

Volume 20  
May and June 2021

# The Newsletter

## New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw  
Presbyterian Church  
635 Pinckney Street  
PO Box 460  
McClellanville, SC 29458  
843 887-3366  
newwappetawpc.com  
Minister  
Rev. Steve Souther  
843 327-7950

### Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

I wish there was something I could do to show my appreciation for what you have meant to me since I started at NWP in the spring of 2011 when you gave me the honor of being your pastor. McClellanville has become part of my DNA, and I don't know how I'm going to be able to say good-bye the end of June.

I write this while flowers are blooming and the warm breezes are blowing, and the hot summer sun has yet to cast its benevolent gaze upon the land. In school days, our hearts would pound with excitement with this thought. Finally, we could take our shoes off, free at last.

Retirement, I'm discovering, isn't like that at all. It's more like graduation; and the burning question arises: "What do I do next?" Still, there is something yet to come, something to get ready for. Life is ever moving forward, like the sailing ship of old making its way in an uncharted sea. The look-out is posted every morning, watching for a sign of land. It seems endless—the sky and the horizon all the same day after day after day. But suddenly, it rises as if by magic, land at last. The thought among seafarers was that they were working to 'fetch' the land. They felt that they were bringing the land to them and not the other way around.

What I do know is that you have brought about a lot of growth and blessings to my life. And I can leave knowing that together we have come through some of the darkest days. There were times when it wasn't clear if we would survive, much less the church. Dark clouds (covid-19) came up over our sea and seemed to be bringing an end to the voyage. But, with God's help, we got through the storm.

Land has finally been sighted. Of course, it looks like the land we sailed from, the home where we grew up and kicked off our shoes to enjoy the summer freedom. But there have been changes. It shouldn't come as a surprise—life, like the vast ocean, is ever the same, but always different at the same time.

There isn't much time to spend gazing backward, though. We need to be clear eyed about the future, and what needs to happen now in order to make it shine brighter. When Jesus visited the disciples after the resurrection, he gave them all they needed to enter the future: Peace, repentance, forgiveness (he opened their minds to the Scripture) and a clothing of power. (see Luke 24:36ff) These were not just words to be read from the lectern at church. They came in the flesh and bone of the man from Galilee, the one who died and was raised. The future then came with a presence and a promise: "Where two or more are gathered in my name, there I am with you." God Bless you, and I love you.

Steve

**May Birthdays –**

May 1 – Judith Fortner

May 4 – Chad Marcinak

May 5 – Mary Barry

May 6 – Jimmy Lesene

May 9 – Huck Racine

May 12 – Carole Bradshaw, Joanna McClellan

May 13 – John Scott, Ashley Souther,  
Briggs Zorn

May 15 – Susan McAdoo

May 17 -- Ted Dawson

May 21 – Rick Carlisle

May 22 – Kelly Morrison, Elizabeth Horres

May 29 – Huger McClellan

May 31 – Mateu Walter Borgas

**June Birthdays**

June 1 – Patty McClellan

June 3 – Becky Sellers, Michelle McClellan,  
Carolyn Duke Keen

June 4 – Sharon Scott

June 8 – Thomas Duke, IV

June 10 – Mary Beth Gannon

June 11 – Hugh Scott, Benjamin Floyd

June 12 – James Stannard Hurteau, III

June 13 -- Gardner McClellan, Jr., Katie Culpepper,  
Kim Racine

June 16 – Rev. Steve Souther, Hank Bruner

June 18 – Rett McClellan

June 19 – Matthew Daniel Tarry, Sr.

June 24 – Chip Racine

June 27 – Lucie Racine

June 28 – Alley Dinwiddie

June 30 – Pat Salters

### From the Pastoral Study Group

In February, your committee contacted Atlantic Presbytery's Rev. Donnie Woods who quickly assigned Rev. Mike Fitze, Pastor at Palmetto Presbyterian (and one of NWPC prior ministers) to work with Rev. Woods and the commission on ministry to make sure we all are on the same page going forward.

Rev. Fitze has met with me to discuss the process and not only is he willing to furnish pulpit supply persons but also he, himself, will periodically preach for us during his summertime sabbatical.

Via several emails and one in person meeting your Pastoral Study Committee is working to secure ministerial services by qualified persons after June 30 when Rev. Souther retires.

While working on this eminent need for the short term, the committee is also studying possibilities of a full time pastor as well as opportunity for a "regular" part time pastor to perform, not limited to, but certainly, Christian education, conduct worship services, with interesting sermons based on scripture, improve community relations and church attendance, conduct funerals and weddings, etc. all while exhibiting love of Christ in all his/her actions.

