

THE CONNECTION

Sunday, August 7, 2022

Church-wide celebration lunch planned

As the summer season ends and school begins again, WSUMC will gather for a celebration luncheon to recognize the hard work of two of our missions — Salkehatchie and Ecuador.

The potluck luncheon is planned for **August 21, in Threatt Hall from 12:00 to 2:00 pm**. The congregation is asked to bring a side, vegetable or dessert. The church will furnish the chicken, drinks, and utensils.

Mackin Wall is putting together a video presentation that will feature our youth hard at work during this year's Salkehatchie trip to Bishopville, SC, as well as the work of our wonderful mission team who just returned from a very busy and successful mission to Ecuador.

Salkehatchie

Susan Caskey reported on the Salkehatchie trip:

"Salkehatchie Summer Service is not just a job, it's an adventure. For over 45 years, youth (ages 14 and older) and adults have been serving families in South Carolina with home repairs and other forms of assistance. Salkehatchie volunteers do not help others, they serve others through the power and love of God. Since the onset of COVID two years ago, all Salkehatchie camps have been closed, but this summer, 11 camps were open. The Washington Street team attended the Bishopville camp where they served three families. Much needed repairs were made to floors, walls, and roofs just to name a few. We are so proud of the youth and adults who worked very hard to make a better place for those living in poverty conditions. Thanks be to God!"

We thank all of our participants in Salkehatchie this year! They included Dane and Darby Waund, Lydia Conte, Natalie Hefelfinger, Ava Jackson, Wyatt Rowe, and Kirby Leitner.

Ecuador

Mackin Wall, who helped coordinate the mission trip along with her father, Tom Wall, reported on the team's mission.

"The WSUMC Ecuador Mission Team, in partnership with the Evangelical Methodist Church of Ecuador, traveled to Quito, Pastocalle, Pijal, El Prado, Atacucho, and Otavalo to serve our sisters and brothers in Christ. Areas of service



Top: Dane Waund and others help to provide indoor plumbing for the homeowner. Above: Natalie Hefelfinger and another volunteer replacing windows and wooden framing. Left: Wyatt Rowe braves the heights helping with roof repairs.

included a medical clinic and pharmacy, testing for and handing out reading glasses, Vacation Bible School for the children of the communities, and home visits. The youth group began their own ministry of feeding every stray dog in each community we traveled to. The team also took part in different workshops for the church and community leaders about boundaries, self care, spirituality, drug and alcohol abuse, and community therapy. We were joined by new and old friends in Ecuador who served alongside us in every area. We built friendships that will last a lifetime through service, worship, and fellowship."

The Ecuador Mission team included Mackin Wall; Tom Wall; Pato Aravena; Anne Sinclair; MJ Fox,; Demi Garvin; Chip Williams; Ray Cobb; Jennifer, Ava and Leila Jackson; John Evans; Layne Powers; and Lily Cate Buchanan.

Please save the date and join us for this luncheon to celebrate the successes of these two incredible missions. We will be selling delicious Ecuadorian coffee during the luncheon on August 21st for \$12 a bag. Whole bean and ground both available. We will also be selling beautiful scarves for \$10 each. Limited supplies are available for purchase. The money will go toward next year's mission trip.



Top, clockwise from center: Jennifer Jackson, Ray Cobb, Chip Williams, Layne Powers, John Evans, Darby Waund, Lily Cate Buchanan, and Ava Jackson, (hidden is Leila Jackson). Far right: two young children show their love to Lily Cate Buchanan.

Right: Darby Waund, Leila Jackson, Lily Cate Buchanan, and Layne Powers catch a ride to town to feed local dogs!



Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry - Second Sunday in August



"Boyd is treated very well," his dad said. "The staff are flexible and supportive. They have his back 100%. It gives me peace of mind knowing my child with special needs is receiving love and the support he needs 24-7."

Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry operates three Christian homes for adults with developmental disabilities. Residents are active in the community and are encouraged to be as independent as possible.

Aldersgate does not receive funds from apportionments. The second Sunday in August is designated as Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry Sunday by the SC Conference.

Your support allows us to care for our residents and homes, as well as plan for the future.

Visit aldersgatespecialneedsministry.org to make an online donation.



ATTENDANCE (as of 8-4-22):

July 24: 82 (in-person) 95 (online) = 177

July 17: 132 (in-person); 119 (online) = 251

July 10: 123 (in-person); 442 (online) = 565

July 3: 74 (in-person); 122 (online) = 196

GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 8-3-22):

Church Budget	\$865,000
Church Actual	\$323,230
Soup Cellar	\$43,719
Foundation	\$22,930

SCAN TO GIVE



Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Last week, the class has started a new 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. We are located in the Aldersgate Classroom on the 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, August 7, we will continue our study of *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*, by Jim Wallis. Tom Summers will lead a discussion of Chapter 9, "The Discipleship Question." Next Sunday, August 14, Hunter Rentz will teach Chapter 10, "Becoming Salt, Light and Hope." He will also teach the Epilogue. The class will use a hybrid model to meet. Those members who want to will return to the class, which will start at 10 a.m. Others in the class will join by FreeConferenceCall. Class members should call in after 9:50. 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 Grace Class is continuing "topic of choice" with various members leading the class each week through Labor Day. Vickie & Lisa Voegeli will lead the class on Aug. 7 and 14. 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 lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com or Sylvia Stevens at sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class is starting a new study on August 7—*New Testament Stories from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Visitors are always welcomed! 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:** On August 7, Randy Elswick will lead a lesson on Hope. On August 14, we will have a class meeting. 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:** August 7—"Be a Person of Influence," John 21. August 14—"When Failure Meets Love," John 20:24-31. For more information, contact Mackin Wall at mackin@wsmethodist.org.

