

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, September 5, 2021

WSUMC Fundraising & Donation Efforts Ongoing

This past spring, **Active Faith** raised \$300 for the purchase of needed items for the Koala Pantry at Columbia College. According to Jim Lane, the \$300 donation enabled them to purchase items deemed as “red” or “yellow” – of high need by students. Kelly Long, who coordinates the pantry was very appreciative. “Our students will be very thankful,” he said.



The newest calls for donations are from two sources. The first is an ask for donations of eyeglasses for both children and adults from the United Methodists of the Midlands—**Glasses for Guatemala**. Information about this mission was recently published in the most recent issue of *The Advocate*. Glasses for Guatemala is a project of the Columbia District Outreach Committee and will continue through Sept. 30. WSUMC is



WSUMC's Mission Garden is the go-to place to drop off donations. It is located in the back hallway across from Threatt Hall.

asking for folks to drop off their donations for this cause in our Mission Garden area in the back hall by the Bull Street exit.

Our own **WSUMC Soup Cellar** is asking for donations of canned goods (large cans preferred) and individually wrapped snacks to distribute to our customers in the Soup Cellar. These items can also be dropped off just inside the back door in the Mission Garden.

Wall Announced as Director of Family Ministries



It is with much joy that we announce to all of you that the church council has affirmed the following staffing structure change that was recently proposed by the Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC):

We have consolidated the part-time Director of Youth Ministry position and the part-time Director of Children's and Family

ministries into a single full-time position. This decision was prayerfully arrived at taking into account the current membership and ministry needs.

We are very pleased to announce that the SPPRC extended an offer to Mackin Wall to transition from part-time Youth Ministry Director to become our full-time Director of Family

Ministries. The members of our Church Council supported the SPPRC's decision to make this offer and Mackin has accepted! She will begin her duties as Director of Family Ministries on September 1st!



Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class** is continuing a 10-week study program on Adam Hamilton's new book *Words of Life Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today*. In *Words of Life*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history. This study will include the use of a DVD featuring Adam Hamilton teaching from locations in Egypt as he explores the Ten Commandments followed by a discussion of each commandment. All are welcome to join this discussion which will run until October 4, 2021. For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, September 5, the class will continue its study of *Grateful: The Subversive Practice of Giving Thanks* by Diana Butler Bass. Grant Jackson will teach Chapter 1, "Feeling Grateful." On September 12, Hunter Rentz will lead a discussion of Chapter 2, "Heart Matters." The class will meet by FreeConferenceCall. Class members should call in before 9:15 a.m., but not before 9:05 a.m. The call-in

number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934. For more information, contact Mary Slade at 803-917-7689.

• **The Grace Class:** The class is beginning a study and reflection on *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. In this commentary, award-winning author and theologian Willie James Jennings explores the relevance of the book of Acts for the struggles of today. This week's topic is "Aliveness in Spirit." On Sept. 12 we will discuss "Aliveness in Word." Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasec.edu for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection. All are welcome to join!

• **The Joy Class** has begun a study on the book of Romans. We invite all to join us in-person as we learn & grow together on our journey to be Christ's light in the world. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at leandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **Open Door Class:** has started a new study *Moses the Reluctant Prophet* by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join via Zoom or in person. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** Reverend Don Britt is leading the Paul Harmon Class in a study of the Apostles' Creed. All are welcome. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

• **John Harper Class:** is now meeting in their classroom. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **YASS** is taking a break for the summer. We encourage you to join in with any of our other adult classes which are now meeting at the church. Please contact Rev. Alston at aflippert@umcsc.org for more information.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** September 5, "Comparison" — Philippians 4: 10-13; September 12, "Popularity" — Galatians 1:10. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Booth Volunteers Needed! SC Pride Parade & Festival

The Reconciling Next Team invites the congregation to join us as we walk in the SC Pride Parade, Friday, October 22 and host a booth in the SC Pride Festival, Saturday, October 23.

The team has reserved the side room at the Grand on Main Street from 5 pm to 8 pm on Friday the 23rd for a time of fellowship and dinner before walking in the parade. T-shirts can be purchased through Realm Connect and also before/after the 11 am service on Sundays in September.

On Saturday the 23rd, WSUMC is hosting a booth at the Pride Festival from 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm. We will be giving out information about the church and other gifts. We are looking for booth volunteers, and if you are interested please sign up online at wsmethodist.org/event/sc-pride-festival.

We look forward to your participation as we celebrate in the SC Pride Parade and Festival.





Order your 2021 WSUMC t-shirt!

Want to show your pride in being a member of WSUMC and let everyone know that at Washington Street, "We LOVE all: No exceptions, No exclusions?" Here's your chance! Women's cut and regular t-shirts are available for **\$17.00** each; **XXL is \$18.00**.

SALE RUNS THROUGH SEPT. 30

NOTE: You must have a REALM Connection account with login. This purchase can not be made available via the Church website Giving link.

SCAN ME TO ORDER! →



Mary's Maidens Starts New Year at WSUMC

Mary's Maidens is a United Methodist Women's circle of girls in first through fifth grades. The group meets once a month during the school year, usually the second Sunday of the month. Mary's Maidens learn about missions and serving others. The leaders are Kathy Wright and Mary Lide.

The first meeting of the school year will be **Sunday, September 12, from 4:00-5:30 pm**. This month the group will meet in the church kitchen to make dog and cat treats. The treats will be distributed at WSUMC's Blessing of the Animals on



October 2 in the parking lot of the church from 10:00 am to noon. Mary's Maidens are asked to wear masks and practice social distancing. Friends are always welcome!

