



# ANDERSON DISTRICT

## South Carolina Conference of the UMC

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

web: [anderson.umcsc.org](http://anderson.umcsc.org)



Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray - District Superintendent

### WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

Dear Friends,

I want you to know how very much your support and prayers have meant to me and my family during these days of grief and loss. With unexpected swiftness, my Mom's decline began significantly on Sunday and then by early Friday morning on October 24, she had made her journey home. It was a mind-bending, heart-bending week, yet full of mercy and grace.

Many of you have personally walked this path of loss and grief ahead of me so you know what I mean when I speak of a season which was at the same time hard and sad and holy and tender. All of it. At once. It was, for me, a reminder that even the valley of the shadow brims with Light.

I want you to know that your prayers have and are sustaining me. The presence of so many of you who came to wrap your arms of care around us and the willingness of many of you to join us in celebrating my Mom's faithful life were gifts of friendship and love I will never forget. As one experiencing personal loss, I am reminded again of the simple power of presence -- of showing up in people's lives. My Dad, my sister, Amy, Keith and our three children appreciated the gift of your presence more than you know.

I continue to be grateful for our shared ministry in the Anderson District and for this holy vocation to which we have been called. As we move towards Thanksgiving 2015, may we be given eyes to see God's Great Grace at work in all things and may it spring forth in our words and our lives. — Susan+

### Upcoming Events/Calendar

Nov 13	Gathering of the Orders, Lexington UMC 10:00-2:30 Order of Deacon meeting right after Gathering of Orders
Nov 23	Lay Leadership Development , First UMC Easley 3:00-5:30
Nov 26-28	District Office is Closed for Thanksgiving
Dec 4	District Christmas Dinner 6:00pm , Pendleton UMC
Dec 22 -Jan 2	District Office Closed for Christmas Holidays
Jan 13	District Clergy Meeting 8:30-12:00
Jan 19	District Office Closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb 7	Bishop Road Show, Zion UMC, Anderson 9am -2pm



### MOVING FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP TEAM UP WITH THE SOUTH MAIN CHAPEL AND MERCY CENTER:

The South Main Chapel & Mercy Center (SMC&MC) is a United Methodist Church new church start in the Anderson District. The church is located in what was once the Orrville UMC, 2408 South Main Street in Anderson. The idea for the church grew out of a vision first cast by our DS, Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray. After a visit made by Susan, Rev. Kurt Stutler and Carol Burdette (President of the United Way of Anderson County) to Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, plans began to formulate around establishing a church and ministry in this location that like Triune works with and alongside those dealing with homelessness and poverty.

The project was selected as a recipient of new church start support from the SC Annual Conference and Rev. Kurt Stutler was appointed in June as the founding pastor. Sunday morning worship with a diverse congregation is averaging 65 in attendance proving that it is possible for God's people to become one family across social and economic boundaries. A fellowship dinner supported by several area churches, non-profits and businesses is held every Sunday after worship.

Here is how you can get involved: Contact Kurt Stutler : [kurtstutler@gmail.com](mailto:kurtstutler@gmail.com), or call (864) 356-2125 Or come to Worship Service Sundays 11:00am.

### COME AND BE A PART OF THESE EVENTS:

**Below is a list of other ministries and services started since June**

- Weekly community meal sponsored by Concord Baptist Church
- Alston Wilkes Society has moved their Anderson office to SMC&MC
- A representative from SC Works comes once a week to help with job placement services
- A counselor from Anderson Mental Health Center is on-site one day per week
- A volunteer faith community nurse is on-site
- An Art Room is open one afternoon a week
- A community garden has been established
- A once homeless couple have been assisted with housing and employment and life coaching
- Individuals have been assisted in accessing recovery services, transportation, hygiene packets, small food packs, and even pet placement
- A weekly prayer service is being held at noon Wednesday
- A weekly Women's and Men's Bible Study is being held at 5:15 on Thursdays

### THIS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS:

**Some needed items are:**

- 25 United Methodist hymnals (1989 version)
- Blankets
- Socks
- Thermal underwear
- Hats
- Gloves
- Bottled water
- Diapers
- Art Room supplies—canvas, sketch pads, tape, acrylic /watercolor paints, colored pencils, fabrics
- Office supplies—3 hole punch, staplers. Scissors, paper trimmer, tape, postage stamps, copy paper, pens, paper clips, white out

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- Copier/Printer ink cartridges (HP 950) Black and Colors
  - File cabinet with a lock
  - City bus passes
  - Gas cards
  - Paper plates, cups and napkins
  - Plastic 2 quart pitchers
  - Cleaning products (kitchen, bathrooms, floors and dusting)
- Tissues
  - Iron and Ironing board
  - Backpacks
  - Bicycles (in good working order)

Dream Item: Van or Mini-Bus

LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT AT FIRST UMC, EASLEY. NOV 23RD 3:00-5:30

Go to <http://anderson.umcsc.org/> for a list of classes or ask your pastor or lay leaders. Contact Rev. Cathy Joens to register [cljoens@umcsc.org](mailto:cljoens@umcsc.org) or (864) 940-1893. We have Great worship, classes and mission opportunities to share.

GRACE UMC , PICKENS : AN STORY OF OUTREACH

Grace UMC in Pickens is passionate about volunteering at the Glean- ing House Food Pantry as well as supporting it with generous cash contributions. The pantry serves 400 families per week.

Diana and Jerry Hancock started volunteering a dozen years ago and have recruited many other church members from Grace. Seeing this great need up close causes our mission-minded members to return week after week. About twenty volunteers from Grace provide 80 to 90 percent of the necessary manpower at this USDA-regulated 501(c)(3) food pantry.



Volunteers Trish Haskett and Pat Barnett handle boxes of donated food for the Gleaning House Food Pantry in Pickens. Grace UMC provides a steady stream of workers every Tuesday to pack and hand out food.

MILLION BOOK EFFORT REACHES ACROSS 3 COUNTIES AND CONTINUES TO GIVE:

The Anderson District had the great honor of working with the United Way in our Book giveaway. Through your efforts as The Church, we collected just over 10,000 books. The united way took the books In August and distributed them to the county led United Way ministries. Here are just a few of our recipients:

Abbeville County	2000	Childcare centers/programs:		Love & Care	100
Oconee County	2000	Boys & Girls Club	100	Mamma Lee's	100
Pickens County	2000	(Salvation Army program)		YMCA	100
In Anderson County:		Carolina Kids	100	United Way initiatives:	
Anderson School District 1	250	DCEC	100	Childcare Fall Trainings	350
Anderson School District 2	250	(Developmental Center for Exceptional Children)		Childcare Spring Trainings	300
Anderson School District 3	250	Granniez Kids	150	Summer Slide bookbags	600
Anderson School District 4	250	(100 originally but received an additional 50 last		(for Summer 2015 program)	
Anderson School District 5	250	week for family night)		Foothills Alliance Festival	
(distributed through their Homeless/Family liaison)		Kiddie Land	100	of Trees Storytime	50
West Market Early Learning Center	200	Kid's Stuff	100		
S. Fant Early Learning Center	200	Learning Town	100		
(both are Anderson School Dist. 5)					

Non-Profit  
Organization  
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Anderson United Methodist  
District Office  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED