



***YEARBOOK OF PRAYER  
FOR SOUTH CAROLINA  
2009***

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
*Christian Action Council*

# YEARBOOK OF PRAYER FOR SOUTH CAROLINA 2009

Compiled and Edited  
by The Christian Unity Workgroup  
of the South Carolina Christian Action Council

Missie Walker, Workgroup Chair  
Debbie Raymer, Administrative Staff  
Brenda Lynn Kneece, Executive Minister

With appreciation to Dr. Edna Ellison, Spartanburg,  
for many volunteer hours proofing and editing the manuscript.

Executive Heads of our Member Bodies, clergy, and lay persons  
passionate about the Council's *witness of oneness* in our broken  
and hurting world have contributed to this *Yearbook of Prayer*.

Jesus prayed (John 17:22) that "they may be one as we are  
one." For Christians Unity is given. Yet, we have become  
divided over those beliefs and practices with which we differ.  
How important it is that we pray for one another, to hold each  
other up before God.

Your Council offers these prayers designed for use in  
personal and corporate worship. You may also find them  
meaningful in other settings. From many different worship  
traditions, and deeply involved in the fight for justice for all, the  
men and women submitting these prayers have taken this  
opportunity to voluntarily instruct, model, empower, and equip  
South Carolinians to pray together for one another.

There is a prayer for each Sunday of the year. Although  
planned as a supplement to worship, the prayers may be used in  
private devotions, newsletters, or other settings. Prayers may be  
quoted or copied without citing authorship. When practical,  
please attribute the *SCCAC Yearbook of Prayer 2009*. An index  
of themes can be found at the back of the *Yearbook*.

Thank you for using the *Yearbook of Prayer for SC 2009*. In so  
doing, you have made witness to the prayer our Lord prayed  
that his followers "may be one."

Our prayer is that the very core of the Body of Christ as it lives  
within Christian congregations and believers will be enriched  
by your prayers.

The mission of the South Carolina Christian Action Council is  
to promote and facilitate dialogue among diverse Christian  
traditions on matters of belief and practice; and to work in  
partnership to: advocate for social justice, promote peace-  
making, and foster racial and cultural healing and  
reconciliation.

For more information on the Council and its mission, our  
contact information follows:

## Leadership

Board President: The Reverend Dr. Joe Darby  
Christian Unity Workgroup: Mrs. Missie Walker

## Staff

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Debbie Raymer  
Executive Minister: The Reverend Ms. Brenda Lynn Kneece

South Carolina Christian Action Council  
PO Drawer 3248 Columbia, SC 29230  
Location: 4209 North Main Street, Columbia, SC 29203

Telephone: (803) 786-7115  
E-mail: [sccouncil@sccouncil.net](mailto:sccouncil@sccouncil.net)  
Web: [www.sccouncil@sccouncil.net](http://www.sccouncil@sccouncil.net)

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**January 4**

Today’s Prayer: **Providence Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend T. Mark Verdery  
General Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 58

*Loving and merciful God, for the gift of this new year, for the food you will provide, for the joy and challenge of serving you, we give you thanks. We give ourselves to you and ask to be used as instruments of your good news. In all that we do this year, may we do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. We pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

The Reverend Mark Verdery

**January 11**

Today’s Prayer: **Opening of SC Legislature**  
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009

*Just, gracious, and caring Creator, we seek your direction and guidance for our elected representatives as they labor to create effective and meaningful public policy. Bless our legislators to prayerfully do their work, driven not by partisan politics but by the needs of your people, to work not for self interest, but for the best interests of all of your people. Bless our legislators to seek and do your will, remembering Jesus, who taught us "Whatever you do for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seem to be, you do for me." Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Darby, Pastor  
Morris Brown AME, Charleston

## January 18 (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Today's Prayer: **Inauguration of the President of the United States**

*Almighty God, we humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endow with your spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that through their actions there may be justice and peace in our homes, in our country, and in our world—the home of all your children. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.* (Adapted from “A Prayer for the Nation” by Thomas Jefferson, 1801)

The Reverend Dr. L. Wayne Bryan  
Executive Minister, retired  
South Carolina Christian Action Council

