

1401 Washington Street - Columbia, SC - 29201

Monday - Friday 🔹 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer...

Lighting candles, ringing church bells, whispering prayers, posting reflections of compassion, sympathy, indignation and fear for the human race on Facebook – all of these are the responses that are becoming all too common among us. It's what happens after a terrorist attack or a mass shooting in this country. If you are like me you find yourself mesmerized by the news accounts of survivors and heroes and heroines who saved the lives of the wounded and protected so many others. Our Bishop, L. Jonathan Holston posted these words on our conference website.

A Message from the Bishop

Our hearts ache as we hear of yet another act of violence exacerbated by guns. The senseless assault in Las Vegas – which is being described as one of the deadliest in our nation's history – took scores of lives, injured hundreds and terrified thousands on Sunday. We lift up in prayer those killed and wounded, their families and loved ones, and the first responders and others who put their lives on the line to protect and save innocent victims. We thank God for the skilled hands of the doctors, nurses and other medical professionals who continue to work to heal devastating wounds, as well as all of the volunteers lining up for hours to donate life-saving blood. But, as United Methodist Christians committed to social justice and opposed to gun violence, we also must address this continuing, disturbing succession of ever-worsening gun violence." – L. Jonathan Holston

In South Africa, though most people speak English, they have a different way of using the word "now". When I say "now", I mean that this situation, this need, this problem demands immediate attention. I have never used the words "now, now" except in the weeks after I returned from South Africa because I had heard it so often. Of course the use of this word and those phrases vary across South Africa, but generally "now" means anywhere between five minutes and a month or more; "just now" means anything BUT right now; and "now-now" means soonish.

I am referencing these word differences because I am weary of lighting candles in memory of the victims of violence by gun; because I want our church bells to ring for joy, not to mark another massacre; because I want our compassion and sympathy to be for those who are grieving for those who die natural deaths; and I want our prayers to be songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. I want things to be different. Regardless of the words we use, I want us to stop talking about making changes to gun laws and do something now, like now-now, to make it more difficult for these crimes to occur.

It's a difficult challenge. I have friends, family members and congregational members for whom gun ownership is important. Long ago I decided that I would never own a gun. It was after a friend in the seventh grade committed suicide with his father's pistol. It was after a father shot and killed his son in the darkness of night because he thought his son was an intruder. It was after years of hearing these stories and then witnessing the trauma to families and to the human family that such violence causes.

My cry for change is not based on one political ideology or another. It is born out of a sense of frustration and fear for our children and grandchildren. Our society is no longer safe; not when our children are gunned down in their schools; when movie goers are attacked; when people are murdered at an office Christmas party; when concert goers become targets; when airplanes and vehicles become weapons and household products are converted into bombs.

So, today, I am not telling you what to think or how to vote – that's not my role. I am inviting you to pray for the families and the survivors of the attack in Las Vegas. I am inviting you to pray that all of us will commit to making things different. Now. Like "now, now". I invite you to pray with me that the world will be filled with sounds of "swords being beaten into plough shares" and church bells ringing for peace. I pray that we will light candles as we commit our lives daily to the Prince of Peace while joyfully singing the praises of God.

Announcements

FALL FESTIVAL - AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Our Fall Festival is right around the corner and we are in need of volunteers to ensure it will be a fun event for everyone! We are looking for volunteers to help set up Threatt Hall the dayof, as well as supervise an activity (especially the Cake Walk!) Do you like to bake? We are in need of people to bake cupcakes also. If you're able and willing to assist us, please contact Reverend Lippert, (aflippert@umcsc.org) and THANK YOU in advance! *Fall Festival is on Sunday, October 22nd from 4 - 6 PM.*

MARY'S MAIDENS: The next meeting of Mary's Maidens is Sunday, October 8, from 4:00-5:30 in the Disciple Conference Room. They will be making hymnal markers for the Sanctuary. They will learn where the money they raise through Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF goes to help children around the world. All girls in first through sixth grades are invited to join us for this fun time of service to others.

WEBSITE UPDATE: Our church website has recenly been updated to reflect the life of our church through new photographs and content! If you haven't checked it out lately, go do so now. *www.wsmethodist.org*

<u>CHARGE CONFERENCE</u>: Our annual charge conference will be held on October 16 at 6:30 PM. We will be hosting a Neighborhood Charge Conference, welcoming Wesley, Green Street and Main Street. All members of Church Council are members of Charge Conference. Members are invited and welcome to attend.

