

# South Carolina United Methodist Advocate

CONNECTING METHODISTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA SINCE 1837



\$2 copy or by subscription

July 2022

## ‘Built for God’s purpose’

Third virtual AC ends with approval of \$15.6M budget, 18 new clergy, Nelson as episcopal nominee



Conference Secretary Ken Nelson addresses the body.



South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston brings a word during the ordination service.



Photos by Matt Brodie

At top, Bishop Young Jin Cho, Bishop Holston and Bishop Gary Mueller lay hands on newly ordained elder the Rev. Sheri White. Below, Connectional Ministries Director Millie Nelson Smith delivers her report during a business session.

By Jessica Brodie

FLORENCE—Clergy and laity across the state gathered online June 5-6 for an abbreviated, virtual golden anniversary session of

the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Held at the Florence Center with only those necessary for presenting, recording or reporting the event present in person, the

session marked 50 years since the merger of the 1866 and 1785 conferences into the new South Carolina Annual Conference, which occurred June 5, 1972.

The event began Pentecost Sunday, June 5, with a 2 p.m. closed clergy session to discuss private personnel and other matters, including

See “AC Overview,” Page 11

## A costly call

AC2022 welcomes 18 newly commissioned and ordained clergy, honors 41 retirees

By Jessica Brodie

FLORENCE—Following Jesus can be costly—so costly it makes us question our calling, confronting long-held assumptions and even our bed-stone theological beliefs. But the blessings it brings are worth it.

That was the word from Bishop Gary E. Mueller, resident bishop of the Arkansas Conference, who with South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston led a service celebrating 18 newly commissioned and

ordained clergy and honoring 41 retirees.

Mueller brought the message during a combined service on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, attended by an intimate crowd of those being commissioned or ordained and their clergy sponsors, family and other loved ones, including Bishop Young Jin Cho, there as a clergy sponsor of an ordained deacon candidate.

See “Ordination,” Page 10

## AC2022 memorial service celebrates 53 departed saints

By Jessica Brodie

You will disappoint others and feel inadequate. You will make choices and someone will disagree with you. You will question your call. People will love you, but they won’t think much

of your family. You will be late for dinner often.

“I wish someone had told me about the hazards of ministry or gave me cautions or even a warning label,” preached Dr. Robin Dease to the crowd gathered in person and online to remem-

ber the 53 departed saints who have joined the Church Triumphant.

But while the sacrifices pastors and others in

See “Memorial Service,” Page 12

#### Hours/Location

Open Monday through Friday  
 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
 S.C. United Methodist Conference  
 Center  
 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207  
 Columbia, SC 29203  
 Deadlines: 10th of each month.

#### Contacting Us

Telephone: 803-786-9486, 803-726-6743 or 803-807-0018  
 E-mail: [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org)  
 Website: [www.advocatesc.org](http://www.advocatesc.org)

#### Submissions

The *Advocate* encourages readers to submit for publication items of interest to South Carolina United Methodists. There is no charge for running items involving activities or announcements. Items should be submitted as far as possible in advance of the event's date or the date of requested publication. Since there is no charge for these items, they appear in the newspaper on a space-available basis. Deadlines are the 10th of each month for the following month's paper.

#### Advertising

Display ads, classifieds and inserts can be ordered by contacting us at 888-678-6272 or 803-786-9486, ext. 338, or [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org). Deadlines are the 10th of each month for the following month's paper.

#### Subscriptions

The *Advocate* is delivered to mailboxes via U.S. mail every month prior to the first Sunday of the month. Subscriptions are \$20/year for the print and online version, and \$10/year for the online-only edition. Church plans are available for as low as \$1/member (online version) or \$10/member (print version with 6+ subscribers per church). To start your subscription, visit [www.advocatesc.org](http://www.advocatesc.org), call with credit card 803-726-6743 or 803-786-9486, ext. 335, or send a check to *Advocate*, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

#### Photographs

Photographs can be submitted to the newspaper for publication. High-resolution digital images are preferred. Photographs should be in focus and should have proper exposure. Color or black and white photographs are accepted. People in photographs should be identified with names and ages, and a contact person with a phone number should be included in the information.

#### Accuracy Policy

The *Advocate* strives to produce error-free news reports. When mistakes occur, it is our policy to correct them as soon as they are brought to our attention. To request a correction, call Jessica Brodie at 803-786-9486, ext. 338 or 803-807-0018, or email [jbrodie@umcsc.org](mailto:jbrodie@umcsc.org). In the event of errors in advertisements, the *Advocate* will be responsible only for the space occupied by the actual error. The publisher assumes no financial responsibility for omissions.

#### Back Issues

The *Advocate* maintains copies of back issues for sale for up to one year, as long as the supply lasts. When requesting by mail, back copies are \$2 each, to cover postage and handling. To research or review articles published more than one year ago, bound copies of the newspaper are available for review at the *Advocate* office, Wofford College in Spartanburg and the South Caroliniana Library in Columbia.

## Bishops OK to call jurisdictional conferences in 2022, top court says

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Judicial Council has ruled the Council of Bishops is authorized to set the date of regular jurisdictional conferences for the election and assignment of new bishops for the limited purpose of effectuating the continuance of the episcopacy in The United Methodist Church.

In Decision 1445 released May 20, the UMC's top court noted that the bishops' authority may be exercised under Para. 26, 27.2, and 45 of the Constitution even though the General Conference has not convened since the last election of bishops in the jurisdictional conferences.

The last election of bishops at jurisdictional conferences took place in 2016.

While in their initial ruling May 20 the top court said the date of assignment for all bishops would remain Sept. 1 following the jurisdictional conferences, according to Para. 406.1, the court issued Memorandum 1446 June 1 modifying their decision and changing the date to Jan. 1, 2023, as the date when U.S. bishops facing mandatory retirement must step down and their newly elected successors take office.

That means new bishops will be able to begin their assignments in the usual timespan of nearly two months after U.S. jurisdictional

conferences.

The Council of Bishops has scheduled the regional meetings that elect bishops for Nov. 2-5 this year, including the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, South Carolina's regional meeting, slated for Nov. 2-4 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

The June 1 memorandum says that given the postponements of three General Conference postponements and the later jurisdictional conference date (in November), the typical the Sept. 1 and mandatory retirement date of Aug. 31 "cannot be applied without disrupting the constitutionally mandated episcopal supervision for the church. When it enacted those paragraphs, the General Conference neither anticipated nor made provision for a global pandemic and continuing conference delays."

Therefore, to harmonize constitutional and disciplinary requirements and to meet the needs of the church in this unprecedented situation, the court holds that Jan. 1, 2023, shall be the effective date of assignment for all bishops and mandatory retirement for bishops whose 68th birthday has been reached on or before July 1, 2020.

In response to the decision, COB President Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton said the bishops

are grateful the Judicial Council has acted in a timely matter to address the issue of Jurisdictional Conferences and episcopal elections.

"In this unprecedented season in the life of our church, the need for vital and committed leadership is unquestioned," Bickerton said. "As we now begin to make plans for episcopal elections, we gratefully acknowledge those who have and will retire even as we pray for a true spirit of discernment for those who will emerge and be elected."

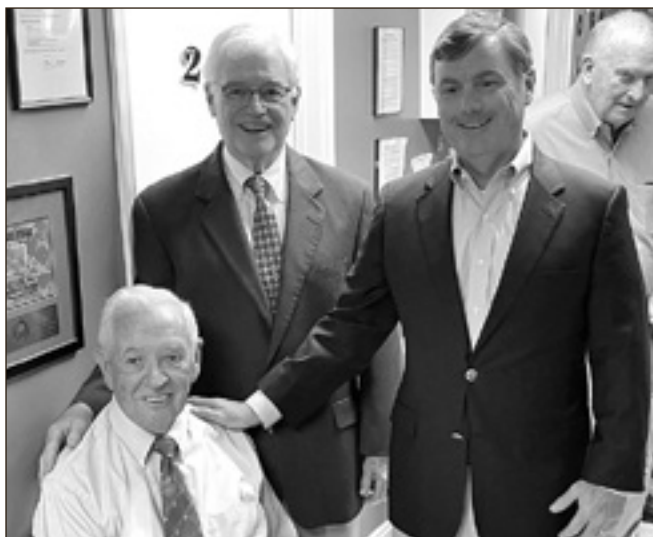
The number of bishops to be elected will be determined by the contextual needs of each jurisdiction and will be guided by formula determined by the 2016 General Conference and found in the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (Para. 404.2).

The request for the ruling came after the postponement of the General Conference from 2022 to 2024, heightening the burden of bishops attempting to provide effective episcopal oversight and leadership.

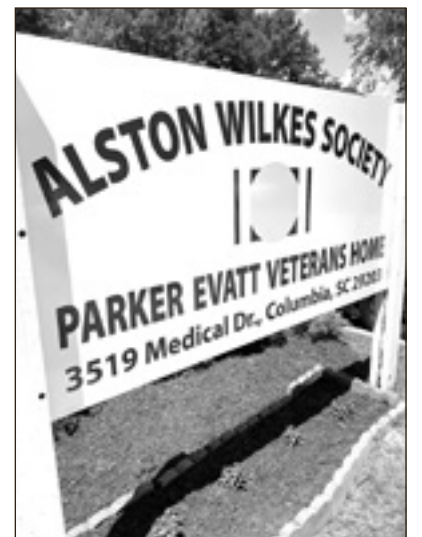
Because of vacancies created by retirements after the postponement of General Conference in 2020, special assignments to cover vacant episcopal areas in the United States have been faithfully served by bishops who continue to serve their residential areas.



Evatt was AWS's first executive director, serving from 1966-1987.



Evatt, seated at left, also was a Statehouse representative and director of the S.C. Department of Corrections.



The facility helps around 70 veterans a year find housing and employment.

## Parker Evatt honored as Alston Wilkes Society names homeless veterans facility for him

COLUMBIA—A transitional facility for homeless veterans has been named in honor of Parker Evatt, a longtime United Methodist state leader.

It has been named the Parker Evatt Veterans Home.

On Wednesday, June 1, the Alston Wilkes Society recognized Evatt with a ceremony in which the facility was named in his honor.

Born in Greenville in 1935, Evatt graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in criminal justice. Evatt would go on to serve as the first executive director for the Alston Wilkes Society from 1966-1987. He would also serve as the representative for Richland County in the South Carolina State House before becoming the director of the South Carolina Department of Corrections, where he oversaw operations from 1987-1995.

Opened in 1996 in partnership with the Veterans Administration, the newly named Parker Evatt Veterans Home was the first of its kind in South Carolina, allowing veterans the opportunity to receive shelter, counseling and other services as they work to become productive members of their community. Each year the Columbia facility helps around 70 veterans find stable housing and employment.

The Alston Wilkes Society has served South Carolina communities since 1962. Along with their two Supportive Services for Veteran Families offices, AWS operates four residential reentry centers for justice-involved individuals, two transitional facilities for homeless

veterans, a high-management youth home in Columbia and eight community service offices throughout South Carolina.

Their mission is rebuilding lives for a safer community.

An Advance Special Ministry of The United Methodist Church, the Alston Wilkes Society is a nonprofit organization that provides offenders, former offenders, the homeless, at-risk youth, veterans and their families the tools they need to become productive citizens.



The AWS mission is rebuilding lives for a safer community.

## Twenty-seven licensed as local pastors

The following 27 men and women were licensed recently as local pastors in the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

They are as follows:

Richard Atkinson, Laurie Brandes, Lee Coyle, Jacquelyn Daniel-Hyche, Vincent S. Davis, James Fanning, Joan Frenzel, Laura Geloni, Morris Hall, Viki Hydrick, Corey LaSane, Mary Luoma, Robert Lybrand, Eric McGill, Jerold McKnight, Maurice McZeke, Chad Mullinix, Stacey Newlon, Daniel O'Connor, James Peterson, Michael Ponder, Myra Taylor, Pernerva Thomas, Bradley Thompson, Thomas Thornton, Cynthia Williams and Melissa Williams.



### A Cabinet welcome

Dr. Stephen Love, dean of the Cabinet, brought the Cabinet report, officially welcoming the Rev. Fran Elrod as new Columbia District superintendent.

# First UMC youth raise \$20K to supply Nicaraguan village with water

By Lynn Shore-Hollis

Epworth Sunday at First United Methodist Church, Clover, celebrated Epworth Children's Home and all things mission.

The church especially celebrated the conclusion of a mission project, the Youth Water Project, that began in fall 2019. The youth selected an international mission project with the church's mission partners in Nicaragua. The mission project was to supply a rural village in Wina Central with fresh water. The goal for this mission was \$20,000, which was a large mission goal, but the youth were determined.

As one of the youth members remarked when the mission was selected, "Fresh water is where it all starts. Health and nutrition and the rest come later."

So the youth began the Youth Water Project.

When the mission started, it was a slow process that began with offering bottles of water in the church lobby area for a donation, and other fundraising began as well. But soon COVID-19 began to impact not only the church but the mission project. Throughout 2020 into 2021, the mission project slowly moved, not really making any major headway, until spring 2021.

That is when the church lost one of its dearest and most loved members, Larry Beamguard, who passed away suddenly after a medical procedure in late winter 2021. The church called Beamguard a true example of a mission worker, and he had visited Central America several times on mission trips with the church in addition to all his contributions at the church. He was very respected and loved by all for his work and dedication.

Even though the church was dealing with COVID-19, some of the youth made attempts to meet and participate in youth group. During one of the youth meetings after Beamguard passed, the youth decided to change the Youth



Youth collected more than \$20,000 in honor of First UMC member Larry Beamguard to provide water to a small town in Nicaragua.

Water Project to the Larry Beamguard Youth Water Project. Donations in honor of Beamguard began to come in.

Before they knew it, they had reached the goal.

The youth collected \$20,139.05, which was sent to Acts 1:8 to begin the water project for the small community, Wina Central, off the Rio Bocay in Nicaragua. There are no roads or power in this area of the country, so the building materials were brought in by boat and the community would cut wood to frame up the concrete tank.

A freshwater spring box was built high up in the moun-



Presenting the check are, from left, youth director Rob Elovecky, Lay Associate Lynn Shore-Hollis, Nathal Beamguard and his wife, Becky.

tains, then pipes were put into the ground all the way down the mountain to the concrete water tank, which would supply water to the various homes in the community. The youth and the church received pictures of each step of the project from the contract signing with the community to the children playing in the fresh water in front of their homes.

First UMC, Clover, was truly blessed with the mission opportunity and the youth of the church that led the way. It was such a blessing to have Beamguard as a part of the congregation, and all said they have so much joy knowing that somewhere in Nicaragua there is a water tank and system with a plaque on it that tells people of the wonderful man who it was built in memory of.

He was a man who loved the missions he was a part of and was an example of mission in life.

*Shore-Hollis is lay associate at First UMC, Clover.*

# Port Royal UMC helps local agency with food distribution location

PORT ROYAL—With the recent increase of inflation and higher prices at grocery stores and markets, Port Royal United Methodist Church began receiving more and more requests for food to feed families in their community.

The Second Helpings Agency provides healthy food grants to various churches and agencies throughout their county periodically. These grants allow for agency recipients to select items that will benefit and aid in their food distributions to those who are struggling. Fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy items, staples, cereals/grains, potatoes and condiment items are available. All orders are contracted via a food distribution company and are loaded into a semi-truck. A location then has to be secured for the items to be picked up.

Port Royal UMC offered its church parking lot as the drop-off point for these agencies and churches on May 26.

Church volunteers were on hand to separate the items, and the various agencies or churches in the community were able to come and pick them up.

This worked out so well, the church said, and there was plenty of room for the unloading, as well as parking.

Port Royal's pastor, the Rev. Ann Bridgers, is passionate about the church's own



A volunteer unloads the truck.

food ministry and is always eager to help and assist others in our community in any way possible. Port Royal UMC's food ministry runs every Friday and serves close to 145 families each week. Bridgers said this participation with this grant program gave their church another opportunity to serve and assist those in need.

Church volunteers said they saw the opportunity as a way to further their outreach to others and show God's love to their community partners.



Volunteers are hard at work during the food distribution.

# Nominations open for 2022 World Methodist Peace Award

Anyone planning to nominate someone who exemplifies courage, creativity and consistency for the World Methodist Peace Award must act now.

Applications submitted by July 15 will be considered for this year. Any application received after July 15 will be reviewed later for 2023.

Note: All supporting documents must be included.

The nominee should show courage in regard to physical danger or putting personal interest at risk. Creativity should include opening new initiatives and attracting others in working for the cause of peace. Consistency is judged by effort over a period of

time and intensity, despite setbacks.

To read the full criteria, go to <http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/whatwedo/world-methodist-peace-award>.

The recipient receives a medallion, citation and \$1,000 which is symbolic of the larger recognition achieved in working for peace, justice and reconciliation. The recipient is included in the World Methodist Council Peace Award booklet, and their photo is hung on the wall of the World Methodist Council Headquarters with other recipients of this prestigious award.

All nomination forms should go to Bishop Ivan Abrahams at [info@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:info@worldmethodistcouncil.org).

## Sign me up for the Advocate!

Circle one: **Dr.** **Mr.** **Miss** **Ms.** **Mrs.** **Rev.**  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT:**  Check made payable to the Advocate  Cash  
 Charge credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card billing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Credit card numbers are destroyed after card is run)*

Amount:  \$20 New  \$35 Two-years  
 Please make checks payable to **The Advocate** return to **4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203** or subscribe online at **AdvocateSC.org**

# Viewpoints



## Editorial

by Jessica Brodie

### Sacrifice

Between Annual Conference's sermon theme for ordination—"Costly"—and the memorial service's similar sermon topic, "I'll Be Late for Dinner," a pervading sense of the sacrifice involved in ministry is weighing on my heart as I write this editorial. And yet no one who loves Christ should really be surprised by these words. Sacrifice is the proverbial name of the game with Christianity. Still, it sometimes feels we're repeatedly surprised at how hard it is to follow Christ today.

I'm active on Twitter, and there are times I share things that make me the butt of someone's anti-Christian joke. In the past, there were times my Christian lifestyle got me pegged a "goody two-shoes" and excluded from parties and gatherings.

But that's the easy stuff, really. At first it stings, especially when you're young, but there's a sense of duty and honor that swells inside your heart when you feel attacked or maligned for your faith.

It's the other stuff, the truly hard stuff—the stuff that draws criticism from your own brothers and sisters in the faith—that can be especially hard. It's the times you have to pick God over your own family and you feel like a bad mom or wife or daughter. Yet you know you need to do it anyway.

This doesn't even include what some of my brothers and sisters go through across the globe: arrested, tortured, imprisoned and killed for following Jesus and sharing the Gospel. I wonder how I'd measure up if I were in their place. Would I crumble under questioning, say what authorities wanted me to say just to avoid the pain of death or abuse? I hope to God I would not.

Compared to what the first Christians experienced, the sacrifices we pay today are pale, but they are sacrifices nonetheless. They hurt, and they even hurt others. They require choices. Tough decisions.

But that is what we are called to do, whether we are pastors or however else we fulfill God's call on our lives: Pay the price. Suffer in the name of Jesus. Heed God's will and way no matter what.

If you are struggling with a choice today, remember: In the eyes of the world, there might be praise or scorn, accolades or stones. But the eyes of the world don't matter.

It's God's eyes that matter. It's pleasing God that matters.

Let the whispers and lies and cries of the world fade into the background. Instead, train your heart, mind and soul on God, and let God's will guide you, now and always.

### Letters Policy

We welcome letters to the editor. We urge brevity, as succinct writing often produces clarity. Letters should be no more than 450 words. All letters are subject to editing as needed to meet standards of grammar, space and interest. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters praising or criticizing businesses by name, endorsements of or letters from political candidates, fundraising appeals, or letters containing inappropriate language or personal attacks. All letters will be verified, so you must include a name, daytime phone number, church membership and hometown. Letters should be sent to The Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203 or e-mailed to [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org). Deadlines are the 10th of each month.



4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29203  
803-786-9486 or 803-726-6743  
[advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org) | [www.advocatesc.org](http://www.advocatesc.org)

#### Publisher

The S.C. United Methodist Advocate Trustees

Dr. Christopher Greene, chairperson; Enid Jenkins, vice chairperson;

David Bryant, treasurer; Creg Smith, secretary;

Linda DuRant; the Rev. John Elmore; the Rev. Sh'Kur Francis; Rev. Sharon Spann Gamble;

Rev. Michael Henderson; Glen T. Levine; the Rev. Karen Radcliffe;

the Rev. Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass; Licita Rogers; Selena Ruth Smith; Michelle Sturzenbecker;

Dr. Amenti Sujai; the Rev. Cameron Levi, ex officio; and Rev. Millie Nelson Smith, ex officio

#### Editors emeritus

Maryneal Jones, Willie S. Teague, Allison Askins, Karl F. Davie Burgdorf, Emily L. Cooper

#### Staff

Editor: Jessica Brodie, [jbrodie@umcsc.org](mailto:jbrodie@umcsc.org)

Assistant Editor: Allison K. Trussell, [atrussell@umcsc.org](mailto:atrussell@umcsc.org)

Sales Representative: Toni Strawther, [advocatesales@umcsc.org](mailto:advocatesales@umcsc.org)

#### Our Mission

To inform and connect South Carolina United Methodists by independently reporting relevant news, engaging readers, providing a forum for dialogue and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### Subscriptions

The individual subscription rate is \$20/year for the print and online version and \$10/year for the online-only edition. To subscribe or for information about discounted church plan rates, call 803-726-6743, e-mail [advocate@umcsc.org](mailto:advocate@umcsc.org) or visit [www.advocatesc.org](http://www.advocatesc.org).

The S.C. United Methodist Advocate (ISSN 1078-8166) continues the Southern Christian Advocate, authorized by the General Conference of 1836. Publication began Annual Conference-July 24, 1837. The paper is published monthly by the S.C. United Methodist Advocate Trustees. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. Please direct all inquiries regarding commentary submissions to the editor, 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29203-6070. 803-786-9486. Periodicals postage paid at Columbia, S.C.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: S.C. United Methodist Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29203.



## Bishop's Corner

by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston

### Focused on God's purpose

*"If God needs one style of pottery especially designed to show his angry displeasure and another style carefully crafted to show his glorious goodness, isn't that all right? Either or both happens to Jews, but it also happens to the other people. Hosea put it well: 'I'll call nobodies and make them somebodies; I'll call the unloved and make them beloved. In the place where they yelled out, 'You're nobody!' they're calling you 'God's living children.' ... How can we sum this up? All those people who didn't seem interested in what God was doing actually embraced what God was doing as he straightened out their lives."—Romans 9:22-25; 30 (MSG)*

Following God's call is not always easy.

Even Jesus, who knew our struggles and knew our doubts, tried to prepare his disciples for Jerusalem. Truly bearing our cross pales in comparison to what Jesus endured, but God's call for each and every one of us is not for the faint of heart. It's not for those easily intimidated, because in the long run, following God's call is not always easy. Along this journey of faith, there will be challenges. There will be evil. We will encounter persecution, suffering and enemies along the way.

But take heart, friends, for we are never alone as people of faith. As we continue to seek a more excellent way together across South Carolina, may we trust, believe and know that God is with us.

It has often been said that it's a strange world we are living in right now. Old rules are being rewritten. Things are changing that we never thought would change. Events are happening that we never thought we would see. Things we took for granted now seem to be happening all the time.

Our current challenge is recognizing that we are a connectional denomination in an ever more individualistic society. We have to relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who feel they no longer need Jesus. It is our task to let them know that Jesus is still real in their lives today and forever.

No matter how much we think we've figured out about Scripture, about people and about the world, our knowledge is still imperfect. Each of us is still subject to imperfections, to self-impulses. In his writing to the Romans, the apostle Paul realized

that under threat, people wither. With encouragement, people grow.

May we, too, take to heart this important realization. Under threat, people wither. With encouragement, people grow.

Throughout the Bible, the good news of Jesus Christ, the message of hope, is always set amid a backdrop of world events. Even today, with all that is going on around us—ongoing pandemic, social unrest and political divisiveness—we must keep our eyes focused on what is important. We must keep our hearts true. We must maintain a clear understanding of what God is truly calling us to do. This is no easy task.

The gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to a higher way of life. A way of spiritual worship. Let us remember not to become so heavenly bound that we are no earthly good. The goal of sanctification is to prepare ourselves for spiritual living. We are to live in the world in such a way so that our witness to the life-changing love and grace of Jesus Christ is evident to all whom we meet.

God is calling us to be focused on God's purpose. God is calling us to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Even with so much else going on in our lives, our communities and even our churches, don't forget what God has called us to.

The lives we live should be the very evidence of transformation. That means a change. God is changing our hearts, our minds, our souls. We are not the same anymore. People should be able to look at us and see a difference. If we aren't becoming better, what are we becoming?

Don't let what is wrong with us keep us from worshipping what is right with God.

A question that I have asked others and asked myself is this: "When was it the last time that you led someone into relationship with Jesus Christ?" When was the last time that you made a witness with your life and your words and led someone into a relationship with Jesus Christ?

If we are not doing that, then we are not the church. That is God's purpose. That is what we are called to do.

If we are the church, if we are what God is calling us to be, then maybe, just maybe, that is the first step of seeking a more excellent way; trusting, believing, knowing that God is with us.

## Letters to the Editor

### Sacrifices

In the name of Christ, who came that persons might know abundant life, we call upon the church to affirm its faith through vigorous efforts to curb gun violence.

More than 1,500 people have been killed in more than 270 mass shootings since 2009, according to Everytown For Gun Safety. There have been 213 mass shootings in the U.S. in the first 21 weeks of 2022. An average of 321 Americans are shot every single day. And every day, there are roughly more than 50,000 gun sales recorded.

Gun manufacturing companies are making billions of dollars. Daniel Defense Gun Maker has an ad showing a small child holding an AR-15 with the words, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This company used sacred Scripture to sell guns. Have we become a society that glorifies guns instead of God?

There are many who are willing to take a stand. There are signs at protests that say "Buses not hearses," "Elementary schools need not be graveyards," "How many more kids?" and "Policy and action instead of thoughts and prayers."

Maureen Dowd, *New York Times*, wrote, "We are sacrificing children, not only the ones who die, but those who watch and those who fear the future. Children are having their



## Guest Commentary

by Sarah-Kate Gravely

### Already up the tree

In 1968, the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren churches united to form The United Methodist Church. At this time, the merged churches agreed to affirm full clergy rights for women.

More than 30 years prior, in 1930, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) rejected full clergy rights for women. But you see, women were already preaching. Throughout the denomination's history, women have been preaching and teaching the gospel even through the stigma and adversity of the church.

For example, Anna Oliver, a preacher from New York, was not allowed ordination in 1880 despite the fact she had graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1876 and had served two churches with obvious success. The work of women preachers in the UMC leading up to 1968 is what created a change within the denomination. When the denomination vilified women in leadership, it is because women were already in those leadership roles.

In the year 1794, increasing segregation within churches caused Richard Allen to form the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The racism within the Methodist denomination forced a split between churches and communities that still exists to this day. It wasn't until 1968 that The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united to form The United Methodist Church, and part of this formation came with an attempt to end formal segregation.

But you see, Black men and women did not suddenly begin preaching and teaching once this segregation ended. Black preachers had already been preaching and leading movements in Christianity long before the hopes to end segregation occurred. When the denomination vilified Black people in the pulpit or in the pew, they were already in those spaces spreading the Good News.

Luke 19 tells the story of a man named Zaccheus. As a tax collector, Zaccheus would have been a Jew who worked for the Romans, which means he was seen as a traitor and sinner in the Jewish community. Zaccheus climbs a tree to see Jesus pass by, and Jesus connects with Zaccheus and spends time at his house for dinner to the immediate disdain of the community. But you see, by the time those around began to complain about Zaccheus, he has already been up the tree in search of the King of Kings. By the time the community grumbles, Zaccheus is already on his way home with the Messiah. When the

Jewish people vilify Zaccheus for his position in life, he is already giving away half his money to the poor.

