



# THE CONNECTION

*Thanksgiving Issue, November 23, 2022*

## The Welcome Table Plans Second Breakfast for Those in Need—Volunteers/Donations Needed

The Welcome Table Team (formerly known as The Sunday Dinner Team) will hold another breakfast for those suffering from food insecurities on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30-10:30 am in Threatt Hall.

The last breakfast, held in September was a huge success and the team looks forward to holding this event for our patrons. The menu will include scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, pancakes with syrup, orange juice, and coffee. Heyward Street Methodist Church will be donating the orange juice, but the team is in need of other donations such as creamers for the coffee, packets of sugar and sweetener, and butter patties. Cash donations are always greatly appreciated.

The team will also be handing out coats, gloves, socks, jackets, and blankets, as well as hygiene items, so please remember to bring in your donations no later than Dec. 2. Please drop them off in the designated area in our Mission Garden in the back hallway.

Volunteers are needed for cooking/prepping, greeting, serving, plating, and clean up. You may sign up online through Realm by scanning the QR code on the ad, or by emailing Jane Peterson at [jane@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jane@wsmethodist.org) with your preferred volunteer position. Cooking prep volunteers should arrive no later than 7:30 am; other may arrive by 8:00 am and be ready to work by 8:30 am when we open to our patrons.



*Mary Lide, Cindy Waund, and others help in the kitchen during the September Welcome Table Breakfast.*



# Stewardship Bible Study Studies *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*

For the past 3 weeks, small groups have gathered every Wednesday to discuss the idea that God calls us to be good stewards in God's world. A group of 7 individuals met Wednesday mornings on-site at the church with Christine Taylor and Robbie Douglas, and 6 individuals met with Christine on Wednesday evenings through Zoom. Together, the groups walked through the Rueben P. Job's *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living* and the Epistle of James.



cup. Spiritual practices are imperative for staying in love with God. After our three-week series, Shannon Berry reflected, "I feel more connected to the church than ever before. These Wednesday night sessions have been helpful for me." These groups spent time in prayer, and

individuals shared how they each attend to their relationship with God. They made goals for the next year, for how they will do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.

The first week, the groups spent time learning about the history of stewardship in the Bible, practices that have been kept for thousands of years by God's people. While they learned, the on-site group shared coffee and donuts, while they helped prepare the WSUMC mailer envelopes which would disperse the Ministry Menu and pledge cards. Robbie Douglas commented, "I enjoyed getting to know the other classmates even better than I knew them before. It gave me a deeper and better perspective on the material by hearing everyone else's thoughts."

The second week, these small groups dove into some hard self-reflection. Job's book isn't hard to understand, but it is certainly hard to put into action. This author calls Christians to a radical and countercultural way of living. This week, the group answered the following questions: How have I been doing good? How have I been doing harm? What gifts has God entrusted to me? What are my goals for growth? Group members shared aloud as they felt comfortable, some chose to journal their answers instead.

Robbie noted, "I have worked with and 'lived' Stewardship for many years, if not all of my life, but I have never really studied or thought very much about how or if I routinely practice living out my faith. I've certainly never thought of it in terms of the Three Simple Rules. I try to live those 'rules' but never really understood how they related to Stewardship. I felt like this study would give me a different perspective and hopefully a deeper understanding and it did."

The third week, the group discussed spiritual practices. In order to be sustained, we Christians must attend to our own spiritual needs; we need to create space for God to fill our

## Advent Small Groups Starting Soon

Two Advent Small Groups will be held on Wednesdays during Advent. Rev. Alston Lippert will lead a small group based on a study of sermons and the theme words for Advent. You will have two opportunities to participate in this Small Group:

- 11:00 am In-Person in the John Harper Classroom
- 7:00 pm on Zoom

The Small Group begins on Wednesday, Nov. 30, and will run through Dec. 21. To participate, please either email Rev. Alston at [alflippert@umcsc.org](mailto:alflippert@umcsc.org) or sign up in Realm.

Ann Jessup will start a new Online Small Group on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. The study will focus on the book *The Angels of Christmas* by Susan Robb. This study runs through Dec. 21. To sign up to participate, email Ann at [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com).





# Parents' Night Out

Giggles could be heard throughout the church on Friday, November 14, as children gathered for Parents' Night Out. 11 kids and 1 baby attended this round of PNO programming, which gives our WSUMC parents a night to go on a date, attend to a hobby, or order takeout and watch that movie they've been waiting for. One of the moms commented this round that she was using the time to work on a sewing project!

