

# THE CONNECTION

*Sunday, September 4, 2022*

## We're Kicking Off Fall with a Bang!

Summer is just about over, and Washington Street is kicking off the Fall season with big plans for the coming months!

Here's a look at what's coming:

- **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT!** With the success of VBS/Parents' Night Out, we will be holding another Parents' Night Out on **September 16, from 5:30-7:30 pm**. Take a load off, drop off the kids and enjoy an evening out, or just run some much needed errands. The kids will enjoy a pizza dinner, games, crafts, and a movie! All kids ages 4 to 12 are invited. Tell your friends, as we welcome all! Nursery will be available for ages newborn to age 3. For more information, or to volunteer to help staff this event, contact Mackin Wall at [mackin@wsmethodist.org](mailto:mackin@wsmethodist.org).

- **September 18- October 16**, the Sunday sermon series will focus on various Biblical stories that will help us grow in our ability to listen to, respect, affirm and act for and with others. The series will include a special **MUSIC FOR THE SOUL Service** on **September 25** featuring guest musician Gary Erwin (Shrimp City Slim). This service will be filled with the soulful sounds of Blues music and will be a perfect Sunday to invite your music loving family and friends.

- **October 2** is **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**. Sam Waldrep and his team will be creating a stunning altar design made up of items from Ecuador for this year's service.

- Active Faith and the Methodist Student Network (MSN) will host a huge **YARD SALE** on **Saturday, Oct. 8, from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm** in Threath Hall. The committee is now taking large, big-ticket items. All items may be dropped off in Threath Hall. Please let us know if you need assistance. A preview night for all donors will be held on Friday, Oct. 7, from 5:30-7:00 pm. This event is free for donors to the Yard Sale. Others will pay \$5.00 at the door. Refreshments will be served. Items will be reduced and available for purchase both before and after church services on Sunday, Oct. 9 from 9:45 am to 12:30 pm.



- On **Thursday, October 13**, as part of Pride Weekend, the Reconciling Next team will host a **SERVICE OF REPENTANCE & HEALING** for the Harm Inflicted on LGBTQIA+ persons. The service will be held in the sanctuary from 6:00-7:00 pm, with a reception following. Pastors and lay people from other churches will also take part in this service. On Friday, the Reconciling Next team will host and take part in the Pride Parade, as well as the Pride Festival on Saturday in downtown Columbia. WSUMC members will represent our church in a booth located on Main Street during the festival. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasc.edu](mailto:jlane@columbiasc.edu).

- Active Faith will hold a **ROSE SALE** to memorialize those who have passed on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 6). The sale will take place on **Oct. 16, Oct. 23, and Oct. 30** in the hallway outside of the Narthex. Roses will be \$10 each. Order forms will be available soon. For more information, contact Sam Waldrep at [swaldrep@sc.rr.com](mailto:swaldrep@sc.rr.com).

- On **Monday, Oct. 17**, the Welcome Table team (formerly the Sunday Dinner team) along with the Soup Cellar team will host a special lunch for our Soup Cellar guests from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. We will be offering blood pressure checks, flu shots, haircuts, and more for our guests. Thanks to a generous donation from Publix for the purchase of their fried chicken,

and a grant from the City of Columbia, this special menu will feature a favorite of our guests...fried chicken. Terrence Chisolm will be cooking up some wonderful sides to go along with the Publix fried chicken. We will be recruiting volunteers for this event soon!

• The **FALL FESTIVAL** returns! After the huge success of last year's festival, we hope to meet or exceed expectations for this year. The festival will be held on **Oct. 29 from 4:00-6:00 pm** in the parking lot of the church. Big plans are being made for children's costume contests; a big slide; games, crafts, a dunking booth (who will be the victim?); face painting; and of course, a Trunk or Treat contest! Other things are in the works so stay tuned! For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Mackin at [mackin@wsmethodist.org](mailto:mackin@wsmethodist.org).

• He's back! Join us as we welcome our dear friend, **Pastor Mike Alexander**, as guest pastor for the day on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30**. A church-wide luncheon is being planned following the 11:00 service, and information about an upcoming Holy Land Tour in February will be discussed.

