



## On the Horizon

On The Horizon

# January 2012

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As we ring out the old and ring in the new, so we also close out Advent and Christmas and begin the season of Epiphany. A big part of Advent is the anticipation of the light of Christ coming into the world. During the days of Christmas we celebrated that Bethlehem birthed the light of the world and the darkness has not overcome it.

Epiphany is all about light. The season highlights the word of God revealed in the world. God's light shines with clarity and hope. The Christian season of Epiphany runs until Transfiguration Sunday which is February 19<sup>th</sup>. Each Sunday we are invited to position ourselves so the light of Christ illumines our way and shows us the paths to take. On January 1, we will look at the light of Christ in our individual lives and explore how the gifts we bring to Jesus will help lead others toward the light of Christ. During the Epiphany Season two guest speakers will bring us God's message. On January 8<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Dr. Charles Johnson, Greenville District Superintendant to preach for us. Charles is retiring at the 2012 Annual Conference. We are honored to hear God's word to us through a beautiful servant and friend of Disciples UMC. In the weeks that follow I will bring sermons with Epiphany themes and the choir will present music connected to those themes. Then on February 12<sup>th</sup> Rev. Jerry Hill will make a presentation for all adults during Sunday School and preach at both services. Jerry's emphasis is upon Bread for the World. The Greenville District is trying to shine God's light onto the issue of hunger and poverty in Greenville. Our outreach team will lead us in thorough participation in this endeavor.

The light of Epiphany is just bright enough for us to see all that we need to see.

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See you in Church,  
*Pastor Debra*  
Pastor Debra

# FIRST TUESDAY CIRCLE

WILL MEET THE **SECOND** TUESDAY IN JANUARY

\* \* \* \* \*

WHEN: Tuesday, January 10th, 2012 @ 7 pm

WHERE: The Home of Betty Stansell, 288-5956  
8 Oakway Circle, Greenville, SC 29615

FOR: Soup, Salad & Dessert

GUEST SPEAKER: EMILY COOPER, who, among many other talents, is the author of Queen of the Confederacy, The Story of Lucy Holcombe Pickens

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All women of the church and their friends are welcome to join us for what will certainly be a fascinating evening, hearing Emily Cooper discuss the life and times of Lucy Pickens, a very interesting character. If you have read the book, great; if not, please join us anyway. Emily is happy to have comments and questions, so don't be shy!

REMEMBER United Ministries' Needs:  
The Food Bank *ALWAYS* needs food!  
Place of Hope *ALWAYS* needs supplies!  
Items can be brought to Circle or placed in the bin beside the choir room door at any time. Helen Rowland, 292-0013

*"Pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks."  
Phillipians 4:6*



**January 8 @ 4:00pm** ~ Very **important** meeting for people interested in going to Salkehatchie this summer: Youth & Parents of youth need to attend! Youth must be 14 years old by the date of the camp. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda @ (803) 459-4500 or email me [aegeddings@gmail.com](mailto:aegeddings@gmail.com)

It is hard to believe that Christmas has come and gone and 2012 is here. Where does the time go?! Well, it might only be January, but it is time once again to sign up and go to Salkehatchie Summer Service.

For those that do not know what Salkehatchie is it is a pioneering servant ministry at selected sites in South Carolina involving high school and college age youth, adult community leaders and persons of different cultures in upgrading housing, motivating community cooperative efforts by helping persons to help themselves, and providing all participants with opportunities for personal growth and service. It is for all adults that want to go and youth too! Youth must be 14 years old before the date of the camp. And the best part is you don't have to have experience on fixing anything, you will learn from others. And God is in on it all. You can't tell me He isn't. How can we go in, rip out floors, bathrooms, roofs, etc and put it all back by the end of the week? Well, I will tell you, God is there with us as we hammer every nail. I guess you will just have to experience to believe it.

