



THE CONNECTION

April 29, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

Monday - Friday ■ 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM ■ 803-256-2417



WSUMC CELEBRATES



Sunday, May 20th

12:00 PM - Threatt Hall

Immediately following the 11 o'clock Worship Service

We invite you to join us on Sunday, May 20th for a CHURCH-WIDE Covered Dish Luncheon as we celebrate the beginning of Pentecost and the life of Washington Street UMC with our newly confirmed 6th grade class.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS, READ ABOUT THEIR RECENT CONFIRMATION RETREAT TO LAKE JUNALUSKA ON PAGE 2.



The Evangelism Team is coordinating this event to bring the entire church together as we witness our youth profess their faith in God and the United Methodist Church.

The Evangelism Team will be providing drinks, a birthday cake for dessert, and the main dish for lunch. *If you are able and willing to bring a side-dish to share, it would be greatly appreciated! All dishes can be dropped off in the kitchen beginning at 8:45 AM on Sunday, May 20th.*

Questions? Contact Lee Haynes, lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com

PICTURED TO THE LEFT: CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2017
WYATT ROWE, ANSLEY JANSEN, AVA JACKSON, AND ALLY CANNON

Confirmation Retreat

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2*

Pictured Top Row (left to right): Rev. Taylor, Meredith Miramonti, Emmi Lee, Spencer Stevens, Kirby Leitner, Nancy Miramonti, Tommy Betenbaugh, Rev. Parrish. Pictured Bottom Row (left to right): Sam Schatz, Roxie Floyd, Vivian Akre, Mary Catherine McNair, Natalie Hefelfinger, Mary Elizabeth Brooks.

Washington Street UMC is blessed to have a wonderful group of 11 kids participating in Confirmation classes this year! The group began meeting in early March for classes to help them better understand what it means to be a member of the church. We have learned about Baptism, Holy Communion, the nature and mission of the Church, and the history and theology of the Methodist Church.

On April 20th -22nd, ten of our confirmands and four adult chaperones journeyed to Lake Junaluska for the Confirmation Retreat. It was a beautiful weekend to enjoy God's creation in the amazing Blue Ridge Mountains. We were able to lift our eyes to the hills and be reminded of God's loving presence.



One of our Confirmands, Sam Schatz, said he enjoyed the retreat because "we were able to go more in depth and detail about some of the topics that we have been studying so far—like sin and death -- and that helped me to learn about some of these things more clearly."

In worship and workshops, we learned how to support the church and each other through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We learned new ways to pray. We were reminded of how important it is to be fully present with one another. We took time to discern our spiritual gifts and how to use them in the church. We discovered that in our service, there is witness; and in our witness, there is service. We also enjoyed creating our own stoles to remind us of our ministry and calling.

We also had amazing opportunities to grow together as a Confirmation group. We played some "get to know you" games and learned just how unique we all are. We walked up to the cross which overlooks Lake Junaluska and enjoyed the beauty of creation from there. We enjoyed fellowship in team building activities, hanging around the cabin, and travelling in the car together.

But here is my favorite story from the whole weekend:

While we were enjoying some free time, the kids were playing tag around our cabin property and one of our confirmands fell and hurt her leg. Every single one of the other kids stopped what they were doing and ran down to help her. Two kids helped her get up, one kid grabbed a walking stick to help her back up the hill, two kids ran back to the cabin to grab her some ice, a few kids helped by telling her how to prop her knee up to stop the pain, and a few kids cheered her on as she made her way back up the hill.

That is what it means to support one another with prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

That is what it means to be a part of the body of Christ.

That is what it means to be part of the family of God.

That is what it means to be the Church.

And for that, I am grateful.

- Rev. Taylor Pafford



Supporting our Confirmands

Beginning on May 6th, The Open Door Class will have specially labeled bins for each confirmand in the hallway leading to the Sanctuary to allow our congregation the opportunity to encourage their faith and recognize their journeys with cards, notes and small tokens. Please help us make these bins special for these wonderful young people.

