The Unsung (Unsaid) Commission

“You shall be my witnesses…to the end of the earth,” Jesus said to his disciples. We witness about who He is, why He came, what He did and why it matters even to those who don’t believe (yet). And how shall they ever believe if, as Paul says, they never hear because no one proclaims the good news to them. It is easy to share what is assumed to be readily received: food, clothing, medical help, etc. It is not so easy to share what may be rejected and unappreciated by the recipients; namely, a one-to-one gospel witness. Nevertheless, this is the unspoken, often unfulfilled commission. There are several reasons for this. I will address some.

Many of us are conditioned by society that “religion is private, and you don’t talk about it.” However, if we are Christians, the command of Christ overrides the objections of the world in our spirits, our actions, and our speech. We cannot change the opinion of society, but we can’t allow society to hinder the purposes of Christ in our lives. “We must obey God rather than man.”

We tend to gravitate to what we find affirming. The hungry will usually take food. The sick will usually accept medical help. The homeless will usually accept a blanket or clothing to help meet their need. The lost will not always accept our witness of Christ. Sometimes their rejection can be unpleasant. Therefore, we avoid the situation. The result is their continuance in “lostness.” Some excuse themselves from the commission by saying that no one is ever lost. God will save everyone. The problem with this idea is the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus died because we are all lost. His resurrection proclaims that all who believe in Him will be saved, not lost. Believing in Him is essential. Giving our witness is a must.

We don’t always know what to say or how to share our Christian faith. This is something that can be addressed. Study to show yourself approved ready to give an account for the hope that is in you. This is Paul’s instruction to the churches. Therefore, there will be a class offered soon. The example of the church in Acts is our example today. In the study we will see what they shared and articulate our own experience in light of the Bible. The end result will be, by God’s Spirit, an increase of sharing the Gospel on a daily basis in the opportunities God brings our way. If this interests you, stay tuned. -- Ben
ALDERSGATE ADVENTURES – COMING SOON

Do you enjoy visiting new places with friendly companions? Aldersgate Adventures is a new program open to all adults at Aldersgate UMC. The trips are a combination of day and over-night to new and familiar places. Some dates still need to be confirmed.

The first is scheduled for Friday, March 11 and we will be going to Hamricks in Gaffney, SC for shopping and lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Departure is 9:00 from the church parking lot.

On April 7th we will visit the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens in North Carolina. It is a beautiful, beautiful place and in April the weather will not be too hot and the gardens arrayed in all their spring glory. The orchid house is outstanding. We will have lunch on the grounds.

Prepare yourself for May—a three-day, two-night visit to Charleston, SC, a city filled with history, interesting places and great food!

June is a jaunt to Strawberry Hill. Coming home the bus smells like strawberry preserves.

After a break in July and August, September will be a treat of a different sort. How about a Little Switzerland (NC) Rally with an over-night stay? The mountains and weather should be great and Wayne Maury will honcho this one.

The Bald Eagle is the magnificent symbol for our country and the Carolina Raptor Center (Huntsville) rescues and rehabilitates them and other raptors. This is October’s trip and Latta Plantation is the Raptor’s neighbor.

The final adventure for 2016 is November’s trip to JAARS (the service and supply arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators) in Waxhaw, NC. Learn more about this remarkable volunteer service and how for 50+ years they have helped with Bible translation throughout the world.

In addition to the above activities, the committee hopes to keep you informed about musical, dramatic, cultural and interesting events that are happening here in our area. You can enjoy them by yourself or gather a group of friends to join you. We are fortunate to live in an area that has a rich variety from which to choose.

Any comments? Contact the committee members: Ray Lautzenheiser – ravon@comporium.net; Donna Sliva – slivad@comporium.net; or Janie Matson – yucatree@comporium.net.

Watch for more details.

GIFTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF RALPH DICKSON
TO: PRAYER GARDEN
BY: YOUNG AT HEARTS
JANIE MATSON

GIFTS GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF AGNES McCRAVEN
TO: UMW MISSIONS
BY RAY & YVONNE LAUTZENHEISER

TO: FLOWER FUND
BY YOUNG AT HEARTS
TO: PRAYER GARDEN
BY JANIE MATSON

GIFTS GIVEN
IN MEMORY OF MARY KRAUSE
TO: MIKE CULP CANCER FUND
BY BILL & DIXIE CLICK

!!! HELP WANTED !!!

Aldersgate has a beautiful 15-passenger bus which can be used for many church-sponsored activities---BUT, sadly, it is used very little. Why? Because we have very few who are willing to be drivers. What does one need? You can be a female or male with a valid South Carolina driver’s license (a CDL is NOT needed) and no bad marks on it, reasonably good health and preferably under the age of 70. The church insurance covers you while driving the bus. The pay is not great, but the benefits are great as you will be in the company of a lovely, friendly, happy, group of people and may even have some new and interesting experiences.