LAITY SUNDAY: Next Sunday, October 15th, is Laity Sunday. We hope you'll join us for this yearly tradition where the leaders of our church will be leading us in worship. (9 & 11 AM Services)

<u>SC UNITED METHODIST ADVOCATE</u>: Washington Street was recently featured in The Advocate on page 7 of the publication! There are copies of the newspaper in the McDonald Library for you to read at your leisure. We ask that all copies remain in the library since there is no method to "check them out." You can also subsrcibe to The Advocate for an annual fee of \$15 to stay up to date with everthing going in the South Carolina Conference.

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES: Parents and grandparents of Washington Street College students: Please send snail mail addresses for your student(s). The 2's and 3's Sunday School Class will soon be working on surprises for all WS college students. We need your help to get the surprises delivered on time! Please send the mailing addresses to Mary Lide, neaudl@aol. com, or call the church office, 256-2417.

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF: Start saving your coins, check under the sofa cushions, and the cup holders in your car! The girls in Mary's Maidens will be Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF on Sunday October 29 after both worship services.

MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH: During the month of October, a basket will be placed on the table outside of the Church Office in which you can place notes or cards of thanks to our ministers. This is an opportunity for all who attend worship to express their appreciation as we observe Minister Appreciation Month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JULIAN RUFFIN: Join us in congratulating our very own Dr. Julian Ruffin who was recently awarded one of the Duckprint Awards from Aflac and Palmetto Health Foundation due to his efforts in making a lasting impact on the lives of children faced with cancer. Aflac described Dr. Ruffin as, "a servant leader who, after volunteering with Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, went on to be a counselor at CAMP KEMO and co-founder of Lasting Impressions, a peer support group for teen cancer patients and survivors." Thank you for your selfless service, Dr. Ruffin!

Announcements for the next issue of *The Connection* are due by

12:00 Noon on MONDAY, October 16th. Please send all announcements to Lainey Wood, LAINEY@WSMETHODIST.ORG.



Christmas is just about FOUR months away! Please help us fill the gift bags for the Soup Cellar clientele. We are looking for items such as travel size shampoos, soap, and lotion. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also needed. Your donations can be placed in the Christmas Box in the hallway. *Monetary donations are graciously accepted. Thank you for your continued support!*

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF LOIS BAKER

to the Foundation by Kevin and Carol Duggan *to the Umbrella Ministry* by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit *to WSUMC* by Michael and Maria Baughman *to WSUMC* by Mike and Charlotte Broome

IN MEMORY OF PAT BRODIE

to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT BROWN

to the Foundation by Ed Fisher *to the Foundation* by Happy Henry *to WSUMC* by Jim and Gloria Apple

IN MEMORY OF BILL ELLINGTON

to WSUMC by Mike and Charlotte Broome *to the Umbrella Ministry* by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN MEMORY OF IDA KING to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN MEMORY OF LELLA PFEIFFER to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN MEMORY OF NORA PATRICIA

HUGHES ROSS to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN HONOR OF THE 2'S AND 3'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS to the Children's Ministry by Jessica Catchings

IN HONOR OF GRANT AND

JENNIFER JACKSON to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN HONOR OF WSUMC CHOIR

to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN HONOR OF WSUMC

<u>MINISTRIES</u> to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit

IN HONOR OF LAINEY WOOD

to the Umbrella Ministry by Jim Lane and Justin Dagit



25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

On October 4, 1992, twelve Washington Streeters walked six miles (in the rain) while participating in the Columbia CROP Walk. The purpose was to raise funds for hunger relief.

On October 18, WSUMC welcomed South Carolina's Attorney General, Travis Medlock. He gave the Laity Address at the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

Getting to Know...

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!

KATHY WRIGHT

When Kathy Wright was named the 2017 UMW Woman of the Year, she was surprised because her connection with UMW was Mary's Maidens, a circle for first- through sixth-grade girls. The circle, started by Beth Mathews, was named for Mary Lide, who was leading the group when Kathy joined her about five years ago. Mary's Maidens meets once a month during the school year. Projects have included planting flowers in areas of the parking lot and Christ Chapel Courtyard, filling the Soup Cellar client Christmas gift bags, selling valentines they make and fair-trade chocolates to raise money for missions and collecting school supplies for a children's home in Rwanda.

"I enjoy introducing the girls to the idea of mission and ministry," Kathy said. She was recognized with Women of the Year from other churches at the UMW District Conference, held at Washington Street on September 16. "It was a great honor to be chosen," Kathy said. "It was especially nice because the annual meeting was held at Washington Street."

