

Harry Pratt, Jr. regularly teaches the Fellowship Sunday School Class the first Sunday of each month, serves as an usher, and donated his daylilies to the Youth group for a fund-raising project. He helped prepare the sets for Journey to the Manger and works on other service projects at the church. Harry is a very special person, a devoted Christian, and a loyal member of SUMC.

Lois Pratt openly offers and accepts almost all requests for help around SUMC. She is often the first one called to perform a task whether it be a UMM/UMW mission project, a SUMC related task, or a Fellowship Sunday School Class request. She prepares snacks on the third Sunday of each month for the Fellowship Sunday School Class. She is a helper on the fourth Sunday of each month in the Nursery and is a Greeter on the second Sunday of each month. She is considered the “Saint” of SUMC. Lois is “hands-on” with everything from making cider for the Moravian Love Feast, Journey to the Manger kitchen helper, to washing dishes after the Seder Meal. She wants no special recognition, but she surely deserves it.

Wallis Riser serves as an usher, greeter, VP of the Fellowship Class and fills in for their Sunday School President when he is out of town. She and George go by once a month and picks up Don McKinney to transport him to church. She is also very organized and weekly works with the offering counters.

Mark Rush is very dedicated to our Youth. He is a wonderful role model and an inspiration to all parents with the teenagers. He teaches a youth Sunday School class and constantly challenges them to “walk” the Christian walk.

Issie Sanders is treasurer of the Fellowship Sunday School Class, is an usher, participates in one of the prayer groups, and provides transportation one Sunday per month for Don McKinney to attend church. He was very involved with Journey to the Manger with setting the sets and running the sound and audio.

Loren Snyder chaired the Christmas Miracle campaign that supported the James Monroe House in Fountain Inn with cash and food donations. He is the SUMC lay leader and has assisted with Journey to the Manger.

Meggan Snyder is President of UMW at Simpsonville United Methodist Church and challenged them to achieve the “5-Star Award”, a coveted award from the South Carolina UM Conference and Greenville District. That award was achieved this past year.

Marge Unger is always involved with Journey to the Manger. She helps maintain our church garden. In addition to her church activities, Marge also volunteers with caring for and teaching the 4-year olds at the Golden Strip Resource Center and reads stories to children at Greenville Memorial Hospital. She went on the Honduras Mission Trip last fall. The other members of her mission team recognized what we’ve known all along – that she is one of a kind, a true servant of God.

Charlie Warlick has committed more personal time, effort, and devotion to the betterment of the SUMC church family and the young men of the community. He has given tirelessly of himself to the Scouting Ministry continuously since 1974 when he accepted the position of Scoutmaster of BSA Troop 159, which has been sponsored by SUMC continuously since 1950 when it was first chartered. During his 37 years of service to the SUMC Scouting Ministry, he has positively impacted the lives of over 350 boys from our community, many of whom were from single parent families, and most of those single mother households. This is one of his greatest areas of effectiveness as he filled some of the void of their absent father, and/or grandfather. Charlie has served as the SUMC Scouting Coordinator & Chartered Organization Representative for all of the Boy Scout Troops & Cub Scout Packs that our church sponsors.

Bob Williams directs the Hosanna Brass ensemble which regularly provides music during the traditional worship services. There are weekly practices and once a month participation in worship by this group. He also is a substitute choir director.

Gene Wilson is involved in organizing and accomplishing the minor and major maintenance requirements around the church. He is always at church performing some function as a member of the Trustees. Without his leadership and guidance many of the maintenance needs of the Church would go neglected. He selflessly performs his duties without asking for recognition.

Emily Yancey has served as our morning VBS Director for several years. She has willingly accepted this responsibility of finding and training the VBS volunteers. She also provides a component for our Bethlehem Chorus so they can learn to play the handbells.

Sara Youngquist is very involved in our Youth Program as a chaperon on many of the youth trips/ mission trips. She takes a week of her vacation to spend time with the youth on mission trips and is a very positive influence on the youth. She helps them with problems and shows what a Christ-centered life looks like. She volunteers in the church nursery once a month. She is a very giving person and does many wonderful things for our church.

Thank you to many others who serve as office volunteers, money counters, library assistants, greeters, ushers, acolytes, nursery, children, and youth workers, and to those who maintain the pews in the sanctuary each week.



Simpsonville United Methodist Church

Volunteer Recognition January 22, 2012

Today we celebrate the contributions of many persons who have blessed our lives through their volunteer ministry at Simpsonville United Methodist Church. Ephesians 4, tells us that all Christians are given specific gifts to each person, for building up the body of Christ. The persons we honor today are those who have been specifically nominated to receive this honor.

Christine and Rob Ammeter - Each week Christine and Rob volunteer time to work with the children in the Bethlehem Chorus. Their teamwork and commitment to these children is evident to anyone who has seen them practice on Wednesday nights or perform on Sundays. We are grateful for the way they help others “make a joyful noise” to God.

Jarrett Brown has served as the project manager/chairperson of Journey to the Manger for the last four years. He selflessly gives of his time to ensure the success of this most important mission project of our church.

MJ Burke does so many things for our church. We cannot begin to name them all. She gives of herself where she is needed without any thought of credit or glory. We do appreciate and admire her.

Grace Carrowan passionately embodies the mission and ministries of SUMC. She willingly is the hands and feet of Christ. When asked to begin and teach a newly established adult Sunday School class, she graciously accepted the challenge. She willingly supports every responsibility she is asked to take.