The week we are talking about going as a group is July 21-28. Don't let this date turn you away though. There are many opportunities to go and I want the whole Disciples UMC to go and experience this awesome week. Please if you have any questions and concerns feel free to email me or call me. (803) 459-4500 or [aegeddings@gmail.com](mailto:aegeddings@gmail.com)

Well, as for the Disciples Youth Group all is well, now we are ready to kick things into a new gear as we approach the new year.

I will see ya when I see ya.  
In His hands,  
Amanda Geddings

The **District Church Leadership Orientation** is scheduled for Sunday, **January 22nd** at Buncombe Street UMC at **3 pm**. All Church Leaders are encouraged to attend!

**Church Council 2012 Start Up Meeting** ~ **January 7<sup>th</sup>** from **8:30am – 12 noon**. Fellowship Hall. A light breakfast will be provided. All Council Members and other Church Leaders are encouraged to attend!



## December 19<sup>th</sup> Neighborhood Christmas Caroling A Big Success

The all-church Christmas caroling on the Greenville trolley through local neighborhoods was great fun and provided a unique and festive outreach activity. Our two trolley runs included caroling in Coach Hills, Mountain Brooke, Foxcroft and Dove Tree subdivisions as well as Roper Mountain Woods Apartments and the Oak Grove Lake Area. Besides caroling we enjoyed a good array of refreshments to improve our spirits and enhance our musical capabilities.

Our two trolley runs included 63 singers of all ages and we sang to nearly 90 people. In addition to the singers, 8 people prepared and distributed the neighborhood flyers. The MYF made and distributed candy cane Christmas advertisements to our audiences and 9 people operated 4 hospitality sites for guests along the caroling route.



Thanks to everyone who helped make this all-church event a special night to be remembered.





## United Methodist Women

**United Methodist Women** will hold our scheduled meeting on **January 10, 2011** at **10:00 AM**. Plans and programs for 2012 will be established. All women of any age or interest are welcome to join at anytime. United Methodist Women hear the cries of women, children and youth and constantly look for ways in which we can support them. UMW programs help people become as great as they can be. Please join us-It's an exciting relationship.

## **BEADS OF HOPE**

### ***Looking Back and Looking Ahead***

We had a great year making jewelry with our beads made from recycled bullets. We raised about \$1,500.00 from the sales of these beads which benefited the Salkehatchie Mission Program and United Methodist Apportionments. As a remembrance of their experience, we donated bracelets to the Upstate Salkehatchie campers who lodged at our church. In December, we donated 100 adjustable rawhide bracelets for the Triune Mercy Center Ministry. Two churches have started Beads of Hope groups through our instruction and so our ministry is expanding. In addition, we have enjoyed many hours of fun and fellowship as we designed this jewelry.

In 2012, we will continue our monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. at 7:00 p.m.

**Our next gathering is Monday, January 16 at 7:00 PM  
at the Turner's home., 536 Mahaffey Road, Greer 29651**

If you wish to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 6:45 pm. Bring your friends. Everyone is welcome. If you need more information, call Cheryl Turner 297-3273 or email at [7172tomcat@att.net](mailto:7172tomcat@att.net).



## Thank you Thank you!!! 🇺🇸

I am soo appreciative of the box the church sent to me. The thought was such a kind gesture, and made my day. I received the box on 28 December 2011. Although it didn't get here before or on Christmas, I still got it just in time.

I read all of the Christmas cards, and especially enjoyed the ones from the children. They were soo cute!!!

Thank you for the Sudoku books, hand sanitizers, lotions, lip balm and gum. I really like the devotional book you sent too. Very useful. 🇺🇸



Please read this email to the church and thank them all for such wonderful and kind things they sent to me in the Christmas cards. I was soooo surprised to see soo many people thinking of me during the holidays. It's hard to be away from my family and life while over here, and especially during the holidays. But having such a wonderful support structure such as my Disciples family makes it a little easier. I initially was suppose to come home in February, however, I will not be coming home until April instead. I decided to bump my leave back another 60 days of the original date because Christopher will be on spring break then.