• **Sunday, Nov. 6**, is **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**. We will also be kicking off our **Stewardship Campaign** which will run through Nov. 20.

• On **Sunday, November 13**, the RJAT will host the **USC CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY AND RESEARCH** pop-up exhibit and presentation on civil rights in SC, from 5:00-7:00 pm in Threatt Hall. A light dinner will be available.

• **Sunday, November 20** is **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**. The Reconciling Next team will hang its banner recognizing the day on the Bull Street fence during the month of November. The day will be recognized during the service.

• **ADVENT** season begins! WSUMC will celebrate the day with a **Hanging of the Greens** service on **November 17** at 11:00 am in the sanctuary. Then, plan to return to the church at 5:00 pm as we gather for the **ADVENT FESTIVAL** where we will be creating our own Advent candle displays in Threatt Hall and having a meal together. More details coming soon.

• Plans are in the works by our Active Faith team to coordinate and hold a **CRÉCHE FESTIVAL** on **Dec. 3-4**. The team hopes to gather 50+ nativity scenes from around the world and display them in areas around the church. More details coming soon on loaning nativities, as well as the festival itself. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with this festival and possibly lead the team forward in organizing it. Please let Sam Waldrep know if you have a nativity that you would like to loan the church for this event.

• The **WSUMC CHOIR'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA** will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 18**, during the 11:00 am service. Music director, Nicholas Todd Shumate will be conducting.

• On **December 11**, a **CHILDREN'S NATIVITY** is being planned to be a part of the 11:00 am service. If you are interested in helping with this program or have a child that would like to participate, please contact Mackin Wall.

• **CHRISTMAS EVE** plans are also in the works with two services on **Dec. 24**: at 4:00 pm, a child-friendly, performance-style service will be held, followed by a traditional candles,

carols, and communion service at 7:00 pm.

• As **CHRISTMAS DAY** falls on a Sunday, make sure to be with us for our 11:00 am service when Rev. Becky Shirley will do a special Children's Moments incorporating a Blessing of the Toys. Have your child/grandchild bring a favorite toy to be blessed. This will be a very special celebration of the birth of Jesus.

## Gifts

**IN MEMORY OF  
JOBY ROBINSON**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Virginia Vaughan**

**IN MEMORY OF  
MARYLE OUZTS**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Virginia Vaughan**

**IN MEMORY OF  
MARSHALL RAMSEY**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Brandon &  
Randolf Shives**

**IN MEMORY OF  
MARSHALL RAMSEY**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Sidney & Ted  
Thompson**

**IN MEMORY OF  
GLORIA TRULUCK**

*to the Soup Cellar*

**Given by Linda & Freddie  
Lucas**

**IN MEMORY OF  
GLORIA TRULUCK**

*to the Soup Cellar*

**Given by Helen Wexler**

## PRAYER LIST

*The Prayer Team wants you to know that you can email us with any prayer concerns any time. Please email [wsuncprayers@gmail.com](mailto:wsuncprayers@gmail.com).*

Joan Beamer  
Martha Boynton  
David Byrum  
Laura Collins  
Heidi Conte  
Mickey Epting  
Rev. Paul Harmon  
Karen Horne  
Lisa Johnson  
Debby Joyner  
Rev. Judy King  
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever  
Malcolm Lemons  
Paul McClanahan  
David Middleton  
Genie & Ron Quinn  
Rick Rowe  
Boyd Saunders  
Stephanie Saunders  
Sarah Threatt  
Edee Vaughan  
Jim Ward  
Our homebound

### ATTENDANCE (as of 9-1-22):

**August 28:** 156 (in-person); 82 (online) = **238**

**August 21:** 134 (in-person); 153 (online) = **287**

**August 14:** 148 (in-person); 150 (online) = **298**

**August 7:** 134 (in-person); 83 (online) = **217**

### GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 9-1-22):

**Church Budget \$865,000**

Church Actual \$365,226

Soup Cellar \$49,854

Foundation \$22,930

**SCAN TO GIVE**





# Getting to Know

## Bill Westerkam

By Fran Zupan

When Bill Westerkam completed his third year at Johns Hopkins University, he changed his major from chemical engineering to pre-med. He knew he wanted a people-oriented profession.

