

*New Wappetaw  
Presbyterian Church McClellanville, SC*

Volume 20  
September and October 2021

# The Newsletter

## New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw  
Presbyterian Church  
635 Pinckney Street  
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### Minister's Message

“The magic thing about home is that it feels good to leave and it feels even better to come back”.

Wendy Wunder

In June of 1991 I began my ordained ministry here at New Wappetaw and for four years you all extended me grace and helped me grow as a pastor. After my ministry here, I felt I was ready to pursue my dream of starting a new church and God has blessed me with two opportunities to achieve that dream: with Providence Presbyterian in Greenville and Palmetto in Mt Pleasant.

It felt good in 1995 to leave as you all had prepared me for the new ministry God was calling me to, and it has felt good coming back for a few weeks this summer to see old friends and to meet so many new folks in the church and in the village.

Of course, I have been back numerous times for special occasions. On those times I have officiated at funerals and memorial services it has always made me smile when one of my former students from Archibald Rutledge says, “Mr. Mike I want you to do my funeral!” I remind them that I am probably at least thirty years older than they are!

As you prepare to welcome a new pastor and as you make plans for the present and future, I believe God is going to do a new thing here. I see many opportunities for your ministry to adapt to our “new normal” and to do ministry in new and exciting ways knowing that you will continue to uphold the traditions which make this such a unique community, traditions that I have loved and have used in my own ministry.

I like to tell new folks, “This is not your grandfather’s Presbyterian church,” because the world is changing and ministry is changing and yet, I realize there are aspects of your grandfather’s Presbyterian church that you all hold dear and want to hang on to, and I encourage you to do so!

Know that you will be in my prayers as you call the next person to lead you in the ways of the Lord. As I leave, thank you for the opportunity to be with you some this summer and know that I hold your friendship dear in my heart

Blessings

Mike

## September Birthdays

Katie Scott	September 1
Cade Morris Allen, Sanders Read, Sam Souther	September 3
William Hampton McClellan (“Hamp”)	Sept 6
Joyce Bradshaw --	September 7
Walter Cook --	September 8
Bud Hill, Laura Leslie, Mary Sands, Gabe Stroman	September 9
Kathy Allen, Lily Crouch --	September 12
Sandee Mosley, Joe Papp --	September 13
Peggy Allison, Della Marie Porter, Sylvan Racine	September 15
Randy McClure	September 17
Savannah McClellan Epps Gene Morrison	September 19
Betsy Hansen	September 20
Henry McClellan, Maggie McClellan	Sept. 23
Chase Culpepper, Allston Leland	September 24
Avery Grace Leland	September 25
Robert Jackson McCarley, IV	September 26
Jessica McClellan, Edward Lee McClellan	September 27

Richard Sands	September 28
Elizabeth “Libby” Scott	September 29
Bette Baker Warren	September 30

## October Birthdays

Henry Joyner Rhodes	October 1
Sweetheart Tyler	October 2
Andy Capps, Nickie Ellis, Dwight Williams	October 3
William Capps	October 4
Sally Thomas, Richard Todd Furches, Lynn Lofton	October 6
Samantha Morrison (Michael)	October 9
Joyce Thomas	October 11
Ed Graham	October 12
Charles Hansen, Shirley Hutto	October 13
Meaghan Rhodes	October 15
Joe Thomas	October 19
Ned Jaycocks	October 24
Emily Morrison, Katie Gannon	October 25
Susie Lesesne	October 28

Note: Please let us know of appropriate corrections, additions, or deletions to the birthday lists

### From the Session

#### Starting Time of Worship Services and Sunday School Classes

**Session on August 22<sup>nd</sup> approved Sunday worship services continuing at 10:00 A.M**

**Date of beginning and starting times of Sunday School classes will be announced as soon as possible**

Rev. Michael Fitze encourages all members to invite new area residents to attend and to follow up on all visitors. He suggested the arrangement of more children’s services and that attendance of young adults and parents be stimulated.

