

The Lamplighter

February 2021 



“The Lord is my Light and my salvation.”

What Have I Done?

Pastor Kevin Dalton

It's hard to believe it's February 2021, and we're already one twelfth through this year. Let us each ask ourselves, 'what have I done so far?' Have I accomplished any of the, so called, goals I set for myself? Did I even set any goals or am I just going with the flow, like riding the lazy river down at Myrtle Beach? You know what I'm talking about, just sitting, or laying, on an inflatable tube slowly going with the flow of the water, all the while just going around in a circle. Where have I put my focus, thus far, in this new year of 2021? Am I determined and focused on doing something? Is my focus to fight, argue, trash, and disagree with everything this new government will do? Or is my focus to just sit back and do nothing but sing kumbaya and believe we will all be saved with this new government?

Nehemiah 6:15-16 “The wall was finished ... in fifty-two days ... this work had been accomplished with the help of God.” Reading this account of the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, we find it was an entire community working together, using their gifts, resources, and time to accomplish this task important to God. We find, prior to the wall being rebuild, Nehemiah saying in Nehemiah 1:17 “Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer suffer disgrace.”

When Nehemiah heard the condition of the people and of Jerusalem's wall scripture says he “wept ... mourned ... fasted ... and prayed before the God of heaven.” Nehemiah had not even seen the people, or the walls and he called out to God. But, when he actually saw the condition of the wall and the way the people were disconnected from each other he, following God's leading cried out “Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.”

God has blessed us, and yes, He has blessed us abundantly. God has blessed us as a people; He has blessed us as a nation; He has blessed us as a state; He has blessed us as a church; He as even blessed us as a specific church; and He has abundantly blessed us as individuals. But, in spite of these blessing we remain disconnected from each other as the walls of the church are being attacked.

In Nehemiah the work to restore the walls of Jerusalem and to reconnect the people was, by God's leading, done by the men, women, and children of the entire community. Families worked said by side; one family worked while the other stood watch, and then they would switch off.

As I asked the question earlier of all of us, 'what have I done so far this year?' The church is being attacked. We are being attacked from not only the outside but the inside as well. We the people are disconnected. What are we as a church community doing about this? Are we working to tear down or build walls that disconnect ourselves with each other? Or are we content grumbling and complaining, which is wall building? As a people, as a body of believers, we have been, and are blessed. We have been and are blessed to be able to freely worship God, we are blessed to serve God, and we are free to serve others. The question today is 'what are we doing?' 'What are you doing?'

Let us all, like Nehemiah, “weep ... mourn ... fast ... and pray before our God of heaven.” Following God's leading “Come, let us tear down the walls which divide us.” Let us stop focusing on the negatives all around us and allow God to show us the positives. Not only show us the positives, but show us how we, individually and corporately, to become one. Let us come together as God's people; let us work together as God's people; let us together make a difference, if only in our little corner of the world. Say it with me 'Let it begin with me!'

Pastor Kevin



Battling Covid

Rev. Don Alexander - Pastor's friend
Amber Stow Thomas - Charlotte Stow's grand-daughter
Harvey & Kay Spiegel
Wanda Starling
Sarah Morgan
Lynn Fuller - Joy's sister
Paul Samek (dementia and Covid)
Mary Williamson (Covid and just moved to nursing facility)
Hollifield Family (Mother Angie died from Covid)
Pray for all testing positive with Covid

Praise Report

Chris Owens – successful transplant
Edith Himmel - Joyce Himmel's mother-in-law recovering.



The LUMC Minister and Congregation prays for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns.

We express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away.

Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list.

Remember these people in your prayers as well as our church, Pastor, Outreach, Missions, community, and our nation.

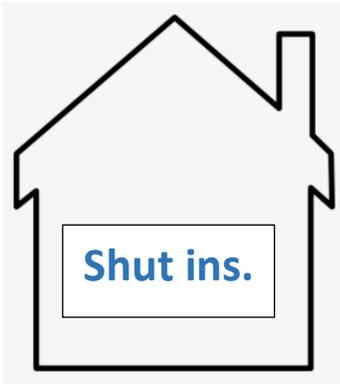
Battling Cancer

Benjamin Poole
Levi Van Cleef
Steve & Claudia Butler
Dr. Todd Walters
Phil Fowler – friend of Brenda Azzara

Health Issues

Pat Parker - Cheryl Bartow's sister
Leslie Bartow - Al & Cheryl Bartow's daughter-in-law
Jean Bridger - heart issue
Chris Owens - liver transplant
Mark Masson - Patricia Dalton's brother





