



THE CONNECTION

December 2, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201



A Letter from the Minister

The ARTS are a huge part of every household's Christmas celebrations, even those who do not regularly attend worship. Many people remember, as do I, traveling to a nearby city to hear Handel's Messiah for the first time. Most children are required to read Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* before they leave high school, if not middle school. The film industry has captured that novel in more than 10 renditions according to a colleague of mine.

The screenplays and, more recently, the off-shoots of the classic tale, still find their way to the theatre marquis. Some families have unique traditions around the ART of Christmas. "It isn't Christmas", I've heard, "until we've watched *Miracle on 34th Street*". Some people will tell you which version they yearn to see! And, of course, music is a huge part of Christmas, both sacred and secular. Our Advent sermon series, *Sacred and Secular Stories of Christmas*, unites the theological, moral, and social teachings of the Gospel Stories surrounding the birth of Jesus with the secular ARTS of the season.

I hope that you will utilize this focus on the arts to capture the magic of Christmas with your family and friends by reading the stories, watching the movies, and listening to the music and attending worship with a deeper awareness of how God connects to us humans in an abundance of ways. I hope that you will find this series an easy one to talk about with friends and family who may not attend church and that it will provide a way for you to invite them to share in the holy season with you and with us.

And so, we celebrate Advent!

- Reverend Parrish

Learn More

wsmethodist.org

A calendar of programs, celebrations, and worship services for the Advent & Christmas season is listed on the next page, along with the stories and movies that correspond with each Sunday's message. We hope you'll extend an invitation to a friend or neighbor to worship with us this year at Washington Street.



THE

SACRED

AND SECULAR

STORIES OF

Christmas

As we begin to celebrate the season of Advent and the coming of our Savior, the solemnity of this sacred season calls us to quiet our hearts as we reflect on the year nearly gone and eagerly anticipate the coming of a new one. Yet, this holy season often seems consumed by traditions outside of the church. As we 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!



THE
SACRED
AND SECULAR
STORIES OF
Christmas

First Sunday in Advent
Dec. 2nd - Hanging of the Greens
9:00 AM Traditional (Chapel)
11:00 AM Traditional (Sanctuary)
Luke 1:5-21, 57-66

A Christmas Carol



Third Sunday in Advent
Dec. 16th
9:00 AM Traditional (Chapel)
11:00 AM Children's Nativity (Sanctuary)
Matthew 2:1-12

The Littlest Angel



Second Sunday in Advent
Dec. 9th - Lessons and Carols
9:00 AND 11:00 AM Traditional
(Both held in Sanctuary)
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:20; 3:18-19



**Sanctuary Choir
with Palmetto Brass**

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Dec. 23rd
9:00 AM Traditional (Chapel)
11:00 AM Traditional (Sanctuary)
Luke 1:26-38 & Luke 1:46-55

Miracle on 34th Street



Christmas Eve
Dec. 24th
5:00 PM Traditional (Sanctuary)
Candlelight & Communion Service
John 1:1-4, 10-14

It's a Wonderful Life



First Sunday of Christmas
Dec. 30th
9:00 Traditional (Chapel)
11:00 Traditional (Sanctuary)
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...



SING-ALONG *Messiah*
Monday, December 17th at 7:00 PM

Sing-Along Messiah was founded in 2002, on the principle that everyone in the metropolitan Columbia area, and anyone willing to travel to Columbia, should have the opportunity to sing some part of Messiah at least once a year. 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. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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

Numbers with Neal

Welcome to the Thanksgiving Season. A time in which each of us are reminded to reflect on our current and past blessings and to give thanks. Each of our many blessings include being a part of the Washington Street UMC family. As part of this family, there are many people that each of us can give thanks to. Firstly, our church ministerial leadership team, led by Patricia, and supported by Taylor and Alston. Also, the members of our Administrative staff, namely, Abbie; Robbie; Lainey, and Jerry (forgive me if I missed a name or two), as well as those members of our congregation that volunteer to answer the phones during the week. Further, our various Sunday School Leaders, and their demonstrated commitment and dedication in offering their classes to those who wish to join. Lastly, each and every person, including visitors, who attend Washington Street's services and/or participate in the various church activities need to be recognized. I would encourage you to think about how any of the above people and/or groups have impacted your life, within and outside of the church, and to give thanks in the way that you feel most comfortable with. Doing so, can only strengthen the bonds and community aspect of our church family.