As an out gay person who works within the UMC, when I am told to "be patient in understanding" while being vilified and denied equal rights in the denomination, I am already up the tree, my friends. I've been working in and around ministry in the UMC for more than 10 years. While the conference debates if LGBTQ+ persons can be called by God to serve in the denomination, we are already serving. While the UMC debates the validity of the ministry of gay people, we are already doing the work.

When the UMC debated women in ministry, it came far behind the great legacy of women who had taught the gospel all along. Because of this, only 27 percent of Methodist clergy in America are women. When the UMC finally saw its racism and began opening its doors to Black preachers and teachers, the Black community had already been preaching and teaching the gospel all along. Because of this, only 13 percent of Methodist preachers are non-White.

As the UMC stands at the base of the tree to debate the call of gay people, God has already called us and we are already working. The United Methodist Church has given itself the power to decide who can and cannot be called by God. Unfortunately, by the time we all finish being patient and begin providing equality, the UMC will be too far behind, and the LGBTQ+ community will already be up the tree seeking the King of Kings.

It is not us but God who declares the worth of all people. The conversation around LGBTQ+ persons in The United Methodist Church must change quickly. The lackluster pace at which the conference treads will only continue to alienate, and the statement "focus on what matters" shows LGBTQ+ people their full inclusion into the denomination not only doesn't matter but isn't a priority.

Luckily for us, God has proven our value through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We, as the UMC, will only be a true representation of the body of Christ when we embrace God's call for all people to serve and worship together.

"Jesus said ... 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'" (Luke 19:9-10).

*Gravely is director of Christian education for Virginia Wingard Memorial UMC Columbia.*

## LETTERS: How long must we wait?

From Page 4

tomorrows taken away. Small sacrifices if we can keep our guns. Why not let every deranged loner buy an assault weapon?

"I think of child sacrifice as a modern phenomenon, a barbaric one that defines our country. It is within our power to stop schools from becoming killing fields."

The truth is that a teacher is willing to protect their schoolchildren from the gunman more than the politician is. Teachers are braver and more compassionate. The teacher shouted, "Oh, my God, he has a gun!" The teacher didn't even have time to lock the door as she covered her schoolchildren with her body and life.

Golden State Warriors head basketball coach Steve Kerr said, "I'm tired. I'm so tired of getting up here and offering condolences to the devastated families that are out there. ... I'm sorry, I'm tired of the moments of si-

lence. Enough. Fifty senators in Washington are going to hold us hostage. Are you going to put your own desire for power ahead of lives of our children and elderly and our churchgoers?"

We have no money for politicians as the gun lobbyists do; we just have Jesus Christ (Acts 3:6).

In 1976, the *Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church wrote a resolution on Gun Control (SP74.F): "Christians concerned about reverence for life care about what is happening to many victims of gun murders and assaults. We call upon the United States government to establish a national ban."

Oh, Lord, how much longer must we wait?

"Suffer little children to come to me" (Matthew 19:13-15).

*Rev. John Culp, retired West Columbia*



## Guest Commentary

by the Rev. Meredith M. Dark

### Up to us to do God's work

*"When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?'" John 5:6 (NKJV)*

**M**y dad told me about a show called "The Chosen," which depicts Jesus and his disciples acting out stories from the Gospels. One of my favorite episodes is where Jesus heals the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda (Season 2, Episode 4). In this encounter, Jesus asks the man, "Do you want to be healed?"

If Jesus asked the church this question, what would it say?

So many of our churches are in need of healing, so many of our church members and so many of our clergy. But how many of us want to be healed?

I have been thinking a great deal over the last few years about the state of The United Methodist Church, and one statement that I keep repeating to myself is: "I do not want the church to become an exhibit in a museum." Put another way, I do not want the church to become obsolete or unnecessary in our society.

Jesus will always be relevant. We will never be in a situation where we do not need God. We will never have enough money or good health not to need God. We will never be God. Our purpose is to worship God—to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31).

Can you imagine your sanctuary becoming something other than a space for worship? What if your church was sold and turned into a restaurant; instead of pews, there would be tables, and instead of an altar there would be a bar?

As the people called by his name, we must take this work upon ourselves and not grow weary in doing good.

It is up to us to do God's work and to do it diligently. The future of the church does depend on us remaining faithful to God.

Yes, there are days when the pressure is immense, the struggle is apparent, but never question that the work for which we have been called is for naught.

Isaiah 41:13 says, "For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'"

Therefore, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

*Dark is the nurture pastor at First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach.*



## Guest Commentary

by Margaret Comer Baker

### The new preacher

*Author's note: With July being the time when many United Methodist churches say goodbye to one minister and welcome a new one, I thought of my growing up years in the Baptist church, when such events were very different than they are today in the UMC. Having now been a part of the UMC for more than 47 years, this look back reminded me that even when changes occur in our churches today, acceptance and moving ahead can still be a reality.*

**I** missed him before he even left. He had baptized me in Wesley Lowe's lake when I was 8 years old, along with a number of other folks. Now he was leaving, retiring after many years of dedicated service to our little country church.

"I still want him to marry me, if I ever find a guy I want to marry," my young self told my mom.

His leaving started a process I knew nothing about: selection of a new preacher. My mom tried to alleviate my worries when she said, "I have been a part of this church for many years, and I know it will all work out as it should."

Being a youngster, I never knew all the details. I did pick up on the fact that a search committee was formed and would visit various other independent Baptist churches during a Sunday worship service.

The group would slip into a back pew of a potential preacher's current church, each one decked out in their Sunday best. The group arrived together, sat together and pretty much stood out among the regular congregation like the Secret Service. I knew this since occasionally these committees showed up at our church trying to lure our pastor away.

When the committee reached a consensus, they spoke to the preacher in question.

Of course, the chosen one might not wish to leave where they were. So the committee would have to set forth on another Sunday morning and repeat their solemn duty of recruiting a candidate to replace our preacher, who in this case was leaving because of retirement.

I had heard of other reasons churches needed to find a new preacher. The preacher may have developed some awful disease, or in a rare circumstance, an issue was discovered that was never discussed in the presence of children. At least our preacher's retiring was not because of some bad thing, but I still didn't want to accept it.

Once the committee had made a decision and the prospective candidate was in agreement, a Sunday morning trial sermon was scheduled. The pews were packed. Everyone came. Even folks who never set foot in the church except for funerals or weddings were there. They all knew church members decided who would fill our pulpit, visit our sick, marry our young and bury our dead. They wanted their opinion to count.

After the sermon, the candidate left and the church members discussed this important decision, after which a vote was taken. When a majority of the members agreed on a candidate, the search was over. We had a new preacher.

It took me awhile to admit it, but the new preacher was just fine. I even thought, "When the time comes, I might ask him to marry me if I ever find that special fellow."

But I didn't share that thought with anyone for some time.

And by then, the "new preacher" was simply "my preacher," as he had been all along.

*Baker is a member of Bethesda United Methodist Church, Easley.*



## Guest Commentary

by Dr. Mark E. Thompson (retired)

### Time to consider a change

**O**K, I know what many of you are thinking: The two excuses for pushing General Conference to 2024 are laughable and insulting.

With some of the weakest senior leadership in the history of our church, don't be surprised if General Conference is pushed off again in 2024 so they do not have to make the difficult decisions. If this was the military, the leaders would be relieved of duty for failure to meet mission objectives.

I do not agree with the direction the Global Methodist Church wants for us, but I certainly cannot blame them for moving on. In doing so, they will have to retire the "open hearts, open minds and open doors" slogan. That aside, please explain why there are some proposing to give those who are choosing to leave \$25 million when it appears that they will likely get their property and their money in the bank? So now what? Where does this leave our church?

As we plan for another virtual Annual Conference, let us take this opportunity to make some real changes that should have been made years ago.

First, we need to recognize that we live in the cyber age. Is it really a good stewardship of funds to spend \$30,000, \$40,000 or even \$50,000 on Annual Conference when we now know that we can do it virtually? If a virtual conference is not your preference, how about going to the quarterly model? Surely, we could find a more cost-effective way to meet. The money saved could be put to better use in service of our church.

For instance, with a shortage of ordained pastors and a bleak recruiting outlook for the future, we can use the money saved to recruit new pastors. We could offer scholarships to those who are concerned they could not afford seminary and those who might consider coming to South Carolina. Let me be clear: We could provide real scholarships, \$10,000 and \$20,000 annual scholarships, something substantial. We could also create a seminary debt relief program. Scholarships and debt relief would provide incentives for rising new pastors and make recruiting more competitive with other conferences.

In addition, I was told that approximately one-third of the elders in full connection in this conference are retirement eligible. We can also use the money saved to better care for currently serving pastors. When I served as a military chaplain, our United Methodist endorser offered chaplains and their spouses a choice of one out of four possible spiritual retreats each year, all expenses and travel included.

But what do we do? We create two- and three-point charges, pile on new and unnecessary forms and reports to complete annually and allow our pastors to get burnt out and beaten into the ground. It is time to

step up and provide our pastors and their families more support.

Second, there are other changes that would generate funding, but these are hard decisions that need to be made. We need to seriously reconsider what is the best and most effective use of our human resources and financial assets.

As it stands, we are spread too thin. Years ago, when travel was more difficult, we planted churches all over the state, one often geographically close to another. That was then—this is 2022.

Is it really good stewardship to have four or five UMCs within a 20-minute drive of each other, many with attendance of 20 or 30 or fewer, and most without a full-time minister? We clearly do not have enough ordained pastors to fulfill the need. There are currently 957 churches and 341 ordained elders in full connection—and how many of those will be leaving to go to the Global Methodist Church?

Do the math. Though it is part of the covenant for the conference to provide a pastor for every church, there is no *Book of Discipline* mandate to do so. At one time these churches provided a vital ministry and, yes, they still provide a ministry for those few attending. But is it good stewardship? It is time to consolidate our resources.

Last year we closed only one of the 957 churches when we should have closed 50 or even more. As we see a historical decline in church attendance propelled by the continuing declined attendance because of COVID-19, we need to be realistic. It is time to make tough decisions and close some of these churches, then use the proceeds from the sales to create an endowment to recruit and support present and future pastors and ministries.

I am a fully ordained elder and have been in ministry for 36 years. I recently retired, but I still provide part-time ministry. Twenty-seven of those years have been in service as chaplain in the U.S. Army. In conversations with many other pastors in this and other conferences, I have been hearing the same complaints for years.

The problem is that people are afraid to say anything out loud for fear of censure. This is sad and wrong. I understand people have a hard time seeing the church as a business. But it is a business, and our business is going bankrupt.

It is time for the leadership of our conference and our church to start acting and stop reacting.

Someone once said that a good sign of insanity is to keep on doing the same thing and expecting things to change. Time to stop the insanity. It is time for change.

*Thompson is a retired colonel and U.S. Army chaplain.*



## Guest Commentary

by the Rev. Robert Cox (retired)

### Preparing for a new pastor

**A**re you getting a new pastor? Here are some administrative items your new pastor will appreciate.

1. An up-to-date membership roll with addresses and contact information. A picture directory is very helpful!
2. Charge conference reports for the last three years.
3. Tables I, II, III for the last three years.
4. A giving analysis for the last three years. How much is given each year, the number of giving units and the amount per giving unit for each year.
5. Full financial statements for the last three years. Balance sheet, statement of income and expenses for the general fund and any other designated or restricted use funds.
6. Administrative Council minutes for the last three years and all policies of the Church Council in writing.
7. Board of Trustee minutes for the last three years.
8. Any council policy statements concerning weddings and funerals.
9. Copies of the church's Safe Sanctuary policy.
10. Copies of the church's incorporation.
11. Copies of the church's insurance policy.

These are suggestions, and your new pastor may ask for more. If you have questions, contact Basic Church Administration at [rlcox@umcsc.org](mailto:rlcox@umcsc.org) or go to [www.church-admin.org](http://www.church-admin.org).



## View from the Pews

by Bill Barnier

### Excuse me?

**T**he small children were excited waiting for Mom and big sister to open the toys they pulled from their Walmart shopping cart. Dad or Grampa sat unmoving in the driver's seat, a grumpy look on his face.

Once I passed them going back to my truck, the chubby toddler screamed in delight and raced past me to the next parking space, unable to contain his laughter over what he knew would be something special. Since I was between him and the empty traffic lane, I allowed his innocent joy to overtake me as well.

In a flash that would make superwoman proud, his mother flew past me, catching the child and making him giggle so delightfully I, too, had to smile. I fully expected her to scoop him up and make the game fun.

Alas, it was not to be. Mother spun him around on her lower leg and proceeded to smack him with an open hand on every exposed skin surface she could reach. Three, four, five, six blows accompanied by a loud rebuke that he'd been told not to play in the street.

His laughter turned to screams of surprise and fear, tears flowing instantly.

Roughly she grabbed his small hand and hauled him back to their car. Whatever joy he may have had in getting a new toy was replaced with reddened skin, his new mind unable to understand the words or the concept of why he was so unnecessarily abused.

As a conservative Christian and a recipient of a few similar corrections in my youth, my heart just melted in sympathy for the poor child. Instantly I wanted to reach out and snatch the babe from her arms and somehow soothe him, while at the same time announce that Jesus wanted to talk with her that very instant. Of course, in this day and time, when any such intervention could get you arrested or shot, a prayer to

ask God to soothe the baby and somehow speak with his mother in a way that she would understand was the best I could do.

Upon reflection, I witnessed another example of how generations of parental incompetence perpetuate the same behavior, replacing God's love and kindness with inept, even cruel discipline. Parents accepting true gifts from Holy Spirit, without reading the divine contract to love, protect and nurture a new life into a responsible and God-knowing adult, is all too common these days. Outside of the Bible, there are few instruction manuals for the details of nurturing, and even then, it takes a constant conversation with God and a healthy dose of proper example to be successful.

This event happened more than three months ago, and I'm still affected by it. I'm angry that humans are so quick to act with force and violence because they seem to know no other way. Entire civilizations have disappeared because they were unable or unwilling to learn that conflicts can be settled, and lessons can be reinforced, without significant pain or unnecessary destruction. Those infants and toddlers who are repeatedly smacked and yelled at grow into bullies, misfits or reclusive spouses. They may grow into parents who pass along the bad lessons because they never learned another way.

I try to speak with my Lord every day. I've asked him to ease the pain and suffering of those who endure abuse at the hands of others. His quiet reply is usually that he gave us free will to live by the rules he gave us, and Jesus demonstrated.

His love and comfort are always there. It's up to those who know of these things to tell those who do not.

*Barnier attends St. Paul United Methodist Church, Ridgeland.*



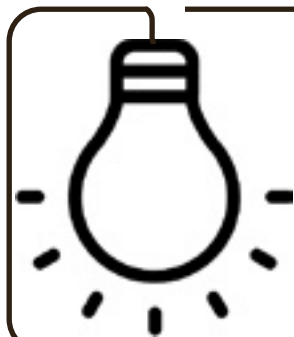
**ALSTON  
WILKES  
SOCIETY**



Your help is needed as a volunteer or member. Contact us today.  
[www.alstonwilkesociety.org](http://www.alstonwilkesociety.org)  
803-799-2490  
3515 Medical Drive,  
Columbia, SC 29203

The Alston Wilkes Society is blessed to begin our 60th year of service helping veterans, the justice-involved and the at-risk communities of South Carolina.

Check out our redesigned website:  
[AlstonWilkesSociety.org](http://AlstonWilkesSociety.org)



## Did You Know?

The Advocate offers a free one-year subscription to anyone who joins a United Methodist Church in South Carolina. Send us your new members' names and addresses and the name of your church and we'll get them started on becoming more informed about our conference and our church.

# UMCSC pastor participates in Finney commemoration event

By Dr. J. Elbert Williams

On April 27, at the invitation of the Finney family, I attended the South Carolina Supreme Court Historical Society's Annual Meeting. There, the life and legacy of Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney, former chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, was honored.

Special presentations on Finney's career were made by Luther Battiste, founding shareholder of Johnson, Toal & Battiste, PA, and Dr. Bobby Donaldson, director of the Center for Civil Rights History and Research at the University of South Carolina, as well as the Hon. Jean H. Toal, former chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court.

Finney was born March 23, 1931, in Smithfield, Virginia, to Dr. Ernest Adolphus Finney Sr. and Collen Godwin Finney, who died 10 days after he was born. He earned a B.A. degree from Claflin College, Orangeburg, in 1952. He was then enrolled in South Carolina State College's School of Law, from which he graduated in 1954, and in the same year, he was admitted to practice law and hold membership in the South Carolina Bar. He died Dec. 3, 2017.

Initially, he followed in his father's footsteps and worked as a teacher in Conway for more than five years. In 1960, he moved to Sumter and began his full-time law practice, specializing in civil rights advocacy and defense. In 1961, he defended nine black college students from Friendship College in Rock Hill who were arrested after staging a sit-in at the segregated McCrory's five-and-dime lunch counter.

During his career, he would go on to defend several thousand civil rights cases alongside his good friends and brothers Matthew Perry and Lincoln Jenkins. He would go on to lose



Pictured from left are Ernest A. Finney III, Dr. J. Elbert Williams, Hon. Jean H. Toal, Lynn Carol Nikky Finney, Frances Davenport Finney, Luther Battiste III, Esq., and Dr. Bobby Donaldson.

most of his first rounds in the South Carolina trial courts, but eventually win all but two on appeal. In 1963, he was appointed chairman of the Advisory Commission on Civil Rights.

Finney was elected to represent Sumter County (and part of Sumter County after the House of Representatives were re-appointed in 1973) in the 100th General Assembly of the S.C. House of Representatives that met from 1972-1975. The four years he spent in the South Carolina House of Representatives were historic. He was the first African American to preside as Speaker Pro Tempore. He was a vocal and ardent opponent of the death penalty. He led a critical re-apportionment charge for fair and equitable voting rights. He was a charter member of the Legislative Black Caucus and served as

its chairman from 1972-1975.

Ramon Schwartz, speaker of the House, said, "I know of no man who has come to the halls of the General Assembly who was more quickly accepted or respected."

On July 22, 1976, Finney was elected Circuit Court Judge on the 3rd Judicial Circuit, becoming South Carolina's first African-American circuit court judge since the 1870s, when federal troops were finally withdrawn from the former confederacy. In 1985, he was elected as an associate justice on the South Carolina Supreme Court, replacing Julius B. Ness, who had been elected chief justice. He became the first African American to sit in the state's highest court in the 20th century.

On May 11, 1994, 42 years after becoming a lawyer in the state that had separate laws for African Americans, Finney was elected chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, becoming the first African American to serve as chief justice in the state's history. He served as chief justice until March 23, 2003, when he retired on his 69th birthday.

In 2002, he accepted one more call to duty. He returned to Orangeburg to accept the position of interim president of his alma mater, South Carolina State University, where he agreed to steer the school during its search for a new leader. In a career spanning six decades, Finney never lost faith that "the law works" and he always remembered the great enduring sacrifice of his mother. He was quick to say, "I feel a necessity to try to do a little more with my life than I might have otherwise to justify my existence."

This was for me one of the greatest honors of a lifetime.

*Williams pastors the Lamar-Ebenezer Charge.*

## Ruffin Circuit holds 'Come Back and Give Thanks' spring revival

The Ruffin Circuit (St. John, Bethel and Tabor United Methodist churches) held its spring revival May 1-3.

The theme was "Come Back and Give Thanks." Since the COVID-19 pandemic, attendance had declined, but Pastor Larry Stocker wanted to send the message that it was time to resume face-to-face worship. Three pastors who had close ties to the churches on the circuit delivered the message each night.

On Sunday night, held at Bethel UMC, Pastor George Hudson (Dorchester Circuit) preached a message titled "Breaking Up with Barren Deities," which focused on Psalm 118. The congregation sang several favorite hymns while pianist/soloist Jan Ulmer sang three favorites.

Monday evening's service, held at Tabor UMC, featured the Rev. Ed Stiltz (St. Mark, Charleston). Stiltz, a gifted guitarist and

soloist, sang several songs and delivered a heartfelt message about gratitude using the story of the 10 lepers in Luke 17. Wanda Mahon, Tabor pianist, led the congregation in singing favorite hymns.

St. John UMC hosted the final service on Tuesday evening with the Rev. James Grubb (associate pastor, Shandon UMC, Columbia) providing the evening message. Ulmer once again provided special music. Grubb shared memories of serving the Ruffin Circuit and how his time here demonstrated God's presence in his life and in the lives of others. His Scripture text came from Revelation 7:9-12 and I John 4:7-12, which depicted what perfect worship should look like and how the believer can experience God's presence through loving one another.

"All three nights have been awesome," said member Patty Hudson. "A big thank you goes out to all who made it happen.



The supper crowd from Night Two of the revival gathers for a smile at Tabor UMC.

The special music, the messages from each speaker, the food ... No doubt the presence of our Lord was there with us."

Another member, Cherry Smyly, summed it up well when she said, "What a great revival!"



Pictured from left are Elestine Norman (Mount Zion AME Church), Martha Vincent (Tranquil UMC), Shelia Reynolds (Rock Presbyterian Church), Wendy Williams (Weston Chapel AME), Mary Frances Thompson (First Baptist Church), JoAnn Crowder (Immanuel Lutheran Church), Cathy Trevino (St. Mark UMC) and Charlane Anderson (Weston Chapel AME).

## St. Mark to host 2022 Day of Prayer for Greenwood Council of Church Women

The Greenwood Council of Church Women recently met at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Greenwood to discuss the 2022 Day of Prayer for the World Service.

The Greenwood Council of Church Women was at one time a member of Church Women United, a national organization that sponsored a yearly World Day of Prayer service each spring. In 2012, after a prayer service, the committee met to discuss the results of the service. It was decided that, although they felt Church Women United did great things with their donations, they preferred to keep their donations local, so they began creating their own programs and giving the donations to local organizations in the Greenwood area.

Themes for their services have included Suicide Prevention, Community Crises, Accepting Differences and Homelessness. The speaker and program reflect the year's theme. All offerings go to an organization that is either featured in the program or supports the theme.

The council consists of 12 churches along with the Salvation Army and Wesley Commons, with four United Methodist churches, one Baptist church, one Lutheran church, three Presbyterian churches and three African Methodist Episcopal churches.

This year's host church will be St. Mark UMC. All area churches are welcome to join. The Day of Prayer for the World Service will be held at Wesley Commons on Friday Nov. 4. This will be a 30- to 45-minute service, and prayers will be lifted for the community, the nation and the world.



**SOUTHERN  
MUTUAL  
CHURCH**  
INSURANCE COMPANY

*Serving Churches since 1928*

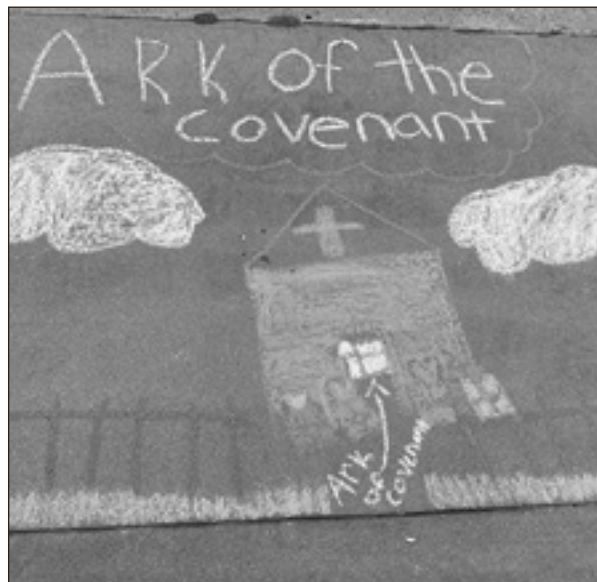
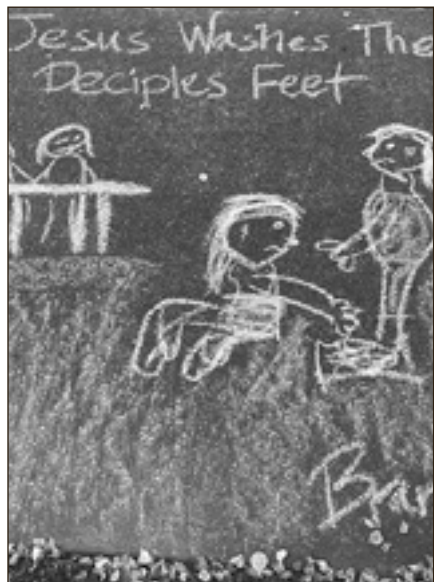
*Savings*

*Service*

*Security*



PO Box 9346 Columbia, SC 29290  
1-800-922-5332 [www.smcins.com](http://www.smcins.com)



Photos courtesy of Mary L. Abbott

**Bible stories come to life**

Littleton Street UMC youth in Camden recently illustrated 95 stories from the Bible in the order in which they appear in the Bible. Each youth was given a story to learn and decide how they wanted to draw it using sidewalk chalk. "The Story" (as the youth called it) stretched across the front of the campus, where church and community members were able to come and enjoy the drawings. Here are some of the scenes created.



**Clayton celebrates 290 graduates**

Clayton's Spring 2022 Commencement Convocation was a celebration of the university's scholars and world-class faculty. More than 290 graduates were conferred with bachelor's and master's degrees during the ceremony May 7 in the Jonas T. Kennedy Health and Wellness Complex. "In each of you is the power to change the world," said former Columbia Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, who delivered the keynote. "Dream big, stay focused and use your time wisely. Don't lose sight of what is important. You have an incredible responsibility to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and ancestors. Use the talents and the gifts God has given you. Leave this world better than you found it." Special presentations included President Emeritus Dr. Henry N. Tisdale receiving an Honorary Doctor of Science degree.



Marvel actor and youth advocate Cyrus Birch III was the SMC commencement speaker.

**SMC graduates 230 May 7**

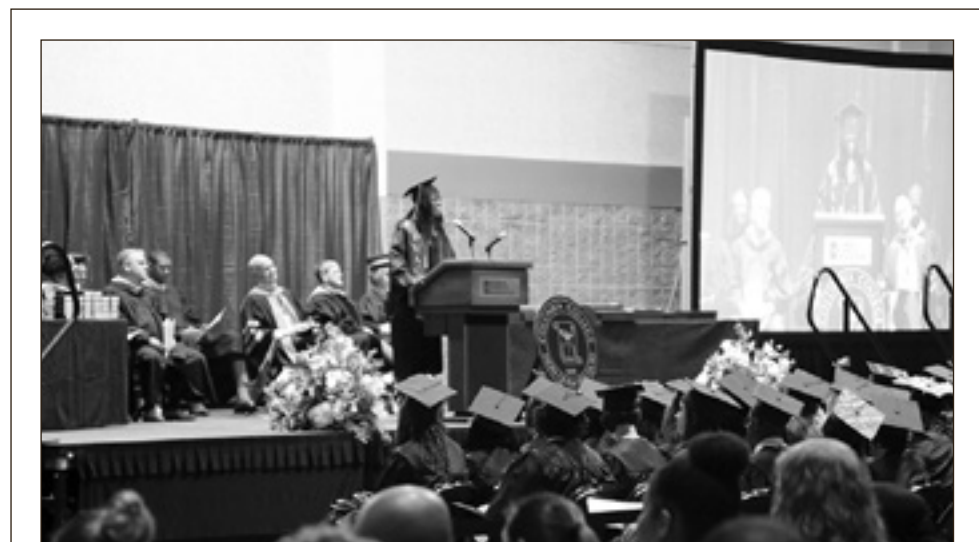
SPARTANBURG—With the shift of a tassel and a short walk across the stage, 230 new college graduates charged into the world May 7 at Spartanburg Methodist College's 2022 Commencement ceremony.

Today's graduates were sent into the world with an inspirational message about purpose. Marvel actor and youth advocate Cyrus Birch III, the commencement speaker, encouraged them to find their purpose and achieve it.

"The only reason I'm here today is to discuss one word with you and that one word is purpose," Birch shared. "Everyone here has purpose, and it would be a shame if you left here, and that purpose wasn't realized."

