



THE CONNECTION

March 4, 2018

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

Monday - Friday ■ 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM



Beyond the Badge

Last week, we welcomed back another recently graduated class of the Columbia Police Department as they volunteered in our Soup Cellar.

As a part of their “Beyond the Badge” program, 5 new police officers spent an entire week participating in community service projects. We greatly appreciate their dedication and commitment to our community, and especially their service to our Soup Cellar Ministry!

This mission would be impossible without the many local churches, organizations and groups that give of their time and resources to ensure that our Soup Cellar continues to provide encouragement, warmth, and care to those who need it.

If you know of any church or community organization that is searching for an opportunity to serve, our Soup Cellar is always looking for additional volunteers. Contact our Church Office for further information.



Numbers with Neal

I am both honored and blessed to be serving as the current Chair of Washington Street's Finance Committee and Treasurer, and would like to personally welcome you to the first installment of "Numbers with Neal" in the Connections Newsletter.

In line with the ultimate objective of transparent stewardship over church membership contributions and other sources of revenue, my goal, on a monthly basis, is to provide the membership of the church with accurate and timely financial information about Washington Street's finances. This information will include a combination of both actual and projected financial information as well as displaying how your generous contributions to Washington Street, through the FACE areas, are positively impacting the lives of people in the Columbia community, the State of South Carolina, and beyond, both nationally and internationally.

At this point, and to provide you with some perspective, I would like to share Washington Street's financial results in 2017 and 2016, as they are summarized in the chart below:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Contributions	\$827,724	\$807,282	\$20,443
Other Revenue	<u>41,962</u>	<u>44,910</u>	<u>(2,948)</u>
Total Receipts	\$869,686	\$852,192	\$17,494
Operating Expenses	867,731	855,200	12,531
Ministry & Program Expenses	<u>18,829</u>	<u>15,367</u>	<u>3,463</u>
Total Expenses	\$886,560	\$870,566	\$15,994
Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>(\$16,874)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$18,375)</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,501</u></u>

Operating results for 2017 were slightly more favorable than for 2016 although in both years Washington Street experienced a relatively small operating deficit. The deficits, in both years, are due to contributions and other church revenues being lower than operating and ministry/program expenses, at a total level.

With the above noted financial results in mind, the Finance Committee, in conjunction with Church Council, is currently working on developing a final budget for 2018, which I expect to be able to share with you in April. Washington Street, like other churches, expects to face some financial challenges during the upcoming year. However, the Finance Committee and Church Council are ready to face these challenges, head on, with creative and fiscally responsible solutions and related actions to ensure that Washington Street continues to be financially viable, now and for future years and generations.

As part of transparent stewardship, and based on your related experience and observations, you, as a valued member of Washington Street may have questions, comments and/or feedback in regard to the church's finances. The Finance Committee would welcome your thoughts, and these can be provided to Robbie Douglas, rdouglas@wsmethodist.org. Each will be reviewed and considered by the Finance Committee for purposes of potentially incorporating into future financial presentations, and where required, directly responded to.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to personally thank you for your continued and generous contributions of money, time or other property to Washington Street. Each of these types of contributions is uniquely valued and treated with the same level of stewardship focus to ensure that we, collectively, help Washington Street advance God's Kingdom.

With sincere blessings to you and your family,



Neal Foster

Announcements



GIRL SCOUT COOKIES: Cookies will be on sale one last time THIS SUNDAY, March 4th. Make sure to stop by one of the tables this Sunday morning and purchase a box (or 3 or 4) of your favorites to support our very own Girl Scout Troop!

EASTER LILIES: Order your Easter Lilies now to enhance our worship during Easter! Lilies are \$14 each this year, and all orders must be submitted or turned in by Wednesday, March 14th. Order forms are available in the Church Office as well as on our website. Completed forms and attached payment can be turned into the Church Office during office hours, or placed in the offering plates during worship on Sundays. You can also order your Easter Lilies ONLINE this year! An order form must still be completed and submitted. Visit www.wsmethodist.org/giving/ to order yours now.

