**Trustees**

The LSUMC Board of Trustees represents a practical connection between the spiritual heart of the church and the secular world in which we live. As set forth in the Book of Discipline, the Trustees are to see that all property, buildings, mechanical systems, motor vehicles and grounds of the Church are maintained and operated in a safe and efficient manner. We are responsible for everything on our main “campus,” our parsonage on Pine Street, our fleet of buses and Lystra, our lake retreat. In doing our jobs, we request and expend about one fourth of our Church’s annual budget—and sometimes more depending on such emergencies as plaster failures in the sanctuary and chapel, leaking roofs and gutters which caused the plaster damage and failures of expensive elements of our heating and air conditioning systems.

Because we support every ministry of our Church, we must coordinate with other committees to make sure they have what they need to work. We coordinate closely with the Finance Committee on money matters and the Church Council in its function as a central meeting place for all committees.

Recent tasks have included modification of the chancel area to accommodate the new organ and the acquisition of a fourth Church bus to meet transportation demands of several groups ranging from seniors to youth. We are currently working on a three-year project to identify and have installed new floor coverings in the hallway, gymnasium and classrooms of the Family Life Center. We are also in the early planning stage of performing rain gutter repairs and replacement on both the Family Life Center and the Education Building.

We are being careful not to undertake any project that might be affected by the Church Insight Survey—provided of course that unsafe conditions are resolved.

The Board itself is comprised of nine members serving staggered three-year terms, plus our Lay Leader and our minister. We also receive invaluable support from Office Manager Anita Crowley.

**Frank Broom | Chairman**

**Global Missions**

My role as Chair of LSUMC’s Global Missions Committee is to support and encourage international missions and missionaries. Once again in 2019, our church is sponsoring a mission to Cuba in November. We will be returning to Mayri in the Holguin providence.

Two previous teams have been to this church and Lyttleton Street should be proud of the special relationship that has developed. Rumor is that Pastor Isel, who visited us in January 2018, will be reassigned this year. However, there are so many others that we will enjoy seeing. Anyone interested can contact me at (803) 237-3005.

The Global Missions Committee will be hosting a dinner soon where we will present a report of our November 2018 mission to Camp Cannon in Santa Clara.

**Derial Ogburn | Chairman**

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee “SPRC”**

The purpose of the SPRC is to work with the pastors and the staff to enhance the mission of the church. There are nine members, a Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference (Jim Fulcher), a Lay Leader (Bill Ferguson), Michael, and Meegian. All are voting members. Members are elected for a three-year term. No staff member or immediate family of the pastor or staff may serve, and only one person from an immediate family in the same household may serve.

A main role of the SPRC is to maintain current personnel policies and job descriptions, develop and recommend to Church Council any additional staff positions and associated job descriptions, consult with the pastors and staff regarding ministry goals for the year or ministry needs, and work with the District Superintendent should any appointment changes occur. The committee meets monthly (excluding June and July) in closed session; all information shared in the committee remains confidential.

As chairperson for the SPRC, I also represent the committee at both Finance and Church Council meetings.

**Betty Best | Chairperson**

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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

**April 2019 Newsletter**

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**Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church**

_Like Pitts In Concert_

_Lyttleton Street UMC_ 1206 Lyttleton Street Camden, SC 29020 (803) 432-1191

**SUNDAY, 14TH APRIL, 2019 3:00PM**

Light reception to follow

Free Childcare provided from 2:45pm

Doors open at 2:00pm

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Please contact Mary Abbott at (803) 432-3191 if you are interested in donating a pie or two for this event.

Thank you!
Sometimes Church is Hard
- By Arianna Freelen

I sat in a meeting. The discussion was heated. The conversation heavy. Hearts were burdened. Chests were puffed. Sorrow, pain, arrogance, curiosity, humility, fear, courage and forgiveness sat together in a single room. As I looked around the church, I just kept thinking - Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement. Church is hard for the pastor’s family, under the microscope of an entire body. Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world. Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn’t. Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service. Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families. Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child. Church is hard for the choir member overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics in that song. Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader. Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man. Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate. Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes. Church is hard for the gays, adulterers, liars, cheats and slanderers. Church is hard for me.

It’s hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives. But, here is the beauty of the church — Church isn’t a building, mentality or expectations. Church is a body. Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints. Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love. Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace. Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors. Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust. Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope. Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories. Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church — The days when I am at odds with a sister. When I’ve fought with my husband because we’re late once again. When I’ve walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I’ve worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I’ve longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I’ve walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away. I’ll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.