

McCormick United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 267
McCormick, SC 29835
Email: mccormickumc@wctel.net
Website: mccormickumc.org
864-852-2394



A Stephen Ministry & ChristCare Congregation

Reverend Athon Arant, Sr.
Pastor

Administrative Assistant
Linda Rushton

Superintendent of the Greenwood District
Reverend Mary Teasley

South Carolina Conference Resident Bishop
Reverend Mary Virginia Taylor

Mission

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We, as the local church, are the vessels through which disciple-making occurs.

Purpose

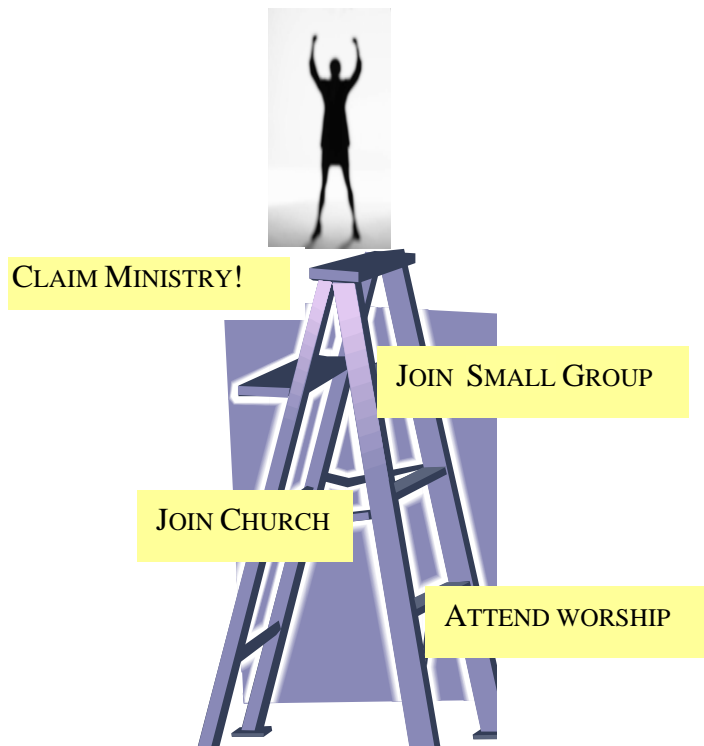
Here at McCormick UMC, we consider as our primary purpose to:

- ✚ Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- ✚ Develop disciples who live lives that produce the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) and to
- ✚ Relieve suffering.

Framework

The normal framework for our disciplining system is best seen by the image of a four rung step ladder. The bottom rung of the ladder represents our decision to attend worship. The second rung is our decision to join the church. We arrive on the third rung of the ladder when we decide to participate in small group activities such as a Church school class, a ChristCare group, prayer group, etc. The fourth rung of the ladder is the top and we arrive there when we claim our own ministry, regardless of what it may be.

Framework



Christian Education



The primary arena for the disciplining process occurs through Christian Education. The goal of Christian Education is to invite people and communities of faith to be transformed as they are inspired and challenged to:

- ✚ Know and experience God through Jesus Christ;
- ✚ Claim and live God's promises; and
- ✚ Grow and serve as Christian disciples.

We believe we fulfill our mission and our purpose if we are able to:

- ✚ Reach out to people wherever they are,
- ✚ Receive them as they are,
- ✚ Relate them to God through Jesus Christ,
- ✚ Nurture and equip them for Christian discipleship, and
- ✚ Send them out into the community to be the church family, the neighborhood, the community and the world.

For us as United Methodists, the Christian life is a process of being transformed by God's grace into the likeness of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is at the heart of this life-long process.

Here at McCormick UMC, in order to facilitate the goals of Christian education we identify the discipling process into three categories.

- Entering (joining the church)
- Growing (joining small groups)
- Doing Ministry—Action Teams
(Claiming Ministry)

Discovering God's Vision for Your Life

A part of the discipling process is to identify gifts and graces for serving. The material we currently use to help you identify your gifts and graces is a short-term course (approximately eight sessions), *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts*. This course offers individuals an experience that can change their lives and deepen their relationship with God. When this happens, the quantity and quality of the church's ministry increases. We encourage you to prayerfully consider experiencing this course the next time it is offered.

What's Available?

Worship Services. We currently offer two worship services each Sunday morning. Our 8:30 a.m. order of worship is the same as our 11:00 a.m.; however, our chancel choir does not participate in our 8:30 service. The attendance at our 8:30 service ranges from 50 to 60+.

Immediately following the 8:30 service we have coffee and usually some type of snack available in the Fellowship Hall. This brief time is identified as our “coffee minute” and serves as a gathering point for those leaving 8:30 service and those coming in for 9:45 Sunday school.

