



THE CONNECTION

August 5, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

Mission Trip to Ecuador



We rarely listen to the gesturing of hands or shifts in hips, so we read lips and think of responses before they even finish. The English language makes this easy for us with the millions of synonyms and connectors, but when that's taken away, would we tell the world we are the same person as before?

In the province of Imbabura, Ecuador, there is a woman named Esmerelda. Her ears cannot hear, her ankle never healed, and her boy has to have the role of a man. They live alone in a concrete house, with a mutt as their guard. Life to them is simple.

They speak Spanish in their community because it is all they need. Walking into their life for a week, they welcomed me with no way to say so. Esmerelda cannot speak, let alone force English words out and into the air. So I met them.

The boy was humorous, light-hearted, and frankly, kind of a trouble maker. We jumped rope, and every turn he would go faster until you messed up just so he could have his chance. By the end of my week, his courtyard games turned into helping us in the clinic. His playful pushes turned into high-fives. His suspicious glances turned into squinted eye laughing.

Esmerelda gave me a kiss to say good-bye as if I was a niece of her own, and she laughed at herself, making jokes of things I couldn't see. Names, ages, or places didn't matter to her, she only cared about who you were in front of her, and she was always grateful. She loved getting to cook for us because it was a language she knew - being full - though the world would tell her she is empty.

Esmerelda gave love when she didn't dismiss her sons quick hug. She had never heard his voice or told him "I love you," but she gets to show him strength and purpose.

Likewise, he has never told her how proud he is or that she is his role model, but he never leaves her while running up the hill. He tells everyone her name, that she cannot speak, and that despite it all, she can listen.

For them, each other and community in church is enough. Their story is redemption and perseverance. Their language is not love, it is dedication and being a team, it is an identity as family.

I used to believe that the worst thing that could happen is dependence, but from Esmerelda's story, the worst thing is lacking identity.

Reflecting on Ecuador

Our team has returned home from their mission trip to Ecuador, and some have taken the time to reflect on their personal experience throughout this journey. They were able to serve as the hands and feet of Christ and bear witness to many through vacation bible school, songs, crafts, health clinics, food basket deliveries, construction projects, and heartfelt conversations even in the midst of language barriers. Thank you for praying for not only their safety and the work they went to do, but also for those whose lives they touched.

TEAM MEMBERS: PATO ARAVENA, KAY AYERS-GARREN, JENNIFER BOONE, JOHN EVANS, WOODLEY KATE JAMES, BETSY LEHMAN, GWEN MURPHY, DAVE NELSON, REV. PATRICIA PARRISH, JULIAN RUFFIN, ANNE SINCLAIR, NIKKI ULMER, MACKIN WALL, TOM WALL, KATHY WRIGHT, AND JAMES WRIGHT.

As I am here reflecting on our incredible Ecuador experience, I am overwhelmed with the profound impact this has made on me. I have never been an advocate of working outside of the walls of our close neighbors and now I see how through God, the United Methodist Church, missionaries, small numbers of people and limited financial resources, that we can have a profound effect on this world. I am also amazed at what others who came before us in Pajal and El Prado have done and am so grateful for their endeavors.

How fortunate I am for the friends I have made both from our church as well as in Ecuador and I have walked away with a deeper feeling of Christ. What I have received from this adventure is far greater than what I have ever given. -**BETSY LEHMAN**



Our WS Ecuador mission was an experience of mutuality and communion- the giving and receiving by us and by our Ecuadorian friends. It was a living example of the body of Christ in three languages. God's beauty was evident in the people and culture we met and in the stunning natural world that enveloped us. -**TOM WALL**

My experience in Ecuador was wonderful. I was impressed that even though most people are poor, but they have a rich culture. They work so hard together to achieve so much good for each other. I would do it again in a heartbeat. Thanks to everyone that made this trip possible. -**DAVE NELSON**



It was an honor to serve God alongside our Ecuadorian neighbors while doing construction, holding Vacation Bible School and running the health screenings in Pijal and El Prado. Our hope is that we were able to impact their lives as much as they impacted ours! -KATHY AND JAMES WRIGHT

