

New Wappetaw
Presbyterian Church McClellanville, SC

Volume 21
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The Newsletter

New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw
Presbyterian Church
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From Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Your prayers are truly helpful to our PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) as we are now delegated by Charleston Atlantic Presbytery. Helpful indeed as we have narrowed down our candidate list following our polling of you all. Several of you expressed favorites (T.J. Johnson & Jim Miller) if interested in pastoring NWPC part time. Both answered, “Too busy with other jobs -- however would love to help with pulpit supply.”

Hence, our PNC embarked on our internet phenomenon on which we post our descriptive ad (MIF) including compensation for part time. A nationwide computer “matches” pastor’s (PIF) looking for change, then sends us, for our consideration, their contacts, resume, faith statements, etc. After receiving 5 such PIFs, we decided our preferred candidate is one who wrote to us in January 2022, after a young couple moved to the Charleston area.

In late June, our committee met with Rev. Mike Fitze, head of the presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM), to learn first-hand the pastor “call” process. It is doable, in maybe 2-2.5 months, and the wheels are rolling. The COM is checking out our lead candidate’s list of references, then a background check followed by personal interview. When he/she passes the above 3 steps your PNC then briefs session on our candidate and requests a congregational meeting to introduce our nominee. Members may then vote to “call” the prospect.

Be sure to watch, even before our next newsletter, for further details and introduction of our candidate.

July Birthdays

July 2 – Beatrice “Bootsie” Baldwin
July 5 – Cameron White
July 6 – Annie Jayne McClellan
July 7 – Hayley Culpepper
July 12 – Emily Sexton
July 15 – Aaron McClure

July 16 – Scott Dudley, Townsend Warren
July 17 – Ned Haynie
July 21 – Katherine Jones
July 22 – Malcolm Baldwin
July 27 – Jerry Sexton
July 28 – Glenn Racine

July 29 – Sally Racine

July 30 – Hayward Nettles, Jr.

August Birthdays

August 2 – Thomas Emory Porter, Marlow Small,
Jackson McClellan

August 3 – Drew Allison, Beverly Bonner,
Tommy Morrison

August 5 – Callie Miller, Martha Zierden

August 7 – Thomas Porter

August 8 – Joanna Tisdale McClellan

August 9 – Harry Watson

August 13 – Daisy Marcinak

August 17 – Cody Allen

August 21 – John Horres

August 22 – Pete Kornack

August 23 – Olivia Williams Black,
Penny Bruns

August 25 – Walter Bonner

August 26 – Ellis Sellers

August 27 – Christian Lofton

August 31 – Larry Davis

2022 Bible School

Monday, July 11 – Friday, July 15th

New Wappetaw will host this year's Bible School, resuming a long tradition after the Covid-19 pandemic prevented the school opening for two years. Classes: from kindergarten through 6th grade will be provided. Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and members of Seacoast Church may attend. The theme this year is: "The Food Truck," suggesting that Christians get their spiritual nourishment through study of the Bible.

Contact Kathy Leland if you would like to help in any way.

S.T.E.P.S. Event

Studying, Teaching, Equipping, Praying, Serving
At Mt Pleasant Presbyterian Church Saturday, August 27th

Charleston Atlantic Presbytery will present the annual STEPS event on Saturday, August 27th. There will be two hourlong workshops, beginning at 9:00 A.M and at 10:15 A.M. followed by a music service led by David LaMotte.

A great variety of subjects are available in the workshops – subjects which can appeal to teachers, officers, music leaders, staff members, youth and adult members -- all of us.

In New Wappetaw's minister's office are pamphlets which tell of the various workshops. Please look at these and choose the studies you want to participate in. Registration information is available on the Presbytery's website – capresbytery.org A fee of \$20 is to be paid. The fee can be paid on arrival at the church.

New Wappetaw Will Acquire an Automatic (or Semiautomatic) Defibrillator

Lynn Godwin helped our church in many ways. She further suggested that the church obtain and have available a defibrillator to restore the heart function of a person who collapses and has no detectable heartbeat. The church is now moving toward purchasing a defibrillator, to come to the aid of a person who collapses in or around the church. Some funds have already been donated to pay for the emergency-use device.

A defibrillator can, if employed within a few minutes, restore heart function if the person has ventricular fibrillation, a condition in which heart beats are so rapid as to be ineffective – the heart's ventricle is quivering, and not pumping blood.

A committee of members has agreed to manage the defibrillator and teach others to use the device: Dr. John Horres, Dwight Williams, Karen McClellan, Michelle McClellan, and Tyler Buckheister.