Our 11:00 a.m. worship service is not as casual as our 8:30 service; however, there is nothing “formal” or “high church” about our services. Both worship services lean more toward being traditional forms of worship. The chancel choir participates in our 11:00 a.m. service except during the summer months.

Sunday School—9:45 each Sunday

Wesley Adult Class. This class is served by a group of rotating teachers (Bruce Motsinger, Betty Smith, and Ron Taylor). The material is the *Adult Bible Series*, one of the most popular selections for adult Sunday school throughout American Methodism. The class format is lecture with some discussion on life application issues. This class meets on the first floor in the Wesley Classroom near the parlor (behind the right side of the Chancel area).

Young at Heart Adult Class. This class has nothing to do with age—just attitude. This class is currently using *Adult Bible Series* also. The Young at Heart Class is served by a group of rotating teachers (Phil Bailey, Bud Stahlman, Lindy Stahlman, Emilee Groh, and Sally Culpepper). This class meets in the center of the Fellowship Hall.

Heart and Soul Adult Class. This class was started in 2004 to address the need of those who wanted to learn more about the Bible but proceed at a slower pace. The class is served by Jack Bushling. They are also currently using *Adult Bible Studies*. When this class meets, they are located in Classroom #1 on the first floor near the kitchen side of the Fellowship Hall.

Nursery. We offer a nursery for infants up through three years of age. The nursery is currently available for the 11:00 a.m. worship service only and is served by a list of volunteers. Sue Mitchell is the point of contact for nursery volunteers.

Ministries of MUMC



Stephen Series. The Stephen Ministry Series will celebrate its three year anniversary on the second Sunday of November 2008. One of our new members in 2005 claimed this as her ministry and stepped forward to serve as its leader.

The Stephen Series provides congregations with the structure and resources to set up and administer a complete system for confidential lay caring ministry (called Stephen Ministry) in the congregation. In Stephen Ministry congregations, lay care-givers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one confidential Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated, and others facing a crisis or life challenge. Stephen Ministers do not function as counselors, but as Christian friends with specific training in giving care to individuals in the areas mentioned. They are also trained to recognize possible needs of the care receiver. Stephen Ministry helps pastors and congregations provide quality caring ministry for as long as people need it.

We currently have four trained Stephen Leaders and eleven Stephen Ministers. Information about our Stephen Ministry is posted on the bulletin board outside Reverend Taylor's office. If you are interested in becoming a part of this vital ministry, contact Beverly Western. We are currently recruiting for our next training class which will begin in September 2009.



ChristCare Series. The Church Council approved the ChristCare Series of Stephen Ministries as a new ministry for 2006. The ChristCare Series equips congregations to implement an expandable small group ministry that works and lasts. The small groups live and exist within a covenant they agree upon during their group bonding process and review that covenant periodically. ChristCare Groups engage in four primary disciple-building activities:

- ✚ Community Building
- ✚ Biblical Equipping
- ✚ Prayer and Worship
- ✚ Missional Service

We have recently completed the training of our second group of ChristCare Leaders and are currently in the process of forming some new groups. We have 15 trained ChristCare Small Group Leaders, two of whom are also trained as ChristCare Equippers and two who are on an inactive list. We currently have six active ChristCare Small Groups. The current leaders and group information is listed below. If you would like more information about ChristCare Series and how group participation can help you grow in relationship with Jesus Christ and others, contact Pastor Athon Arant.

ChristCare Small Group Information

Jack Bushling leads the *Forever Blessed* group that meets every other Tuesday afternoon from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in Classroom #1 at MUMC. Their missional service is to support each other in their respective servant ministries. As the need arises, this group takes on additional missional-type services. This group is open to anyone regardless of church affiliation.

Irene Crowley leads the *Couples for Christ* group. As the name suggests, Irene's group is a couples group. The missional service of Irene's group is to provide support for each group member in their respective volunteer ministries. Irene's group has room for one more couple, regardless of church affiliation.

Linda Kidd leads the *Twenty-Four:Seven* ChristCare Group that meets at least twice a month in Classroom #2. The day and time varies. The missional service of this group focuses around mental health issues. Linda's group is open to anyone regardless of church affiliation.

Linda Rushton leads the *M&M (Mary & Martha) ChristCare Group*. They meet every other Friday at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of our church. The *M&M's* focus their missional service around local outreach ministries. Linda's group is open to any female regardless of faith or church status.

Ron Taylor leads a group with a missional service that also meets a critical need of our church. Ron's group is the *ChristCare Welcome Group*. His group follows-up on first time visitors to our worship services. Ron's group currently meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. in Classroom #2. Participation in Ron's group is limited to members, affiliates, associates, and/or constituents of MUMC. If you love your church and want to share it with newcomers, you might want to strongly consider being in Ron's ChristCare Group.

