



# THE CONNECTION

July 8, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

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

## VBS: ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE



Nearly 50 kids experienced the “ride of a lifetime with God” as we learned about bible stories such as Jesus Calling the Disciples, Mary and Martha, Zacchaeus, and more. We had fun making crafts, playing games, singing and dancing to music, and of course eating snacks.

I also want to brag on these kids for their amazing mission and outreach work over the week. As a group, they collected and donated over 200 toiletry items for our Soup Cellar guests and for our upcoming trip to Ecuador.

In addition, we had a special group of older elementary children called Service Squad who spent the week sharing God’s love in new and creative ways. They volunteered in the Soup Cellar here at WSUMC, they visited Oliver Gospel Mission to donate bottles of water for them to hand out to our homeless community, and they went to the fire station to thank our first responders with a sweet treat. Perhaps their favorite part of the week, though, was decorating river rocks with words of encouragement and love and then hiding them around the downtown Main St area. Maybe you will find one?

I’d like to say a big thank you to our volunteers, because we certainly cannot make it happen without them. And also a thank you to you, the congregation of Washington Street, for your gifts that help make programs like VBS happen. To see more highlights of the fun week we had, turn to page 2!

*With Thanks,  
Rev. Taylor Pafford*

# THE RIDE OF A LIFETIME WITH GOD



# Numbers with Neal

Greetings to all,

Ahhhh.....summer at last! A time of the year that is filled with a multitude of thoughts, activities and experiences. The season in which I am hoping that you are enjoying the extended daylight hours with family and friends; as well as the sights, smells and sounds of: food on the grill; chlorine in the pool; running through the sprinkler; the ocean sand, waves and breeze; suntan lotion; the licking and dripping of ice cream and popsicles; and air conditioning systems that appear to be running full steam, at all times!

Changing gears, and for this version of “Numbers with Neal”, rather than my usual presentation of financial results for Washington Street, I want to share with you some thoughts on the concept of, “Celebrating the Gift of Giving”. To start, the following is a quote that appears to capture the essence of this concept:

“Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week. Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God’s grace.” (Melvin Amerson, *Celebrating the Offering*)

As I personally reviewed and considered the above noted quote, the following key concepts spoke loudly and candidly to me, and will hopefully do similarly for you:

- **Offering to the church is a celebration**
- **Discovering joy in generosity**
- **Generosity growing out of God’s grace**

These three concepts, for me, provided an alternative, positive and upbeat theme to the concept of giving to the church, which can take many forms, whether it is with our time; gifts and talents; or our financial resources. I believe that the key point is that, as we grow in our relationship with God, and are showered with God’s grace, our giving, in many forms, can be celebrated and ultimate joy in such giving can be found. This celebration and joyful experience is no different than what is felt when we bestow gifts on our families and/or friends during various special holiday and momentous occasions. Giving to the church, in its many forms, can result in a similar level of celebration and joy, as many times as we want, with the knowledge that our various gifts are entrusted to God, and used for the advancement of his glorious kingdom on this earth.

Further, the above three concepts stem and result from the root concept, that each of us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are “stewards” of God. As God’s stewards, we have the following action related responsibilities:

- **Receive:** To receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God has showered upon us, such as our time, talent, earthly treasures, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.
- **Manage:** To take good care of what we have received from God, and manage these resources wisely for our own good and for the good of others;
- **Give:** Out of gratitude for our abundant gifts, to give in the spirit of sharing with others

Each of us, as disciples of Jesus Christ, are provided with this divine opportunity of celebrating and sharing our God given talents and gifts with the world, both within our local community and beyond. This is a unique opportunity that can be experienced as many times as we desire, and serves as our sincere witness to God’s kingdom, and how each of us, individually and collectively, can extend God’s kingdom to the world in the spirit of faith, hope and love.

At this time, and on behalf of the Finance Committee, allow me to wish each of you, and your families and friends, our sincere blessings for a very safe and happy summer season. Let it be filled with life savoring joys, and wishes that come true!