MARY'S MAIDENS: Mary's Maidens will meet Sunday, March 11th, from 4:00-5:30 in the Disciple Conference Room. They will be filling Easter Baskets for children and grandchildren of Soup Cellar clientele. The Small Active Faith Group is providing most of the goodies for the baskets. All girls in first through sixth grades are encouraged to join us for this fun time of service. Friends are always welcome!

CHARLES PFEIFFER CIRCLE: Charles Pfeiffer Circle will meet Tuesday, March 6th, at 7:00 at the home of Mary Lide. The April meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 at the home of Happy Henry.

PENNIES FOR LENT: During the month of March, our children will be collecting coins as donations for our Soup Cellar. Please look for our children in the hallway and narthex as you are going to the chapel and sanctuary. They will be collecting as you enter our time of worship together.



Midday Worship for Lent

We hope you'll continue to join us as we immerse ourselves in the Lenten journey to awaken our faith.

DATES

3/7 - Service of the Word - Sermon given by Bishop Kenneth L. Carder

3/14 - Service of the Word - Sermon given by Rev. Gary Phillips

3/21 - Service of Music

3/28 - Stations of the Cross

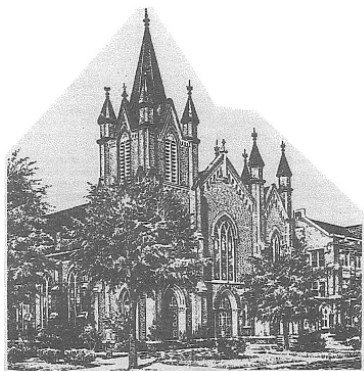
Prior to each worship service, our UMW will be hosting a soup and sandwich lunch beginning at 12:00 PM in Threatt Hall. Lunch is \$5 each week, and all proceeds go to our Soup Cellar.

Prayer Group

During the season of Lent, our Wednesday Prayer Group will meet from 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM in the Wesley Room. We encourage you to take this opportunity and join them for a time of prayer and reflection each week.

Prayer Cross

A prayer cross is located outside Christ Chapel during Lent. Write your prayer/s on a slip of paper provided beside the cross and attach to the cross with a pin. Prayers pinned to the cross will remain confidential. Please complete a prayer request card and place it in the offering plate for those requests that should be forwarded to a prayer group or a minister.



ARCHIVES NOTES

25 YEARS AGO

Dr. Rick Frierson, our church choir pianist, joined WSUMC on March 28, 1993.

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH MUSEUM PROJECT

The Records & History Committee has begun work on several new exhibits. They include: John Harper and the Founding of our Church, The Burning of the Church in the Civil War, and The Founding of Columbia College. The Committee is also putting together an exhibit on Bishop William Capers – one of the most famous figures in Methodist Church history (who is buried beneath our sanctuary).

Missions Highlights



TEACHER'S CLOTHES CLOSET

Due to the church's overwhelming generosity, the Grace Class & Active Faith Small Group have donated multiple full racks of professional clothing to the Palmetto State Teacher's Association Clothes Closet. This initiative was established in 2015 to, "help pre-service teachers who need professionally appropriate clothing, but might not have the means to be able to afford it," according to PSTA.

Your donations will meet a huge need amongst young professional teachers as they begin their careers!



EYEGLASSES COLLECTION

Thank you to the many who donated eye glasses for Circle 5's Eyeglasses Drive! All of the glasses were donated to the Methodist Student Network and their many international mission trips. Reverend Tom Wall has mailed them to be repurposed and they will be available for optical clinics to use. Circle 5 will continue to collect eyeglasses and donate them to MSN's frequent mission trips.

Your generous support of this mission is appreciated by people all around the world!

Save the Date

Active Faith YARD SALE

The Active Faith Small Group will be hosting a Yard Sale from April 13th - 15th. If you're in the process of Spring cleaning - hold onto the treasures you're ready to pass off for just a little while longer! They will be collecting donations for the Yard Sale beginning Friday, April 6th. Stay tuned for further details regarding sale times. Questions? Reach out to any member of Active Faith! Closer to the time of the Yard Sale, volunteer help would be greatly appreciated with sorting, pricing, etc.