Birch shared his challenging upbringing and how finding his purpose at SMC as a student set him on his path to success. SMC President Scott Cochran reinforced that message and told the graduates that now they had accomplished something that will always be a part of them.

"Soon to be graduates, you've made it. This is the exciting part," SMC President Scott Cochran told the graduates. "The most beautiful thing about a college diploma is that no one can ever take it away from you. They can take things, they can take your time, but they can never take away this accomplishment."



**Columbia College celebrates 148 graduates**

Columbia College Graduation Speaker Mikaya Thomas addressed her fellow graduates with words of immense gratitude for their time as students and incredible anticipation for what is to come. "College is genuinely about discovering yourself and who you are as a person—discovering the type of person you want to become," Thomas said. She and 98 of her fellow graduating seniors joined 50 graduate students, as they all were awarded their diplomas April 29. Keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth Gressette, class of 1970 and former executive director of the Palmetto State Teachers Association, shared that success is not measured by the amount of money one makes or the title one achieves, but rather by the ability to persevere through life's many challenges. During the ceremony, the graduates reflected fondly on their time spent as students, acknowledged the challenges they faced and looked ahead toward what their futures may hold. "The Class of 2022 has certainly left its mark on Columbia College, and their legacy will live on for years to come," President of Columbia College Tom Bogart said.

**South Carolina Conference United Women in Faith**

**Who Can We Be Together?**  
*Building Communities of Hope and Joy*

**Mission u**

July 21-23, 2022 at Spartanburg Methodist College

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty, and we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss and grief. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever—with curricula for youth and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

One youth study and a choice of two adult studies are offered for 2022:

- "Who Can We Be Together?" by Candace Simpson
- "Bearing Witness in the Kingdom" by Darryl W. Stephens
- (Youth) "Community in the Midst of Challenging Times" by Kenya Cummings

All books available at <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

Early registrations due July 1. Late registration (with cost increase) due July 9. Scholarships are available. Go to our website to register.

For more information contact:

Vanessa Key, Mission u Dean, 803-755-3469 [vangekey1@aol.com](mailto:vangekey1@aol.com)

Visit our website: <https://www.umcsc.org/discipleship/united-methodist-women/>



United Women in Faith



## Lowell Street UMC opens space to Cupboard and Closet ministry

Lowell Street UMC, Greenwood, has started a new ministry, Cupboard and Closet, recently.

Founded by Jean Creswell, Cupboard and Closet is a ministry to the Greenwood Mill Village out of the House on the Hill for people who need a little help with food and new or gently used clothing.

Bow and Arrow Center of Hope is partnering with Lowell Street UMC on the ministry.

Krissi Raines, founder of the Bow and Arrow Center of Hope, said they have been thinking and praying for the last three months on God's desire to have a center in Greenwood.

"This is where we started four years ago but had to regroup, along with most people, when COVID started," Raines said. (Church pastor the Rev. Cheryl) Remchuk heard of our desire to open in Greenwood, and less than a week later she and the board at Lowell Street voted for us to open an office within their church. We have much to do, but we are so excited for this beautiful partnership."

Bow and Arrow Center of Hope will be able to offer two therapist offices, two



The church is partnering with Bow and Arrow Center of Hope.

therapeutic mentoring/group rooms and numerous educational classes/events within this location.

Remchuk said Lowell Street UMC welcomes Bow and Arrow with open arms and the blessings of Jesus: "It is our prayer that many lives will receive help and healing through this organization. We are just one of several large mill churches in Greenwood that can fill our empty spaces with purposeful groups that support the work of others."



Courtesy of the Rev. Kathy Pryor

### Understanding the Catawba

In honor of Native American Ministries, Elder Travis Blue of Catawba Indian Nation visited Philadelphia UMC, York, Saturday, May 21. Elder Blue gave an informative presentation about their traditions and ancestral heritage. He noted, "When we change things too much, tradition is lost." The Catawba are affectionally known as "people of the river," named for their territory along the principal waterway of the region. They settled in the Carolina Piedmont area centuries ago on a 630-acre tract of land along the bank of the Catawba River in York County. The Catawba are known for their pottery, social service programs and continuing the fight to preserve their culture. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful morning with Elder Blue.

## Epworth Children's Home

### More than \$8 million for the children

Epworth is successfully completing its "Every Child is a Miracle" financial campaign by raising \$8 million.

Four years ago, as Epworth Children's Home was approaching its 125th year of service, Epworth's trustees and delegates of the South Carolina Annual Conference enthusiastically endorsed a financial campaign to accomplish four strategic missional goals.

The goals were to:

- 1) Help fund the purchase of a second campus comprising 19 beautiful acres of land and 14 buildings;
- 2) Help establish and enlarge groundbreaking programs in order to meet the emerging challenges and changes of the childcare landscape, and fund the establishment of The Institute for Child and Family Wellbeing;
- 3) Grow Epworth's endowment for the children who live at Epworth today and provide for all who are served in the future. Throughout Epworth's 125 years, faithful donors have entrusted Epworth's trustees to manage a modest endowment of invested funds created from gifts and estates of all sizes. The endowment provides funds for high-quality care and long-term sustainability for God's work through Epworth; and
- 4) Enhance global wellbeing by tithing its campaign funds to a sister children's home in Zimbabwe, Africa. These campaign funds will provide for some of the most urgent needs identified by the South Carolina United Methodist Conference's sister conference in Zimbabwe. Just as Epworth serves the needs of children and families in South Carolina, Fairfield Children's Home and Hartzell School provide for the needs of orphaned and neglected children in the area surrounding the Old Mutare Mission and Africa University in Zimbabwe.

It is with thankful hearts that the trustees and staff close this financial campaign. This campaign has been a reminder of God's bounty as his goodness shines even through times of pandemic and political and social unrest.

It is through God's guidance, the leadership of Bishop Jonathan Holston and the generosity of the people of the South Carolina Annual Conference that Epworth has additional resources to demonstrate that, indeed, every child is a miracle.

—Rev. John Holler, president emeritus

## Two young adults among attendees at recent Greenwood LSM class

The Lay Servant Ministry of the Greenwood District recently held its spring classes.

Attendees met in person for the first time since fall 2019. Although registration was below normal (possibly because of COVID-19 concerns) and a couple of classes had to be cancelled, Greenwood LSM still had a good turnout.

Two young adults were among the attendees: Ashley Evans, 18, daughter of the Rev. Mike Evans (Edgefield UMC) and Wes Brazell, 16. Evans has been attending Lay Servant Ministry classes since she was 13 and has completed all of the required courses to become a Certified Lay Speaker if she so chooses. Wes was taking his first Advance Class.

Classes were held over two consecutive Sundays. Greenwood District Superintendent Dr. Stephen Love was able to attend the commitment service and hand out certificates.

What most people don't realize is that Lay Servant Ministry classes are not just for those who want to preach, whether occasionally or for an extended time. Lay Servant

Ministry classes are open to any member of the church. The classes are designed to equip leaders in the church. Classes include Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts, Leading Bible Study, Teaching Adults and Living Our Beliefs. All participants who wish to be Certified Lay Servants or Local Lay Servants must first take the Basic Class, which is an overview of Lay Servant Ministries. This class is not required if they only wish to take a class for their own interest.

Each district has its own Lay Servant Ministry team. Members are able to take classes in any district when they are offered. Upcoming classes are listed on the Lay Servant Ministry page of the conference website ([www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org)) and often on district websites as well. Some districts offer scholarships for registration if needed.

"Whatever the reason for taking a class, new friendships are made and a good time is had by all," said Cathy Trevino, Lay Servant Ministry director for the Greenwood District. "You always learn something you didn't know before."



by Vanessa Key

## United Women in Faith

### Mission u to explore Luke 13

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and inter-generational than ever with curricula for youth and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke.

"Who Can We Be Together?" is the theme for the South Carolina Women in Faith's Mission u 2022. The campus of Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg, is the location with in-person classes beginning Thursday, July 21, through Saturday morning, July 23.

There will be two studies available to choose from. The book for study of Luke 13 is titled, "Who Can We Be Together?" by Candace Simpson. This study, held in four individual classes, will be led by the Rev. Robert Cannon, the Rev. Jennifer Copeland, the Rev. Mary Johnson or Sue Owens. The second study offered is a repeat class from 2021 and will be led by the Revs. Susan Maddox or Thessa Smith. The book for the second study is "Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship," by Darryl W. Stephens.

The youth study will be at the same time and location. Led by Debra Schooler and Samoria Session, it will use the book "Community in the Midst of Challenging Times," by Kenya Cummings.

All books are available for purchase at [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org). Study books will not be available for purchase on campus.

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. We turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia. As stated in Luke 13:35b, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the

community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss and grief. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13? The parable of the mustard seed shows how something so small can grow and benefit others in many different ways.

The Rev. Regina H. Moore from the South Carolina Action Council will give a special message on Saturday morning, July 23. Our final morning together will include a service of Holy Communion. We finish with lunch.

Please join us as we discover "Who Can We Be Together" by sharing, helping and creating mission ideas and projects. We will also celebrate 50 years of organized women with a birthday party on Friday.

The craft store will be operational. All cash or check purchases will continue to support the four South Carolina mission projects, which are Killingsworth, Wallace Family Life, Columbia Bethlehem Center and Spartanburg Bethlehem Center. Mission u continues the tradition of community gatherings and helping people make new lifelong friends all while studying God's word.

To register online, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sccuwf-2022-mission-u-registration-333276076717>. You can also register by mail. The forms can be found in the June Mission Echo and on the conference website at [www.umcsc.org/women](http://www.umcsc.org/women).

Early registration closes July 1 and final deadline is July 9. Generous scholarships are available to attend. The application form is in the June Mission Echo. A deadline of July 1 postmark is for all applications. Categories for scholarships include adult first-timers, adults younger than 40 or a combination of youth plus chaperone pairings.

For questions, please contact Mission u dean Vanessa Key at 803-917-4803 or [Vanagekey1@aol.com](mailto:Vanagekey1@aol.com).

Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.

The South's Oldest Bus Company Since 1947

[interstatetransportation.com](http://interstatetransportation.com)

COLUMBIA, SC  
800.726.0779



New and Used Buses  
Financing Programs Available

# ORDINATION: It's about faith, not security or filling a role

From Page 1

"Tonight, some of you are on the cusp of being commissioned, some are on the cusp of ordination, some on the cusp of retiring, and you should celebrate. It is a magnificent night," Mueller said. "In one sense, you are at the end of one part of your journey, but also the beginning of the next."

## An eternal moment

Mueller shared how in some ways, his own ordination—May 26, 1981—was much like today's, though he had more hair, it was in a church and not an arena, and he was listening to the service instead of preaching it.

"It was like time stood still, an eternal moment of God's time, and I stepped into that."

Today, he said he still finds himself going back to that time, allowing himself to be renewed and to remember who he is and whose he is.

"My prayer is that as hands are laid on your head and you are given authority, it will be an eternal moment that carries you forward the rest of your ministry."

Back when he was ordained, however, Mueller confessed he had a limited understanding of what it meant to be a pastor—and much of that was influenced by his privilege as a young white male. "I really thought getting ordained was getting my union card," he said. "I was getting the credentials I needed to do my job, and my job was to run the church and follow written and unwritten rules and roles.

"All I had to do was fill that role, do my job, and if I was good, I'd succeed."

But he was wrong, Mueller said, 180 degrees wrong.

"Now I have a completely different understanding of what it means to carry out the office of an ordained elder or deacon. Church, you are set aside for leadership, but not to fill a role or follow rules. It's to lead the people of God in faithfulness and deeper discipleship by following Jesus."

At the end, it's really about faith, he said.

Mueller highlighted the Gospel of the evening, Matthew 8:18-22, coming just after Jesus has done some great miracles. That's when a teacher of the law, one looking for certainty, is so overcome and inspired he pledges to follow Jesus wherever he goes.

But Jesus tells him there's no certainty in the places he goes. And that's the same message Mueller hopes to underscore: there's no certainty in the ministry, either. In fact, it's just the opposite.

"As you stand on the cusp of ordination, think about that," Mueller said. "It is so tempting to think getting ordained is about finding security."

## Giving up security

But following Jesus means there is no place you can rest your head, and you are giving up security according to the world's standards.

No, Jesus is saying, there's an urgency to following me, it's most important thing of all, and there will be a sacrifice to do that.

"Those of you who stand on the cusp of ordination, you need to understand that," Mueller said. "Following Jesus, leading by following Jesus, is costly."

We often try to sugarcoat it, he said, but it's not always an adoring flock at a nice church and an easy path into retirement.

"But with the cost comes a blessing, and the greater the cost, the greater the blessing."

Sometimes you'll want to be at your child's birthday party, but someone is dying and you need to be with them. Sometimes you have to choose an unpopular or inflammatory path.

But when you feel the healing, calming presence of the Holy Spirit, the blessing moves in.

Two years ago in the height of the pandemic, his conference was scrambling to host an online annual conference session, and George Floyd had just been killed. Mueller



Photos by Matt Brodie

Above, ordination preacher Bishop Gary Mueller, from the Arkansas Conference, tells the new class that leading by following Jesus is costly but also an incredibly beautiful blessing. Below, Mueller, South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston and Bishop Young Jin Cho ordain Emma Murphy as deacon.



felt a deep conviction to open the service, without telling most of the leadership ahead of time, with 9 minutes and 29 seconds of silence in remembrance and honor of Floyd.

The chat room lit up with what he called racist and nasty comments, much criticism for what he'd decided to do, but Mueller felt a peace wash over him.

"And when I heard the feedback from African-American pastors and laity, I knew we had done the right thing, and I walked away from there so blessed."

Yes, following Jesus can be costly, he said. It can take a toll.

But it is freeing and beautiful—and the most important thing we can do.

## 'The church now confirms your calling'

Mueller's sermon came after gathering music from Williamsburg County UMCh Choir, followed by the processional hymn, "God of Grace and God of Glory," as the 18 men and women to be commissioned or ordained as provisional or full elders or deacons processed and took their seats.

The candidates were presented by Conference Lay Leader Barbara Ware, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair the Rev. Morris Waymer Jr., Order of Elders Chair the Rev. Mary Johnson, Order of Deacons Chair the Rev. Meg Jiunnies and Board of Ordained Ministry Registrar the Rev. Leatha Brown.

"My sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called to an ordination or commission in set-apart ministry. The church now confirms your calling," Bishop L. Jonathan Holston said, before conducting the general examination of the candidates.

The Rev. Kenneth Middleton, provisional elder candidate, led the body in the Apostles Creed, and the Rev. Sheri White, full elder candidate, gave the first reading, from Isaiah 61:1-6a.

The Rev. Tae Park delivered in Korean the Gospel reading, from Matthew 8:18-22.

Holston next recognized Bishop Cho, a sponsor of Soon Suck Nix, being ordained as a deacon, and then introduced Mueller as ordination preacher.

After Mueller's words, the body collected an offering totaling \$815 for the South Carolina Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund, an endowment of the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation. The Rev. Jeffrey Salley noted the fund was able to award one \$6,000 scholarship this year to Christopher Key, a first-year student at Duke Divinity School and a recent graduate of Claflin University.

## 'I do so believe'

The service continued with the commissioning of provisional members, six preparing for ordained ministry as elders and one as deacon, including the prayer of commissioning and laying on of hands. (One joined online, and the rest were in person.)

Next, the two candidates to be ordained as deacons stood and faced Bishop Holston, who examined them for ordination, then offered prayer, a laying on of hands and their stole.

Lastly, the nine candidates to be ordained as elders stood and faced Holston, who examined them for ordination as elder.

"An elder is called to share in the ministry

of Christ and of the whole church: to preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, to order the life of the congregation and the connection, to counsel the troubled and declare the forgiveness of sin; to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world; to seek justice, peace and freedom for all people; and to take a responsible place in the government of the church and in service in and to the community," Holston said to those gathered.

"This is the rule of life and work of an elder. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?"

"I do so believe," each ordinand answered.

Then came the prayer for elders and laying on of hands. Each new elder also received his or her stole.

The nine presented for ordination as elder were: William Douglas Herlong, Charles Brian Humphries, John David Jordan, Tae Suk Park, Bryan Wray Pigford, James David Taylor III, Sheri Yvette-Base White, Charles Lionel Wilbanks and Wade Anthony Wyatt Sr.

The two presented for ordination as deacon were Emma McClain Murphy and Soon Suck Nix.

The six presented for commissioning as provisional elders were William David Altman II, Morgan Barner Byars, Kenneth Bernard Middleton, Deborah McKnight Patterson, Martin Luther Quick and Claire Coven Van Den Berg.

Kathryn Miller Bariou was presented as a provisional deacon.

## Honoring 41 retirees

Next, Annual Conference recognized the 41 clergy who retired in 2022.

The Rev. Christopher Lollis, conference benefits officer, read the names of the retirees as their photos displayed onscreen.

Holston offered a word of encouragement for the retirees, as well as a prayer for the ministry they lived.

"Give them a sense of your abiding presence," Holston prayed over them, "that they many continue to love and serve you, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen."

The retirement class of 2022 is as follows: Randall Eugene Bowers, Scott Meade Bratton, Randall Lee Calcutt Sr., Lisa Kim Eanes, Joyce Marie McMahan Edwards, Hazel Lathonya Epps, Emil Jerome Finley, Bobby Gordon, Michael Lewis Hammett, Donald Mitchell Houston, George Kenneth Howle, Margaret Hutcherson-Vance, Frank Vertell James, Ronnie Lee Jeffcoat, Joel Robert Jones Jr., Clayton Jonathon Jones Sr., Michael Steven Leonhardt, Julius Lavonia McDowell, Shirley Ann McKnight, Anna Graham Miller, Blondell Stephenson Miller, Warren Murdock Sr., Miyoung Paik, Louis Otto Perez, Davis Norris Phillips, William Harvey Phillips, Brian Thomas Rainwater, Victoria Richardson, Terry Abner Roof, Michael Ellis Rouse, Candice Yeary Sloan, Stuart Randolph Smith, Murray Arthur Snow, Kim Mallory Strong, Thomas Michael Summerlin, Richard Wilson Waldrep, John Lafitte Warren Jr., Jimmy Washington, John Paul Watts Sr., Charles Kemith Wilson and Frederick Nortei Yebuah.

The evening ended with the ceremonial "passing of the mantle," in which a representative of the retiring class passes a stole, or mantle, from their shoulders to those of new class of ordinands. The Rev. Anna Graham Miller represented the retiring class, and the Rev. William Douglas Herlong represented the newly ordained class.

In his sending forth, Holston expressed a deep desire that this service "serve as another opportunity and indicator that we love and trust our God, that we trust and we know and that we believe God is with us."

# AC OVERVIEW: 'Let them know Jesus is still real in their lives'

From Page 1

ing this year's class of ordinands. At 7 p.m., an intimate crowd of clergy sponsors and other loved ones gathered for a service that commissioned or ordained 18 clergy and recognized the faithful service of 41 retirees.

The next morning, June 6, after training on the voting platform and the presentation of all conference video reports, Annual Conference was called to order. Good News TV hosted the virtual gathering with participation via Zoom video conferencing and voting on a separate, secure platform, and the entire event was live-streamed so all could observe the proceedings.

By the day's end, the body had approved a \$15.6 million budget for 2023, closed five churches and merged three others into one, endorsed Conference Secretary the Rev. Ken Nelson as the conference's episcopal nominee and approved a 6 percent cost-of-living increase for pastors.

South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston wove the 2022 theme, "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Trusting, Believing, Knowing God is with Us," throughout the two-day event.

## 'Not for the faint of heart'

Holston opened the session at 11 a.m. with a devotional drawing from Romans 12:9-21, emphasizing our call to genuine love, hatred for evil and overcoming evil with good.

"It is not for the faint of heart," Holston said, echoing Arkansas Resident Bishop Gary E. Mueller's theme from the prior evening's ordination and retirement service, "Costly" (see article Page 1). "In the long run, following God's call is not always easy."

Along the way, Holston said, we'll face persecution and enemies, and we'll sometimes feel we live in a strange world, with old rules being rewritten and things are changing that we thought would never be changed.

"Our current challenge is understanding we are a connectional denomination in an ever more individualistic society," Holston said. "We have to relate the good news to people who feel they no longer need Jesus Christ, and that's our task—to let them know Jesus is still real in their lives today and for the days to come."

He noted we must proclaim God's word of hope even in the midst of mass shootings, the pandemic, racial unrest, political divisiveness and a schism in our denomination.

But as the apostle Paul was saying in Romans 12, we have to keep our eyes focused on what is important: what God is truly calling us to do. It's no easy task, but the Gospel calls us to a higher way of life, to discipleship not membership.

"The church was not built for our pleasure," Holston said to amens. "The church was built for God's purpose."

"Miraculous things can happen when we leave our place of comfort and allow God to stretch us in new and different ways."

## Continuing the journey

Nelson next brought organizational motions, which were all approved, including that this year's session would be conducted virtually and the bar set as voting lay and clergy members present on the webinar.

Florence District Superintendent Terry Fleming and the Rev. Josh McClendon, pastor of host church Pisgah United Methodist Church, Florence, brought greetings and welcomes, even if many were gathered far away physically.

As Fleming noted, "The virtual format is not what any of us are hoping for," and the floor of the conference and empty bleachers do not feel right without all those participating across the state. "But since we are virtual, think of the positives. Maybe you're sitting in the kitchen and coffemaker is within arm's reach, or you're on the couch

with your feet propped up."

Holston lifted up the anniversary of the merger, which occurred 50 years ago this session.

"We are here as people who are celebrating that," Holston said, calling South Carolina United Methodists a people of faith and hope who know God is with us every step of the way. "My friends, that was a beginning of a new journey, and we are here to continue that journey as well."

## Business begins

Business kicked off in earnest with the report from the Committee on Standing Rules, led by the Rev. Michael Hood. That committee proposed one standing rule change this year, to Standing Rule 30, Section F to bring the paragraph into agreement with the current practice of the Annual Conference's Lay Leadership area of Conference Connectional Ministries.

Approved by online vote, the change concerns election of conference lay officers, as well as language used to describe the Lay Leadership area.

Next, Nelson presented items on the Consent Calendar, as Standing Rule 22 allows for the adoption by "consent" of reports and other items that do not necessarily require deliberation by the Annual Conference in open session and can be adopted or "moved to the record without reading" by a simple majority vote. Nelson explained that if anyone wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar, they were to email the request to [conferencesecretary@umcsc.org](mailto:conferencesecretary@umcsc.org) prior to consideration of the Consent Calendar later that day.

Next, the Rev. Joseph James of the Committee on Nominations presented the proposed committee nominations, which would be formalized later in the day. Changes to committee names should be sent to [conferencesecretary@umcsc.org](mailto:conferencesecretary@umcsc.org) and [nominations@umcsc.org](mailto:nominations@umcsc.org), he noted.

## Nelson voted as episcopal nominee

Next, General Conference Delegation Chair Jackie Jenkins asked to make a motion on behalf of the delegation. She noted the delegation had already endorsed Nelson as their episcopal nominee, but as Annual Conference has not met in person since this endorsement, they had not formally confirmed it through a vote of the Annual Conference.

The body voted online and overwhelmingly approved Nelson as their episcopal nominee. When the Southeastern Jurisdiction gathers, he will be considered in the voting for new bishops along with other episcopal nominees.

## Budget approved

Next, Council of Finance and Administration Chair the Rev. Mitch Houston presented the first reading of the proposed 2023 Annual Conference budget. Set at \$15.6 million, Houston said it is a 2.1 percent decrease from the previous budget.

He expressed deep gratitude for the way churches stepped up to pay apportionments even in the uncertain times of a pandemic, bringing in 87 percent in 2020 and 91 percent in 2021.

Houston also lifted up a request not in the budget report. Similar to a request by Epworth Children's Home a few years ago that was approved by the body, this year Camps and Retreat Ministry is requesting conference permission to do a capital campaign, where it will be requesting financial assistance from churches across South Carolina to build a multipurpose building at their Upstate camp, Asbury Hills.

The request involves no conference funding or budgetary change, only permission to begin their campaign and fundraisers.

At the close of conference, the body overwhelmingly approved the full budget along with the camp request.

## Aligned for discipleship

After a break, Conference Connectional Ministries Director the Rev. Millie Nelson Smith presented the Connectional Ministries report, noting they are focusing on fundamentals to foster a healthy church where disciples are made and grown and sent out into community and into the world.

"The work of Connectional Ministries is to help resource and connect those churches to be able to do that work and utilize the resources of the annual conference," Nelson Smith said from the podium. "Our job is to make sure the resources of the annual conference are aligned in a way to make disciples."

Next, the Rev. Morris Waymer offered the Board of Ordained Ministry report, first pausing a moment to remember former board member Dr. Charles Johnson, who passed away earlier this year. Their report lifted up those who were commissioned or ordained the evening prior, plus noted the approval of full membership in the South Carolina Annual Conference of three full elders previously ordained in another conference or tradition: Ronald "Ron" Alan Hoeksma, Darlene Lee Kelley and Marvis Lavern Stewart.

## Health plan rates increase

Next, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Chair Valerie Brooks-Madden was joined by Conference Benefits officer the Rev. Christopher Lollis and board member the Rev. Joyce Timmons, doing a "did you know?" fast-fact session from the podium to help people understand some of the new changes in their area.

Among the items approved in their report this year were a small raise (from \$846 to \$863/month) for pre-1982 retirees, reminding people of an \$1,800 moving grant available to help retirees, and a 7 percent increase in all 2023 conference HealthFlex Exchange health plans with the exception of the H3000 plan.

They also noted health insurance rates are projected to continue to increase in the coming years. As a result the South Carolina Conference Board of Pension and Health Benefits is taking steps to ease the impact on premiums paid by churches, pastors and conference employees covered by the plan.

While there is an increase in rates in 2023, the board is using investment earnings to slow the rise in healthcare costs and intends to continue to do so.

However, they cautioned, it is expected that rates will continue to increase for participants and local churches.

## Pastors get 6% cost-of-living increase

Next, Commission on Equitable Compensation Chair the Rev. Jon Hoin presented his commission's report. Hoin shared that because of ongoing economic shifts caused by the pandemic, they are recommending a cost-of-living increase of 6 percent to pastors' minimum salary in 2023.

"Our aim with this increase is to continue to provide competitive minimum salaries as well as to ensure pastors can pay their bills after the large amount of inflation we saw in 2021," Hoin shared in the report. "This increase also recognizes that no increase was made in minimum salaries for 2022."

They requested \$565,000 from the CF&A for 2023, which is the same amount requested in 2021 and 2022.

## Finishing out the day

Dr. Stephen Love, dean of the Cabinet, brought the Cabinet report, officially welcoming the Rev. Fran Elrod as new Columbia District superintendent and bidding a fond farewell to the Rev. Cathy Jamieson, whose eight-year term ends.

Conference Lay Leader Barbara Ware brought her area's report next, noting that her group has found a way to stay connected

through a lot of Zoom meetings and emphasizing the conference's four priorities (developing leaders, engaging our communities, connecting with and growing disciples, and measuring and evaluating current realities and missional possibilities).

Ware also noted their committee recommended two current vacant positions be filled: Jeff Fogle as associate conference lay leader and Cassie Watson as secretary of Lay Leadership. Ware will continue as conference lay leader until the next General Conference and a new quadrennium begins.

After a break, the body approved the budget, the adoption of the Consent Calendar and the elections proposed by the Committee on Nominations.

Members also approved the closing of five churches—Cherokee Place UMC, North Charleston; Lynnwood UMC, Lancaster; St. John UMC, North; College Place UMC, Columbia; and Loree UMC, Spartanburg—and the merging of Brown Chapel, Heaven Gate and St. James UMCs to become The Brook UMC, Murrells Inlet.

Jamieson urged people to remember the church is not a facility.

"It is the people of God at work in the world," she said.

(See full article, Page 24.)

## Next year's and future site

Ware noted the 2023 date and site of Annual Conference will be June 4-8, 2023, again at the Florence Center.

