

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, July 10, 2022

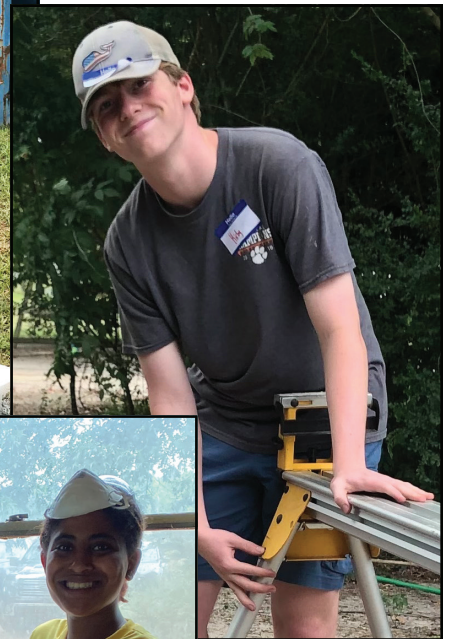
Salkehatchie 2022

by Dane Waund

Tommy Wilkes is a gifted preacher and musician, familiar to many at WSUMC. Our children got to experience a camp run by him, and I got to know him a bit too. Tommy's first Salkahatchie experience was at Penn Center (also familiar to many), and he runs his week in a similar manner.

The Bishopville camp is very well supported by local churches and industry. This year was clearly a heavy lift though, as the "normal" crew of regulars was reduced due to Covid concerns, primarily the immunization requirement. As a group of 37 campers, we worked to upgrade three homes and to join in fellowship with their owners. This was my third camp and without a doubt, the most challenging I've seen.

Darby and Wyatt worked on a stick-built home, occupied by Julius "Juju" McCants, and owned by his aunt Dorothy (Dot). Both were frequently at the home, actively participating. On Monday, a significant number of tools were stolen from the parking lot (all of Darby's), and during Wyatt's demo, it became apparent that key underpinnings of Juju's home were termite infested and needed replacement. A tough start. Following some progress Tuesday, the roof was stripped of shingles, and the tar paper was installed on Wednesday. Darby and three others were there late that afternoon to finish some small projects when an unexpected severe thunderstorm hit the site, overwhelming the tarps on the roof. The water flowed through the home, destroying most of the ceilings. During that evening's sharing session, Darby passionately described her feelings of failed responsibility while frantically trying to patch the roof with small tarps in the driving rain. She described sections of the ceiling falling below her while Aunt Dot was below watching her home essentially disintegrating in front of her. During the week, Wyatt apparently nearly fell off the roof once, put his foot through the ceiling once, and impressed everyone by cracking open a watermelon with a rusty crowbar. One of the adults on-site shared with me that on the final day, Wyatt helped Juju





as he became more vocal later in the week, letting his personality show. Natalie also clearly gained confidence and became more self-directed as the week progressed, working closely with two new friends on the team, Mekdis and Anali. At the closing service, I was really impressed that she showed the self-confidence to step forward to speak a second time as our session neared its end. She wanted to be sure to show gratitude to two local Methodist adults who had worked with us closely on-site, providing and organizing materials. She walked confidently into the center of a circle of 40 people, picked up a microphone, and made sure others knew how important their contribution was.

A special feature of the camp was the "pairing" of a group of six youth from South America with our six who were on site. One of the children's mothers

for an hour and a half, carefully placing all of Juju's furniture back into the home, repeatedly checking with him to be sure everything was just where he wanted it. Juju came to nearly every meal during the week and was one of two homeowners to attend our end-of-week communion ceremony — a first for Tommy's camp.

Lydia and Ava were assigned to the Wells home, a single-wide trailer with beautiful flowers in the yard. It appeared unusually well cared for during the camper's initial tour of homes. During the week, however, the home's hidden problems became apparent. Plumbing and septic waste issues had caused significant damage to the house's structure, particularly in the kitchen. Several times during the week the Wells team felt they had taken real steps forward, only to find a secondary problem that needed addressing. The team missed Ava's positive presence after Monday. Lydia worked with three of the camp's "core groups" from Red Bank, grizzled veterans who were extremely skilled, but were also more than a bit curmudgeonly. Bob, Mackie, and Cory all asked me to share with Lydia's parents what a strong worker she is. Mackie set her up to cut boards with a circular saw and noticed with admiration that she had a steadier hand than he does. Cory and Bob noted Lydia working steadily out in the rain to fashion the team's Salkehatchie cross, without prompting. Lydia also had to cope with homeowners who were less grateful than one would expect, prompting yet another lesson for campers on that team as they prepare for leadership and life.

Kirby, Natalie, and I were on the Don Anderson team, working to bring a dilapidated single-wide trailer into livable condition. Kirby impressed his team leaders, Luke and Vanessa, with this constant willingness to seek out work: "Mr. Dane, is there anything I can do to help right now?" And we were all really surprised when he took over the music playlist and got everyone jamming in the SUV during trips to and from the home. Given that we were struggling with a well, more than one person commented that Kirby's own "pump had been primed"



had worked Salkehatchie as a youth. She brought her two children along with two other children, each from two other friends' families to the camp. During the week they clearly bonded, forming online groups as they tearfully bid goodbyes. Some of our youth will likely report personal invitations to visit South America. A Peru-based service week, using Salkehatchie as a model, was discussed over dinner.