Changing gears, and moving on to presenting information on the church's finances, the following is a summary of Washington Street's financial results for January to October of this year:

Washington Street UMC Financial Summary January to October 2018 Year To Date

Church (excluding FACE activities):

Contributions:

	Actual	Budget	Fav - Unfav
Pledges	\$523,272.92	\$567,781.70	\$44,508.78
Non-Pledges	113,123.99	156,385.00	43,261.01
Other Revenues	48,417.97	33,333.30	15,084.67
Total	\$684,814.88	\$757,500.00	\$72,685.12

Expenses:

	Actual	Budget	Fav - Unfav
Operating Expenses	\$734,157.16	\$757,500.00	\$23,342.84
Net Operating Surplus - Deficit	\$49,342.28		\$49,342.28

FACE Activities:

FACE - Total 2018 Budget Allocation

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

	January - October 2018 Actual	January - October 2018 Budget	Variance Fav - Unfav
Faith Formation	\$10,460.47	\$17,541.70	\$7,081.23
Age & Family Ministries	10,691.20	6,499.90	4,191.30
Connections	1,236.42	4,666.60	3,430.18
Engaging New People	4,165.84	8,791.70	4,625.86
Total	\$26,553.93	\$37,499.90	(\$10,945.97)

Continued on page 4...

From the chart featured on page 3, as is customary, 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 the January to October time period, total contributions and revenues were \$72,685.12 below or unfavorable to budget; however, Total Expenses were \$23,342.84 under or favorable to budget. Contributions and revenues are inherently subject to timing and seasonality factors such that it is not unusual for actual contributions and revenues to be unfavorable to budget during the January to October portion of the calendar year. Contributions and revenues tend to significantly pickup during the months of November and December, and are expected to do so again this year. Further, total expenses tend to be less impacted by timing and seasonality factors and thus are able to be better controlled and managed throughout the calendar year. The related favorable variance to budget continues to exemplify the church's effective expense management. The combination of these two areas has resulted in a Net Deficit amount of \$49,342.28.

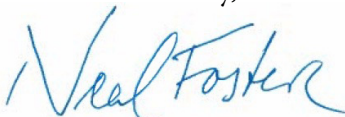
FACE ACTIVITIES:

Again, for the January to October time period, the four (4) categories of FACE have resulted in total spending of \$26,553.93 relative to a budget of \$37,499.90. Thus, overall FACE related spending is \$10,945.97 below or favorable to budget. Based on various church program and/or activity offerings, you should have noted that the FACE areas have definitely picked up momentum since July thus resulting in increased spending. However, the FACE leaders, and their respective committees, have continued to work towards to implementing programs and activities with a cost-efficient mindset, and so, overall total spending is less than budget. Total spending for the "A" of FACE, or Age Level Ministries, which is above budget, has been impacted by the design and implementation of various children/youth activities.

Finally, as our annual Stewardship campaign draws to a close, I certainly hope that you were able to read through the Ministry Menu that was included with the related Stewardship Letter. Just reading through the Ministry Menu is "jaw dropping" in how many different activities were engaged in across the four (4) FACE areas: Faith Formation; Age-Level and Family Ministries; Connections; and Engaging New People. You can say that Washington Street UMC "hit a home run" in terms of its impact on the Columbia community, the State of South Carolina, and the world beyond. All of these activities serve to remind each of us how blessed we are to be part of a creative, active and energetic church that is continually looking for ways to leverage its church facility, as well as its presence in the Columbia community and beyond, to extend God's kingdom in many and varied ways.

On behalf of the various members of the Finance Committee, that I am certainly blessed to be able to work with, may each of you, and your families and friends, be safe and experience many joys and happiness during this Thanksgiving Season.

