



THE CONNECTION

December 16, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201



REV. TAYLOR PAFFORD

A Letter from the Minister

Grace and peace to you during these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas! Advent is always an exciting time in the life of the church as we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Jesus, who we know as Emmanuel, God with us. The season of Advent also begins a new year in the Church year cycle, so there is a sense of hope and renewal during this season as well.

I am especially excited this Advent and Christmas season because I am able to combine two of my passions: working with children and youth and planning creative worship. I am thrilled that our children and youth are actively involved in worship leadership during all of our Advent services. We had youth and children assist with the Hanging of the Greens service on December 2nd and two youth, Ansley Jansen and Madison Matthews, served as readers during our December 9th Lessons and Carols service. We also look forward to over 30 children and youth participating in our annual Children's Nativity on December 16th. Some will lead as part of the Nativity cast, while others will shine in their roles as Stage Managers and Costumers. In addition, on December 23rd, eight of our youth will provide a scripted reading of the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would bear God's son.

It is always exciting when our children and youth lead us in our worship of God. However, I think it is especially captivating to see our youngest lead us during this season as we remember the words of Isaiah's vision of the Peaceable Kingdom when "a little child will lead them" (Isaiah 11:6). After all, Jesus came to us through the faithfulness of a teenage girl who said "yes" to God's call upon her life. And the Savior of the world came to us, not as a mighty and powerful King, but as an innocent child. As you participate in the worshipping life of our congregation, we hope that the leadership of our children and youth will remind you of these gifts of the season.

- Rev. Taylor



As we continue to move into a spirit of hope, peace, joy, and love, we will focus on beloved Scriptures and sacred stories that remind us of what the true celebration of Christmas is all about. As we gather to worship, we also invite you to celebrate by gathering your loved ones to watch and enjoy some old Christmas movies that tie into the message of each Sunday. Celebrate this season from start to finish!

Third Sunday in Advent

Dec. 16th

Matthew 2:1-12

The Littlest Angel



Christmas Eve

Dec. 24th

John 1:1-4, 10-14

It's a Wonderful Life



Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dec. 23rd

Luke 1:26-38 & Luke 1:46-55

Miracle on 34th Street



First Sunday of Christmas

Dec. 30th

Matthew 2:13-23

How the Grinch Stole Christmas



Children's Birthday Party for Jesus

Children of all ages are included!
Sunday, December 23rd during the Sunday school hour...

Christmas Eve

*Service of Candlelight
and Communion*

5:00 PM - Sanctuary

SING-ALONG *Messiah*

Monday, December 17th at 7:00 PM

Sing-Along Messiah is a joyous night of worship, instrumental music, and singing! It is a treasured opportunity for our Church and Music Ministry to be able to share this occasion with our downtown community, and neighbors far and wide.

Only with your assistance and through your generosity can we carry on this Washington Street tradition. Your contributions are needed, and never go unnoticed. If you would like to make a personal or business donation, you can write a check payable to WSUMC with "SAM" in the memo line. You can also contribute **ONLINE** at singalongmessiah.org or wsmethodist.org, or you can text the word "Engage" to the number 73256. If you have contributed already, we sincerely thank you.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

*The entire program will live stream from
singalongmessiah.org*

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

DUNBAR GODBOLD
to the Soup Cellar
by Ann Mercer

BILLIE GOODALL
to the Foundation

by Butch and Susan Jones
by Mr. and Mrs. Joe E. Taylor, Jr.
to WSUMC

by Dinah Cook
by Shem & Bruce Greenberg
by Peggy Weston

ANSEL ARTHUR
& DORIS HARLEY SALLEY
to WSUMC

by John & Lynda Salley Galloway

LUCY VAUGHN
to WSUMC

by Will & Elaine Sharp

IN HONOR OF

PATO ARAVENA
to WSUMC

by Harvey & Ann Jessup

EUGENE H. MATTHEWS'
RETIREMENT FROM THE US NAVY
to the Soup Cellar

by the Open Door Class
to WSUMC

by Harvey & Ann Jessup

THE MUSIC MINISTRY
to WSUMC

by Kelley Cannon

DAVIS "DOC" POWERS
to Sing-Along Messiah
by Robert Satcher

SARAH THREATT
to the Soup Cellar

by Donna Bryan
by Sally & Jim Kitchens
by Rev. Patricia Parrish

ALAN-JON ZUPAN
to the Soup Cellar

by Suzannah, Jared, Kylie, &
Meghan Hopkins

Forward in Faith, Hope, and Love...

Stewardship 2019

Please remember to submit your 2019 Pledge Card. To date, we have received **119 pledges for \$461,000**. If you need another card, please stop by the Church Office or contact a member of staff. You can also submit your pledge **online** through your Engage Washington account. Thank you!

Announcements

ALDRSGATE CLASS: The Aldersgate Sunday School Class and their families will enjoy refreshments for the 9:45 AM Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 23rd in the Aldersgate class on the 2nd floor. Members of the Traxler Sunday School class and their families and friends are cordially invited to attend this social gathering.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE: Take a moment on your way to the Sanctuary to see the beautiful smiling faces on the Children's Christmas Tree. Ornaments may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. Don't see your child on the tree? See Mary Lide to have a picture taken.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL LIVING GIFT MARKET: What's the buzz?! This Sunday, December 16th, is the last day of Washington Street's Living Gift Market. Finish your Christmas shopping today by giving the gift of hope to struggling families around the world. Your symbolic gift of an animal and its care can provide food and income. The gifts from Washington Street's market will be used to help fund two Heifer programs in Ecuador this year that are listed below. MOOEY CHRISTMAS!!!