By end of April the committee will have a synopsis of the session minutes concerning funds for pastor's housing allowance.

We have several possibilities in progress and will report selection as soon as possible. Please pray for your Pastoral Study Committee research and success in the Lord's work.

Robert McCarley

### A Partial and Careful Return to Normal at Worship on Easter Sunday



### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – SUNDAY, MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>

The congregation will meet after the morning worship service to hear reports of church organizations, receive a report of the Budget and Finance Committee, and to elect an at-large member of the Officer Nominating Committee. The meeting serves as meeting of the of the New Wappetaw Church Corporation, important since we own the church properties.

### THE 2021 CONFIRMATION CLASS

Elder Lynn Godwin is leading eleven New Wappetaw youths in a series of studies as they prepare to be confirmed and join the church on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation is the rite of initiation into the life of the church – full confession and affirmation of faith.

The youths are following the new Confirmation Curriculum available in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The curriculum is titled Big God Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith. The studies are focused on preparing youth to authentically answer the traditional membership questions:

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

Through 12 Sunday afternoon sessions, Big God Big Questions equips students to employ the study of Scripture, tradition, and church, and to tell their own story as Christian believers in the context of their local congregational experiences. At worship on May 9<sup>th</sup> the congregation will welcome the confirmands into church membership.

Reverend Souther and a group of elders and other members are serving as mentors to the students.

The Confirmands: Callie Cooper, Absley Crisman, Lila Duncan, Payton Garner, William Lynch, Boone McClellan, Abby Monaghan, Shane Monaghan, Beckham Nettles, Tatum Nettles, and Lucie Racine.



On Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> the confirmands studied the sacraments – then met with their parents for supper

#### OUR 2021 GRADUATES

Five members of New Wappetaw Church will graduate from high schools in June: Claire Cameron Allen, Lillian Tillia Crouch (“Tillie”), Carlyn Elizabeth Garner, Lawton Mead Racine (“Huck”), and Mary Katherine Scott (“Katie”). The church plans to honor them at worship on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

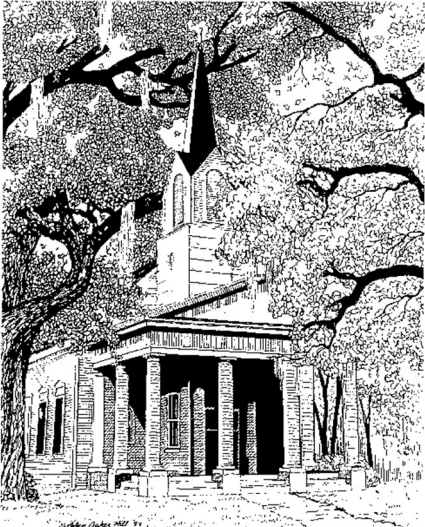
#### MONTREAT

Seven New Wappetaw members will attend a Youth Conference at Montreat during the week of July 11-18. They will be accompanied by Ashleigh McClellan and Shannen Nettles. Originally, our youths were to visit Montreat in early. The lengthening of Charleston County’s school year made it impossible for a larger number of youths to attend a conference this summer. Travel arrangements are being worked out.

#### CHICKEN BOG DINNER

A chicken bog dinner will be served at the church on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:00 P.M -- \$8.00 per dinner, take out or eat in – and donations will be accepted. The funds will help cover the expenses of the Montreat trip and will allow the Youth Sunday School Class to support the Liberian school at which Sonny DuPre serves.

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*New Wappetaw  
Presbyterian Church      McClellanville, SC*

A New Member  
Welcome to Sue Shaw Hills Rogers  
who is returning to her home



#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Afternoon Circle met at the Church in April for the first time since the Pandemic and will meet again in May. The Evening Circle never ceased to meet. We hope to resume having our meetings in member's homes, as is our custom, in September.

Kathy Leland

#### MEN'S SUPPER GROUP

The New Wappetaw Men's Supper Group continues to deliver food to those who need it. We also pick up recyclables for those that need the service and take them to the dump. We hope to resume our suppers in the Fall.

Drew Allison

#### WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH, SATURDAY MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

Join Huger McClellan and Susie Lesesne at the church for a workday on Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of May – 9 A. M. Outside, removal of leaves and debris will be our priority. Inside, the replacing of all pews, straightening up, and clearing things out will be our focus. Also, while there, workdays at the Village cemetery and at Old Wappetaw cemetery will be arranged.