



# THE CONNECTION

November 26, 2023



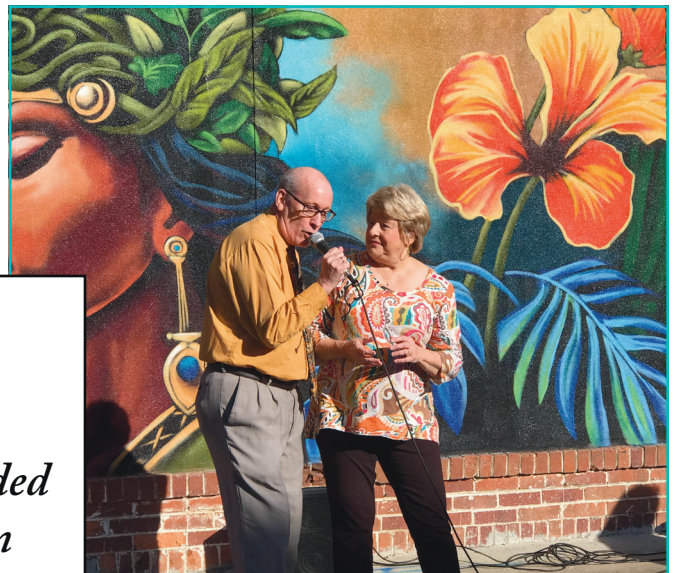
## Mural Dedicated to the Memory of Rick Rowe

by Larry Hembree

What a privilege to be a small part of the festivities surrounding the dedication of the mural “Earth Medicine,” created by Tennessee muralist Eric Finley and dedicated to the memory of Washington Street United Methodist member, Rick Rowe. The mural, adorning two sides of Trustus Theatre, located at 520 Lady Street in the Vista in downtown Columbia, was formally dedicated on Tuesday, November 14, at the site. The mural was commissioned by the Vista Neighborhood Association, in collaboration with Trustus, One Columbia for Arts & Culture, and the Vista Guild.

Rowe, who passed in April, was a prolific leader in the Vista where he founded the Vista Neighborhood Association, was the President of the Renaissance Plaza Homeowners' Association, and served on Trustus and Vista Guild Board of Directors, among many other things.

Rick lived his values fully, no compromise. The power of creating community and belonging were at the top of his priority list, his wish list for the world. One section of the mural exhibits a beautiful forest filled with a community of transparent dwellings, a place where people feel connected, protected, safe. Rick was awarded a purple heart for his service in Vietnam, an honor given to service members who have greatly sacrificed themselves. Rick fought to both protect and



*"Over 30 Washington Streeters attended the dedication ceremony. Ricky and I were touched and humbled by their presence, love, and respect for Rick. A great tribute to a great man." — Deborah Rowe.*

to preserve freedom through enriching his community, and assuring each individual is afforded basic human rights. He was fair, he listened, he sympathized and empathized. You knew it when you were with him. But he rarely, if ever, touted his own horn. Rick gave such passion and credibility to the power of place.

Researcher and Storyteller Brené Brown says, “True belonging is the spiritual practice of believing in and belonging to yourself so deeply that you can share your most authentic self with the world and find sacredness in both being a part of something and standing alone in the wilderness.” This aptly describes the beauty of Rick Rowe. How lucky to have

# Cooperative Ministry Volunteer Opportunity!

You can make a real difference in the lives of low- and middle-income families in the Midlands. The Cooperative Ministry provides free, high-quality tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to families and individuals earning under \$63,000/year.

During 2022, the VITA (volunteer income tax assistance) volunteers completed and filed 8,256 tax returns (for free) which brought \$11.6M in refunds to families and individuals in our community. The average income for these clients was \$19,354.

Please consider becoming an IRS-certified Volunteer. You can prepare taxes or take on other important roles, such as intake. Training is provided so no experience is necessary. The link below provides information on training. You can also email Cindy Cox ([ckcrg@bellsouth.net](mailto:ckcrg@bellsouth.net)), WSUMC member and long-time VITA volunteer to learn about her experience.

If you are interested, contact Michelle Blackman, Cooperative Ministry VITA Coordinator, 803-799-5609, [mblackman@coopmin.org](mailto:mblackman@coopmin.org).

Training information may be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QdwArVZaQpPxTd8nd-J9phE6o79Zqtrb/edit?pli=1>



## Successful Drive n' Drop Held

In the past week, Active Faith orchestrated a Drive n' Drop event dedicated to Senior Resources. The community showed incredible generosity, contributing hundreds of items, including soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, toiletries, and more over the span of two days.

Active Faith members were on-site in the parking lot to meet donors, and collect items directly from the cars. Senior Resources picked up the donations on Friday afternoon. A heartfelt thank you to our generous community for making this event a resounding success!