Mary Williamson
Greer Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center
401 Chandler Rd
Greer, SC 29651

Joe Brown
109 Edgewood Ave
Landrum, SC 29356

Dan Donovan
210 Camelia Circle
Landrum, SC 29356

June Rhymer
810 E Rutherford St
Landrum, SC 29356

Betty Zeluff (Mary Hager's Mother)
Sunny Brock Assisted Living
306 Spring St
Hendersonville, NC 28739

Madge Holley
1385 Green Creek Dr
Columbus, NC 28722

Edith Masson (Patricia Dalton's Mother)
300 Asbury Dr
Landrum, SC 29356



Sheila new address in Florida

Shelia Dusky
3018 Greyrols Avenue
Spring Hill, FL 34608

Food Pantry News

Beginning Saturday February 13, we will provide a two-hour open food pantry for the community.

Families will be given a box of staples similar to the boxes distributed at Christmas. We will begin with 50 boxes. This new ministry will continue on the second Saturday of every month. This will not replace the community meal which will still be held on the fourth Saturday.

If you are able to assist in purchasing, filling boxes, or working on the designated Saturday - please contact either Jody McPherson 828-506-3379, Nancy Surface 864-680-3168, or Cheryl Barto 864-541-1574.



Special Valentines

Trudy Van Voorhis

It is February and to many of us that prompts thoughts of celebration with beautifully decorated Valentine cards, chocolates, and roses. The cards at the store come in all shapes and sizes expressing admiration in innovative ways. I have even seen the 4 packs of "I love you only" for sale. Now – how does that work?!

Yet with all the flowery words and the romantic prose, none drives home the message more poignantly than the simple invitation to "Be Mine." Remember those candy hearts emblazed with that sentiment?

Our special Valentine arrived "Special Delivery" over 2000 years ago by way of Jesus Christ. It is the beautiful expression of love found in the gospel of John: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever should believe on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

The Bible is full of God's message of love. He longs to hold us close to His heart as He softly whispers "Be Mine." Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. (Isaiah 43:1)

A recent sermon Kevin gave reminded us that Jesus condensed the Ten Commandments into two:

"... love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." Mark 12:30 (NLT)

Jesus said, "I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other." John 13:34 (NLT)

We received a command that has been difficult for many of us to manage these past few months. "But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you." Luke 6:27 (NLT)

Our natural tendency is to love only those who love us, which Jesus said is no credit to us. The selfless love He described can be expressed only with an assist from God's Spirit, and offers the world an unquestionable witness of God's transforming love and power.

Perhaps this Valentine's Day we should reach out to those who don't come to mind when we think of Valentines and try loving the unlovable

L-O-V-E! Now that's a reason to celebrate!



Happy
Valentine's
Day

SPARTANBURG DISTRICT LAY SERVANT SCHOOL REGISTRATION SPRING SESSION

Are you are interested in Lay Speaker status?

Classes will be held on April 11, 18, 25 and May 2, 2021 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm.

Classes will be held via Zoom with a requirement of 10 hours of instruction time.

The following courses will be offered:

Basic with Eugenia Young

Embracing Personal Prayer with Eunice White

Leading Worship with Beth Lewis

From Your Heart to Theirs with Rev. Richard Lewis

Polity with Rev. Richard Andrews -Persons interested in taking this class must have already taken Heritage)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS April 3, 2021. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline.

Contact Preacher Kevin for more information - Office 864-457-3984 or Cell 864-357-1641

SPRC Committee Update:

As a result of the downturn in activities and workload at Landrum U.M.C., the SPRC recommended, and Administrative Council reviewed, a plan to indefinitely suspend the position of Church Secretary. Wanda Wofford's last day was Dec. 31. We all thank her for her 8 plus years of service and wish her well in future endeavors.

We are currently assembling a team of volunteers to fulfill necessary tasks and exploring equipment additions and upgrades to streamline duties and communication with the congregation. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact me at 864.641.5473, or pblock1@windstream.net.

Thanks for your support and please be safe out there!

Pete Block

Altar Flower Sign-up



Our altar is customarily decorated with a plant or floral arrangement to honor or memorialize special people or occasions. The sign-up chart for weekly altar flowers is in the Narthex if you would like to choose a Sunday.

The season of Lent is the exception. Lent begins February 17th. During this season of austerity and simple reflection, the tradition is to have a subdued arrangement on the altar. Hopefully, the absence of vivid flowers during Lent will amplify the resurrection message of the Easter flowers when they arrive!