The people of Ecuador welcomed us with open arms, smiles and hugs! I was impressed with the skill and hard work of the local church members. The children were precious and are fortunate to have such caring teachers. It was a good experience to build bridges between our two cultures. -JULIAN RUFFIN



I will hold the memories and connections from this trip close to my heart. The smiles, the laughter, and hugs brought us together despite our differences. Working side by side with the people of Pijal and El Prado was a celebration of unity and one spirit!
-ANNE SINCLAIR

I repeatedly used these words as I greeted friends I had not seen in four years: My heart is overflowing with joy. It was such a joy to share in this "Adventure in Christ" and to know some of my members in a deeper way and watch our Team exemplify unity in Christ, flexibility, and an appreciation for our motto: "subject to change". -REV. PATRICIA PARRISH



It was such a joy to meet the people of Ecuador! They have so many needs but I have never met a people who work so hard and are thankful for everything that they have. Their simple life and the way they deal with their day to day challenges made me realize that I have so little to complain about. It was really a blessing to become closer to members of our team as well. A special thanks to Anne Sinclair, Kathy and James Wright and Dave Nelson. Thanks for caring for me and helping me home! -GWEN MURPHY

Numbers with Neal

Hello again! I hope that the Summer season is treating each of you, and your families, well and that you are enjoying all of God's blessings. Well, Washington Street's Finances have reached the "halfway mark". The halfway mark can mean different things to different people depending on your particular walk of life. If you are enjoying a particular season, and/or a vacation, then the halfway mark can feel like where did the time go, and let's sure we enjoy what time is remaining. On the other hand, if we are facing challenging situations, then reaching the "halfway mark" can mean more of a "pat on the back" for making it this far, and let's bear down to get to the finish line. In the world of Washington Street's finances, I see the halfway mark as a time to reflect on the financial impact of the cumulative set of activities that have transpired so far, and what disciple inspired world changing opportunities lie ahead for the next six months. With these thoughts in mind, the following is a summary of Washington Street's finances for January to June of this year:

Washington Street UMC Financial Summary January to June 2018 Year To Date			
<u>Church (excluding FACE activities):</u>			
<u>Contributions:</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance Fav - Unfav</u>
Pledges	\$320,019.19	\$340,669.02	\$20,649.83
Non-Pledges	72,895.93	93,831.00	20,935.07
Other Revenues	28,184.56	19,999.98	8,184.58
Total	\$421,099.68	\$454,500.00	\$33,400.32
<u>Expenses:</u>			
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance Fav - Unfav</u>
Operating Expenses	\$443,530.35	\$454,500.00	\$10,969.65
Net Operating Surplus / Deficit	\$22,430.67		\$22,430.67
<u>FACE Activities:</u>			
<u>FACE - Total 2018 Budget Allocation</u>			
Faith Formation	\$21,050.00		
Age & Family Ministries	7,800.00		
Connections	5,600.00		
Engaging New People	10,550.00		
Total	\$45,000.00		
	<u>January - June 2018 Actual</u>	<u>January - June 2018 Budget</u>	<u>Variance Fav - Unfav</u>
Faith Formation	\$5,171.87	\$10,525.02	\$5,353.15
Age & Family Ministries	977.51	3,899.94	2,922.43
Connections	1,280.00	2,799.96	1,519.96
Engaging New People	859.67	5,275.02	4,415.35
Total	\$8,289.05	\$22,499.94	\$14,210.89

From the chart on the left, you will note that 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:
For January to June, total contributions were \$33,400.32 below or unfavorable to budget; however, Total Expenses were \$10,969.65 under or favorable to budget. In other words, even though financial contributions are currently tracking lower than budget, church spending is being effectively managed to be able to stay under budget. Overall, and in combination, this has resulted in a Net Deficit amount of \$22,430.67.

FACE Activities:

For January to June, the four categories of FACE have resulted in total spending of \$8,289.05 relative to a budget of \$22,499.94. Thus, FACE related spending is \$14,210.89 below or favorable to budget.

