



# Parish Voice

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

FEBRUARY 2018



## A message from Jim...

Once upon a time there was a minister in a small church whose morning worship attendance was made up mostly of elderly adults. You can understand then, how excited he was when a young family walked in one Sunday with three young boys. His excitement quickly turned to frustration as he noticed early in the service their lack of reverence and familiarity with worship.

About halfway through the service one of the boys blurted out to his mother, "how much longer is this going to last?" But, the pastor endured that question and other continued disruptions from the children.

Finally, as the ushers came forward to pass out the offering plates, the boys watched with great interest as people contributed checks, cash, and envelopes as their offering. When the plate finally reached one of the kids, he looked at his dad and asked in a very audible voice, "you mean we have to pay for this?"

Unfortunately, his spirit was not one of generosity because he had never been taught the importance of belonging to a community of faith and committing to its mission. Therefore, the church had no meaning for him.

Those of us who are part of a faith community know that it is only through our gifts and services that the church survives. Just as our faith grows over time, so does our commitment. It doesn't come instantly, but develops over the years as we respond to God's call.

I know you love our church, and am writing to ask you to consider helping her to continue to grow even when you are no longer here. I am asking you to consider making a legacy gift of remembering the church in your

will. This can be done by giving to a specific purpose or to our endowment fund that will ensure our church will continue to be here for years to come, and will remain a beacon for sharing God's message.

Thank you for your consideration. God bless you. I hope to see you Sunday.

*Jim*




It's not too late to sign-up for our upcoming photography event! Photography session times are still available until February 17th. Visit our website at [www.siumc.org](http://www.siumc.org) and follow the sign-up link to reserve your date, or sign-up Sunday morning. Every participating family/individual will receive a free 8x10 portrait and printed copy of our directory. We would like for all our church members, families, and regular attendees to be included in the directory.



<b>JIM GIDDENS</b> Senior Minister ext. 102	<b>TOM NICHOLS</b> Associate Minister ext. 110	<b>MICHELLE JOHNSON</b> Director of Education ext. 109	<b>JAMES RICHARDSON</b> Interim Director of Music ext. 106
<b>LUKE HAMNER</b> Director of Youth Ministries ext. 103	<b>TERRY COKER</b> Administrative Assistant ext. 101	<b>AMELIA JAMERSON</b> Office Coordinator ext. 100	<b>TOM ANDERSON</b> Controller ext. 104


**Skidaway Island United Methodist Church**  
54 Diamond Causeway  
Savannah, Georgia 31411  
[www.siumc.org](http://www.siumc.org)



**The Arts on Skidaway Concert Series presents**  
*A Dynamic Duo*

Piano virtuoso, Paolo Andre Gualdi returns to the Arts on Skidaway Concert Series with his wife, Philharmonic violinist, Danijela Zezelj-Gualdi.

**Sunday, February 25, 2018**  
**5:00 pm | Sanctuary | Free Admission**





## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS:

**Rick & Laurie Lacher**  
2 Brightside Lane  
Savannah, Georgia 31411

**Gary & Connie Schopfer**  
3 West Ferry Court  
Savannah, Georgia 31411

**Rich & Cherie Wholey**  
2 Gumtree Lane  
Savannah, Georgia 31411

**Amanda Wooten**  
609 McLaws Street  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

## PRAYER THOUGHTS

"Hip, hip, hooray, it's Valentine's Day. School is out and the teachers get double pay."

These were the opening lines of a poem one of my high school classmates wrote when our English teacher assigned us to write something for Valentine's Day. The students thought it was funny. The teachers wished it was true!

In this month when cards, candy, and dining out will for the most part define 'love', how would we define it? Jesus taught us that the evidence that we are His followers is found in the love we have for one another. A valentine can never say as much as our words and actions can. As we think about Valentine's Day this year, maybe we might pray like this.

"Lord teach me to love others as you love me. Help me to overcome my unwillingness to forgive, and any anger or bias that prevents me from granting unconditional love to others. AMEN."

- Pastor Tom

## TAKE THE NIGHT OFF FROM COOKING. JOIN US FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

Dinner is served from 5:30 to 5:50 pm in Bailey Hall. Cost is \$8 per adult. This year credit/debit cards will be accepted for dinner payment (it will take several minutes to set up an account the first time, but then will simply involve a swipe of a card).

RESERVE your  
seat ONLINE for  
multiple dinners!  
[www.siumc.org/wns](http://www.siumc.org/wns)

**RSVP**  
Reserve your spot by  
calling the church office  
or filling out one of the  
sign-up sheets located on  
the church office counter  
or outside of Bailey Hall  
on Sundays.

