

**Socastee United Methodist Church**  
**5575 Dick Pond Road**  
**Myrtle Beach, SC 29588**  
**Summer 2021 Newsletter**

[socasteeumc.org](http://socasteeumc.org)

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### **Kurt's Corner**

This year's Annual Conference was held virtually. On June 6-7 I was one of nearly 2,000 lay and clergy members of Annual Conference who gathered online for two days of fellowship, worship, business, and more.

With the theme "Seeking A More Excellent Way: Taking the Next Faithful Step," this year's conference marked the 50th session since the South Carolina Annual Conference was organized. In 1972 the South Carolina Conference (1785) and the South Carolina Conference (1866) merged into what is today the South Carolina Annual Conference.

South Carolina Resident Bishop L. Jonathan Holston said the theme and the gathering was an opportunity to courageously go where God is leading us, entrusting God with each step that we take. He acknowledged the difficulty and challenges of this year with a pandemic and social unrest and praised the resilience of the church and its people.

AC2021 started at 2:00 PM Sunday, June 6, with the clergy session. At 7:00 PM was the Service for Ordination and Commissioning. North Alabama Resident Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett preached the ordination service, with Holston presiding. Eighteen men and women were commissioned or ordained in the service, and retiring pastors were recognized, including the traditional "passing of the mantle" from the retiring class to the new class of clergy.

On Monday, June 7, business officially started at 10:00 AM with the presentation of video reports. The bulk of the day featured reports from various committees and other bodies, including the Committee on Standing Rules, Committee on Nominations, Conference Connectional Ministries, Board of Ordained Ministry, Board of Pension & Health Benefits, Commission on Equitable Compensation, Cabinet, Conference Lay Leader, and more.

The Conference Council on Finance & Administration presented a \$15.9 million budget for 2022 for vote (3.2 percent lower than last year's approved 2021 budget), and the day concluded with elections led by nominations, resolutions for church closings and charge line changes, and the site and date for the 2022 Annual Conference (June 5-8, 2022 in Florence).

Holston later conducted the Sending Forth and Fixing of the Appointments (I will be back for my seventh year!), and the day concluded at 7:00 p.m. with a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving, preached by the Rev. Joe Long.

Conducting Annual Conference virtually certainly works, but I miss being together in person.

In Christ,

Pastor Kurt



## LOOKING OUT DEE'S WINDOW— Dee Horton



“Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.” James 1: 2-4 (New Living Translation)

Let’s face it! Every once in awhile, each of us engages in a little pity party. So, I’m confessing to “partying” a little more than I should have over the past couple of months. Beginning with a two-week period of the worst lower back pain I’ve experienced in my life, to the current situation in which I find myself – laid up with a broken bone in my ankle (the right one, of course) and having to wear a toe to knee space walker boot. I have found myself having a bit of a pity party a couple of times. But come on now, really! My ankle hurts, I can’t get comfortable to sleep well, showering is an exhausting ordeal, I can’t drive, the boot is cumbersome and looks hideous, yada yada yada. Doesn’t that qualify for a pity party?

It’s very easy during a rough patch to ask why me? But we really know the answer before we ask – and that is “why not me?” I’m no better than anyone else to encounter problems. So, I’ve learned more so than ever during these couple of months, to make every effort to concentrate on my countless blessings, not only because there are so many and God is deserving of my thanks, but also because it keeps me from “partying” too much.

I realize that my fall could have resulted in far more extensive injuries than they did. For one thing, I hit my head and a CT scan revealed no problems (and they did actually see a brain too!). A huge blessing is that my knight in shining armor Lee has been the most wonderful nursemaid, cook, launderer, ironer, taxi, and support system anyone could ever ask for. Friends and neighbors, especially Jane Truitt, have been supportive beyond words. Meals and offers to help in any way have abounded.

So, I have learned a huge lesson in all of this! Staying positive is a must! I always reference our view from the sun-room and during this time, it has been more appreciated than ever. God provides us with so much beauty and so often we don’t take the time to enjoy it. Well, I have really taken pleasure in all the activity among the birds, squirrels, and even a couple of turtles who have roamed out of the pond into the yard. The magnolia tree has had so many beautiful blooms on it this year and that has made me happy.