Each FACE leader is working together with their respective committee members to plan for and implement related programs and/or activities that are in line with the spirit of their particular ministry area. In the coming months of this year, I would encourage each of you to look forward to announcements of exciting and new programs and/or activities within each ministry area.

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A lot of factors, in combination, result in the above noted financial results. A big factor is the “timing” of when members contribute funds and when monies, either for the Church and/or the FACE ministries, are spent. You may recall from my last installment of “Numbers with Neal”, that I discussed the concept of “Celebrating the Gift of Giving”, and how each of you can experience this wonderful and faithful celebration on multiple occasions all throughout the calendar year. More frequent financial giving will certainly impact the total level of contributions reported for each month of the year, and cumulatively, may result in total reported contributions being in-line or exceeding the respective budget.

Each of your contributions, whether money, property and/or time, is highly valued and gratefully appreciated. Washington Street’s leadership, including that of the Finance Committee, is working towards ensuring that each of your contributions are used in the most impactful way possible, and in line with the overall vision of the United Methodist Church to make disciples of Jesus Christ that transform the world.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I wish that each of you, and your families, enjoy the remaining months of Summer that result in memories that last a lifetime!

With sincere blessings,



Neal Foster, *Finance Committee Chair*

Announcements

WI-FI NETWORK PASSWORD: We have recently password protected our “WSUMC Guest” Wi-Fi network to avoid unintentional usage slowing down it’s efficiency. *We don’t want this to prevent you from using the Wi-Fi as you’d like!* We have made this change to enhance it’s speed and performance for members and visitors of Washington Street. We encourage you to share this information with others who would like to use the network while here as well. *The new password is “engage123” (all lowercase with no spacing).*

WORSHIP WITH US (ON THE GO): If you find yourself out of town on a Sunday, you can still worship with us! The audio live stream for our 11:00 AM worship service can be found on our website at, wsmethodist.org/worship/audio

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Want to help children develop skills and enthusiasm for reading? We are gauging volunteer interest to work with students on reading at Alcorn Middle School. Volunteers would need to be available during at least one of the days of their after school program, which meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4-6pm. If you are interested and would like to find out more, contact Andrea McAtee and Kathy Handel.

LEARN TO USE THE CHURCH AED DEVICE: The church has an Automated External Defibrillator that is used when a person may be having a heart attack. It is simple to use and may very well save someone’s life. M.J. Fox (RN, ACLS Certified) will provide a 15-minute overview of the device and its use on Sunday August 26th. We would like for 1-2 people from every adult Sunday school class to attend, 1-2 from the choir, one person from every committee as well a representative(s) from the 9 AM and 11 AM usher team. We are also interested to identify people who are already trained in the use of an AED. Someone will be reaching out to each group for volunteers and to record those persons already AED certified. For more information, to volunteer, to attend, or to share your certification status, contact Lynn Shirley ([803-422-3368](tel:803-422-3368) or wmlynnsc@gmail.com). This short meeting is not a substitute for taking an AED/CPR class. We would encourage some of you to do that if you are interested.

UNCLAIMED DISHES IN THE KITCHEN: There are still a handful of dishes left in the church kitchen from the Covered Dish Luncheon in May. If any of them belong to you, please claim them as soon as possible. Unclaimed items will soon become part of the church kitchen dishes.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: Monday, July 23rd, Christmas came to the Washington Street Soup Cellar. Two hundred bags with toiletries, sunscreen, fresh fruit, and snacks were given to the Soup Cellar clientele. Mary’s Maidens and members of the Active Faith Small Group and a few other volunteers filled the bags on Sunday, July 22nd - in about an hour! A VERY BIG thank you to all the members who contributed items or made monetary donations to help Mary’s Maidens with this service project.



August Worship Series



In Love...

Thoughts of August might conjure strong emotional sentiments for some of us, but is “love” the first thing you think of in this fleeting month of summer? August is the month when we think about back-to-school prep, squeezing in one last weekend get-away, and go about the business (or busyness) of getting ourselves ready for a new season. Love is not on my calendar for August – that’s scheduled for February, right?

So, why are we talking about love in August? Because August is a prelude to a new season. It’s a time to reflect and refresh as we pack up summer and think about the fall days ahead. More to the point of worship, it’s a time to reflect on our church family and community and to focus intentionally on how we love one another as Christ commanded us to do.

