$122,147.37	\$204,503.81	(82,356.44)
Other Revenues	\$29,172.17	\$30,916.62	(1,744.45)
Total	\$444,495.25	\$542,036.81	(\$97,541.49)
Expenses:			
			Variance
	Actual	Budget	(Fav) Unfav
Operating Expenses	\$509,582.01	\$542,036.74	(\$32,454.73)
Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(\$65,086.76)		(\$65,086.76
FACE Activities:			
FACE - Total 2019 Budget Alloca	tion		
Faith Formation	\$14,000		
1			

\$14,000
12,000
4,000
\$30,000

	January - July 2019 <u>Actual</u>	January - July 2019 Budget	Variance (Fav) Unfav
Faith Formation	(\$431.71)	\$8,166.67	(\$8,598.38)
Community Life	\$6,018.73	\$7,000.00	(\$981.27)
Engaging God's World	\$347.00	\$2,333.33	(\$1,986.33)
Total	\$5,934.02	\$17,500.00	(\$11,565.98)

modest unfavorable variance of \$13,440. This result indicates that members are, for the most part, continuing to honor their annual pledge commitments for 2019.

Non-Pledges:

The area of Non-Pledges, as I described in my last installment, can be thought of as member, or other contributions, to the Church over and above any pledge commitments. I want to reiterate that the Non-Pledges category represents the level of non-pledge related contributions that are required to help the Church's total contributions match its total expenses. The Non-Pledges unfavorable amount of \$82,356 is quite sizable. Part of this magnitude can be attributed to the time of year, and other seasonal factors. However, it is also a reflection of the level of non-pledge contributions that are being received throughout the year. Historically, Church contributions tend to pick up as the calendar year progresses, and thus later this year, it would be expected that the Non-Pledge unfavorable variance will significantly decrease. However, I encourage all of you that did not commit to a pledge for 2019, to look for ways that you can give to the Church more often for the remaining part of the

year. This should allow you to spread your contributions over a longer period, thus avoiding any large financial contribution at the end of the year. Also, you can think of it as a frequent return to God for the financial gifts that each of you have been blessed with.

Expenses:

Finally, and has it done for some time now, the Church is managing its overall spending quite well relative to budget, as reflected in the favorable spending variance of \$32,454. This trend continues to display the prudence and fiscal responsibility of your Church leadership and its various Administrative committees and staff, as well as the generous donation of members' time, talent and resources in support of various church activities. Expense management continues to be a strength of this Church by ensuring that spending activities, and donations of time, talent, and resources, are planned for and engaged in a very responsible manner.

FACE Activities:

For January to July, the four (4) categories of FACE resulted in total spending of \$5,934 relative to a total budget of \$17,500. Thus, FACE related spending

was \$11,565 below or favorable to budget. In particular, the net spending for the Faith Formation area has been greatly supported by members' financial contributions that have served to offset the related expenses. As the Church works to move forward from a very important recent resolution, in the coming months, I would expect that FACE related spending will be increased, however in a manner that is both fiscally responsible and spiritually impactful.

I hope that the above-noted summary gives you a sense of how the Church has performed financially for the January to July time period. As you can see, and I have stated, the Church's finances would greatly benefit from more frequent financial contributions in the coming months. I would kindly ask that each of you look for creative ways that you can financially contribute more often to the Church for the remainder of this year. I look forward to sharing my next installment with each of you, and, on behalf of the Finance Committee, we wish you, and all of your loved ones, much happiness, safety and peace during the last days of Summer.

Sincerely,

Neal FosterFinance Committee Chair

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday -- A Huge Success!

ctive Faith Small Group planned a very successful celebration of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry (ASNM) Sunday on August 18. Residents from the Columbia and Orangeburg ASNM residences were special guests during worship and recognized by Elaine Mathis, Executive Director of this special ministry of the S.C. UMC Conference during the worship service. Active Faith also provided a meal for the residents, staff and other special guests following the service. \$2048 was collected in the special offering for ASNM along with a generous supply of paper products to use in the ministry's residences. "We



were overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and the hospitality extended to our residents and staff by the congregation at Washington Street," said Mathis.