Interested and willing? Contact the church office and they can help with the application process. Please, there is so much we could do with more willing drivers.

Community Easter Egg Hunt
We will be having our Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th at Noon. We will definitely be needing to round up some folks to help, so be on the lookout for sign up information.
**Coming Up**

Rev. Ben Herlong
“2 Corinthians 5:14-21” (03/07)
“John 12:1-11” (03/13)
“Luke 19:28-44” (03/20)
“Luke 24:1-12” (03/27)

**Children’s Worship**
(Nestle Crunch) comes with an unexpected crunch 02/28
(Three Musketeers) Friends should stick together 03/06
(Butterfinger) We will be learning that God brings us forgiveness and love 03/13
Preparing and learning the story of Palm Sunday and Easter! 03/20 & 27

Encourage our children—ask them about their lesson!

---

**Flower Calendar**
If you have signed up for flowers they must be paid for in advance. The church will no longer order flowers if payment is not received at least two weeks in advance.

Flowers for Sunday, March 27, 2016, are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Ken & Lyn Skews 55th Wedding Anniversary, by their children.

Available Dates
March 6, 2016
March 13, 2016
March 20, 2016

The cost of the Flowers - $37.40

A card will be mailed to remind you of your order if we have not received payment.

---

Please consider using our Online Contribution Program. For your convenience we have added two methods in addition to our website. First, Text the amount you would like to donate to: (803) 658-4304 or scan this QR Code.

Thanks, Wayne

---

**Thank You**
To everyone for supporting United Methodist Women’s fundraising projects.
Due to your generosity, we raised over $600 from the Souper Sale and Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage dinner. We’re off to a good start supporting missions in 2016!

---

**Children’s Worship**
2/28 - Nestle Crunch Bars come with an unexpected crunch. This week in children’s church we will be learning about all of the amazing and unexpected things that God does for us! Our Bible story will be from Exodus 13:30 - 14:29, Crossing the Red Sea!
We look forward to seeing the kids this week!

3/6 - Three Musketeers - Friends should always stick together! The children will be learning the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. We are wise if we always stick together! Our Bible story will be from Daniel 3:8-30, The Fiery Furnace!

3/13 - The Butterfinger slogan says, "Don't lay a finger on my Butterfinger". We will be learning that God’s touch brings us forgiveness and love. Our Bible story will be from Luke: 36-50, Jesus Anointed

3/20 & 3/28 - We will be preparing and learning the story of Palm Sunday and Easter! More specific details will come as we get closer.
We will pick up with our last 2 weeks of candy after Easter!
AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION
WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS
MINISTRY BY OUR PRAYERS, OUR PRESENCE,
AND OUR WITNESS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Feb. 21st</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Worship</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Worship</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Service</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUR GIFTS:**

| Budget Needed Each Week | $4,958.00 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Received:</th>
<th>Feb. 21st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Fund Regular Offering:</td>
<td>$3,088.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Fund Total:</td>
<td>$470.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUR SERVICE: (February 281th)**

- Altar Guild: Harry Gibson
- Children's Worship: Kay & Bill Runyans
- Greeters (10:30): Ron & Louise Thomas
- Ushers (10:30): Mike Sturkie & Bruce Farrington
- Acolyte (10:30):
- Crucifer (10:30):
- Lectionary (10:30): Donna Sliva

**NASHVILLE BOUND**

The Senior adults from Mt. Holly UMC are planning a trip to Nashville and have asked if any of our seniors would be interested in joining them. This is a 5 day 4 night trip; June 20-24 and the cost is $536.00 per person for a double occupancy room. There is a flyer on the bulletin board in the hallway with contact information or you may contact Hope Carter.

**Follow Us Online:**

- www.aumcrockhill.com
- www.aumblog.com
- www.twitter.com/aumcrockhill
- www.facebook.com/aumcrockhill
- iTunes Podcast (Sermons/Special Music)

**UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH**

- March 1st - 6:30pm - APB Jam Session
- March 2nd - 5:45pm - "Next Chapter" Meeting
- March 6th - UMW Call to Prayer & Self-Denial After 10:30a.m. Service-
- March 11th - 9:00am Road Trip to Hamricks in Gaffney, SC - Young at Hearts
- March 14th - 7:00p.m. - Trustee Meeting
- March 18th - Young at Hearts - 11:30a.m.
- March 19th - 8:00a.m. - Church Work Day
- March 20th - Palm Sunday - Covered Dish Lunch
- March 21st - 7:00p.m. - Evening Circle
- March 25th - Crop Walk
- March 26th - 12:00 Noon - Community Easter Egg Hunt
- March 27th - Easter Sunday
- March 28th - 7:00p.m. - SPRC Meeting