I know that “this, too, shall pass”! And as I wait for the healing to completely take place, I will try and have patience and gratitude for God’s presence in my life in the countless ways I experience Him. And as James says in the above Scripture, may I “be strong in character and ready for anything.”

**Sunday School**



On Sunday mornings there are four adult Sunday School classes and a children's class available.

**Aldersgate** meets in the 1875 Sanctuary at 8:45 AM.

**The Sarah Page Cooper** class meets at 8:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall Room 201.

**The John Wesley** class meets at 8:45 AM in the John Wesley Room.

**The Covenant Keepers** meet at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall Room 105.

**Children's Sunday School**

Ages kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meet at 8:45 AM in the upper level of the Fellowship Hall.

All classes are open to everyone and each class would welcome you as a new participant.

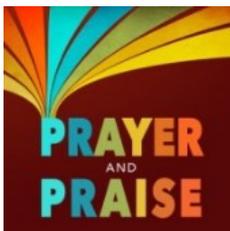
**Sunday Morning Worship**



Our Sunday morning service is a traditional service with hymns, bible reading, prayer, and a sermon. It is held each Sunday morning at 10:00 AM in the main

Sanctuary.

**Sunday Evening Prayer And Praise Service**



Our evening Prayer and Praise service is held each Sunday at 4:00 PM in the 1875 Sanctuary. Join us for singing, praying for others, and Bible Study.

**United Methodist Men in Ministry**



The United Methodist Men In Ministry, also known as "Men's Club" **WILL NOT MEET** in July and August. We will resume on September 21 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Here's wishing you a happy and safe Summer. See you in September!

**Hope Circle**



Hope Circle meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall, Room 105, at 12:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month for a snack, fellowship, and a meeting. Next meeting will be in September.

**Bible Study**



Join us on Thursday mornings for Bible study. The group meets at 10:30 AM in the 1875 Sanctuary. All are welcome.

Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall Room 201.

Family and Friends Summer Cook-Out

Are you ready to get back to "normal" and spend some time with our church family and friends? Join us on June 26 for an evening of food, music, fun, and fellowship. The music will be provided by a young woman who goes by the name Gypsy Soul. The food will include hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and watermelon. We are asking those attending to bring a dessert. There will be games for the young and the young at heart. Festivities will begin at 5:00 PM. So bring your family and friends and let's celebrate the end of a very long year and the beginning of a wonderful new one. Sign up will be available on Realm and in church on Sunday mornings.

Hope Circle News

On Sunday, June 6, I noticed that there were many new faces in our church, and I thought these women might be interested in joining Hope Circle. Current members of Hope Circle are looking for new members to join our women's group.

We have had a few changes over the past couple of years. Unfortunately, the biggest change is that we have lost several wonderful members due to illness and/or their passing heavenward. Another change is that we now operate as a church organization focusing primarily on local missions. "The purpose of the United Methodist women is to be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive friendship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in ministries of the church."

We would like to encourage all women in our church family, as well as new church members, to attend and join our Hope Circle meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of the month September through May. As Secretary of Hope Circle, I will be sending out letters this summer, especially to our new members from the past two years, inviting you to attend a "Meet and Greet" meeting where you can ask questions, get to know us, and hopefully join our Circle. Keep an eye out for the letter in your mailbox this Summer.

Helen Crisman-Janssen

Secretary, Hope Circle



Dee Horton will be selling Attraction Books for 2022 beginning in July or August of this year.

This fundraising effort is for the purpose of paying down the Fellowship Hall debt. So, keep this in mind and think about purchasing a book for yourself and also for others as gifts.

