



In last month's newsletter, I shared that the church's building committee had started meeting in June of last year to further study the recommendations made by the strategic planning committee concerning our facility needs so that all of their work and input from church members would not sit idle. This article will provide church members with more details on our work.

First, the building committee has been encouraged that more than \$70,000 has been donated to the building fund. In addition, we've spent a great deal of time gathering information and talking to various persons connected to church construction projects. We've made site visits and invited persons to come in and talk to us.

What have we learned? We heard from several sources that there was great value in working with organizations that only work with churches. Evaluating a church's facility needs and appropriate steps to take to address those is different than working on a governmental or business building project. We also had others tell us that this decision was big enough that we would be wise to partner with organizations who could provide expertise and experience from the beginning, especially to help us determine the best long-term plan for our church. If we enter into a building program, we do not want to have any missteps for this significant investment.

After much prayer and considerable conversations, we have found two organizations that we feel will help us determine our best path. Both are led by Christians who describe their work as a mission to help churches discover God's direction for their ministries. Church design builder the Aspen Group [www.theaspengroup.com](http://www.theaspengroup.com) and Horizons Stewardship [www.horizons.net](http://www.horizons.net) are organizations that begin their work with meaningful conversations with church members in order to help discover the needs and challenges for growth as well as to help determine if a building program is the right next step at the time. Both groups have worked together previously on other church building programs and have offices in the Carolinas, making them easily accessible.

The building committee was unanimous in its decision to ask the Church Council for its approval to partner with these two organizations as we feel they can best lead us in our efforts. Thank you for your prayers that we may hear God's voice leading us as we continue this process.

Mary Anne Byrd | Chair, Building Committee

### Mary's Message

Saying "thank you" doesn't seem adequate. I could never fully express my appreciation to our congregation for all that was done to make the 2019 SCMYP Basketball Tournament such a success, but I feel the need to make an attempt:

**Gym Coordinators:** Ed Garrison, Scott & Trudy Ranges, Jim Bradshaw, Kevin Culp (Pathfinders Class), Greg Youngmans (Trinity Class), Casey Robinson & Susan White (New Horizons Class).

**Coaches:** Kyle Cassidy, Bobby Inabinet, Hank Green, Kris Elliott, Marty Best, Matt Downey, David Tucker, DeBo Kelly, Betty Best, Emily Catoe, Chad Peebles, Missy Peebles, Wade Luther, Tara Arant, Brian Nelson, Brandon Moore, Meredith Kirkland, Todd Sweat, Jennifer Haurert and Jim Edens. **Meals:** Trinity Class & United Methodist Men

**Team & Referee Hospitality Bags:** Susan White, Kim Youngmans, Jill Thomas, Lauren Downey, Buddy & Mary Clark **Concession, Wristband Sales, Score Book & Scoreboard Keepers:** There are too many to list, but we could not have done it without ALL of you! **Jerseys:** Kyle Cassidy **Special thank-you to:** Hank & Mary Kerfoot I'm going to lie awake at night worrying I've forgotten someone. Please forgive me if this is the case & remember I'm writing this 2 days post-tournament!

I'm happy to announce two LSUMC teams played in championship games. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys (coaches Hank Green, Kris Elliott & Marty Best) won the Jr. Boys Division and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls (coaches Jennifer Haurert & Jim Edens) were runners-up! These two teams are comprised of our 2019 Confirmation Class, plus a few others active in our youth program!

Things went so well this year that the Tournament Committee voted to hold it every year in Camden. Don't worry – I didn't accept the challenge, but do hope to bring it back to our area somewhere down the road.