Tim Corn does so many different things for our church. He gives so much of his time in many different ways. He helps on the Saturday work days and brings needed materials, staying until the job is done. He gives so much to our Youth Program and is willing to chaperon youth events. He loves our Youth and is always willing to help, love and listen to them. He is committed to our girls’ basketball team as a coach for many years. He leads by example always showing good sportsmanship and God-like behavior.

Marlin & Orileen Dutt are a blessing! When help is needed in the Church Office we can count on them to come to our rescue. Orileen helps answer the phones and greets people who come into the office. At the beginning of every year they prepare the offering envelopes for distribution to the congregation. Orileen comes each month to run the newsletter and Marlin also helps, when needed.

Clayton Easter is a dedicated prayer warrior and he works hard to organize the Easter Prayer Vigil, weekly prayer groups, Upper Room Prayer Line and encourages others to participate in these programs. He teaches the class “Becoming a Contagious Christian” and is very active in outreach programs to our homebound with visits and bring communion. Clayton wants every visitor to our church to feel welcome.

Marla Eckart is the current chair of the Family Ministry Team and gives tirelessly to events that Family Ministries supports including the following: Church-wide Picnic, Trunk or Treat, Valentine’s Dinner, Moravian Love Feast and many others. She has doubled the number of people involved with family ministries this year. She also hosts many Girl Scout events at the church which helps to introduce our church to the surrounding community. She was one of the reasons our family decided to call this church “home”.

Heidi Emerson regularly teaches a Bible study class on Wednesday nights. Her dedication and commitment to study and leading the classes is appreciated by all. We admire her dedication.

Aimee Heard is directing this year’s morning VBS. She also serves on the Weekday Preschool/Kindergarten Board assisting with their budgeting process and is also their Parent Advisory Committee chairperson. Aimee can always be counted on when there is a death in the church family to be sure families have a good, hot meal.

Jennifer Hultquist tirelessly gives of her time in children’s Sunday School, teaching the craft portions of the lessons. She is able to make the Bible lesson fun while teaching our children. Jennifer seems to always be around helping out in the church in whatever way is needed, and with a cheerful manner.

Lynn Jacobsma & Shannon Shipley are a dynamic duo mother-daughter team. They cook breakfast once a month for the Fellowship Class and snacks for Joyful Connections, head up our Prayer Quilt Ministry, and devote many hours each year to making and mending Journey to the Manger costumes as well as JTM kitchen duties. Lynn also volunteers at the Master’s Mission checking the Joy Boxes donated to that ministry.

Bill Keener selflessly serves SUMC. He has always given his time without hesitation when there was a need around our church buildings/grounds that he could satisfy. He is almost always the first person who comes to mind when something is needed to be done around SUMC. He is responsible for the set-up of the JTM sets each year. Without his guidance, JTM would not be done as smoothly each year. He puts in a tremendous number of hours during JTM to insure everything is ready for each night. The results of most of his efforts probably go unnoticed by the congregation, but his presence touches almost everything at SUMC.

Clara Knighton for many years counted the offering money for the church every week. Most of those years she was in charge of the weekly offering counters. She even trained most of the current offering counters. We are grateful to her for her dedication to this important activity of the church.

Ken Knox is a very special person at SUMC. He cares about people in need and every year he takes a group to Honduras where they serve as medical missionaries. He and his group don’t just fix health problems, they change lives by sharing the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ken’s service is not limited to people in other countries as he is also very active in the outreach/mission programs of SUMC. He works with Habitat for Humanity, is very involved in additional SUMC mission projects and serves communion to the homebound.

Scott Latchaw, in addition to working with family ministries, he helps lead Club 45 (children’s fellowship group) and has helped teach Bible Study on Wednesday nights to children not involved in choir. Scott wanted to bring back the Moravian Love Feast to SUMC and with his enthusiasm we were able to do so. Scott is a great asset to the church and can always be found greeting new people and making them feel at home.

Debra Leeke coordinates snacks for the Fellowship Sunday School Class. Each week she also volunteers at the Church Office to record individual’s Sunday School attendance. Once a month she and Terrell pick up Don McKinney to transport him to church. Beyond the involvement in SUMC she delivers for Meals on Wheels.

Bob & Isabelle Marshall come every week to stuff the inserts into the bulletins and this is an important job to help the Church Office. They can always be counted on. They have come and stuffed the bulletins sometimes before leaving on their trips out of town. Bob has done a great deal of work with Journey to the Manger and the electrical work at the church. He has done a wonderful job with his drawings and manuals so that when others come in to serve, they will have an idea of how things run.

Lorian Norris helped establish the snack component of the Joyful Connections worship services and coordinated the volunteers to provide those snacks. She has served as the coordinator for Children’s Church and made sure we had volunteers and curriculum to minister to the children, ages 3-1st grade, during the worship services.

Linda Pendergrass has been cataloging all the music in our church library for a year and a half now. She is not done yet. She is now working on the demo CD and performance CD. This will save hours looking for music! She has also organized the handbell room music. Linda volunteers for handbells each week and will fill in for Tuesday Bells when someone is absent. She also plays the piano in worship as needed. Linda is a wonderful help for the entire music ministry.

Cathy Poore serves communion to the people in her Sunday School class who cannot receive it in the Sanctuary. She also takes communion to our homebound and looks after the older members of her Sunday School class.