Opportunities to Serve

Congregational Care Team



Do you have a heart for others? Would you like to participate in the care of members of our congregation? The newly formed Congregational Care team is looking for people who are willing to send cards, make phone calls, or go visit members of our congregation. You can choose which of these forms of care is best for you. If you are interested, please contact Beth Matthews. (mtthws@msn.com or 803-260-6214)

Help the Missions Committee to provide summer reading for the students of Alcorn Middle School by purchasing any of the following titles and dropping them off in the designated bin located in the Missions Garden by May 25th. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and will go towards the purchase of new books.



Alcorn Middle School READING WISH LIST

You can donate **ONLINE** through online giving and text giving by simply selecting the "ALCORN" fund. Text the word "Engage" to 73256 or visit www.wsmethodist.org/giving/ to give now!

WISH LIST: Individual books or sets of the books from the *Bluford High Series* | *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It*, by Sundee Tucker Frazier | *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*, by Rita Williams-Garcia | *Ghost*, by Jason Reynolds | *Kinda Like Brothers*, by Coe Booth | *Patina*, by Jason Reynolds | *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*, by Brenda Woods | *The Journey of Little Charlie*, by Christopher Paul Curtis | *Zane and the Hurricane: a Story of Katrina*, by W.R. Philbrick | *The First Rule of Punk*, by Celia C. Pérez | *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*, by Pablo Cartaya



CHRISTMAS in July

After collaboration with Sandy Endicott and members of the Soup Cellar Committee, Mary's Maidens has decided to distribute gift bags to the Soup Cellar clientele this summer. Many groups are generous with their gifts to the Soup Cellar during the Christmas season so we wanted to fill a need during the summer. Our goal is to fill 200 gift bags. We are asking for donations of soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant. Other items that we need are bug spray, flip flops, potted meat, Vienna sausages, crackers and/or granola bars. The Dollar Tree stores are a great source for most of these items. Our Christmas box is located in the Giving Garden in the hallway. Monetary donations are also appreciated - we'll shop for you!

The Ecuador Mission Trip Team is also collecting items to distribute while in Ecuador. We will be working together and sharing items collected!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Our Children's Ministry is looking for additional help to provide educational opportunities for our children during the worship hour. Each Sunday following the Children's Sermon, we need an adult and a non-related youth (4th grade and older) to help supervise our children ages 2-kindergarten. A short lesson and coloring sheets are provided, and some Sundays will involve a 10-minute visit with a choir member for music time. Please contact Andrea McAtee (amcatee@gmail.com) if you or your youth are interested in volunteering. This opportunity every Sunday is always such a joy for our youngest disciples, and we couldn't do it without the help of our shepherds.



Thank You!

What do a pressure cooker, a replica of Rodin's The Thinker, and a 14 foot Christmas tree all have in common? They were items on sale the weekend of April 13-15 in Threatt Hall during the yard sale sponsored by the Active Faith Small Group. Hundreds of shoppers flocked to the sale during the three days to survey the bargains and treasures crowded on aisles of tables. The sale raised \$3665 which will be directed toward local mission projects.

A special thanks goes to the 65 families, friends and groups who contributed items to be sold and to the following volunteers who assisted with various aspects of the sale: Karen Lowrimore, Debra Patton, Bart Lehman, Alan Jon Zupan, James Wright, Lauren Wright, Kristie Rowe, Lynn Shirley, Beth Matthews, Mary Lide, Lanneau Lide, Charlotte Broome and Don Fowler.



Items from the sale were also donated to local groups, including the USC Methodist Student Network's upcoming mission trip, Lutheran Family Services Refugee and Immigrant Services, our Soup Cellar, Stepping Stones Recovery Ministries, and Friends of the Library.