Thank you! *Mary* mary@lsumc.net

# Lyttleton Street

## United Methodist Church

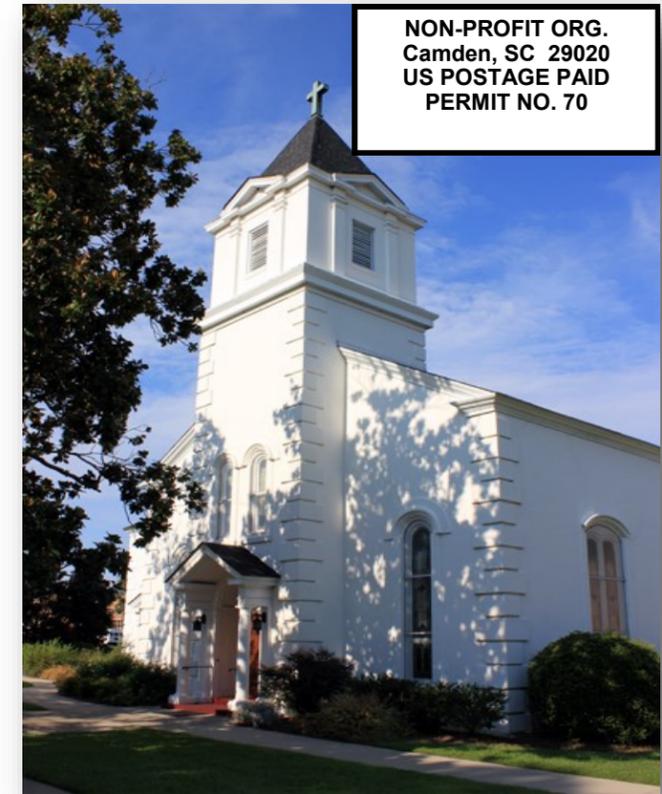
1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC 29020

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

**Michael Arant & Meegian Gossard,  
Pastors**

### February 2019 Newsletter

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**Come hear** the internationally-acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble in a concert to raise funds for Kershaw County's Community Medical Clinic!

### Congratulations...

to our children's choirs on being invited to perform on the Palmetto Master Singers' *Festival of Choirs!*

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm, our Carol Choir will be featured alongside a handful of selected choir in an afternoon of music making.

Tickets for the event are \$10.00, and you are welcome to contact the church office for more information.

American Spiritual Ensemble  
Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> February

7:00pm

Call the church office for your free ticket today!

## FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

My words to you this month come from a 2 Timothy 4:5-8 devotion I gave to our basketball teams during the tournament last month. As Christians, many of us hope when our time comes, we can say like Paul “I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race.” While, this passage is often used at funerals, the message is more than just hopeful last words. It’s inspiration for our daily living.

Life is very much like a race. Some of us run this race of life as a competition against everyone else. We have to win and be better than everyone else in order to feel like a success. Of course, this is the world’s view of success, NOT the Christian definition of success.

For a Christian, fulfillment in life comes from living **in** Christ and **for** Christ. So, our understanding of success is about faithfulness to Jesus. Success for us is about winning or conquering Satan, temptations, and trials. We count ourselves successful when we are a better disciple today than yesterday, and strive to be an even better disciple tomorrow. It is about growing and maturing in faith and in our lives as followers of Jesus.

If you play a game and lose, that does not make you a loser. If you win, that does not make you a winner. Being a winner or loser is not about points on the scoreboard. Regardless of points, if you carry yourself and behave in a way that is not Christ-like, you lose. To be a winner, you have to learn from each position, experience and most importantly you have to learn to be faithful in your actions and behavior, as a Christ-bearer. What good is it to win by points on a scoreboard but to lose your faith or to lose because you compromised your faith in Christ through poor actions? So who are **you** “competing against?” Runners often talk about “PB” ( Personal Best). In each race, competition and challenge we should all be seeking our Personal Best by trying to improve ourselves to do better each day.

A mature Paul told his pupil Timothy, “I fought a good fight” and he also instructs Timothy to “fight a good fight.” Paul’s instruction was “Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Our race is one of faith, the fight is against evil and our old selves. Your Personal Best is about growing in faith and growing as Disciples of Jesus. A quote from Ernest Hemingway sums it up nicely, “There is nothing more noble in being superior to your fellow man, true nobility is being superior to your former self.”