Gifts

In Memory of Denise Middleton

to Washington Street Foundation
David & Robin Anderson
The Dawsey Sunday School Class

to WSUMC

Rufus & Kathy Rogers Janelle Rivers Sarah's Sisters Alton & Mary Sue Vicars & Family Barbara Middleton

In Memory of Ray Marsh to WSUMC

Don & Trisha Britt Jim Lane Sally Mings John H. Pearson

to Music Ministries
Chip Williams
to Archives

John Radford

In Honor of Angela Powers Music Ministries Scott & Evelyn Middleton

In Honor of Margaret Brabham Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sally Mings

In Honor of Andy Childs

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry
Scott & Evelyn Middleton
Tommy & Mary Ann Betenbaugh
Rufus & Kathy Rogers
A Friend

In Honor of Our Children

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry
Jim & Caroline Seigler

IN HONOR OF THE BILL CHILDS FAMILY

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Linda Bowers

In Honor of Sam Waldrep

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry
Rick & Deborah Rowe

In Honor of Travis Luthren Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Lynn Shirley

In Honor of Beth Williams
Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry
Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF HOMER FESPERMAN

On His & Linda's 64th Anniversary

Ministers Discretionary Fund

Linda & Lin Fesperman

Charles Pfeiffer Circle Circle #5

will meet
Tuesday, September 3
7:00 pm
at the home of Mary Lide.

This meeting will be a time of fellowship and planning our study for the upcoming meetings.



Save the Date!

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 5 | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Topgolf Swing Suite Patio 1624 Main St.





Confirmation Class for 6th and 7th graders

Confirmation class for our 6th & 7th graders kicks off on **Sunday, September 8** at 5:00 pm. Parents and youth are both invited to join us from 5:00-5:30 pm for a brief meeting. Kids will then move to their classroom from 5:30-6:30 pm for class. *Questions about 2019-2020 Confirmation classes? Ask Rev. Taylor or Rev. Patricia!*

Youth Fall Kick-Off for 7th-12th Graders!

The Youth Fall Kick-Off at Adrenaline Entertainment Center is set for Sunday, Sept. 15 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Meet us at Adrenaline, located at 7451 Garners Ferry Rd. for some trampoline park fun! Visit the WSUMC website at www.wsmethodist.org or our Facebook page and follow the links to register and pay on-line. You must also complete the waiver on the Adrenaline website to participate. The cost for the 2-hour session is \$21 per person.

College Student Addresses Wanted!

The **2'a and 3's** Sunday school class will be sending Halloween surprises to all Washington Street UMC college students. Parents and grandparents we need your help. Please send your students snail mail address to the church office or Mary Lide, neaudl@aol.com.

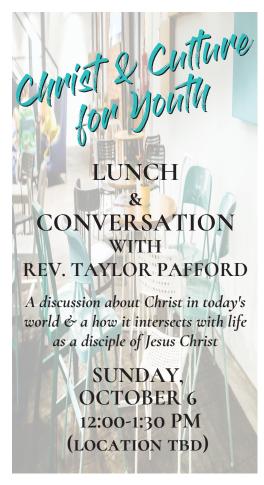
Mary's Maidens-Girls in Grades 1st through 6th

Our first meeting for this school year will be Sunday, Sept. 8 at 3:00-4:30 pm in the Disciple Conference Room. All girls in 1st-6th grades are encourage to join us. This month we will be making decorations for the Sunday Dinner on September 22. We will also be baking dog biscuits in the kitchen for the Blessing of the Animals, which will be held on Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 12:00 pm at Topgolf Swing Suite on the patio. Mary Lide and Kathy Wright are the leaders of this United Methodist Circle.

ACOLYTE TRAINING



Acolytes bring the light of Christ's spirit into the worship service. Children who are rising 4th through 8th grades are eligible to serve as acolytes. Training for prospective acolytes will be held in the coming weeks. Please contact Susan Brown at 803-422-9394 or by email at sbrown13@sc.rr.com
if your child would like to serve.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

September 22 Sunday Dinner 3PM-6PM

Youth (7th-12 graders) are invited & encouraged to serve alongside our WSUMC community at the Sunday Dinner. Please register on-line at wsmethodist.org/sundaydinner (note that there will not be a separate registration for youth).

