

THE FOUNDATION LEDGER

A Newsletter of The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 5087
Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5087
Tel. 803/771-9125 e-mail: contact@scumf.org
Website: www.scumf.org



Spring, 2025

"POUNDING"

Before my days as a clergy in the Methodist Church, when I would hear about someone taking a "pounding," I hoped that no one was hurt too bad. I saw nothing good about giving or receiving a "pounding." Looking for "pounding" in the dictionary, the definition states, "repeated and heavy striking or hitting of someone or something, a rhythmical beating or throbbing." That pretty much covers the most common use of the word, "pounding."

As a young clergy, I experienced my first "pounding"! Today, some churches find themselves in precarious situations, including clergy and parishioners with hurt or angry feelings. One may feel as if they were "pounded" as stated in the dictionary. With Spring in the air and with Summer around the corner, I propose that we, the church, start "pounding" the pastor and others in the community! But do so in Christian Love.

I know that it is a strange ask for a Foundation president to suggest such a thing as "pounding," but for those who are a little older and lived in rural areas of The South, you do know what "pounding" and "Pounding The Preacher" are. "Pounding" is one of the greatest expressions of love that I have ever experienced. "Pounding" is the act of giving essentials to those who could not supply for themselves.

In the 1800s many preachers were poor rural folk who did not spend a lot of time at home and did not get a great salary. Some pastors were not paid at all (Parishioners- please do not get any ideas.). Some Methodist Pastors rode a circuit, leaving no time to care for animals and crops for food. To help the preacher and family, several times a year the congregation would perform a "pounding." Families of the church would surprise the preacher and show up with pounds of flour, sugar, butter, meat, firewood and whatever else they could spare. If the preacher did have animals, men would bring pounds of grain and hay as well for feed. "Pounding" is an expression of sacrificial love, no matter if you receive a "pounding" or you give a "pounding."

Growing up in a small town in South Carolina, my family would receive gifts of freshly picked tomatoes, ripe cucumbers, a sweet cantaloupe, and bushel baskets of beans. The community would give "the fruits of their labors" out of love. My grandfather taught me how to raise cantaloupe and honeydew melons. He would allow me to pick a dozen or more to sell on the roadside stand for summer spending money. Before the sales began, we visited with several older widowers who could not have a garden. We would give the ripest melons to them in Christian Love.

"Pounding" is a fun way to share God's love with others. One could "pound" a new or old neighbor, a bride-to-be, and yes, even your pastor. Even when "pounded" in jest, it can be a learning experience for others and a Spirit filled act of Christian Love for all.

As the pastor of Shady Grove UMC, in Irmo, I had the privilege of serving a rural community of multi-generational families. The parishioners were transitioning from a once rural community to a community newly populated with businesses such as Walmart and fast-food restaurants. One sweet parishioner in her eighties introduced me to "pounding." Mrs. Ernestine Bauknight shared tomatoes, cucumbers, and beans from her garden that she worked daily. She not just "pounded" me with delicious vegetables, but she also "pounded" me with a sacrificial selfless Christian Love. At the conclusion of my appointment at Shady Grove, Mrs. Bauknight gifted me with seeds from her heirloom green beans.

As I enjoy the Spring and look forward to the Summer, I plant a garden in hopes of sharing. But there is no greater feeling of the Spirit of Christian Love as I reflected upon my "poundings" and the seeds (green bean seeds and seeds of Faith and Love) to pass along as blessings to others.

"Giving" and "Receiving" are blessings. The Foundation is a steward of those blessings, and we witness every contribution and gift grow and shared as a gift of Christian Love, whether it is for a seminary scholarship, for a church mission, or for a music program. Every season of the year is a season of giving and "pounding." May God help lead us through this Easter Season and beyond fueled by a Spirit of Christian Love and Generosity. Therefore, go and "POUND AWAY"!

The Reverend Robert M. Vincent, President

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*The Foundation expresses its appreciation to the contributors listed here whose gifts to the Foundation were received during the period **July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024***

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The South Carolina Conference Ministers Endowment Fund is a special "named endowment" of the Foundation's General Endowment Fund created to honor the Ministerial Members of the South Carolina Conference and its predecessor Conferences. Net income benefits the Institutional Members of the Foundation.

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The Administrative Endowment Fund supports the ministry of the Foundation. The Fund's income is applied to the annual "operating expenses" of the Foundation.