### FEBRUARY 7th:

**Dinner Menu:** Sesame pork stir-fry,  
jasmine rice, oriental vegetable  
medley, spinach salad, rolls, and dessert.  
**Kids Menu:** Pizza bagels.

**Program:** Rob Gibson, Executive & Artistic  
Director, Savannah Music Festival

### FEBRUARY 14th:

**Dinner Menu:** BBQ baked chicken,  
mac & cheese, green beans,  
salad, garlic bread, and dessert.  
**Kids Menu:** No kids meal.

**Program:** Ash Wednesday service (6:30pm)

### FEBRUARY 21st: ATC week - No dinner

### FEBRUARY 28th:

**Dinner Menu:** Meatloaf, mushroom  
gravy, mashed potatoes, green  
beans, salad, rolls, and dessert.  
**Kids Menu:** Chicken nuggets.

**Program:** Music with James  
Richardson and Bill Gardner



## Weekly Happenings

### Monday

10:00 am: Evangelism Meeting  
11:00 am: Staff Meeting

### Tuesday

### Wednesday

5:30 pm: Fellowship Dinner  
6:00 pm: Children & Youth  
7:00 pm: Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday

8:45 am: Morning Prayer

### Friday

Church office closes at noon  
9:00 am: Friday Folders

### Saturday

### Sunday

8:30 am: Worship  
9:15 am: Chancel Choir Warm-up  
10:00 am: Worship  
11:00 am: Coffee Hour  
11:15 am: Sunday School

## February 2018 Calendar

### Thursday (2/1)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos  
5:00 pm - Finance Mtg.

### Friday (2/2)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Saturday (2/3)

10:00 am - LifeTouch Photos

### Sunday (2/4)

### Monday (2/5)

10:30 am - Alz. Support Mtg.

### Tuesday (2/6)

9:30 am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Wednesday (2/7)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Thursday (2/8)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Friday (2/9)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos  
6:30 pm - Youth Drop-off  
7:00 pm - Big Band Dance

### Saturday (2/10)

8:30 am - Youth Pick-up  
9:00 am - Love Walk  
10:00 am - LifeTouch Photos  
11:00 am - Cliff Heaslip  
Memorial Service

### Sunday (2/11)

9:30 am - Early Service  
Coffee Hour

### Monday (2/12)

### Tuesday (2/13)

9:30 am - Ladies' Bible Study  
12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Wednesday (2/14)

Ash Wednesday  
10:00 am - LifeTouch Photos  
10:00 am - Low Vision Mtg.  
6:30 pm - Ash Wed. Service

### Thursday (2/15)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos

### Friday (2/16)

12:00 pm - LifeTouch Photos  
TBD - Youth Movie Night

### Saturday (2/17)

10:00 am - LifeTouch Photos

### Sunday (2/18)

2:00 pm - Mamma Mia Trip

### Monday (2/19)

### Tuesday (2/20)

9:30 am - Ladies' Bible Study

### Wednesday (2/21)

5:30 pm - NO Wed. Dinner

### Thursday (2/22)

### Friday (2/23)

10:00 am - Baby Bundles

### Saturday (2/24)

### Sunday (2/25)

5:00 pm - A.O.S. Concert:  
A Dynamic Duo

### Monday (2/26)

### Tuesday (2/27)

9:30 am - Ladies' Bible Study

### Wednesday (2/28)

3:00 pm - Parkinson's  
Support Mtg.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer (first Thursday of May) will be held at our church this year. For several years, our church has had only one participant on the committee. Most of the other island churches have two. If you can meet once a month from January to May, or have questions, contact Nancy Dancu 598-0434.







## SUPPORT GROUPS

### **Al-Anon:**

Mondays

4:00 pm

Church Library

### **AA:**

Mondays - Saturdays

7:30 am

Spiritual Growth Room

### **Alzheimer's & Other Types of Dementia:**

February 5th • 10:30 am • Thorne Room

### **Low Vision Group:**

February 14th • 10:00 am • Spiritual Growth Room

### **Stroke Survivors:**

February 15th • 4:00 pm • Messiah Lutheran

### **Parkinson's:**

February 28th • 3:00 pm • Spiritual Growth Room

## GOING TO THE HOSPITAL?

If you have an upcoming surgery, or if you are in the hospital, let us know so that our pastors and prayer team may lift you up in prayer.



