



# ASHLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION

*Joining Together on a Christian Journey of Love and Service* **December 20, 2009**

2600 Ashland Rd  
Columbia, SC 29210  
Telephone: 798-5350; Fax 798-6057

**The Reverend Joel R. Jones, Pastor**

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Phone Ext. 15

[www.ashlandumc.com](http://www.ashlandumc.com)

Office Hours: Mon., Tues. Thurs. 9-3  
Wed.-5 pm; Fri.-Noon

Worship services: *The Path*: 8:45AM Traditional: 11:00AM Sunday School: 9:45AM

In a land surrounded by the Pee Dee River and swamps, between Lumberton N.C. and Florence, S.C., is the small county seat town of Dillon, South Carolina.

Dillon grew, thanks to a nearby railroad along and the cash crops of cotton and tobacco. While South Carolina continues to gain population Dillon's numbers are shrinking. The schools of Dillon, like many other learning institutions along the corridor of Interstate 95, have become famous for what they lack instead of what they offer.

In 1953, Ben Shalom Bernanke was born and he grew up in Dillon. His father was a pharmacist, and part-time theater manager, while his mother was a school teacher early on.

Growing up Jewish, Ben helped roll the Torah scrolls in his local synagogue and friend Mark Gertler said Ben's beliefs are embedded in who he is.

Ben was educated in Dillon at East Elementary (its roof collapsed in 2005), followed by J.V. Martin Junior High – it is the oldest continuously operating school in the state (1896) and yes, that is the same school featured in the first 12 minutes of the "Corridors of Shame" Video.

Ben was Dillon's High School valedictorian. The summer after high school and the summers between college semesters, Ben waited tables at a South of the Border restaurant. By the way, he attended Harvard, receiving a B. A. in Economics, Summa cum laude, followed by his Ph.D in economics from M. I. T.

In October 2005, President George W. Bush chose Republican Ben Shalom Bernanke as Chair of the Federal Reserve. President Obama nominated him for a second term, who remarked "*Bernanke's temperament, background, courage and creativity helped to prevent another Great Depression in 2008.*" (Wall Street Journal 8-27-08).

On Wednesday this past week, Time Magazine announced they had chosen Ben Shalom Bernanke as their "*Person of the Year.*"

### Never count out people from small towns.

This week, we will hear these words from the prophet Micah:  
*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me, one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*

Who would notice Bethlehem, with the large capital city Jerusalem so close? From tiny, insignificant Bethlehem came King David, who was the youngest and least likely candidate for Israel's king among Jesse's sons. But the Bible is clear: God does not look as we look – God looks at the heart. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, an insignificant place as far as the rest of the world was concerned. But these insignificant things are the very things that God often exalts.

### Never count out people from small towns!

May this wonderful holy season give you opportunities to experience God's grace and glory in small and seemingly insignificant places.

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**Robert Neese**  
*Organist*

**Martha Eastburn**  
*Pianist*

## Alternative Giving Opportunity

The Missions Committee has designated four projects for your consideration:

**Onnie Jackson** – Salkehatchie Recipient – In need of heater and natural gas hook-up to City of Columbia  
**Haiti Children's Project** – Provides food shelter health care, education for the many abandoned children of Haiti.

**Epworth Children's Home** – Funds will be used as a seasonal clothing fund and off-campus activities fund for the children

**Red Bird Mission, Beverly, KY** – Located in the Appalachian Mountains, Red Bird empowers individuals and advocates justice by providing education, health and outreach ministries to low income residents.

Alternative giving forms are on the table in Ashland Hall and on the chests in the sanctuary.

### Salkehatchie Columbia Camp Opportunity

Are you downsizing or replacing *gently* used furniture and would like to donate it to the Columbia Salkehatchie Camp? For evaluation and pick-up, please call Sandra Calore (798-0876) or Mary Lightsey (781-5798).

### Sunday School for Young Adults

**Home from college for the holiday? Want to reconnect with friends? Meet Larry Durstine in the library December 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am for coffee and catching up**

### Stewardship Update – 12/16/09

Proposed 2010 Budget	\$751,395
Pledges Received to Date	592,488
Percent of 2010 Budget	79%

- You may place your pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the church office to the attention of Karen Zobel.
- Blank pledge cards and time and talents sheets may be found on the back table in Ashland Hall and on the chests in the Sanctuary.
- Forms for electronic giving are in the box outside the Dir. of Financial Ministries office.