Bill grew up in the Baltimore area. When he was 14, his parents divorced. His 17-year-old sister went with his mother, and he lived with his father. He never saw his mother or his sister again.

"My mother divorced me and my father," he said. Today, "I don't know whether my sister is alive."

Neither of Bill's parents graduated from high school. He described the family as dysfunctional. Bill's father died before he went to Hopkins, and he went to live with an aunt.

When Bill was still living with his family, he raised rabbits and ducks.

"I was very fond of animals, so I thought I was going to be a vet," he said. He became a pediatrician.

"I transferred from animals to kids. Neither can talk to you, so they're similar."

Bill earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1966. While he was in medical school, he married Diana, then an English teacher, and they had two sons.

The birth of their first son influenced Bill's choice of a specialty.

"Danny was just a delightful miracle," he said. Randy was born a year and a half later.

Bill did his pediatric residency in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and he served as a pediatrician in the Army for two years at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Westerkams moved to Florence, S.C., in 1971, and Bill joined an established pediatric practice there.

In 1977, when they were to move to Columbia for Bill to become Director of Maternal and Child Health at the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, the DHEC director said Bill needed to get a master's degree in public health and that DHEC would pay for it.

So Bill enrolled at Harvard University, and the family moved to Boston. It was during this time that Diana started

seminary at Boston University. Their kids were older, and Diana arranged her classes while they were in school.

"We didn't want anybody to raise them except her," Bill said. "That's why they turned out so well."

Following three years at DHEC, Bill set up a solo pediatric practice on Harbison Boulevard where he bought into a new building. He remained there until he retired in 2011.

Meanwhile, Diana graduated from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1982. In 1984 she was ordained as an elder in the South Carolina Methodist Conference.

Her first appointment was in Laurens where she had a parsonage. She and Bill lived apart during the four years she was there.

"Most of the time we got together on Saturday, and I went to Diana's church (Central United Methodist) on Sunday," Bill said.

Diana's next appointment was in Blythewood where she had two churches, Oak Grove and Beulah, for four years. Diana came to Washington Street in 1992 and served as the associate pastor here for 18 years.

Asked what one experience or person has influenced him the most, Bill replied:

"I'm sure it's Diana. She helps me very much spiritually. She's my best encourager. No one else comes close to being my best friend."

The most meaningful thing about Washington Street for Bill are the relationships in the Grace Sunday school class. "My best friends in the church come from the Grace class," he said.

The Westerkams live in Irmo. Danny is a doctor in rehab medicine at Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Columbia, formerly HealthSouth of Columbia. Randy is a doctor at the Brain and Spine Institute at Lexington Medical Center.

Danny and Randy visit their parents frequently to talk about what is going on in their lives.

Diana and Bill have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren on the way.

Bill subscribes to medical newsletters and other medical publications and



spends part of each day reading them. He also reads spiritual literature each day; his current book is *The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering the Truth that Could Change Everything* by Brian D. McLaren.

Bill also has an exercise regimen – lots of walking, working out with weights, flower gardening and maintaining five bird feeders. He and Diana also take care of Randy's 8-month-old Boykin Spaniel puppy, who Bill describes as "so bright."

Bill and Diana watch "PBS NewsHour" every night, as well as "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer." Just this year, they started following the Atlanta Braves baseball team. "We know all the players," Bill said.

### In Sympathy

*Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Ed McClain, and Jim Blanton on the passing of Ed's mother, Lillian McClain on August 30.*

# SPPRC Announces New Staff Position

## *Director of Congregational & Volunteer Engagement*

The SPPRC joins Rev. Becky in recognizing the importance, reach and depth of the work of current staff as they strive together to fulfill God's vision of making disciples of Christ and keeping the vision of WSUMC in the forefront of everything we do as a congregation. In a spirit of thankfulness, we want to take this opportunity to publicly thank our current staff (business, facility, music, and ministerial) for their passion, flexibility, and commitment to lead us in equipping the members of this congregation to continually be a mission-focused, informational, and nurturing community of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit within Columbia and beyond. They have done a phenomenal job of helping us navigate the many changes that the pandemic brought to our corporate life and our community over the last 2+ years.