In addition, my brother is also over here, and is currently in Afghanistan. He's about 2 hours away (by flight), and he will be coming home the same time. Because of that, I thought it would be better to come home then. And please keep my brother in your payers. He's stationed on a base in Afghanistan, where there are only 30 other soldiers. They only get mail once a month, and are in desperate need of care packages. It's alot of places here in the middle east that people don't hear about, and that does not reach the media. Because of that, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. I am fortunate enough to be at a base where I have access to all of the things I want and need.

Well I have attached a couple of pictures to this email. Please feel free to share with the others, so they can see that I am ok. Yes I have on civilian clothes, b/c my job and missions require me to wear them more than I wear my uniform. Well have a good day. I love and miss you all dearly.

Chalonda





## 2011 The Year In Review

The following gives a recap of the 2011 Adult Fellowship Events and the All-Church Events coordinated by Adult Fellowship.

### **February 13<sup>th</sup> Meal at Olympian Restaurant**

36 people enjoyed the varied menu options at the Olympian Restaurant at Five Forks following the 11:00 AM Worship Service. This was a great fellowship event giving us the opportunity to relax, chat, share news, enjoy good food and great service.

### **July 16<sup>th</sup> Pizza and Movie at the Church**

30 Adults enjoyed great pizza from Tony's New York Pizzeria and the powerful movie "Invictus" starring Morgan Freeman as Nelson Mandela. Intermission included popcorn, soft drinks and gift drawing. Betty Buckallew won the gourmet gift basket donated by Betty Stansell.

### **September 16<sup>th</sup> Low Country Boil**

72 people attended the Low Country Boil dinner at the Stansell's. All enjoyed a great dinner that included low country boil or optional grilled chicken, coleslaw, hush puppies and thanks to the Whipples' an array of wedding cakes. The weather was delightfully cool, the food was wonderful and the fellowship was fun and stimulating.

### **November 4<sup>th</sup> Game Night**

23 people enjoyed a wide variety of snacks, good conversation and fellowship plus played a number of different games.

## **Disciples UMC All Church Events**

### **April 30<sup>th</sup> DUMC All Church Greenville Drive Game**

72 ticket holders attended the April 30<sup>th</sup> game! In addition to the game and fellowship, 11 lucky people won great donated prizes in the "Hometown Homer" contest.

### **December 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Caroling on the Greenville Trolley**

80 people participated in this activity. See recap in this newsletter.

**Watch for the 2012 Line-Up Coming Soon.**

# MEDITATION

The following meditation entitled “The Field of Anathoth: Living into Hope,” based on Jeremiah 32:6-15 and Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-24 was given by the pastoral counselor at Disciples Counseling Center, Rev. Dr. Rachel Matthews, at the Thomas McAfee Service of Remembrance on December 3 and 4, 2011. May it be a message of hope and comfort for you.

Jeremiah was a prophet during 587BC and can help us in our mourning. He was a man afflicted. He was imprisoned and ignored. He watched Israel suffer and his friends die. His nation was captured, his place of worship was destroyed and his understanding of God was turned upside down. Jeremiah experienced many of the extreme feelings and behaviors that we call grief from shock and sadness to relief and a sense of freedom. He experienced helplessness, tiredness and a loss of appetite. He grieved in his own unique way as all people do when a loved one dies.

Jeremiah expressed his grief through prayers of sorrow and symbols of mourning. His prayers were like those in the Book of Lamentations. We can imagine him lamenting,

“I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;  
.... my soul is bereft of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is;  
so I say, “Gone is my glory, and my expectation from the Lord.”

One primary way we mourn our grief is by remembering who we miss, much like we are doing today. In our naming, story telling, scripture reading, preaching and praying, our brains “remember” the person as if he or she were with us. Like a puzzle our brain re-members the person or event and brings each piece of the past into our present moment. We talk about what they looked like, what they wore, what their favorite things were, how their voice sounded, and what they smelled like. I remember my grandfather, who was a very important person in my life; he smelled like peppermint and old spice. To this day, when I smell those two smells together, I feel like my grandfather is in the room.