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The Bessie Bellamy Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund

honors the memory of the Reverend Bessie B. Parker, the first woman ordained in the South Carolina Conference (1785). Income provides scholarship awards to women students preparing for ordained pastoral ministry in South Carolina.

Fork Creek UMC, Jefferson

The Cook Scholarship Endowment Fund honors members of the Cook Family who have served in the Methodist Ministry across several generations. Income provides scholarship awards to persons preparing for full-time Christian Ministry.

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The Glory To God Fund assists persons in need of food, clothing, shelter, and other basic necessities of life through Union UMC, Irmo, in keeping with a ministry to the "least of these".

Mrs. Jean S. Jeter, Irmo

The Henrietta Rosson Morton Scholarship Fund was created in 2014 by the Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr. to provide annual scholarships for deserving students attending Columbia College.

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr., Greenwood

The J. Lawrence and Margaret F. McCleskey Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to candidates for ministry from South Carolina attending United Methodist theological schools with awards in equal amounts sent to Africa University to assist students in its School of Theology.

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The J. W. Ridgeway Endowment Fund was established in December, 2016, to benefit the maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the Jordan and Oak Grove Churches in Clarendon County.

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The James E. and Betty W. Alewine Scholarship Fund was created in 2016 by Fred and Mae Weathers of Summerville, SC, to honor the Alewines and to provide scholarship assistance for persons preparing for Ordained Ministry in the United Methodist Church.

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The L. Jonathan and Felecia B. Holston Endowment Fund was created at the Foundation by Bishop and Mrs. Holston to benefit charitable interests associated with their church service, specifically Gammon Theological Seminary and Epworth Children's Home.

***Bishop & Mrs. L. Jonathan Holston**

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The Lynchburg Cemetery Endowment Fund provides for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Lynchburg Church Cemetery.

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The Martha Pinson Manry Endowment Fund for Latimer Memorial UMC was created by the late Martha P. Manry to benefit the maintenance, repair, improvement, and upkeep of the property of Latimer UMC.

The Estate of Martha P. Manry

The Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery Endowment Fund provides support for the maintenance, repair, upkeep, and improvement of the Pacolet United Methodist Church Cemetery.

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The Roger M. and Marilyn M. Gramling Fund For White House Church benefits maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the property of White House United Methodist Church in Orangeburg County.

The Rev. & Mrs. Roger M. Gramling, Irmo

The Roger M. Gramling Scholarship Fund For Pfeiffer University provides scholarship assistance to Pfeiffer students with preference given to students interested in the ordained ministry of a Christian denomination.

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The Ross Rikard Memorial Endowment Fund supports ministries with youth or young adults that assist young persons battling personal addictions.

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The South Carolina Conference Seminary Students Scholarship Fund provides funding for scholarship awards to South Carolina students in United Methodist seminaries and theological schools pursuing preparation for full-time ordained ministry.

2024 SC Annual Conference Offering

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The Theodore R. Morton, Jr., Scholarship Fund was created in 2014 by the Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr. to provide annual scholarships for deserving students attending Wofford College.

The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Ted R. Morton, Jr., Greenwood

The Walter H. McKelvey, Sr., Endowed Scholarship Fund provides scholarship assistance to Gammon Theological Seminary students, while honoring Dr. McKelvey.

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Board News

The Board of Directors of The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation welcomes two new Board Members.

Representing The Manor of the Pee Dee, we welcome Mr. Art Justice. Art is the Chairperson of The Manor of the Pee Dee's Board of Directors, along with an attorney with the Turner Padgett Law Firm in Florence, South Carolina.

In addition, we welcome Mr. Robert Scarborough to our Board, representing Claflin University. Robert is a Board Member of Claflin University and has served many interests over the years in the United Methodist Church, like The Methodist Oaks. He continues to be active in the Orangeburg area.

Giving to the Foundation

The South Carolina United Methodist Foundation welcomes gifts and bequests in any amount for its general and designated endowment funds.

Gifts can be made online at www.scumf.org or mailed to the Foundation at P. O Box 5087, Columbia, South Carolina 29250-5087. Checks should be made payable to the South Carolina United Methodist Foundation and marked for the particular Fund to which the gift is directed. All undesignated gifts are placed in the Foundation's General Endowment Fund which benefits all of the Institutional Members equally.

Gifts "in honor" or "in memory" of others are appropriate and welcomed. The Foundation is happy to send notification of honor or memorial gifts when requested to do so and information is supplied.