**July Birthdays**

Betty Dwy	3	Jan Terrell	15	Raymond Harter	30
Mary Graham	3	Hartley Ambrose	17	Noah Nininger	31
Coral Kipe	3	Linda Disbrow	17		
Lyndsay Musgrave	3	Peggy Inman	18		
Iris Montero	4	Retta Lively	18		
Eric Grzeszkowiak	5	Dan Meldrom	18		
Dot McCracken	5	Greg Rogers	18		
Lee Horton	7	Gloria Frazier	19		
Don Moore	7	Chesson Ambrose	20		
Kerri Bennett	8	Lauren Owens	20		
Charles Hudson	8	Trudie Bealer	21		
Tyler Crislip	9	Bill Swisher	21		
Abby Donevant	9	Jaime Bulda	22		
Christina Rogers	10	Scott Williamson	22		
Katrina Barton	11	Rachel Kilpatrick	24		
Carly Hall	11	Ashleigh Harmon	25		
Shirley Mahoney	11	John Hinson	27		
Becky Hyre	12	Johnny Livingston	27		
Alice Dunn	13	Mickie Singleton	27		
Bob Bobo	15	Gregory Thompson	28		
Barbara Harter	15	Ed Wilbraham	28		

**July Anniversaries**

Scotty & Cheyenne Singleton	1
John & Cheryl Hinson	4
John & Sandra Stegall	4
Bob & Sharon Scott	5
Alan & Mary Koch	9
Terri Lambert	9
Bo & Mary Turbeville	14
David & Cheryl Harmon	24
Bill & Misty Singleton	27
Chuck & Peggy Muravnick	28
Jim & Neal Smith	28

**August Birthday's**

Olin Cooper	2	Janet Fincher	20
Tina Doud-Kearns	2	Pamela Doharty	21
Robert Santee	2	Sandy Putnam	21
Martha Strickland	2	Norm Wiley	22
Bob Michael	3	Katie Collins	23
Michael Hanselman	4	Riley McNally	24
Jordyn Heilman	6	John Nolan	25
Tammi Ward	6	Joanne Ryals	25
Betty Walsh	8	Ellie Turbeville	26
Mike White	9	Taylor Turbeville	26
Pam Moyers	10	Alex Beltran	27
Jim Smith	12	Chuck McMinn	27
Pat Hall	13	Mark Terrell	27
Hunter Higgins	15	Jon Bohannon	28
Kathy Sitkowski	17	Lanny Lewin	28
		Judy Majors	29
		Chase Poplin	31

**August Anniversaries**

Don & Trish Layton	5
Gregory & Bonnie Rosenberger	6
Lee & Dee Horton	9
Don & Gleora Jones	10
Scott & Jean Hover	11
Ronald & Linda Peterson	21
Dan & Charlotte Weinfurther	22
Don & Jean Bates	23
Jerry & Charlotte Loiselle	23
Jim & Harriet Witten	23
Johnny & Jodi Livingston	26
Richard & Melissa Ward	28
Greg & Kandy Rogers	30

**September Birthday's**

Nichole Rogers	1
Matt Tucker	2
Charlotte Weinfurther	3
Glenda Neal	5
Bev Boyson	6
Ryan Harter	8
Trish Layton	9
Susan Posey	9
Patricia Kircher	10
Sandi Poplin	10
Bill Singleton	11
Rachael Harter	12
Karen Jakubek	14
Janet McGrew	14
Lynn Petrick	14
Joyce Silvis	15
Mary Wilson	15
Harry Miller	16
Alice Stewart	17
Melanie Vining	17
Roy Bennett	18
Jenna Livingston	18

Joyce Robertson	18
Beryl Moore	19
Shirley Ritchey	19
Phillip Bennett	20
Christopher Waters	21
Jackie Donevant	23
Natalie Harmon	23
Misty Singleton	23
Will Zachary	23
Blake Smith	24
Kala Peterson	25
Hannah Tessenear	26
Jacob Weaver [Finch]	26
Bruce Smith	27
Ernestine Stevens	27
Butch Williamson	27
Debbie England	28
Pam Nettleton	28
Cynthia White (Ratliff)	28
Catherine Cyganiewicz	29
Lois Hormell	29
Beverly Moretz	29
Tom Chandler	30

**September Anniversaries**

David & Sue Ewald	6
Jim & Susan Finch	7
Lee & Shirley Ritchey	10
Gene & Coral Kipe	15
Charles & Judy Hudson	19
Ronald & Josephine Schloesser	29



Lee & Debbie Marin

On May 30, Debbie and Lee Marin joined our church family. Deb's parents, Harold and Joan Wood, were members of Socastee for many years. Deb and Lee have been visiting SUMC for the last 25 years. They are both from Harwinton, Connecticut. They made a permanent move to Myrtle Beach in September.