Members of the Active Faith team include: Martha Boynton, Kathy Wright, Jim Lane, Deborah and Rick Rowe, Rusty Poole, Beverly McClanahan, Carol Fowler, Sam Waldrep, and Charles and Kay Garren.

Save the Date



On April 24th, our PAUSE services proved to be a meaningful opportunity for people to gather together in the practice of mindful Christianity, and connect with others and God in a new way.

Join us for our next PAUSE offerings on Tuesday, May 22nd. We will have two services that day, the first beginning at 12:30 PM at The Venue on Main Street, and the second service beginning at 6:00 PM here at Washington Street in the Wesley Room.

To learn more about PAUSE, visit www.wsmethodist.org/pause/



Our final F3 Fellowship Supper for the spring will be held on Wednesday, May 16th beginning at 5:30 PM. Invite a neighbor and bring your family to join us for this great opportunity of fellowship with others! Programming and activities will be available for adults and children of all ages immediately following dinner.

Tickets can be purchased on Sunday, May 6th & Sunday, May 13th following worship services. If you're unable to purchase your tickets on a Sunday, email Lainey and let her know how many you'd like to reserve. (lainey@wsmethodist.org)

Mark your calendars for the FALL F3 Fellowship Suppers: 9/12, 10/10, 11/7

Very often you hear the names of our growing staff and dedicated volunteers, but there's always an opportunity to get to know them better!

Getting to Know *Janet Cotter*

Janet Cotter talks with enthusiasm about how the renovation of the Christ Chapel Courtyard unfolded.

The area between the education building and the Fellowship Hall had become overgrown, and something had to be done, but where would the money come from to pay for it?

Janet decided that the sale of bricks in honor or memory of someone could raise money for landscaping and other improvements. The bricks would sell for \$50, and contain the person's name. They would form a path around the courtyard.

The plan "came to me in the night," Janet said. She took the idea to senior minister Mike Alexander and to the trustees, and both said "go for it."

Janet chaired a committee that did the initial work, rather than hiring a designer and landscaper to do it. Members of the committee were Chip and Debbie Teague, Paul and Beverly McClanahan, Sarah Threath, Tim Nance and the late Cornelia Freeman.

The group was given 10 miniature English boxwoods from Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, and a cutting of *Elaeagnus pungens* from the garden of John Wesley's chapel in London. The committee replaced the wooden doors with glass doors and added an arbor at the door to the Fellowship Hall.

"We had the best time making ends meet," Janet said. "Church members would call and say, 'How much money do you need?'" The group began working in September 1996, and the courtyard was dedicated on June 7, 1998. Today, Janet says:

"I love walking out there and seeing the names."

Janet joined Washington Street in 1957, after she married L. Arlen Cotter. She had been required to attend church when she was a student at Columbia College, and she chose Washington Street.

The day Arlen was born, his father enrolled him on the church's Cradle Roll, Janet said.

Janet met Arlen on a blind date. She almost didn't go, but it was a double date, and her friend convinced her to go. The two couples went out for supper, and then they went to Arlen's parents' house and played bridge.

After that, Janet and Arlen saw each other often, and they were engaged within six months.

They married in July in the Baptist church in Brunson, the small Hampton County town where Janet grew up.

"We invited everybody in town," she said. "We didn't want to leave anybody out."

The couple were married 53 years, until Arlen died in 2010.

Over the years, Janet has served the church in many capacities. She was president of the United Methodist Women in 2004 and 2005, a member of the Foundation Board twice and is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

And, Janet said, she worked as a "general factotum" on the Washington Street Bicentennial Committee – at the antique sale, in the tea room, and she even did a little bit of counted cross-stitch on the bicentennial quilt. Janet's cross-stitch is the Scripture in the lower right corner; she, Susan Cordoni and Mary Alice Kinnett did ". . . yea, we have a goodly heritage. Psalm 16:6."

Her work on the quilt was small, she said, adding, "I kept having to pull mine out."

