Giving is an act of worship and makes our ministry possible. In addition to offerings given through the offering plate, there are other ways to give:

1. **Online Donations or Bank EPay**
   
   Anyone can set up EPay through their personal bank or you can set up one-time or recurring payments using Vanco, our online system for contributions, which can be setup through our church website www.lsumc.net. It’s a secure and convenient way to make contributions!

2. **Mail**
   
   You can always mail any donation to the church office: Lyttleton Street UMC, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC 29020.

3. **Endowment – Is God’s Will in Your Will?**

   **Outright Gifts**
   
   - cash
   - publicly traded securities
   - real property
   - tangible personal property
   - other property

   **Planned Gifts**
   
   - will bequests
   - estates
   - insurance policies
   - income programs
   - retirement plan gifts

   You don’t have to be wealthy to give. Gifts offer certain tax advantages to donors and may be made in honor or memory of friends or family. Give a last legacy gift that will sustain and grow Lyttleton Street UMC’s ministries for years to come.

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**Sunday, December 23**

9 a.m. Traditional Service

11:15 a.m. Blended Service with the elevate! Band in the Sanctuary

**Monday, December 24**

3 p.m. Family Service (children participation)

5 p.m. Lessons & Carols Communion & Candlelight

7:30 p.m. Blended Service Communion & Candlelight

**Christmas Poinsettias**

It’s time to order your poinsettia in honor or in memory of loved ones. Call the church at 803-432-3191 to place your order. The cost is $18 each. The poinsettias will be placed in the church on December 16th. You may pick them up after the Christmas Eve services.

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**Lyttleton Street**

**United Methodist Church**

1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC 29020

**Mission:** To help establish God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven through **Nurture, Outreach and Witness.**

Michael Arant & Meegian Gossard, Pastors

December 2018 Newsletter

Return Service Requested

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**Musical Musings**

By Jason N. Brown

Director of Music

It’s been a great year at LSUCM! We’ve witnessed several baptisms, received new members, celebrated lives well lived, transitioned between pastors, and grown in Christian love. This year will mark my third Christmas Eve at LSUCM. As I reminisce on Christmases past, I thought I’d share with you a verse of Trinidadian Christmas carol:

We haven’t got snow, and the cold don’t blow,

but we’ve got Christmas sun.

We haven’t got fog or fireside logs,

but we’ve got Christmas fun.

We’ve got the Christmas spirit and all that goes with it

on our sun-kissed island shores.

Our absent folks we’re toasting while the turkey is a-roasting,

as we see old friends once more.

Well, I was surprised to learn how much the cold does blow here in SC. But fret not! Your music ministry will bring some of the warmth of the Caribbean in our sanctuary on December 9th! Come hear our Chancel Choir, along with some singers from the community, present a Christmas concert at 6:00pm with steel drums! (Or steelpan, as we called them on the island.)(This concert is one you certainly don’t want to miss. I’ve arranged a piece for the steel drums and organ, and as a bonus, it’s another opportunity to sing some of your favorite Christmas carols! )
Many Detours, But One Faithful God

In June of 1990, my father was appointed to Gordon Memorial and Greenbrier United Methodist Churches in Winnsboro, SC. At this time I was fifteen, I started attending Fairfield Central HS in Winnsboro, and I was struggling with a lot of things. However, God changed my life for the better through this move. To understand the change in my life, I will share with you my journey to Winnsboro.

When I was born my heart stopped, the doctor had to use a neonatal defibrillator and my first week of life was in an infant incubator. For a number of years all seemed well, but by three years of age my parents had my hearing tested and learned that I was deaf in one ear and had only 10% hearing in the other. After reconstructive surgery I regained my hearing. However, I was deaf long enough as a child that I had to spend a great deal of my life catching up and in speech therapy.

In 1981 my mother’s best friend and her daughter Chrisly were both murdered. Christy and I were born two weeks apart. We both had dark hair and blue eyes; we could have passed for twins. Understandably my parents no longer allowed me to play any sports. When we moved to Greenwood in 1988, I was in junior high school and struggling in many ways! Grasping at straws, my parents reluctantly allowed me to play football again.

When I was fourteen, God changed my life for the better when we moved to Winnsboro. That first summer there I started playing football under Dr. Jerry Brown. Coach Brown was strict; he taught me about goals, how to study and about personal discipline. Between Coach Brown and Tara, I matured greatly. Through their impact on my life, by my senior year, I answered God’s call to ordained ministry.

After graduating high school, Tara and I went to Spartanburg Methodist College. Because of Coach Brown’s training, Tara’s guidance, and assurance of my purpose for ministry, I excelled academically. In the Summer of 1995, I started preaching at the Rembert-St. John Charge, married Tara and started school at Coker College.

In the words of John Newton “I once was lost, but now am found.” I know now that God used the detours that were outside of my control to bring me to faith. From personal experiences, I know that God is at work and God is faithful! Today Tara and I have been serving God together for over twenty-three years, and I know that God is good!

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”—Jeremiah 29:11

Blessings & Peace,

Michael Arant / michael@lsumc.net

Debbie Bonek & Debbie Riley. Debbie Bonek is our new senior visitation guardian and she will be visiting our members in the nursing homes. Debbie Riley is our new shut-in care guardian and she will be visiting our homebound seniors. Both come with a depth of experience but even more importantly, they come to these ministry roles with a passion for those they serve. We are grateful and excited they have volunteered to serve and each will be a significant part of our LSUMC Team!