



THE CONNECTION

September 15-29, 2019

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

"When we dream alone it is only a dream, but when many dream together it is the beginning of a new reality."

— Friedensreich Hundertwasser

Dream Together

Dream Together ...

If you could dream the future of Washington Street, what would it look like? This is not a rhetorical question. What would the church that you dream look like? I keep coming back to "An Acts 2 Church": A church that is filled with the Spirit; a church that is devoted to God; to one another and to the mission of God; a church that is filled with wonder and awe; a church that gathers around the Table with glad and sincere hearts to praise God.

Our Stewardship Theme is *Dream Together*, because:

"When we dream alone it is only a dream, but when many dream together it is the beginning of a new reality." –

Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

Together, as a congregation that has been uniquely shaped and formed by God, let us dream together about the future of this great congregation. Some of the words that I have already heard are "embracing", "comfortable", "wisdom" – "like Hobbiton or Rivendell (*The Lord of the Rings*). Rivendell is called the "last homely hearth."

If you could dream the future of Washington Street, what would it look like? Email, call me, or place your words/ideas in the offering plate.

Patricia

Sunday School

Updates

THE DAWSEY CLASS: Sunday, September 15 the Rev. Tom Summers will lead a discussion of Chapter 11, “The God You Didn’t Make Up,” in *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others* by Barbara Brown Taylor. On September 22, Grant Jackson will teach Chapter 12, “The Final Exam.”

THE JOY CLASS will be wrapping up the Adam Hamilton series, *Christianity and World Religions*, with Islam on September 15, and a conclusion with comparison of all to Christianity on September 22.

THE GRACE CLASS: This Sunday, September 15, Deborah Rowe will lead a lesson on Ruth. September 22, which will be the 17th anniversary of the first meeting of the Grace Class, Jim Lane will look at the class's history. On the 29th, Jenais will lead the class.

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. 15-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: This Sunday, September 15, The Open Door Class will complete it's study of *Old Testament Stories from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. We will look at the story of Ruth and Naomi, and discuss how God, the master artist, creates beautiful art out of messy canvases. On September 22, we will begin a new study, *Truth Plus Love* by Matt Brown. In this study, we will look at our Christian

influence – extending God's grace – in a world of increasing tension, cultural divisions and trending controversies. This book will provide biblical insight, cultural analysis, and practical principles for engaging our world as ambassadors of Christ and reflecting God's heart to a watching world.

YASS—YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us for a discussion of *Jesus >Religion* and see how truly following Jesus is different than the way organized religion portrays it. To see more of his ideas covered in this book, watch Bethke's video at on YouTube at: www.youtube.be/IIAhDGYlpqY.

ALDERSGATE CLASS: 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.

Everyone is invited to attend!

DAYTRIPPERS



OCTOBER 14 | GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH | 10:45 AM 
DOWNTOWN | SIGN UP BY OCT. 3

NOVEMBER 11 | WHITEWATER FALLS & THE JUNCTION
9:00 AM 
GOWANSVILLE, SC | SIGN UP BY NOV. 7

DECEMBER 9: CHRISTMAS LUNCH | 12:00 PM
WASHINGTON STREET UMC | SIGN UP BY DEC. 5

Questions?

Contact Rev. Lippert at
aflippert@umcsc.org



 Indicates arrival time at WSUMC to carpool!

**DUE TO THE
STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON
BEING HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 29,
SUNDAY SWEETS
WILL BE RESCHEDULED
FOR A LATER DATE.**

Christ & Culture for Youth

LUNCH & CONVERSATION WITH

REV. TAYLOR PAFFORD

A discussion about Christ in today's world & a how it intersects with life as a disciple of Jesus Christ

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 6
12:00-1:30 PM
(LOCATION TBD)



Save the Date for Youth Fall "Staycation" Retreat: Nov. 1-3

Youth are invited to join us for a fall "staycation" retreat. In keeping with our "Stranger Things" theme, our fall retreat theme will be "The Walking Dead: Tales of Resurrection in the Bible." We will have a guest speaker, Rev. Carolyn Poling, who previously served as Director of Ministries with Young People at Lake Junaluska, to lead us in our discipleship time. We will also be having some fun and fellowship with games, movies, and more! Our programming will be in the evening on Friday, all day on Saturday, and on Sunday morning. Please note that youth will be picked up to go home each night, as we have done with Revolution in previous years.

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, sell tote bags for our Fall Retreat fundraiser, and so much more!

December 15 | Christmas Nativity

9AM-12:30PM

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

Getting to Know Jenias Means

By Fran Zupan

When Jenias Means was looking for a church, she made a list of what she wanted.

An early service so she could seize the rest of her day. A traditional, predictable order of worship. A church willing to think about and discuss how to include everybody.

She planned to visit a different church every Sunday, and said, “I was concerned I was going to be visiting churches for years.”

