



THE CONNECTION

February 17, 2019

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

LENTEN

WORSHIP AND LUNCH



- March 6th (Ash Wednesday): Imposition of Ashes
- March 13th: Service of the Word, *Rev. Robin Deas*
- March 20th: Service of Sacred Music
Madeline Beitel and Latoya Adams (concert)
- March 27th: Service of Scripture, Silence, and Song
- April 3rd: Service of Scripture, Silence, and Song
- April 10th: Service of the Word, *Rev. Ken Nelson*
- April 17th: Service of the Word, *Rev. Melanie Dobson*

Join us in worship and fellowship as we prepare our hearts and minds this Lenten season.

Our United Methodist Women will host a \$5 soup and sandwich lunch every Wednesday during Lent beginning at 11:45 AM in Threath Hall. No reservations necessary; come when you are able!

All proceeds will go towards our Soup Cellar.

At 12:30 PM, we will gather in Christ Chapel for worship experiences including preaching, reflection, and music.

Numbers With Neal

Welcome to 2019! I know that from a calendar point of view we are already in February, but from a Finance point of view, please bear with me as I am in catch up mode so that I can present to you two very important sets of information. Namely, and for both the Church and the FACE program, the 2018 Financial Results, and the recently Church Council approved 2019 Budget. Firstly, the following is a summary of Washington Street's finances for January to December 2018:

**Washington Street UMC
Financial Summary
January to December 2018 Year To Date**

Church (excluding FACE activities):

Contributions:

	Actual	Budget	Variance	
			Fav	Unfav
Pledges	\$671,293.71	\$681,338.00	\$10,044.29	
Non-Pledges	167,741.89	187,662.00	19,920.11	
Other Revenues	58,165.12	40,000.00	18,165.12	
Total	\$897,200.72	\$909,000.00	\$11,799.28	

Expenses:

	Actual	Budget	Fav Unfav	
			Fav	Unfav
Operating Expenses	\$886,730.55	\$909,000.00	\$22,269.45	
Net Operating Surplus Deficit	\$10,470.17		\$10,470.17	

FACE Activities:

FACE - Total 2018 Budget Allocation

Faith Formation	\$21,050
Age & Family Ministries	7,800
Connections	5,600
Engaging New People	10,550
Total	\$45,000

	January - December 2018		Variance	
	Actual	Budget	Fav	Unfav
Faith Formation	\$12,210.75	\$21,050.00	\$8,839.25	
Age & Family Ministries	11,024.66	7,800.00	3,224.66	
Connections	1,236.42	5,600.00	4,363.58	
Engaging New People	4,373.82	10,550.00	6,176.18	
Total	\$28,845.65	\$45,000.00	\$16,154.35	

From the above noted chart, and 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 January to December 2018, total contributions and other revenues were \$897,200.72 versus the total budget of \$909,000, resulting in an unfavorable budget variance of \$11,799.28; however, Total Expenses were \$886,730.55 versus the same total budget amount, resulting in a favorable budget variance of \$22,269.45. Overall, the net amount of total contributions and other revenues and expenses resulted in the Church being able to report a modest Surplus amount of \$10,470.17 for 2018.

For the Church to be able to report a modest Surplus for 2018 is a tremendous achievement for everyone involved. It is a testament to how the Church leadership has been able to effectively manage overall spending, however, during the month of December alone, total contributions and other revenues for the Church were \$149,304.82. Of this total, \$144,000 was received from contributions alone. This level of giving for December is high relative to recent years, and is very much appreciated.

Continued

The Christmas season of giving was extremely generous for our Church, and on behalf of the entire Church leadership, I would like to offer a very sincere and grateful thank you to each of you, as treasured and faithful members, for your graciousness and generosity. May the blessings that you bestowed upon our Church be returned to you in divine fashion.

FACE Activities

For January to December 2018, the four (4) categories of FACE resulted in total spending of \$28,845.65 relative to a total budget of \$45,000. Thus, FACE related spending was \$16,154.35 below or favorable to budget. Each of the FACE leaders, along with their respective committees, continued their judicious spending throughout the year. For 2019, the amount of \$16,154.35 is now available to fund the FACE ministry activities.