October 20

Fall Festival Volunteering

Be a part of all of the fun! Help with games and so much more!

December 15

Christmas Nativity Volunteering

9AM-12:30PM

Save the morning to assist as directors, stage managers, costumers, and more for the annual Children's nativity!

Getting to Know Louis Shirer

By Fran Zupan

hen Louis
Shirer was 4
years old, he
watched his
mother giving piano lessons
through their French doors.
When a piano lesson was over,
he would go to the piano and
play the pieces his mother had
been teaching.

His mother, who did not want him to play by ear, signed him up for lessons with the other piano teacher in Elloree, South Carolina.

"I could read music before I could read words," said Louis, the organist at Washington Street.

Louis started playing the organ at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elloree at age 10. His aunt was the organist there, and every football season, her family went to see her son play for the University of Georgia.

"I sort of took over for her," Louis said. His mother soon found him an organ teacher.

Was he a child prodigy?
"No," Louis said slowly.
"That word is overused.
I wouldn't say that, but probably."

When Louis was 11, he accompanied a children's Christmas cantata at Orangeburg Baptist Church where his organ instructor was minister of music. The cantata was promoted in The Times and Democrat, Orangeburg's daily newspaper. It featured a photo of Louis at the organ with the caption "Talented Young Man."

In the fifth grade, Louis played for a beauty pageant, when the regular accompanist had a death in the family. In the sixth grade, he played for assemblies at Elloree Elementary after the pianist broke an arm.

"It was sort of fun, but I got tired of the notoriety," Louis said.

When he went to a new school in the seventh grade, Louis didn't tell anyone that he could play the piano. But one day, in the eighth grade, there was an accompanist "emergency," and one of his friends said, " 'Well, Louis can do that,' and I got sucked into it again."

Louis got his first paid organist job at Saint Paul United Methodist Church in Saint Matthews. Because he was only 15, his mother had to drive him to choir practice for three months until he was 16 and could drive at night. He worked there for three years.

Louis went to Winthrop College where he graduated in 1980 with a degree in organ performance.

Organ music has three clefs, one for the treble and two bass clefs, the second one for pedals to be played with the feet. Louis learned to see and play all three clefs when he was young, "so it was just like riding a bicycle.

"I didn't know any of this was supposed to be hard," Louis said. "Everybody was freaking out. Why?"

Louis earned his master's

degree in 1983 from the Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He was chosen to play the organ for the commencement ceremony in the Princeton University Chapel. It featured the Philadelphia Brass and was almost like a church service.

After graduation, Louis went to New York, where he lived and worked on Long Island. He was the organist for a Lutheran church and played for 5 p.m. mass for a Catholic church on Saturday and Sunday. He also played for Catholic funerals. He taught music appreciation and staff accompaniment at Adelphi College and had a large piano studio where he taught private lessons.

Every month, he would take the best student for that month to Manhattan for dinner and a Metropolitan Opera performance.

In 1989, Louis left New York and moved to Columbia to take care of his maternal grandmother Louise Lasley. He is her namesake – Louis Lasley Shirer. Louis said he spent much of the first six months of his life with his grandmother because his mother had two other children 3 and younger.

Among the places Louis has played the organ in Columbia are Christ the King Lutheran Church, Trinity Cathedral and Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He came to Washington Street in the summer of 2011.



Louis will play the harpsichord for the third time at the Sing-Along Messiah, held at Washington Street every Christmas.

When he is playing the organ, Louis gets up at 5:30 a.m.

"Sunday afternoon, by 1 o'clock, I'm in bed for a long nap," he said. He doesn't have a favorite composer – "I get on kicks and then I move on," he said. "Right now, it's probably Bach." Louis said that he doesn't listen to music in the car.

"Most of the time when I'm in the car, I'm thinking," he said. At his home in West Columbia, he can listen to the TV in the background, but if the music is on, he gets drawn in. He has a "wall of CDs," mostly classical, some LPs and even some 78s. His parents bought the 78s, by Vladimir Horowitz and Arthur Rubinstein, made during the 1920s and 1930s. Louis bought a sound system to play them, but it is still in the box.

continued

Louis is coordinator of music at Midlands Technical College, where he supervises instructors of music appreciation. He also teaches music A and music theory. All the classes are online.

