

Together in Mission and Ministry

News from the Greenwood District

LOVE NOTES

GOD ALWAYS PROVIDES



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love
District Superintendent

²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,^[c] yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations^[f] of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. *Luke 12:27-31NRSV*

The transition for churches, pastors and their families has taken place. I ask that we pray for all who are in transition as we begin this new conference year. During the summer months we experience seasonal storms. It resembles the challenges of our lives when there seems to be seasons of storms. This year I have been reminded of the importance of taking time to reflect even during the season of storms. I have been on a renewal leave which officially ended July 10. I have been encouraged by the movement of the Spirit of God in my life. It has been a good time to spend reflecting on the beauty of nature. I want to encourage clergy and lay to schedule time for yourself. I encourage PPRC ministry teams to work with your pastor and make sure they take time for prayer and study (not their vacation but for renewal) I confess that although P. 350 in our United Methodist Book of Discipline outlines the Renewal leave process, (which is recommended every four years for pastors), this is the first time in my 30

Continued on page 2



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Apportionment Update.....	2
Lay Day to Pay 2022 Apportionments	2
2022 Charge Conferences.....	3
2022-23 Set-up Meeting.....	3
District Summer Mission Project 4	
Johnston UMC Summer Mission Project	5

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2022 Charge Conferences
- Annual Set-up Meeting
- District SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

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LOVE NOTES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

years of appointed ministry that I have taken a renewal leave. I have thought about how much more effective I could have been if I had taken more time for renewal.

The Lord always provides. I thank all of you for your prayers and support during this time. I especially thank our Administrative Assistant, Martha Alewine, and Rev. Cathy Mitchell, Spartanburg District Superintendent, for graciously covering and our District Committee on Superintendency for their encouragement and support. I thank all of you who assisted during my time away. I have had a great experience of renewal. I understand the value of following Jesus' model to take time for reflection. We face unprecedented circumstances that could easily lead to stress in our lives. Let us reflect on the message of Luke 12:27-31, which reminds us that the Lord provides. "Consider the birds of the air and consider the lilies of the fields... and seek His Kingdom." Let us go forth during this season of storms, encouraged and trusting God in all things.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Love

2022 APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

Printed below is the 2022 apportionment payment breakdown as of July 13:

- 100%: 8 churches
- 75-99% - 2 churches
- 50-74% : 26 churches
- 25-49% : 14 churches
- 1-24% : 4 churches
- 0% : 24 churches

LAST DAY TO PAY 2022 APPORTIONMENTS

GCFA has given its due date for apportionments which means the last day for SC churches to pay their 2022 apportionments is **Thursday, January 12**. If any church pays electronically using Vanco, the payment must be initiated by 3:00 pm on Tuesday, January 10. If paying by mail or delivery service, the payment must be in the treasurer's office by 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 12. The mailing postmark is not the deciding factor. The payment must be in the treasurer's office by the due date and time.



2022 Charge Conference

This is your last chance to send us any dates that should be avoided when scheduling your Charge Conference.

To date we have heard from the following pastors:

Steve Keck
Amanda Richardson
Ben Barnett
R. T. Bowling III
Darlene Kelley
Mitchell and Carol Peppers Wray
Hank Brooks
Craig Vondergeest
Jesse Rogers
Patrick Taylor
Tim Jones
William Hightower

ANNUAL SET-UP MEETING AUGUST 11

One more reminder to make your meal reservation for our annual set-up meeting, August 11, 6:30 p.m., at St. Paul UMC, Saluda. The meal and childcare will be provided.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/bdhhzc8j> to complete the registration form.

This is our first clergy meeting of this Conference year and ALL appointed and assigned pastors are expected to attend. We hope spouses and children will join us for our first in-person gathering in quite a while.

Reservations received to date are:

Cameron Levi
Amanda Richardson
Cathy Jamieson
Donna Eidson
Emil Finley
Bob Huggins
Ben Barnett
Patrick Taylor
Joey Gambrell
Steve Keck
Scott Nurse
Joe Long
Justin Ritter
Jesse Rogers
Donny Black
Robby Lybrand
R. T. Bowling III
Viki Hydrick
Vin Davis
Barrett Alewine
Stephen Love

Reservation deadline is **August 8** so we can confirm with the caterer.

If, for some reason, you cannot get the Google Form to work for you, send an email to the district office with the number attending and if you will need childcare.



DISTRICT SUMMER MISSION PROJECT

Summer Food Drive

Rev. Darlene Kelley, pastor of the Mt. Pleasant/O'Neal St. Charge, issued a challenge to hold a **Summer Food Drive**. Yes, food drives are not just for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Many of our neighbors live in a constant food desert and it is our responsibility as followers of Jesus to care for them

The District has accepted the challenge as our **Summer Mission Project**. Everyone (churches, individual families, Sunday School classes, UMW circles, UMM groups, youth groups) is encouraged to participate.

Staples such as peanut butter, canned soups and vegetables, cereal, canned meats, bottled juices, shelf-stable milk are always needed. Personal items are also needed, such as feminine products, diapers, soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste.

Kelley says, "You can make a difference! You can make the world a little better, a little healthier, and a little happier, especially for the elderly and for children."

Our Summer Food Drive Challenge kicks off on **June 19** and continues through **July**. You can find a suggested list of shelf-stable food items and non-food items on the district web page: www.umcsc.org/greenwood.

Please keep a tally of the amount of food collected and send that information to the district office by July 20. Let us know the name of the food pantry/food bank that received your contributions.

Ways to tally your collections:

- Number of pounds; or
- Number of individual items. Ex: 100 cans of vegetables; 125 cans of soup; 10 5-lb. bags of sugar, etc.

At our Set-up Meeting on August 11, we will recognize participants and celebrate the amount of food collected for our neighbors across the district.



Johnston Summer Mission Opportunity

Members of the Greenwood District,
Are you looking for a chance to serve your neighbor this Summer?
Would you like to give back to God by participating in mission with your
Brothers and Sisters for a day or more?



Johnston and Harmony UMCs are hosting a Summer Mission Project in Johnston, SC July 25th-30th. Multiple homes will be attended to in an effort to provide for our community members that need a helping hand. All skill levels are invited! There is a place for you to participate in God's mission here and now!

If you feel led by the Spirit to work one day, two days, or six days, please contact Rev. Amanda G. Richardson at (803) 275-2260 or AGRichardson@umcsc.org.



Come for the mission, leave with some peaches.
We are the peach capital of the world.

Financial contributions may be sent to Harmony UMC, ATTN Summer Mission, PO Box 186, Johnston SC 29832



If you are called to work with Salkehatchie, W.A.R.M. projects, UMVIM mission teams, then you should contact Rev. Amanda Richardson and volunteer to help with Johnston's summer mission project. Cheers to Johnston UMC for their support of Rev. Richardson and her Fruitfulness Project which is a requirement for ordination.

Can't work all week? No problem, come for the day or two! Other suggestions if you can't participate on-site: PRAY for the volunteers and the families being helped; send a monetary contribution to help with buying supplies. All contributions should be sent to Johnston UMC, ATTN Summer Mission Project, PO Box 186, Johnston, SC 29832.