As we began to emerge from the lingering pandemic this past year, the members of the SPPRC realized that some of the ways we "do" church started to look different during the pandemic, and we recognized that the way we engage in ministry is going to continue to evolve as we move forward into the future. So, we began to talk with Rev. Becky about the need to evaluate our current staffing paradigm in order to engage more readily and effectively in the new opportunities that the pandemic has brought into our lives but to also consider the new opportunities, that we are not yet tapping into, that the changes in technology afford us.

We asked questions like: what are our core values? Our mission and vision? Where is God leading WSUMC in this "post COVID" world? What staff roles do we need to fulfill the church's mission and vision? At the same time, we asked our current full-time staff to share with us what they spend the most time doing in their current position, what they wish they had more time to do, what they love and what frustrates them about their jobs.

That was an important step in our process because we currently have a very gifted and dedicated staff. We want to build upon our staff members' strengths and capabilities and allow them to be faithful stewards of their time and talent. The SPPRC also must be mindful of the charge to be faithful stewards of the church's staffing dollars. In addition, we want to ensure that we provide effective staffing to support new and needed programming in alignment with WSUMC's mission of

making disciples of Christ.

This discernment process led us to determine the need for a new staff position in order to:

**#1**-Give more direct attention and support to developing and growing an effective small group ministry system that will re-engage persons who have become inactive as well as engage guests who join us, whether in person, via our livestream services of worship, or interacting with our social media content.

AND

**#2**-Develop, oversee, and shepherd a process for engaging persons who are new to this community of faith in ways that help them explore and grow in their faith journey.

A job description for this new position was prepared by SPPRC, reviewed by both the Finance Committee and the Church Council in their May meetings, and unanimously approved adding this new position. The new position title is Director of Congregational & Volunteer Engagement. It is important to note: this new position does not affect the bottom line of the current year's church budget.

A search team was formed made up of SPPRC, staff, and lay member representation. The search process was conducted over June and July. We received 12 applicants, after reviewing the applications, we conducted preliminary interviews with 5 of the applicants and narrowed our search to three for in-person interviews. I am pleased to announce that the search team unanimously selected and the SPPRC approved one of these candidates, Christine Taylor, who started September 1. She will be formally be introduced to the congregation this Sunday. There are plans to set up several meet-and-greet times for you to get to know her and for her to get to know this congregation. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Haynes or Rev. Becky Shirley.





WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**

Friday, September 16  
5:30-7:30 pm | Threatt Hall  
Dinner, games, crafts, and a movie!  
Ages 4-12

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



Nursery available for newborns to 3 years.



# Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Come join the Aldersgate Class as we embark on an eight-session Study Guide and Streaming Video study on the book of Psalms. Experience fresh connections to contemporary worship and devotional practices in this eight-session video-based study with well-known scholar Sandra Richter. Indulge in the biblical study of Psalms, letting Sandra Richter do the heavy lifting of research and translation, which in turn allows you to engage the Bible in a deeply sensitive way. This study will help answer the ever-present question, "so what does this have to do with me today?" You will discover:

- How to bridge the gap between the culture and practices of ancient Israel and today
- How you can trust God with all your emotions: grief, anger, praise, fear, and hope
- How and why do the people of Israel use the Psalms in worship
- Why the book of Psalms is critical in our devotional lives today
- How the Psalms can empower your prayer life.

This study includes group discussion questions, video outlines, and notes, independent study, illuminated manuscript activities, and an in-depth breakdown of specific Psalms. Our class meets in the Aldersgate Class at 10:00 am with coffee and a pastry. If you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson at 803-318-8821 or email him at [DAAnderson@richardsonplowden.com](mailto:DAAnderson@richardsonplowden.com).