Washington Street was the second church Jenias visited. She checked off the first two things on her list, and she saw hints of progressiveness. It seemed as though no one thought it odd that she was an African American attending a predominantly white church, and she was invited to attend two Sunday school classes.

The next Sunday she visited the Open Door Class and the following Sunday the Grace Class. She was drawn to the Grace Class because of its controversial discussion topics.

“This is definitely progressive,” she said. “There are people here who are willing to tackle the tough stuff.”

Since that first visit in February 2018, Jenias has become involved in several areas at Washington Street.

She loves being a table companion at our Sunday Dinners for the homeless and working poor.

“I loved the concept of

having dinner for our guests – doing things with people rather than for people,” Jenias said. “I believe that Jesus came to alleviate the burdens of and serve the poor and oppressed. The Sunday Dinners really feel like that.”

Jenias said she was humbled when Alston asked her to be a circle leader during the four sessions held to discern if Washington Street should become a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network, a nonprofit organization that promotes the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life of the church.

And beginning Tuesday, Jenias will lead a small group – *Belong* – that aims to provide participants with group spiritual direction.

Jenias grew up in Columbia and went to African Methodist Episcopal churches with her mother and to First Nazareth Baptist Church with her father. She graduated from Richland Northeast High School in 2003 and from Xavier University in New Orleans in 2007, where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry.

Growing up, Jenias always knew that she would help people heal and save lives. Her parents interpreted that as a career in medicine and Jenias started preparing to be a trauma surgeon. She did not think more deeply or pray about it. She selected Xavier because it was the number-

one college in placing African Americans in medical school.

But after taking the Medical College Admissions Test and not gaining entrance into the medical schools she applied for, Jenias thought medicine was not in her path.

Looking back on her life since college, Jenias realizes she has been going through a discernment process.

“It really was a God-led thing, not a Jenias thing,” she said. “God was giving me clear directions, and once I let go of all the ‘I want this’ and ‘I need that’ and yielded to ‘whatever is your will for me Lord,’ the path became clear, the instructions became clear and the opportunities made themselves known to me.”

Jenias resisted God’s calling to the ministry for years.

“I thought, ‘What? I’m not a minister. I’m not a preacher,’” Jenias said. But she kept reading her Bible and praying, and she practiced a kind of fast, which involved abstaining “from all processed, ready-made foods, all dining-out foods.”

When her grandfather was dying, he put her in charge of their family, and when they shook on that agreement, she heard her call to the ministry in a way she couldn’t ignore.

“I began to understand that God had a plan for me that was greater than anything I could imagine,” she said.

In May of 2013, she stood before the congregation of Bethel AME Church and accepted her calling to the



ministry. For the first time on this spiritual journey, she felt calm.

In the meantime, Jenias had been using the subjects of her undergraduate major to teach the science labs at Midlands Technical College. Although God gave her some next steps, she continued teaching these classes until 2018.

Soon after she publicly accepted her calling, God gave Jenias her next set of instructions: go back to school. Over the years, Jenias has learned not to avoid the call of the Spirit, but to respond as soon as it is clear.

She was directed into the master’s in clinical mental health counseling program at Lenoir Rhyne University, Columbia campus, and today she has her own counseling practice where clients range in age from 4 to 78. Jenias also is working on a spiritual direction certification at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and planning to apply to Ph.D. programs related to

continued

counseling education or counseling supervision.

God instructed Jenais to resign from her job at MTC, which made her eligible for a grant position weeks later at the Department of Mental Health, supervising crisis counselors who went

door-to-door in eight counties hit by Hurricane Florence.

Jenais enjoys hanging out with her four nieces and two nephews. Recently, she took her nieces shopping, and because she told them her radio was broken, they sang all the way from

Blythewood to Harbison.

Jenais also likes to go out with friends; they call it GOLF – Girls Out Living Freely.

It usually involves wine, she said, and takes place at a restaurant in the Vista or on Main Street.

Gifts

IN HONOR OF RMN VOTE
Grace Sunday School Class
Shannon Herin

IN MEMORY OF RAY MARSH
WSUMC
Nancy Whittle

IN MEMORY OF
PEGGY SPIGNER LANCASTER
Soup Cellar
Linda Bowers

IN MEMORY OF
DENISE SAYLOR MIDDLETON
Soup Cellar
**Mr. John Griggs & the
Associates of Synovus
Peggy H. Weston**

IN MEMORY OF
MARTHA ROGERS ARNETTE
The Foundation
Peggy H. Weston
Soup Cellar
Kay R. Jordan

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS FEW
Soup Cellar
Kay R. Jordan

IN MEMORY OF CAROLINE HUSSEY
Soup Cellar
Kay R. Jordan

IN MEMORY OF JERRY ARD
Soup Cellar
Kay R. Jordan

IN MEMORY OF
ERNEST CARL ROBERTS
Soup Cellar
Kay R. Jordan



Blessing of the Animals

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

Topgolf Swing Suite Patio | 1624 Main St.
All animals must be on leashes or in carriers.