## HELP NEEDED

Our church began the "Meals on Wheels" mission in 2011, and this mission has been successfully supported by our members for the past seven years. The meals are delivered Monday through Friday, and each volunteer delivers only one day a month. The meals are brought to the church where the volunteers pick them up for delivery around 10:15 am. The route is within a few miles of the church (all safe neighborhoods) and generally includes four-to-seven different houses which takes approx. one hour to complete. Volunteers will be trained.

We have had a very loyal, dedicated group of church volunteers. However, for various reasons, several have had to drop out, and there are many openings in the roster. We are hoping new volunteers will step forward to fill in. The summer months present a special challenge as members travel. If you are interested in either being a sub or a regular, please call Jane Heiser at 598-9923 or email [erhjph@bellsouth.net](mailto:erhjph@bellsouth.net).

## MEMORIAL RECEPTION COMMITTEE

The Memorial Reception Committee is looking for glass platters in various sizes. Please bring donations to the church office. Volunteers willing to occasionally bake cookies and prepare finger foods once or twice a month are also needed. Thank you!

Make Christian Education a priority this fall & attend one of our Sunday School classes!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Open to all. Join us at 11:15 am!*

### **The Thorne Class**

*Meets in Room 111*

This class utilizes the Adult Bible Study series by Cokesbury and is led by rotating facilitators.

### **The Spiritual Growth Class**

*Meets in Room 109*

This class will begin a new book and video series, "Anxious About Nothing" by Max Lucado.

### **The Encouragers Class**

*Meets in the Library*

This class is studying "What Makes You Happy" by Andy Stanley. Led by Michelle Johnson.

Utilizing age-appropriate curriculum that interactively teaches scripture and helps students to apply God's word to their lives.

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **Cherubs (PreK - K)**

*Meets in Room 103*

Led by Anna Davis & Ciera Rouse.

### **Mighty Kids (Elementary School)**

*Meets Upstairs*

Led by Bettie Negley & Jenny Gerrard.

### **Youth (Middle & High School)**

*Meets Upstairs*

Led by Luke Hamner and Sarah Franklin.



## AMERICAN TRADITIONS COMPETITION SCHEDULE

We are delighted to host several ATC concerts here at SIUMC. Sunday through Thursday, February 19th - 22nd, concerts will be held in our Sanctuary.

*Tickets will be sold at the door or online:*

[americantraditionscompetition.com](http://americantraditionscompetition.com)

### **JUDGES CONCERT**

**Monday, Feb. 19th • 7:30 pm • Sanctuary**

Enjoy the evening with our celebrated judges as they perform various selections from their diverse musical careers.

### **QUARTER FINALS**

**Tuesday, Feb. 20th • 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm • Sanctuary**

The first half of our 28 quarterfinalists perform their first set of music in hopes to advance to the semi finals.

### **QUARTER FINALS**

**Wednesday, Feb. 21st • 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm • Sanctuary**

The second half of our 28 quarterfinalists perform their first set of music in hopes to advance to the semi finals.

### **SEMI FINALS**

**Thursday, Feb. 22nd • 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm • Sanctuary**

The remaining 12 semifinalists compete for a spot in the finals as they sing their second program of American songs.

### **MASTER CLASS**

**Friday, Feb. 23rd • 3:00 pm • The Historic Savannah Theatre**

Spend the afternoon with our judges as they work with contestants to perfect performances of selected ATC songs.

### **FINALS**

**Friday, Feb. 23rd • 8:00 pm • The Historic Savannah Theatre**

Join the final contestants as they compete for top honors and prizes.

## MEMBERS IN RETIREMENT LIVING

### **The Oaks:**

Mary Brown,  
Perri Grumish,  
Joanne Harman,  
Janet Heike,  
Jean Meeker,  
David Price,  
Sally Rowe,  
Katie Walker

### **Riverview:**

Mary Bailey

### **Azalealand:**

Marge Nelson

### **Insignia:**

Ruby Smith

### **Savannah Square:**

Gloria Bridgett,  
Frank & Barbara Davis,  
Curtis & Bette Ireland,  
Edith Neds, Ruth Slugg

### **The Oaks (Pooler):**

Jack & Doris Fisher



## ADULT MINISTRIES



### SAVANNAH THEATER: MAMMA MIA

**Sunday, February 18th • 2:00 pm**  
**Church bus departs at 2:00 pm • \$32/pp**

Adult Ministries is planning an afternoon outing to Savannah Theatre to see the hit show Mamma Mia. The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. We have a cluster of 38 seats for the 3:00 pm matinee show on Sunday, February 18th. Tickets are \$32 per person. The church buses will depart from the church at 2:00 pm and return around 6:00 pm. Please sign up for this outing by calling the church office, emailing [michelle@siumc.org](mailto:michelle@siumc.org) or sign up on the list on Sunday morning.