With God filled blessings,



Neal Foster, *Finance Committee Chair*

# Active Faith Small Group

The Active Faith Small Group Ministry celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday, June 17th. God has blessed us with many opportunities to share his grace, love and inclusion to many people over the year with the assistance of our Active Faith Members and the generosity of the congregation. These projects were completed in our first year:

- Participated in the Hand Y Mano summer camp for refugee children
- Living Water Bottle Ministry
- Blanket Ministry
- Established a Cutting Garden
- Umbrella Ministry
- Purchased books for Alcorn Middle School Summer Reading Program
- Participated in World Refugee Day at Riverbanks Zoo
- Distributed Christmas Bags to Soup Cellar Children
- Distributed Easter Baskets to Soup Cellar Children
- Distributed floral arrangements to hospitalized Puerto Rican hurricane refugees
- Prepared and distributed natural oil insecticides to Soup Cellar patrons
- Professional clothes drive for first year SC teachers
- Provided gifts to our 2018 Confirmands
- Held a Church-Wide Yard Sale to earn money to fund future missions (some items from the Yard Sale were donated to various nonprofit ministries)

We celebrate these missions and know that God will provide other projects for us to help His children in our second year. If you have a passion to help others and enjoy close camaraderie with others, please join us. We also would like to have enough interest to start a second small group in the coming months. You may contact Deborah Rowe ([rkrdrtr@bellsouth.net](mailto:rkrdrtr@bellsouth.net)) or Sam Waldrep ([swaldrep@sc.rr.com](mailto:swaldrep@sc.rr.com)) if interested.

## “Me to We Quilt Project”

Washington Street UMC participated in the “Me to We Quilt Project” at the 2018 Annual Conference. Our quilt square for the Columbia District was produced by Mrs. Elizabeth Aravena and symbolized our ministry to the Soup Cellar. Thank you, Elizabeth, for sharing your talents in this endeavor.



## Alcorn Middle School Supplies Drive



The Missions Committee is beginning their school supplies drive for Alcorn Middle School earlier this year in hopes of having supplies ready before faculty and staff return in August. They are collecting...

- **Wide-ruled loose leaf paper**
- **Dry erase markers**
- **Pencils**

Any donations can be dropped off in the labeled bin in the Missions Garden. Thank you for faithfully supporting the missions of Washington St. and continuing to minister to the children of Alcorn Middle School.

# 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).*

**PRAYERS FOR ECUADOR MISSION TEAM:** If you would like to pray daily for a member of Washinton Street traveling to Ecuador from July 9-19th, please contact Mary Lide ([neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com)). Just a quick moment of your time to ask God to keep the team member safe and bless them as they serve as the hands and feet of Christ.

**SUMMER CHOIR:** Our Sanctuary Choir has moved to their Summer schedule! That means the choir will only practice on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and then sing for worship at 11:00 AM. WE NEED YOU! This is vacation season and summer break for many of our members. Please help us to continue to lead worship in a meaningful way. You are welcome to just show up on a Sunday morning when you're available, or you can contact our Director of Music, Angela Powers, to reserve your music, robe, and seat. ([angela@wsmethodist.org](mailto:angela@wsmethodist.org) or 803-622-0308)

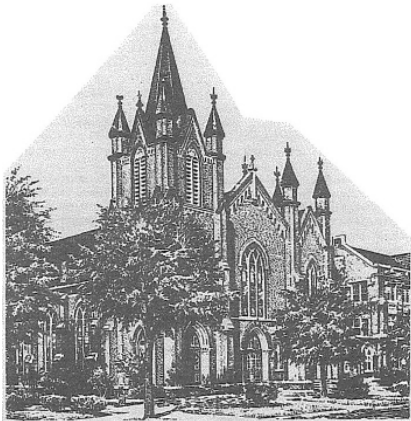
**ECUADOR HEALTH KITS:** Thank you to everyone who contributed toiletry items for Ecuador. The mission team will be able to distribute 300 health kits to the people they serve.

**CHRISTMAS IN JULY:** Mary's Maidens still need donations of Dollar Tree sunscreen and deodorant to fill gift bags for Soup Cellar clientele. Monetary donations will be gratefully received and we will do the shopping for you. Last date to contribute items or receive donations is Sunday, July 15th.