The Annual Conference Committee selected the Greenville Center as the site for the 2024-2026 conferences, and the body voted and approved that site for 2024's event.

All voted to adjourn the business, and after a quick break, Holston offered a sending forth and a Fixing of the Appointments, available on Pages 14-18 of this edition.

The business of Annual Conference ended just before 4 p.m., with all joining at 7 p.m. for a prerecorded memorial service preached by Dr. Robin Dease that remembered 53 departed saints (see article, Page 1).

For photos of Annual Conference, visit <https://www.flickr.com/umcsc>. To order the 2022 Conference Journal, visit <https://www.umcsc.org/ac2022>.



**REV. KEN OWENS**  
*Spiritual Director*

After more than 30 years in the pulpit as a pastor and church planter, Reverend Ken Owens has been called to work with individuals and groups as a guide through their spiritual journeys.

Book an exploratory One on One with Ken to see if Spiritual Direction is right for you, or have Ken come speak to your groups about how God can use Spiritual Direction within your community.

Ken is available to come speak to your group or church about Who Spiritual Direction is right for, and how the practice works on an individual and group level.

For more information on booking your free introductory session, booking Ken to speak to your group, or learn about upcoming classes simply visit [kenowenssd.com](http://kenowenssd.com)

Rev. Ken Owens  
Spiritual Director  
[kenowenssd.com](http://kenowenssd.com)  
(864) 436-5158



# MEMORIAL SERVICE: Not an office but a sacrificial lifestyle

From Page 1

in ministry must pay can be dear, losing your life to follow Christ is what matters, and salvation is the grand prize.

Dease brought a word on costly and sometimes painful sacrifice to the intimate in-person crowd of family and other loved ones gathered at Union United Methodist Church, Irmo, May 15. The prerecorded event was broadcast at the close of Annual Conference June 6 as a way to collectively honor the ministers, retired ministers, clergy spouses and others who passed away since last year's Annual Conference.

## Not an office but a lifestyle

In her sermon, "I'll Be Late for Dinner," Dease led the Service of Thanksgiving and Memory drawing from the Gospel lesson in Luke 5:1-11, when Jesus called Simon Peter and the sons of Zebedee, James and John. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus told them to let down their nets on the other side of the boat. When they did, their catch was so large their nets began to break and their boats almost capsized. The fishermen left everything to follow Jesus that very day.

What is key to remember about this story when it comes to honoring the lives of our 53 departed souls is the sacrifice inherent in their choice. These men left everything—wives, homes, livelihood, social climbing, all they held dear, everything—to follow Jesus.

And that's what we still do today.

"I am learning the life of a minister is not in the office; it is a lifestyle," Dease said.

And while as ministers often think they need to save a life in order to do ministry, what Christians are really called to do is lose their life for Christ's sake.

The weight and accountability for the lives and souls entrusted to them can feel heavy.



Memorial service preacher Dr. Robin Dease reminds those gathered that salvation is free but receiving it costs everything.

"But someone needs to be the circuit rider," Dease said. "These things can't be done within a 40-hour work week. The labors are too great and the workers too few."

## A costly existence

Pastors must fill a myriad of responsibilities in the church, community and family, and often it is their family who gets the least of their time and energy.

"The cost of following Christ comes with a price," Dease said, noting it brings a life of self-denial, submission to Christ, dying to self, sacrificing for the kingdom, adversity, rejection, persecution, separation.

The master of earth and sky brought Simon Peter and the sons of Zebedee to their

knees in awe and humility, and they left everything and followed him—as did the 53 men and women honored at this year's memorial service.

"They took up the call, left everything and followed Jesus in an unpredictable way and into what would prove to be a costly existence," she preached.

But that's what we are all called to do, Dease reminded all gathered. Jesus said in Luke 14:26, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple" (NIV). Indeed, following him must come before every responsibility we have, even the ones we hold sacred.

"Salvation is free but receiving it costs everything," Dease said, lifting up the names of the departed saints. "They did not avoid the pursuit of the call. ... They said time and time again, 'I'll be late.'"

They were late so someone could see the face of God, because they knew if they were faithful, there was a crown of righteousness waiting for them.

Looking at those gathered in person, Dease lifted gratitude for the loved ones who took this journey of ministry with those who have passed away.

"They labored hard, and so did the ones who served beside them. But they were faithful, and their labor was not in vain."

## The light of immortality

Prior to Dease's message, Hartsville District Superintendent the Rev. Telley Gadson brought the opening prayer, welcoming all to the service, asking that all gathered "may feel your presence as did the followers who knew Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and we may experience the fire within that sent them out to share good news."

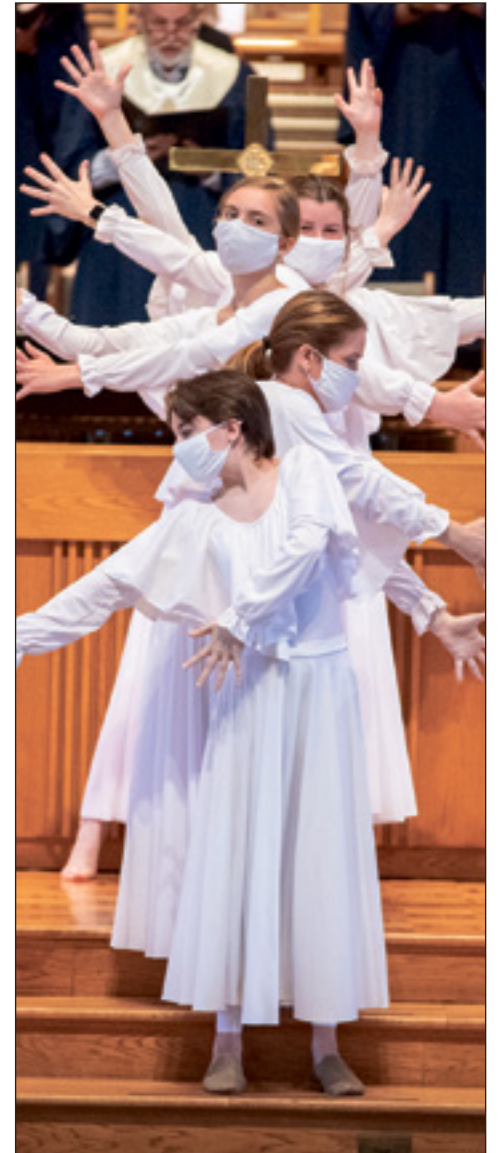
After the anthem, "O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God," Gadson led the body in "The Prayer of Promise: A Memorial Litany," her original composition.

"God wavers not in keeping God's promises. They are sure and worthy of full acceptance. Dimly we see in the mirror of mortality, but the light of immortality leads us home to God from whence we came," she led.

The people replied, "Even with the width of faith and the breadth of hope, we need the strength of God to face the sorrows of grief."

## The sacred ties that bind

After Dease's sermon, LaToya Adams of Mount Hebron UMC sang "Give Me Jesus." A procession of the Memorial Banner followed, with the names of the 53 ministers, retired ministers, clergy spouses and others read aloud.



Photos by Matt Brodie

Union's Leaps of Faith Liturgical Dancers perform to the closing hymn "Hymn of Promise."

A candle was lit on the altar and a bell rung in memory of the deceased, which included 23 retired clergy: Thomas Richard Bailey, Larry Allen Barnes, R. Richard Blocker, George W. Farrell Cox, Marion B. Crooks Jr., James Franklin Hood, Jerry D. Jackson, Larry Alfred Jenkins, Charles Luther Johnson Sr., Phil Mace Jones, James Ernest LeMaster Jr., John Leon Newton, Clarence D. Padgett, Anne R. Parrott, Fredericka Whaley Phipps, Norman Keith Polk Jr., Earnest James Reece Jr., David Eugene Reed, Conrad Allen Senn, David T. Templeton, Leon Edwin Thompson, Robert Thompson and Mark Anthony Williams;

Eleven clergy spouses: Shirley G. Bines, Mary Grace L. Brown, Angela M. Bruce, Harriet C. Cox, James Russell Erwin Sr., LaSandra S. Grimsley, Joyce White Ivey, Eleanor Adams Jenkins, Helen Gribble Short, Michael A. Stephens and Alice Faye Wicker;

Seventeen surviving spouses: Martha B. Ballentine, Gladys Leftt Boone, Lois M. Bradham, Ruth B. Brock, Betty Strom Carey, Kechia M. Dicks, Jewel S. Floyd, Peggy Jean Granger Floyd, Elizabeth Wimberly Goewey, Linda G. Heape, Margaret Lewis Hendricks, Sharon Arnette Hughes, Ada Belle LeMaster, Hattie B. Polk, Cornelia Quarles, Dorothy E. Sprayberry and Ramona J. Potter Waddell; and

Two others: James Jeffrey Merck and Marvin R. Moore.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston led prayer after, lifting up all God's servants who have faithfully lived and died, thanking God for the sacred ties that bind us to those unseen who encompass us as a cloud of witnesses.

"We pray that, encouraged by their example and strengthened by their fellowship, we may be diligent followers and that nothing will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord," he prayed.

Union's Leaps of Faith Liturgical Dancers performed to the closing hymn "Hymn of Promise" with members of the Union Chancel Choir, Union's organist Joey Rothfuss and Union Director of Music Ministries Don Kirkindoll.

A postlude, "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation," concluded the service.

**ACCELERATED BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS**

ONLINE • ORANGEBURG • FORT JACKSON (COLUMBIA, SC)

Earn Your Bachelor's or Master's Degree in as little as 12-18 Months!

Clafin University offers more than 40 nationally-accredited academic programs, including affordable and flexible accelerated online and on-campus degree programs for adult learners.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE  
(803) 535-5715/5200 | mba@clafin.edu

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

100% ONLINE  
(803) 535-5898/5573  
civey@clafin.edu | conedu@clafin.edu

Master of Science in Nursing

ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE  
(803) 535-5843 | nursing@clafin.edu

Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction (M.Ed.)

100% ONLINE  
(803) 535-5673  
dwaymer@clafin.edu  
mastersed@clafin.edu

Master of Science in Biotechnology

ON-CAMPUS, 2-YEAR PROGRAM  
(803) 535-5459/5405  
gmccutcheon@clafin.edu  
ncherry@clafin.edu

APPLY NOW!

www.clafin.edu/admissions-aid/how-to-apply

**The Center for Professional and Continuing Studies**  
(803) 535-5573  
conedu@clafin.edu

**Clafin Online**  
(803) 535-5108  
anparker@clafin.edu  
conedu@clafin.edu

400 Magnolia Street | Orangeburg, S.C. 29115  
1-800-922-1276 | www.clafin.edu



From left, Conference Secretary the Rev. Ken Nelson, Bishop L. Jonathan Holston and Parliamentarian Dr. Tim McClendon lead business for the mostly virtual Annual Conference.



Commission on Equitable Compensation Chair the Rev. Jon Hoin gives his report.

Photos by Matt Brodie



Rev. Michael Hood gives the Committee on Standing Rules report.



CF&A Chair the Rev. Mitch Houston presents the proposed 2023 budget.



Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Chair Valerie Brooks-Madden, joined by Conference Benefits officer the Rev. Christopher Lollis and board member the Rev. Joyce Timmons, offers a "did you know?" fast-fact session to help people understand some of the new changes in their area.



Rev. Josh McClendon, pastor of host church Pisgah UMC, Florence (above), and Florence District Superintendent Terry Fleming (below) bring greetings and welcomes.



Conference Lay Leader Barbara Ware brings her area's report.



During the ceremonial "passing of the mantle," in which a representative of the retiring class passes a stole, or mantle, from their shoulders to those of new class of ordinands, the Rev. Anna Graham Miller represented the retiring class, and the Rev. William Douglas Herlong represented the newly ordained class.





Rev. Jeffrey Salley celebrates awarding a \$6,000 UMCSC Seminary Students Scholarship to Christopher Key, a first-year student at Duke Divinity School and Claflin graduate.



Rev. Morris Waymer gives the Board of Ordained Ministry report.



Rev. Joseph James presents proposed committee nominations.

**Join the Journey...**

**Master of Divinity • Master of Theological Studies • Doctor of Ministry**

**Master of Arts in Chaplaincy • Graduate Certificate Programs • Continuing Education**

**Hood Theological Seminary is sponsored by the A.M.E. Zion Church, approved by the University Senate of The United Methodist Church, and fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools.**

**Gifted faculty ♦ Accessible campus ♦ Affordable tuition ♦ Diverse community**  
**On-Campus and Online Classes Available**

**Visit our website at [www.hoodseminary.edu](http://www.hoodseminary.edu)**

**Apply online at <http://www.hoodseminary.edu/admissions.cfm>**

1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144  
[www.hoodseminary.edu](http://www.hoodseminary.edu) | 704-636-7611  
 Admissions 704-636-6455 | [admissions@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:admissions@hoodseminary.edu).

**Theological Preparation for Effective Leadership in a Diverse Society**

## SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

By authority of *The Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church, I hereby fix these appointments for the South Carolina Annual Conference for the 2022-2023 conference year. As commissioned, licensed, consecrated, or ordained members of the covenant of ministry, let us offer ourselves without reserve to the responsibilities and opportunities of these appointments.



L. Jonathan Holston  
Resident Bishop  
South Carolina Annual Conference  
June 6, 2022

## STATUS KEY

**AL** Administrative Location (¶ 359)  
**AM** Associate Member (¶¶ 322, 369.1, 635.2h)  
**AF** Affiliate Member (¶¶ 334.5, 344.4, 586.4)  
**DC** Deaconess (¶ 1913.2)  
**DM** Diaconal Minister (2004 Discipline ¶ 369.1)  
**DR** Retired Diaconal Minister (consecrated under provisions of 1992 or earlier *Discipline*) (¶ 357)  
**FD** Deacon in full connection (¶ 330)  
**FE** Elder in full connection (¶ 335)  
**FL** Full time Local Pastor (¶ 318.1)

**HL** Honorable Location/Honorable Location Retired (¶¶ 358.1, 358.3)  
**LM** Certified Lay Minister (¶ 268)  
**OA** Associate Member of other Annual Conference (¶ 346.1)  
**OD** Deacon Member of other annual conference (¶ 331.8)  
**OE** Elder Member of other annual conference or other Methodist denomination (¶346.1)  
**OF** Full Member of other denomination (¶ 346.2)  
**OP** Provisional Member of other Annual Conference  
**OR** Retired Member of other Annual Conference (¶ 346.1)  
**PD** Provisional Deacon (¶¶ 324, 325)

**PE** Provisional Elder (¶¶ 324, 325)  
**PL** Part-time Local Pastor (¶ 318.2)  
**RA** Retired Associate Member (¶ 357)  
**RD** Retired Deacon in Full connection (¶ 357)  
**RE** Retired Full Elder (¶ 357)  
**RP** Retired Provisional Member (¶ 357) (prior to Jan 1, 2013)  
**RL** Retired Local Pastor (¶¶ 320.5, 327.7)  
Not a Disciplinary Code:  
**SY** - Other Supplies – Used by GCFA for assigned pastors

**ANDERSON DISTRICT**  
**(49 charges; 72 churches)**  
**STEVE A. PATTERSON JR., DS 5**

**ABBEVILLE:**

Bells – J. Scott Allen (OF/FL)(¶346.2) 5  
Grace – Jason G. Wilson 13  
Main Street – Brandon L. Fulmer 2  
Sharon-Smyrna – SY (Richard A. Powell) (1/2) 2

**ANDERSON:**

Anderson Circuit – Annie K. Jackson (PL) (1/2) 5  
(Mount Pleasant, Mount Sinai, Emmanuel)  
North Anderson Charge – Cyrus D. Rogers (RE) (1/2) 9  
(John Wesley, Sandy Springs)  
Homeland Park – Michael L. Vandiver (RE) (1/4) 2  
Marshall Memorial-Ebenezer Charge – Marguerite K.  
"Kempie" Shepard (RE) 8  
New Hope – Mari Gonlag (OE/FL)(346.1) 2  
South Main Chapel and Mercy Center – Kurt L. Stutler  
(OF/FL)(¶346.2) 9  
**St. John's – William Kevin Cooley 1**  
Thompson Centennial-Fairfield Charge – Hal B.  
Johnson (PL) (1/2) 6  
Toxaway – Freda A. Brock (PL) (1/2) 7  
Trinity – Roy M. Mitchell (OE) 3  
**Minister of Discipleship and Outreach – Kathryn  
M. Bariou (PD) 1**  
Zion – Beverly CroweTipton 7

**BELTON:**

Latimer Memorial – Daniel K. Fortney (OF/FL)(¶346.1) 2  
Union Grove – Amy D. Bratton 11

**CALHOUN FALLS:**

Calhoun Falls – Franklin D. McCoy (RE) (1/2) 4

**CENTRAL:**

Mount Zion – Jonathan D. Harris 4

**CLEMSON:**

**Clemson – Thomas Byars Wilkes III 1**  
Associate & Campus Minister – Steven P. Simoneaux  
Jr. 10  
**Discipleship Minister – Margaret H. Wilkes (FD) 1**  
Lawrence Chapel – Mollie B. Reddic 5

**DUE WEST:**

**Gilgal-Shiloh – SY (Jason Edward Taylor) (1/2) 1**

**EASLEY:**

Arial-Tabor – Roger M. Gwinn (RL) 19  
Bethesda – A. Judson King 3  
**Easley Charge – LaTonya Monique Dash 1**  
**(Easley Chapel, John Wesley)**  
Fairview-St. Paul – J. Kevin Gorry (RE) (1/2) 7  
First Church – Michael J. Hood 2  
Minister of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries –  
Deana Gentry (FD) (1/2) 5  
**St. Andrew – Ronald Alan Hoeksema 1**

**HONEA PATH:**

Chiquola-Donalds – Gregg S. Varner (RL) (1/2) 3  
**Trinity – Christopher Edward Arries 1**

**IVA:**

Bethel-Ruhamah – J. Gregory Martin (PL) (1/2) 2

**LIBERTY:**

Liberty-Zion – Peggy J. Garland (RE) (1/2) 5  
Associate – Ronald E. Bentley (FD) (1/4) 2

**PENDLETON:**

**Pendleton – Richard Reber Howell Jr. 1**  
Pendleton Charge – Carleatha L. Benson (RL) (1/2) 2  
(Bethel, Central)

**PICKENS:**

Grace – Valerie K. Mireb 2  
**Mount Bethel-Porter's Chapel –  
Joe D. Durham (RL) (1/4) 1  
Brenda W. Durham (RL) (1/4) 1**

**PIEDMONT:**

Shiloh – Benjamin W. Herlong 2

**SALEM:**

Salem – Stephen C. Turner (PL) (1/2) 5

**SENECA:**

Ann Hope-Friendship – Richard C. Somerville (PL) (1/2) 2  
New Harmony-Robinson Chapel – Bernetha W. Orr  
(PL) (1/2) 7  
St. Mark – Henry M "Todd" Davis IV 7

**STARR:**

Starr Charge – Michael L. Vandiver (RE) (1/2) 2  
(Hebron, Starr)

**TOWNVILLE:**

Dickson Memorial – Judy Hames-Turner (RE) 3

**WALHALLA:**

St. Luke – Kevin B. Lindley 5

**WESTMINSTER:**

Double Springs- Rock Springs – James R. McDowell  
(PL) (1/4) 2  
Hopewell – James R. McDowell (PL) (1/4) 5  
Westminster-Chicopee – Jeffrey J. Hogan (PL) (1/2) 2

**WILLIAMSTON:**

**Grace-Pelzer – Edna Reece Bowers (PL) (1/2) 1**  
Williamston Charge – Clara M. Gary (RL) 13  
(New Golden Grove, Moores Chapel, St. James)

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES****Within the Connection:**

Patterson Jr., Steve A. – District Superintendent,  
Anderson District 5

**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency: None****Other Valid Ministries:**

Glaze, Lane C. – President/Chair, One Eleuthera  
Foundation of the U.S., Clemson CC 3

**ATTEND SCHOOL – None****APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES:**

Spurrer, Ryan G. – Campus Minister UNC, Chapel Hill  
NC, Clemson CC 8

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None****FAMILY LEAVE**

**Boatwright, Megan Augustine, Clemson CC 1**

**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None****MEDICAL LEAVE**

**Holtzclaw, Kitty C. 1**  
Petry, Scott 12

**RETIREMENT****Retired Ministers**

Allinder, Joseph E.  
Ashmore, E. Warren  
Batson, Dan L.  
Benson, Carleatha L.  
Bryant, T. Lee, Jr.  
Beaudrot, Gayle M.  
Bowers, Ronald E.  
Bynum, William H.  
Cannon, Barry W.  
Carlisle, Robert N.  
Claytor, Robert B.  
Cleasby, Bruce  
Cox, H. Michael  
Durham, Brenda W. (RL)  
Durham, Joe D. (RL)  
Ethridge, Bobbie R. (FD)  
Eubanks, Robert L.  
Farley, William B.  
Ford, Julian R.  
Franklin, E. Herbert  
Freeman, John M.  
Gary, Clara M. (RL)  
Gorry, J. Kevin  
Gwinn, Roger M. (RL)  
Hames-Turner, Judy C.  
Hartsell, Franklin D.  
Hendry, Joyce S. (RL)  
Kelley, Patrick H. (RL)  
Lack, P. Michael (RL)  
Leppard, James F.  
Lewis, Sinclair E.  
Marsh, Ed C.  
Marsh, Eileen C.  
Massey, Ronald J. (RL)  
McCoy Sr., Franklin DeWitt  
McNatt, Linda M.  
Medlin, Anthony Steele  
Mims, Louis M.  
Mitchell, Paul C.  
Morgan, Steven D.  
Owens, Kenneth D.  
Patterson, Stanley B.  
Pearce, Roger Wayne  
Reynolds, Nena  
Rogers, Cyrus D.  
Sayre, Bruce  
Shattuck Sr., Leslie J. (RL)  
Shepard, Frederick J.  
Shepard, Marguerite K.  
Stillwell, Robert E.  
Thompson, Morris C.  
Vandiver, Michael L.  
Varner, Gregg S. (RL)  
Workman, George M.(HonLocRet)

**Retired Missionaries: None****DIACONAL MINISTRY****Diaconal Ministers:**

Brashear, Carolyn Elaine – Program Director, Director of  
Christian Education, Trinity CC 25

**Retired Diaconal Ministers:**

Fuhr, Ann Barton – Lawrence Chapel CC 19

**DEACONESSSES****Active:**

Bruder, Carol – Coordinator of Wellness Ministry, Grace  
UMC, Pickens 8

**Retired:**

Edens, Mary Lou – Main Street, Abbeville CC 20

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT**  
**(61 charges; 76 churches)**  
**SANDRA STEVENS-POIREL, DS 7**

**BONNEAU:**

Berkeley Circuit – James Lewis (PL) (1/2) 6  
(Eccles, Hoods Chapel)

**CHARLESTON:**

**Aldersgate – Michael D. Wood (FL) 1**  
Asbury-St. James – Timothy G. Shaw (PL) (1/2) 17  
Bethany – Susan M. Pennock 2  
Bethel – Susan P. Leonard 5

Centenary – Lorenzo Moses (1/4) 19  
Charleston Korean – Yon Taek Bae 12  
**Cokesbury – Bryan W. Pigford 1**  
**Epworth – Vivian L. Fowler (FD) (1/2) 1**  
Grace – Benjamin O. Burt 2  
John Wesley – Kenneth B. Timmerman 3  
Associate – Stephen D. Gaither (RE) (1/2) 3  
Midland Park – Harry Gindhart Jr. (RE) (1/2) 4  
Mount Carmel – Nathan Smalls 3  
New Francis Brown – Morris Waymer Jr. 7  
North Charleston – Daniel R. Griswold 2  
Old Bethel – David V. Washington (FL) 2  
**St. Andrews Parish – Brent L. Dehlbom (FL) 1**  
St. Mark – Edward J. Stiltz (FL) 2  
**Trinity – Robert L. Rabenstein III (RL) (1/2) 1**  
Washington – Kerry Brisbon (PL) (1/2) 2  
**Wesley – Eleanora C. Ellington 1**

**CROSS:**

Cross – Davie Sanders 4  
(Jerusalem, Zion)

Friendship – Joyce Murphy (RE) (1/2) 4

**Greater St. Paul – Raymond P. Gibbs (FL) 1**

**EDISTO ISLAND:**

Edisto Island-Wesley Memorial – Kevin P. Stroop 8

**FOLLY BEACH:**

Folly Beach – Randall W. Horres (FL) 8

**GOOSE CREEK:**

Goose Creek – Frances Debra Dowdle (AM) 23

**St. James – Joshua W. Tietje (OE) 1**

**HOLLYWOOD:**

Ravenel – Len Ripley (RL) (1/4) 5

Wesley – Dwight A. Nelson 5

**HUGER:**

**St. Thomas Charge – Cheryl G. Johnson 1**

**Associate – Lee M. Johnson (PL) (1/2) 1**

**(New Hope, Stewart Chapel, Zion)**

**ISLE OF PALMS:**

First – Laura Canine Parrish 4

**JAMESTOWN:**

**Jamestown – J. Kris Bergmann (PL) (1/2) 1**

**(Mount Zion, New Hope, St. James)**

**JOHNS ISLAND:**

Johns Island Parish – Pattie E. Gordon 5

(Bethlehem-St. James, New Webster)

**Wesley – Doris R. Bright 1**

**LADSON:**

Wesley – Carlton J. McClam Sr. 3

**McCLELLANVILLE:**

Sewee Santee Charge – Roye Lynn Kulik (RE) (1/2) 4  
(McClellanville, Ocean Grove, Wren's Chapel)

**MONCKS CORNER:**

Centenary – Darlene M. Richardson (PL) (1/2) 13

Ebenezer – David Smith (RE) (1/2) 4

Joshua – Mae Frances Taylor 17

**Moncks Corner – Randall L. Haase 1**

Smyrna – William "Bill" Masciangelo (RL) (1/2) 3

**MOUNT PLEASANT:**

Hibben – Sara A. White 4

**Associate – Katherine A. Brock (FD) 1**

Point Hope – Elizabeth Sullivan 5

**PINOPOLIS:**

**Pinopolis – Samuel E. Marcengill (RE) 1**

Wesley – Shamond Riddy (OF) 2

**RIDGEVILLE:**

Lebanon Charge – W. Michael Bruce (RE) 3  
(Lebanon, Spring Hill)

**ST. STEPHEN:**

All Saints Charge – Clayton Jones (RL) (1/2) 7  
(Cordesville, New Light)

Bethel – Cindy S. Shaw (PL) (1/2) 13

Mount Nebo – Richard Irving (PL) (1/2) 7

St. Stephen Charge – Bonnie F. Miller (RL) (1/2) 3  
(Rehoboth, St. Stephen)

Jehovah – Tony Richardson, (PL) (1/2) 8

**SUMMERVILLE:**

**New Church Start Ashley Ridge – TBS**

**Bethany – Michael D. Ritter Sr. 1**

Associate – Narcie M. Jeter 5

Boone Hill – Sheldon L. Withrow (FL) 3

Enoch Chapel-Grove Hall:

(Enoch Chapel) – Victoria Richardson (RL) (1/4) 17  
(Grove Hall) – Virginia B. Stafford (RL) (1/4) 19

Knightsville – Robert E. Harper (PL) (3/4) 6

New Hope – David N. Phillips (RL) 7

**Stallsville – Robert E. Harper (PL) (1/4) 1**

Summerville Parish – Lillie K. Davis 5

(Murray, Wesley)

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES****Within the Connection:**

**Poole, John S. – Director, Charleston Wesley  
Foundation 1**

Stevens-Poirel, Sandra – District Superintendent,  
Charleston District 7

Walker, Suzanne – Congregational Specialist for  
Charleston/Walterboro Districts, Cokesbury CC 4

**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:**

Everson, Jason D. – Chaplain, US Navy, Chapel of Hope,  
Yokosuka, Japan, Isle of Palms CC 6