Watch for more information to come soon.

Financial contributions will be appreciated.

New Wappetaw's 150th Anniversary

New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church
August 1872

In 1872 the Reverend John L. Girardeau came to McClellanville on Captain George Taylor's sailboat to visit the Thomas Swinton family. He had been encouraged to visit the newly forming village by a resident, J. Palmer McClellan. Rev. Girardeau knew that the Swintons had earlier resided in Christ Church Parish and had been members of the Wappetaw Independent Congregational Church ("Old Wappetaw"). Old Wappetaw had lost many members before, during, and after the Civil War, with people moving to Mt. Pleasant or toward McClellanville. Indeed, a Presbyterian church had been built in Mt. Pleasant before the war started.

At a meeting in McClellanville's Union Chapel, Girardeau gave the first Presbyterian sermon preached in McClellanville, and his presentation led to the organization of the New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church. Interested persons gathered on August 23 at a service presided over by Rev. Peter Gowan of Charleston Presbytery and with a sermon by Rev. Gilbert Brackett of Second Presbyterian Church in Charleston. New Wappetaw was organized. Within its first week 20 persons joined the church.

Soon after New Wappetaw was founded a session of elders and a pair of deacons were elected – Elders: James Hibben Leland, Dr. Horace Wells Leland, and Richard Tilia Morrison, Jr. Deacons: James B. Morrison and Aaron Whitney Leland.

The Old Wappetaw Church building did not last. Described by the historian Petrona Royall as “of plain design” and therefore of the classic meeting house design, it was left alone and gradually deteriorated. Mrs. Royall said of its demise, “It never fell, but just seemed to settle lower and lower until it just disappeared.” It was entirely gone by 1898.

On August 1, 1877, four remaining members of Wappetaw Independent Church met to formally close the church. All monies, bank stock, property (115 acres of pineland plus the church site), and communion linen and silver service were turned over to New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church of McClellanville. The Mt. Pleasant Church was given the sanctuary previously built in that town. (The monies, stock, and pineland never proved valuable. New Wappetaw continues to own and protect the silver service pieces).

New Wappetaw began construction of its present sanctuary in 1874 on a lot donated by Robert Venning Morrison. The first worship service in the building was held on June 20, 1875, and the church was dedicated in a service led by John Girardeau, D.D., in August 1875.

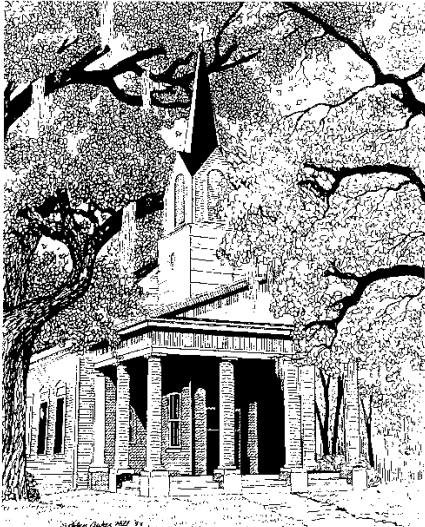
The original church steeple was located on the left side of the building’s front. The interior of the sanctuary was remodeled in 1911. The front of the building was remodeled in about 1955, with a larger portico added and the steeple moved to the center. A separate Sunday School building was constructed in 1923. It was replaced by the present attached building in 1938.

The metal rod spanning the interior of the sanctuary was installed after the hurricane of 1916. It is said that the building leaned to one side after the storm and that men of the church united to push it back into shape. The occasion brought arguing factions together, allowing someone to say, “Look, the lion and the lamb are lying down together.”

Stained glass windows were added in 1960. Many members disapproved, believing the change was a departure from the Presbyterian tradition of creating plain buildings which would not distract worshippers from the worship of God. Again, after considerable controversy, the lion and the lamb settled down, and the first worship was held in the remodeled sanctuary on June 5, 1960.

Thanks to Helen Morrison for keeping the history of New Wappetaw available to us.

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**New Wappetaw's
150th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, August 28, 2022**

With worship, a tour of the sanctuary, and congregational dinner to follow.

Members, visitors, and friends are encouraged to attend.

New Wappetaw's Graduates Honored at Worship



Bibles were presented at worship to Graduates from High School on Sunday, June 19th. Pictured here: Gardner McClellan, Eliza Crouch, Audrey Cooper, and Grayson Taylor. Another graduate, Ben Duncan, Jr., was unable to attend that day.