



WASHINGTON STREET

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
wsmethodist.org

# THE CONNECTION

March 19, 2023

## F.U.E.L. Tacos & Trivia Night!

**A**nn Jessup and Susan Caskey worked our brains during the March F.U.E.L. Event. Over the course of five rounds, teams answered trivia questions ranging from children's literature and food to famous movie lines. The kitchen crew, with a handful of volunteers, served a delicious taco dinner. Prizes were awarded to the team who won overall. The most valuable player from each team received a certificate of award. A raffle was held for all individuals whose team won at least one round.

During the trivia night, kids were led by Lucy and Lucas Woods in a program about flags! Lucas and Lucy prepared a powerpoint slideshow with information about flags from all around the world, and then each child got the opportunity to craft their own unique flag. Thanks to the McAtee Woods family for their preparation and effort in this fun event!



*Top: Christine Taylor; middle: Shelley Stafford serving up a delicious meal for guests; far left: team Quiztopher Walken, winners of the Taco & Trivia Night.*

**Dr. Willie Jennings: Tuesday, March 21**

**10:30 am | Stavros Lecture Hall, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**

**"Overcoming Racial Faith: What Acts 2 Teaches Us About God"**



# Getting to Know

## Beth Robinson

By Fran Zupan

These are a few of Beth Robinson's favorite things:

- Salkehatchie Summer Service, an in-state mission opportunity for youths and adults who repair the homes of poor families. This summer, Beth will be the assistant director at the Penn Center camp where her family has volunteered for more than 20 years.

- Cake, her food of choice. "My family is no longer in charge of getting my birthday cake," she said. "I get it because I want it done right." It's usually Funfetti from the Silver Spoon Bake Shop on Devine Street.

- Her job at Epworth Children's Home, where she uses her go-get-'em attitude to match what individuals can give with Epworth's needs – whether that is \$1 million or two bikes. Washington Streeters participate in the Christmas at Epworth program when they draw items from a Christmas tree and then bring gifts to the church, or have them delivered through Amazon. Each year, Washington Street provides more than 150 gifts.

Beth grew up in Windsor United Methodist Church in her Columbia Northeast neighborhood. In 2016, she joined Washington Street along with her family – her parents, her sister, and her husband. She is the daughter of Susan Caskey and the late Sam Caskey. Her sister Emily is five years older than she is. Her husband is Marshall Robinson.

Beth's father died five days after the family became members. As a new member, she was impressed with the amount of support they received from the congregation, Beth said, adding, today, her father would be "so ecstatic" to be a part of Washington Street.

Beth said she had a wonderful childhood. It seemed like her mother was always on the road, taking Emily to ride horses, and her to various dance classes around town.

Sometimes the activities lasted late into the night, but her parents were always intentional about the family having dinner together no matter how late it was.

When Beth was a freshman in high school, she attended the University North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem, where she could continue her classical dance training. After a year, she returned home.

"I decided to just enjoy dance again," she said. She took non-competitive dance classes and became a cheerleader at Richland Northeast High School.

After high school, Beth attended Lander University in Greenwood, where she majored in business marketing and management. She graduated in 2009. Beth and Marshall met at Lander when they were getting sorority and fraternity pictures taken on "bid day."

"I was standing on the steps (when I saw him)," Beth said. "I pointed, and I said, 'Who is that?' He had very curly red hair that was a little unkempt."

She asked her roommate if she should send Marshall a friend request on Facebook. Her roommate said she should. She had another friend give him her cell phone number. In 2006, they started dating, and they married on November 23, 2013, at Windsor UMC.

Today, Marshall works for the budget office at the University of South Carolina.

In 2020, Beth and Marshall had their son, Lathan. "Our one and only, unless God provides otherwise." Lathan was

born a month before the COVID-19 lockdown went into effect. He was the first person baptized at Washington Street during the pandemic. The baptism was attended by family and two ministers, Alston Lippert, and senior minister Patricia J. Parrish. Lathan is the middle name of Beth's father, and Lathan's middle name Reed is Marshall's middle name.

Because of the pandemic, 2023 was the first year

Lathan had a birthday party, and Beth discovered he has her fondness for cake. Now, before he attends a party, he asks his mom, "Will there be cake?"

Beth and Marshall are raising Lathan with the philosophy found in the children's book "Pete the Cat Saves Christmas." That philosophy is "give it your all."

Beth graduated from Lander during a recession, and she worked retail until she heard about the job at Epworth.

"I'm kind of embarrassed because I didn't know where Epworth is," she said. She went to work there in 2010, and the job soon became a ministry.

No two days are the same. A woman really did drive up and hand Beth a check for \$1 million. Another woman, who lives in California, was a law student in Columbia, and she sends a gift through Amazon each Christmas.

Beth loves spending time with her family and introducing Lathan to all things. A typical Saturday may consist of a trip to Riverbanks Zoo, a corndog lunch at Henry's, and a walk around the neighborhood with Lathan's "big brother" Hampton, their blue pit bull.

Whenever there is time to rest, Beth enjoys a good television series and putting some time into her new hobby, needlepoint. She said she welcomes any needlepoint advice.

Beth and Marshall take advantage of Susan's hospitality every Wednesday when following her time volunteering in the church office, she picks Lathan up from the Washington Street Child Development Center. This allows Beth and Marshall to grab dinner with the understanding that they will pick Lathan up before Susan's Bible study.

"Marshall and I are beyond thankful for the love and understanding of everyone at WSUMC," Beth said. "We hope to raise Lathan with a respect for our place of worship, but find comfort that he loves coming to church each week. The entire Robinson family takes pride in our church home."

Aside from Salkehatchie, Beth has been involved in other youth activities. She worked part-time as a youth leader at Windsor UMC from 2012 through 2015. She and Marshall have taught the youth Sunday school class at Washington Street and she said she is happy to help with other youth activities. Now, she and Susan teach the youth class one Sunday a month or whenever Sarah-Kate Gravely, the director of children & family ministries, needs them. She and Marshall attend the new Sunday school class taught by Christine Taylor.

Beth is excited about being the assistant director at Salkehatchie this year. She, her mom, and Marshall will travel to Beaufort County about once a month until the camp starts in June. The camp is about more than learning to put on a roof, install a toilet, or replace rotten flooring, she said.

"I love that so many strangers volunteer their time to come together with a singular purpose of assisting a community in need," she said, "and that so many bonds and friendships are made."



# Sunday School Updates

• **The Aldersgate Class:** Come join the Aldersgate Class as we study the Old Testament with Sandra L. Richter (Ph.D., Harvard University), Professor of Old Testament, Wheaton College. This study, "The Epic of Eden," is designed to take participants on a journey into a deeper understanding of the Old Testament. Dr. Richter will lead us through a video study and text to show us how Old Testament understanding leads to fresh depths of New Testament faith for everyday life in the real world. Come join us for coffee and a pastry and listen to this exciting series. Our class meets in the Aldersgate classroom on the 2nd floor at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please call David A. Anderson at 803-318-8821 or email him at [DAnderson@richardsonplowden.com](mailto:DAnderson@richardsonplowden.com).

• **The Dawsey Class:** This Sunday, March 19, we will continue our study of *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount* by Richard Rohr. Tom Summers will teach Chapter 6: "Joining Heaven and Earth." Next Sunday, March 26, Sue Dillon will lead a discussion of Chapter 7: "The Path of Transformation." The Dawsey class meets on the second floor. Class starts at 10:00 am. 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 [maryslade4@gmail.com](mailto:maryslade4@gmail.com).

• **The Grace Class:** For the rest of Lent, we will discuss the "I Am" statements of Jesus in response to Becky's sermons from the previous week. Topics include March 19, "I am the door of the sheep"; March 26, "I am the good shepherd"; April 4, "I am the resurrection and the life." Easter Sunday's lesson is pending. We will do the last part, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," on April 17. Join us 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 Open Door Class is finishing a study of the overviews of the gospels of Matthew and John from The Bible Project. This is in preparation for our Lenten study—*Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. 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:** For the next several weeks we will be participating in a study from *The Great Courses* titled "How Jesus Became God" by Professor Bart D. Ehrman at the University of North Carolina where he is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor. Dr. Ehrman is a New Testament scholar who focuses on the origins and history of early Christianity. We are enjoying the lessons and our discussions. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please

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. 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 Youth Class:** The Youth Sunday School class is using a curriculum by *Illustrated Ministry* called Mini Revolutions that connects to the liturgical calendar. The class is led by Sarah-Kate, Beth Robinson and Susan Caskey, and Jean Leitner. Grades 6th-12th are welcome to join in on Sundays at 10:00 am in the Youth Room.