This month's Parents' Night Out programming centered around thankfulness. Kids were greeted by Rev. Becky, and then fed dinner that was provided by Vickie and Lisa Voegeli, Mary Lide, and Susan Brown. As kids ate their mac & cheese, chicken tenders, and fruit, they told adult volunteers about their school-day learning. When they finished dinner, cards were colored for some homebound members at WSUMC. Kids then gathered around for a Bible story with Christine Taylor, to learn about Mary and Elizabeth singing the *Magnificat*, two women who sing to God because they are thankful.

The 11 boys and girls were then separated into two groups, which rotated between a craft and a game station. At the craft station, they cut out pictures from magazines, pasting them on construction paper to make a "Thankful Collage" with Eleanore Langley, Beth Mathews, and Shelley Stafford in the 1st and 2nd-grade classroom. Many of the kids' crafts included pictures of pets, houses, food, warm coats, and even a couple of cut-outs of Santa Claus. Eleanore commented, "I really enjoyed reconnecting with children that I used to help teach when they were 2 and 3 years old. It's wonderful to see how our young people are growing up and to meet new friends."

At the games station, kids played Thanksgiving Bingo with Ann and Harvey Jessup, competing for prizes of small toys and temporary tattoos in the 3rd and 4th-grade classroom. The game had pictures of Thanksgiving-related items in each square, and our Bingo-caller named items like "Dinner plate! Cornucopia! Pumpkin pie!" When Harvey called out, "Corn!" the girls surprised us, and all started singing a silly song that they knew about corn. Ann said, "Learning silly songs from



the children and watching them lovingly cheer one another along in games," was her favorite part of the evening.

After rotating through these stations, groups reconvened with Christine to hear The Berenstain Bears' Thanksgiving Blessings by Jan Berenstain in another Sunday School classroom. Each kid got a copy of the story to take home at the night's end. Ann noted, "[Parents' Night Out] is a great way to get to know WSUMC's children better and support our young families. The children are full of energy and sunshine and they give us hope for the future of the church." After this night with kids, centered around thankfulness, we at WSUMC are especially thankful for our wonderful volunteers who make this ministry possible!

**ADVENT CELEBRATION**  
**SUNDAY, NOV. 27 | 5-6:30 PM**  
**THREATT HALL**  
**WREATH KITS \$10**  
**DINNER: \$5 adult /\$2.50 children 4+**



**DAYTRIPPERS**   
**THURSDAY | DECEMBER 1**  
**MEPKIN ABBEY**  
**9:00 am-6:00 pm**  
**email [aflippert@umcsc.org](mailto:aflippert@umcsc.org)**  
**NO LATER THAN MONDAY, NOV. 28**  
**RESERVE TODAY! SPACE IS LIMITED!**  
**NO CHARGE FOR ENTRY TO THE CRECHE EXHIBIT.**  
**A BOX LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OR YOU MAY BRING YOUR OWN. PRICE TBD.**



# Young Adult “Friends’ Thanksgiving”

The Wesley Room was filled with young folks on November 17th, as Washington Street held a “Friends’ Thanksgiving” dinner. Adults in their 20s and 30s gathered around the table, to share a meal and get to know one another. Most of the group’s participants brought a side dish or dessert, and WSUMC staff provided fried chicken, brownies, and a few extra side dishes to share. These young folks were all invited to eat dinner in the Wesley Room, and many made extra plates to take home with the leftovers. A devotion was read, Thanksgiving Trivia was played, laughter was abundant.

Some of the group, like Katherine and John Epting, grew up in this church and have recently transitioned into adulthood. Some of the group are new to the Columbia area, like Billy Joe Patton, a USC law student. Childcare was provided, as four of our young adults brought their young children along! Nursery attendants rotated, so all these young people could participate in the food and fellowship. Keep an eye out for more young adult events in the near future, there are more to come!



## Christmas with Epworth

Time is almost up to purchase a gift for an Epworth child for Christmas. The deadline to drop off your gift is December 7!

Remember...Do NOT wrap your gift. All gifts should be unwrapped and unbagged.

You may drop off your item at the church in the Holroyd Classroom, 9am-4pm during the week, and before or after the service on Sunday.