2019 Budget

Now, with 2018 behind us, I would like to bring you forward to 2019 and the Church and FACE Budget that was recently approved by Church Council.

**Washington Street UMC
2019 Budget**

Church (excluding FACE activities):

Contributions:

Pledges	\$525,628
Non-Pledges	352,578
Other Revenues	53,000
Total	<u>\$931,206</u>

Expenses:

South Carolina Conference	\$128,235
Property and Maintenance	143,250
Administrative Expenses	48,300
Salaries and Benefits	611,421
Total	<u>\$931,206</u>

Net Operating Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
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FACE Activities:

FACE - Total 2019 Budget Allocation

Faith Formation	\$14,000
Community Life	12,000
Engaging God's World	4,000
Total	<u><u>\$30,000</u></u>

The Church's portion of the Budget, \$931,206 versus \$914,000 for 2018, reflects a less than 2% overall increase. The level of Pledge Commitments to the Church is currently at \$525,628, as compared to 2018 Pledge Commitments of \$681,338. This is a significant decrease and, for budget purposes, requires a higher level of non-pledge contributions to allow the Church to meet its total expenses. For 2019, the required level of Non-Pledge Contributions is \$352,578 versus the 2018 budget amount of \$187,662.

For FACE, in 2019, there has been a slight change in the overall structure. In 2019, the category, Age Level Ministries, and it's related activities, has been reorganized and the activities divided up into other FACE areas. Thus, the "A" of FACE has been changed to Administrative to reflect the administrative committee structure that supports the overall FACE program. Also, Connections has been changed to Community Life, and Engaging New People has been changed to Engaging God's World.

For 2019, you can see the areas of Faith Formation, Community Life, and Engaging God's with allocated budgeted funds. The Administrative area did not require any budgeted funds given that this area is mainly comprised of the Church's committee structure. The total amount of 2019 allocated funds for FACE is \$30,000 versus a \$45,000 budget in 2018.

Now, and from a Finance point of view, with the presentation of the 2018 Actual Results and the 2019 Budget, you are up to date. I look forward to continuing my communication of the Church's financial results to each of you. On behalf of the Finance Committee, we wish you, and your families, many blessings for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Neal Foster
Finance Committee Chair

Announcements

RECEPTION FOR LAINEY WOOD: Let's celebrate Lainey Wood's time at Washington Street UMC and send her off with love! Please join us for a reception in her honor on February 24th after the 11:00 service in the Wesley Room.

TOGETHER WE RISE BAGS FOR CHILDREN: Active Faith and Mary's Maidens used the proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner to purchase 21 children suit cases and 15 teen duffle bags to be given to foster children in the Midlands. These cases will contain personal items such as hygiene products, notebooks, flashlights, stuffed animals, etc., depending on the age of the children. These bags will be taken to social workers for them to give to the children as they go into foster care. These special cases will symbolize how special these children are to us and God. Thank you for your support in purchasing a spaghetti meal so that we can provide these bags to our children.

MARY'S MAIDENS: Mary's Maidens will meet Sunday, March 10th from 4:00 - 5:30 PM in the Disciple Conference Room. All girls in first - sixth grades are encouraged to attend. Friends are always welcome!

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE: The girls in Mary's Maidens appreciate your patronage of our Valentines and Chocolates sale! We made a profit of \$155, and will use some of the money to purchase items to fill the teen duffels that will go to children in the foster care system. We will use the rest of the money for other service/mission projects. THANK YOU for supporting us!

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES: Please remind your college students(s) to check their snail mail boxes. The children in the 2's and 3's Sunday School class mailed surprises this week to all Washington Street college students.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Looking for a small group to connect with? Try a circle of United Methodist Women! Circles meet monthly during the school year to study and learn about missions and the Bible. There are daytime and nighttime meetings. Come join us!