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
Laura Collins
Heidi Conte
Mickey Epting
Rev. Paul Harmon
Bud Harrelson
Karen Horne
Lisa Johnson
Debby Joyner
Rev. Judy King
Martha Helen King
Mike LeFever

Malcolm Lemons
Paul McClanahan
David Middleton
Genie & Ron Quinn
Frances "Tut" Robertson
Rick Rowe
Boyd Saunders
Stephanie Saunders
Sarah Threatt
Edee Vaughan
Jim Ward
Our homebound

Gifts

IN MEMORY OF
JOBY ROBERSTON
to Active Faith

Given by Happy Henry

IN HONOR OF **LYDIA CONTE**
to the Little Free
Hygiene Pantry

Given by Susan Brown

IN MEMORY OF **THEO LANE**
to the Grace Class

Given by Jan Baker &
Jenny Dalrymple

Request for Administrative Assistance

For the past year or so, the Records and History Committee has worked to prepare a duplicate set—stored digitally—of all of the membership cards of Washington Street UMC.

When completed, this project will ensure the security of an important historical record of our church dating back several generations. This project has moved forward with the approval of our dedicated Membership Secretary, Laurely Nance. The preparation of this duplicate records set has involved an intensive scanning effort along with the typing in of much card data. At this point we need assistance with the typing of data into the large online storage file. If you possess good typing skills, we would appreciate your help. This assistance can be provided from any computer with a keyboard that has a web browser (Safari, Chrome, Edge, etc.). We will train you as to the specific process. If interested, please contact Lynn Shirley at wmlynnsc@gmail.com or by telephone at (803) 422-3368.

Thanks for your consideration.

Mike Broome
Chair, Records & History Committee

**YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY
FROM 6-8 PM STARTING ON AUGUST 10TH.**

Committee/Team Highlights

• *The Records & History Committee* last met on Saturday, July 23, 2022, in the archives. The committee's efforts to reprint copies of Dr. Huff's *Tried by Fire* and Maxine Sullivan's *The Church on the Corner of Washington and Marion Streets* is encountering problems. The committee recommended that Mike Broome contact Jessica Brodie at the *Methodist Advocate* office to ask for her assistance. The committee is also requesting typing assistance regarding the membership card digitizing project. This project is moving along well under the leadership of Lynn Shirley. The committee also approved a recommendation to name the WSUMC archives in honor of a long-term church historian. A proposal will first go to the Trustees and, if blessed by this group, will move on to Church Council for final approval. Trustee chair Dr. Pete Liggett has been contacted regarding the allocation of an additional room for museum expansion. The process of arranging interviews of several Washington Streeters of long standing was discussed. This process should begin formally in mid-September.

• *The Ad Hoc Sign Committee* of the Trustees is working towards completion of the bidding process for a new sign at the Bull St. corner. For more information, contact Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org.

• *Sunday Dinner Ministry* received notification of a \$5000 grant from Richland County to support their efforts with the homeless community in 2022 and 2023. The team, partnering with the Soup Cellar team, has met and are planning three events in 2022. A Saturday breakfast event is planned in both August and December plus a weekday lunchtime event is planned for October. Publix has just notified the team that they will be sponsoring the purchase of fried chicken (\$200 gift card donation) for our guests at the October lunch. Please watch for volunteer opportunities to assist in prep and execution of these events. To volunteer to help with one of these events, contact Jane at jane@wsmethodist.org.

• *SPPRC* has been busy this summer and is looking ahead at a busy fall calendar too. This summer a staff survey

was conducted to evaluate and ensure the assignments, responsibilities, skills, and talents of our staff are aligned with the church's strategic plan. This survey had the goals to increase employee satisfaction, ensure strategic goals are in focus, and to know what changes or additions to staff are possibly required. This fall in September and October, the SPPRC will review and present the 2023 staff budget. The team also will meet in November/December to complete and supply district required reports and forms.

• *Community Life* reports that **The Gracious Goodness** freezer is stocked with recently prepared meals. If you or someone you know is ill and needs a meal, please contact Rev. Becky or Rev. Alston.

The planned **Walking Group** will try to get the group walk started in the fall when it is cooler and more conducive to being outside.

IN SYMPATHY

Rev. Becky Shirley and the entire Washington Street Church family express our deepest sympathy to Steve Brown and his family on the passing of his father,
Jack Brown, on July 20.

and to

May Ramsey and her family on the passing of her husband,
Marshall, on July 28, 2022.



The Grace Class is making you an offer you can't refuse!

If you are interested in reading an online (PDF) version of The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, please email Lynn Shirley at wmlynnsc@gmail.com **NO LATER THAN August 30** to be included in this offer!

The Grace Class is sponsoring this opportunity for WSUMC Members.

Printed copies are available for \$10 per year and are mailed to your home. Not included in this offer.

Sign up today for this once a year offer!

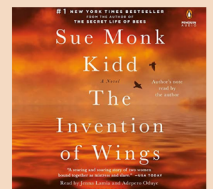


Blessing of the Bookbags

As our students and educators will be starting a new school year the week of August 14th, it is a time of great excitement and also great anxiety for many. As a reminder that God is with us in all things, children, youth and educators are invited to bring their backpacks to the worship service on **Sunday, August 14**, as we offer a special time of blessing for the coming school year.

Upcoming Book Discussion **The Invention of Wings**

by Sue Monk Kidd
Please join Rev. Alston for a discussion of the historical novel on **Wed., August 17, at 6:00 pm** in the John Harper Classroom & Zoom.



This novel is a triumphant story about the quest for freedom and empowerment. The two main characters are Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early-nineteenth-century Charleston, and Sarah, the Grimke's idealistic daughter. For more information, or for a Zoom link email aflippert@umcsc.org.