Byron Thompson leads a ChristCare Group whose missional service is serving the elderly and those in genuine need, in McCormick by doing yard work for those who are not able. Byron's group call themselves, *A Cut Above ChristCare Group*, and is open to anyone regardless of church affiliation. They meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Classroom #2.

Abbie Caywood and **Polly Ann Prather** do not currently lead ChristCare Small Groups. Abbie would like to lead a group with a missional service of providing respite care for the caregiver or support for surviving spouses while Polly Ann would like to focus on prison ministries. Both women would appreciate your interest.

Our new ChristCare Small Group Leaders are:

- + Carol Bailey (Equipper/Leader)
- + Phil Bailey (Equipper/Leader)
- + Frank Chewning
- + Shirelene Chewning
- + Sally Culpepper
- + Onalee Green
- + Carol Struck

Information about our ChristCare Small Group Ministry is periodically posted on the bulletin board outside Reverend Taylor's office. Feel free to contact any of the small group leaders and arrange a visit to his or her ChristCare group—even the groups at maximum membership welcome visitors.

Prayer Group. We currently have a men's prayer group that meets each Monday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is an ecumenical group and the men would welcome more prayer warriors.

Drama Team. We have a drama team, directed by Betty Smith. The drama team will perform a couple of times a year during worship and/or special services. Our congregation always enjoys this special activity. Contact Betty if you have any interest in this ministry.

Nehemiah Team. The Nehemiah Team is a work group ministry focusing on repairs and maintenance of homes of some of the elderly in our community. If you are interested in the ministry of the Nehemiah Team, contact Ken Green.



United Methodist Men. Our United Methodist Men's Fellowship meets the first Tuesday of each month (except in July and August) at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is always a good meal, devotion, and usually a guest speaker. The current president of our UMM is Phil Bailey. All men are welcome.



United Methodist Women. There are two groups (Circles) of United Methodist Women. Information about the Circles may be obtained from Linda Rushton, unit president.

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Morning Glories	2 nd Friday	9:30 a.m.
Susanna Wesley	3 rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Women unit president also serves as the point of contact for organizing and providing meals before/after Death and Resurrection Services or Memorial Services.

Bell Choir. We have an active hand-bell choir under the direction of Jeanne Thornburg. The bell choir meets each Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. for practice in the choir room. The bell choir periodically performs at both worship services. For information about the bell choir contact Jeanne Thornburg.

Chancel Choir. Our chancel choir serves in our 11:00 a.m. worship and they meet for practice at 7:15 p.m. each Wednesday evening in the sanctuary. The choir is directed by Jeanne Thornburg and you are invited to be a part of this vital ministry.

Special Studies/Events

Information about special studies/events is published in the weekly bulletin, the monthly newsletter, posted on the bulletin board and/or announced in worship.

Confirmation Classes

We offer confirmation sessions for youth and adults. Our confirmation is accomplished through the mentoring (one-on-one) process rather than in a group format. Contact Athon Arant for additional information.

Some of the Places We Serve Within the Community

Habitat for Humanity. Many of our church members volunteer to work with Habitat for Humanity. In addition to help building homes, they can also volunteer to work in the Habitat General Store. Volunteers are always welcome.

Helping Hands. Helping Hands is a non-profit organization, staffed by volunteers to receive, sort, price, and distribute clothing. They are located on N. Main Street.

McCormick Children's Home. The mission of the McCormick Children's Home, Inc., is to ensure that safe emergency shelter and related services are available to abused, neglected, and abandoned children in McCormick and surrounding areas.

Its purpose is to provide twenty-four hour service, seven days a week emergency home placement for children from McCormick, Abbeville, Saluda, Edgefield, Laurens, Greenwood and other counties with primary emphasis on meeting the needs of the abused, neglected and abandoned children of McCormick County. The home will accept children from birth to seventeen years of age. It is licensed to provide all medical services to ensure the physical and emotional well being of its residents. McCormick Children's Home is a nonprofit 501 C3 organization.

The home was established in November 1996, incorporated in 1997, and opened in 1998. It is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors that reflects the ethnic and gender diversity of the community it serves and is comprised of representatives from a wide range of disciplines.

John de la Howe. "South Carolina's School for Children" is located here in McCormick County. The school was founded in 1797 and has been a state-supported, residential group child-care agency with a primary purpose of assisting South Carolina's at-risk children and families since 1918. The mission of John de la Howe School is to strengthen children and families from South Carolina who are experiencing difficulties to the extent that planned separation from the family is necessary. Volunteers are always welcome at John de la Howe.

McCormick Community Senior Center. There is an extensive senior volunteer program at the McCormick Senior Center. You can get involved in transportation, meals on wheels, activities at the center, and a host of other things. Many of our members are active in the life of the Senior Center.

McCormick Arts Council at the Keturah (MACK). The MACK seeks to preserve the heritage and art forms of the Savannah River Basin; it also provides an outlet for performance and presentation of these art forms. The MACK is located at 115 S. Main Street.