## Celebrations and Remembrances

### (Birthdays (December 20-26))

20	Sheila V.
21	Merry C., Maddison S.
22	Ada E., Sue F., Margaret C.
23	Craig H., Taylor M.
24	Marguerite R.
25	Matt T.
26	Tara D.

### Memorials

Bud Anderson, Martha Busbee, Dennis Newcomb by Frank & Harriett Ward

### Enhancing Advent

°**The Jesse Tree** (located by the pulpit in the sanctuary)  
 Can you find these ornaments and do you know why they are on the Jesse Tree?

lily—Mary; tools—Joseph; candle—Jesus; angel; star; manger; scroll—prophet; shell—John the Baptist  
*"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Isaiah 11:1*

### Within the Ashland Family

#### Thank you!

We don't know where to begin to thank all the kind people in this Church for their compassion, help, prayers, calls and food while we had our "Mayo Clinic Experience". This is really a congregation of saints and angels. We are overwhelmed by all your help and concern. With much love, Jean and Mac Smurthwaite

### Caroling Anyone?



December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm. If you would like to join us, please sign your name on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church offices. We will be caroling at the home of some Ashland members.

### Congratulations

**Courtney Kelso** who received her doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of S.C.

**Krista J.** recently was inducted to the National Spanish Honor Society.

### A Note From the Jeannie McCrea Scholarship Committee

We are thankful that the continuing generous support of the Ashland congregation will permit the Jeannie McCrea Scholarship's annual award to continue for many years to come.

At this time there are sufficient funds to support a contribution towards the youth/children needs identified by the pastoral and church staff.

When Jeannie died in 1989, her parents requested that memorial contributions be sent to the youth fund at Ashland and this evolved into the scholarship in Jeannie's memory.

The committee, after very careful consideration, and in accordance with the McCrea's wishes, determined that some of the financial resources available could be directed towards the playground equipment and benefit the children of Ashland. This contribution is dedicated to the Children of Ashland past, present and future.

The Jeannie McCrea Scholarship Committee

### *Celebrate Christmas at Ashland*

*Christmas Eve Worship*

*December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm*

*Followed by a Reception in Ashland Hall.*

*Bring cookies or sandwiches to share.*

### PLAYGROUND

The results are in. Ashland UMC loves desserts!

Thanks to you our children raised \$457.09 in the bake sale last week for the playground. Our balance for the new playground equipment has drastically shrunk. THANK YOU!

If you have been meaning to give now is the time.

Make checks to Ashland UMC, earmarked *Playground*.

Thank you for giving \$31,411

Balance needed: \$2229

### Upcoming Bible Studies

Sign-up now for the winter/spring studies:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Psalms**- 11 wks – Sundays @6:00pm starting January 17<sup>th</sup>

Orientation for OT & NT January 26<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm

\_\_\_\_\_ **Old Testament** – 8 wks – Tuesdays @ 6:30pm starting February 2<sup>nd</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ **New Testament** – 8 wks- Tuesdays @ 6:30pm starting March 23<sup>rd</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ **Genesis** – Lenten Study Continued – 5 wks Wednesdays @ 6:30 starting Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

Sign Me Up!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

### United Methodist Youth

**Love God. Love Others. Love Self.**

Youth Prayer Breakfast Wednesdays at 8 am

Hot Dog Heaven, Broad River Road

Dec. 20	No Youth Group – Come to Children's Christmas play
Dec. 27	No Youth group
Jan. 3	4:00 pm – Council of the Illuminati 4:30 pm – Youth Choir 5:30 pm – Youth Group - Outreach

Ski Trip – January 16-18

Only 21 spots are available - Cost \$155.

**Deadline for money and permission NOW!**

### Children's Christmas Play

o d g p

Come see the All Star Cast, from the Children of Ashland to Larry Durstine and Joel Jones this Sunday:

December 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

Bring cookies to share after the play.

Saturday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Full Dress Rehearsal 10am-12pm in Ashland Hall

Sunday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> BIG DAY: Sing in worship 8:45am & 11am  
Play at 6:30pm be here at 4:30pm  
(Run through, dinner, dress in costumes)

### Shepherd's Center of St. Andrews

Winter session begins January 5<sup>th</sup>

Check out the brochures on the bulletin board or contact director, Becky Swanson at 731-9394



### United Methodist Men Events for 2010

- Jan. 4th, Ashland UMM
- State UMM Spiritual Life Retreat, February 26-28 Radisson Hotel, Columbia
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Annual Chicken Bar-B-Q



### United Methodist Women Events for 2010

- Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, Officers Training, Grace UMC
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, Day Apart Retreat, Francis Burns UMC

**Living Out Our Faith**  
**December 20, 2009 By**

"I will be loyal to The United Methodist Church and uphold it with my PRAYERS, my PRESENCE, my GIFTS, and my SERVICE."