Janet also chairs the Bereavement Committee, and one can tell the project is dear to her heart. She started the committee about 10 years ago.

The minute she or one of her committee members hear of a death in the Washington Street family – a member, a spouse or a child – they take a large shopping bag, filled with paper products, instant coffee, tea and Kleenex, to the home.

"We don't go in, we just hand it through the door," Janet said. The bags also contain phone numbers at the church and a registry to record gifts. The bags are tagged with a verse of Scripture and an inscription saying that it is from the congregation of Washington Street.

Janet and committee members, May and Marshall Ramsey, Ann Fishburne and Lynn Luce get together once a year to fill the bags, and each one keeps three or four at their home until time for delivery.

Janet has a daughter Jan Jenkins and a son Les Cotter Jr. Granddaughters include Cotter Jenkins, Caroline Cotter and Beth Cotter Thompson. Grandsons include Forrest Jenkins III and Les Cotter III.

Janet said she loves to arrange flowers and read historical novels.

"But my biggest hobby," she said, "is just being with people, hearing what people are doing and thinking."

Article by Fran Zupan

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

LES OUTLAW

to Music Ministries

by Suzanne Joye

IN HONOR OF

ANN JESSUP

to Music Ministries

by Andrea McAtee & Neal Woods

IN HONOR OF

DARBY WAUND

to WSUMC Cat Care Fund

by Kelley Cannon

IN HONOR OF

ANGELA POWERS
& THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

to Music Ministries

by Bill Westerkam

Sunday School Classes

What are they studying?

Several of our adult Sunday School classes just started new studies, and others are wrapping up previous ones. Looking for a place to go this Sunday morning? New friends are always welcome!

THE ALDERSGATE CLASS: For the next 4 weeks, Elaine Moses will continue to lead this class in discussions on the Dennis Prager's book, *Happiness is a Serious Problem*.

THE GRACE CLASS: This Sunday, April 29th, Rev. John Evans will conclude his series on *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium*, by Walter Wink. The final discussion topic will be "The Gift of the Enemy," focusing on chapters 9-11.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: Using the *Adult Bible Studies* series, the focus during May explores Bible texts involving our responsibility to honor God.

THE JOY CLASS: They are in the midst of a study on Adam Hamilton's text, *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS: They recently began a new study on John Ortberg's text, *All the Places to Go - How Will You Know?* This six-week study will help everyone recognize divine opportunities in daily life, overcome the fear of missing out or making the wrong choice, and walk through open doors with confidence. You are welcome to read along with the participant guide, but it's not necessary. Sunday mornings will consist of video segments and group discussions.

THE PAUL HARMON CLASS: On May 6, the Paul Harmon Class will begin a study of, *This We Believe: The Core of Wesleyan Faith and Practice*, by William H. Willimon.



College students often find themselves too young for adult Sunday school classes, but have outgrown the Youth Ministry. Young adults 1-2 years out of college graduation are in a place where they're too old for college ministries, yet some ironically find themselves not "old enough" for the typical young adult ministry. So where do they go?

Washington Street's Young Adult Sunday School Class works to combine all of the uncertainties together, and create a community where age isn't the guideline, but it's the desire to engage in conversation and relationships with others. College students, recent college graduates, mid twenties - early thirties are ALL welcome and encouraged to join us for this new journey of growth and discipleship. Plus: coffee and snacks are always provided! This group continues to meet at 10 AM in the Holroyd Prayer Room.



FIREFLIES GAME NIGHT!

Youth and their families are invited to join for the Columbia Fireflies game against the Augusta Greenjackets on Friday, June 8th at 7:05PM. Friday night fireworks included. Cost is \$9 per ticket and ALL are welcome! Bring your family and friends! Deadline to register is Sunday, June 3rd. Register through our website.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS FOR VBS!