When we talk about the life we had with our loved one, it is ok to talk about the pain we feel without them. One of my favorite quotes is by Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said,

Nothing can make up for the absence of someone whom we love, and it would be wrong to try and find a substitute; we must simply hold out and see it through. That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time, it is a great consolation, for the gap, as long as it remains unfilled, preserves the bonds between us. It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap; God doesn't fill it, but on the contrary, keeps it empty and so helps us to keep alive our former communion with each other, even at the cost of pain.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Collecting and sharing quotes, journaling, writing poetry about “the gap,” and painting pictures to fill the “emptiness” are ways to re-member. We re-member the journey that we are taking in order to adjust to “the gap.”

Sometimes in this re-remembering it is hard to find hope. There are too many pieces. Life is chaotic. Life is dark. New normal seems a long way a way from the old normal. Like Jeremiah it feels like the world is against us or even that God has abandoned and afflicted us. This is a spiritual component in grief. Stephen Foster describes times like this like a shadow over our hearts: “The day goes by like a shadow o'er the heart, With sorrow, where all was delight.” Other people have described this experience as a wilderness or being in exile like Jeremiah.



Somewhere in his darkest moment in his exile Jeremiah “calls to mind” or re-members something that gives him hope. He prays,

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind and therefore I have hope,

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning;  
Great is thy faithfulness.

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore, I will hope in him.”

Somewhere in the bottom of the bottom, in the deepest part of his grief, as Jeremiah mourns his affliction, his memory of a greater strength than his own begins to grow and he is able to re-member his trust in the Lord. His faith helps him to grasp Hope. “The Lord is my portion, says my soul, therefore, I will hope in him.”

Hope is a wonderful thing when it comes to you in the darkest of nights. Emily Dickinson writes about hope this way:

Hope by Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune--without the words,  
And never stops at all,  
And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.  
I've heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

Hope helps us ascend the suffering and focus on the goodness that guides us out of despair.

Jeremiah listened for this strength and goodness in the midst of his affliction. He usually described these revelations as the Word from the Lord. One such Word came in the form of instructions to buy a field in Anathoth. The field was supposed to be Jeremiah’s rightful inheritance, a first option to buy kind of thing; however, it was more than that, it was a symbol of Israel’s inheritance. This was a terrible time to buy real estate. The Israelites were being deported. They were in the throws of war. It was chaos. Yet, Jeremiah told the people that this field tangibly represented Hope. Symbolically, it represented what was: the experience of a people who had been led by God out of another time of exile in Egypt into the promised land. The land, this field, represented “remembered strength.” It represented promises, a time when they were sure that God was with them. This memory was their inheritance. And, the field represented what was to come: a day when life would again prosper. The field was a living memorial.

This summer my family did some re-remembering. My husband took our three sons and me to Europe to trace his late father's WWII footsteps. We travelled by rail the thousand miles from where his dad was captured in the Battle of the Bulge at the Belgium-German border, to the Clyde River in Glasgow, upstream from where he and some 10,000 other seasick American GIs arrived on the RMS Aquitania. In Belgium we stood at the edge of foxholes slightly filled in from the erosion of time but still very present under the canopy of the pine tree forests.

In the villages in the Belgium mountains we heard stories of bravery and valor about the people who were killed and the families who sacrificed. In one village there is a memorial with a plaque that lists the names of all the men in the village who were killed by the Nazis including one Roman Catholic priest. The story goes that the Roman Catholic priest was able to convince the Nazis to save one man in the village of Nouvelle who had 12 children to support. He was killed in this man's place. All the current day houses in this village belong to these children. The town is flourishing. Town after town had stories of both tragedy and bravery.