Mentoring/Tutoring. Many of our members serve as mentors and tutors in the public and private schools. The public schools have an organized program for mentors and tutors. If you are interested in making a difference in the life of a child through mentoring/tutoring, contact the school of your choice.

Your Interests?

Just because something is not listed here, does not mean that it isn't happening. Just ask!

If there is something that you are specifically interested in doing, let us know. We want to know how we can best serve and help equip you to participate in the Body of Christ and the faith community.

Are you interested in:

- Ushering
- Lay Reading
- ChristCare Small Group Leadership
- ChristCare Small Group Membership
- Stephen Leader Training
- Stephen Minister Training
- Operating PowerPoint Equipment for Worship Service(s)
- Music Team for 8:30 service

- Nehemiah Team
- Prayer Group
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Drama Team
- Welcome Team
- Learning about your Spiritual gifting
- Bible Study
- Spiritual Formation Classes
- Other

Church Leadership

The McCormick UMC is governed by a Church council. The following is a brief summary of the primary task of the church council and those committees and/or individuals who are voting members of the Church Council.

Church Council. The primary task is to lead our congregation in long-range planning and in carrying out its program so that people are received into its fellowship, encouraged in strengthening their relationship with God, and supported as they seek to live as Christian disciples. The activities of the church Council are influenced by the activities of our local church committees. Norma Curtis is the current chair of our Church Council.

Staff Pastor Parish Relations (SPPR). The primary task is to support our pastor(s) and other staff so that these people can work effectively in managing the ministry of our congregation for witness and service. The SPPR is also responsible for the hiring and terminating paid staff. Jane Fairburn is the current chair of the SPPR.

Trustees. The primary task is to supervise and maintain all property belonging to our congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. Ray Crace is the current chair of our Trustees.

Finance. The primary task is to propose, raise, manage, and distribute the financial resources of the congregation to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the congregation. Mary Spence is the current chair of Finance.

Lay Leadership. The primary task is to ensure that our congregation has a process for discovering, inviting, nominating, and supporting people for Christian spiritual leadership positions essential to the ministries of nurture and outreach in our local congregation and community. The pastor always serves as the chair of Lay Leadership.

Lay Leader. The primary task is to work with our church's leadership to address the hopes and concerns of our congregation and community so that our community may become more loving and just. Ken Green is our Lay Leader.

Lay Member to Annual Conference (LMAC). The primary task is to link the congregation and the connectional church by participating responsibly in annual conference sessions and interpreting its actions to our congregation. There is a LMAC for each clergy appointed and each LMAC has a vote. Current Lay Members to Annual Conference are Ron Taylor and John Spence.

Financial Secretary. The primary task is to receive, record, and deposit all funds received by our congregation and to work with the treasurer and committee on finance to develop policies and procedures so that funds can be made available to support the ministry of our congregation. Linda Rushton is our Financial Secretary.

Treasurer. The primary task is disburse all funds received into the church treasury in a responsible and organized manner, with funds identified and bills paid when due, so that the ministry of our congregation can be effective. Irene Crowley is our treasurer.

Worship. The primary task is to work with our pastor and leaders(s) of music to ensure that our congregation is provided opportunities for worship that will help people develop and strengthen their relationship with God and will help them live more faithfully as Christian disciples. Hester Abbuhl is our current chair of Worship.

Outreach. The primary task is to keep our local church active in various forms of missional support. Carol Bailey is our current chair of Outreach and Linda Rushton leads a ChristCare Group that supports this ministry.

Church Hostess. The primary task of the Church Hostess is to ensure that the kitchen is always supplied with necessary items to provide fellowship meals and support for church-related events. It is critical that individuals coordinate with the Church Hostess anytime the kitchen is going to be used. Kay Kloppenburg is the current Church Hostess.

Welcoming Committee. The primary task of this committee is to ensure that every visitor is acknowledged and provided an opportunity to learn more about our church so as to make educated and spiritually guided decisions about membership in MUMC. The activities of this committee are currently being accomplished by the ChristCare Welcome Group led by Ron Taylor.

Stewardship Committee. The primary task is to help people understand the meaning of Christian stewardship and the need to practice it in all of life. John Cotty is the current chair of our Stewardship Committee.

Membership Committee. The primary task of this committee is to periodically review the membership rolls in order to identify those individual whose attendance has been irregular. This screening process may lead to a lay or pastoral visit to help determine the individual's status. Mary Eddie Lindley and Johnny McCracken serve as co-chairs of this committee.

Communications Coordinator. The primary task is to develop and carry out a communications program so that members and others in our community will understand and become interested in participating in our congregation's ministry. The communications coordinator also keeps our website current. Rick Lindley serves as our current Communications Coordinator.

Updated June 7, 2009