Because of the problems in the homes, the weather and the smaller camp size, two of the three homes were "less finished" than their teams desired, even though we worked well into the evening several nights. Pastor Tommy spoke openly about the purpose of Salkehatchie during the week, stressing that certain objectives not being achieved should be considered one of the lessons the young people at the camps normally face. Let's all take a moment to thank our youth and to make sure they understand the impact of what they achieved, as each was very invested in improving these people's homes and lives.

Thanks for trusting me as the de facto chaperone on the trip. They would have been great without me.



Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Starting July 10, the class will embark on an 8-week study by well-known bible scholars, N.T. Wright and Michael F. Bird. These scholars team up to take you on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind the parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today. The sessions include video and the study guide, *The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God*. Come join us for fellowship and an exciting study program, Aldersgate Classroom 2nd floor of the Education building. For questions call David A. Anderson at 803.318.8821 or danderson@richardsonplowden.com.

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, July 10, we will continue our study of *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*, by Jim Wallis. Caroline Seigler will lead a discussion of Chapter 5, The Power Question. Next Sunday, July 17, Jim Seigler will teach Chapter 6, The Fear Question. 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:** On July 10, the Rev. Jim Tuell will continue his lesson series entitled "The United Methodist Church Hymnal — Its History, Organization, Diversity, and Other Things." He will be discussing why the sections are in the order they are, the placement of the liturgy, and how to use the various indexes. Jim led the Grace class in a similar study a few years ago, and it was excellent. He brings his guitar and leads us in some of the hymns which bring a wonderful component. These classes are being held in Christ Chapel as well as through Zoom. Several other classes will be participating. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at jlane@columbiasc.edu for the Zoom link to gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection.

• **The Joy Class:** The lessons are being led by various members and focused on how we can use this season to further our faith journey. Everyone is welcome to join us as we learn together. If you are interested, please contact Lee Haynes at leandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class has started a new series: *Taste and See: Discovering God Among Butchers, Bakers and Fresh Food Makers* by Margaret Feinberg. All are welcome to join. 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:** We will rejoin the Grace Class for the Methodist Hymnal study on July 10 in Christ Chapel. All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at sjoye@sc.rr.com.

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

• **The WSUMC Youth Class:** The youth will continue discussing the Gospel of Matthew. For more information, contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

Gifts



IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE

to the Grace Class

Given by Sam Waldrep

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE

to the Flower Fund

Given by Beverly & Paul McClanahan

IN MEMORY OF THEO LANE

to Active Faith

Given by Deborah & Rick Rowe

IN MEMORY OF JOBY ROBINSON

to Active Faith

Given by Fran Zupan

IN MEMORY OF FRANCIS GRAHAM

to WSUMC

Given by Virginia Vaughan

IN MEMORY OF JOBY ROBINSON

to Active Faith

Given by Beverly & Paul McClanahan

IN MEMORY OF MARYLE OUZTS

to the Soup Cellar

Given by Gwendolyn & Michael Harmon

PRAYER LIST

The Prayer Team wants you to know that you can email us with any prayer concerns any time. Please email wsumcprayers@gmail.com.

Martha Boynton
David Byrum
Heidi Conte
Jimmy Dawkins
Mickey Epting
Rev. Paul Harmon
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Mike Hutto
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner
Rev. Judy King
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Genie & Ron Quinn
Frances "Tut" Robertson
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Nicholas Todd Shumate
Sarah Threatt
Edee Vaughan
Jim Ward
Our homebound

Hosted by The Fellowship Team of Reformation Lutheran Church and The Reconciling Next Team of Washington Street United Methodist Church

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

FRIDAY UNWIND

3RD FRIDAYS AT 6:00 PM



PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY;
DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE

CONTACT GARY PARISH AT
GPARISH67@GMAIL.COM
TO REQUEST ZOOM MEETING ID

Soup Cellar

Our needs include:

Little Hygiene Pantry

- Individually Wrapped Snacks
- Large Canned Vegetables
- Water

- Small size toiletries for women & men
- Cash donations



Natrel-2%



Amazon (12 pk)

THE COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

Shelf stable milk

Natrel-whole



Amazon (12 pk)



KINGDOM DREAMS & VIOLENT REALITIES

Wednesdays on Zoom | 12:00-1:00 pm

July 13, 20, 27

(July 6 was postponed)

Led by Rev. Becky Shirley

Email jane@wsmethodist.org to register

ATTENDANCE (as of 7-6-22):

July 3: 74 (in-person); 80 (online) = **154**

June 26: 96 (in-person); 136 (online) = **232**

June 19: 93 (in-person) 93 (online) = **186**

June 12: 111 (in-person); 116 (online) = **227**

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 7-6-22):

Church Budget: \$865,000

Church Actual: \$280,578

Soup Cellar: \$38,989

Foundation Gifts: \$17,930

SCAN TO GIVE



SAVE THE DATE!

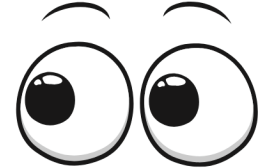
OCT. 8, 2022
7:00 am-1:00 pm

Preview night
Friday, Oct. 7
\$5 admission
Free for donors



- Now accepting boxed items
- No large items or furniture accepted until Sept. 29
- **NO BOOKS** (except children's)

LOST & FOUND



**PLEASE CHECK THE NEW
LOST AND FOUND TABLE TO
SEE IF ANYTHING IS YOURS!**

THE TABLE IS LOCATED JUST ACROSS FROM THREATT HALL IN THE BACK HALLWAY

**ANY ITEM LEFT UNCLAIMED BY
SEPT. 30 WILL BE SOLD AT THE WSUMC YARD
SALE OR DISPOSED OF**