

THE BISHOP'S

Five-Star

Award of

Excellence

Conference Board of Evangelism presents:

Bishop's Five Star Excellence Awards to 31 United Methodist Churches

CHURCH	CITY	CHURCH	CITY
Advent	Simpsonville	Little River	Little River
Bethel	Columbia	Mauldin	Mauldin
Bethel	Winnsboro	Mt. Carmel	Kirksey
Buncombe Street	Greenville,	Mt. Horeb	Lexington
Chapin	Chapin	Sardis	Union
Christ	Bennettsville	Shandon	Columbia
Dacusville	Easley	Sharon	Reidville
Dawsey	Pamplico	St. James	Columbia
First	Isle of Palms	St Paul	Clover
Francis Asbury	Greenville	St. Paul	Kingstree
Goose Creek	Goose Creek	St. Matthew	Greenville
Grace	Columbia	Trinity	Andrews
Greater St. Paul	Cross	Wesley Chapel	Greer
Grove Hall	Summerville	Wesley Pinopolis	Moncks Corner
Landrum	Landrum	Wightman	Prosperity
Lexington	Lexington		

2010 Annual Conference

Awards Newsletter

Special Edition

June 2010

The following are awards and scholarships presented at the 2010 session of the South Carolina Annual Conference held June 10 - June 13 at the Florence Civic Center. More details are available on the conference website

The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridgebuilders Award

The Barbara Boultinghouse Bridge Builder Award is presented annually to one person or organization of the South Carolina Annual Conference who has built bridges of understanding by promoting the equity and inclusiveness of all persons, without regard to race, gender, age, handicap or economic condition.

Barbara Boultinghouse was a deaconess in the United Methodist Church. Most of her life was spent serving as a teacher an administrator in schools and homes for youth. At the time of her death in 1987, Barbara was serving as the chairperson of the Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women, delegate to the 1988 Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference and Conference United Methodist Women's Secretary for Publicity and Public Relations. Barbara Boultinghouse was known as a person dedicated to the work of a reconciler, peacemaker, partisan of the forgotten, apostle of possibilities, instrument of change and wellspring of courage and hope. In the hope that we might learn to embrace all persons as sister and brothers, without exception, the 1989 Annual Conference established the Barbara Boultinghouse Memorial Bridge Builder Award.



Rev. Stephen Taylor

The 2010 nominee for the Barbara Boultinghouse has been a consensus builder, a tireless advocate for racial reconciliation, the inclusion of women in the life and ministry of the church, and for persons with developmental disabilities in the life, leadership, and ministry of the church.

Consensus Builder

When he arrived at Trinity UMC in 2003, this leader found a congregation divided. In the words of life long member, "I have had the honor of knowing and working with Stephen Taylor since he arrived at Trinity in 2003. It is a church with a rich tradition of outstanding pastors and having been a life-long member I can tell you that Stephen certainly has done nothing short of raising the bar. Of all the great tributes I could pay to Stephen, the top of my list would be as bridge builder. Stephen cares for everyone and it is obvious in his work at Trinity and in the Sumter community. When he arrived at Trinity we were struggling. Hatfield's and McCoy's is a phrase that comes to mind. I watched Stephen reach out to all members and patiently helped them to step out of their comfort zones and return Trinity to a place where worship once again became our focus. I could give endless examples, but he has the respect of everyone who works with him because of his ability to reach out to everyone. He helped our church live into a new reality of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors."

Bridgebuilder - Trinity UMC & the Trinity Lincoln Center
The former Lincoln High School (a historic African American high school) property adjoins the campus of Trinity, Sumter.

Trinity had purchased the abandoned property some years before his arrival in 2003, but did not have plans for its use. Stephen led the Trustees in a project to raise funds and refurbish part of the school and use it to house community mission groups. Building on the success of this project, Trinity then raised funds in 2006 to refurbish a second portion of the school to house the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Salvation Army. During these projects Stephen made strong connections with leaders of the African American community in Sumter and was even made an honorary member of the Lincoln High School Alumni Association. As interest grew in the Alumni Association to continue the development of their former high school, Stephen led the way in negotiations between that group and the Trinity Board of Trustees to enable a harmonious transfer of the property back to the Alumni Association so that they could develop a historical and educational center there. For these efforts Stephen was recognized with a Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2009 by the Legacy Foundation of Sumter.