MISSION TRIP TO ECUADOR: Washington Street UMC will return to Ecuador again this summer to be in mission and service from July 15th - 24th. We will serve the communities of El Prado (and Pijal) some 100 miles from Quito in the beautiful Andes mountains. There we will be involved in a number of projects (along side our Ecuadorian hosts from the Evangelical Church in Ecuador) such as construction, a health clinic, and Vacation Bible School, all depending on the needs and the abilities and talents of our group. We also visit the homes of local members and have wonderful times of fellowship and worship together with our Ecuadorian friends. Accommodations will be in a guesthouse in the town of Otavalo, home of one of the major markets in the region. There will be opportunities to see some of the cultural attractions of the surrounding area as well as spending a day visiting major sites in Quito. We will depart Atlanta at 6:00 PM on July 15th and arrive back the morning of the 24th. The projected cost of the trip is about \$1300 per person. Ask anyone who went on last years trip about the amazing experience in building Christian community and partnership with our our Church friends in Ecuador! For more information or to sign-up, contact Anne Sinclair (asinclair@bellsouth.net) or Pato Aravena (patricio.aravena@gmail.com) The first deadline is approaching soon.

Sunday School Classes

THE ALDERSGATE CLASS: They will continue a series by Professor Bart Ehrman titled, "From Jesus to Constantine."

THE DAWSEY CLASS: On February 17th, Julian Ruffin will talk about his volunteer work with the Red Cross in Puerto Rico and locally. On February 24th, the Rev. Tom Wall's topic will be his trip to the U.S. - Mexico border.

THE GRACE CLASS: They continuing their study on the text, *Uncovering the Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*, with discussions led by Dawsey Class leaders.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: They are reading Psalms - love songs that glorify God.

THE JOY CLASS: They recently started a new lesson series on the text, *Simon Peter: Flawed by Faithful Disciple*, by Adam Hamilton.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS: They are currently studying the book, *Taste and See: Discovering God among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers*, by Margaret Feinberg. From Amazon: "God is a foodie who wants to transform your supper into sacrament. This groundbreaking book provides a culinary exploration of Scripture."

THE PAUL HARMON CLASS: They are in the midst of a study of Genesis.

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF

MARY ALICE KINNETT
to the Foundation

by Don & Susan Poston Shirley

to WSUMC

by Mike & Gwen Harmon
by Virginia B. Vaughan

ANSEL ARTHUR SALLEY
to the Soup Cellar Ministry

by John & Lynda (Salley) Galloway

DORIS HARLEY SALLEY
to the Stained Glass Window Fund
by John & Lynda (Salley) Galloway



Hymns and hors d'oeuvres

Sunday, February 24th
4:30 - 6:00 PM in Threatt Hall
Led by Angela Powers
and Rick Frierson



Families and friends of all ages are invited to *come together* on Sunday, February 24th for a hymn sing and hors d'oeuvres.

Come with your favorite hymns in mind and an appetizer to share!

Upcoming Called General Conference

Church-Wide Prayer Vigil

Join us in prayer together as the body of Christ during the upcoming called General Conference. This is an opportunity for members and friends of Washington Street to sign-up to pray at a specific time during the conference, in hopes of our congregation covering the entire conference in our prayers for discernment. *If you're able and willing to sign-up for more than one time, we encourage you to do so. You can sign up through the link provided at wsmethodist.org. Once you've signed up, a reminder email will be sent to you 24 hours in advance before your selected time. The Chapel will be open during the times listed below. We invite you to come and pray there if you'd like, or we encourage you to pray wherever you may be at the time.

Saturday, February 23rd: 10 AM - 4 PM | **Sunday, February 24th:** Sunday school hour (9:45 - 10:45 AM)
Monday, February 25th: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM | **Tuesday, February 26th:** 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Save the Dates

Monday, February 18th at 6:00 PM (Christ Chapel)

The WSUMC Clergy will give one final informative presentation on the Commission on a Way Forward. This session will transparently present in detail the 3 proposed plans for the called General Conference, and what each could potentially entail.