- How do we love one another to build up and unify this great community of faith?
- How do we live out the love of Christ in our daily lives in the boardroom, in the ER, in the classroom, in the drive through line, or in the passing lane?
- How do we return love to God as thanks for all of his amazing gifts?
- How do we equip ourselves with love to go out into our greater community to do the work of Christ?

This August, our worship will focus on love in each of these aspects. As we reflect on love through our worship times and in our personal devotions, we will start to see how love is the foundation of our community of faith. We are a beautiful collage of souls. We are one faith. We serve one God. Come to worship. Be open. You’ll love August.

See you on Sunday,
Jan Baker, *Worship Design Team*

Sunday School Classes

THE ALDERSGATE CLASS AND THE PAUL HARMON CLASS: Continuing through the summer, these classes will join together and continue their discussion of *The Teaching Co.* Video by Bart Erhman on the New Testament.

THE DAWSEY CLASS: This Sunday, August 5th, the Rev. Alston Lippert will finish teaching from the book “Jesus and the Disinherited” by Howard Thurman. The class will discuss Chapter IV.: Hate, what problems are associated with hatred, and why is hatred so prevalent, and Chapter V.: Love, why is loving our neighbors so hard, and why was it so important to Jesus, and the Epilogue. Class member Grant Jackson will teach on August 12th.

THE GRACE CLASS AND THE JOY CLASS: These classes will continue to meet together and discuss the text, *John: Gospel of Light and Life*, by Adam Hamilton.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: Using New Testament texts that focus on justice, they explore Paul’s teachings on God’s justice. The Adult Bible Studies curriculum encourages spiritual development.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS: This summer, the Open Door Class will study *Parables From the Backside Volume 1: Bible Stories With a Twist*, by J. Ellsworth Kalas. This book offers a new perspective on twelve of Jesus’ parables through the eyes of minor character.

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 *Kathy Handel*

Kathy Handel had been praying for peace for “years and years and years.”

After retirement, she looked inward to find guidance about what she should be doing with her life.

She realized that “praying for peace is one thing, doing something is another.”

Today, she is the head of two organizations that aim to reduce violence, each with a different focus.

The Faith Coalition on Gun Violence, (FCGV), was founded by Washington Street member the Rev. John Evans after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012. Kathy became chairperson in January 2016.

The purpose of the coalition is to raise awareness about gun violence, its prevention and its impact on families and communities. It often collaborates with other like-minded groups.

Last year 361 people in South Carolina died by gun violence

“This is an issue that churches need to be thinking and talking about,” Kathy said. “Churches have an important role to play. There are a lot of people in churches, and there's lots of silence. Silence is complicity with the status quo.”

The FCGV has held memorial services for victims of gun violence and a gun give-back in the Washington Street parking lot, where guns were exchanged for Easter lilies. It also sponsored or co-sponsored the films – “Under the Gun” and “Armor of Light” – followed by discussions at The Nickelodeon.

This past March, the Faith Coalition partnered with Building Better Communities and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense to hold the March for Our Lives from the corner of Richland and Sumter streets to the State House, where there were speeches, music and prayer. Kathy estimated that 3,000 people participated.

The Faith Coalition is presenting Columbia's part of the third annual Concert Across America, to be held at Main Street UMC on September 23 at 4 p.m.

The other group that Kathy heads is Alternatives to Violence Project-South Carolina. AVP was developed in New York state in 1974, after the Attica riots. It was developed by Quakers collaborating with inmates from the New York State prison system.

A key component of AVP is the belief that there is a power for peace in everyone, which if we are open to it, can transform violent situations. AVP calls that “transforming power.”

The training takes the form of an experiential workshop that lasts from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon. It focuses on communication skills, emotional triggers that lead to violence and building a sense of community. There also are an advanced workshop and a workshop that trains facilitators.

AVP facilitators, all volunteers, will conduct workshops for staff and prisoners in prison settings, for law enforcement agencies, for educational institutions, for community organizations and for faith communities.