**They will not be collecting clothes, shoes, or large furniture pieces.*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Monday, June 25th - Friday, June 29th

Parents, adult volunteers, youth, & children - mark your calendars and plan on joining us this summer for VBS: Rolling River Rampage! Experience the ride of a lifetime with God.

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 *Felicia Yockel*

Ask Felicia Yockel (rhymes with local) the best part of her job as director of the Washington Street Child Development Center, and she has a ready answer.

"If you're having a bad day, go and play with a child," she said. "If you need something to hold, go hold an infant. If you want to dance, dance with a toddler. If you want to snuggle, go read with a 2-year-old. If you want to laugh, go play with the 3s and 4s."

Felicia considers the creation of two new playgrounds her biggest accomplishment during her 13 years here.

"When I got here (in June 2005), the playground was not in the best of shape," she said. Within that first year, she, along with others, raised \$30,000, and by May 2006 the two playgrounds were completed.

Felicia said her main job is to "provide a happy, healthy and safe environment" for the children at the CDC. She wants the parents to feel good when they leave their children for the day.

To these ends, she recruits and hires staff with proper training and degrees, equips the classrooms with age-appropriate materials and oversees a \$600,000 budget, none of which is provided by the church.

The most difficult part of her job, Felicia said, is keeping up with the regulations from different agencies – Social Services, Health and Environmental Control, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Advocates for Better Child Care and First Steps.

The CDC has six classrooms, 18 staff, including Felicia, and about 65 children. It was started in 1979. The church previously ran a mother's morning out.

Felicia said her desire to work with young children came "from my kindergarten experience. I loved my kindergarten."

Felicia grew up in Batesburg-Leesville, the fourth of five children. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom, and her father was an industrial engineer at the Burlington dye factory in Batesburg. The family attended a small Catholic church.

Felicia was named Nancy after her mother and Felicia after the American actress Felicia Farr. All the children in the family were called by their middle names.

Felicia went to Lander and graduated in 1985 with a double major in elementary education and early childhood education. She taught fourth grade in Mount Pleasant for a year and then went to Wagener-Salley for nine years where she taught third grade, gifted and talented and 5-year-old kindergarten.

Then Felicia went back to Lander to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology. She went to school full time and worked full time at the Greenwood YMCA. There, she ran the after-school program for about 200 kids and the summer camp program for about 800. She had more than 100 people on staff each year.

The job included after-school, tutorial programs at six sites and two family/community events – a Halloween carnival and an Easter egg hunt. The Halloween carnival and Easter egg hunt had been rather small and unexciting so Felicia collaborated with Walmart and other businesses to provide food, drinks and T-shirts, among other things. She initiated a costume contest and a haunted house at the Halloween carnival.

The Easter egg hunt went from 1,000 eggs on three soccer fields to "probably 9,000" plastic eggs, filled with candy by a class in the private school next door. Various organizations put up booths.

Looking back, Felicia said, "I don't even know how I did it all."

Felicia lives with Sully, her 15½-year-old "speagle," a spaniel-beagle mix. Sully was a stray she found near the fence when she was working at the Blythewood Child Development Center. Neighbors know Sully as the mayor of Wales Garden because he prances down the sidewalk to greet people, Felicia said.

Felicia enjoys spending time with friends at Hatteras, N.C., reading and watching movies. She is currently reading murder mysteries by James Patterson and previously read a memoir by George W. Bush. The last movie she saw was "All the Money in the World."

Article by Fran Zupan

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF HERBERT BROWNING

to WSUMC

by Ned Self

ROBERT COLLINGWOOD, JR.

to WSUMC

by Glenda Y. Sweet

by Janath & Hoyt Winn

DR. SKOTTOWE B. FISHBURNE

to WSUMC

by Mr. & Mrs. Cravens Ravenel

IN MEMORY OF ANNE MACALUSO

to WSUMC

by Cravens & Sandra Ravenel

JUNE RAINES

to the Archives

by Circle 3

to the Foundation

by Charles & Caroline Alexander

by Kevin & Carol Duggan

by Ed Fisher

by Lamont & Donna Frye

by Happy Henry

by Helen S. Mills

by Nancy B. Mills

by Elizabeth & Mack Ouzts

by Thompson Industrial Services

to the Good Samaritan Fund

by Mott Cooper

to the Gracious Goodness Ministry

by Ron & Lane Bowden

to the Minister's Discretionary Fund

by Patricia Parrish

to the Soup Cellar

by Mr. & Mrs. H.L. Lancaster Jr.

to WSUMC

by Mr. & Mrs. William J. Berry

by David Byrum

by Robert E. Freeman

by Ned Self

IN HONOR OF

LISA DOUGLAS

the Umbrella Ministry

by Jim Lane

Sunday School Classes

What are they studying?