**THE RECORDS & HISTORY COMMITTEE:** You might have heard that the WSUMC Records & History Committee is working to revamp our museum with a remodeled museum area, specific points of focus for the rich history of Washington Street Church, and professional display facilities. As this process has moved forward, we've identified a pressing need for more artifacts, documents, photographs--anything that YOU think might help us tell our important story. We encourage you to donate items related to the church, or, if you would be more comfortable to lend items to the R & H Committee, we promise to record carefully the proper ownership and to take good care of your possessions. Please contact a member of the R & H Committee if you wish to donate an item: Bob Beamer, Christine Hait, Richard Owen, Rozanna Pfeiffer, John Radford, Shelley Stafford, and Mike Broome. Thank you!

## ARCHIVES NOTES

### 75 YEARS AGO



Our church bulletins continued to feature announcements concerning World War II. From July 25, 1943 bulletin: “RUSSIAN WAR RELIEF..The ‘share your clothes campaign’ is made necessary because there are about 70 million people - mostly women and children - almost destitute for clothes. No clothes to any extent are now being manufactured in Russia at this time. No other country is able to furnish manufactured clothes for Russia including the U.S. The only way we can supply this pressing request of the Russians for clothes is to ask the American people to SHARE their clothes with them. This campaign is being conducted throughout the country with wonderful results. Columbia is asked to do its share.”

## 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:** On July 8th, the Rev. Joe Slade will conclude a three-week discussion of “Spiritual Resources and Art.” On July 15th, the class will process what Joe had to say and bridge it to the book, “Jesus and the Disinherited” by Howard Thurman. The Rev. Alston Lippert will begin teaching “Jesus and the Disinherited” July 22nd.

**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 Jesus’ teachings on God’s justice in Matthew and Luke.

**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.

# Salkehatchie Penn Center

Washington Street sent 11 youth, college students, and adults down to Salkehatchie Penn Center in Saint Helena Island, SC for a week rebuilding communities and forming lasting relationships. Roughly 200 homes are repaired each summer by the various Salkehatchie Summer Service opportunities, and we are very fortunate to have youth and adults amongst us who choose to serve others as the hands and feet of Christ through this mission. Our congregation has supported Salkehatchie Summer Service for many years, and we are incredibly grateful for everyone's support in doing so!



PICTURED ABOVE (left to right): Susan Caskey, Marshall Robinson, Darby Waund, Dane Waund, Beth Robinson, Hamilton Matthews, Leslie Leitner, Maddy Foley, Ben Epting, Campbell Sullivan, and John Epting



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 *Susan Caskey*

When people ask Susan Caskey where she is going on vacation, she tells them Salkehatchie.

Susan has been participating in Salkehatchie Summer Service for the past 23 years, the past 12 years as assistant camp director at Penn Center on St. Helena Island.

In the program, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, youths and adults work on houses of people in need, form lasting relationships and serve God with their hands and feet.

Susan said she never asks God if He wants her involved in Salkehatchie.

"I know that's what I'm supposed to do," she said.

Salkehatchie is something her whole family has worked on. "It's been a family thing for us," she said.

Susan was born in High Point, N.C., and she grew up there. She earned a degree in psychology from High Point University, where she met her husband Sam.

Susan has lived in Columbia for 33 years and has worked at Palmetto Richland Behavioral Care the entire time. She is a case manager for patients with schizophrenia and persistent mental illness. Susan monitors nursing and physician documentation, develops treatment plans for patients and assists with discharge planning. In 1991, she earned a master's degree in public health from USC.

Susan also volunteers at Palmetto Richland Children's Hospital, where she dresses as Ritchie Raccoon and visits children.

Susan and Sam both grew up in the Methodist Church. She and her family joined Washington Street in November 2016. The Saturday after they joined, Sam, who was a funeral director, passed away suddenly.

"After Sam died, I didn't fear being alone, but I swore I wouldn't be lonely," Susan said. "Between work and family and this church, I have been so blessed."

At Washington Street, Susan is coordinator of Children's Moments at the 11 o'clock service. When it is her turn to present, she sometimes follows the lectionary, but at other times, she bases her talk on an experience or thought she has.

"They should be simple," she said of the presentations. "God loves us and he wants us to love everybody else."