**Mission Trip to Ecuador  
Interest & Organizational  
Meeting  
Sunday, Dec. 3  
John Harper Classroom**



**RESERVE  
TODAY**



**Wednesday, Dec. 6th | 11:00 a.m.**

Tour of the Washington Street stained glass windows led by Pete Liggett  
Washington Street Sanctuary  
Lunch afterwards in the Wesley Room  
Contact Mary Lide, [neaudl@aol.com](mailto:neaudl@aol.com) to sign up for the tour, lunch, or both. Lunch is \$10.



**Christmas  
Nativity  
Service**

**Sunday,  
December 17th  
@ 11:00AM  
Rehearsals: 10:00 AM  
Dec. 3rd, 10th, & 17th  
in the Youth Room**

Children and Youth Parents must email Sarah-Kate and send in the photo release form to sign their child up for this year's Nativity. ([sarahkate@wsmethodist.org](mailto:sarahkate@wsmethodist.org))



## Advent Celebration

**Sunday, December 3rd at 5:00 pm**

A time of fellowship and crafts for all ages.

Create your Advent wreath with fresh greens. Children and adults may make crafts and help with a service project for the Soup Cellar. Oasis wreath forms and candles will cost \$15.

Dinner will be provided. The menu includes baked potato with grilled cheese sandwiches and salad. Please make reservations by contacting Mary Lide at [neaudleal.com](mailto:neaudleal.com).

**NEEDED:  
DONATED  
GREENERY!  
DROP OFF  
THREATT HALL  
SUN., DEC. 3**



# Sunday School Updates

- **The Aldersgate Class:** The Aldersgate Class is studying *The First to Follow the Apostles of Jesus* by John R. Claypool. One of the first things that Jesus did in his ministry was to reach out to 12 individuals and draw them into a circle of close companionship with him. This series is about those 12 apostles, their relationships with Jesus and with each other, and what the dynamics of that community can teach us. Jesus did not wait for people to be perfect in order to call them into the circle of God's love. As we look at those who Jesus called, and consider ourselves as part of that ever-enlarging circle, we gain not only a deeper sense of our own reality but also a deeper sense of how Christ wants to work with us. Come join us for a lively discussion, a cup of coffee, and a pastry. All are welcome! 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, November 26, we will continue our study of *Ancient Echoes: Refusing the Fear-Filled, Greed-Driven Toxicity of the Far Right* by Walter Brueggemann. Sue Dillon will lead a discussion of Chapter 4: "Public Truth and Private Rumors." Next Sunday, December 3, Jim Seigler will teach Chapter 5: "The Prophet on Profit." Class members who join from home will use FreeConferenceCall and should call in between 9:50 and 10:00 a.m. The call-in number is (701) 802-5115. The access code is 7252934. For more information about the class, contact the class president Caroline Seigler at [caroline.seigler@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.seigler@gmail.com).
- **The Grace Class:** This Sunday, Nov. 26 we will have a devotional and discussion. For Advent the class is starting a "Work of the People" series for Advent entitled *Magnifying the Light*. On Dec. 3, Becca Stevens will lead the discussion of "A Cup of Longing." Join us in person on the third floor, or contact Jim Lane at [jlane@columbiasc.edu](mailto:jlane@columbiasc.edu) for the Zoom link. We gather Sunday mornings at 9:45 am for fellowship, and at 10:00 am for spiritual reflection.
- **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 Joy Class:** The Joy Class is continuing to partner with Solomon's Porch. If interested, please contact Lee Haynes at [lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com](mailto:lelandhaynesjr@gmail.com) or Sylvia Stevens at [sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com](mailto:sylviasaudersstevens@gmail.com).

- **The Open Door Class:** The Open Door Class's Advent study is "When God Came Down" by James A Harnish. We will explore the meaning of the incarnation - God with us in human flesh, God's action in the person Jesus. Visitors are always welcome! The class meets in person on the third floor 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, which focuses on scripture-based theological curiosity and reflection, plans to (1) reflect on our individual faith journeys; (2) discuss the dangers of a literal Christianity for our body politic; (3) review a four-hour PBS series on early Christianity; and (4) explore how fiction and poetry can inform our faith. All the while, we will remain "plugged in" to the Old and New Testaments in keeping with the chapter-a-day format of the Reverend Harmon, our namesake. All are welcome to join us on the third floor. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Joye at [sjoye@sc.rr.com](mailto:sjoye@sc.rr.com).
- **Solomon's Porch:** On Nov. 26, we will begin our Advent Study. We will use *Advent in Narnia* by Heidi Haverkamp to look at Advent through the lens of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The study will include the opportunity to read the story and watch the movie as we move toward Christmas. Anyone interested is welcome to join in. The class meets on the second floor and is led by Rev. Adrienne Fink. For more information, contact Adrienne at [ajhamm@umcsc.org](mailto:ajhamm@umcsc.org).