PACHA - CAMELID PROGRAM

This program includes families in Ecuador, Peru, and Boliva. The program will run from 2014-2024 and will involve 96,000 families. Local municipalities and ministries of agriculture are co-funding this project. For an indigenous farmer or artisan in the Andean region, alpaca, llama, and vicuna production are vital to survival, but due to climate change, agriculture has new challenges. The PACHA program brings new sustainable farming models plus the critical component of reliable market access so that farmers and artisans have a market to sell their meats and other goods, moving these families from simply surviving to thriving.

GANASOL AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK PROGRAM

The GANASOL program supports small-scale farming, indigenous and afro-descendant populations in order to increase the competitiveness of their agricultural production, ensure their food security and increase their interaction with local and broader markets. All of this is done under conditions that make it possible to generate reasonable profits for all involved in value chains, such as basic grains, poultry and guinea pigs, goat, swine, quinoa, amaranth, beans, native potatoes, fruits and agroecological produce. This program is located in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Boliva, and Mexico. The number of families to be helped is 696,000. The duration of the program is from 2014-2024. Funding partners for the Ganasol program are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, GEF, and Solidaridad Network.

Sunday School Classes

Church-Wide Advent Series

Several Sunday school classes will continue discussions surrounding Rev. Parrish's sermon series during their Sunday school gatherings. Each class will meet separately, but all will engage in deeper thought surrounding the Sacred and Secular Stories of Christmas. The following classes will participate in this Church-Wide Advent Series: **ALDRSGATE CLASS** (2nd floor), **GRACE CLASS** (3rd floor), **OPEN DOOR CLASS** (3rd floor), and **PAUL HARMON CLASS** (3rd floor).

THE DAWSEY CLASS: During December, the class will be reading "God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas" by the German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. S The Rev. Dr. Carl Evans will teach December 9th on the theme "Mystery." The Rev. Tom Summers will teach December 16th on the theme "Redemption." Rick Hepfer will teach December 23rd on the theme "Incarnation." The Rev. Tom Wall will teach December 30th on the devotions for December 25th through December 31st. On January 6th, the class will hold a potluck brunch and discuss the Feast of Epiphany.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: They are continuing a new unit - Our Love for God.

THE JOY CLASS: They will continue their series: *The Gospel of It's A Wonderful Life Bible Study* by Stephen Skelton.

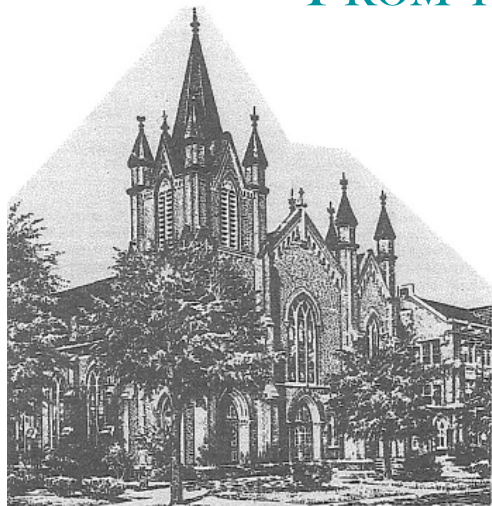
FROM THE RECORDS AND HISTORY COMMITTEE

75 YEARS AGO

During the World War II holiday seasons, there was a shortage of rooms available in the Columbia area for those who wished to visit their loved ones stationed at Fort Jackson. This problem was addressed in the church bulletin for December 19, 1943.

"THINK AGAIN

Many fine men in uniform have had to ask their mothers, sweethearts or wives to 'wait until I can find a room before you leave to spend Christmas with me.' Your minister [Rev. J. Owen Smith] has no desire to carry the church outside its special field. He simply reminds you that the situation is serious; that one phase of the Christmas message is hospitable goodwill; that a fellow who remarks 'I haven't seen my wife in eight months' deserves if possible a place for her to stay. Think again about that spare room in your home!"



CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 16

9:00 AM Children's Nativity Rehearsal - Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Worship - Chapel
 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
 9:45 AM Heifer International Gift Market
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
 3:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #776 Meeting - GSR
 6:45 PM Sing-Along *Messiah* Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Monday, December 17

10:00 AM Journey Through Grief Group - HPR
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 7:00 PM Sing-Along *Messiah* - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 18

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
 12:30 PM Advent Small Group - The Grand on Main
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 6:00 PM Parents of Murdered Children - Grace Class
 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, December 19

1:30 PM CDC Polar Express - TH
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 3:30 PM Hispanic Families Tutoring Class - 2nd Floor Classrooms
 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
 7:45 PM Sanctuary Choir Christmas Party - WR

Thursday, December 20

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
 11:45 AM Conversation Matters - The Grand on Main
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
 5:30 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC

Friday, December 21

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, December 22

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, December 23

9:00 AM Worship - Chapel
 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
 9:45 AM Sunday School
 9:45 AM Children's Birthday Party for Jesus - 4 & 5's Classroom
 11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve
 CDC, Soup Cellar, and Church Office - CLOSED
 5:00 PM Candlelight & Communion Service - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day
 CDC, Soup Cellar, and Church Office - CLOSED

Wednesday, December 26

CDC, Soup Cellar, and Church Office - CLOSED

Thursday, December 27

CDC - CLOSED
 11:45 AM Conversation Matters - The Grand on Main
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Friday, December 28

CDC - CLOSED
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, December 29

No Activities Scheduled

JHC - John Harper Classroom
 DCR - Disciple Conference Room

TH - Threatt Hall
 WR - Wesley Room

YR - Youth Room
 HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room

LCR - Leavitt Choir Room
 SC - Soup Cellar