Sincerely,



Neal Foster
Finance Committee Chair

Youth in Government

What a joy and delight it was to be able to host over 700 high-school youth from across the state at the end of November, and witness them fill our hallways and worship spaces as they participate in South Carolina YMCA Youth in Government. We continue to remind ourselves that youth are not the church of tomorrow, but they are the church of today. It was a true blessing for our congregation and staff to watch so many invest themselves in becoming the next generation of good citizens and stewards of the gift of our world.



The Chrismon Tree



Washington Street decorated its first Chrismon Tree in 1977; 20 years after the Chrismon Tree was created by Frances Spencer through a vision of trees and decorations with a more specific focus on the birthday of the Christ Child. Frances crafted her delicate ornaments based upon the drawings of charisma, which is the plural form of chrismon. “Chrismon” is the combination of parts of two words: (CHRIS)t and (MON)ogram.

During Christmas of 1957, the first Chrismon tree held only a dozen ornaments. The original intent had been to only use monograms of Christ to decorate the tree, but a few other symbols of the early church were added to tell a more complete story. As there was always something new to say about Christ, the number of ornaments grew year after year. Some Chrismons are simple copies of Christianity from its earliest days; others are new explanations of God’s never-changing presence in our ever-changing world; and some are combinations of several elements, old and new.

Many, many thanks to the group of volunteers who selflessly gave so much of their time and talents this week to decorate our entire church, and especially our worship spaces, for the Advent and Christmas season!

The Chrismon tree is complete only when those who see it understand its meaning. Our Chrismon tree displays over 20 different ornaments. May these symbols continually remind you of God’s greatest gift to us all, Jesus Christ.



Christmas with Epworth

Thank you to those who have already signed up to participate in Christmas with Epworth this year. We still have a few unclaimed gift tags left! Once purchased, unwrapped gifts and attached corresponding tags can be taken to the Traxler classroom on the 2nd floor.

We ask that all gifts be dropped off by Sunday, December 9th.

Thank you for your support!

Sunday School Classes

Church-Wide Advent Series

Several Sunday school classes will begin 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: **ALDERSGATE 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. Grant Jackson will teach December 2nd on the theme "Waiting." 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." The Rev. John Evans 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 Carol Krebs will read the devotion for the Feast of Epiphany.

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

THE JOY CLASS: They will begin the following lesson series on December 2nd for Advent: The Gospel of It's A Wonderful Life Bible Study by Stephen Skelton.

Announcements

ADVENT FESTIVAL GREENERY: Please bring any fresh greenery you may have to Threatt Hall this Sunday, December 2nd. The greens will be used to decorate Advent wreaths.

GRACIOUS GOODNESS: Please notify the church office if you, or someone you know, is in need of prepared meals. The Gracious Goodness freezer is stocked with yummy frozen meals waiting to be delivered.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE: It's not too late! We will continue to take pictures of Washington Street children this Sunday, December 2nd. Pictures will be used to create ornaments for the Children's Christmas Tree. Ornaments may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY REHEARSALS: We hope your children will join us for our annual Children's Nativity-- Sunday, December 16th at 11:00 AM! Please note the revised rehearsal times and locations: *NO rehearsal this Sunday, December 2nd,* Sunday, December 9th at 9:00 AM in the YOUTH ROOM, and Sunday, December 16th at 9:00 AM in the SANCTUARY. Children should be dropped off by a parent or guardian by 9:00 AM on both Sundays at the corresponding locations. The Nativity coordinators will take them to their Sunday school classrooms by 9:45 AM. Questions? Contact Rev. Taylor or Dane Waund, taylor@wsmethodist.org | dane.waund@gmail.com



Heifer for the Holidays

This year you can positively impact others through what you give. Give Heifer animals this year! Give hope and dignity with each animal you gift. Washington Street will hold an Alternative Gift Market again this year to help struggling families around the world become self-sufficient. Market dates are Sundays, December 9th and December 16th. You may purchase symbolic animals after the 9:00 service and before and after the 11:00 service. **Cash, checks, and credit cards will gratefully be accepted.**

Lunch Bunch

\$10 lunch catered by Lizard's Thicket

Friday, December 14th
12:00 - 1:30 PM in the Wesley Room
Call the Church Office to sign-up
(803) 256-2417

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 *Sylvia Saunders Stevens*

Sylvia Saunders Stevens says that every job she's had as an adult she created for herself or someone else created to use her talents.

