

THE CONNECTION

December 12, 2021

Two Services Planned for Christmas Eve

The first Christmas Eve service will be a production entitled *A Line In Time*—(The Birth of Jesus). It will be narrated by Rev. Becky Shirley with cast members from within the WSUMC congregation. This production, written by Rev. Becky, tells the story of Jesus' birth through the eyes of the innkeeper's wife and takes place at the inn that Joseph and Mary made their way to that Christmas Eve long ago. *A Line in Time* is being directed by Jane Peterson. The production team includes Lynn Shirley, Sam Waldrep, and Susan Caskey. This production is suitable for the entire family!

The cast includes:

Narrator: Rev. Becky Shirley
Joseph: Joe Graham
Mary: Michelle Graham
Baby Jesus: Joseph Graham, Jr.
Rebecca: Darby Waund
Shepherds: Alan-Jon Zuppan, Dane Waund, Mackenzie Powers
Sheep: Rosemary Aravena
Star of Bethlehem: Alma Louise Aravena
Wisemen: Nicholas Shumate, Pato Aravena, Malcolm Lemons

A traditional Christmas Eve service with candle lighting and communion, along with favorite hymns will follow *A Line In Time* at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us!



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE REOPENING TEAM

During their last meeting held on Dec. 8, the Reopening Team made the decision to forgo its plans to go to a "mask optional" policy at this time. Due to the current rising COVID numbers in our area, the team felt it best to maintain its current "mask required" policy until after the first of the year. We anticipate larger crowds during the holidays and want to ensure the safety of our congregation. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ricky Rowe at rkrowe2@bellsouth.net, or Rev. Shirley at rjshirley@umsc.org.

WSUMC Member Publishes Book

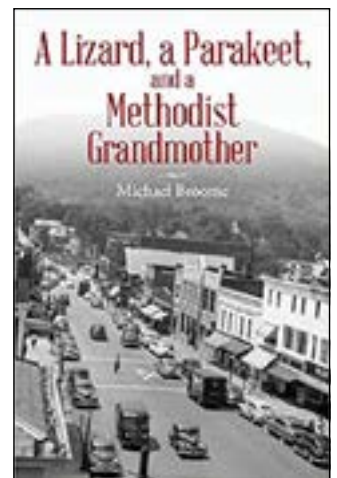
Dr. Michael Broome has published a book, *A Lizard, a Parakeet, and a Methodist Grandmother* that is available on Amazon.com as either a Kindle or paperback. We are very excited for Mike and hope that all Washington Street members and friends will congratulate him on his accomplishment and also purchase a copy of the book. Here is what Amazon had to say about *A Lizard, a Parakeet, and a Methodist Grandmother*:

"This heartwarming memoir short story collection is a slice of a North Georgia kid's childhood in the 1950s with local Southern flavor, family members, friends, and special places that Michael Broome wishes never to forget. His thirteen stories are humorous, personal, folksy, and sometimes a bit off-color, but the realism and emotional importance to the author are apparent. While some characters reappear and important events and places are referenced more than once throughout the collection, each story stands alone. Experience the humorous yet sentimental event of his christening, his grandmother's attachment

to their town's bedraggled "Huck Finn" youngster, his aunt's clever and loquacious pet parakeet and his rather vulgar contribution to the minister's blessing at a Methodist circle meeting, and the presentation of his pet lizard to the prim and proper but high-strung county librarian, and much more.

Folks who grew up in the South during the 1950s and early 1960s and who've never lost their love for home will cherish these stories reminiscent of Bailey White or Lewis Grizzard."

Congratulations, Mike!



Sunday School

• **The Aldersgate Sunday School Class:** began a study on Nov. 21 based on a 2016 book by former UMC bishop and current Duke Divinity School professor William H. Willimon, *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*. This thought provoking study examines 1 John 4:18 - 21, which begins, "[t]here is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear expects punishment." (CEB) All are welcome for this interesting study! All are welcome. For more information contact David Anderson at danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, December 12, we will continue our study of *Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic—and Beyond* by Matthew Fox. Tom Summers will teach Chapter 5, "Tasting Non-Dualism." On December 19, Joe and Mary Slade will lead a discussion of Chapter 6, "Trusting Our Sensuality." 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 about the class, contact the class president Mary Slade at marydslade4@gmail.com.

• **The Grace Class:** The class is continuing its 5-week film series from "The Work of The People, Magnifying the Light." Dec. 12: "The God that is Coming," Dec. 19: "Undoing Wrath," Dec. 26: "Upsetting the Pyramid." 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** is embracing the Advent season with a series of Advent themed lessons led by various members. All are welcome to join us as we learn and grow together to prepare for the season. 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:** During Advent, the Open Door Class will study Adam Hamilton's *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas* beginning on November 28. The class meets both in person and via zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at jessup.ann@gmail.com.

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** Dr. Lois Duke will lead the study on December 12. Suzanne Joye will lead the study on December 19. All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.true.com.