Flessas, Daniel – City of Charleston Emergency  
Management, Executive Department, Hibben CC 3

Grant, George Henry – Director of Research in Faith and  
Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Bethel CC 23  
Moses, Lorenzo – Chief Chaplain, Ralph H. Johnson VA  
Medical Center, Centenary CC 28

**Other Valid Ministries:**

Mazyck, Bernett W. (FD) – President and CEO, South  
Carolina Association of Community Development  
Corporations, Murray CC 10

Meadows, S. Aaron – Chaplain of SC Corps of Cadets  
and Director of Religious Activities, The Citadel

Military College of SC, Trinity-Charleston CC 2

Taylor, Kelli W. – Vice President for Campus Ministry  
and Community Engagement, Methodist University,  
Fayetteville, NC 8

**Wicklund, Carly – Staff Chaplain, Pediatric Staff  
Chaplain UNC Health Care – Chapel Hill, NC,  
Bethel-Charleston CC 1**

**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**

**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

Burgess, Adriane – Associate, St. Luke UMC, Columbus,  
GA, South Georgia Conference 4

Nix, Soon S. (PD)(3/4) – Korean Church of Atlanta, GA,  
NGA Conference 3

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None****FAMILY LEAVE – None****SABBATICAL LEAVE – None****MEDICAL LEAVE – None****PERSONAL LEAVE**

Reams, Richard H., Bethel-Charleston CC 2

**RETIREMENT****Retired Ministers:**

Alewine, James Edwin  
Belec, J. Peter  
Bines, Lee  
Blackwell, Theodore E. (RL)  
Blocker, R. Richard  
Bowman, Timothy J.  
Brisbon, David A.  
Broomall, Richard A.  
Bruce, W Michael  
Cash, H. Carroll (RL)  
Clardy Jr., Cermette  
Clendaniel, Donald  
Cubie, James (RL)  
Davis, Gloria R.  
Deal, Alice L. (Ally)  
Derrick, Barbara A.  
Dingle, Shirley (RL)  
Edwards, Annette C.  
Fender, Genevieve M. (RL)  
Garrett, Jo Ann (RL)  
Gaither, Stephen D.  
Gindhart Jr., Harry  
Houston, D. Mitchell  
Hughes, Elizabeth C.  
Hughes, Jessie Clark  
Hunter, James C.  
Hyatt Jr., James  
Ivey, Ruth Ann (FD)  
James, David  
Jefferson, Ethel Gethers  
Jones, Alfonza (RL)  
Jones, Clayton (RL)  
Kulik, Roye Lynn  
Lee, Robert E. (RA)  
Locklair, Josephine M.  
Lupo, David E.  
Mabey, Janice L. (RL)  
McDowell, Julius  
McFadden, Vivian  
Miller, Bonnie (RL)  
Mills, F. David  
Murphy, Joyce  
Myers, John David  
Nix, A. Robert  
Parker, Greta Bridges (RL)  
Phillips, David (RL)  
Rabenstein, Robert (RL)  
Ratlledge, Jackie S. (FD)  
Reeves, Timothy S.  
Richardson, Victoria (RL)  
Ripley III, Leonard (RL)  
Rodeffer, Larry William  
Rogers-Berry, Richard  
Smith, David S.  
Smith, Debra Quilling  
Stafford, Virginia (RL)  
Stanton, Talmadge  
Stockman, Roy M.  
Stonestreet, Cooper  
Tanner Jr., William (RL)  
Washington, Lillian  
Wilson Jr., Harlan E.  
Wilson, Rufus L. (RL)  
Yunker, Ellen A.  
**Retired Missionaries: None**

**DIACONAL MINISTRY**

**Diaconal Ministers: None**

**Continued on next page**

## Continued from previous page

**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

### DEACONESES

**Active:** None  
**Retired:** None

## COLUMBIA DISTRICT (55 charges; 61 churches) FRANCES M. ELROD, DS 1

### BLYTHEWOOD:

Trinity – Scott W. Smoak 3  
Associate – Carsten A. Bryant (PE) 2  
Upper Richland Charge – Roger D. Hovis (PL) (1/2) 3  
(Beulah, Oak Grove)  
Zion – J. Scott Matthews (PL) (1/4) 5

### CAYCE:

Cayce – Meghan Lindsey Sweeney Cook 3

### CHAPIN:

Chapin – Joseph D. Flowers 22

### COLUMBIA:

**Asbury Memorial – Ashley McCoy-Bruce 1**

Ashland – J. Scott Efrid 4  
Bethel – Julie Songer Belman 5  
**Bluff Road – Jeremiah F. Page (PL) (1/2) 1**  
Columbia Korean – Woongchul Daniel Ra (PE) 5  
Fair Lawn – John M. Williams III 4  
Francis Burns – Geneva G. Stafford 4  
Grace – W. Everette Haselden 4  
**Greene Street – Sh’Kur Marquis Rashard Francis (PL) (1/4) 1**

Heyward Street – Tammy A. Blom (OF/PL)(¶346.2) (1/2) 7

**I. DeQuincey Newman – Frank V. James (RE) (1/2) 1**  
Journey – George A. Ashford 16

**Main Street – Sh’Kur Marquis Rashard Francis (PL) (1/4) 1**

Associate – Neal “Lex” McDonald (HL/RL) (1/4) 4  
McLeod – SY (Jerry McLemore) (1/4) 2  
Mill Creek – Sharon L. Long (PL) (1/4) 12  
North Columbia Charge – Ralph C. Young (PL) (1/2) 4  
(Mount Pleasant, St. John)

**Northeast– Antoinette Gaboton-Moss (FL) 1**

Rehoboth – Meegian A. Gossard 2  
Shandon – C. Smoke Kanipe 7  
Associate – James A. Grubb 5  
Associate – Shannon R. Bullion 4  
Minister of Music and Arts – Donald E. Huss Jr. (FD) 12

**St. Mark – Jeri Katherine Warden-Sipes (1/2) 1**

Suber Marshall Memorial – Marion Aldridge (OF/PL) (¶346.2) (1/4) 4

**Trenholm Road – James L. McCoy-Bruce 1**

Director of Music Ministries– Sarah T. Fletcher (FD) (3/4) 14

Virginia Wingard Memorial – Beth S. Faulk (OF/FL) (¶346.2) 3

Washington Street – Rebecca J. Shirley 2  
Associate for Nurture/Discipleship Development – Alston F. Lippert (PL) (1/2) 6  
Wesley – Tiffany Knowlin Boykin 8  
Whaley Street – Susan D. Culler (HL/PL) (1/2) 2  
Windsor – Leatha W. Brown 5

### EASTOVER:

Lebanon – Gregory P. Davis (FL) 2

### ELGIN:

West Kershaw –Stewart C. Kidd, Jr. (PL) (1/2) 7  
(Ebenezer, Salem, Smyrna)

### GILBERT:

Beulah – Anthony S. Rowell 10  
Gilbert – Mark E. Thompson, (RE) (3/4) 2  
Pond Branch – Andrew C. Martin 5  
Shiloh – Angela Hetheredge-Erwin 3

### IRMO:

Salem – Jeffrey W. Childress 2  
Shady Grove – Tammy N. Grey 5  
Union – Stephen P. Taylor 7  
**Associate – Faye J. Jones (FL) 1**

### LEESVILLE:

Rehoboth – Kenneth R. Colton (RE) (1/2) 4

### LEXINGTON:

Boiling Springs – Kenneth W. Prill (OR)(¶346.1) 9  
Faith – Hope R. Morris 4

**Lexington – James S. “Mack” McDowell 1**

Associate – Laurie G. Brandes (FL) 2  
Mount Horeb – Jeffrey G. Kersey 29

Director of Congregational Care – Emma M. Murphy (FD) 3  
Associate Pastor for Family Ministries – Trevor A. Miller (FL) 7

Red Bank – William Clay Faulk (OF/FL)(¶346.2) 3

### WEST COLUMBIA:

Brookland – Christopher Mark Payne (PL) (1/2) 4  
**Mount Hebron – Cynthia C. Taylor 1**

**Associate – Morgan B. Byars (PE) 1**  
**Platt Springs – Debbie H. Miller (RL) 1**

Shiloh – Sandra G. Stilling (PL) (1/4) 5  
Trinity – John D. Jordan 5

### WINNSBORO:

Fairfield Circuit – Benjamin R. Rogers (FL) 3  
(Bethel, Monticello)

First, Winnsboro – Stephan D. Elkins (FL) 3  
Gordon Memorial-Greenbrier – Thurmond “Kem” Thomas (RE) 2

### APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES

#### Within the Connection:

Arant Jr., A. Melton “Mel” – Coordinator of Clergy Services, Zion, Anderson CC, 3  
Brum, Sonia Ely – Manager of US Missionaries and Diversity Relations, GBGM, Mount Hebron CC 10  
Friday, James L. – Director of Congregational Development, Wesley UMC CC 4  
Henry-Crowe, Susan – General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society 10  
James, Katherine L. (FD) – Epworth Director of Church Relations, Trinity, Sumter CC 4  
**Elrod, Frances M. – District Superintendent, Columbia District 1**  
Lollis, Christopher M. – Conference Pension and Health Benefits Director, Shiloh, Gilbert CC 5  
Smith, Millie Nelson – Director, S.C. Conference Connectional Ministries, St. Paul, Camden CC 3  
Strawther, Walter E. – Congregational Specialist for African American/Columbia/Hartsville Districts, Shandon CC 2  
Vincent, Robert M. – President, SC United Methodist Foundation, Salem, Irmo CC 5  
Wall, Tom H. – Director, Wesley Foundation, USC, Washington Street CC 33  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:**  
Byrd, Lara Caulder – Chaplain, United States Navy, Lexington UMC CC 4

Evans, John D. (RE) – Pastoral Counseling, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Columbia, Washington Street CC 28

Fink, Adrienne H. (FD) – Chaplain, Prisma Health Department of Spiritual Care and Education, Cayce CC 8

Middleton, N. Nichole – Chaplain, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Bennettsville, SC, Trenholm Road CC 13

#### Other Valid Ministries:

Kennerly, Kenneth R. (RE) – Counselor V.A. Medical Center Addiction Treatment Unit, Columbia, Trinity, West Columbia CC 43

Murray, Elizabeth – American Church in Paris, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults 2

Rhyee, Luke Moon Taeg – Missionary to Guatemala, Mission Society, Columbia Korean CC 8

Warden-Sipes, Jeri Katherine – Assistant Chaplain, Heathwood Hall, St. Mark CC 2

**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

Rogers, James B. (PE) – St. Luke, Sanford, Minister of Youth and Technology 2

**APPOINTED IN OTHER METHODIST DENOMINATIONS – None**  
**PERSONAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Hoin, Jon A. 1

**Relaford, Sara E. 1**

#### FAMILY LEAVE

Young, Amanda T. – Mount Hebron CC 4

**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None**

#### MEDICAL LEAVE

**Boyd, Fadetra H. CC 1**  
**HONORABLE LOCATION**

Susan Culler – Washington Street CC  
McDonald, Neal “Lex” – Shandon CC 23

Middleton, G. Scott – Washington Street CC 27  
McCoy, Glenn – Main Street CC 21

### RETIREMENT

#### Retired Ministers:

Adams, James C.  
Aiken, Clyde M.  
Alexander, Robert E.  
Alley, Joseph W.  
Anderson, David L.  
Arant Sr., Athon M.  
Arant, James S. (FD)  
Arant, Ruth H. (FD)  
Ballenger, Walter C.  
Barnes Jr., Rudolph C. (RL)  
Barwick, Kenneth W.  
Bauknight, David D.  
Bauknight, John M.  
Bouknight, Bill  
Bell, Michael C.  
Benton, Doug O.  
Bigelow, Archie R.  
Borom, W. Robert  
Bowman, Thomas J.  
Bowman, Timothy J.  
Branch, Charles S.  
Bratton, Scott  
Britt, W. Donald  
Brooks, Boyce F.  
Buff Jr., L.H.  
Buie, Franklin B.  
Bynum Jr., F. Bundy  
Childs, William R. “Bill”  
Chong, Yu Fong  
Collier, Elizabeth Jane  
Colton, Kenneth R.  
Cooper, Wiley B.  
Cothran, Lee J.  
Cox, Albert L.  
Cox, Robert L.  
Culp, John W.  
Culp, Karin B.  
Day, David W.  
DeDonato, David M.  
Dodds, Roger R.  
Edwards, Charlie A.  
Etheredge, Ernest C.  
Evans, John D.  
Evans, William F.  
Gramling, Roger M.  
Griffin, M. Kathryn  
Gunn, James H.  
Harmon, Paul W.  
Harmon, Samuel K.  
Hays Jr., Lawrence F.  
Helms, Lois  
Holler, John E.  
Horne, R. Wayne  
Johnson, Mary L.  
Jones, Joel R.  
Jones, Thom C.  
Kennerly, Kenneth R.  
Kinnett, Paul “Mac”  
Knowles-Tuell, James  
Laney, Sterling S.  
Lare, Marvin I.  
Lavender, Phil C.  
Lee, Young In “David”  
Mayfield, Patricia P.  
McDowell Jr., Edward H.  
McKeown, Robert E.  
McWilliams, Edward L.  
Middleton, Albert  
Middleton, Evelyn C.  
Miller, Debbie H. (RL)  
Miller Jr., Noble F.  
Mims, John W.  
Moore II, Raymond L.  
Morris, Franklin D.  
Moseley, Diane A.  
Nates, James H.  
Norris, Robert J.  
Paik, Miyoung  
Pearson, John C.  
Parrish, Patricia J.  
Phillips, Gary D.  
Reynolds, Phillip M. (RL)  
Rodgers, Augustus  
Rowell, Eldridge R.  
Scott, Clyde E.  
Scott Jr., Otis  
Simmons, Colin E.  
Steil, W. Edwin  
Stephens, Faye  
Summers, Thomas A.  
Taylor, Randy M.  
Teague, Willie S.  
Ulmer, B. Susan  
Walter, Ted H.  
Watson, J. Austin  
Watson, Joe Cal  
Westerkam, Diana C.

White, Toni L.  
Williams, Robert T.  
Williams, Thurmond  
Wilson II, Joseph A.  
Wilson Jr., Reginald D. (RL)  
Yongue, Neal M.

**Retired Missionaries:** None

### DIACONAL MINISTRY

**Diaconal Ministers:** None

#### Retired Diaconal Ministers:

Carter, R. Fletcher, Virginia Wingard CC  
Quackenbush, Lillian – College Place CC  
Walker, Cheryl – Wesley CC  
Watson, Carol Hart, Main Street CC

### DEACONESES

**Active:** None

**Retired:** None

## FLORENCE DISTRICT (66 charges; 93 churches) TERRY FLEMING, DS 5

### CADES:

Cades-Cameron – Jack McElveen (PL) (1/2) 5  
Faith – Edward McKnight (PL) (1/2) 7

**Hebron-Pergamos – Karen McElveen (PL) (1/2) 1**  
(Hebron, Pergamos)

### COWARD:

St. Paul – Randy Calcutt (RL) (1/4) 4

### FLORENCE:

Central – Thomas Smith 4

**Associate – Ann Kovan 1**

Minister of Faith Formation & Discipleship – Meg Jiunnies (FD) 6

**Cumberland – Martin Quick (PE) 1**

**Dawsey – SY (Frankie “Dusty” Owens) 1**

Highland Park – Susan Maddox 2  
Liberty-Friendship – Claire Van Den Berg (PE) 2  
Bowers Chapel – Lindora F. James (PL) (1/4) 8

Mount Zion – Palma Thomas (PL) (1/2) 2  
Pisgah – Joshua T. McClendon 5

Quinty-Bethsaida – Gerald L. Truluck (RL) 18

**St. Paul – Bette A. Hedden (PE) 1**

Salem – Briant S. Mungo (PL) (1/2) 7

Tabernacle – Randy Calcutt (PL) (1/2) 5

**Wesley – James Peterson (PL) (1/2) 1**

### GREELEYVILLE:

Greeleyville Parish – Fred Moore Jr. (PL) (1/2) 2  
(Wilson Chapel, Long Branch)

Lane – Spencer Jordan (PL) (1/4) 2

Mount Vernon – Spencer Jordan (PL) (1/4) 3

### HEMINGWAY:

Ebenezer-First (Hemingway) – Louis Perez (RL) 2  
Good Hope – Craig Cribb (PL) (1/4) 3

### JOHNSONVILLE:

Johnsonville – John Crouch (RL) (1/2) 5  
Johnsonville Circuit – Michael B. Henderson (RE) 2  
(Brown’s Chapel, Vox Memorial)

Old Johnsonville – Craig Cribb (PL)(1/4) 3

### JORDAN:

**Jordan – Leo Roy (FL) 1**

(Jordan, Union, Bethlehem)

### KINGSTREE:

**Asbury – Jerold McKnight (PL) (1/4) 1**

Bethel – Louis R. Ashley (PE) 4

Elijah-St. Luke – Larry McCray (FL) 2

(Elijah, St. Luke, Kingstree

**Friendship-Nesmith – Ernest Frierson 1**

Jeremiah – Norma Bartelle (PL) (1/4) 2

Jerusalem – Franklin James (RL) (1/2) 4

Kennedyville – Norma D. Bartelle (PL) (1/4) 8

Kingstree – Katherine Haselden Crimm 4

Kingstree Circuit – Tommy J. Conway (PL) (1/4) 7

(Millwood, Cedar Swamp)

**Mount Seal – Cynthia B. Williams (PL) (1/4) 1**

**Mount Zion – Keith Hunter 1**

St. Mary – Isiah Brown (PL) (1/2) 9

St. Michael – Barry S. McFadden (1/2) 7

St. Paul – Jerry L. Gadsden 4

### LAKE CITY:

**Bethesda-Cades – Shawn Chestnut 1**

Lake City – William McCown III 4

Lake City Circuit – Mark Mitchell 2

(St. John, St. Luke, Ninevah)

Lake Point – Willie Lawson (RE) (1/2) 8

Mount Beulah – Benjamin Graham (PL) (1/2) 4

Wesley Chapel – Amiri B. Hooker 4

### LYNCHBURG:

Lynchburg Charge – Jimmy M. Ridenhour (RL) 30  
(Lynchburg, St. Luke, Trinity)

**St. Paul-Elliott – Pernerva Thomas (PL) (1/2) 1**

New Haven – Samuel B. Cooper (RE) (1/2) 7

St. Paul-Wisacky-Warren Chapel – Evelyn Fulmore

(PL) (1/2) 3

### MANNING:

Manning – David McManus Jr. 2

### MORRISVILLE:

St. Paul – Ingrid Graham (PL) (1/4) 3

### NEW ZION:

**New Zion – Eric McGill (FL) 1**

(New Zion, Trinity)

### PAMPILICO:

Bethlehem – Regina Swanson (FL) 2

Pamplico – Nancy Adams (PL) (1/2) 3

(Pamplico, Prospect)

### PINEWOOD:

Pinewood – Mary Everhart (PL) (1/2) 5

(Pinewood, Paxville, Andrews Chapel)

### SCRANTON:

St. John Charge – Rusty Crimm (FL) 2

(Scranton, St. John, Nazareth (Olanta))

### SHILOH:

**Asbury – Corey Lasane (PL) (1/2) 1**

St. John – Gracie Singletary (PL) (1/2) 4

### SUMMERTON:

Summerton – Keith Stewart (FL) 3

### TIMMONSVILLE:

Mount Zion – Jimmie W. Duncan (PL) (1/4) 9

**Pine Grove-Salem Charge – Ann Everette (RE) (1/2) 1**

**Wade Everette (RE) (1/2) 1**

St. Luke – Jimmie Duncan (PL) (1/4) 2

### TRIO:

**Trio – Mary Seth Luoma (FL) 1**

(Trio, Earle, Sutton)

### TURBEVILLE:

Turbeville – Nicholas Lyerly (FL) 3

(Pine Grove, Shiloh)

### UNION:

Union-Elim Charge – David Canine (RL) 7

(Union, Elim)

### APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES

#### Within the Connection:

Fleming, Terry – District Superintendent, Florence District 5

Jordan, Lou (SY) – Director, Francis Marion Wesley

Foundation 9

### Congregational Specialist Florence/Marion Districts

– TBS

#### Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:

Morrison, David Todd – Chaplain, United States Army, Highland Park CC 13

**Other Valid Ministries:** None

**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**

**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – None**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None**

**FAMILY LEAVE – None**

**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**

**MEDICAL LEAVE – None**

**TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None**

### RETIREMENT

#### Retired Ministers:

Abraham, Ebbie (RL)  
Altman Jr., John M. (RL)  
Bailey, Harold Jack  
Best, Kay Adams  
Bragdon, Danyne O.  
Brown, Matthew C.  
Brunson, Ashley C.  
Calcutt, Randy (RL)  
Canine, David (RL)  
Cooper, J. Jeannette  
Cooper, Samuel B.  
Crouch, John (RL)  
Edwards, Joyce M.  
Epps, Hazel (RL)  
Everett, Ann D.  
Everett, Wade H.  
Gaskins, Joshua (RL)  
Gibson, Jack (RL)  
James, Franklin (RL)  
James, William S. (RA)  
Jayroe, Richard (RL)  
Lawson, Willie  
Marcy, David  
McKnight, Shirley (RL)  
Mills III, Grady W. (RD)  
Moore, Colin

## Continued from previous page

Slater – TBS  
Victor – Debbie Pisor (1/2) 6  
Wood's Chapel – Paul David Wilmer (RL) (1/4) 6  
Zoar-Faith – Michael Cheatham (LM) (1/4) 7  
**MAULDIN:**  
Mauldin – Washington Webster Belangia V 7  
Associate – Richard K. Herd (OF/FL)(¶346.2) 7  
**PIEDMONT:**  
Augusta Road – David B. Smith 8  
**Piedmont – Richard W. Waldrep (RE) 1**  
**SIMPSONVILLE:**  
Advent – Michael A. Turner 11  
Associate – Rachel Witt Carosiello 2  
Associate-Campus Minister – Laura-Allen Kerlin 10  
**Bethel-Ebenezer – Bradley Thompson (OF/FL) (¶346.2) 1**  
Hopewell – Donald R. Brown 6  
Simpsonville – J. Michael Smith 5  
**TAYLORS:**  
**Lee Road – Rusty Godfrey (FL) (1/2) 1**  
St. Mark – Charles L. White 2  
St. Matthew – SY (Amenti Sujai) 2  
**TRAVELERS REST:**  
New St. Luke – James L. Drummond Jr. (PL) (1/2) 8  
Travelers Rest – Jonathan E. Tompkins 10  
Associate – Christine M. Matthews (3/4) 7  
**WOODRUFF:**  
Emma Gray – Joel Andrew Watson (PL) (1/2) 8

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES:****Within the Connection:**

Childers, R. Clayton – Program Director, Annual Conf. Relations GBCS, Emma Gray CC 20 - Retiring in VA, August 2020  
Dawsey, James M. – Professor, Emory and Henry College, Oak Hill CC 15  
Dennis Jr., James D. – District Superintendent, Greenville District 4  
Joens, Cathy Louise W. (FD) – Congregational Specialist GV/AN, Aldersgate CC 13  
McCutcheon, Edward – Director, Wesley Foundation, Furman University 14

**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:**

Hayhurst, Michael – United States Air Force Chaplain 13

**Other Valid Ministries:** None**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None****APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES**

Elder, James Edward (AM) – North Georgia Conference, Newman Spring/Graysville 6  
Gordon, Harold (¶346.1) – California-Nevada, Jones Memorial UMC, San Francisco, CA 7  
Johnson, Angela Renee (FD) – North Georgia, Sugar Hill UMC, Minister to Children, Gainesville, Georgia (¶346.1) 5

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None****SABBATICAL LEAVE – None****MEDICAL LEAVE**

Watson, Sylvia F. 2

**FAMILY LEAVE – None****TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None****HONORABLE LOCATION**

Blackwelder, Josh L. – Covenant, Greer, CC 4

**RETIREMENT****Retired Ministers:**

Addis, Howard D.  
Allison, Carol D.  
Boyer, Patricia Diane  
Brown, Billy Bowman  
Callahan, John P.  
Cole, Joseph L. (RL)  
Curtis, Brenda I.  
Curtis, Joseph L.  
Elliott, Nicholas  
Elliott Jr., Richard F.  
Errington, Joseph R.  
Gannaway, Patricia A.  
Gardner, Les (RL)  
Gilliam Jr., James O.  
Gillespie, Steven D.  
Goulart, Robert I. (RL)  
Griffis-Woodberry, Debra  
Guffee, Michael L.  
Guthrie, Linda M.  
Hicks, Granville A.  
Howell Jr., Robert J.  
Huff Jr., A.V.  
Joens, Janet C.  
Keely, Robert P.  
Lee, Dennis R.  
MacKeil, Alice E.  
McAlister, J. Richard  
Miller, John Teague  
Mixon, Forest D.  
Owens, Charles Tony  
Parker, Fred W. (RL)  
Parrott, Anne  
Patterson, James F.  
Peterson, Gary L.  
Riser, George M.  
Rush, John  
Scott, George W.  
Shaw, Charles S.  
Smith, Calvin L.  
Smith, Larry G. (RL)  
Stanley, Dwaine C. (RL)  
Stoehr, Lorna Lee Curtis  
Stokes, Nelson L.  
Stout, Phillip E.  
Strait, George E.  
Sullivan, Patricia A. (FD)  
Temple, Jerry E.  
Thomas, George  
Thomas, Tina  
Thraillkill, Phillip  
Treaster, Fred  
Ward, Jon P. (RL)  
Watson, John H. (RL)  
Wechsler, Christine MacDonald  
Williams, John A. Williams  
Wilmer, Paul David (RL)  
Wood, Patricia S.  
Wright, Alfred T. (AM)  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

**DIACONAL MINISTRY**

**Diaconal Ministers:** None

**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

**DEACONESSES**

**Active:** None

**Retired:** None

**GREENWOOD DISTRICT  
(54 charges; 78 churches)  
STEPHEN LOVE, DS 7****BATESBURG:**

St. John's – Scott D. Nurse (PL) (3/4) 7

**BELVEDERE:**

**Belvedere – TBS**

**CLINTON:**

**Broad Street – Justin Ritter 1**

**EDGEFIELD:**

Edgefield – Michael E. Evans (FL) 3

**GRANITEVILLE:**

St. John-Warrentonville – Kendall Healy (FL) 2

**GREENWOOD:**

Aldersgate – Nona Woodle (FL) 3

**Hodges – Cheryl E. Remchuk (FL) 1**

Ebenezer-Mathews Charge – SY (Adrian Rogers) 3

**Harris-Trinity Charge – Thessa G. Smith (PE) 1**

**Lowell Street-Panola – Viki M. Hydrick (PL) 1**

Lupo Memorial – Craig Vondergeest (OE/SY)(¶346.1) 6

**Main Street – Steven P. Keck 1**

Mount Carmel – (Donald Black) (LM) (1/4) 3

Mount Lebanon-Kinards – Arthur Gamble (FL) 3

Rehoboth – Carol Peppers Wray (RE) 8

St. Mark – Steven L. Brown 6

Associate – Joseph Gambrell (FL) 2

Associate – Robert T. Lybrand (PL) (1/4) 2

Tranquil – John P. Bolin 2

Troy – Barrett T. Alewine (RE) 9

**JOANNA:**

Epworth-Springdale – John Gerald Pickens (RE) 13

**JOHNSTON:**

Johnston-Harmony – Amanda G. Richardson (PE) 2

**KINARDS:**

Hopewell-Sharon Charge – SY (Mitchell Wray) 11

**LANGLEY:**

Langley – Graham Bennett (FL) 2

Capers Chapel – Donna Eidson (RL) (1/2) 3

**LAURENS:**

Central-Trinity – Myra Taylor (PL) (1/2) 2

**First – Asa Gray Stallworth (FL) 1**

**St. James – Clyde Scott (RE) 1**

**LEESVILLE:**

Leesville – Shawn Armstrong 2

**McCORMICK:**

McCormick – C. Nels Ledwell 6

Plum Branch Charge – SY (Susan Galasso) 2

(Republican, St. Paul)

**NEWBERRY:**

Central – Joe Long 3

Epting Memorial-Lebanon Charge – William A.