Several of our adult Sunday School classes just started new studies, and others are wrapping up previous ones. Looking for place to go this Sunday morning? New friends are always welcome!

THE ALDERSGATE CLASS: Beginning Feb 18th through March 25th, David Anderson will lead discussions on Adam Hamilton's *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. The first lesson is on Baptism and Temptation.

THE DAWSEY CLASS: They are studying the text, *Grounded: Finding God in the world, a Spiritual Revolution*, by Diana Butler Bass. They will continue this study until the end of March.

THE GRACE CLASS: For a Lenten Study, they'll be going through the text, *Hanging By a Thread: The Questions of the Cross*.

THE JOHN HARPER CLASS: Using Bible passages, their focus during March is on following God's guidance. Join them for a spirited discussion.

THE JOY CLASS: They are in the midst of studying the text, *Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet*, by Adam Hamilton.

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS: They will study, *Embracing the Uncertain*, by Magrey deVega during Lent. This book engages the readers to face life's uncertainties, not ignore them. The first six chapters focus on six post-Transfiguration, pre-Passion stories in the Gospels, pointing us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, hope, and obedience.



Children of Washington Street

There are 6 Sundays in Lent that lead to Easter. For each Sunday, we have encouraged our children to find a gently used toy or book from their treasures and place them in a bag. On Palm Sunday (March 25th), they will bring their filled bags to church and all of their treasures can be donated to our Active Faith Small Group Yard Sale that will be held on April 14th. Parents: we appreciate your encouragement and helpful reminders as the children of Washington Street participate in the ministry of our church!

The Africa University Choir: *Thank You!*

Over 250 people filled our Sanctuary last Wednesday night as the Africa University Choir led us in concert along with Dr. Jim Salley. We were truly honored to be one of the few churches on their 12-day tour, and we thoroughly enjoyed worshipping with other congregations from our community and across the state. Thank you to the Africa University Choir for blessing us with an inspiring evening of music and sending us away with a new spirit! A HUGE thank you to those who opened their homes to the students for the evening, and extended to them the hospitality and love of Washington Street. This wouldn't have been possible without their generosity, and we especially thank Lynn Shirley for coordinating the entire effort.



Holy Week

WORSHIP WITH US

As we continue through the Lenten Season in preparation for Easter, we hope you will plan to join us for the various worship opportunities listed below during the last week of March. The Stations of the Cross will be available for you to journey through at any point from Wednesday, March 28th - Friday, March 30th.

During worship on Sunday mornings, we are still growing together through our sermon series, "Sensing the Presence." Through Easter Sunday, we will feel the refreshing presence of God washing over us like water; experience the transforming presence of God as we listen for God's voice breaking through our self direction; observe and bear witness to the God who is visibly present among us; and taste the bitterness of sin and the sweetness of God's grace. We will celebrate the God who is with us through this life into the life that never ends.

Palm Sunday

FROM PALMS TO THE PASSION

On Palm Sunday (March 25th), we will open Holy Week together in a service of prayer and music at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Beginning with an organ prelude celebrating Palm Sunday, the service includes the children's palm procession, congregational singing and prayer, and culminates in a dynamic musical reflection on Christ's last words from the cross. The Sanctuary Choir, soloists, and an orchestra of strings, woodwinds, horns, and percussion, will present "Seven Last Words," a masterful, haunting, and thrilling oratorio written by American composer Michael John Trotta. It is a musical journey through the Passion that delivers the captivating story, evoking emotion from intimate tenderness to majestic triumph. The Sanctuary Choir is excited to share this inspirational music with our church family and community. Invite your friends to experience this astounding musical journey through Christ's final moments of life on Earth, and His death on the cross.