**OUR PRAYERS**

Virginia Combs – NHC, West Columbia, #122B  
Mary Gable – NHC, Parklane  
Bill Turner – Brian Center  
Helen Barham – Home from hospital  
Brookie Gomez – Waterford of Columbia

**OUR PRESENCE**

Worship: 297

**OUR GIFTS**

Received Week Ending	12/12/09	\$ 27,760
Received Year to Date:		745,648
Spent Year to Date:		678,733

**General Fund Contributions**

Received Week Ending	12/12/09	25,839
Received Year to Date:		640,817

**Special Offerings**

Memorials & Special Offerings: 1,646

**OUR SERVICE**

**Sunday School Coffee for December:** New Beginnings

**Narthex Table:** Harriet Ward/Kaye Easterling

**Crucifer:** Tyler J. **Acolytes:** Kelsey G., Sara M.

**Banner Carriers:** Curt Railey, Grant Gibson, Herman Lightsey

**Lay Reader:** Bill Tomes

**Altar Stewards:** Jean Smith, Debbie Matthews

**Ushers for December:** Nelson Travis, Red Bonneau, Mylla Markland,

Kinsey Jenkins, Ladd Harrelson, Bud Graczyk

**Greeters:** SS & Worship: Don & Candy Cantrell

**Nursery:** 8:45 am: Shelley & Madison Hutchinson, Jack & Kiley Cohoon;

SS: Karen McClive, Cindy Robinson, Lynda Mixon, Joanne Turner, Mac

Credille, Billie Jean Strickland, 11 am: Diane Farley, Valerie Barham, Jeff & Denise Williams, Carol Gasque

**Missionaries We Support**

**Tim and Daina Datwyler**

c/o The Mission Society, P.O. Box 922637,

Norcross, GA 30010

[datfam4ecuador@gmail.com](mailto:datfam4ecuador@gmail.com)

**Adam & Jennifer Dalenburg**

[www.themissionsociety.org/missionaries/dalenburg](http://www.themissionsociety.org/missionaries/dalenburg)

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Jennifer: [jenniferd63@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferd63@gmail.com) Family: [dalenburgs@hotmail.com](mailto:dalenburgs@hotmail.com)

The Dalenburg Family BP 278, Thies, Senegal

**Helen Byholt Lovelace**

General Board of Global Ministries

Ukraine

**This Week at Ashland**

**Sunday, December 20, 2009 – Titus 2:11-14**

8:45 AM	The Path, Ashland Hall
9:45 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:45 AM	Traditional Service, Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Youth Choir, Choir Room
5:30 PM	United Methodist Youth, Youth Building
5:30 PM	Disciple I, #115
6:30 PM	Children's Play, Ashland Hall

**Monday, December 21, 2009 – 1 John 3:16-20**

6:15 PM	TOPS, #125
6:30 PM	Caroling, Ashland Hall

**Tuesday, December 22, 2009 – John 1:1-18**

**Wednesday, December 23, 2009 – Romans 8:9-16**

6:00 PM	Al Anon, #127
6:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous, #129
6:00 PM	The Path Music Ensemble, Choir Room
7:30 PM	Worship Choir, Choir Room

**Thursday, December 24, 2009 – Isaiah 61:1-4**

***Church Office Closed***

6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, Sanctuary
7:15 PM	Fellowship Reception

**Friday, December 25, 2009 – Luke 2:1-20**

***Church Office Closed***

**Saturday, December 26, 2009 – Philippians 2:5-8**

**Sunday, December 27, 2009 – Mark 6:30-32**

8:45 AM	The Path, Ashland Hall
9:45 AM	Sunday School for All Ages
10:45 AM	Traditional Service, Sanctuary
5:30 PM	Disciple I, #115

Devotions are from *The Upper Room*. Other calendar events can be found on the website [www.ashlandumc.com](http://www.ashlandumc.com)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Ashland United Methodist Church  
2600 Ashland Rd  
Columbia, SC 29210**

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