Louis likes to travel and has gone to Europe every year for the past four years, He went to Paris three times and to Italy once. This year, he and his friend Greg Boatwright, music director at Virginia Wingard United Methodist Church, will be based in Berlin and travel to Weimar and Leipzig to focus on the lives and music of Bach and Mendelssohn. They will travel the week before Thanksgiving and return on Thanksgiving Day. Boatwright is planning the itinerary.

"All I have to do is pack and go," Louis said.



Auditions soprano | alto tenor | bass

Singers should prepare a recitative and aria from the Christmas portion of the work. An accompanist will be provided. Please contact Louis Shirer at louis@wsmethodist.org or 803-256-2417 to set up an audition time and to answer any questions. Dr. Lillian Quackenbush will conduct the soloists, orchestra, and choirs from area churches and performing ensembles to lead the audience in this annual holiday event!

Dress rehearsal: Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 6:00 pm | Performance: Monday, Dec. 16 @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019 • 2:00 pm • Sanctuary



Our Leadership

The Reverend Patricia Parrish, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Alston Lippert,
Associate Minister for Nurture and
Discipleship Development

The Reverend Taylor Pafford, Associate Minister for Children and Family Ministries

Louis Shirer, Interim Music Director

Dr. Richard Frierson, Pianist

Robbie Douglas, Church Business Administrator

Abbie McKenzie, Church Secretary/ Administrative Assistant

Jerry Sumpter, Property/Maintenance Supervisor

Felicia Yockel, Director of Child Development Center

Jane Peterson, Communications
Specialist

Terrence Chisholm, Soup Cellar Manager

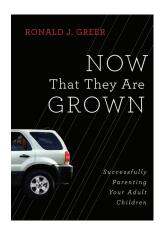
Small Groups Fall 2019



Belong is a 6-week small group held weekdays on Tuesdays from 11:00 am–12:30 pm in the Holroyd Prayer Room beginning September 17. The group will be led by Jenais Means.

Registration ends September 13.

This small group is modeled on the traditional practice of the Wesleyan class meeting and the ancient practice of group spiritual direction. Participants will journey toward wholeness through holy relationships with God and others. The group leader will offer a structure to guide the time together.



NOW That They are GROWN: Successfully Parenting your Adult Children is 4-week study to be held on Sundays, from 1:30–3:00 pm (we could meet later in the day if that is better) in the Wesley Room. The study begins October 6, and will be led by Alston Lippert. Registration ends September 25.

How do we parent our adult children—high school graduate and up—and have a healthy relationship with them? When are we too much

a part of their lives—or too little? We will read and discuss this book by Ronald Greer and share what we have found that works and doesn't work as we seek to parent our adult children.

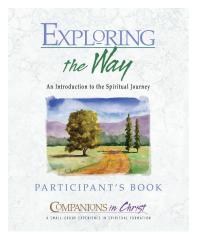


Wednesday Morning Prayer Group is an ongoing prayer group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:45 am in the Holroyd Prayer room. The group is led by Beth Matthews. Do you want to be a part of

a team that cares for and prays for others? Then join this group of fellow prayer warriors. Contact Beth at mtthws@msn.com to sign up.

Companions in Christ: Exploring the Way is a 6-week small group to be held on Sundays from 4:00–5:30 pm at the home of Melanie Dobson beginning October 6. It will be led by Melanie Dobson. Registration ends September 28.

Come explore and practice ancient forms of Christian spirituality. This class encourages participants



to grow in their life with God in a small-group community with others and includes a participant guide for a gentle, daily contemplative practice. It serves as an introduction to the longer Companions in Christ. To register or if you need childcare, please contact Melanie at melanie.dobson@lr.edu.

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group is an ongoing small group that meets on Tuesdays at 8:00 am in the Wesley Room. The group is led by Mary Lide.

Would you like to strengthen your prayer



life and participate in this spiritual discipline with others who are interested in becoming better pray-ers? Then this is the group for you. Contact Mary at neaudl@aol.com to sign up.

To register, or for more information on any of these groups, contact Alston Lippert at aflippert@umcsc.org.