Kathy also has been chairperson of the Altar Guild for about a decade. The job involves making sure the paraments are the right color for the liturgical season. Another responsibility is the altar flowers: making sure there are donors for each Sunday, coordinating with the florist and coordinating distribution of the flowers after the 11 o'clock service – be it with the donor or to a shut-in, a nursing home or someone on the prayer list.

And then there is Easter with Easter lilies, and Christmas with poinsettias. Arranging the Easter lilies the day before Easter is fairly easy. But the poinsettias, which arrive about three weeks before Christmas, take more work. "We have to water them and keep them alive," Kathy said.

Kathy is a member of the Grace Sunday School Class and the Active Faith Small Group. A lifelong Methodist who grew up in Pennsylvania, Kathy earned a degree in education for the hearing-impaired at Penn State, but took a U-turn after graduation to work as a laboratory supervisor for a forest products company.

Today, Kathy is a library assistant at Polo Road Elementary School, where she also coaches Girls on the Run, a program which uses running to inspire and motivate girls, encourage lifelong health and fitness and build confidence through accomplishment. Kathy also enjoys running as a pastime. She has run a few half-marathons and especially enjoys running the trails at Sesquicentennial State Park. Kathy enjoys public television programs, indie films and reading nonfiction. She currently is reading a lot about early Christianity and the early church.

She and her husband, James, have been trying to visit more of the country's national parks. He is a mechanical engineer who plans to retire early next year. At that time James and their son, Matt, a recent Clemson graduate in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, plan to raft through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. Their 27-year-old daughter, Lauren, is completing her master's degree in nutrition in order to become a registered dietician.

Save the Date

We have some big events coming up! Mark you calendars, invite your neighbors and plan to join us.



Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet(s) to receive a special blessing from our ministers on Saturday, October 14th! We will be at the <u>Agape Courtyard</u> (1614 Main Street) from 10 AM - 12 PM, and welcome ALL animals! They must be on a leash or in a crate/carrier.



Children's Sabbath

On Sunday, October 22nd, our 9 & 11 AM services will highlight the children of Washington Street. We would be thrilled if some of our boys and girls would be willing to participate in the service as scripture readers, ushers or liturgists! We know this special Sunday is a congregational favorite, and we hope to make these services meaningful for all! If your child in grades 2-6 would like to partici-

pate, please contact Angela Powers. angela@wsmethodist.org



Prayer Walk

We will be having our second Church Wide Prayer Walk on Sunday, October 15th, which is also Laity Sunday. Join us at 9:45 in the church parking lot where leaders will take you to several locations throughout the campus to cover our church in prayer.



Fall Festival

It's almost time for our annual Fall Festival! Invite your neighbors and bring your friends to join us for this fun occassion on Sunday, October 22nd from 4-6 PM. We will have supper, crafts, a cake walk, balloon art and more! WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS! Check out the "Announcements" section to see how you can help!

We want to hear from YOU!

Fellowship + Prayer Come and lift up your joys and concerns with us!

VERY CASUAL WITH NO OUTSIDE COMMITMENT



The Faith Formation Team is exploring the opportunity of publishing a booklet of devotionals for the Advent season, written by Washington Street members. Part of our call to discipleship is "telling our faith story." Would you consider sharing a devotion with us?

If you would like to share a personal testimony or story of how God has worked in your life, we would love to hear from you! You are welcome to include a bible verse or passage, but it is not required. Length is also entirely up to you but we ask that you try not to exceed 4-5 paragraphs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Beth Matthews. We ask that devotions be sent to Lainey Wood no later than November 13th. lainey@wsmethodist.org



If you're looking for an opportunity to wind down from a busy week, we welcome you to join the new Prayer and Study Group on Thursdays from 6-7 PM in the Holroyd Prayer Room.

It is set to run for six weeks with opportunities to learn about different types of prayer. The hope for this new group is to continue growing after the six weeks as a small group.

This group will be led by Susan Caskey and is open to everyone! Share with your neighbors and invite your friends.

> Have you ever seen someone being caught in the rain without an umbrella? Have you ever seen an older homeless woman walking down the street in the intense sun, knowing that she cannot escape the heat bearing down on her? Have you ever felt that you were glad you were not them? Have you ever wondered how you could make their day better?

The Active Faith Small Group is selling umbrellas that have the Washington Street logo on them that you can purchase to use for yourself or to give to a stranger in need. They are asking \$25 for three umbrellas – one to keep for your personal use and two to be given as a show of concern and love for others. Of course, you may keep all three umbrellas or leave one at the church to be given out when the need rises. If you'd like to leave one or more at the church, there is a designated basket right inside of the parking lot entrance.