There was the job she had after she earned her MBA, managing the private portfolios for a couple of the top brokers at Merrill Lynch in Columbia.

And then, the phone call from the national Jaycees who asked her to create a community service program to discourage youth smoking.

And, the decision when she returned to Columbia to become a trainer for small medical practices, mostly dentists, but also psychiatrists, chiropractors and veterinarians.

And most recently, her focus, as a personal health coach to help people "transform their lives" and become "better versions of themselves."

Sylvia moved to Columbia, at the age of 1½ when her father Boyd Saunders was recruited by the University of South Carolina to create a printmaking program in the Art Department.

Sylvia grew up at Washington Street. Her parents, Boyd and Stephanie, were members of the John Harper Class when it was the young couples' class. The class had a rotating monthly supper club with all the kids invited. "It was like a big family," Sylvia said, adding, "Members of the class were my aunts and uncles."

Sylvia graduated from Chapin High School and earned a degree in business management from the College of Charleston in August of 1985, followed by an MBA at USC. After receiving her master's, she worked for New York Life for about six months and Merrill Lynch for about five years.

During this period, Sylvia was active in the Columbia Jaycees. She worked on many service projects and met Garry Stevens, who became her husband about six years later.

In January 1994, Sylvia accepted an offer from the national Jaycees to move to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to start a new program called JAYS, Jaycees Against Youth Smoking. The goal was to convince retail stores to uphold the laws and not sell cigarettes to minors. You can still see signs today that bear the message, "We Card" for tobacco products. "Please Have ID Ready."

She traveled the nation from Maine to Hawaii training volunteers in public speaking, PR, communications, team building, project management and leadership. Those volunteers, in turn, worked with other volunteers on many community service projects, including JAYS.

After two years of living in airports and airplanes, which caused her chronic sinus infections, Sylvia decided to hand the program off to someone else. The Jaycees also wanted to take the program to a different level, she said.

Sylvia returned to Columbia in early 1996. She decided she wanted to be a trainer and started doing market research to find a company she liked.

Sylvia found a franchise of Fortune Practice Management. She met with the owners and liked their approach to helping small medical practices do the things they didn't learn in medical school.

Although the owners didn't want to hire her at first, she has been their chief financial officer and has taken the lead on financial training for 22 years. About five years ago, the business ceased being a franchise and took the name The Practice of Distinction.

When Sylvia came back to Columbia, she reconnected with Garry, who was in a job transition and called her to network. She suggested that he do some community service, and he came back to the Jaycees.

"I thought he was kinda cute," she said, so in January 1998, she asked him out. The following January, he proposed, and they married at Washington Street in August 1999.

In 2005, Sylvia and Garry had Spencer, whom she calls "her special blessing." It had been a high-risk pregnancy because Sylvia was almost 42 when Spencer was born.

When she couldn't lose her baby weight, Sylvia confided in a co-worker who happened to be a health coach. Working with her coach, Sylvia lost 53 pounds in five-and-a-half months.

She felt so good, she became a health coach, certified by the MacDonald Center for Obesity Prevention and Education at Villanova University.

"This is awesome," she thought. "I want to share this with other people."

Today Spencer, who will turn 13 later this month, is a seventh grader at Irmo Middle School, an international academic magnet school.

Sylvia says her hobbies are reading, doing outdoor activities and doing things with Spencer.

She picks him up from school every day. Spencer plays saxophone in the Irmo High School marching band, is a Boy Scout in a 40-member troop which meets weekly and swims for the Mudcats, a YMCA team.

Sylvia is a band mom and one of six assistant scoutmasters in Boy Scout Troop 95.

"I love being an active mom and sharing in his adventures," she said.