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF ELIZABETH DRINNON

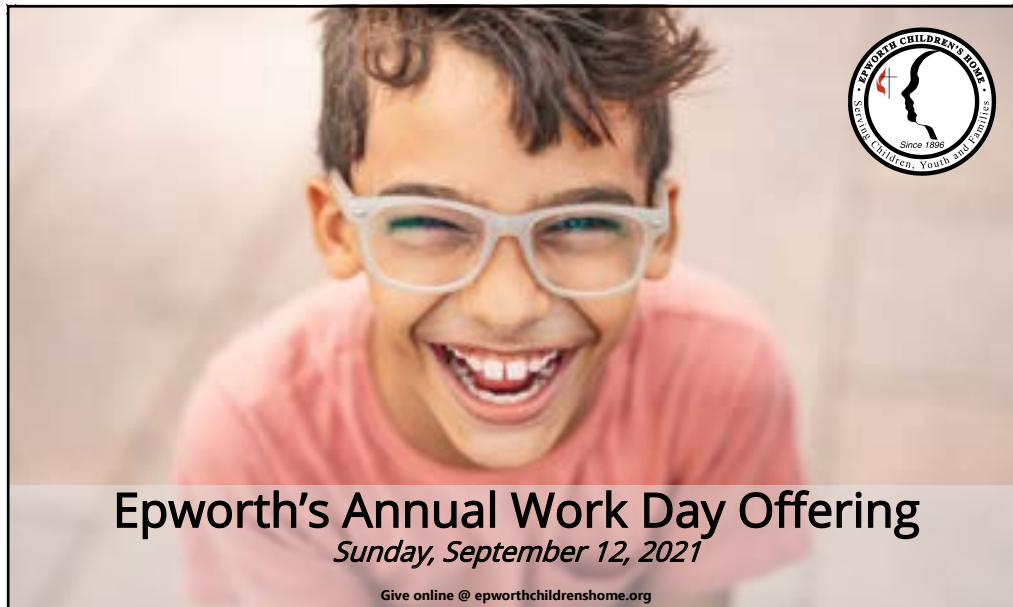
to WSUMC

Given by Ben Whetstone

IN MEMORY OF HELEN FANT

to WSUMC

Given by Phyllis M. Bray Huffman



Epworth's Annual Work Day Offering
Sunday, September 12, 2021

Give online @ epworthchildrenshome.org

Prayer List

Pete Bailey
Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Mickey Epting
Charles Garren
Frances Grimes
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Rev. Judy King
Beverly McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Heidi Wall
Peggy Weston
Our homebound



PRAY AWAY

Named the "definitive documentary on conversion therapy" by Awards Watch

The Reconciling Next Team
invites you to watch Netflix's "PRAY AWAY"
and join us for a discussion of this revolutionary film
discussing conversion therapy.

**Sept. 9 @ 6pm
via Zoom**
Email Jim Lane for the link:
jlane@columbiase.edu

NOTE: some of the images and content may be disturbing.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Monday, September 6

LABOR DAY/WSUMC OFFICE & CDC CLOSED

Tuesday, September 7

4:00-5:00 pm/ Reconciling Next Meeting/ Zoom

Wednesday, September 8

7:00-8:00 pm/ Online Book Study w/ Ann Jessup/ Zoom

Sunday, September 12

4:00-5:30 pm/ Mary's Maidens/ Kitchen & Disciple Conference Room

Monday, September 13

6:00-7:00 pm/ Sunday Dinner Team/ Zoom

Tuesday, September 14

5:30-6:30/ Missions Committee Meeting/ Zoom

5:30-6:30 pm/ Ad Hoc Meeting/ Zoom (Ann Jessup)

Wednesday, September 15

6:00-7:00/ Worship Team Meeting/ Zoom

7:00-8:00 pm/ Online Book Study w/ Ann Jessup/ Zoom

Wednesday, September 22

7:00-8:00 pm/ Online Book Study w/ Ann Jessup/ Zoom

To set up any meeting, please contact Abbie at abbie@wsmethodist.org

ATTENDANCE:

Aug. 1: 94
Aug. 8: 123
Aug. 15: 122
Aug. 22: 71
Aug. 29: 95

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 9-1-21):

Church:
Budget: \$471,497.25
Actual: \$452,049
Soup Cellar: \$53,332
Foundation Gifts: \$31,661

Give online today
wsmethodistorg/giving

Or text "connections"
to 732566

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS!

Thursday, September 9— 6-8 pm

Pathways to Social Justice
Climate Change and Environmental Action
Film — "Chasing Coral" & discussion

Sunday, September 19

12 - 2 pm: Door Project!

It's construction time! Lunch will be provided.

Save the Date for Blessing of the Animals!

It's back! Canceled due to COVID-19 last year, WSUMC's Connections committee invites all pet owners and lovers to join them for this year's Blessing of the Animals on October 2. The event will be held from 10 am to noon in the parking lot of the church. WSUMC Pastors Becky Shirley and Alston Lippert will perform the blessings. All pets must be leashed, crated or caged. We welcome all!

This year, along with doling out blessings and some homemade treats to our beloved pets, WSUMC is collecting donations for Pawmetto Lifeline who will be on hand with some of their alumni dogs.

Blessing of the Animals is a yearly event that WSUMC holds in observance of the Feast of St. Assisi (the actual day is Oct. 4). St. Francis Assisi is known as the patron saint of animals who once said:

"The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea; and have a part in human life. We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals over all the creatures of the earth."

The committee would like to thank Mary's Maidens for making the pet treats for distribution at the event. Be on the lookout for a list of Pawmetto Lifeline's needs on our website at wsmethodist.org/event/blessing-of-the-animals/