**Landrum United Methodist Church
Administrative Council Minutes
January 11, 2021**

Members Present: Wayne Hager, Martha Castro, Glenn Downey, Lou Nespeca, Jaime Wofford, Mark Hartsell, Pete Block, Joy Gardner, Cheryl Barto, Janine Stenson, Rita Plumley, Kevin Dalton, Jody McPherson
Finance - Cheryl Every

Finance: Mark Hartsell

Offering for today: \$14,413.

Janine Stenson will be moving to Virginia in February thus will be giving up the position as church treasurer. Mark thanked Janine for her service. Rita Plumley will assume the position. She will be assisted by Nancy Surface. The following individuals are authorized to sign LUMC checks: Mark Hartsell, Rita Plumley, and Nancy Surface.

Janine reports that all apportionments have been paid for 2020. She will be sending 1099s and tax statements to members of the congregation.

United Methodist Men bank account now closed. The group fund is now a designated fund in the church account.

Administrative Council

Glenn opened with remarks from his Sunday school class on fear which mirrored Pastor Kevin's sermon. Jesus said do not be afraid. Also commented on Christmas Eve service and social distancing. If another service warrants could chairs be placed so that families could sit together.

Minutes: Lou motioned to approve December minutes. Second Martha. Approved.

Treasure Report: Rita Looking forward to new position.

Lay Leader: Wayne

Wayne felt that marquee sermon title "F-Bomb" is not appropriate and should be removed from sign and website and he had spoken to Pastor Kevin about it. Short discussion and Pastor Kevin stated that he would find a different way to title the sermon series.

Wayne also stated that the placement of the chairs at the Christmas Eve service were to use appropriate caution for the time. Martha also stated that they were following social distancing guidelines.

Member at large: Martha No report

Missions: Jody

Backpacks will resume in February.

We are going to start a monthly food pantry in February. Nancy Surface will head this program. We are looking at the second Sat. in February for 2 hours. Volunteers will be needed to pack and distribute food.

Seniors Group: Cheryl B. No report

Ad Council minutes Continued -

PPRC: Pete

Wanda Wofford's last day was Dec. 31. With accrued vacation time she left on Dec. 22. Pete discussed with her that due to the decreased workload in the office her position was being eliminated. She received vacation reimbursement and Christmas bonus.

If requested she will receive a letter of recommendation.

As of now, there are no office hours. Kevin and Pete have created a mailing list. Kevin will handle emails, phone calls and requests that come into the office. Bill Every will assist when needed. Joy also volunteered to help. There could be some training on Realm (church administrative software.) According to Bill things are going ok.

A new laptop has been purchased for recording money coming into the church.

Trudy will resume Lamplighter duties.

A thank you note for Christmas bonus by Joy was read.

UMM: Lou

The Farm to Families food distribution program will begin again this month. Lou will coordinate getting boxes to LUMC to distribute.

Music: Joy

Hand bells are starting back. We have borrowed bells from Inman UMC. We have the use of them until Easter. The cost for a new set of bells is approximately \$24,000.

Jody motion to send \$600 to Inman UMC as a love offering for use of their bells. Second Jaime. Approved.

Trustees: Jaime

Property maintenance fund has been blessed financially.

Security cameras are being added to office.

New convection oven for FLC kitchen will ship on Jan. 14 in time for Jan. community meal.

We received two free Rheme Halo air purifiers from the company who installed them.

Forest City Heating and Air has not sent us a bill for repair of office furnace.

We are in a legal situation with our previous copier company. They are still billing us for a service contract. (\$523 to date.) They have yet to produce a signed contract.

Trustees continue to work with renter who is a single mother. She is arrears in rent but is trying.

Pastor's report: Kevin

Our church is blessed to be a blessing. Christ Eve service was well attended considering COVID.

Trudy and Patricia are stepping down from Altar Guild duties.

Thanks to everyone for past year. Together we can get through challenges ahead.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Jody McPherson, Secretary

Valentine Blessing

God bless you on this special day,

God keep you in His care,

And may His blessing and His
love

Go with you everywhere.



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Winn Holley
- 4 Nathaniel Fagan
Nelson Edwards
- 11 Ted Andrus
- 12 Cole Krebs
- 13 Adam Castro
Robert "Rust" Hilsman
- 15 Cheryl Barto
- 16 John Himmel
- 18 Allie Levister
Cassidy Spring
- 22 Barak Gunter
- 26 Ben Fricks
Jeanne Godwin
- 28 Lisa Wofford
Angie Bross



ANNIVERSARIES



- 8 Dan & Brenda McFerrin
- 19 Don & Nancy Surface

Landrum United Methodist Church

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