

# THE CONNECTION

December 11, 2022

## Advent & Christmas at Washington Street

Advent has begun and so have our holiday celebrations. Last Sunday, we celebrated the beginning of Advent with a wonderful meal, crafts, including making Advent wreaths, and singing Christmas carols. The annual event, led by Mary Lide included a light meal of baked potatoes, grilled cheese, salad, a dessert, and drink. The children are rehearsing for their upcoming **Nativity Play this Sunday, December 11**, and are very excited. We hope you can join us for this special presentation during this Sunday's service as we celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Also, make plans to check out the **Crèche Display in Christ Chapel** following the 11:00 am service and enjoy light refreshments in the hallway outside of the Chapel and Wesley Room.

Coming up, the WSUMC choir, under the direction of Nicholas Todd Shumate will present Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* on **December 18** for the 4th Sunday in Advent. We are looking forward to hearing our glorius choir present this special musical celebration.

On **Christmas Eve**, we hope you will join us for *Preparing the Way*, an adaptation of a drama based on Luke by Shirley Coomman & Cindy Holtrop. The performance will take place at **4:00 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. The cast includes Joe Epting, Rev. Becky Shirley, Alston Lippert, Grant and Licia Jackson, Michelle Graham, Leila Jackson, Joseph Graham, Alan-Jon Zupan, Dr. Michael Oehler, Isabel Oeher, and Ava Jackson, among others. Our crew includes Grant Jackson, Susan Caskey, Sam Waldrep, and Nicholas Todd Shumate. The play is directed by Jane Peterson.



*From top row, left to right: Pato Aravena; Washington Street Congregation on Nov. 27; Lucy Wood, acolyte; Licia Jackson helping with crafts at the Advent Celebration; Dane Waund helping our young ones rehearse for the Nativity Play; Alma Louis Aravena tryig on her Magi outfit; the little ones awaiting their turn at rehearsal; Grant and Leila Jackson making snowflakes; Darby and Cindy Waund creating their Advent wreaths; Elizabeth Aravena helping our little angel, Ellis Hall with her costume.*

At **5:30 pm**, a traditional **Candlelight, Carols and Communion** service will be held in the Sanctuary. We hope that you will be able to join us for one of our special Christmas Eve services. Please invite your friend, neighbors and family to join us. All are welcome here!

# Getting to Know Jammie Watters

*By Fran Zupan*

Jammie Watters, our new administrative assistant, had many, and varied jobs on her way to Washington Street. She worked as a part-time bookkeeper, even before she earned an associate's degree in accounting at Midlands Technical College in 2008. She worked for Waffle House for 10 years, starting as a waitress and working her way up to assistant store manager.

And, she also worked for the MTC Airport Campus bookstore until it closed in 2014.

Jammie was named after her father, James, and her name is pronounced with a long a. Her father thought that spelling it with two m's made it more feminine.

Jammie moved to Columbia from Ohio when she was 16. An older sister's husband was a victim when another man "took an ax to his head," damaging his hearing and his vision. Her parents decided to move here to support her sister and her brother-in-law.

Jammie attended Lexington High School, where she graduated in 1991. In 1992, she married and took the last name Watters. The couple separated in 2000 and finalized their divorce in 2006.

Although she remarried, she kept the last name Watters. Officials in the divorce court said she should keep it in order to have the same last name as her children. And, she also wanted to avoid the hassle that came with a name change. For example, it took the Social Security Administration a year to get Watters spelled correctly on her social security card.

Jammie worked for Waffle House from 1995 to 2005. She was a waitress, a cook, a district relief manager and an assistant manager in the Irmo store. Initially, she worked at the Waffle House at 2510 Sunset Blvd., near Lexington Medical Center's main campus.

When she was district relief manager, she filled in at a couple of restaurants when the district manager had the day off.

In 2007, Jammie went to work in the Midlands Technical College bookstore. She was a cashier, and later head cashier, she did customer service, she ordered snacks and drinks, she helped the buyer do inventory. The manager referred a consumer's complaint to her with the comment, "She knows what she's doing."

"I had a lot of knowledge and got to do a lot of different things," Jammie said. MTC closed the bookstore in 2014, outsourcing the work to Barnes & Noble.

In February 2016, Jammie became the administrative assistant at College Place United Methodist Church, which is adjacent to Columbia College. She was there until the day it closed its doors, last June.

Washington Street is bigger and has a lot more activity than College Place had, Jammie said. The college used College Place for Wednesday chapel, graduation and convocations, but these gradually diminished over time, she said.

She said the church had seven or eight full members when it closed, plus a few homebound members and about 15 people who came sometimes. Two of the members, Ellen Parker and Joe Plough, transferred to Washington Street, but most transferred to Virginia Wingard Memorial UMC, Jammie said.

Jammie met her second husband, Johnny McPherson Jr., when she was assistant manager of the Irmo Waffle House. He is an electrician who owns a company with his dad. Jammie and Johnny were friends for two years before they started dating, she said. They married in 2007.

Jammie has four daughters, aged 27, almost 20, 18 and 14.

She said she likes to read "anything except romance novels." Recent favorites include books in the "Odd Thomas" series by Dean Koontz, a #1 New York Times suspense author. Odd Thomas is a short order cook in Pico Mundo, California, who communicates with the dead and races to defeat evil.

Jammie also likes to bake yeast rolls and cakes from scratch. One recent evening, she was making a Mexican dish consisting of shredded chicken, cheese sauce, beans and rice. She didn't have a recipe for cheese sauce, so she made one up.

This time of year, she enjoys watching "Charlie Brown's Christmas" and "Frosty the Snowman" with her granddaughters Violet, 2, and Cordelia, 4 months.

On Saturday mornings Johnny and Jammie volunteer with a youth bowling league in Irmo. She is the treasurer, and he is the coach.

"I tell the kids, 'I will be your cheerleading squad,'" Jammie said, adding that their 14-year-old hopes that high bowling scores will bring her scholarships.



# Living Gift Market

This Sunday, December 11, you have the opportunity to help a family in need by purchasing an animal or share of an animal at our Heifer International Living Gift Market.

For each share of an animal, you will receive an honor card to send to your gift recipient.

The market is located outside the church office and will be open from 9:30 am-12:30 pm.

Can't make it to the market this Sunday?

You can use the online giving option or purchase an animal at the church office during church business hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00-4:00. Questions? Contact Mary Lide at [neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com).

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and Washington Street Church family in expressing our deepest sympathy and Christian love to Janelle Beamer and family on the passing of her father, Bob Beamer, on Monday, November 28.

Also to Sally Christian and family in the death of her husband, James "Yoder" Christian, on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022.

And to the family of Janet Keith who passed away on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

## Creche Display in Christ Chapel Sunday, Dec. 11

This Sunday, Dec. 11, be sure to check out the displays of various Creches in Christ Chapel from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Washington Street Members have graciously shared some of their collections of nativities from around the world. Several members of Active Faith have worked hard this past week to create this amazing display. Stop by for light refreshments in the Wesley Room following the 11:00 am worship service.



## Heifer for the Holidays



**Mooley Christmas!  
It's time for the  
Heifer  
International  
Living Gift Market  
December 4 &  
December 11**  
before and after the  
worship service  
in the hallway  
between the Wesley  
Room  
and the church  
office

## Gifts



**IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY  
KING**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Virginia Vaughan**

**IN HONOR OF  
SAM WALDREP**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Diana &  
Bill Westerkam**

**IN MEMORY OF FRANCES  
ROBERTSON**

*to the Foundation*

**Given by Peggy Weston**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Virginia Vaughan**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Ed McClain**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to the Foundation*

**Given by Anne Sinclair &  
Julian Ruffin**

**IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY  
KING**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Ed McClain**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Sally Mings**