Lee worked in a steel mill in Bristol, Connecticut for 40 years and Deb worked as a Senior Loan Officer at a Credit Union for 31 years. They have four sons, three of whom are married. They have eight grandchildren, three boys and five girls, ages 2-15.

Lee enjoys sports and Deb has been involved with making cards for the Gracie's Heart ministry.

**SUMC 2021 GRADUATES**

We are pleased to honor the following members of Socastee United Methodist who graduated in the year 2021:

- Rianna Kathleen Kearns will graduate from Socastee High June 15. She will start HGTC in the fall working towards her Associate in Science degree.
- Jacob Bartlett is graduating from St. James High School. He will be attending CCU and majoring in history.
- Leeann Poplin is graduating from HGTC with an associate's degree.

### Back-to-School Supplies Drive



Yes, summer has just started, but the days pass quickly and the 2021-22 school year will be here before we know it. The first day of a new school year is exciting no matter what grade a child is entering, and part of the excitement is beginning fresh with new notebooks, pencils, and glue sticks. Sadly, some children must start school without these necessary tools for learning because their families are struggling financially and cannot buy materials. On the first day of school, these children will sit in a class full of their peers but be unable to open crisp, clean composition books and write their names with a brand-new, sharpened pencil. This affects children's emotional state as well as their ability to complete classroom tasks and assignments. Therefore, your Missions Committee is sponsoring a school supplies drive during the months of July and August. We can help our local students avoid this distressing experience and give them a positive, hopeful start to the new school year.

We will focus our efforts on the needs of children who live in Plantation Apartments and attend Socastee Elementary School. Once the school publishes the supplies list for their students, we will forward the information on to you just in time for all those wonderful back to school sales! Collection baskets will be located in the narthex and Fellowship Hall beginning the first Sunday of July.

### Blessing Box



Our Blessing Box continues to be regularly used. If you have not joined this fulfilling mission, please consider adding a few items to your weekly shopping list and place them in the Blessing Box. Perhaps toiletries could be your thing and you can make sure that toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and anti-perspirant are available on a weekly basis. Maybe you have an affinity for cleaning supplies and would find joy in knowing that someone can clean his home properly because you put laundry detergent and dishwashing liquid in the Blessing Box. Participate in the Blessing Box mission! YOU will be blessed!

### Back-to-School Tuition Drive - Holy Innocents Education Fund



Last year SUMC generously supported the education needs of seven Haitian schoolchildren of the Holy Innocents Church of Canaan outside of Port au Prince, Haiti. For years the church's pastor Pere Val, a retired Episcopalian priest, and his wife Carmel, a public health nurse, have worked to improve the lives of impoverished Haitians, even as the country continues to battle the Covid-19 pandemic and great upheaval in their government. Nutrition programs, health care, and education are among the factors that can help Haitians to eventually break their country's cycle of poverty and improve their standard of living. However, these are out of reach of most Haitian citizens who face tremendous unemployment and a crippled economy.

Your Missions Committee asks that you prayerfully consider a financial gift to the Holy Innocents Education Fund for the 2021-22 school year. Approximately \$700-\$800 can pay for tuition, books & supplies, and uniforms for a child who might otherwise not be able to gain an education. There is no such thing as free public education in Haiti and few families are able to send their children to school even though they know that education is one key to escaping the dire poverty in which they live.

The Haitian school year begins in September and it is our prayer that SUMC will continue to support our "original seven" and add three more students to our list. By the first of August, we hope to be able to transmit funds to Pere Val that will provide tuition for at least ten children of his church. Please pray for God's blessings on these little ones. "Whatever you did for the least of a brother or sister of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

### Blue Star Mothers - Heroes Boxes



In honor of Veterans Day 2021, Marilyn Burch is leading our church in collecting items for the men and women of the Armed Forces who serve our country all over the world. They often are far from home and loved ones for months or years, and Blue Star Mothers pack and ship Heroes Boxes to remind them of our gratitude for their service and sacrifices. Please check the Sunday bulletin for a list of items you may donate during September and October.