## January 25

Today's Prayer: **Christian Unity**

*O God of peace, to whom our Lord Jesus Christ prayed that the disciples might be one even as He is one with the Father, help us as twenty-first century disciples strive for unity of faith and fellowship. Give us the courage to pursue Christian unity with an appreciation for the virtues of humanity, tolerance, and love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Philip Whitehead  
Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC

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## December 20

Today's Prayer: **Peace**

*Living God, we humbly ask you to teach us to experience peace. Encourage us to lean upon you as you teach us how to live in this world. Teach us to love peace and let it begin within each one of us. Let it spread throughout the world, beginning with family and then to our friends and neighbors. Give us the courage to speak out against war and take part in the decision making process of our country without malice, offering wisdom as you guide us. Amen.*

The Reverend Inez Register, Chaplain, retired  
Morris Village, Columbia

## December 27

Today's Prayer: **Blessing**

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.*  
*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equity, and peace.*  
*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.*  
*And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.*

Author Unknown  
*EM TUA GRACA: RESOURCES FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER*  
World Council of Churches 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly, Porto Allegre, Brazil 2005

## February 1

Today's Prayer: **Anti-Torture**

*Almighty God, Creator of all things, we ask for guidance for our nation to end the brutal practice of torture. We pray for healing for those of who have been damaged by the practice, whose dignity and humanity have been taken away. May we learn from your mercy and compassion. Amen.*

Mr. Michael Berg, Anti-torture Program Coordinator  
South Carolina Christian Action Council

## February 8

Today's Prayer: **Anti-Predatory Lending**

*Delivering God, you are the defender of the poor, the vulnerable, and the oppressed. We, like those ancient Children of Israel, cry to you, "How long, Lord?" Push us, prod us, inspire us, Lord; give us no rest until the scourge of predatory lending is driven from our state; make us your powerful witnesses, until justice flows like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. In your powerful name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Wiley Cooper  
United Methodist Church

## February 15

Today's Prayer: **Foothills Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend George G. Wilkes  
Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 67

*Good and Gracious God, today we pray for Foothills Presbytery as it meets and considers the work of your kingdom. May this meeting reflect the peace that passes all understanding, the unity that they have in you, and the purity of the gospel they proclaim. When they fall short and serve in broken and sinful ways, may they confess that brokenness and sin and continue to seek to live in faithfulness as forgiven servants of Christ. We pray in his name. Amen.*

The Reverend George Wilkes

## February 22

Today's Prayer: **Christian Unity Workgroup of the SCCAC**

*Good and gracious God, thank you for letting us each day show your image and likeness into the world. Open our eyes so we can see your majesty and mystery in every person; especially in the simple acts of faith, hope, and charity. In weakness and in hurt, help us to honor you by offering forgiveness. Carry us forward with the vision that when your glory is revealed, we shall be gathered for your banquet with people of every race, language, and way of life so we can sing your praises forever, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Reverend Monsignor Leigh Lehocky, Pastor  
St. Peter's Catholic Church, Columbia

## December 6

Today's Prayer: **Anti-Poverty**

*O God of grace, justice, and mercy, open our hearts to those who are unable to meet their basic needs for life and spirit. Open our eyes to the systems which wound and oppress the very people who are barely able to get by. Open our hands to those who feel overwhelmed by the burdens of life. With mercy give us wisdom and compassion. Amen.*

The Reverend Beth Lindsay Templeton  
Director, Our Eyes Were Opened, Greenville

## December 13

Today's Prayer: **Racial Healing**

*Almighty God, you have created every race in your image by granting to all humankind the freedom to love and participate in your just and good creation. Open our hearts and minds to you and to one another so that we may share your justice and goodness, and stand before you as the sisters and brothers you created us to be—one family under one God and Father of all, through the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Reverend Furman L. Buchanan  
St. Martin's in the Fields Episcopal Church, Columbia  
--from Yearbook of Prayer 2008

## November 22

Today's Prayer: **Oppressed People: Liberation and Service**

*O Life of Life, creator of all humanity, we pause to seek your divine guidance and liberation for oppressed people throughout the world. Bless us in our wounded-ness to be a blessing in service to others. Amen.*