Advocate for Aldersgate Special Needs Ministry

Stephen has worked from the beginnings of this ministry beginning with the steering committee formed in 2000. He has been a member of the board since 2003 and presently is Chairperson of the Board. In partnership with a strong capable board, Rev. Taylor has worked incessantly for the creation of two homes for adults with developmental disabilities, including promotion, fund raising and operation of the homes. For his outstanding work and leadership as a consensus builder, for his intentional efforts at racial reconciliation and bridge building, and for his tireless advocacy and leadership on behalf of those with developmental disabilities, the Commission on Religion is proud to present the 2010 Barbara Boultinghouse Award to the Rev. Stephen Taylor, Senior Minister of Trinity United Methodist Church, Sumter

Board of Evangelism Awards

Each year the Denman Evangelism Award is given to one lay person and one clergy person who are doing the work of responsible evangelism in the local church. This can involve speaking, personal witness or inspiring the church to be involved in evangelism. Those honored should be persons whose life-style bring honor to Christ and the church. The Denman Award was established to recognize those who are doing this vital work in ways that are in keeping with the United Methodist history and traditions.

Clergy Recipient, Reverend Alfonza Jones

Reverend Jones is the pastor of Greater St. Paul United Methodist Church in Cross, South Carolina. From the moment he became pastor of the congregation he has been a vital part of the community. He reaches out to those who suffer from alcoholism and drug abuse. He helps them or finds help for them. He has made a major impact on young adults (ages 19-30). He has helped develop their spiritual lives, connecting them as friends in Christ. There has been a major increase of young adult membership and participation in the church's ministry. The young adult ministry has tripled since his arrival in 2008. The membership has increased by 44 (from 246 to 290) and worship attendance has increased significantly. The church has received 28 members by profession of faith in 2009 alone. Sunday school attendance has increased dramatically with the addition of two new Sunday School Classes. The attendance average increased from 47 to 83. He has been on the cutting edge of building bridges with other congregations and ethnic groups in the area. Because of his leadership, the church has become more community minded. He has established prayer groups for the community. He teaches bible studies for a variety of people and topics for the church family. He has led the congregation in lowering the indebtedness on the parsonage from \$110,000 to less than \$62,000.



Lay Recipient, Lauren Taylor

Lauren Taylor is the Director of Youth Ministries at First United Methodist Church, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. She has a positive influence on the youth of the congregation and the surrounding community. She demonstrates a loving spirit and enthusiasm for her ministry. In a primarily retired community the youth ministry has thrived. She has planned many mission trips throughout the southeastern United States and to the Dominican Republic. The youth praise team has increased over 150% in the last year. She attends children and youth activities including school activities, ball games, concerts, and awards ceremonies as a way of showing her love for the young people. She frequently looks for opportunities to reach out beyond the congregation to the community. Her loving spirit is present with any person regardless of church affiliation or belief system. She teaches the children and youth that evangelism can be as simple as being a friend to those in need, offering help, and finding opportunities to show others the love of Jesus through actions and words they use in their daily life. Lauren is very active in the Annual Conference activities for youth. She is on the Young Adult Ministry Design Team and the Revolution Design Team. She has been very effective and creative in sharing God's message with young people. She is committed to connecting her church to the world.

United Methodist Men Awards

2010 The Bishop's Award of Excellence

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and scouting units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders to participate in Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America.

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Asbury Memorial UMC, Rev. Edward McWilliams
Scouting Coordinator: Mr. Gene Clark
Cub Scout Pack 397
Boy Scout Troop 397

Lexington UMC, Rev. Richard Knight
Scouting Coordinator: Mr. Jim Gregory
Boy Scout Troop 507

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT

Trinity UMC, Rev. Larry D McCutcheon
Scouting Coordinator: Mr. Sidney Young
Mr. Young has been the Scout Master at Trinity for 50 years.
Cub Scout Pack 190
Boy Scout Troop 190

G. Ross Freeman Award, Rev. Clarence "Smoke" Kanipe

Rev Kanipe is deserving because of his leadership of the ministry team in developing and promoting ministry for all the men in the church. He has been a strong advocate of men being involved in the church and the community through such programs as a Men's Woodworking Ministry, Mission fund raisers such as the Turkey Fry and the Golf Outing and a program to teach manners to 4th and 5th grade boys. He leads men to District and Conference events that focus on Ministry to Men. He is a strong proponent of small accountability groups. He has made a tremendous impact on many lives.