ENGRAVED BRICKS

The Christ Chapel Courtyard Committee invites you to honor a graduate, friend, relative, or birth of baby by purchasing an engraved brick. \$85 each.

Forms are available in the church office.
All orders must be received by November 1.

Please call Janet Cotter at 803-782-0752 for more information



Come one, come all!

FALL FESTIVAL OCT. 20 | 4-6 PM

Join us for this church-wide event as we celebrate the gift of Fall with fun, food, and fellowship. Fun for the whole church family: chili cook-off, talent stage, touch a fire truck, bouncy house, giant slide, youth fundraiser sales and more! Announcements coming soon on how to sign up for the chili cook-off and share your gifts at the talent stage!

A gift of fellowship & food with our community



WASHINGTON STREET UMC

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
SIGN UP ONLINE TODAY!**

Sunday Dinner

Sunday, Sept. 22 | 4:00-6:00 pm

Threatt Hall

Washington Street UMC

1401 Washington St.

Find out more at www.wsmethodist.org | Volunteers and donations needed!

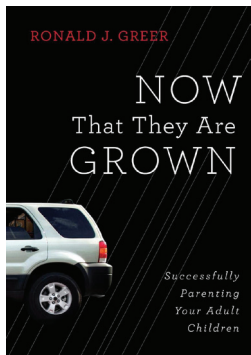
Small Groups Fall 2019



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.

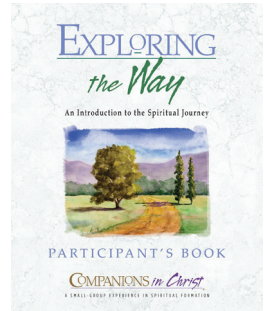


Wednesday Morning Prayer Group is an ongoing prayer group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:45 am in the Holroyd Prayer room. The group is led by Beth Matthews.

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.

Our Leadership

Rev. Patricia Parrish, Senior Pastor
Rev. Alston Lippert, Associate Minister for Nurture and Discipleship Development
Rev. 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

Call for Advent Devotionals

The Faith Formation Team is working towards publishing another booklet of devotionals for the Advent season, written by Washington Street members. Part of our call to discipleship is “telling our faith story.”

If you would like to share a personal testimony or story of how God has worked in your life, we would love to hear from you! You are welcome to

include a bible verse or passage, but it is not required. Please try not to exceed 4-5 paragraphs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Alston Lippert at aflippert@umcsc.org. Please send all devotionals to Jane Peterson at jane@wsmethodist.org no later than October 24.

Coming Up at Washington Street

Sunday, September 15

10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
2:00 pm	Sing Along Messiah Auditions	Sanctuary
2:00 pm	Youth Fall Kick-Off	Adrenaline Entertainment Center

Monday, September 16

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
6:00 pm	Church Council	Wesley Room

Tuesday, September 17

8:00 am	CDC Picture Day	Threatt Hall
8:00 am	Prayer Group	Wesley Room
11:00 am	Belong (Small Group)	Holroyd Prayer Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	She Sings	Choir Room
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
5:30 pm	Nominations & Leadership Development	John Harper Classroom
6:00 pm	POMC	Grace Class
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room

Wednesday, September 18

10:45 am	Prayer Group	Holroyd Prayer Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Family Paint & Dine Night	Threatt Hall
6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Thursday, September 19

9:30 am	CDC Devotions	Chapel
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
4:00 pm	Killingsworth Board Meeting	John Harper Classroom
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room

Friday, September 20

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
---------	------------	-------------

Saturday, September 21

12:00 pm	Sunday Dinner Set-up	Threatt Hall, Kitchen and Chapel
3:00 pm	Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room

Sunday, September 22

10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
4:00 pm	Sunday Dinner	Threatt Hall, Kitchen, & Chapel

Monday, September 23

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
---------	------------	-------------

Tuesday, September 24

8:00 am	Prayer Group	Wesley Room
11:00 am	(Belong - Small Group)	Holroyd Prayer Room
1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
5:30 pm	Openings Meeting & Dinner	Threatt Hall
5:30 pm	Firm It Up	Youth Room
6:30 pm	DACS	Conference Room

Wednesday, September 25

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	Finance Committee Meeting	John Harper Classroom
6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Thursday, September 26

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

Friday, September 27

1:30 pm	NA Meeting	Soup Cellar
---------	------------	-------------

Saturday, September 28

3:00 pm	Organ Practice	Sanctuary/Choir Room
---------	----------------	----------------------

Sunday, September 29

10:00 am	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
12:00 pm	Stewardship Luncheon	Threatt Hall

Faith Coalition on Gun Violence

presents

Sounds of Peace

A part of Concert Across America

Sunday, Sept. 29 | 4 pm | FREE

Bethlehem Baptist Church

Family Life Center

1037 Eastman St., Columbia