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, September 4, we will continue with our study of *White Too Long* by Robert P. Jones. Tom Wall will lead a discussion of Chapter 3, "Believing: The Theology of White Supremacy." Next Sunday, September 11, John Evans will teach Chapter 4, "Markings: The Monuments to white Supremacy." The class starts at 10:00 a.m. Class members who join from home use FreeConferenceCall. Class members should call in between 9:50 and 10:00 am. 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](mailto:marydslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** The Grace Class is continuing the "topic of choice" with various members leading the class each week through Labor Day. Kate Chappell will lead the class on Sept. 4. Next week the class will begin a series on the Gospels from the *Work of the People* by Marlea Gilbert, Christopher Grundy, Eric T. Myers, and Stephanie Perdew. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasec.edu](mailto: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.

• **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](mailto:leandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com) for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class is continuing its study of *New Testament Stories from the Backside* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. Visitors are always welcome! The class meets both in-person and via Zoom each week. For Zoom link information, contact Ann Jessup at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).

• **The Paul Harmon Class:** The Paul Harmon Class is continuing our study of Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Sally Mings is leading our discussion. All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:tjpowers65@gmail.com).

• **The WSUMC Youth Class:** Sept. 4—"Hurts of the Heart", John 18. Sept. 11—TBD. For more information, contact Mackin Wall at [mackin@wsmethodist.org](mailto:mackin@wsmethodist.org). The Youth Group meets every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Youth Room.



**Bring your items to Threatt Hall,  
Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm,  
or prior to church on Sundays,  
9:00-11:00 am.**

## Items not accepted:

**Books (except children's), Clothing, Shoes,  
Large tube-style TVs, Cribs, Car Seats**

*Please do not bring broken, torn or dirty items.*

If you need assistance, please check with the front office, and we will assist you.

## **Preview Night:**

Friday, Oct. 7 | 5:00-7:00 pm

\$5 at the door/Free for donors

Refreshments will be served

Announcing...

## S.A.F.E. Space

Safe, affirming fellowship  
for everyone

A gathering space for LGBTQIA+  
Individuals & Allies

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am  
Holroyd Prayer Room  
hosted by the Reconciling Next Team

For more information contact  
Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasec.edu](mailto:jlane@columbiasec.edu)



WASHINGTON STREET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



# UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

\*denotes non-member event/meeting

## Monday, Sept. 5—LABOR DAY

All WSUMC Offices and CDC Closed

## Tuesday, Sept. 6

10:00-11:00 am | Circle 6 | John Harper Classroom  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
6:00-7:00 pm | Reconciling Next | Zoom  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*  
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Disciple Conference Room\*  
7:00-8:00 pm | Charles Pfeiffer Circle | Wesley Room

## Wednesday, Sept. 7

11:00 am-12:15 pm | Philippians Small Group Study (in-person) | John Harper Classroom  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
7:00-8:00 pm | Philippians Small Study | Zoom

## Thursday, Sept. 8

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
5:30-6:30 pm | Circle 2 | Zoom & Wesley Room

## Friday, Sept. 9

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*

## Sunday, Sept. 11

11:00 am | Worship Services | Sanctuary & Livestream | Epworth Children's Home Work Sunday

## Monday, Sept. 12

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
5:45-9:15 | Columbia Choral Society | Choir Room\*

## Tuesday, Sept. 13

10:30-11:30 am | Circle 3 | Wesley Room  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
5:30-6:30 pm | Circle 9 | Holroyd Prayer Room  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*

## Wednesday, Sept. 14

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
11:00-12:15 pm | Philippians Small Study | John Harper Classroom  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
6:00-7:00 pm | Visioning Team meeting | Wesley & Zoom  
7:00-8:00 pm | Philippians Small Group Study | Zoom

## Thursday, Sept. 15

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
5:30-6:30 pm | Missions Committee | Wesley Room

## Friday, Sept. 16

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar serving | Soup Cellar  
11:00-12:15 pm | Philippians Small Study | John Harper Classroom  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
5:30-7:30 pm | Parents' Night Out | Threatt Hall  
5:30-7:00 pm | Carroll/Hamilton Wedding Rehearsal | Chapel\*

## Saturday, Sept. 17

1:00-5:00 pm | Carroll/Hamilton Wedding | Chapel\*