Commission on Archives and History Awards

CENTENNIAL CHURCHES

Columbia District: Wesley Memorial, Columbia	Greenwood District: Matthews, Greenwood, Matthews-Harris Charge
Florence District: Summerton, Summerton Trinity, New Zion, New Zion Charge	Spartanburg District: Beaumont, Spartanburg Golightly, Cross Anchor, Golightly-Tabernacle Charge
Hartsville District: St. Matthew, Camden, East Camden Charge	

BICENTENNIAL CHURCHES

Columbia District: Ebenezer, Elgin West Kershaw Charge	Smyrna, Elgin West Kershaw Charge
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HUCKS AWARD

*All churches of the Conference are encouraged to celebrate their heritage with this award.
This year we are pleased to present this award to the following congregations:*

2010 Church Award Recipients

Central UMC, Spartanburg

The church's historian, Dr. John Bullard, hosted the Conference Historical Society's meeting last October, and he and his colleagues have worked throughout the year to preserve and promote their history.

Grace UMC, Pickens

The church meets all of the criteria. They have worked hard to preserve and promote their own history, and they are also the guardians of the McKinney Chapel property.

Main Street UMC, Columbia

Main Street celebrated homecoming and Heritage Sunday in October, their archives is well-established and growing, and the historian has been active in preserving and promoting history.

Mountain View UMC, Taylors

I believe this will be Mountain View's fifth consecutive Hucks Award. They continue to build their collection and work to promote church history.

New Hope UMC, Anderson

This church is receiving for the award in recognition of the work they did on their 125th anniversary. They have an active historian and committee, collect records, and had a number of events where history is interpreted and celebrated.

Pisgah UMC, Aynor

This church continues to be a beacon of preserving and interpreting their history, and they are a fine example of the work that a committed group of church historians can accomplish.

Shandon UMC, Columbia

Shandon celebrated its centennial during 2009, and the work of their historian, centennial committee, and congregation in preserving their history has been excellent.

St. James UMC, Burgess Community

This church has an active historian, they preserve and collect records, and they say that for them, every Sunday is Heritage Sunday – though they do have special recognition of their heritage on Mother's Day and on their anniversary date in November.

St. Luke UMC, Walhalla

The church celebrated its 150th anniversary this year on four Sundays – each with a historical theme. They collected materials for a time capsule and updated their history.

Trinity UMC, Anderson

Trinity has a historian who is active, collects records, and has a nice booklet about their history.

2010 Individual Award Recipient, Betty Murph Timmerman

A member of Grace United Methodist Church in North Augusta, Mrs. Timmerman served eight years as a member of the Commission on Archives and History and recently completed four years as president of the Conference Historical Society.

Summer Investment Program

This years SIP workers are:

To Camp Providence in Anderson:

Peter Ebo Baidoo, James Cox, Rashana Gillians, Taylor Thomas

To Epworth Children's Home in Columbia:

Ieisha Cooper, Haley Mobley

To Rural Mission Inc. in John's Island:

John Brasche, Margaret Alley Grant "Maggie"

To the United Methodist Relief Center in Mt. Pleasant:

Shelby Culbreth, Katherine Haselden

Board of Ordained Ministry Scholarships

T. Dennie Smith Scholarship

The T. Dennie Smith Scholarship was created to effectively carry forward the wishes of the late Mr. T. Dennie Smith of Greer, South Carolina, who died in 1973 and whose last will and testament included provisions creating a testamentary trust to assist "any young man or woman...who intend(ed) to devote their lives to the ministry in the Methodist Church." This year's recipients are:

Sharon Spann Gamble

Gamble is a seminary student at Hood Theological Seminary in the Master's of Divinity program. Gamble is an active member of the Saint Mark United Methodist Church, Mayesville, South Carolina, where she has served as the chairperson of nurture, chairperson of worship, director of music, children's coordinator, and Sunday School teacher.

Benjamin D. Sloan

Benjamin Sloan is a graduate of Southwestern University where he was awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion. Sloan is a member of the Saint James United Methodist Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina. Sloan has served as a case worker at the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, Camp Counselor at Asbury

Hills Camp and Retreat Center. Sloan will begin his seminary studies at Wesley Theological Seminary, August 2010. He has been awarded both The T. Dennie Smith Scholarship and The South Carolina Conference Seminary Student Scholarship.

Christopher L. Thompson

Christopher Thompson is an honor student at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. Thompson is the pastor of the Spartanburg Parish. Prior to Thompson's appointment as pastor, he has served as a certified lay speaker, treasurer of the United Methodist Men, and as teacher for the Sunday School department at Saint Mark United Methodist Church in the Greenville District. Thompson seeks to become an elder in the SC Conference.