Covid-19 Precautions – Session continued the use indoors of face masks in view of the surge of infections related to the Delta variant of the virus. This had been set at a special meeting on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Budget and Finance – Over recent months there has been a small positive income in contributions, and the session encourages members to keep the income rising. An annual evaluation of church finances, as required by the Presbyterian Church USA, conducted by Mary Duke, found all actions done well.

Nomination and Election of Elders– New Wappetaw did not have congregational meetings in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The elders of class of 2020 (John Horres, Margy Leland, and Sandee Mosely) have continued to serve this year, and will be eligible for election to two-year terms rather than three Years in class of 2023.

Members of the class of 2021 (Andrew DuPre, Russell Tyler, and Susie Lesesne) can be reelected to three-year terms.

The six active elders named have the choice of deciding whether to offer for reelection. Other church members may offer for election to either class.

At our annual meeting of the congregation in May 2021 the Officer Nominating Committee was formed -- From the session: Lynn Godwin and Huger McClellan, from Presbyterian Women: Kathy Leland, from Presbyterian Men: Drew Allison, and from the congregation at-large: Mary Scott.

Contact any of these to offer for election to the session or to nominate someone else (always with the permission of the other person).

## Thanks to the Dinner Group

New Wappetaw members and friends enjoy congregational meals arranged by ladies from the Evening Circle. Their dedication and their skills are regularly evident. Also, they are always ready to provide meals and emotional support for persons who have lost loved ones.

Here are photos showing an abundance of food contributed by members and friends at the July 25 dinner. The Group also brings foods, does the attractive setup, contributes tea and water, makes sure that salt, pepper and other supplies are present – and takes care of a lengthy cleanup process. You'd be welcome to join them.

Thanks also to Sylvan Racine for his steady provision of great photos.



**Margy, Joyce, Helen, and Dianne**



**The Dining Room**



**Food, Members, and Friends**

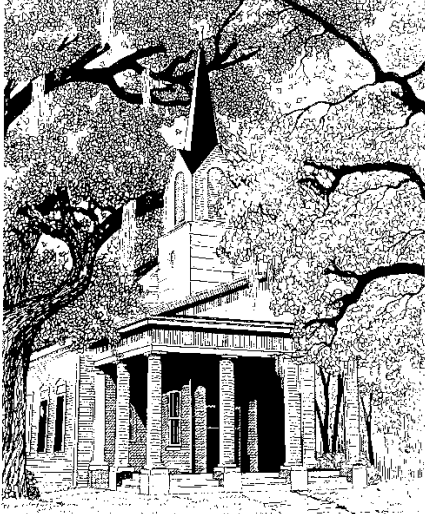


**Rosemary and Michael Fitze**

In February, Charleston Atlantic Presbytery assigned Rev. Mike Fitze, Pastor at Palmetto Presbyterian (and one of New Wappetaw's prior ministers), to work with our Pastoral Study Committee as we search for a new minister.

Rev. Fitze has been on a two-month sabbatical from his pastorate at Palmetto Church so has led our worship services five times during July and August. He will be available to be the ordained minister at New Wappetaw's sessions meetings and will remain available to council our Study Committee.

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### **The Steve Souther Tree**



Retiring minister Steve Souther and his family were honored with a lunch and tree planting after worship on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Many members and friends were present.

A Laurel Holly tree was planted near the new education rooms. The Laurel Holly has a naturally pyramidal shape and can serve as New Wappetaw's Christmas Tree in the future. Here, it looks small. It can grow at up to two feet per year and can reach 18-20 feet in height

### **Meetings and Events at New Wappetaw**

October 3 – Communion at worship

October 10 -- Congregational Dinner after worship

Presbyterian Women – Both afternoon and evening circles will resume meetings in September

Presbyterian Men – Will resume evening meetings as soon as Covid-19 permits

### **Expanded Cemetery Committee Forming**

**Huger McClellan, chair of the Cemetery Committee, hopes to establish a long-standing committee of members and friends to serve on the team. Volunteers from families which have many ancestors in our two cemeteries are especially desired. Contact Huger to participate.**