## Gifts

(as of 11-20-23)

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by Katryn & Law Powers

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by  
Nancy Whittle & Sandra Howell

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by Lynn Shirley

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by WL Coward & Michael Couch

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by Lisa & Robbie Douglas

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by Jo F. Mayfield

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE T. WILLIAMS  
to WSUMC

Given by Ray Cobb & David Williams

## Washington Street Players Present *Calling All Turkeys*

The first presentation of the newly formed Washington Street Drama Ministry will take place during the Sunday, November 26 worship service. *Calling All Turkeys*, a 10-minute original play written and produced by several members of the group. It focuses on the lessons tied to Christ the King Sunday, which is the last day of the Christian calendar, and the day before Advent season begins. WSUMC members Jane Peterson and Larry Hembree lead the group. Hembree says, "What a blessing to be able to highlight some of our gifts (and hidden talents) during church services. He continues, "Our goal is to create interesting, but not too serious, theatre inspired by scripture. And, of course, having fun is also part of the process!" Plans for the coming year are to assist in Lenten and Sunday worship services, produce a cabaret evening fundraiser, and a full-scale production for the Advent season. Anyone interested in participating both onstage and backstage, contact Larry Hembree at [larryhembree1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhembree1@gmail.com). No prior theatre experience is necessary.

The cast and crew include:

Ace: Ute Wachsmann-Linnan  
Egbert: Jim Tuell  
Blaze: Licia Jackson  
Saucey: Jan Merchant  
Zero: Travis Luthren  
Ambrose: Jane Peterson  
Minnie: Susan Caskey  
The King: Grant Jackson

Technical Director: Spencer Stevens  
Costumer: Eleanore Langley

## Prayer List

Betsy Alexander	Martha Helen King
Karen Basso	Lin Fesperman Lord
David Byrum	Beverly McClanahan
Mickey Epting	Paul McClanahan
Nancy Epting	Sharon McCullough
Pat Griffin	Shawn Powers
Betsy Halloren	Genie & Ron Quinn
Rev. Paul Harmon	Peggy Ward
Karen Horne	Nancy Williams
Lisa Johnson	Our homebound
Jean Kaness	

# December Birthdays

## DECEMBER 1

Charlie Peterson

## DECEMBER 7

Tatiana Adams

## DECEMBER 8

Thorne Barrett

## DECEMBER 9

Lisa Voegeli

## DECEMBER 11

David Anderson

## DECEMBER 12

Chip Williams

Taylor Beasley

## DECEMBER 13

Ann Jessup

Joseph Clark

## DECEMBER 14

Blake Burnside

Susan Hefelfinger

Maureen Devenger

## DECEMBER 16

Licia Jackson

## DECEMBER 17

Grant Jackson

## DECEMBER 18

Pattie Beerman

McCullough Adams

## 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

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### As of 11-21-23

#### General Budget: \$866,231

Church Actual \$654,361

Soup Cellar \$59,369

Foundation \$14,594

#### ATTENDANCE (as of 11-21-23)

Nov. 19: 147 (in person); 83 (online)  
= 230

Nov. 12: 146 (in person); 172 (online)  
= 318

Nov. 5: 150 (in person); 160 (online)  
= 310

Oct. 29: 134 (in person); 120 (online)  
= 254

## New Advent Small Groups

### Wednesdays with Ann Jessup & Susan Caskey

Nov. 29th, December 6th, 13th, and 20th | 7-8 p.m. | Zoom

### *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups

Email [jessup.ann@gmail.com](mailto:jessup.ann@gmail.com) to register.

### Thursdays with Mark Armstrong

Dec. 7th, 14th & 21st | 5:30-6:30 p.m.

John Harper Classroom

### *Almost Christmas:*

### *A Wesleyan Advent Experience*

Register on Realm or email

Rev. Alston at [aflippert@umcsc.org](mailto:aflippert@umcsc.org)



## Join Sole Mates for Two Upcoming Events

### Sat, Dec 9 - Walk at Sesquicentennial State Park

Meet at 10 am in the parking lot by the Splash Pad

Admission fees: \$6 adults; \$3.75 65+ & older;  
\$3.50 children 6-15; free children <6

### Sat, Jan 6 - Hike at Paris Mountain State Park

Meet at 8 am in the church parking lot to carpool

The park is just north of Greenville  
There are trails of varying difficulty levels  
Weather permitting, more details to follow

## Let's Walk & Hike!

Qs? Email Sara Wilcox @ [wilcox@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:wilcox@mailbox.sc.edu)  
Please RSVP if you are interested in the Jan 6 hike.

## Sing Along Messiah

# SOLD OUT

Monday, Dec. 11, 2023  
7:00 pm Sanctuary