As a high school guidance counselor for 32 years, Kathy knows the effects of the misuse of guns:

- When she was at Spring Valley High, two brothers in her caseload, messed around with a gun, and one killed the other.
- Another student committed suicide with a rifle.
- A mother came into Kathy's office and told her she was afraid of her son. She asked Kathy what she could do. Kathy said she would look for options, and that they would meet again.

“I know I told her to lock her (bedroom) door,” Kathy said. “Within a week or two, the boy went into her bedroom and shot her and her boyfriend, then attempted to bury their bodies in the back yard.”

“I still feel a little guilt that maybe I should have done something sooner, but what?” Kathy asked. Just like today – there are so few resources and very few (mental health) placements.”

Kathy joined Washington Street in the early 1980s. She had heard of the Rev. Toni White, the church's minister of education and community outreach, and she wanted to be apart of a church that ministered in the community. She also found the Dawsey Class to be seekers like herself.

Kathy's husband Rick teaches tax at the USC Law School, as an adjunct professor. They met in 1968 at Michigan State University when she was a graduate advisor in an all-girls dorm; and he was the night receptionist.

Kathy also has strong ties to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she went to high school. Later this month, she will vacation on Lake Michigan with college friends, then travel to Kalamazoo and stay with her brother and his family, while also visiting high school friends.

She and her brother recently bought side-by-side burial plots in Kalamazoo. On her plot she intends to place a small Palmetto State flag.

Article Written by Fran Zupan

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

GEORGE FANT
to the Foundation

by Marion & Blake Burnside
to the Soup Cellar

by Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Lancaster, Jr.
to the Stained Glass

Window Fund

by Ned Self

to WSUMC

by Mike & Charlotte Broome

CRAIG HAMPTON
to the Foundation

by Kevin & Carol Duggan
to WSUMC

by Virginia Vaughan

LUKE A. NANCE, JR.
to Music Ministries

by Lanneau & Mary Lide
by Lionel Smith, LTD

to WSUMC

by Edith (Edee) Vaughan
by Peggy Weston

IN HONOR OF

MELISSA SEIGLER
to the Stained Glass

Window Fund

by Jim & Caroline Seigler

MINDY SEIGLER
to the Stained Glass

Window Fund

by Jim & Caroline Seigler

SAM WALDREP
to the Flower Fund

by Mary Lide

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11TH
THE MIDDLETON'S LAKE HOME
10 AM - 4 PM COME WHEN YOU CAN!
REGISTER TODAY

BRING A FRIEND, A SNACK OR SIDE DISH TO SHARE, AND YOUR OWN LIFE JACKET!
THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS TUESDAY, AUGUST 7TH. FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND REGISTRATION, VISIT...

wsmethodist.org/family/summer

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, August 5

9:00 AM Worship and Communion - Chapel
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
 11:00 AM Worship and Communion - Sanctuary

Monday, August 6

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 5:30 PM Age Level Family Ministries Meeting - JHC
 6:30 PM Church Council - WR

Tuesday, August 7

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 6:00 PM PAUSE - WR
 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, August 8

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Thursday, August 9

9:00 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 6:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting - WR

Friday, August 10

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, August 11

10:00 AM Back to School Bash - Middleton's Lake Home

Sunday, August 12

9:00 AM Worship - Chapel
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 10:00 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
 11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, August 13

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting - JHC
 5:30 PM Youth Education Meeting - WR

Tuesday, August 14

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 4:00 PM FCGV - HPR
 5:30 PM AVP - HPR
 5:30 PM Worship Team Meeting - JHC
 6:00 PM PAUSE - WR
 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, August 15

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 5:30 PM Foundation Board Meeting - WR
 6:00 PM Nominations & Leadership Development - JHC

Thursday, August 16

9:00 AM CDC Devotions - Chapel
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 4:00 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC

Friday, August 17

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, August 18

No Activities Scheduled

JHC - John Harper Classroom
 DCR - Disciple Conference Room

TH - Threath Hall
 WR - Wesley Room

YR - Youth Room
 HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room

LCR - Leavitt Choir Room
 SC - Soup Cellar