We walked on the beaches of Normandy. I was overwhelmed with the eerie silence of awe. There were three young GI's visiting Omaha beach standing to my left. I happened to overhear the words, "they were our age." Just at that moment I looked in front of me and saw my 18 year old walking at the edge of the water. I became choked up as I made a similar comparison, "the soldiers who died were his age." The weight of the lives lost there was heavy, especially when I walked by row after row of crosses and stars of David in the graveyard overlooking Omaha beach. Normandy was flattened after the war from the bombs and gunfire. They rebuilt it to look just like it did before the war. Even today more than 65 years later they are still rebuilding. WWI and WWII memorials are everywhere in Europe. Everybody we talked with was in some way personally affected by the wars. Yet, life has continued and the people there seem to have integrated the pain of the loss into their present realities.

The trip was memorable and life changing for us. One thing the trip allowed us to do was talk about my husband's dad with the boys, "Pops." He died when our youngest was about 2 so they all have a memory about him but the memory did not include the war. Pop's war stories were not discussed when he was alive, at least not in large measure. During these ten years since his death, my husband has done lot of research and digging to try to understand what his dad must have experienced and what kind of impact his silence had on our family. Thankfully, there have been many veterans who have been willing to talk about their war experience. And, thankfully there have been many families of soldiers who died in the war who have shared their grief and how they have mourned with those of us whose families couldn't. In many ways the trip became a living memorial for us for the sacrifice he was never able to fully mourn.

Reach deep in your grief. Cling fast to Hope as Jeremiah did when he purchased that field at Anathoth. Mourn the pain of the person you love. Experience the reality of the gap. Find a way to tell your story about the person you miss. And, remember deeply what strengths your loved one gave to you. Your loved one doesn't have to have been an older person like our Pops to do this. Even a small baby or child has strength to give you: maybe it was patience, or gratitude, or a moment of possibility. Remember the inheritance that he or she gave to you. Remember the hope that you shared together. Ask yourself, "What living memorial is available for me to grasp and plant and prosper in?" You have your own field of Anathoth.



**Given By**

Marion & Pat Goodyear  
John & Evelyn Cook

The McInerneys  
The Painters  
Dick & Helen Rowland

Mark & Debby Balcer

Dan & Betty Stansell  
Dick & Lanneau Grant

**Honor of**

Juanita Goodyear  
Our 3 daughters  
& 4 grandchildren  
Laverna White  
Dorothy Painter  
Sylvia Lawanda Droke  
Virginia Rowland  
Ron & Tori Conklin  
Catherine Balcer  
Our Children & Grandchildren  
Our Grandchildren

**Given By**

Marion & Pat Goodyear

Tom & Cheryl Turner

Catherine Cuneo  
Kishani & Arun Wickramasuriya  
Chuck & Connie Polk

George & Karen Cummings

Maggie Painter  
John & Bea Churchill  
Dick & Helen Rowland

Dan & Betty Stansell

**Memory of**

J.C. & Norma Rogers  
Genair Goodyear  
Paul & Christine Kirk  
Elmer & Pauline Turner  
Olin S. Pugh  
My Uncle Averno  
Chuck DeLong &  
Francis Polk  
Donnie Crotty  
Bill & Rea Short  
George & Nelda Cummings  
Penny Chamberlain  
Helen Ruth Dey  
Charles Droke  
Bernard Rowland  
Our parents  
Sandra & Leroy Stansell