Monday, March 11th at 6:30 PM (Christ Chapel)

The WSUMC Clergy will give a formal report following the conclusion of the called General Conference, and offer a time for conversation groups led by retired and active clergy of Washington Street.

Leila Jackson Making Communion Bread



When 10-year-old Leila Jackson makes loaves of Communion bread for Washington Streeters, she mixes water, sugar and yeast until it foams and then adds salt and oil. Next, she adds a mixture of whole-wheat and all-purpose bread flour, until the dough is the right consistency.

While she makes it, she usually feels more connected to Jesus and God, Leila said.

"It makes me feel good about myself because I am doing service for the church," she said.

Leila learned how to make the bread from Morah Pesha, one of her teachers at the Cutler Jewish Day School, where she is in the fifth grade. Leila bid to spend a day with Morah Pesha as part of a silent auction at the school.

Morah Pesha taught Leila and her friend CeCe how to make challah, the bread the Jews eat at Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, which begins on Friday, near sundown.

Challah is usually braided and often has an egg wash, but Leila makes her loaves round, with no eggs because the recipe is vegan.

Leila has been making the Communion bread since December. She wanted more connection to the church because she realized that other activities, especially her devotion to horses, were making it impossible to attend church every Sunday.

She and her sister Ava ride horses and care for them five days a week at McMillion Farms in Hopkins. They also travel to horse shows – some as far away as Ohio and Florida – on weekends.

When they don't take local horses because of the distance, they draw the name of a horse they have never seen and do their best to figure out how to ride it.

Ava became a horse owner within the past year. Leila doesn't have a horse yet, but she wishes she did.

"I think I might get one sooner (than age 13)," she said. "I don't know if I can go three years with my sister having a horse and I don't."

Leila has picked out the horse she wants, one she rode in North Carolina and really likes.

He is dark brown with a black mane and tail and a white strip on his face. She made a charm of his face to put on a necklace that came with a charm of the mountains in North Carolina, where he lives.

Leila also has been in plays. In 2016, when the Washington Street youths wrote and performed "There's No Place Like Bethlehem," a mash-up play, Ava played Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz," and Leila was her little dog Toto.

At Dreher High School, Leila also has played the "cute and little stuff." For example, at an audition for squirrels, the high school students refuse to try out, saying, "Get the little kids to do that."

But Leila doesn't limit her cooking to Communion bread. She's helped make lunches – sandwiches and cupcakes – for the Washington Street Soup Cellar. And when their Mom and Dad, Jennifer and Grant, are due a date night, but it's too late to make reservations at a fancy restaurant, Leila and Ava cook a meal, as fancy as they can – for instance, fancy tacos, potatoes and salad.

However, Leila's career aspirations don't include cooking, she said. She wants to be a lawyer and an activist so she can stand up for people and animals who can't stand up for themselves.

"I'm going to have a family, and baking for a family is enough," she said. But then on a whim, she added:

"I might have a little café in my neighborhood, but nothing too grand."

Article by Fran Zupan

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Tuesday, March 5th 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Once again, you have the opportunity to support Active Faith and Mary's Maidens AND feed your family! We will be serving pancakes, bacon, turkey sausage, and hot beverages. We ask for a minimum donation of \$5/adults and \$3/children (up to age 12) with no cost for children under age 2. The proceeds will be used to fund local missions, as neither group asks for funds from the annual church budget.

Tickets will be on sale before and after worship services on February 24th and March 4th, or you can reserve yours by contacting Deborah Rowe (803-629-8867).

MULCH -O- RAMA



Saturday, March 9th 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Every year, we reassess our CDC playground and take a day to spruce it up and make sure its safe and presentable for our children. The CDC Parent Action Council leads the effort, but they are looking for additional volunteers to help! If you're able and willing to pitch in and help on Saturday, March 9th, please let Rev. Taylor know as soon as possible. taylor@wsmethodist.org

If you're unable to help on the day-of, the CDC is looking for several items to borrow including wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, and hedge trimmers that will be returned to you immediately afterwards. If you have any of these items that can be loaned for temporary use, please let Rev. Taylor know as well!