## The Arts on Skidaway

2017 - 2018 Concert Series



### A DYNAMIC DUO

**February 25th**  
**5:00 pm • Sanctuary**



Join us on February 25th to hear a marvelous duo – Dr. Paolo Andre Gualdi and Dr. Danijela Zezelj-Gualdi as they entertain us on piano and violin playing selections from Beethoven and Ravel among others. Dr Paolo Gualdi performed in our Art Series a year ago and received a standing ovation from the audience. This year he is joined with his wife, Danijela, a violinist with the Savannah Philharmonic Orchestra. Plan to attend what promises to be an exciting concert.

## MISSIONS

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who donated coats. They were given to our local Salvation Army and Union Mission and were greatly appreciated. In March, we will be collecting underwear for all sizes and genders.

- Nancy Sheet, *Chair of Missions*

### WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER'S: LOVE WALK

**Saturday, February 10th • 9:00 am**

Come and join others in Wesley Community Center's most important fund-raising event of the year. Money donated through sponsorship of the walkers help homeless and low-income families and individuals with child care, youth programs, adult education, crisis intervention, and services for women. Walkers may find information packets and sign-up sheets in the church office and at [www.Wesleyctrs-Savh.org](http://www.Wesleyctrs-Savh.org). Our church bus will be taking a group down and back. Please sign up in the church office or call 598-8460 if interested. Others may donate to this wonderful Methodist agency by making a check payable to SIUMC and writing "Love Walk" in the left bottom corner of your check. Thank you very much for making a difference in the lives of many women and children who need a hand up!



### NO CHOIR PRACTICE THE WEEK OF ATC

*February  
19th - 23rd*

*as I have  
loved you.  
LOVE one  
another  
John 13:34*



### YOUTH LOCK-IN

**Friday, February 9th**  
**6:00 pm - 8:30 am**  
**Saturday, February 10th**

The evening will be jam packed with fun games, group activities, and meaningful devotions all through the night until the small hours of the morning. The students will learn, through games and activities, about other cultures and how church services are done overseas. The hope of the event is to bring the students closer together and to develop a better understanding of how other Christians worship.



### YOUTH MOVIE OUTING

**Friday, February 16th**  
**"Black Panther"**  
**Movie Time TBD**

The youth will all get together to go watch the new Marvel movie, the "Black Panther!" This event is meant to be fun and bring the community of the youth group together. Parents are invited to join us when we attend the movie!



### Family CAMPING Weekend!



### LET'S GO CAMPING

**April 20th - 22nd • Skidaway Island State Park**  
**\$100/family (camp site + meals included)**

SIUMC has a cluster of camp sites reserved for the weekend of April 20th. Mark your calendars and make plans to join your church family for a weekend of fun at Skidaway Island State Park. If you have never camped before, this will be the perfect time to start a new family tradition; meals and activities will be planned for you to help make this an enjoyable weekend of togetherness. If you don't want to commit to staying overnight, plan to join us for day and evening activities.

Contact Michelle at [michelle@siumc.org](mailto:michelle@siumc.org)  
if you are interested in participating.

### A WHEELCHAIR LOVE STORY: RELIEF FOR GA



Cheers ring out as the truck arrived from the Port of Savannah, Georgia, thus ending the five-month process of obtaining our wheelchairs for the State of Georgia. As the container seals are opened, our team of volunteers are ready to jump into action. We methodically unboxed and assembled wheelchairs of various sizes for local recipients. The remaining boxes get sorted inside Bailey Hall for each organization for pick up!

Excitement mounted when local wheelchair recipients and their caregivers started to arrive! Each recipient was in desperate need of a wheelchair and could not afford to buy one. Tears of joy, hugs of heartfelt thanks, and immeasurable happiness filled the hearts of everyone in attendance! The smiles of caregivers, recipients, and volunteers who helped lift each deserving person into their new wheelchair were simply priceless.

Directors from receiving organizations shared the mission of their group as they work with those less fortunate in our community and state. The following organizations received wheelchairs: War Veterans Nursing Home; GA War Veterans Home; Senior Citizens, Inc.; Chatham County Department of Family Services; Coastal Center for Developmental Services; Abilities Unlimited; Union Mission; Memorial Case Management Dept.; Friends of Disabled Adults and Children; United Way; and Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.