RAINING

Hospitality

You can purchase the umbrellas through online giving, checks made out to Washington St. for "Umbrella Ministry," or with cash. You can begin purchasing umbrellas as early as now through online giving or the offering on Sunday morning, but beginning on October 15, members of Active Faith will be selling them before and after Sunday School and after the 11:00 worship. If you're unable to collect the umbrellas on October 15, there will be other opportunities to receive them at a later date/time.



We hope you will support this initiative! We want the commuity to recognize our church as a church with a heart, with teal umbrealls spouting up in the city as a sign of love for others and our hospitality to all.



Music Notes *The Sanctuary Coir*



Music is an integral part of the worship experience at Washington Street — and it's one of the many ways we express our gratitude and love for our Lord.

If you have joined us on a Sunday morning, then you know of the talent and beautiful music that comes from the choir loft and enhances the worship experience. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people in our Sanctuary Choir. Soli Deo Gloria-to God alone be the glory!

Who are these people that you see and hear each week?

They practice on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings to prepare beautiful music for our worship services. Angela Powers is the director and she is accompanied by Louis Shirer, organist and Rick Frierson, pianist. Members of the choir come from large and small cities in South Carolina, as well as many other states. Some have majored in music in college or sung in community or church choirs. Others just love to sing! Some are exceptional sight- readers and leaders, while others learn by listening. Each member has his or her own special sound and gifts to contribute.



PICTURED ABOVE

FIRST Row - Angela Powers, Laurely Nance, Mary Lue Finch, LaToya Adams, Rebecca Rebl, Karly Shorter, Jenna Barrett, Pam Boulware, Nancy Epting, Charlotte Broome

SECOND Row - Rick Frierson, Lane Bowden, Joan Beamer, Jan Merchant, Madeline Beitel, Charlotte Owen, Mary Layton, Ruth Anne Collins, Jordan Harper, Dottie Hanlin, Bob Evans

THIRD Row - Alan-Jon Zupan, Ron Bowden, Gerald Floyd, Amos Warren, Jim Knowles-Tuel, Davis Powers, Paul Brown, Harvey Jessup, Bob Peeler, Kendrick Williams, James Siarris, Louis Shirer;

Not PICTURED - Joan Sammons, Maria Beery, Myrtella Cook, Jonathan Jackson, Licia Jackson

CHOIR TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Which choir member recently had a showing of their paintings at the Rosewood Arts Festival?

- 2. Which choir member is a former Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina?
- 3. Which choir member recently published a textbook in Forensic Psychiatry?
- 4. Which choir member portrayed Jesus in a Washington Street production of Godspell when he was a teenager?



We have around 40 members on the roll but average from 20-30 singers each week. People are busy and we welcome them, when they are able to be present. Speaking of being present, we have several members that have been in the choir for over 50 years. Joan Beamer joined the choir in 1959 and Luke and Laurely Nance came shortly thereafter. Mary Lue Finch has been in Washington Street Choirs since she was 12-14 years old. Now that is dedication!



Members of the choir have many talents and hobbies including performing in Community Theater and operas, knitting, painting, golfing and more.

We are blessed that these individuals come together to make beautiful music at Washington Street! Thank you for sharing your time and talent.

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS (1) Gerald Floyd / (2) Bob Peeler (3) Dr. Richard Frierson / (4) Jonathan Jackson

Meet our Staff

SENIOR MINISTER Reverend Patricia Parrish *pjparrish@umcsc.org* Associate Minister for Community Connections and Missions Reverend Joe Wilson *jawilsonii@umcsc.org*

Associate Minister for Nurture and Discipleship Development Reverend Alston Lippert *aflippert@umcsc.org*

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR Robbie Douglas

CDC DIRECTOR Felicia Yockel

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Angela Powers

Organist Louis Shirer

PIANIST Dr. Rick Frierson

Administrative Assistant Abbie McKenzie

Communication Specialist Lainey Wood

PROPERTY/MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR Jerry Sumpter

Soup Cellar Manager Sandy Endicott

Soup Cellar Assistant Eric Williams

Custodian Michael Hutto

Social Work Intern Meredith Transou

Have you Heard?

Our Sunday school classes are working their way through really neat studies. Take a second to see what some of them are up to. You are always welcome to join at any point.

The Open Door Class

The Open Door class will begin a new study on <u>October 15th</u>. MOSES: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE RELUCTANT PROPHET, by Adam Hamilton will take us back to the Old Testament and guide us through the highlights of Moses's life from his humble birth through leading his people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. Together we will learn how God uses ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. We welcome new members and visitors every week and hope you will join us on the third floor during the Sunday school hour.