Hightower (PL) (1/2) 8

Lewis Memorial-Ebenezer Charge – James H. Counts

Jr. (RL) 13

Trinity-New Chapel Charge – Douglas Benton (RA) 2

**NINETY SIX:**

Cambridge – Henry Brooks Sr. (PL) (1/2) 5

St. Paul – Scott Gilmer (PE) 2

**NORTH AUGUSTA:**

**Grace – Catherine Jamieson 1**

**Associate – Daniel Eplee (FL) 1**

**Associate – Ashley Buchanan (FL) 1**

**POMARIA:**

Mount Pleasant-O'Neal Street – Darlene Kelley 4

Pomaria Charge – Jessie Rogers (FL) 2

(Caper's Chapel – New Hope)

**PROSPERITY:**

Wightman – Ben Barnett 3

Zion – Ralph T. Bowling III 6

**RIDGE SPRING**

**Ridge Spring Charge – Richard Goldie (RL) (1/2) 1**  
(Ridge Spring, Spann)

**SALUDA:**

Bethany-Zoar – John T. Jones Jr. (FL) 2

Bethlehem – Charles Adams (RL) (1/2) 7

Butler-Shiloh – J. Robert Huggins (RL) (1/2) 2

Crossroads-Martha's Chapel-Mays – Gerald F.

Clinkscales (PL) (1/2) 7

Emory-Nazareth – Kenneth Freeman 5

St. Paul – Cameron Levi (PE) 2

**TRENTON:**

Trenton – Durand Hall (PL) (1/2) 4

McKendree – Kile Antone (PL) (1/2) 3

**VAUCLUSE:**

**Vaucluse-Pentecost – SY (Patrick Taylor) (1/2) 1**

**WARE SHOALS:**

**Mount Bethel-King's Chapel – Vincent Davis (PL) (1/2) 1**

Ware Shoals-Harmony – William F. Rogers III (RE) 8

**WATERLOO:**

Waterloo – Dan S. Bradley (RE) 8

Soule Chapel – Emil Finley (RL) (1/2) 4

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES****Within the Connection:**

Copeland, Jennifer E. – Executive Director, NC Council of Churches, Broad Street CC 8

Love, Stephen L. – District Superintendent, Greenwood

District 7

Taylor, Hillary – Chaplain Intern, Prisma Health

Greenville, Troy CC 2

**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:** None

**Other Valid Ministries:** None

**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**

**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – None**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Hendrickson, Eric 4

**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None****TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None****MEDICAL LEAVE**

Toothe, Cheryl 8

**Honorable Location:**

Newell, John 14

**RETIREMENT****Retired Ministers:**

Adams, Charles (RL)  
Alewine, Barrett  
Alford, Judy Ann Martin  
Anderson, Vernon O.  
Bradley, Dan  
Campbell, J. Taylor  
Canaday, DeArmond  
Charles, Ada A.  
Connelly, Jacqueline  
Cothran, Lee  
Counts Jr., James (RL)  
Curry, Eugene L.  
Davis, James Ray  
Eidson, Donna (RL)  
Epps, John L.  
Finley, Emil  
Goldie, Richard C. (RL)  
Hudson, Blaine S.

Huggins, J. Robert (RL)

Lusk, T. Joseph

Morton Jr., Ted R.

Palmer, Bruce H.

Peurifoy, Harvey O.

Pickens, John Gerald

Quarles, J. William (RL)

Rogers, Paul H.

Rogers, Sheila D.

Rogers III, William F.

Roof, Terry

Ruth, E. DeVon

Shoemaker, Mary Jane

Smyth, Dan (RA)

Stephens Jr., Herbert

Sweat, Keith (RL)

Templeton, David T.

Wiggins, Elwood Holler

Williams, James Haddon

Younginer Jr., John M.

**Retired Missionaries:** None

**MINISTRY OF DEACONS**

**Active:** None

**Retired:**

Bennett, Hazel

Osborne, Jean O.

Taylor, Bobbie Opal

**HARTSVILLE DISTRICT  
(66 charges; 100 churches)  
TELLEY GADSON, DS 2****BETHUNE:**

**Bethune – Frederick N. Yebuah (RE) (1/2) 1**  
(Bethel, Sandy Grove)

**BISHOPVILLE:**

**Bethlehem – Rebecca D. Seymour (OF) 1**

**Bishopville Circuit – Angela N. Hampton 1**

(New Haven, Springhill)

Hebron – Jerry Cal McManus Sr. (PL) (1/2) 10

**Mechanicsville – Kenneth Middleton (PE) 1**

Mount Zion – Troy Cato (PL) (1/2) 5

St. Matthew Circuit – Terence I. Squires Jr. (FL) 2

(Ashland, Concord, St. Matthew)

**CAMDEN:**

**Camden First – SY (Darlene Dellinger) 1**

East Camden – Jerry L. Dicks 4

(Emmanuel, St. Matthew)

Good Hope Wesley Chapel – Brenda J. Thomas 2

Lyttleton Street – Bishop Gary Rivas (OE) 2

Associate – J. William Smith (PE) 2

St. Paul – James Smith 8

**West Camden – Franklin Garrett (RE) 1**

(Rockspring, St. Peter)

**CHERAW:**

**Cheraw Parish – Sammy Pazi 1**

(Bethel, Mount Zion, Wesley)

First Church – Debra Armstrong 3

Mount Olivet-Pleasant Grove – Maurice Earl Nason Jr.

(RE) 5

**CHESTERFIELD:**

Bethel-Ebenezer – Michael Steven Phares (PL) (1/2) 10

Friendship-Mount Croghan – Charles E. Teal (FL) (1/2) 4

Shiloh – Fred McDaniel 8

St. Paul – Alisha Hansen (PE) 5

Wesley Chapel – Robin Miles (PL) (1/2) 2

Zoar – SY (William "Billy Jack" Johnson) (1/2) 3

**DARLINGTON:**

Darlington Cooperative Parish – Reginald Lee 2

(New Providence, St. John, Wesley Chapel)

Associate – Melissa Williams (PL) 2

(Tabernacle/Hartsville)

Indian Branch-Epworth – Barbara Segars (RL) 6

Shiloh – Darren J. McClam (PL) (1/2) 8

**St. James – Henry Ravenel 1**

Trinity – Will Altman (FL) 3

West Darlington – Daniel M. Hall (RE) (1/2) 2

(Bethel, Wesley Memorial)

**HARTSVILLE:**

Bethlehem-Prospect – Cindy Rumsey (PE) 3

Centenary-Kingsvifer – Anthony Caldwell (PE) 4

Kellybell-Sandy Bluff – Mary Burnell (PL) (1/2) 4

Mount Beulah-New Hope – Lavern Epps (PL) (1/2) 2

New Market – Corinthia Mack (PL) (1/2) 2

St. Luke – Charles A. Phillips 2

Wesley – Tony Adams 3

**JEFFERSON:**

Hopewell-Wesley Chapel – Willie Mae Cannon (PL)

(1/2) 7

Jefferson – David E. Christopher (FL) 4

(Fork Creek, Jefferson)

Sandy Grove-Mount Elon – Marion L. Cooper (PL)

(1/2) 7

**LAMAR:**

Lamar – Paula Stover (FL) 2

**Elim – Julius L. McDowell (RE) 1**

Lamar Parish Associate – Emma Jones (PL) (1/2) 4

(Newman Swamp-Zion)

Lamar-Ebenezer – James Elbert Williams (1/2) 2

(Ebenezer, John Wesley, Sandy Grove)

**LUGOFF:**

Lugoff Parish – William DuBose (PL) (1/2) 2

(Mount Joshua, Mount Prospect, Shiloh)

St. John – Angela Halter Marshall 4

Unity – John B. Dicks 7



## Continued from previous page

**LAKE VIEW:**  
 Lake View – J. Preston Grimsley (RE) (1/2) 2

**LATTA: 1**  
**Latta-Mount Andrew – Matthew C. Scott (OPD) 1**

**LITTLE RIVER:**  
 Little River – W. Russell Freeman 7  
 Associate for Children, Youth and Family – Emily L. Kirby (FD) (3/4) 4  
 Wampee – Glen W. Dameron (OR) (1/4) 2

**LONGS:**  
 Ebenezer – Glen W. Dameron (OR) (1/4) 2

**LORIS:**  
 Camp Swamp – Vaughn E. Chichester (PL) (1/2) 2  
 Loris First-Zoan – E. Bruce Adams 5

**MARION:**  
 Centenary – William L. Barber (PL) (1/4) 5  
 Central – SY (Rick Callaway) (1/2) 3  
 Marion First – Burton L. Ott 6  
 Marion Parish – Anthony Alford (PL) (1/2) 2  
 (Bethel, Pleasant Grove, Springville)  
 Shiloh – Cynthia A. Smith (FL) 3  
 St. Phillips – Ardell Washington (PL) (1/2) 8

**MCCOLL:**  
**Main Street-Pine Grove – Mike Rouse (RE) 1**

**MULLINS:**  
 Center-Tranquil – Grady W. Corder (PL) (1/2) 5  
 Macedonia-Pleasant Hill – Brian E. Preveaux 2  
 Mullins Charge – Mamie L. Hannah (PL) (1/2) 2  
 (Beulah, Shiloh)

**MURRELLS INLET:**  
 Belin Memorial – William F. Malambri III 4  
 Associate – W. Isaac Dusenbury 4  
 Associate – James T. Brown (PE) 3  
 The Brook – Deborah Patterson (PE) 4

**MYRTLE BEACH:**  
**Joseph B. Bethea – Kim M. Strong (RE) (1/2) 1**  
**Myrtle Beach First – Joel W. McMakin 1**  
**Associate Nurture Pastor – Michelle D. Louk (OE) 1**  
**Youth Ministry – Chad W. Mullinix (PL) (1/4) 1**  
*New Church Start Phoenix – TBS*  
**Socastee – Meredith M. Dark 1**

**NICHOLS:**  
 Nichols – Timothy W. Burleson (OF/PL) (1/4) 4

**NORTH MYRTLE BEACH:**  
**Trinity – Eugene A. Aiken 1**  
 Associate – Edmond Daniel (RL) (1/4) 8

**PAWLEY’S ISLAND:**  
**St. Paul’s Waccamaw – John Robert Virgin (OE) 1**

**SURFSIDE BEACH:**  
 Surfside – Mary V. Teasley 3  
 Associate – Tae S. Park 2

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES**  
**Within the Connection:**  
**Kirby, Emily L.– Director, Coastal Carolina Wesley Foundation (FD) (1/4) 1**  
 Rogers, Timothy J. – District Superintendent, Marion District 8  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:** None  
**Other Valid Ministries:** None  
**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – None**  
**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None**  
**FAMILY LEAVE – None**  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**MEDICAL LEAVE**  
 Burks, Jimmy L. (OE) – Christ Bennettsville CC 2  
 George III, Samuel B. – Belin Memorial CC 15  
 Harper, William N. – First Myrtle Beach CC 3  
 Inman, David C. – New EL Bethel CC 3  
 Todd, Steven M. – First Loris-Zoan CC 3  
**TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None**

### RETIREMENT

**Retired Ministers:**  
 Adams, Quay W.  
 Alexander Jr., Boyd Mclver  
 Brittain, Thomas N.  
 Carter, Kenneth R. (RL)  
 Cavin, Donald E.  
 Clemons, Robert B.  
 Collier, C Edward (RL)  
 Collier, Rebecca R. (RL)  
 Crews, Rowan  
 Daniel, Edmond (RL)  
 Donigian, George H.  
 Dunn, Linda B.  
 Dunn, Robert E.  
 Dyer, Cynthia H.  
 Felder, William H.  
 Fenner, Jack L.  
 Gafford, Ben M.  
 Gafford, Dora R.  
 Ganes, Gusta G. (RL)  
 Garner, Stephen A. (RL)  
 Green, Mary E.  
 Grimsley, J. Preston  
 Hall, James L.  
 Hemingway, John T. (RL)  
 Heustess, William H.  
 Howle, George K.  
 Hucks, F. Levon  
 Inabinet, Charles R.  
 Jennings, Charles T. (RA)  
 Knight, Richard H.  
 Land, Kenneth S.  
 Lazar, Julian H.  
 Lewis, Harold P.  
 Lockard-Hawkins, Joanne (RL)  
 Malphrus, Carolyn  
 McGuirt, Milton L.  
 Mclver, Leslie H. (RD)  
 Norris, Gene A.  
 Nuckles, Marie E.  
 Olive, George E. (RL)  
 Phillips, William H.  
 Powers, Kathy J. (RL)  
 Reynolds, Daniel T. (RA)  
 Roberts, Marsha R. (RD)  
 Rouse, Michael E.  
 Seaber Jr., Virgil M. (RL)  
 Shaw, Bobby  
 Shaw, Jerry Wayne (RL)  
 Smith, Ray K.  
 Strong, Kim M.  
 Stullenbarger, Harry R.  
 Summerlin, T. Michael (RL)  
 Tart, Walter (RL)  
 Timmons, W. Gordon  
 Watson, Lawrence A.  
 Weber Jr., Stanley E. (RL)  
 Wicker, William T. (RL)  
 Williams, J. Tom  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

**DIACONAL MINISTRY**  
**Diaconal Ministers:** None  
**Leave of Absence:**  
 Holt, Kimberly S. (DM) – Conway First CC 19  
**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

**DEACONESES**  
**Active:** None  
**Retired:** None

## ORANGEBURG DISTRICT (57 charges; 89 churches) KENNETH L. NELSON, DS 3

**AIKEN:**  
 St. John’s – W. Timothy McClendon 9  
 Associate – Grayson L. Blackwell (FL) 4  
 Associate – Douglas Herlong 3  
 Trinity – Edward Tyler Strange 2  
 Wesley – Willie W. Clark (OF/PL)(¶346.2) 4

**BAMBERG:**  
 Bamberg Circuit – Arthur Rose Jr. (OE)(¶346.1) 6  
 (Bethel, Mount Zion)  
 Claffin – Louise B. Wright (PL) (1/2) 4  
 Main Street – Washington W. Belangia IV (RE) 12  
 Mount Carmel – Albert Shuler (OR)( ¶346.1) (1/2) 3  
 Orange Grove – Bobby Gordon (RL) 4  
 Trinity-Pleasant Hill Charge – Kevin F. Dalton 2  
 Barnwell Charge – F. Edward Traxler (FL) 3  
 (Barnwell, Siloam)

**BOWMAN:**  
 Bowman Charge – Michael L. Written (FL) 7  
 (Ebenezer, White House, Wightman)  
 New Covenant – Sheri Y. White 3  
 Pineville-St. Stephen – Lisa C. Hawkins 4

**BRANCHVILLE:**  
 Branchville-New Hope Charge – Kevin L. Liles (PL) (1/2) 4

**CAMERON:**  
 Cameron – Larry R. Brown (RL) 2  
 (Jericho, Shady Grove)

**COPE:**  
**Canaan – Jimmy Washington (RL) (1/2) 1**  
 Edisto Charge – Marie Ray (RE) 4  
 (St. John, Union, Wesley Grove)  
 Edisto Fork – Ellis White Jr. 8

**DENMARK:**  
**Bethel Park – Javy Rudolph “Rudy” Gwaltney III (FL) 1**  
 Franklin – Sheera Disher-Yates (PL)(1/2)3

**ELLOREE:**  
 Elloree – Richard Atkinson (FL) 2  
 (Elloree, Jerusalem)

**EUTAWVILLE:**  
**Eutaw Circuit – David Fields (PL) (1/2) 1**  
 (Eutawville, Target, Gerizim)  
 Silas – Whittaker V. Middleton (1/2) 10

**HOLLY HILL:**  
 Holly Hill – John C. Elmore Jr. (PE) 2

**JACKSON:**  
 Jackson Charge – S. Matt Turner (FL) 2  
 (Bethel, Wesley Chapel)

**LIVINGSTON:**  
**Livingston-Pine Hill – Steve Soltis (OR)(¶346.1) 1**

**NEW ELLENTON:**  
 St. Paul – Joseph D. Kovas (PE) 2

**NORTH:**  
 Orange Circuit – Richard D. Toy (FL) 4  
 (Ebenezer, North)  
 St. Mark – Zachary H. Dillard 2  
 Trinity-Limestone – Donald Studebaker (RL) (1/2) 3

**NORWAY:**  
 New Beginning – Thomas R. Sims (PL) (1/2) 6  
 Norway – John N. Kronz (FL) 2  
 (Lebanon, St. John’s)

**OLAR:**  
 Olar – SY (Patricia Dangerfield) (1/2) 6  
 (Kearse, Mizpah, Salem)

**ORANGEBURG:**  
 Cedar Grove-Forest Chapel – Harry L. Brown (PL) (1/2) 8  
 New Light – Enrique R. Gordon 3  
**North Orangeburg – J. Derrick Cattenhead 1**  
 Orangeburg Circuit – Lawrence Cantey Jr. 2  
 (Bethlehem, Mount Nebo, St. John)  
 St. Andrews – Cynthia W. Muncie 2  
 St. Paul’s – Fred V. Buchanan Jr. 3  
 St. Stephen – Kenneth N. Carter 2  
 Trinity – Eddie C. Williams 3

**PELION:**  
 Pelion-Sharon – Edward T. Stallworth III (FL) 2  
 Bethel, Peachtree Rock – Robert A. Brawn (PL) (1/2) 6

**PROVIDENCE:**  
**Providence – Rebecca Rowell (FL) 1**

**ROWESVILLE:**  
 Prospect – Anthony Rivers (PL) (1/2) 3  
 Rowesville Charge – George R. Gain (RA) (1/2) 5  
 (Bethel, Cattle Creek)  
**Mays Chapel – Alexander Thomas (RA) 1**

**ST MATTHEWS:**  
 Calhoun Charge – Karl D. Coke (OF/RL)(¶346.2) 6  
 (Andrew Chapel, Wesley Chapel)  
 St. Matthews Charge – SY (Larry T. Wannamaker) 2  
 (East Bethel, West Bethel, Mount Zion)  
 St. Paul – James R. McGee (RE) 2

**SALLEY:**  
 Clinton – Fred Andrea (OF/PL)( ¶346.2) 4

**SANDY RUN:**  
 Beulah – James D. Taylor III 3

**SPRINGFIELD:**  
 Springfield Charge – James L. Fanning (PL) (1/2) 3  
 (Neeses, Salley, Springfield)

**SWANSEA:**  
**Calvary-Oak Grove – SY (Donna Lollis) 1**  
 Swansea – SY (Christopher M. Lollis) (1/4) 3

**WAGENER:**  
**Wagener – SY (Jessica Kight) 1**

**WILLISTON:**  
 Williston – Jackie L. Hyche (PL) (1/2) 2  
 (Blackville, Williston)

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES**  
**Within the Connection:**  
 Gordon, Shirley P. (PE) – Orangeburg Wesley Foundation, Campus Minister 4  
 Nelson, Kenneth L. – District Superintendent, Orangeburg District 3  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:**  
 Collingwood, Robert B. – Coordinator of Pastoral Care, V.A. Hospital, St. Louis, MO, Main Street, CC 34  
**Other Valid Ministries:** None  
**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES**  
 Perez, Nicholas (FE) – Church Hill United Methodist Church, Norwell, Massachusetts 2  
**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None**

**FAMILY LEAVE – None**  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**MEDICAL LEAVE**  
 Arant, James Michael 2  
 Hall, Robbie V. 6  
 Richardson, Pamela 2  
 Sistrunk, Annie H. 2

### RETIREMENT

**Retired Ministers:**  
 Abram Jr., Joseph  
 Anderson, Minnie P.  
 Belangia IV, Washington W.  
 Bennett, Jim T. (RL)  
 Boyd, Ollie M. (RL)  
 Caughman Jr., K. David  
 Copeland, Franklin E.  
 Eanes, L. Kim  
 Elliott, John H.  
 Evans, John Wesley  
 Farmer, R. Zach  
 Frederick-Watts, Janice L.  
 Gordon, Bobby (RL)  
 Goupil, Roger C.  
 Haywood, Velma M.  
 Lewis Jr., William Morgan (RL)  
 Livingston, Dewitt (RL)  
 Manigo Jr., George F.  
 Martin, Terry  
 McClam, Mack C.  
 McCutcheon, Larry D.  
 McGee, James R.  
 Miller, Anna G.  
 Murdock Sr., Warren  
 Parker, Jere Keith  
 Parker, Larry R.  
 Pettit, Ronald A.  
 Ray, Marie Elizabeth  
 Reid, Barbara L.  
 Rucker, Bruce E. (RL)  
 Rucker, Matthew D.  
 Saylor, Lucinda L. (RL)  
 Scarborough, Kathryn W. (RL)  
 Soltis, Steve  
 Soltis, Kathy  
 Stapleton, John Mason  
 Thomas, Alexander (RA)  
 Washington, Jimmy (RL)  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

### DIACONAL MINISTRY

**Diaconal Ministers:** None  
**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

### DEACONESES

**Active:** None  
**Retired:** None

## ROCK HILL DISTRICT (42 charges; 68 churches) ANTHONY HODGE, DS 3

**CHESTER:**  
 Bethel-Armenia – Michael Burgess (FL) 5  
**Chester Circuit – Josiah Alexander Maultsby (OE) 1**  
 (Capers Chapel, New Hope, Wesley Memorial)

**LOVER:**  
**Clover Parish – Wade Anthony Wyatt 1**  
 (Clover Chapel, Green Pond, Mount Harmony)  
 First, Clover – Alex Stevenson 4

**FORT MILL:**  
 Belair-Osceola Charge – Mallory J. Nickerson 7  
 Grace Community – Brandon Candee 5  
 Philadelphia – David Carroll Taylor 2  
**Pleasant Hill – Randall A. Madsen (RE) 1**  
 St. John’s – Karen H. Radcliffe 9

**GREAT FALLS:**  
 Mount Dearborn-Heath Chapel – David Owens Ussery (PL) (1/2) 11

**HICKORY GROVE:**  
 Hickory Grove Charge – Beth Drennen 5  
 (Canaan, Mount Vernon)

**KERSHAW:**  
 Kershaw Charge – G. Eddie Usher (RE) 4  
 (Damascus, Hanging Rock)

**LAKE WYLIE:**  
 Good Samaritan – Yvette Marie Pressley (OF/FL) (¶346.2) 2

**LANCASTER:**  
 Camp Creek-Bethesda – Michael E. Catoe (RL) (1/2) 12  
 Church of the Good Shepherd-Van Wyck Charge – Timothy Espar (RL) (1/2) 6  
 First Church – Neal Young Woods 2  
 Grace-Lynnwood – Matthew Alexander (OE/PL) (¶346.2) (1/2) 3

**Hopewell – Joy K. Garrison 1**  
**St. Luke-Salem – Barry A. Allen 1**  
 Tabernacle-Bethel – Larry S. King (PL) (1/2) 3  
**Trinity-Fort Lawn Charge – SY (Ruth Ann Pitt) (1/2) 1**  
**Zion – John D. Howle (FL) 1**

**RICHBURG:**  
 Mount Prospect-Ebenezer – Cecilia Davis (PL) (1/4) 3  
 Richburg-Pleasant Grove – Stacey Newlon (PL) (1/4) 2

**ROCK HILL:**  
**Adnah – Michael Jarrell 1**  
 Aldersgate – Adlai Stephen Holler 6  
 Antioch – Heather Baird 4  
 Bethel – Emily Scales Sutton 2  
**Catawba-EI Bethel – Daniel O’Connor (OF/FL) (¶346.2) 1**  
 Cornerstone-Epworth – Irvin V. Plowden Jr. (FL) 12  
 Friendship-Heath Memorial – Karen Starr 4  
 India Hook – Michael C. Walker 3  
 Mount Holly – Julius Wayne Smith 5  
**Rock Hill Central Charge – SY (Athena Dickey-Cathcart) (1/2) 1**  
 (Mount Olive, New Hope)  
 Rock Hill South Charge – Dishawn Muldrow (PL) (1/2) 6  
 (Bethel, Harmony)

**St. John’s – Neil M. Yongue (RE) 1**  
**Woodland – Robin Griffeth 1**

**SHARON:**  
 Western York Charge – Donald Love (PL) (1/2) 6  
 (Sharon, New Zion, Shady Grove)

**YORK:**  
 Kings Mountain Chapel-St. Paul – H. Daniel Sullivan (FL) 3  
 Philadelphia – Kathy D. Pryor (PL) (1/2) 2  
 Trinity – Wanda Diane Altman-Shirah 2  
 York-St. James Charge – Robert L. Shuler 7  
 (Hopewell, St. James, Wesley)

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES**  
**Within the Connection:**  
 Farnum, Charlie (OE)(¶346.2) – Director, Wesley Foundation, Winthrop University 3

Hodge, Anthony – District Superintendent, Rock Hill District 3  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:** None  
**Other Valid Ministries:**  
 Richardson-Frick, Kristen – Program Officer, Rural Church Division, Duke Endowment, St. John’s, Fort Mill CC 11  
 Sutton, Emily Scales – Bethel Men’s Shelter 2  
**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – None**  
**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None**  
**FAMILY LEAVE – None**  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**MEDICAL LEAVE**  
 Holder, Shelly Ann (FD) 4  
 Paisley-Jackson, Cassandra 3  
**Surrett, David C. 1**  
**Vick, Arthur 1**  
**TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None**

### RETIREMENT

**Retired Ministers:**  
 Catoe, Michael (RL)  
 Chambers, G. Douglas (RL)  
 Chandler, Philip E.  
 Cloninger, Nellie G.  
 Correll, James L.  
 Drennen, Lowry T.  
 Espar, Timothy (RL)  
 Fuller, Walter Gene  
 Gibson, John Richard  
 Hook, Samuel Scott  
 Hopper, Robert C.  
 Hudson, Betty Kay (RL)  
 Jenkins, Larry Alfred  
 Madsen, Randall A.  
 Phillips, Jerry L., Sr.  
 Ribelin, Glenn W. (RL)  
 Rumford, John R. (RL)  
 Sloan, Candice Y.  
 Smith Jr., Franklin Oscar  
 Smith, Jonathan E.  
 Taylor, Deborah W. (RL)  
 Usher, G. Eddie  
 Warwick, Samuel S.  
 Watson, James Bert  
 Wells, Curtis E.  
 Wolfe, Allen D.  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

### DIACONAL MINISTRY

**Diaconal Ministers:** None  
**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

### DEACONESES

**Active:** None  
**Retired:** None

## SPARTANBURG DISTRICT (48 charges; 74 churches) CATHY D. MITCHELL, DS 5

**BLACKSBURG**  
 Blacksburg Charge – “Richard” Charles Andrews (RL) (1/2) 2  
 (St. John, Sardis)

**BOILING SPRINGS:**  
 New Beginnings – Joseph “Christopher” Greene 3  
 Associate of Student Ministries – Maggie Cantey (PD) 2

**BUFFALO:**  
 Buffalo-Sardis – Jeffrey W. “Jeff” Farmer (FL) 9

**CAMPOBELLO:**  
 Foothills Charge – L. Daniel “Dan” Mason (PL) (1/4) 8  
 (Campobello, Liberty)

**CHESNEE:**  
 Chesnee-Fingerville – Thomas A. “Thom” Thornton (OF/PL) (1/2) 3  
 Friends in Christ – James R. “Jimmy” Lewis (PL) (1/2) 8

**COWPENS:**  
 Cowpens Charge – Wayne R. Major Sr. (RE) (1/2) 8  
 (Salem, St. Mark, St. Andrews)

**CROSS ANCHOR:**  
 Cross Anchor Charge – Brian P. Williams (PL) (1/2) 11  
 (Hebron, Cross Anchor Yarborough)  
**Goightly-Tabernacle – SY (William Martin “Bill” Rochester) (1/2) 1**