Bessie Bellamy Parker Scholarship

The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship was established by the South Carolina Conference in 1986 to honor the memory of the Reverend Bessie Bellamy Parker (1912-1986), the first woman to be ordained in the former 1785 South Carolina Conference. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide assistance to female students at United Methodist seminaries or theological schools who are preparing for ordained pastoral ministry in South Carolina and who demonstrate promise for the kind of ministerial excellence which was embodied and pioneered by Bessie Bellamy Parker. This year's recipient is:

Katherine Brock

Brock is an outstanding student at Wesley Theological Seminary, pursuing the Master of Divinity degree. She is a member of the Saint James United Methodist Church, Spartanburg, where she is actively involved with youth ministry. Brock is also a graduate of Winthrop University where she was awarded a degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies.

SC Annual Conference Seminary Student Scholarship

The South Carolina Conference Seminary Student Scholarship was established in 1991 by the South Carolina Conference to assist students from South Carolina in pursuing a program of study leading to a first professional degree. This year's recipients are Ryan G. Spurrier and Benjamin Sloan.

Ryan G. Spurrier

Ryan Spurrier is an exemplary student at Duke Divinity School. He intends to graduate with the master of divinity degree, May 2011. Spurrier is also a graduate of Clemson University with a degree in Mathematical Sciences, with an emphasis in statistics, and a minor in Spanish. Spurrier is an active member of the Ashland United Methodist Church, Columbia, South Carolina. Spurrier has served as a Bible study leader, a member of the devotional team, and he has actively worked with the South Carolina Camp and Retreat Ministries.

The Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award

This award is an annual initiative that recognizes one clergy and one lay person who have exemplified extraordinary volunteer mission service in the South Carolina Conference. It is presented at the Annual Conference during recognition of mission volunteers.

Clergy Recipient Jack Bailey



As Disaster Response Coordinator for the Walterboro District, I've had opportunity to work closely with many UMVIM Emergency Response Teams and Disaster Response Teams which have responded to calls for help following natural disasters within our district. It has been my great pleasure to provide teams with hospitality services and logistical support. I very much appreciate the wonderful work UMVIM and Salkehatchie Summer Service Project volunteers have provided in making emergency repairs and restorations in homes damaged by hurricanes/tornados and/or fires in Hampton and Allendale Counties in the past couple of years. Once, while assisting David Busby, Ken Phelps, Billy Robinson, Tony Rowell, and others with assessment of storm damage to homes in the Walterboro District, it became clear that repairs to certain badly damaged homes would simply be impractical. At that point we were put in contact with Mr. K. C. Carter and the wonderful people of Missionary Supply Network. MSN felt spirit-led to replace one residence in Hampton County and two residences in Allendale County using – for the most part – donations, donated materials, and volunteer labor. UMVIM teams from SC, and some from other conferences, along with Salkehatchie volunteers and volunteers from other denominations made sizeable material purchases, and did much of the physical work necessary to complete two of those homes which have already been consecrated to the glory of God. Currently the third home is nearing completion in Fairfax, SC.

Families who occupy homes repaired and/or replaced by dedicated people who exhibit compassion for others invariably express their heartfelt gratitude for the blessings they have received. May God continue to bless those who volunteer in every missionary endeavor, so they may continue to be what we already know they are: a true blessing to others.

Lay Person Recipient Joseph W. Alley, Jr.



The Michael C. Watson Volunteer in Mission Award is presented to Mr. Joseph W. (Jay) Alley, Jr. a layperson who has exemplified extraordinary volunteer service to the mission work of the church in South Carolina.

Jay grew up enjoying and respecting the Saluda River. One day while enjoying the river he prayed for a Spirit-inspired mission. That was when he was inspired to begin an outdoor adventure mission for children.

In 1993 Jay founded "Canoeing for Kids." Canoeing for Kids offers free canoeing and kayaking adventures for disadvantaged children. Since Canoeing for Kids began we have taken over 16,000 children on outings. These outings give children the opportunity to experience nature up close. They get to experience God's creatures and creations in their natural settings.

To raise awareness and financial support for his mission, Jay tackled a 2,000 mile canoeing trip from New York to New Orleans. The trip raised nearly \$40,000 for Epworth Children's Home and other non-profit organizations. With his gentle kind voice and actions he has a calming effect on youth and young adults. Jay has been referred to as an "Angel on Earth."

Jay and his wife Rachel have three sons of their own, Pierce (11), Joe Joe (3), and Rivers (nine months). Jay and his family are members of Trinity UMC, West Columbia. Jay has a long history with United Methodist Mission projects. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Joe Alley a retired South Carolina Methodist minister. Jay's sister Lynne Alley Grant is a United Methodist Minister in Roanoke, Virginia.