**IN MEMORY OF REV. JUDY  
KING**

**TO WSUMC**

**Given by Diana &  
Bill Westerkam**

**IN MEMORY OF  
JAMES CHRISTIAN**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Sally Mings**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Carol Fowler**

**IN HONOR OF SPENCER  
STEVENS—EAGLE SCOUT**

*to WSUMC*

**Given by Sally Mings  
& Susan Brown**

**IN MEMORY OF  
JOAN & BOB BEAMER**

*to the Organ Fund*

**Given by Boyd &  
Stephanie Saunders**

**IN MEMORY OF BOB BEAMER**

*to the Music Ministry*

**Given by Jeff & Lisa  
Honeycutt**

## A note from your Director of Engagement:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We have gotten a great response of folks turning in their Ministry Menus, expressing how they intend to use their gifts and talents for God's glory in 2023. Robbie Douglas and I have been hard at work, entering all this data into Realm, the church's database. As of this morning, we have 89 individuals in the system with listed "serving



interests." If you haven't yet turned in your Ministry Menu, it's not too late! Feel free to email me at [christine@wsmethodist.org](mailto:christine@wsmethodist.org) if you need another form. I am so excited to put this information to good use as we discern how God is leading Washington Street UMC in the New Year!

Peace,  
Christine

## 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 for 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, December 11, we will continue studying *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. John Evans will teach Chapter 3, "The Context of the Christmas Stories." Next Sunday, December 18, Grant Jackson will lead a discussion of Chapter 4, "Genealogy as Destiny." 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 [marydslade4@gmail.com](mailto:marydslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** The class is studying a new video—*Embodying Advent* from The Work of The People website which will be used through January 8 as the basis of our time together. On Dec. 11, we will take on "Embodying Peace" (a 15-minute video). On Dec. 18, we will join an adult Sunday School potluck brunch in Threath Hall. There is no class on Dec. 25. Join in person or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasc.edu](mailto: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](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:** On December 11, Randy Elswick will lead our discussion on Chapter 5 in *Parables from the Back Side* by Kalas. On December 18, Sally Mings will present our Advent lesson. On January 1, we will participate in the Advent Hymn activity in the Chapel. All are welcome. For more information contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjoye@sc.rr.com).

• **The John Harper Class:** The John Harper class discusses lessons from *Adult Bible Studies* published by Cokesbury. In December, the focus is on "Powers and Vulnerability." Lessons include "Reign Over Us" from Judges, "Doing the Right Thing" from Matthew, "To Whom Do We Pay Homage" from Matthew, and "The Holy Family Becomes Refugees" from Matthew. For more information, contact Tracy Powers at [tjpowers65@gmail.com](mailto:tjpowers65@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. The class is being led by Beth Robinson ([bethcaskey@gmail.com](mailto:bethcaskey@gmail.com).)

*On January 1, Jim Tulle will lead us in Christmas hymns and carols in Christ Chapel during the Sunday School hour. All are welcome to attend.*



# GLORIA

Antonio Vivaldi

WASHINGTON STREET  
SANCTUARY CHOIR  
NICHOLAS TODD SHUMATE,  
CONDUCTOR

CHRISTMAS CANTATA  
SUNDAY, DEC. 18, 2022  
11:00 AM | SANCTUARY

# Welcome Table Breakfast a Success

The Welcome Table team hosted another successful meal in Threatt Hall on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 8:30-10:30 am for those suffering from food insecurities. A delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, grits, and pancakes, along with Starbucks coffee, and orange juice was served. About 60 individuals attended, and the team was able to supply our guests with much needed cold weather gear for the cold days ahead. Volunteers handed out gloves, socks, coats, scarves, and hats along with various toiletry items from our Free Little Hygiene Pantry.