Prayer Walk

The Faith Formation Team has developed a self-guided prayer walk designed to allow groups or individuals to give thanks and pray for our staff, laity, ministries and worship. We encourage individuals, Sunday School classes, circles, and other groups to take a walk, stop at each sign, meditate on the scriptures, and pray for our church. Guides are located under the monitor outside Christ Chapel and in the Church office.



SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

The Bishop's Golf Tournament for Africa University



REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2019. SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE!



THE DAWSEY CLASS: Sunday, September 1: Rick Hepfer will lead a discussion of Chapter 9, "Born Again," in *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. On September 8, Carol Krebs will teach Chapter 10 "Divine Diversity."

THE PAUL HARMON CLASS: The Paul Harmon Class is a bible study group that has been blessed to have retired Methodist minister Don Britt teaching lessons on the minor prophets. He will continue

the study Sept. 8-Oct. 20, then will teach Advent lessons based on the prophet Isaiah during the month of December. Visitors are welcome to join the class to hear this marvelous teacher!

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS will be finishing up its study on *Old Testament Stories from the Backside* over the next three weeks. This Sunday, September 1, we will be looking at Job's wife with a little sympathy, and the following Sunday, we will talk about Jonah and the Christmas story. Curious? Join us!

ALDERSGATE CLASS Hal Hanlin has graciously agreed to lead the lesson for Sunday, Sept. 1. We will continue for the month of September completing Adam Hamilton's book. In October we will start a 5-part series from Adam Hamilton, Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White. This series comes with a DVD where we will listen to Adam Hamilton to begin each weeks studies.









Coming Up at Washington Street

Sund	lav.	Sep	t. 1
	- ((P	

9:00 am Service with Communion Christ Chapel
11:00 am Service Sanctuary

Monday, Sept. 2 – Labor Day

CDC/Church Office/Soup Cellar CLOSED

Tuesday, Sept. 3

8:00 am	Prayer Group	Wesley Room
10:00 am	Circle 6	John Harper Classroom
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
4:00 pm	FCGV	Wesley Room
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room
7:00 pm	Charles Pfeiffer Circle,	Home of Mary Lide
	Circle 5	

Wednesday, Sept. 4

10:45 am	Prayer Group	Holroyd Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar

Thursday, Sept. 5

9:30 am	CDC Devotions	Chapel
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:00 pm	Staff Parish Relations	John Harper Classroom
	Committee Meeting	

Friday, Sept. 6

1 20 mm Caller	10:00 am	CDC Grandparent's Day	CDC	
1:30 pm NA Meeting Soup Cellar	1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar	

Saturday, Sept. 7

3:00 p	m Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room

Sunday, Sept. 8

Epworth's Annual Work Day Offering Sunday			
9:00 am	Service	Christ Chapel	
11:00 am	Service	Sanctuary	
3:00 pm	Mary's Maidens	Disciple Conference	
		Room/Kitchen	
5:00 pm	Kendrick Williams	Christ Chapel	
	Concert		
5:00 pm	Confirmation Class	Youth Room	
	Kickoff (6-7th grade)		

Monday, Sept. 9

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Finance Committee	John Harper Classroom
	Meeting	

Tuesday, Sept. 10

10:30 am	Circle 3	Wesley Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
2:00 pm	Reconciling Ministries	Wesley Room
5:30 pm	AVP	Wesley Room
5:30 pm	Circle 9	Holroyd Prayer Room
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room

Wednesday, Sept. 11

10:45 am	Prayer Group	Holroyd Room
10:45 am	Prayer Team Meeting	Wesley Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Trustees Meeting	John Harper Classroom
6:30 pm	Choir Practice	Choir Room

Thursday, Sept. 12

9:30 am	CDC Devotions	Christ Chapel
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Circle 2	Wesley Room
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room

Friday, Sept. 13

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar

Saturday, Sept. 14

3:00 pm	Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room
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Sunday, Sept. 15

9:00 am	Service	Christ Chapel
10:00 am	Choir Practice	Choir Room
11:00 am	Service	Sanctuary
2:00 pm	Sing-Along Messiah	Sanctuary
	Auditions (page 7)	
2:00 pm	Youth Fall Kick-Off	Off Campus
	Adrenaline Entertainmen	t Center (pages 5 & 10)