All children are invited to be a part of our palm processional on Sunday, March 25th as we celebrate Palm and Passion Sunday. Children should meet in the Christ Chapel Foyer at 10:45 AM to receive their palms and prepare for the processional. More details about the service will be shared as we get closer to Palm Sunday.

There will NOT be a 9:00 AM Service of Worship on Palm Sunday.

Holy Tuesday

PAUSE: To renew, to reflect, to connect | 6:00 PM at Tapp's Art Center in the Fountain Room on Tuesday, March 27th

These gatherings are an offering for the downtown community as a means to pause and give thought to what it means to be practicing Christianity in the middle of a busy week and a busy day. We gather with the hope that through praying, reading, reflecting and sharing that we can connect with God and one another in fresh ways.

Holy Wednesday

On Wednesday, March 28th, our Lenten Fellowship Lunch will begin at 12:00 PM, followed by the opportunity for all to journey through the Stations of the Cross.

Maundy Thursday

There will be a Service of Worship with Communion on Thursday, March 29th at 7:00 PM in the Christ Chapel.

Good Friday

On Friday, March 30th, our ministers will be in the Sanctuary from 12:00 - 3:00 PM and invite you to join them at any point for a time of personal prayer.

Easter Sunday

There will be two Services of Worship on Easter Sunday (9:00 & 11:00 AM BOTH held in the Sanctuary). We invite you to join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

EASTER EGG HUNT



All families with infants - 6th graders are invited to our Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Join us on Saturday, March 24th at 4:00 PM at the home of Mary and Lanneau Lide. Bring your own basket and a snack to share - lemonade will be provided. Friends are welcome!
1400 Sherwood Road, Columbia, SC 29204

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 4

9:00 AM Worship & Communion - Christ Chapel
9:30 AM Girl Scout Cookie Sales
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
1:30 PM Lay Servant Training School
3:00 PM Girl Scouts Meeting - GSR
5:00 PM Confirmation Class - 5th&6th Grade Classroom

Monday, March 5

5:30 PM Evangelism Team Meeting - WR

Tuesday, March 6

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
10:00 AM Circle 6 - JHC
2:00 PM Staff Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
6:00 PM Easter Earthquake Small Group - HPR
6:00 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting - WR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR
7:00 PM Circle 5 - Home of Mary Lide

Wednesday, March 7

11:30 AM Prayer Group - WR
11:30 AM CDC Training - JHC
12:00 PM Lenten Fellowship Lunch - TH
12:30 PM Lenten Worship Service - Christ Chapel
3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DCR
5:30 PM Handbells Practice - 3rd Floor Choir Room
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - Leavitt Choir Room

Thursday, March 8

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
11:30 AM CDC PAC Meeting - JHC
12:30 PM PAUSE for Easter Small Group - Tapp's Art Center
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Worship Team Meeting - JHC
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, March 9

11:30 AM CDC PAC Meeting - JHC

Saturday, March 10

No Activities Scheduled

Sunday, March 11

9:00 AM Worship - Christ Chapel
9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship - Sanctuary
4:00 PM Mary's Maidens - DCR
5:00 PM Confirmation Class - 5th&6th Grade Classroom

Monday, March 12

2:00 PM Reconciling Ministries of SC - WR
5:30 PM Children & Youth Team Education Meeting - WR
5:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting - JHC
5:45 PM Circle 9 - HPR

Tuesday, March 13

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
10:30 AM Circle 3 - WR
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:00 PM Easter Earthquake Small Group - HPR
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, March 14

11:30 AM Prayer Group - WR
11:30 AM CDC Training - JHC
12:00 PM Lenten Fellowship Lunch - TH
12:30 PM Lenten Worship Service - Christ Chapel
3:00 PM Hispanic Family Tutoring Class - DC
5:30 PM Handbells Practice - 3rd Floor Choir Room
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, March 15

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
12:00 PM Lunch Bunch - TH
12:30 PM PAUSE for Easter Small Group - Tapp's Art Center
400 PM Killingsworth Board Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting - WR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, March 16 | Saturday, March 17

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

GSR - Girl Scout Room