Susan also is coordinator of prayer ministries on the Spiritual Enrichment Team.

Last fall she led an eight-week study on prayer. It was a small group – about six – but "so much fun. Prayer is a big part of my life. I don't survive long without it. I'm always praying or just thanking God."

Susan is a member of the Open Door Sunday School Class and was recently appointed to the Child Development Center Board.

She has two daughters. Emily is grants coordinator for the Richland 2 school district. Beth Robinson is volunteer coordinator for Epworth Children's Home. Susan's son-in-law Marshall Robinson is an accountant.

Susan lives with her golden retriever rescue dog Sadie. She has resisted the urge to bring Sadie to church for the Children's Moments.

Susan said the person she most admires is her mother, who graduated from Converse College and worked full time when not many women had careers. Her mother also "influenced my spiritual life as a child, teen and adult," she said.

Susan enjoys going to local plays and the Columbia City Ballet, but she also loves concerts. She has seen Fleetwood Mac, Prince twice, Paul McCartney three times, Elton John 13 times and Boston 15 times, among others.

You don't have to know Susan long to know that she is an avid fan of the University of North Carolina. Her e-mail address is even [turnitbluesue@hotmail.com](mailto:turnitbluesue@hotmail.com). From the age of 6, she sat with her father watching Tar Heels basketball games. "He taught me everything" about basketball, she said.

Each December, Susan sells shirts and programs at the Chick-fil-A Classic Holiday Basketball Tournament, held at Richland Northeast High School. In addition to her concessions job, she also gets to watch some of the games, and one year she sat with Roy Williams, UNC men's basketball coach.

If she ever got a tattoo, it would have something to do with her adoration of the Tar Heels, Susan said, adding, "But I'll never get a tattoo."

*Article Written by Fran Zupan*

## Gifts

### *IN MEMORY OF*

LARRY M. STEPHENS

*to Gracious Goodness Ministry*

by Mary Lue Finch

by Rick & Deborah Rowe

*to Minister's Discretionary Fund*

by Mike & Gwen Harmon

by the Paul Harmon Class

by the Toni White Circle

*to WSUMC*

by Virginia Vaughan

by Nancy Whittle

### *IN HONOR OF*

REV. PAFFORD

& THE VBS VOLUNTEERS

*to Youth & Children's Ministries*

by Charlotte Owen

# pause

to reflect. to renew. to connect.

Are you often out of town on Summer weekends? Unable to join us for worship on Sunday mornings? Our **PAUSE** gatherings will meet weekly this Summer in an effort to provide an opportunity to step back from the rush of daily life and gather with the hope that in the **practice of mindful Christianity**, we can connect with God and one another in fresh ways. Together we will pray, read, reflect, journal, listen and use the arts as we seek to be wholly engaged with God. *Join us on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM in the Wesley Room for this new opportunity of **mindful Christian practice**.*

To learn more about **PAUSE**, visit [www.wsmethodist.org/pause/](http://www.wsmethodist.org/pause/)

## CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, July 8

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

### Monday, July 9

CDC In-Service Day - TH & YR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting - JHC

### Tuesday, July 10

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

### Wednesday, July 11

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 6:00 PM Summer Book Discussion - WR

### Thursday, July 12

9:00 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

### Friday, July 13

1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

### Saturday, July 14

No Activities Scheduled

### Sunday, July 15

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

### Monday, July 16

9:00 AM Music Mania Day Camp - Chapel & LCR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 6:00 PM Church Council - WR

### Tuesday, July 17

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR  
 9:00 AM Music Mania Day Camp - Chapel & LCR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 6:00 PM Parents of Murdered Children - Grace Class  
 6:00 PM PAUSE - WR  
 6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

### Wednesday, July 18

9:00 AM Music Mania Day Camp - Chapel & LCR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 6:00 PM Summer Book Discussion - WR

### Thursday, July 19

9:00 AM Music Mania Day Camp - Chapel & LCR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC  
 4:00 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC

### Friday, July 20

9:00 AM Music Mania Day Camp - Chapel & LCR  
 1:30 PM NA Meeting - SC

### Saturday, July 21

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