Article Written by Fran Zupan

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

RALPH BARRETT
to the Foundation
by Nelle Peterson

GEORGE FANT, SR.
to the Foundation
by Nelle Peterson

BILLIE GOODALL
to the Christ Chapel Courtyard
by Janet Cotter
to the Foundation

by Mr. & Mrs. Jon Abernathy
by David & Robin Anderson
by Joe & Carol Anderson
by Margie R. Crapse
by Helen S. Mills

by Elizabeth & Mack Ouzts
by Mr. & Mrs. J. Carlisle Oxner III
by Julian Ruffin & Anne Sinclair
by Sarah & Jack Smith
by Sarah Threatt & Family
by Beth & John Wofford
by Dr. & Mrs. J. Wyman
to WSUMC

by Charlton Hall Galleries
by Martha S. King
by G. Spruce McCain

JUNE RAINES
to the Foundation
by Nelle Peterson

JOAN SAMMONS
to the Foundation
by Nelle Peterson

EDNA & VERNON SPEARS
to WSUMC
by Anna Spears Walsh

IN HONOR OF

MR. & MRS. JOHN KNOX
to the Soup Cellar
by Kevin & Carol Duggan

An anonymous gift has been given in appreciation of those who have organized and worked to move the Soup Cellar forward to continue feeding our homeless and working poor.

A special recognition goes to:

Alan-Jon Zupan
Jerry Sumpter
Rev. Parrish
Deborah Rowe
Robbie Douglas
David Jones
Martha Boynton
and Rick Rowe



United Methodist Women

December Circle Meetings

Mary's Maidens: Sunday, December 9th | 4:00 - 5:30 PM *Disciple Conference Room*

Circle 2: Thursday, December 6th | 5:30 - 6:30 PM at the *Home of Linzie Staley*

Circle 3: Tuesday, December 11th | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM *Miyo's on Forest Drive*

Circle 5: Tuesday, December 4th | 7:00 - 8:00 PM at the *Home of Pam Jenkins*

Circle 6: Tuesday, December 4th | 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM *Off-Site*

Circle 9: Monday, December 10th | 6:30 PM at the *Home of Sara Matthews*

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 2

9:00 AM Worship and Communion - Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
5:00 PM Advent Festival - TH

Monday, December 3

10:00 AM Journey Through Grief Group - HPR
11:00 AM WSUMC Soup Cellar Volunteer Luncheon - WR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Tuesday, December 4

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
11:30 AM Circle 6 - Off-Site
12:30 PM Advent Small Group - The Grand on Main
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
5:00 PM Raggio Report Committee Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR
7:00 PM Circle 5 - Home of Pam Jenkins

Wednesday, December 5

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
3:30 PM Hispanic Families Tutoring Class - 2nd Floor Classrooms
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, December 6

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 Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Circle 2 - Home of Linzie Staley
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, December 7

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, December 8

10:00 AM Salkehatchie Camp Director's Training - YR

Sunday, December 9

8:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:00 AM Worship (*Lessons & Carols*) - **Sanctuary**
9:45 AM Heifer International Gift Market
11:00 AM Worship (*Lessons & Carols*) - **Sanctuary**
4:00 PM Mary's Maidens - DCR
5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party - Home of Rev. Taylor

Monday, December 10

10:00 AM Journey Through Grief Group - HPR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting - JHC
6:30 PM Circle 9 - Home of Sara Matthews

Tuesday, December 11

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
11:30 AM Circle 3 - Miyo's on Forest Drive
12:30 PM Advent Small Group - The Grand on Main
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
2:00 PM Staff Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM AVP - WR
6:15 PM CDC Staff Supper - TH
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, December 12

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
3:30 PM Hispanic Families Tutoring Class - 2nd Floor
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, December 13

7:30 AM CDC Christmas Drop-In - CDC Workroom
9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Chapel
10:00 AM Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Meeting - WR
11:45 AM Conversation Matters - The Grand on Main
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, December 14

11:00 AM Alcorn Middle School Team Building - TH
12:00 PM Lunch Bunch - WR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, December 15

10:00 AM Resurrection 803 Group Event - TH

JHC - John Harper Classroom

TH - Threatt Hall

YR - Youth Room

LCR - Leavitt Choir Room

DCR - Disciple Conference Room

WR - Wesley Room

HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room

SC - Soup Cellar