## Christmas at Washington Street

**Sunday, November 27**

11:00 am—Hanging of the Greens

5:00 pm—Advent Celebration

**Sunday, December 11**

11:00 am—Children's Nativity

12:00 pm—Crèche Display

**Sunday, December 18**

11:00 am—Christmas Cantata

**Saturday, December 24**

4:00 pm—Christmas Play:  
*Preparing the Way for Jesus*

5:30 pm—Candles, Communion  
& Carols

**Sunday, December 25**

11:00 am—Christmas Service



# Becoming a Better Me in 2023

## A Special presentation by Dr. Anthony Hodge

**A**s a new year approaches, what will be different for us? How will we seek to become different? Instead of looking elsewhere, try looking inwardly and earnestly seek to be intentional about becoming a better person in the new year!

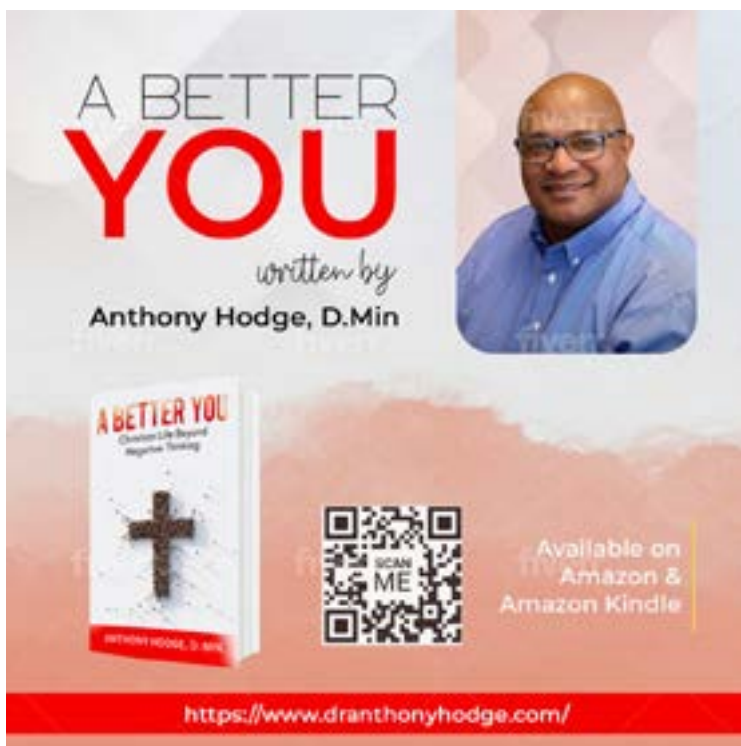
Dr. Anthony Hodge has written a practical book that anyone can work through to help anyone evolve into a better version of one's self.

On Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, at Washington Street UMC, 1401 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201, Dr. Hodge will be sharing ways individuals can aspire to become better in 2023.

During Dr. Hodge's presentation, participants will be exposed to a process designed to assist persons in a 90-day transformational process. He will also share an outline for a four module book study that can be used for individual and small group gatherings.

Dr. Hodge looks forward to engaging participants for this upcoming presentation "A Better Me in 2023."

Dr. Hodge is an ordained elder in the SC Conference of the United Methodist Church and is currently serving as the District Superintendent of the Rock Hill district.



## It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas at Washington Street

**O**ut with the old "Thankful Tree" and in with the Christmas Tree at Washington Street. Sam Waldrep and all of his elves have been working hard to deck the halls for the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

This year's Thankful Tree was full of "thanks" from Washington Streeters. Mostly we saw folks being thankful for family and life chances, and thankful thoughts about Washington Street and church family.

We are also very "thankful" for all of the elves helping make our church beautiful during this glorious seasons of Advent and Christmas. Those elves include: Kathy Wright, Martha Boynton, Wendy Clark, Mary Lide, Marcia Lane, Jean Kanes, Dianna Westerkam, Beverly McClanahan, Lynn Shirley, Alan Jon Zupan, Ellen Carruth, Pam Jenkins, Susan Brown, Sam Waldrep, Beth Matthews, Mary Ann Young, Virginia Vaughan, Sally Mings, Janet Cotter, and Jerry Sumpter.



Also, a special thanks to those who purchased poinsettias and to Susan Helfefinger and Kathy Wright for keeping them watered.



# Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** The class is studying a series based on a message from Max Lucado, *Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here*, which they will study to the end of this year. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in a short video and lively discussion. 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, November 27, we will begin our new book, *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Tom Wall will teach Chapter 1, Stories of the First Christmas. Next Sunday, December 4, Carl Evans, will lead a discussion of Chapter 2, Parables as Overtures. The class meets in the Dawsey Classroom on the 2nd floor. Class members who desire to 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 [maryslade4@gmail.com](mailto:maryslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** The video series *Embodying Advent* from The Work of The People website will be used for four of the next five Sundays (through Christmas Day) as the basis of our time together. We will join a church-wide adult Sunday school potluck brunch on the 18th. On Nov. 27, the class will study "Birthing and/or Embodying Hope" (16 minute video) <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/embodying-advent-birthing>. On Dec. 4, we will look at "Embodying Faith" (9.5 minute video). Melanie Dobson will lead the class. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at [jlanc@columbiasc.edu](mailto:jlanc@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](mailto:lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaundersstevens@gmail.com) for more information.

• **The Open Door Class:** The class is doing a study based on the video "The Bible Project." The subject is the character of God. Please note that there will be no class on Dec. 25, or Jan. 1. 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:** We will not meet on November 27. On December 4, Dr. Charles Bryan and Randy Elswick will lead our discussion of Chapter 4 in Parables from the Back Side by Kalas. All are welcome. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [suzjoye@gmail.com](mailto:suzjoye@gmail.com). 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:** The class discusses lessons from *Adult Bible Studies* published by Cokesbury. In November, the theme is "Faithful Conversions." Lessons focus on "Showing Respect for Other Faith Traditions" from Acts, "Working for Abiding Peace" from Kings, "Lessons from Other Faith Traditions" from Exodus and "Sensitivity Training" from Romans. For more information, contact Tracy Powers at [tpowers65@gmail.com](mailto:tpowers65@gmail.com) or meet with us in the classroom on the first floor by the elevator.

• **The WSUMC Youth Class:** The youth are continuing reading and analyzing the book *Walk With Jesus* by Henri Nouwen. We will be going through "Stations of the Cross" to discover how Jesus lived his life and remained hopeful through His suffering. The class will be led by Beth Robinson ([bethcaskey@gmail.com](mailto:bethcaskey@gmail.com)).

## 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](mailto:wsumcprayers@gmail.com)*

Betsy Alexander	Mike LeFever
Martha Boynton	Paul McClanahan
David Byrum	David Middleton
Laura Collins	Shawn Powers
Dr. Walter Dean	Genie & Ron Quinn
Mickey Epting	Rick Rowe
Pat Griffin	Sarah Threath
Rev. Paul Harmon	Edee Vaughan
Karen Horne	Paula Walters
Lisa Johnson	Nancy Williams
Debby Joyner	Our homebound
Martha Helen King	

*Sylvia and Garry Stevens are proud to announce that Spencer Saunders Stevens has fulfilled the requirements for Scouting's high honor—that of Eagle Scout! We would like to thank all of our WSUMC family for your support of his journey—your thoughts, prayers, support, and purchase of popcorn ;) has helped so much.*

*We would also like to invite you to celebrate with us at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday, Dec 4th at 4:00 pm in Christ Chapel. Please RSVP to [spencerstevens132@gmail.com](mailto:spencerstevens132@gmail.com).*

## In Sympathy

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Paula Walters and family on the passing of her partner, Reverend Judy King on Friday, November 18, 2022.





# WSUMC CRÉCHE DISPLAY

CHRIST CHAPEL

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

HOSTED BY ACTIVE FAITH

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED AFTER  
THE 11:00 AM SERVICE



## GLORIA

Antonio Vivaldi

WASHINGTON STREET

SANCTUARY CHOIR

NICHOLAS TODD SHUMATE,

CONDUCTOR

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 2022

11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

### ATTENDANCE (as of 11-23-22):

Nov. 20: 116 (in-person); 58 (online) = 174  
Nov. 13: 156 (in-person); 143 (online) = 299  
Nov. 6: 164 (in-person); 213 (online) = 377  
Oct. 30: 214 (in-person); 185 (online) = 398

### GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 11-23-22):

**Church Budget \$865,000**

REPORT NOT AVAILABLE

Church Actual \$

Soup Cellar \$

Foundation \$



## Gifts



IN MEMORY OF  
**LILLIAN McCLAIN**  
to WSUMC

Given by David &  
Karen Hostetler

IN HONOR OF  
**ED McCLAIN & JIM BLANTON**  
to WSUMC

Given by David &  
Karen Hostetler

IN MEMORY OF  
**HELEN LEWIS-CARTER**  
to WSUMC

Given by James Carter

IN MEMORY OF **HAYES MIZELL**  
to WSUMC

Given by Toni White

IN MEMORY OF **JOAN BEAMER**  
to the Music Ministry

Given by Sally Mings

IN MEMORY OF **GAIL WILLIAMS**  
to the Grace Class

Given by Chip Williams

IN MEMORY OF **JUDY KING**  
to WSUMC

Given by Susan Mathews

## Christmas Eve at Washington Street

Save the date and time for Washington Street's Christmas production of *Preparing the Way for Jesus*, adapted from a play written by Shirley Cooman, and Cindy Holtrop based on Luke's gospel. To be directed by Jane Peterson, director of communication, the play features two narrators, Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a neighbor, Elizabeth and Zecharia, and a shepherd. Nicholas Todd

Shumate will be the musical director. Several WSUMC choir members will also be featured in the production.

The production will take place in the sanctuary at 4:00 pm on Saturday, Dec. 24. A traditional second service featuring candlelight, carols and communion will be held at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. A Christmas Day service will follow on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 11:00 am in the sanctuary.



# December Birthdays

**December 1**  
Charlie Peterson

**December 2**  
Jeffrey Weston

**December 5**  
Sarah Threatt  
Cole Gaston

**December 7**  
Tatiana Adams  
Janet Keith

**December 8**  
Thorne Barrett

**December 9**  
Lisa Voegeli

**December 10**  
Bessie Bagwell

**December 11**  
David Anderson

**December 12**  
Chip Williams

**December 13**  
Ann Jessup  
Joseph Clark

**December 14**  
Blake Burnside  
Susan Hefelfinger  
Maureen Devenger

**December 16**  
Licia Jackson

**December 17**  
Grant Jackson

**December 19**  
Marshall Robinson  
Kay Ayers-Garren  
Spencer Stevens

**December 22**  
Sally Mings

**December 24**  
Sean Foley

**December 25**  
Mike Conte  
Katherine Epting

**December 26**  
Ricky Rowe

**December 29**  
Ellen Parker

**December 30**  
Joe Hopkins

**December 31**  
Janet Cotter

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Subject to change. Events in *blue* are WS events and are open to all. Events marked with \* are non-WS events.

### Sunday, Nov. 27

**11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service/Hanging of the Greens | Sanctuary & Livestream**  
**5:00-6:30 pm | Advent Celebration | Threatt Hall**

### Monday, Nov. 28

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society | Choir Room\*

### Tuesday, Nov. 29

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*  
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Disciple Conference Room\*

### Wednesday, Nov. 30

10:00-11:00 am | Staff Meeting | Wesley Room

**11:00 am | Advent Small Group with Rev. Alston | John Harper Classroom**

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

**7:00-8:00 pm | Advent Small Group with Ann Jessup | Zoom**

**7:00-8:00 pm | Advent Small Group with Rev. Alston | Zoom**

### Thursday, Dec. 1

**9:00 am-6:00 pm | Daytrippers to Mepkin Abbey | Monk's Corner, SC**  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
**6:00-7:00 pm | Church Council | Wesley Room & Zoom**  
7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra\*

### Friday, Dec. 2

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

### Sunday, Dec. 4

**11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service | Sanctuary & Livestream**  
**4:00-5:00 pm | Spencer Stevens Eagle Scout Ceremony | Chapel**

### Monday, Dec. 5

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
12:30-1:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
5:45-8:45 pm | Columbia Choral Society | Choir Room\*

To schedule an event or meeting, please contact Jane at [jane@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jane@wsmethodist.org); or Jammie at [jammie@wsmethodist.org](mailto:jammie@wsmethodist.org).

## Requiem at Shandon Methodist

On All Saints Sunday, the WSUMC choir participated in a joint presentation of Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* at Shandon Methodist Church. The other participating choirs hailed from Shandon UMC, Trenholm Road UMC, Cayce UMC, and Salem Street UMC. The choirs were led by Nicholas Todd Shumate, director of music at Washington Street. Debbie Bauer assisted at the organ. The program was presented in memory of those who have passed since the last All Saints Day. Photos courtesy of Forever Photography.



WSUMC Choir members Bob Evans, Harvey Jessup and Lee Smith take part in Requiem.