• **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** A new class has started and is meeting in the Traxler Classroom. The class is led by Christine Taylor. The class is doing a slow read through the Gospel of Luke. Anyone interested is welcome to join! For more information, contact Christine at [christine@wsmethodist.org](mailto:christine@wsmethodist.org).

with  
**heartfelt sympathy**

HOLDING YOU CLOSE  
IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Rev. Becky Shirley joins the entire staff and  
Washington Street Church family in  
expressing our deepest sympathy and  
Christian love to Lisa and Robbie Douglas in  
the death of Lisa's sister, Beth May on  
Monday, March 6, 2023.



**IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT**  
to WSUMC

Given by Elaine Rush

**IN MEMORY OF SARAH THREATT**  
to WSUMC

Given by Mike Conte

**IN MEMORY OF LYNN JOHNSON**  
to WSUMC

Given by Virginia Vaughan

**IN HONOR OF CHIP WILLIAMS**  
to Missions

Given by Neal Woods &  
Andrea McAtee

**IN HONOR OF ANNE SINCLAIR**  
to Missions

Given by Neal Woods &  
Andrea McAtee

**IN MEMORY OF  
STAN MCCONKEY**

to WSUMC

Given by Marshall Colcord  
& Dotsy Helms

**IN MEMORY OF  
MS. SHIRLEY FAYE COBB**

to WSUMC

Given by the  
Paul Harmon Sunday School  
Class

# Realm® Connect Classes Offered!

Are you still uncomfortable using Realm® or don't know WHY or for WHAT you should use it? We encourage you to schedule a 30-45 minute class for your group, or group of friends. We can also provide training to your Sunday School class during the Sunday 10:00 am hour, or to Circles at their meeting times. We can also schedule trainings for anyone to attend.

Learn:

- The differences between using Realm® on a web browser versus the smartphone application
- How to login
- How to access: giving, the directory, the church calendar, announcements, and contacting other church members via email.

To schedule a session for your group or request a session as an individual contact Lynn Shirley at 803-422-3368 or wmlynnsc@gmail.com.

## Easter Breakfast on April 9 Replaces April edition of F.U.E.L.

Connect with the congregation on Easter morning for breakfast during the Sunday School hour on April 9, at 10:00 am. Everyone is invited! Get in touch with your Sunday School teacher on how you can help make our Easter breakfast a success. Sunday School classes will receive info from Christine and Sarah-Kate to prepare! Join in to Celebrate the Risen King!

### Prayer List

Betsy Alexander  
David Byrum  
Judy Ellington  
Mickey Epting  
Pat Griffin  
Rev. Paul Harmon  
Karen Horne  
Lisa Johnson  
Debby Joyner  
Jean Kanes  
Martha Helen King

Paul McClanahan  
Sharon McCullough  
David Middleton  
Shawn Powers  
Genie & Ron Quinn  
Rick Rowe  
Jim Webber  
Nancy Williams  
Mary Anne Young  
Our homebound

# SPRING CLEANING

Save the date...  
**March 25**  
**ALL DAY!**

WE NEED **YOUR** HELP!

We need volunteers to help us with a mega "Spring Cleaning" of the church. Stay for a few hours, or all day! We will be cleaning out a lot of spaces both indoors and out. More information coming soon!



## Drive 'N Drop



Drive into our parking lot to drop off your donation! A volunteer will take your donations directly from your car!

**A supply drive for the Richland County Dept. of Social Services Foster Care Program**

**NEEDS: diapers (all sizes), unscented baby wipes, new packages of children's underwear and socks (all sizes, boy, and girl), toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.**

**Friday, April 28**  
**12:00-4:00 pm &**  
**Saturday, April 29**  
**9:00 am-1:00 pm**



A WASHINGTON STREET UMC MISSION FOR THE FOOD INSECURE



The  
**"WELCOME"**  
Table



← SIGN UP TODAY

### EASTER MONDAY SOUP CELLAR LUNCH

**Monday, April 10**

**11:30 am to 1:00 pm | Threath Hall**

**VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED!**  
*(food prep, plating, greeters, servers, floaters, and clean-up crew)*

**COOKIES/BROWNIES, HARD-BOILED EGGS (DYING OPTIONAL)**

**email: jane@wsmethodist.org or register online**