*Jessica Hall, and her daughter Ellis help distribute cold weather gear and toiletries during the breakfast.*



*Volunteers Diana Westerkam, Mary Lide, Mary Edmonds and Lee Smith assist Terrence Chisolm in the kitchen.*

## *It's not too late to send in your 2023 Pledge!*

The year isn't over, and there is still time to make your 2023 pledge to Washington Street. It's easy, and can be done several ways:

1. Log into your Realm account. Go to Giving. On the right, see Current Pledges; in the dropdown, click on Future Pledges and follow the prompts.
2. Go to [wsmethodist.org/giving/stewardship](http://wsmethodist.org/giving/stewardship). Click on the button labeled Pledge Online and follow the prompts.
3. Use the form below, fill it out and mail to Administrator, 1401 Washington St., Columbia, SC 29212.
4. Call the office at 803-256-2417 and ask for Robbie Douglas.

### LIVING FAITH Stewardship 2023

I am committed to living faith in response to God's call on my heart to support the Church in all the ways I can, including through financial giving. I know that through my pledge I join my fellow church members in providing Washington Street United Methodist Church the loving and faithful stewardship needed to sustain it through this year and years to come.

My commitment to Washington Street UMC for the 2023 year is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (per week) (per month) (per year) [**circle one**]

I plan to continue my Faith Journey with a commitment to:

- Prayer    Bible Reading and Study    Witness    Service    Worship    Financial Giving

I make this commitment in good faith, knowing that should my financial situation change, I can increase or decrease this amount by contacting the Business Administrator of the Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ (please print name) \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

*Living Faith*

1401 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201

# 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  
Martha Boynton  
David Byrum  
Dr. Walter Dean  
Mickey Epting  
Pat Griffin  
Rev. Paul Harmon  
Karen Horne  
Lisa Johnson  
Debby Joyner  
Martha Helen King

Mike LeFever  
Paul McClanahan  
David Middleton  
Nelle Peterson  
Shawn Powers  
Genie & Ron Quinn  
Rick Rowe  
Sarah Threath  
Paula Walters  
Nancy Williams  
Our homebound

## ATTENDANCE (as of 12-8-22):

Dec. 4: 167 (in-person); 136 (online) = 303  
Nov. 27: 115 (in-person); 175 (online) = 290  
Nov. 20: 116 (in-person); 82 (online) = 198  
Nov. 13: 156 (in-person); 153 (online) = 309

## GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE (as of 12-8-22):

Church Budget	\$865,000
Church Actual	\$544,745
Soup Cellar	\$63,243
Foundation	\$23,960

## SCAN TO GIVE



## Upcoming Events & Meetings

\*denotes non-member event; **blue type** indicates WSUMC events with an open invitation to attend

### Monday, Dec. 12

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, Dec. 13

9:00 am-12:30 pm | Polar Express CDC Party | Threath Hall  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:00-3:00 pm | Staff Christmas Party | The Grand & Wesley Room  
6:00-8:00 pm | Palmetto Mastersingers | Choir Room\*  
6:30-8:00 pm | Private Meeting | Location varies\*

### Wednesday, Dec. 14

**11:00 am-12:00 pm | Advent Small Group with Rev. Alston | 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 | Advent Small Group with Ann Jessup | Zoom**  
**7:00-8:00 pm | Advent Small Group with Rev. Alston | Zoom**

### Thursday, Dec. 15

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room\*

### Friday, Dec. 16

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

### Sunday, Dec. 18

**11:00 am-12:00 pm | Worship Service—Christmas Cantata | Sanctuary & Livestream**  
12:15-1:15 pm | Rehearsal-Preparing the Way | Sanctuary

### Monday, Dec. 19

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, Dec. 20

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 | Location varies

### Wednesday, Dec. 21

**11:00 am-12:00 pm | Advent Small Group with Rev. Alston | John Harper Classroom**  
11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
4:00-5:00 pm | Rehearsal—Preparing the Way | Sanctuary  
**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. 22

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
7:00-9:00 pm | Palmetto Chamber Orchestra | Choir Room\*

### Friday, Dec. 23

11:30 am-12:30 pm | Soup Cellar Serving | Soup Cellar  
1:30-2:30 pm | NA Meeting | Soup Cellar\*  
4:00-5:00 pm | Rehearsal—Preparing the Way | Sanctuary