Calling ALL YOUTH - Rev. Taylor needs your help! Join us for Vacation Bible School this summer from 8:45 - 11:45 AM the week of June 25th - 29th. We're ready to head down the Rolling River Rampage, but our children want YOU to join us too! This is an opportunity to serve others, fellowship with your fellow youth, and serve as leaders and role models for our children. Register through the link on our website! We promise it will be a lot of fun.

REGISTER NOW FOR SALKEHATCHIE!

We are very excited to send another group of youth and adults to Salkehatchie Penn Center this summer (June 16th - 23rd)! If you are interested in learning more, or are ready to register, head over to salkehatchie.org. *You must be at least 14 years of age by the first day of this camp, June 16th, to register.* Questions? Ask Susan Caskey - 803-463-6138

You can find registration links for Youth activities on our website. Have any questions? Ask Rev. Taylor!
taylor@wsmethodist.org



Salkehatchie

Register Today

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Rolling River Rampage



All children ages 3 - rising 6th grade are invited to join us for this year's Vacation Bible School: Rolling River Rampage as we experience the ride of a lifetime together with God! Friends and neighbors are always welcome!

June 25th - 29th, 8:45 - 11:45 AM

Register your children now at
www.wsmethodist.org/family/summer

Registration deadline to be guaranteed a t-shirt is June 11th.
YOUTH & ADULT VOLUNTEERS: We ask that you also register through the separate "adult & youth volunteers" link as well. This helps us obtain t-shirt sizes, contact information, and availability dates all at once.



MUSIC MANIA DAY CAMP



All children ages 4 - rising 8th grade are invited to join us for Music Mania Day Camp! Led by Angela Powers & Jordan Harper, it will be a week full of singing, dancing, and the musical, "Down by the Creek," by Dottie Rambo. It's a week you won't want to miss!

July 16th - 20th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Register your children now at
www.wsmethodist.org/family/summer

Friends and neighbors are always welcome!
Registration deadline is July 4th.





Graduate Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 3rd, we will recognize and honor all of our graduates.

If you or your child will be graduating this Spring (or have graduated since last year's recognition) please email Lainey with the following information: name, parent's names, school graduating from, and degree earned. (lainey@wsmethodist.org)

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, April 29

9:00 AM Worship - Christ Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM New Friends Coffee - WR
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
5:00 PM Active Faith Small Group - DCR
5:00 PM Confirmation Class - 5th & 6th Grade Classroom

Monday, April 30

No Activities Scheduled

Tuesday, May 1

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
10:00 AM Circle 6 - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
6:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Meeting - WR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, May 2

3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DCR
5:30 PM Handbells Practice - 3rd Floor Choir Room
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, May 3

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
5:30 PM Circle 2 - WR
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, May 4

9:00 AM Antique Study Group - WR
5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Saturday, May 5

2:30 - 7:30 PM Wedding - Sanctuary, WR, HPR

Sunday, May 6

9:00 AM Worship and Communion - Christ Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
5:00 PM Confirmation Class - 5th & 6th Grade Classroom

Monday, May 7

5:30 PM Faith Formation Team Meeting - WR
5:30 PM Raggio Report Committee - JHC
5:30 PM Circle 9 - Off Campus Location TBD

Tuesday, May 8

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
10:30 AM Circle 3 - WR
12:00 PM CDC Teacher Appreciation - JHC
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
5:30 PM Worship Team Meeting - WR
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:30 PM Communication Committee Meeting - WR
6:30 PM Circle 5 - Home of Donna Bryan
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, May 9

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR
3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DCR
5:30 PM Connections Team Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Handbells Practice - 3rd Floor Choir Room
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, May 10

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, May 11

7:30 AM CDC Mother's Day Drop-In - CDC

Saturday, May 12

No Activities Scheduled

JHC - John Harper Classroom

TH - Threath Hall

YR - Youth Room

LCR - Leavitt Choir Room

DCR - Disciple Conference Room

WR - Wesley Room

HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room

GSR - Girl Scout Room