**Prayer List**

Gary Center by Martha Center  
 Sandra Lee Bible  
 Barney Moody  
 Mark & Terry Buckallew  
 Diane Munn  
 Clark Gaston Jr.  
 Faye Fletcher (Pat Joye's mother)  
 Lawanda Droke (Helen Rowland's Mom)  
 Sam & Gerda Hook  
 George & Thelma Hume  
 (Patty Hammond's Parents)  
 Anne Marie Fields (Pat Joye's daughter)  
 Pat Joye and family  
 Michelle Fluegge (Debby Balcer's Sister)  
 Karen Ryan (Mike Wallace's sister)  
 Dick & Lanneau Grant  
 Anne-Marie Joye Fields  
 Peggy C. Tiger  
 JoAnn Wallace (Mike Wallace's mother)  
 Frank Beal  
 Fae Brand  
 Carolyn Polk Davis  
 Chuck Polk  
 Annette Taylor  
 Delores Davis (Pastor D's cousin)  
 Kelly Silvers  
 Laurie & Andy Hunter  
 Dale Reeves  
 The Butler Family  
 Patty Beal  
 Sammy Rushing  
 Cathy Williams  
 Laura Brand  
 Susie Crothy  
 Dr. Rudolph Gordon (Melanie Gordon's father)  
 Chalonda Williams  
 B.J. Blackwood  
 Ellen & Gary Miesse  
 Christopher Williams  
 Tonia Renew  
 Bill & Betsy Simpson  
 Tori Conklin  
 Sue Anderson  
 Celeste Miller  
 Alcie Ward  
 Charles & Jessie Phillips  
 Karen Kane (Barbara McInerneys sister)  
 Bobby Wells



HAVE A **GREAT** BIRTHDAY!

**January 2012**

Jessica Goodyear	Wisser	1-1
Amanda Busbee		1-2
Matthew Golob		1-3
Marion Goodyear		1-5
Imogene moody		1-5
Catherine Cuneo		1-12
Barbara McInerney		1-14
Wilma Eichmeyer		1-15
Taylor Marshall		1-15
Glena Anderson		1-19
Daniel Murtaugh		1-21
Guy Burney		1-22
Jeffrey Atchison		1-24
Emily Carter		1-24
Fred Copeland		1-24



**Disciples United Methodist  
Church**

**Important Numbers:**

Church Office (864) 297-0382

Pastor Email – pastor\_d@live.com

Church e-mail [disciples@bellsouth.net](mailto:disciples@bellsouth.net)

Congregational Care: [disciplescare@bellsouth.net](mailto:disciplescare@bellsouth.net)

Church Fax (864) 297-5423

Church Parsonage (864) 297-0213

Child Development Center (864) 297-6951

Counseling Center (864) 297-5101

Lay Leader, Mary Berry (864) 918-4528

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** – Monday – Thursday  
from  
9:00am to 1:00pm

**We are on the web!**  
[www.mydisciples.org](http://www.mydisciples.org)

**DISCIPLES**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
185 Riley Smith Road  
Greenville, South Carolina 29615  
(864)-297-0382

**OUR MISSION:** To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

**OUR VISION:** We strive to be a growing family of faith that nurtures a climate of caring and spiritual growth within its membership, celebrates inclusiveness and racial diversity as a reality and continuing goal within its membership and witnesses for fairness, compassion, and love among all God's people.



**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR** – Please sign up to purchase flowers. The cost is \$40. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** – The deadline to get Newsletter articles in for the following month is on the **25<sup>th</sup>** of every month. You can either e-mail it to the church office or put it in Cheryl's mailbox.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** – The deadline for announcements is Wednesday by 12noon. Content for the order of worship is Monday 12 noon.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FORMS** – If you would like an announcement placed in the bulletin and/or newsletter please fill out an Announcement Form, located on Cheryl Lehnert's door. Please place completed the form and leave in the box on the door or put it into Cheryl's mailbox.

**DISCIPLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF**

**Debra Griffis-Woodberry - Pastor**

Cheryl Lehnert - Communications Secretary

Bill Whipple - Congregational Care

Barbara McInerney - Child Dev. Center Director

Patty Hammond - Pianist/Organist

Amanda Geddings—Youth Director

Steven Mathena—Music Director

Dr.. Rachel Matthews – Dir. of Counseling Center/Counselor

Chalonda Williams – Gospel Choir, Pianist

**Newsletter**—Betty Buckallew

Cheryl Lehnert

Sandy Bryson