• **John Harper Class:** is currently studying the Gospels using Cokesbury Adult Sunday School materials. The class is led by Tracy Powers. All are welcome. Contact Tracy for more information at tjpowers65@gmail.com.

• **WSUMC Youth Class:** The youth will participating in Advent studies for the remainder the month. To participate, please email Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Youth News!

The youth group Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 16th from 6-8pm in the youth room.

YOUTH SKI TRIP!

Feb. 18-20, 2022
Contact Mackin for more information
mackin@wsmethodist.org

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to WSUMC
Given by Mary & Lanneau Lide

IN MEMORY OF FRANCES GRIMES
to WSUMC
Given by Lynn & Roy Frazee

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Virginia & Buck Brinson

IN MEMORY OF HOMER FESPERMAN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Linda Fesperman

IN MEMORY OF WALTER "PETE" BAILEY
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Mary & George Schroeder

IN MEMORY OF MARION BURNSIDE
to the Foundation
Given by Buddy & Paul Carson

IN HONOR OF JIM BLANTON & ED MCCLAIN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Karen & David Hostetler

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Organ Fund
Given by Susan & Sam Mathews

IN MEMORY OF PAUL BROWN
to the Soup Cellar
Given by Deborah & Rick Rowe

2022 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up throughout the month of December in the Narthex hallway. Please scratch through the old date.

***No date or number is needed. You will need only one booklet for the year of 2022.**

Prayer List

Thom Berry
Martha Boynton
Martha Brooker
Sally Christian
Heidi Conte
Mickey Epting
Bud Harrelson
Laura Holladay
Karen Horne
Geneva Hutchinson
Lisa Johnson
Rev. Judy King

Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Lauren, Greg, and Nora Blair
Middleton and family
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Marjorie Tuell
Our homebound

The last Ecuador interest meeting will be on Sunday, December 12th at 9:00 am in the Wesley Room. A \$100 deposit will be due on or before January 15th, 2022.



Thank You...

To our wreath "elves" for this year are (from left): Ann Fishburn, Mary Beth Young, Janet Cotter, Beth Matthews, Ann Jessup, and Mary Ann Kluge. This year the wreaths are dedicated to the honor of Sarah Threatt.



WACH Fox anchor Fraendy Clewraud shot a portion of WACH's Santa Tracker segment for Christmas Eve here at WSUMC. Look for us during the segment Christmas Eve!



Thank you to Sam Waldrep who never fails to amaze everyone with his decorating talents. We hope you are enjoying our stunning tree just outside of Christ Chapel.

Heifer for the Holidays

Heifer International Living Gift Market

Sunday, December 12
Before and after the worship service

In the hallway between the Wesley Room
and the church office

For more information contact Mary Lide
neaudl@aol.com





Upcoming Meetings & Events*

**Subject to change*

Sunday, December 12

10:00 am-12:30 pm | Heifer Living Gift Market | Hallway
4:00-5:30 pm | Mary's Maidens | Threatt Hall

Monday, December 13

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Small Group Advent Study—Pauses
w/Rev. Alston | Zoom & Wesley Room
6:00-7:00 pm | RJAT | Zoom

Tuesday, December 14

5:30-6:30 pm | CDC Board Meeting | Wesley Room
7:00-8:00 pm | Charles Pfeiffer Circle 5 | Zoom

Wednesday, December 15

7:00-8:00 pm | Small Group Advent Study—Pauses w/
Rev. Alston | Zoom

Monday, December 20

11:00 am-12:00 pm | Advent Small Group | Wesley Room
& Zoom

Tuesday, December 21

4:30-5:30 pm | *A Line In Time* Rehearsal | Sanctuary

Thursday, December 23

4:30-5:30 pm | *A Line In Time* Rehearsal | Sanctuary

Friday, December 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00-4:45 pm *A Line In Time* (The Birth of Jesus) | Sanctuary
5:30-6:30 pm | Traditional Christmas Eve Service with
candle lighting and communion

**WSUMC OFFICE AND CDC CLOSED FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 24 AND MONDAY, DECEMBER 27 FOR
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

The Dawsey Class celebrated Christmas at their annual Christmas party held this year in Threatt Hall. Class members enjoyed a catered lunch and some long-awaited fellowship.

Christmas Cantata
Camille Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio

Sunday, December 19
11:00 am | Sanctuary

Featuring
Louds Shifer, Organ & Rick Frierson, Piano

Strings: Andrew Lynn, Damir Horvat,
Audrey Harris, and Tzu-Ying Liao

Soloists: Maria Beery, Karly Shorter,
Yasmin Bradshaw, Johnnie Felder & Craig Price

ATTENDANCE:

November 7: 89
November 14: 98
November 21: 98
November 28: 105
December 5: 124

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE

(as of 12-8-21):

Church:

Budget: \$808,281

Actual: \$645,571

Soup Cellar: \$74,592

Foundation Gifts: \$131,250

**Scan Me
to Give!**



Give online today
wsmethodist.org/giving