Blessings & Peace,



Michael Arant / michael@lsumc.net

## Meegian's Memo

Something you probably know about me is that I love musicals – Broadway, movie, Disney – it doesn’t matter. Before you ask, I have never been *in* a musical. However, I am the person who will sing along while watching the movie *The Sound of Music*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Wizard of Oz*, or anything Disney. I have a Broadway radio station set as one of the favorites in my car. I belt out show tunes when I’m at home, and nobody can hear me – well, except maybe my neighbors, but I haven’t gotten any complaints yet.

One of my favorite songs from the movie, *The Greatest Showman*, is “This is Me.” Some of the lyrics are “I’m not a stranger to the dark. Hide away, they say. ‘Cause we don’t want your broken parts. I’ve learned to be ashamed of all my scars. Run away, they say. No one will love you as you are. But I won’t let them break me down to dust. I know that there’s a place for us. For we are glorious. When the sharpest words wanna cut me down. I’m gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out. I am brave, I am bruised. I am who I’m meant to be, this is me. Look out ‘cause here I come. And I’m marching to the beat I drum. I’m not scared to be seen. I make no apologies, this is me.”

There are things at which we believe we are no good. There are even some things in which we don’t feel worthy to participate. We’ve had negative voices tell us countless times that we can’t do something and we’ll never be good enough. I love the song “This is Me” because it reminds me not to make apologies for who I am and just to be myself. Everyone has broken and bruised parts, but that doesn’t mean I need to be ashamed and hide away. I am good enough. Why? Because I am a child of God.



meegian@lsumc.net



Meegian’s Ordination Service will be held at Annual Conference on Monday, June 3 @7pm at the TD Convention Center in Greenville. If you would like to attend and plan on spending the night, you will want to book your hotel room now. Hotels have been filling up quickly due to the number of people attending Annual Conference.

## FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS...

- February 1-3 Youth Ski Trip
- February 5 6pm Scholarship Committee Meeting
- February 10 Scout Sunday | 5pm SPRC | 6pm Global Missions
- February 12 UMW Circles | 6pm Trustees
- February 13 7pm Music for Mission Concert & Reception
- February 14 6:30pm Evangelism
- February 18 6:30pm elevate! Steering
- February 19 3-5pm Sr. Adult Fun & Games | 6pm LLP Committee | 7pm NOW Council
- February 20 11am Activity Club



<b>Pastor</b> Michael Arant michael@lsumc.net	<b>Pastor</b> Meegian Gossard meegian@lsumc.net	<b>Pastor Emeritus</b> Frank J. Griffith, Jr.	<b>Dir. Youth &amp; Children</b> Mary Abbott mary@lsumc.net	<b>Director of Music</b> Jason N. Brown lsumcmusic@gmail.com
<b>Organist</b> Ike Pitts ikepittsmusic@gmail.com	<b>Office Manager</b> Anita K. Crowley anita@lsumc.net	<b>LLP Directors</b> April Kidd & Kathi Hunter llp@lsumc.net	<b>Administrative Asst.</b> Christa DeMare christa@lsumc.net	<b>Sextons</b> Leon Boyd Sarah Nelson



As LSUMC's Lay Leader I want to begin my second year of service in this capacity with a reminder that the Lay Leader is the congregation's representative in working with the pastors for the mission and vision of our church. We have a dynamic and talent rich congregation and it's both a pleasure and privilege to serve on your behalf.

Some basics about the role of the Lay Leader is that they serve on the charge conference, church council, staff parish relations, finance, nominations and leadership development committees. I am *your* representative and I welcome input you have regarding any and all of the aforementioned committees. I also meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the state of the church and opportunities to advance the mission and ministry of the church in the community.

My family and I have been LSUMC members for many years, yet I realize there are many of you whom I've not met. I'm excited about the direction of our church and always proud to call it my church home. I welcome any ideas, comments and suggestions you may have as we move forward in our collective ministry and our personal journeys of faith.



Bill Ferguson | Lay Leader