The Grace Class

This coming Sunday, <u>October 8th</u>, the Grace Class will continue their new study of the text, *THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH: RECLAIMING THE SUBVERSIVE WAY OF JESUS.* Meyers main points are that the church (in general terms) has lost its relevance in today's world among a large number of people who would have previously become Christians. A good read and sure to be interesting discussions to be led by class members!

The Joy Class

The Joy Class will be wrapping up our series on, WHAT IS THE BIBLE, by Rob Bell on October 8th. On October 15th, will launch a new series based on Adam Hamilton's book and video study: SEEING GRAY IN A WORLD OF BLACK OR WHITE: THOUGHTS ON RELIGION, MORALITY, AND POLITICS.

The Aldersgate Class

Beginning this Sunday, Donna Bryan will be leading the Aldersgate Class in a discussion based off of the text, *WESLEY AND THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS*, by Richard P. Heitzenrater. A new topic will be discussed each week, and they are listed below. <u>October 8</u>: The rise and revival of Methodism (1725-1744) <u>October 15</u>: Consolidation and maturing of Methodism (1744-1775) <u>October 22</u>: Tensions and transitions (1775-1791)



It's Back!

Lunch Bunch will resume NEXT Thursday, October 19th, from 12:00 - 1:30 PM in Threatt Hall. Come and join everyone for a meal and fellowship! There will also be a program accompanying each meal with different topics/speakers. We encourage you to bring a dish if you're able, but welcome you regardless.

Lunch Bunch will meet every third Thursday of the month through May of 2018. They do not have one scheduled for the month of December due to the busy nature of the holiday season!

This Coming Lunch Bunch...

Want to know more about your iPhone? Come join the Lunch Bunch at 12:00 PM with the program to follow. If you have questions about the use of your iPhone, send them to Lynn Shirley before the program by calling him (803-422-3368) or by email (wmlynnsc@gmail. com). There will be a time for Q&A at the program as well!



Our next F(3) Fellowship Dinner will be this Wednesday, October 11th from 5:30 - 7:45 in Threatt Hall.

DINNER + WORSHIP + ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Tickets will be on sale this Sunday! If you are unable to stop by one of the tables, email *lainey@wsmethodist.org* to reserve your tickets.

SPAGHETTI FOR DINNER!

CALENDAR OF WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, October 8

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 - Youth Room

Monday, October 9 3:30 PM CDC Meeting - JHC 5:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting - JHC

Tuesday, October 10

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
10:30 AM Circle 3 - WR
2:00 PM Reconciling Ministries of SC - WR
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Worship Team Meeting - WR
5:30 PM Circle 9 - HPR
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, October 11

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR
12:15 PM Brown Bag Bible Study - WR
5:30 PM Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper - TH
5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal - 3rd Floor Choir Room
6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, October 12

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR6:00 PM Prayer & Study Group - HPR7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, October 13 No Activities Scheduled

Saturday, October 14 10:00 AM Blessing of the Animals - Agape Courtyard

Sunday, October 15

Laity Sunday 9:00 AM Worship - Christ Chapel 9:30 AM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR 9:45 AM Prayer Walk - Church Campus 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary 3:00 PM Visitation - WR 4:00 PM Memorial Service - TBD

Monday, October 16

12:00 PM State Former Mothers of the Year & Committee - WR 6:30 PM Charge Conference - Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 17

8:00 AM Prayer Group - WR
2:00 PM Staff Meeting - JHC
5:30 PM Disciple 1 Study - JHC
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
6:00 PM Parents of Murdered Children - Grace Class
6:30 PM Domestic Abuse Counseling Services - DCR

Wednesday, October 18

10:45 AM Prayer Group - HPR 5:30 PM Handbells Practice - 3rd Floor Choir Room 6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Practice - LCR

Thursday, October 19

9:30 AM CDC Devotions - Christ Chapel
12:00 PM Lunch Bunch - TH
5:30 PM Firm It Up - YR
5:30 PM Killingsworth Board Meetings - JHC
5:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting - WR
6:00 PM Prayer & Study Group - WR
7:00 PM Palmetto Chamber Orchestra - LCR

Friday, October 20 No Activities Scheduled

Saturday, October21 No Activities Scheduled

LOCATION KEY

JHC - John Harper Classroom DCR - Disciple Conference Room TH - Threatt Hall WR - Wesley Room YR - Youth Room HPR - Holroyd Prayer Room LCR - Leavitt Choir Room GSR- Girl Scout Room