Thank you for your support!

Praying ←→ ACROSS GENERATIONS

We are excited to have the Praying Across Generations project in full swing! Our youth have been paired with an adult volunteer for a school year of prayer. **To the adults...**please continue to pray for your young person and remember him/her in other ways (cards, etc.). If you feel led, please contact the parent(s) for updates and happenings. Prayer is a blessing and a wonderful way to support our youth. **To the youth...**although you do not know your adult (yet), we hope you can feel the power of prayer in your daily life. Always remember that you are loved and lifted up in prayer. Our reveal Ice Cream Social will be in late May. This will give our youth and adults a time to meet, greet, and eat! Day and time TBD. Please contact Beth Matthews of Susan Caskey if needed.

Salkehatchie Penn Center

June 15th - 22nd

Calling all youth, college students, and adults! Have you registered for Salkehatchie Penn Center yet? **Youth must be 14 years old by the first day of the selected camp (in this case, June 15th).** Registration must be done through salkehatchie.org. Washington Street UMC does not coordinate registration. If your youth isn't able to attend the Penn Center camp, we strongly encourage them to attend another week of their choice! This is a week long, overnight commitment (Saturday - Saturday). Scholarships are available. Washington Street's coordinator is Susan Caskey, and she is happy to answer any questions you or your youth might have.

turnitbluesue@hotmail.com





Girl Scout Cookies

Available beginning next Sunday

Thin Mints? Peanut Butter Patties? Thanks-A-Lots? Caramel Delites?
Which ones are YOUR favorite?

WSUMC Troop 776 will be selling cookies for \$4.00 per box at Washington Street on the following dates: **Sunday, February 24th, Sunday, March 3rd, and Sunday, March 10th (8:30 AM - 12:30 PM)**. You can also catch them at the Soda City Market on Saturday, February 23rd and Saturday, March 2nd (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM).

The Girls truly appreciate everyone's support. They are raising money for a large scale travel adventure in the summer of 2020, all funded on their own. Their goal for this cookie season is to sell 1500 boxes of cookies!

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, February 17

9:00 AM Worship - Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
3:00 PM Girl Scouts Troop #776 - GSR

Monday, February 18

8:00 AM CDC PAC Meeting - Chapel Corridor
1:00 PM CDC Teachers Appreciation Lunch - TH
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
6:00 PM Presentation on the "Commission on a Way Forward" - Chapel

Tuesday, February 19

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
5:30 PM She Sings (Columbia Women's Choir) - LCR
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:00 PM Parents of Murdered Children - Grace Class
6:00 PM Sunday Dinner Planning Meeting - WR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR
6:30 PM Palmetto Mastersingers - Chapel

Wednesday, February 20

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
3:30 PM Hispanic Families Tutoring Class - 2nd Floor Classrooms
5:30 PM "Living Faithfully" Small Group - WR
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, February 21

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
11:45 AM Conversation Matters - The Grand on Main
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
4:00 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, February 22

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, February 23

10:00 AM Chapel open for Prayer Vigil

Sunday, February 24

9:00 AM Worship - Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
9:45 AM Chapel open for Prayer Vigil
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
12:00 PM Reception for Lainey Wood - WR
4:30 PM Hymns & Hors D'oeuvres - TH

Monday, February 25

8:30 AM Chapel open for Prayer Vigil
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
2:00 PM Staff Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Education Committee Meeting - JHC

Tuesday, February 26

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
8:30 AM Chapel open for Prayer Vigil
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
5:30 PM She Sings (Columbia Women's Choir) - LCR
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR
6:30 PM Palmetto Mastersingers - Chapel

Wednesday, February 27

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
3:30 PM Hispanic Families Tutoring Class - 2nd Floor
5:30 PM "Living Faithfully" Small Group - WR
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, February 28

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Chapel
11:45 AM Conversation Matters - The Grand on Main
1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, March 1

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

Saturday, March 2

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

SC - Soup Cellar