**DUNCAN:**  
**Tyger River Charge – Susan Yvonne “Suzy” Sullivan (PL) (1/2) 1**  
 (Duncan, Immanuel)

**ENOREE:**  
**Trinity-Enoree-Patterson Chapel – Gregory W. Thompson (OF/PL)(¶346.2) (1/2) 1¶**

**GAFFNEY:**  
 Mesopotamia-Asbury – Angelia P. Price (RA) (1/2) 14  
 Buford Street – David E. “Dave” Nichols (RE) (1/2) 4  
 Duntoon – Calvin L. Smith (RE) 8  
 Gaffney Charge – James Ronald “Ron” Singleton (1/2) (Limestone Street 19, Trinity 2)

**GRAMLING:**  
 Gramling – Charles Richard “Rick” Brown (OE)(¶346.1) 6

**INMAN:**  
 Inman Charge – Miriam W. Mick 2  
 (Aldersgate, Inman)

**JONESVILLE:**  
 Jonesville-New Hope – SY (Frances “Fran” Q. Love) (1/2) 2  
**Kelton Charge – “Lee” Vernon Coyle (OF) (FL) 1**  
 (Bethlehem, Foster’s Chapel)

**LANDRUM:**  
**Jacksons Grove – SY (Timothy “Tim” C. Drum II) (1/2) 1**  
 Landrum – Nancy Creswell Reed (FL) 2

**LOCKHART:**  
 Lockhart-Wesley Chapel – Richard D. Lewis (RL) (1/2) 5

**LYMAN:**  
**Lyman – Erik Kenneth “Erik” Grayson 1**

**PACOLET:**  
 Montgomery Memorial – Charles “Brian” Humphries 3

**ROEBUCK:**  
 Walnut Grove – Chris B. Snelgrove (FL) 16

**SPARTANBURG:**  
 Beaumont – Annie R. Crocker (LM) (1/4) 4  
**Ben Avon-Roebuck – SY (Cecil “Edward” Enlow) (1/2) 1**  
 Bethel – William Bradford “Brad” Gray 3  
 Associate – Megan L. Gray 2  
 Cannon’s Camp Ground – Joe Lee “Joe” Blackwelder 7  
 Central – Cameron “Cam” Y. Treece 2  
 Director of Christian Education & Programs – Paige M. Wolfe (FD) 6  
 Cherokee Springs-Liberty – “Mason” Heyward Cantey (FL) 3

**Continued from previous page**

Church of the Covenant – Heather B. Humphries 6  
**El Bethel – “Phillip” Wayne Park (OR)(¶346.1) (1/2)**  
 (El Bethel 1, Pacolet 5)  
**Fairmont – SY (William Clifton “Bill” Mullis) (1/2) 1**  
 Gravely Memorial – Joaquin “Jack” Polin (PL) (1/2) 6  
 Reidville Road – Danial Allen “Danny” Wiley 10  
 Silver Hill Memorial – Sheila Elliott Hodge 3  
**Skylyn-Arcadia – SY (Robert L. “Skipper” Brock) (1/2)**  
 (Skylyn 1, Arcadia 2)  
 Spartanburg Parish – Andre Gary (PL) (1/2) 4  
 (Allen Chapel, Florence Chapel)  
 St. James – “Andrew” W. Wolfe 3  
 Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries – Martha Timmons (FD) (1/2) 8  
**St. Luke-White Stone – SY (Christopher “Chris” J. Allen) (1/2)**  
 (St. Luke 2, White Stone 1)  
**St. Paul – “Jeremy” Lawton Howell 1**  
 Trinity – Michelle Dellinger Cockcroft 2  
**UNION:**  
 Bogansville – William Wallace “Wally” Culp III 2  
 Union Charge – Merritt R. “Tutie” Wentz (FL) 11  
 (Bethel, Duncan Acres)  
 Grace – Jerry L. Phillips Jr. 2  
 Unity – Mary Shumphert Nichols (PL)(1/2) 3  
**WHITMIRE:**  
 Whitmire-Carlisle – SY (Michael “Chad” Ponder) (1/2) 2

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES**  
**Within the Connection:**  
 Drum II, Timothy (OE)(¶346.1) – Chaplain and Director of Church Relations, Spartanburg Methodist College 6  
 Mitchell, Cathy D. – District Superintendent, Spartanburg District 5  
 Pace Jr., Phillip Lynwood – Chaplain, Oxford College, Emory University, St. James CC 14  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:**  
 Bennett, Traci S. (FD) – Chaplain III, Tyger River Correctional Institution, Cannon’s Camp Ground CC 15  
 Franklin Jr., E. Herbert – Chaplain, United States Army, Bethel, Spartanburg CC 21  
**Other Valid Ministries:** None  
**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES**  
 Blair, Dan – North Carolina Conference, Sandy Plains UMC 6  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**  
 Teagan, Deborah Luther, CC St Paul 13  
**PERSONAL LEAVE – None**  
**MEDICAL LEAVE**  
 Fallaw, Jo Anna, Bethel – SP CC 2  
**FAMILY LEAVE**  
 Hudson, Wendy T., Bethel – SP CC 1  
**TRANSITIONAL LEAVE – None**

**RETIREMENT**

**Retired Ministers:**  
 Anderson, Thurman W.  
 Andrews, Richard C. (RL)  
 Ashworth, Susan  
 Barnes, Larry A.  
 Bobo, Kenneth G.  
 Boshell, Donald C. (RL)  
 Bowers, Michael E.  
 Brewer, Jones L. (RL)  
 Brown, David A.  
 Brown, Will Rogers  
 Byrd, Gary B.  
 Cannon, Carol R.  
 Cannon, Robert T.

Carter, James B. “Jim” (RL)  
 Caldwell, Jack A. (RL)  
 Clyburn Jr., David A.  
 Cribb Jr., H. John (RL)  
 Culp, Wayne A.  
 Dillard, Jimmy W.  
 Duncan, Jason C. (RL)  
 Ervin, David F. (RA)  
 Fields, George D. (RL)  
 Fisher, A. Mickey  
 Fizer, George H. (RL)  
 Gavallas, Anthony N.  
 Gilliland, Douglas W.  
 Griffith, James Ellis  
 Hill Jr., Thomas H. (RL)  
 Holt, Arthur H.  
 Hope, Donald J.  
 Hopper, Richard D.  
 Hunter, Kathryn O.  
 Hyder, Larry R.  
 Ivey, James W.  
 Jackson, Jerry D. (RL)  
 Jamison, Louis D.  
 Jenkins, Jane D.  
 Johnston, James W.  
 Kyllonen, Mitchell W.  
 Leonard Sr., Ronald Lee  
 Lewis, Richard D. (RL)  
 Long, Allen E.  
 Major Sr., Wayne R.  
 Monson, Robert C.  
 Nichols, David E.  
 Norrell, Thomas H.  
 O’Dell, Donald R.  
 Price, Angelia P. (RA)  
 Rawlinson, Carol M.  
 Reynolds, Edgar B.  
 Rickenbaker, Luther H.  
 Roper, Frances “Lee” (RL)  
 Ropp Jr., John Wesley  
 Sistare, James Bart  
 Smith, Calvin L.  
 Strother, Robert G.  
 Thompson, Elizabeth A.  
 Thompson, William L. (RL)  
 Tillerson, Elbert S. (RL)  
 Towery, Ronald D. (RL)  
 Warren Jr., John L.  
 White, Lloyd E.  
 White, Rufus Horace (RL)  
 Wilkins, Rebecca A.  
 Wilkes, Molly F. (RA)  
 Wilkes Jr., Thomas B.  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

**DIACONAL MINISTRY**

**Diaconal Ministers:** None  
**Retired Diaconal Ministers:**  
 Miller, Mary Lou (DR)

**DEACONESSES**

**Active:** None  
**Retired:**  
 Miller, Mary Lou (DC)

**WALTERBORO DISTRICT**  
**(53 charges; 94 churches)**  
**JOSEPH A. MCDONALD, DS 3**

**ALLENDALE:**  
**Allendale – SY (Jeremy N. Phipps) (1/2) 1**  
 (Gillette, Swallow Savannah)

**Central Circuit – Lisa M. Way 1**  
 (New Hope, Simpson, Union)

**BEAUFORT:**  
 Holy Trinity – SanRoman King (PL) (1/4) 2  
 Carteret Street – Charles Bryson Williams Jr. 4  
**Waters Edge – Hans Jerome Hamm (RL) (1/2) 1**  
 Port Royal – Anne Gregory Bridgers (RL) (1/2) 12  
 Wesley – Tracy Paulette Colleton-Glover (PL) (1/2) 2

**COTTAGEVILLE:**  
**Cottageville Charge – Frances Brown King (FL) 1**  
 (Cottageville, Rehoboth)

Jericho – Marvin Jones III (PL) (1/2) 5  
 Macedonia – Wilhelmina Thompson (PL) (1/4) 2  
 Wesley Grove – L. Johnny Epps (PL) (1/4) 5

**DORCHESTER:**  
 Dorchester Circuit – George Palmer Hudson (PL) (1/2) 3  
 (Salem, Zion)  
 Dorchester Parish – Laurie Michael Jamar Tomlin (OF/PL) (1/2) 3  
 (Oak Grove, St. John)

**EHRHARDT:**  
 Ehrhardt – Lewis Christopher King III (PL) (1/2) 19  
 (Wesley Chapel, St. James, Zion, Lodge)  
 Ebenezer-Rizer’s Chapel – Stanley Bernard Ritter (PL) (1/2) 8

Friendship-St. Luke – Vivian Remona Lingard (PL) (1/2) 13

**HAMPTON:**  
 Estill-Black Swamp – Dewey L. Shaffer (OF/PL) (¶346.2) 9  
 (Estill, Furman, Mount Carmel)  
 Fairfax – Mary Benton Holladay (OF/PL) (1/2) 5  
 (Bellinger Chapel, Brunson)

Hampton-Varnville Charge – Frances Sarah Connell 2  
 Toby-Mount Nebo Charge – Lamonte Darnell Hodges (PL) (1/4) 8

**HARLEYVILLE:**  
 Bethel-Duncan Chapel – Paul Lawton (PL) (1/2) 5  
 First Church – Yvette Mickaylla McDonald (FL) 2  
**Harleyville Parish – James A. Ross (RL) (1/2) 1**  
 (Morris Chapel, St. Daniel)

**HILTON HEAD:**  
 Bluffton – Scarlett Tanner Hester 3  
 Church of the Palms – Peter Kent Berntson (PE) 12  
 St. Andrew By-The-Sea – Robin Dease 2  
 Associate – Daniel S. Burbage 11

**RIDGELAND:**  
 Fisher Chapel-St. Stephen – William H.D. Bowser Jr. (RE) 6  
**Hardeeville – Richard Moses Smith (RE) (1/4) 1**  
 St. Luke – Christopher Lee Thompson 2  
 St. Paul-Tillman Charge – Alvin Monroe Shifflett (OF/FL)(¶346.2) 10

**RIDGEVILLE:**  
 Canaan-Sand Hill – Jeffrey Salley 7  
 New Hope-St. Paul Charge – Sharon Spann Gamble 4  
 Ridgeville Charge – Cheryl Elaine Yates 2  
 (Cypress, Mount Tabor, Trinity)

**RUFFIN:**  
 Adnah-Williams Charge – James C. Hensley (OR) 7  
 Bells Parish – James Bernard Grant (PL) (1/2) 16  
 (Red Root, Sykes Savannah)  
**Mount Pleasant – SY (Schoneke Summerhill) 1**  
 Ruffin Circuit – SY (Larry Stocker) (1/2) 2  
 (Bethel, St. John, Tabor)  
 Ruffin Parish – Adrienne Elaine Stokes (PL) (1/2) 3  
 (Buckhead, Hickory Hill)

**Smoaks Circuit – TBS**  
 (Green Pond, Little Swamp, Trinity)  
 Springtown – Norman Aaron Brown 9

**ST. GEORGE:**  
 Grover Charge – Sidney Wells Mims (RL) (1/2) 2  
 (Grover, Providence)  
 Indian Field – Robert David Blakely Reeves 4

New Grace – Constance Nelson Barnes 2  
 St. George – Kathy Priest Hudson 2  
 St. George Parish – William McClary Wrighten (1/2) 2  
 (St. Mark, Trinity)

Shady Grove – Leonard Huggins Jr. 5  
**WALTERBORO:**  
 Bethel – Scott Wachter 5

**Bethel-Red Bank Charge – Walter Harley (PL) (1/2) 1**  
 Colleton Circuit – Curtis J. Young (PL) (1/2) 18  
 (Bethel, Heaven Gate, Trinity)

Hendersonville Charge – SY (Gary Wade Finch) (1/2) 2  
 (Ebenezer, Ritter; Ebenezer, Yemassee; Salem)  
 New Life – Angela Ford Nelson 2

Walterboro Charge – James Marchant (RL) (1/4) 4  
 (Mount Carmel, Peniel, Sandy Dam)  
**Walterboro Parish – SY (Destine M. Spells) (1/2) 1**  
 (Cumberland, Isaiah)

**APPOINTMENTS TO EXTENSION MINISTRIES**  
**Within the Connection:**

McDonald, Joseph A. – District Superintendent, Walterboro District 3  
**Approved by United Methodist Endorsing Agency:** None  
**Other Valid Ministries:** None  
**APPOINTED TO ATTEND SCHOOL – None**  
**APPOINTED IN OTHER ANNUAL CONFERENCES – None**  
**LEAVE OF ABSENCE – None**  
**FAMILY LEAVE – None**  
**SABBATICAL LEAVE – None**  
**MEDICAL LEAVE – None**

**RETIREMENT**

**Retired Ministers:**  
 Bell, Melvin (RL)  
 Bowser Jr., William D.  
 Brewer, Ronald L. (RL)  
 Bridgers, Anne (RL)  
 Burr, Kenneth Campbell (RL)  
 Cox, David W.  
 Davis, Frederick R.  
 Geddis, Roosevelt  
 Goff Jr., Mack  
 Graham Jr., Hoyt  
 Harrison Jr., Jerry  
 Hoover, Robert E. (RL)  
 Lybrand, Frank E.  
 Mims III, Sidney W. (RL)  
 Ross, James Albert (RL)  
 Smith, Richard M.  
 Smith, Theron Walker  
 Thomas, J. Herbert  
**Retired Missionaries:** None

**DIACONAL MINISTRY**

**Diaconal Ministers:** None  
**Retired Diaconal Ministers:** None

**DEACONESSES**

**Active:** None  
**Retired:** None

## Kimberly Ann Thomas named new Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry director

The Executive Committee of Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry welcomes Kimberly Ann Thomas as their new executive director.

Thomas joined the ministry May 31. She brings 22 years of experience and skills.

Her career encompasses extensive time bringing positive change in the lives of children and adults with autism, mental health disorders and intellectual deficits through effective support, advocacy and community partnerships. In her previous role as president and chief executive officer for the South Carolina Autism Society, she oversaw and directed the overall agency operations with a team of 45 highly skilled staff across four offices around the state. In this capacity, she was a key member of several advisory groups among agencies such as Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education and a member of the ACT Early Team.

Previously, as vice president and chief programs officer, she led agency programs including case management covering several counties with four offices across the state.

Recently, Thomas has served as the training and volunteer services coordinator at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs’ Whitten Center, where she conducted all new-hire training including training on the various disabilities; Whitten Center and SCDDSN policies; abuse, neglect and exploitation; first aid, CPR and AED; and therapeutic options. She also worked at the Fairfield County disability and special



Thomas needs board in Winnsboro as director of programs, day program manager and health care coordinator, along with running her own nonprofit and most recently serving as the senior accountant of Tri-County Development Center in Aiken.

In addition, Thomas has experience in fundraising, advocacy and working with legislators.

The ASN executive committee said they welcome Thomas to the ASN family and look forward to her leadership: “We are glad she has found a home with us.”



### Gilbert UMC hosts community service

Churches in the Gilbert area came together for worship and fellowship on the fifth Sunday evening in May, May 29, at Gilbert UMC. During the service, Bishop Theotis White of Zion Hopewell Church delivered a powerful message of hope and unity, emphasizing our common connection: Jesus. After the service, attendees gathered for food and fellowship in Gilbert’s Lewie Chapel. Churches in Gilbert area plan to renew the tradition of having these joint services every fifth Sunday, rotating host churches and speakers. The next community service is scheduled for July 31. Above left, Dr. Mark Thompson of Gilbert UMC welcomes White to fellowship after the service. Above right, members of Gilbert area churches enjoy food and fellowship in Gilbert UMC’s Lewie Chapel after the service.





## Resource Center

by Betty Stalnaker

### VBS and new/moving pastor resources

If you are a new pastor or a pastor moving to a new church/charge, this resource is for you:

#### The Right Start: Beginning Ministry in a New Setting

(2014) (DVD1495L=) Author: Weems Jr., Lovett H. 6 segments, CD with outlines & worksheets/2014.

“The Right Start” is a video-based training resource for clergy preparing to begin ministry in a new setting. It includes video instructional segments, resources, planning aids and supplementary materials. The current version has been revised and enhanced with new material on the relational aspect of transition, such as how to handle social media and issues of concern to single clergy and associate pastors. Age: YAS.

Also, it's time to plan Vacation Bible School:

#### VBS: Vacation Bible School 2022, “Food Truck Party Ultimate Starter Kit”

(K985VB)

Ready to cook up some fun? Cokesbury’s “Food Truck Party VBS” invites children of all ages to get on a roll with God as a parade of food trucks rolls into their neighborhood for the summer’s biggest party. This VBS invites children to pray as Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6:11; “Give us this day our daily bread.” These words serve as a reminder that everything we have comes from God, and that it’s by turning to God in prayer that all of our daily needs are met. Through stories in both the Old and New testaments, this VBS opens kids’ eyes to the countless ways God provides, loves and cares for us while inviting them to join God in providing, loving and caring for others. At the center of the food truck party is a special food truck called “On a Roll.” Here, kids (or “chefs”) will learn from the food truck’s top chef, along with DJ Cupcake (an adorable cupcake puppet), about the daily specials (daily learnings), which are lines from the well-loved prayer that teaches us to turn to God to meet our needs. The goal of this VBS is to help children build on the practice of using daily prayer to turn to God for their needs and also to serve as the hands of God in ensuring the needs of others are met.

#### Vacation Bible School 2021, “Discovery on Adventure Island Super Starter Kit”

(K984)

Cokesbury’s exciting 2021 VBS program invites everyone to explore the ways God’s great light shines in the world and shows

them how they can reflect that light in their own lives. From a whimsical lighthouse on an enchanted island, explorers are guided by the Lighthouse Keeper and Beacon the Puffin on an exciting quest to find five mysterious infinity lanterns to help light their way. Using map coordinates from their reference book (the Bible), children discover clues to finding each lantern while learning how God’s light shines in the lives of familiar biblical characters in Old and New testament stories. Participants will learn about God’s creation and strive to care for it, be encouraged to trust God even when fearful, understand how to act on their faith, celebrate God’s work in their lives and be reminded to share God’s hope.

#### Vacation Bible School 2020 Knights of North Castle

(K982VB)

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The king’s valiant knights are on a quest in search of the king’s armor. But the armor isn’t what they think it is. Cokesbury’s 2020 VBS, “Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King’s Armor,” invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Kids will take on the role of brave knights and begin their quest each session by opening the king’s book. They’ll explore Old and New testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters: the belt of truth, the breastplate of justice, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation. They will also explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Age: PeE.

#### Vacation Bible School 2020 Rocky Railway

(K983VB)

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! Your “Rocky Railway Ultimate Starter Kit” is packed with everything you need to get started on this faith-filled adventure where kids discover trusting Jesus pulls them through life’s ups and downs. The starter kit includes the Rocky Railway Ultimate Director Go-To Guide, the ultimate step-by-step resource for planning, recruiting, promoting, training and everything else a successful director needs. Age: PeE.

*The South Carolina Conference Resource Center is your connection to DVDs and seasonal musicals. We are here to serve your church family. To reserve resources, call 803-735-8798 or visit [www.umcsc.org/resource-center](http://www.umcsc.org/resource-center).*

## Global Briefs

#### New head of Methodist Studies at Candler

ATLANTA—The Rev. Brett Opalinski has been named assistant dean of Methodist Studies and assistant professor in the practice of spiritual formation and church leadership at Candler School of Theology. Opalinski comes to Candler from Christ Church United Methodist in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he has served since 2013. A lifelong Methodist, he holds a Ph.D. in New Testament and early Christianity. Opalinski begins his new job on July 1, and will replace the Rev. Anne Burkholder, who is retiring.

#### Support for gun control measures urged

WASHINGTON—United Methodists are being urged by the denomination’s Board of Church and Society to contact senators and advocate for gun control measures in the wake of a shooting at a Texas school that resulted in 21 deaths, 19 of them children. The Senate is expected to vote soon on legislation that would strengthen background check procedures for those purchasing firearms.

#### Africa Initiative ponders future of Methodism

NAIROBI, Kenya—Members of the Africa Initiative advocacy group gathered to discuss the future of The United Methodist Church and the implications of the recent launch of a new traditionalist Methodist denomination.

#### Permissions extended for worship materials

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—As churches continue online worship, the United Methodist Publishing House is extending full permission to all churches for use of its copyrighted worship materials indefinitely. This permission does not extend to events other than worship services.

#### United Methodist aid for Ukrainians continues

ZURICH—United Methodist faith communities in Romania, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary continue to aid Ukrainian refugees and send supplies into Ukraine as the Russian invasion continues. Karel Nyerges, director of Diakonia United Methodist Church in the Czech Republic, said people there are safe but still struggling. “Even though they have a place to live, they are constantly dealing with internal insecurity, anxiety and fear,” he writes.

#### Church leaders call for tighter gun safety laws

WASHINGTON—United Methodist Bishop LaTrelle Easterling joined Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde at an event at the National Cathedral to call for elected officials “to find a balance between the constitutional right to bear arms and the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” On the same day, United Methodist pastors the Revs. Emanuel Cleaver III and Adam Hamilton joined other Kansas City area clergy in calling for universal background checks on gun sales.

#### Addressing anti-Asian racism

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Racism against Asian and Pacific Islander peoples is a long-standing and ongoing reality in the United States. United Methodists can address the issue by being aware of the ignorance, stereotypes and misconceptions about people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and working actively to minimize their effects on conversations, assumptions, behaviors and ministries, writes Ask The UMC.

#### Ad campaign combats summer slump

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Summer may be vacation time, but the upcoming United Methodist advertising campaign from United Methodist Communications reminds people that churches don’t take a break from ministering in their communities. The ads, which will run through June 19, encourage people to join The United Methodist Church in engaging in a season of togetherness.

#### Bishops’ questions added to church court docket

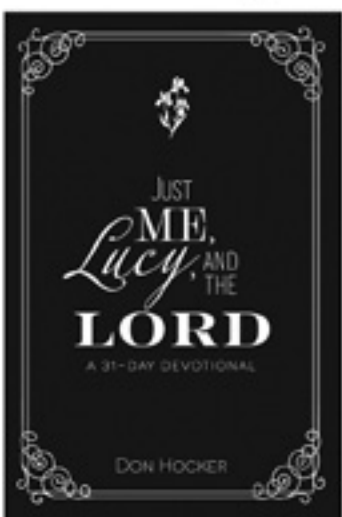
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Judicial Council has added to its docket the request from the Council of Bishops to rule on the meaning and application of Para. 2548.2 in the *Book of Discipline*. The paragraph deals with the deeding of church property to another denomination. Briefs are due June 23, and reply briefs are due June 30.

#### Foundation awards local church grants

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.—The Foundation for Evangelism in June will award 31 grants totaling \$230,000 to churches and organizations as part of the inaugural Equipping the Local Church Grant Cycle. Recipients come from four Wesleyan-tradition denominations: the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Church of the Nazarene and The United Methodist Church.

—Courtesy of United Methodist News Service

### What does your time in the Bible look like?



Are you an avid student, digging deep into books like Leviticus or Hebrews? Or do you prefer the poetry of Psalms and Proverbs? Are you an early-morning or a late-night studier? Have you been walking with Jesus for years, or did you just meet Him?

Regardless of who you are or where you’re at in your spiritual life, Don Hocker understands the importance of spending time with God and reading His words to us. After ten years studying the Bible each morning, his dog Lucy nestled at his feet, Don now pours his wisdom, insights, and humor onto the pages of *Just Me, Lucy, and the Lord* (High Bridge Books, 2021).

This 31-day devotional contains:

- Daily Bible passages
- Amusing and engaging commentary
- Insightful questions and thoughts to take you deeper
- Prayers to help you begin conversation with God

*Just Me, Lucy, and the Lord*, by Don Hocker, available as eBook or Paperback (Don is a certified lay speaker in the UMCS)

Available on Amazon or at [Highbridgebooks.com](http://Highbridgebooks.com)

## LOSING YOUR RELIGION OVER PAYROLL?

Give us a call! .....

We specialize in church and clergy payroll, including:

- Direct Deposit
- Electronic Pay Stubs and W-2s
- Proper clergy compensation reporting on the W-2
- Electronic payroll tax deposits
- Quarterly and annual report filings
- Annual W-2/W-3 forms
- Assistance with back payroll issues



[www.forestacrespayroll.com](http://www.forestacrespayroll.com)

Contact us to obtain a free quote

**Rebecca Neal Tompkins**  
Certified Payroll Professional

803-767-7880

[rtompkins@forestacrespayroll.com](mailto:rtompkins@forestacrespayroll.com)

# Two at Tranquil celebrate centennial birthdays

GREENWOOD—Tranquil United Methodist Church celebrated the 100th birthdays of two of its members this spring.

Margaret McAbee Simpson turned 100 on April 7, and Joe Rogers turned 100 on Easter Sunday, April 17.

Simpson was born in Piedmont April 7, 1922, to the late Clyde Alonzo and Pearl Jordan McAbee. She graduated from the Piedmont school system and then Furman University. She married the late Williams Jack Simpson on June 19, 1948. They were honored to have four children: Anne (Blair) Willingham, Jack (Cheryl) Simpson, Cyndie (Tommy) Bryan, and Jane (Chuck) Hall. She has five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Simpson taught home economics at Piedmont High School from 1948-1949. She also taught special education at Ninety Six Middle School from 1971-1987; she retired from Greenwood County School District 52 in 1987.

She is a member of the Brockwell/Clark Sunday School Class and the Pauline Botts Circle.

On April 10, a 100th birthday celebration given by her children, was held at The Greenwood Woman's Club. Dozens of family members and friends blessed her with their



Joe Rogers turned 100 on Easter Sunday. Here, Rogers opens his cards.



Here, Rogers opens his cards.



Margaret McAbee Simpson turned 100 April 7.



Simpson was born in Piedmont in 1922.

Photos courtesy of Jane Roper

# Asbury Hills remembers Wes Voigt, first director

Many connected with Asbury Hills Camp & Retreat Center and other ministries across the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church are grieving the loss but celebrating the life of Wes Voigt, the first director of Asbury Hills.

Voigt passed peacefully under hospice care on Wednesday, May 25, at the age of 89.

A memorial service to remember and celebrate his life was held June 5 at the chapel at First UMC, Hendersonville, North Carolina. A reception in the Getman Room followed immediately after the interment.

Voigt shared his love for Christ and spent his entire working life at Asbury Hills after serving in the Air Force. He made a lasting impact on many children and adults whose paths crossed the beautiful, and even spiritual, foothills of God's great creation. If you ever spent time at

the camp in his day, you will recall hearing the rattle of the red Jeep that let you know her was near, the wisdom of his Monday night Lake Chapel devotions, or that quiet-but-firm "lights out" coming from the darkness outside the cabin if bedtime was not being observed.

Voigt was a faithful steward of Asbury Hills and its mission for 37 years.

He was particularly interested in working with the American Camping Association and spent countless hours helping to write and promote standards for camps across the country. He served as chairperson of the ACA National Convention held in Atlanta in 1985. He was also honored with the Southern Region Honor Award from ACA.

Memorials may be made to the Asbury Hills Scholarship Fund or The Lenten Challenge Fund of First UMC, Hendersonville.



Voigt was a faithful steward of Asbury Hills for 37 years.

## Obituaries

### Nettie J. Karn

PIERCE, Idaho—Nettie J. Karn, mother of the Rev. Marvin Karn, died May 22, 2022. Rev. Karn is the pastor of the Bethel-Ebenezer Charge, Bennettsville.

Services will be announced at a later date.

Mrs. Karn is survived by her four sons.

### Emma Ruth Lewis

SPARTANBURG—Emma Ruth Lewis, mother of the Rev. Jimmy Lewis, died May 19, 2022. Rev. Lewis is the pastor of Friends in Christ United Methodist Church,

Chesnee.

Services were held May 27 at the John Stinson Woodward Memorial Chapel with burial in the Heritage Memorial Gardens, Roebuck.

### Deborah Jean Freeman Mason

GREENVILLE—Deborah Jean Freeman Mason, wife of the Rev. Dan Mason, died May 24, 2022. Rev. Mason is the pastor of the Foothills Charge, Campobello.

Funeral services were held June 1 at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Mrs. Mason is survived by her husband,

### Obituary Policy

The *Advocate* prints death notices of clergy and their immediate families and laypersons who have served on conference boards and agencies or who work for the S.C. Conference of The United Methodist Church.

and daughter.

### Hugh C. Strother

MOUNT PLEASANT—Hugh C. Strother, brother of the Rev. Robert Strother, died May 29, 2022. Rev. Strother is a retired member of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Funeral services were held June 3 in the Mole Funeral Home Chapel, Barnwell, with burial in the Barnwell UMC Cemetery with Masonic rites.

Memorials may be made to Barnwell UMC, 236 Main St., Barnwell, SC 29812; or to the Charleston Elks Lodge 242 Elks Veteran Services, 1113 Sam Rittenburg Blvd.,

Charleston, SC 29407.

Mr. Strother is survived by his son and two daughters.

### Wes Voigt

LEBANON, Tenn.—Wes Voigt, former director of Asbury Hills United Methodist Camp, died May 25, 2022.

A memorial service will be held June 5 at First United Methodist Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

### Frances Elizabeth Gray Wright

GOOSE CREEK—Frances Elizabeth Gray Wright, mother of Kris Bergmann, died May 24, 2022. Ms. Bergmann is a local pastor not currently under appointment.

Funeral services were held June 3 at Goose Creek United Methodist Church. She will be buried in Maryland next to her husband.

Mrs. Wright is survived by her son and three daughters.

## Every Child Is A Miracle

Thanks to United Methodist across South Carolina, Epworth's "Every Child is a Miracle" financial campaign is concluding successfully!

Because of your generosity, children, youth, and families in SC now have an even greater opportunity for a transformed life.

Your generosity through a campaign tithe to Old Mutare Mission and Fairfield Children's Home will transform lives on the continent of Africa.

Thank you for your support of God's work through Epworth!

**8 Million Dollars Raised!**

### *Leave A Legacy To Change Lives*

The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation  
P. O. Box 5087, Columbia, SC 29250-5087  
scumf@bellsouth.net



by Dr. Roger M. Gramling

## Conference Historical Society

### Prelude to merger: The Central Jurisdiction and The Methodist Church

The 2022 session of the South Carolina Conference marked the 50th anniversary of the 1972 merger of the South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South Carolina Conference (1866).

The final session of the 1866 Conference was held on the morning of June 5, 1972, in Leonard Auditorium on the Wofford College campus. The final session of the 1785 Conference was held that afternoon in the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. That evening the two conferences met as one new conference in the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium representing the last step in a long and often painful process.

Although there would continue to be difficulties along the way, inequalities to be addressed, trust and understanding to be developed and issues of open itinerancy to be faced, there would now be only one South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

The journey that led to this merger actually began in 1866 when the South Carolina Mission Conference was organized by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Its 1864 General Conference authorized the formation of African-American Mission Conferences to serve primarily newly freed former slaves. The conference in South Carolina was the fourth such mission conference to be formed. In 1868 the General Conference of the MEC gave the status of "Annual Conference" to its mission conferences, allowing greater participation in the affairs of the general church.

During the years 1914 to 1948 when the South Carolina Conference (1785) existed as two conferences, South Carolina and Upper South Carolina, these two South Carolina Conferences coexisted with the 1866 South Carolina Conference largely unknown to each other. There was also an organized presence of Methodist Protestants in South Carolina also largely unknown to the other larger bodies.

As three branches of American Methodism, the MEC, the MEC, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church approached the proposition of reunion in the 1930s, it became apparent that a union was dependent largely upon the question of what would be the status of the African-

American membership in a united church. There were approximately 350,000 African-American members in the participating churches. Considerations centered on either a separate structure within the church or the creation of a separate church for the African-American membership. A segregationist pattern of thinking continued to dominate as a reflection of where America, and especially the South, still was as a nation.

The result was the creation within the Plan of Union of the Central Jurisdiction.

The language was straightforward. Para. 26 of the 1939 *Book of Discipline* of the new Methodist Church stated that the Central Jurisdiction shall be composed of the "Negro Annual Conferences, the Negro Mission Conferences and Missions in the United States of America." At the time of the 1939 Unification, there were 19 annual conferences forming the Central Jurisdiction. While the African-American members of the uniting churches were opposed to the creation of the Central Jurisdiction, the Plan of Union was approved by a majority of the members of the general conferences of the three churches and by the aggregate vote of their respective annual conferences. It was viewed by many as an "expedient of the moment" necessary to assure reunion. Reform would have to come later. Dr. Matthew S. Davage, a prominent African-American Methodist layman, described it as an "immediately possible reality."

While many African-American members were frustrated, disappointed and angry, there was no mass exodus of African-American members from the new Methodist Church.

James S. Thomas, a native of South Carolina, reflected upon several possible reasons in his 1992 book, "Methodism's Racial Dilemma": loyalty to the church in which so many African Americans had invested their lives; a belief that changes were possible, if not now, then later; an appreciation of the church's commitment to missions and education among its African-American constituency; a way to maintain racial diversity within the church; and the sense

that the current status would not last forever.

As the Central Jurisdiction organized, there was, to the credit of its members, what Thomas characterized as a "determination to succeed" and a "sense of pride" to demonstrate what could be accomplished in the midst of less than desirable circumstances.

In 1939, the South Carolina Conference (1866), which now included African American members in South Carolina of the former Methodist Protestant Church, remained under the Atlanta Episcopal Area, where it had been as a part of the MEC. In 1940, some adjustments were made in the composition of episcopal areas. The Atlanta Episcopal Area became the Atlantic Coast Area. Bishop Lorenzo H. King, elected by the newly organized Central Jurisdiction in 1940, was assigned to the area now comprising the Atlanta, Central Alabama, Florida, Savannah, South Carolina and South Florida annual conferences. The South Carolina Conference (1866) would remain a part of the Atlantic Coast Area through 1964.

Bishops J. W. E. Bowen and Marquis L. Harris were successors to Bishop King, who died in 1946.

In the episcopal address to the 1952 General Conference of the Methodist Church, Bishop Paul B. Kern declared that "to discriminate against a person upon the basis of his race is both unfair and un-Christian." He further outlined in the address the major alternatives for the future of the Central Jurisdiction, including the possibility of merging the annual conferences of the Central Jurisdiction into each of the five regional jurisdictions.

The 1952 General Conference did adopt legislation that simplified the procedure by which a local church might transfer from the jurisdiction of which it was a part into the jurisdiction where it was geographically located.

*Gramling is secretary-treasurer of the Conference Historical Society and formerly represented South Carolina on the Southeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History.*

# Celebrate Independence Day by beginning your new Independent Retirement Lifestyle at The Manor!

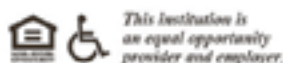
Ask us about our New Additions:  
Asbury Village Club House  
The Park at The Manor  
Lifestyle Center

Call or visit us online today to schedule your personal tour.



**THE MANOR**  
*A Senior Living Community*

The Manor is a full Continuing Care Retirement Community that offers Independent Living options as well as Assisted Living and Dementia/Alzheimer's care.



2100 Twin Church Road Florence, SC  
843.664.0700 | www.themanorliving.com



## June

- June 11—Local nursing home distribution and worship service, Good Samaritans for All People, Cottonwood Villa, 10 a.m.
- June 12—"Self Care is Key to Care Giving" caregiver workshop 2, Cayce UMC, Cayce, 5-6:30 p.m. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/caregivingworkshop-cayce>
- June 14—Flag Day
- June 19—Father's Day
- June 19—"Self Care is Key to Care Giving" caregiver workshop 3, Cayce UMC, Cayce, 5-6:30 p.m. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/caregivingworkshop-cayce>
- June 19-24—Music and Worship Arts Week 2022, Lake Junaluska. <https://lakejunaluska.com/events-calendar/music-worship-arts-week-2022/>
- June 20—Juneteenth, United Methodist Center closed.
- June 24-25—SMC Enrollment Days
- June 24-26—Native American Conference, Lake Junaluska. <https://lakejunaluska.com/events-calendar/native-american-conference/>
- June 25—Come Together Be Together (virtual), 10 a.m.
- June 25—Local nursing home distribution and worship service, Good Samaritans for All People, Bishopville Manor, 10 a.m.
- June 26—Brookland UMC, West Columbia, dragonfly fused glass class, 2 p.m., fellowship hall. \$40. Materials and supplies included. Register at [mixonkaren@gmail.com](mailto:mixonkaren@gmail.com).



Photos courtesy of Doris Housley

## Stars and stripes

Westminster UMC, Westminster, held a special Flag ceremony on May 29 during the morning worship service. The Hon. Thomas C. Alexander, South Carolina state senator, presented the church with a flag that was previously flown over the Statehouse in Columbia. They were also joined by Landon and Lane Allen, representing Boy Scout Troop #129, who demonstrated the proper flag-folding technique as Pastor Jeff Hogan explained the significance of each fold. Above, Sen. Thomas Alexander (left) and Pastor Jeff Hogan. Below, Landon Allen (left) and Lane Allen hold the flag (Hogan is at the pulpit).



June 26—"Self Care is Key to Care Giving" caregiver workshop 4, Cayce UMC, Cayce, 5-6:30 p.m. Register: <https://tinyurl.com/caregivingworkshop-cayce>

## July

- July 2—Limitless (virtual), 10 a.m.
- July 4—Independence Day, United Methodist Center closed.
- July 9—Local nursing home distribution and worship service, Good Samaritans for All People, McCoy's Nursing Home, 10 a.m.
- July 21-23—Mission u, Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg
- July 26-29—SEJ Historical Society Annual Meeting, South Georgia Retreat Center, Epworth by the Sea, St. Simon's Island, Ga. <https://www.umchistory.org/>

## August

- Aug. 6—South Carolina Lay Servant Ministry Academy Train the Trainer, Trenholm Road UMC, Columbia. <https://www.umcsc.org/lsm>
- Aug. 6—Good Samaritans for All People Back-to-School distribution, Old Bishopville High School Football Field, 8 a.m.

## September

*Killingsworth Special Emphasis Month (United Women in Faith)*

- Sept. 5—Labor Day, United Methodist Center closed.
- Sept. 10—Good Samaritans for All People picnic, Old Bishopville High School Football Field, 10 a.m.

## Around the Districts

### Charleston District

Congratulations to the Rev. Bette Hedden and Michael Meder on the birth of their granddaughter. Isla was born May 4 to Brett and Cara and welcomed home by big brother Mack. Rev. Hedden is the pastor of Cokesbury UMC, Charleston.

### Columbia District

Fall 2022 will launch the first Columbia College E-sports Team, coached by Colin Tracy. E-sports, short for electronic sports, is a form of organized competition using video games. It can be an individual or team sport and was catapulted into the mainstream media during the late 2000s when spectatorship and advertising became a part of gaming culture.

### Marion District

A Men 'N Ministry district meeting was held May 22 at Surfside UMC, Surfside Beach.

### Rock Hill District

A Men 'N Ministry district meeting was held May 15 at Woodland UMC, Rock Hill, featuring the Rev. Trevor Miller.

### Spartanburg District

Congratulations to the Rev. Joe and Deanne Blackwelder on the birth of their granddaughter. Caroline Leigh Blackwelder was born May 5 to Matthew and Morgan Lezan Blackwelder. Rev. Blackwelder is the pastor of Cannon's Camp Ground UMC, Spartanburg.



## Happy Palm Sunday

Manning UMC, Manning, held a Palm Sunday service with handbells and other ways to worship God and celebrate the coming resurrection.



## Classified Advertisements

### Church Furnishings

FREE ESTIMATES

**NEW** Steeple cleaning service

New Pews • Pew Upholstering • Pew Refinishing • Pulpit Furniture • Carpet • Steeples/Baptistries • Chime Systems • Stained Glass • Classroom Furniture • Office Furniture • Social Hall Furniture • Budget & Project Analysis • Project Management

### Nu-Idea

Church Furnishings  
Sumter, South Carolina  
1-800-922-0424  
[www.nu-idea.com](http://www.nu-idea.com)

"Serving South Carolina's churches since 1921"

To place your ad, contact Allison at 888-678-6272 or [atrussell@umcsc.org](mailto:atrussell@umcsc.org).

Classified ads are \$19 per inch tall. Web site ads are also available ([www.advocatesc.org](http://www.advocatesc.org)).

Deadlines are the 10th of the month for the following month's paper.

### Church Furnishings

Pew Upholstering – Reversible Cushions  
New Pews – Pew Refinishing  
Audio/Video Systems  
[www.churchinteriors.com](http://www.churchinteriors.com)

**Church Interiors Inc.**  
*The Nation's Leading Church Renovation Specialist*

High Point, North Carolina  
1-800-289-7397

**Don't miss an issue (and help us save money):  
Send us your new address!**



by Dr. Linda Dunn

## Faith transcending culture

### July 3

#### A New Community of Believers

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 4:23-31

**Background Scripture:** Same

**Key Verse:** “After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking God’s word with confidence” (Acts 4:31).

The religious leaders thought they had solved their Jesus problem. He was killed. He was buried. Then the rumors about his resurrection started, and now, his disciples are performing miracles in his name. How can they be stopped?

They’re a tight group. They have an unshakable faith in Jesus of Nazareth and his gospel. They are a bold group. The message is big: you are loved and wanted and welcomed by God, that perfection is not required, and love wins.

This message shakes up the religious status quo, challenges the dominant dogma, questions the reigning definition of right and wrong. It upsets the apple cart. Big time. This ragtag group of Christians, empowered by the Spirit, were not going to be silent. They wanted everybody to hear, regardless of religion, race, gender or status. Everybody welcome.

It was an exciting time. People were seeing each other as equals, as friends, as members together in God’s family, brothers and sisters in the faith. This was the mission of the newly formed “church”—to change the world, changing how people in the world see one another, relate to one another. The gospel calls us to act with love, with acceptance, with encouragement, and to be a community of people who worship God while caring about each other.

The early church radiated Good News. It spread the gospel far and wide. They were so full of the Holy Spirit, they were busting at the seams, ready to shout and sing and reach out to everyone who would listen. “As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

And what did they see and hear? They saw and heard Jesus. They saw the power of God, the compassion of God, the love of God, interceding in human lives. They heard God claiming his people, wrapping them in grace and calling them “beloved”—and they couldn’t be silent.

Can you?

### July 10

#### Faith Transcends Culture

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 8:26-39

**Background Scripture:** Acts 8:26-39; Romans 15:1-6

**Key Verse:** “Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him” (Acts 8:31, 35).

Where did this eunuch find written Scripture? Who gave him the Scriptures to read? And why would they? He was an outsider. He was different. He was “blemished” and unacceptable in Jewish society. He didn’t belong. He wasn’t like them. They didn’t want him or his kind.

But by some mystery, he is given the holy words to read. He is intrigued; he is captivated; he is drawn to them. He wonders what it means. Who can he ask?

Enter Philip. The Holy Spirit sends a willing witness to share with this curious man. What great joy when the dusty words on the page stir life into the eunuch’s heart. Life, hope, joy—pouring out upon this blemished, previously unwelcome man.

The very idea that a Jew approached a eunuch and engaged in personal, intimate conversation shows how the gospel is breaking down traditional boundaries. In

this conversation, Philip shares that Jesus is the object of the passage he’s read. He’s the Messiah who ushers in a new era, a new understanding. God’s kingdom has no outsiders. All who believe the gospel message have equal and beloved status in this diverse community.

How amazing this must have sounded to a man whose never “belonged.” He was always on the outside, looking in. Now Philip has unlocked and opened a doorway to a whole new existence for this precious man. When they arrive to a watering spot, the eunuch does not want to miss his opportunity. He asks Philip to baptize him, to bring him into the family, to give him a home. And Philip does so, without hesitation.

The man, who just a moment before was excluded, is now included. The one who was unwelcome is now wanted. The man who felt alone is now filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

How willing are we to include the “different”?

### July 17

#### The Quest for Inclusive Fellowship

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 11:1-18

**Background Scripture:** Acts 10-11

**Key Verse:** “If God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, then who am I? Could I stand in God’s way?” (Acts 11:17).

If there’s only one God, which is a Christian proclamation, then that God created everything. “Everything” includes every object and every person, and persons come in varieties. People are of different hair color, eye color, height, weight, skin color, intelligence, talent, etc., but they are all people and they were all created by God. Wouldn’t that make us all brothers and sisters, even if we are different in many ways?

Ancient tribes, our Hebrew forebears included, somehow never saw this. It was “us” and “them.” I’m not sure where they thought those other people came from. If you profess there is only one God, then there isn’t any other choice really. Everyone came from God and, therefore, everyone must be “kin.” Yet people divided themselves by race, religion, nationality and countless other categories and fought to maintain their separateness. Why?

Perhaps the immediate need for clan survival took precedence over understanding or relating to others. “They” might take what we need: land, food, resources. “They” might upset God and then God might smite us. We need baby humans so our tribe thrives and survives. We need rain for our crops and crops for our food. We have to keep God happy so God will bless us and things will go well for our people. Stay away, other people; leave us alone. We are afraid of you and what might happen if we let you in.

But what if we aren’t meant to be afraid of each other? What if God wants us to see and hear each other, to care about each other, to encourage and embrace each other? Paul best described this: “In this image there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all things and in all people” (Colossians 3:11).

How wonderful that would look and feel and be for the body of Christ.

### July 24

#### The Jerusalem Council’s Mandate

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 15:1-21

**Background Scripture:** Galatians 2:1-10

**Key Verse:** “Therefore, I conclude that we shouldn’t create problems for Gentiles who turn to God” (Acts 15:19).

They were of different opinions, and strongly held. This wasn’t a casual conversa-

tion, this was a significant struggle between the pull of tradition and the pressure to reevaluate that tradition as new people and relative issues arose. If we’re going to include Gentile and pagan converts, what do we expect of them?

The issue then was not just about requiring circumcision (part of God’s covenant with Abraham and required of a Jewish convert), but should Gentiles also be required to obey the full Mosaic law, which would have included the 613 requirements adhered to by the Pharisees. The body was divided.

A vocal group in the Jerusalem church advocated for such requirements. Respecting this tradition, in their eyes, was honoring God. An equally vocal group felt that such a requirement ran counter to the heart of the gospel; we are saved through faith and not legal obedience.

Peter reasoned that since God gave them an equal gift of the Spirit, then the recipients of the gift were equally loved and were of equal value. Starting with this basis of God’s undeniable actions, which did not include a Mosaic legal requirement, Peter concluded with that “we shouldn’t create problems for Gentiles who turn to God.”

It’s a delicate situation for, historically, doctrinal decisions made on controversial topics such as these lead to splits and splinters in the fellowship. It probably did here, as well, as the early church found themselves embroiled in a battle with harsh words and deep emotions, not unlike the last few years in our denomination.

When are traditional understandings, rules and doctrines to be strictly upheld, and when should they be reevaluated, updated and changed? How do new insights, knowledge and experience affect the discussion and decisions? How do we honor God and hear each other’s voices in the midst of such disagreement?

### July 31

#### Mission Without Walls

**Lesson Scripture:** Acts 16:25-34

**Background Scripture:** Acts 16

**Key Verse:** “Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them” (Acts 16:25).

After the Jerusalem council gave their consent and blessing for the apostles to evangelize the Gentiles, Paul and Silas are off with enthusiasm and joy, ready to share the gospel and spread the Good News. Their boldness in freeing the slave girl from her fortune-telling abilities, however, is not received well by the master who profited from her services. A brutal arrest and a cold jail cell are their reward. They turned a dismal night into a time of singing hymns and praising God, confident he will provide.

They are not disappointed, for the Spirit of God disables their shackles and bursts open the doors to get out of jail. They could have hastily left, yet they show compassion for the jailer and call out to him not to harm himself, for they have not left the premises. He welcomes them into his home, hears their witness and his household is baptized. A wonderful ending to a turbulent day.

Biblical stories seek to inspire us.

The people we meet in Scripture are often ordinary people used by God in extraordinary ways. Their stories call us to faith, call us to prayer, call us to action. We are inspired to be like them, to have faith and courage, to be strong and bold, to step up and step out.

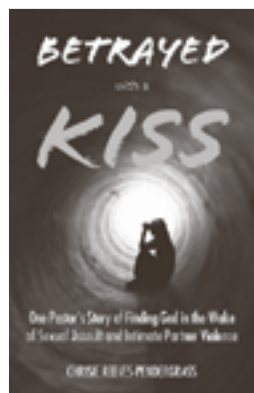
We may never be in a position like Paul and Silas, to confront fortune-tellers and charlatans who prey on the innocent. We may never be called to imprisonment or experience a miraculous rescue. We may never know persecution for our faith. So perhaps this story isn’t about calling us to action, but giving us an opportunity to be celebrate and admire the apostles who rose to their opportunities in ways so far removed from our experience, while looking to be faithful in our witness in the modern world.

*Retired, Dunn now resides in Myrtle Beach and attends Trinity United Methodist Church, North Myrtle Beach.*

**ON SALE NOW FROM THE ADVOCATE PRESS**

## BETRAYED WITH A KISS

**One Pastor’s Story of Finding God in the Wake of Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence**



Raised a “good girl” pastor’s daughter in a wholesome Christian environment, Chrisie Reeves-Pendergrass thought the horrors of abusive relationships or sexual assault were things that happened to other people. But quickly she found herself in the midst of an abusive marriage, wedded to a predator who convinced her she was to blame for the rape and degradation she endured. *Betrayed With a Kiss* is the story of how she escaped her marriage, the chaos of post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental anguish that threatened to tear her apart. But escape she did,



going on to graduate from Duke Divinity School and become an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church while finding the true heart of God in the process. “My story is not new, sensational or exceptional. It’s quite common,” she writes in the introduction. “That is why I am writing it: So the world stops believing it’s rare. My story could be your story, your daughter’s, your sister’s, your friend’s, or your co-worker’s, and it very well might be.” *Betrayed With a Kiss* shines light into the spiritual transformation she experienced out of heartbreak and betrayal.

Paperback (\$15) and ebook (\$5) available

**Buy online at [www.advocatesc.org/books](http://www.advocatesc.org/books)**

Or send by mail (add \$3 for shipping and handling)  
to Advocate, 4908 Colonial Drive, Columbia, SC 29203

# AC closes five churches, merges three into one

By Allison Trussell

FLORENCE—Five churches were remembered and a new church celebrated during the last business session of the 2022 Annual Conference.

The Rev. Cathy Jamieson, Cabinet secretary, presented the resolutions of merger and closure as well as proposed charge line changes. She reminded the conference that

the closing of churches is not something done easily or lightly. The churches themselves cast the first ballots in a series of votes taken to close a church. “We know this is heartbreaking for many, but the seeds that were planted will continue to bear fruit,” Jamieson said.

Brown Chapel, Heaven Gate and St. James United Methodist churches, Murrells Inlet,

merged to become The Brook UMC effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Cherokee Place UMC, North Charleston; Lynnwood UMC, Lancaster; St. John UMC, North; College Place UMC, Columbia; and Loree UMC, Wellford, were closed during the conference year.

Cherokee Place’s resolution of closure was approved by the Cabinet Sept. 21, 2021. Lynnwood’s resolution of closure was approved Nov. 30, 2021. St. John’s resolution of closure was approved April 21, 2022. Both resolutions of closure for College Place and Loree were approved May 18, 2022.

### Charge line changes also approved

A number of charge line changes were also approved during the final business session by the body. In the Charleston District, Cherokee Place was closed. In the Columbia District, College Place was closed.

In the Florence District, three changes were approved. Bethesda, Kingstree, was changed to Bethesda, Cades; Friendship, Kingstree, was changed to Friendship, Nesmith; and Hebron-Cades was changed to Hebron-Pergamos.

Greenville District had two changes. The Bramlett-Owings-Gray Court Charge was dissolved. Owings becomes a station church, and Bramlett and Gray Court become the Bramlett Charge. The second approved change dissolved the Faith-Francis Asbury Charge and make both churches station churches.

In the Greenwood District, Harris was attached to Trinity to form the Harris-Trinity Charge. The Lamar Circuit in the Hartsville District was dissolved, leaving Elim as a station church. Newman Swamp and Zion were attached to form the Lamar Parish Charge.

Two changes were approved for the Marion District. The Poplar-Salem Charge was dissolved with both churches becoming station churches; and the Brookgreen Charge, made up of Brown Chapel, Heaven Gate and St. James, was merged, forming the Brook UMC. Two changes were approved for the Orangeburg District. The Orange Circuit was dissolved, with the closure of St.



Jamieson presents those merging, closing.

John. The two remaining churches, Ebenezer and North, were attached to continue as the Orange Circuit. The second change saw the attachment of Target, Gerizim and Eutawville to form the Eutaw Circuit.

In the Rock Hill District, Lynnwood was closed ad interim and merged with Grace forming Grace-Lynnwood UMC.

Annual Conference approved two charge line changes to the Spartanburg District. The Tyger River Charge was dissolved. Of the four churches, Fairmont becomes a station church; Loree was closed ad interim; and Duncan and Immanuel were attached to continue as the Tyger River Charge. The second action was to dissolve the Pacolet-White Stone Charge. St. Luke was attached to White Stone to form the St. Luke-White Stone Charge; El Bethel was attached to Pacolet to form the El Bethel-Pacolet Charge; and Skylyn was attached to Arcadia to form the Skylyn-Arcadia Charge.

There were no charge line changes for the Anderson or Walterboro districts.

### Memories ‘remain forever’

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston closed the report with a prayer: “We are grateful for the lives, the memories, the witness, the ministries that are represented in these churches presented to the conference. ...

“While the buildings don’t have use at this moment, the memories they encompass will remain forever, and for that, Lord, we give you thanks. As the memories, the legacies, the work of these congregations are remembered, may they be cherished, never forgotten and always lifted up. Amen.”

**YOU COULD BE HERE!**

**SMC IS MAKING THE COLLEGE ENROLLMENT PROCESS EASY**

- No SAT/ACT scores required
- Scholarships available for members of the United Methodist Church

**MAKE YOUR MOVE!**  
Apply for FREE  
[SMCSC.EDU](http://SMCSC.EDU)

## Now Booking Banquets at Asbury Hills

**We would love the opportunity to serve you!**  
Visit [www.asburyhills.org/banquets](http://www.asburyhills.org/banquets)  
or call 864.836.3711.

## Retreat Season is almost here!

**Asbury Hills is ready to host your retreat! Whether it is your small group, Sunday School class or confirmation, we would love to have you!**

For more information on retreats, call 864.836.3711 or email [retreat@asburyhills.org](mailto:retreat@asburyhills.org).

CLASSES BEGIN AUGUST 22

**COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

# Make Lasting Connections

Our close-knit community allows you to fit in and stand out. Connect with others who want to make a difference in the world.

[COLUMBIASC.EDU/Visit](http://COLUMBIASC.EDU/Visit)