Dr. Gregory Grooms  
Chair, Religion Division, Allen University

## November 29

Today's Prayer: **North and South Carolina Division of the Salvation Army**

Divisional Commander: Major Vern Jewett  
Number of Corps in SC and NC in 2007: 61

*Dear God, our Heavenly Father, we lift our hearts in grateful praise for the provisions of life, remembering that every good gift comes from you. We remember your servants who are members of the Salvation Army in South Carolina as they show care and concern for the less fortunate who have no home or loving family to care for them. Amen.*

--from Yearbook of Prayer 1994

## March 1

Today's Prayer: **Anti-Genocide (Darfur and worldwide)**

*God of all nations, lover of all persons, friend of the helpless and the helpers, hear our prayer on behalf of those threatened and killed by the evil practice of genocide. Intervene to deliver the people of Darfur from the weapons of death and destruction. Help us seek protection for victims, curb the violators, and strive for justice and peace in the Name of Jesus Christ, Lord of all. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Jim Nichols  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## March 8

Today's Prayer: **Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina**  
Judicatory Head: The Right Reverend Mark Lawrence  
Bishop

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 76

*O God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: we pray for our sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina as they gather for their 218<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention this week on March 12 and 13. We pray your blessing on their clergy, congregations, and Bishop, Mark Lawrence. May their companion diocese in the Dominican Republic and its bishops, Julia Holguin and Bill Skilton, be guided by your spirit. Amen.*

Father Dow Sanderson, Ecumenical Officer  
Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

## **March 15**

Today's Prayer: **Anti-Nuclear Weapon Proliferation**

*O Spirit of God, hear our concern for the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat it brings to people's lives, from the very innocent to the very guilty. Cast out the fears that lead us to produce such weapons. Help us grow in compassion for people whom we fear. Create in us a generosity that seeks to share your world's resources with all. When we relinquish dependence on our possessions, our ambitions, our privileges, we find our happiness, our hopes, and our salvation. Amen.*

Mr. Gerald Rudolph  
Religious Society of Friends, Columbia Meeting

## **March 22**

Today's Prayer: **Charleston Atlantic Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Donnie R. Woods  
Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 49

*Great and Generous God, great is your call to mission and ministry within the South Carolina Presbyteries, across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and around the world. Thank you for the many wonderful gifts employed at every level of the church to fulfill your Great Commandment and Great Commission. Be present with the PCUSA Presbyteries of South Carolina as they draw people of all races and backgrounds to welcome the new things you are doing in the world, and respect the old things you keep and use, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Reverend Donnie Woods

## **November 8**

Today's Prayer: **Unity of the Church**

*Gracious God, save and defend your whole church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Make it perfect in love and in all good works, and establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in all the world, that one holy church may bear witness to you, the creator and redeemer of all.*

The Reverend Dr. James Aull  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
--from *Yearbook of Prayer 1994*

## **November 15**

Today's Prayer: **Caring for Creation**

*Creator God, your love for Creation and its Creatures is manifest in the natural beauty with which you blessed our beloved state. From magnificent mountains whose tree tops trumpet your glory, to wandering rivers whose calm depths remind us of your steadfast love, to the rolling sea whose waves echo your power, your creation provides sanctuary. Strengthen our resolve to care for and take care of the land, the water, the air, and all who reside therein. This we pray in the name of the one who walked dusty roads, sailed on calm and rough seas, knew the bounty of the harvest, and taught lessons using mustard seeds and fig trees. Amen.*

The Reverend Brenda Kneece  
Executive Minister, SCCAC

## October 25

Today's Prayer: **Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston-Columbia District**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Jimmy Gilbert, Presiding Elder

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 39

*God of all, we pray for our brothers and sisters of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and their congregations in SC. Give wisdom and strength to her Presiding Elder, the Reverend Jimmy Gilbert, as he sees to the needs of the Charleston-Columbia District. Bless the worship of their hearts and works of their hands to your glory. In the loving name of our Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.*

## November 1

Today's Prayer: **Church of the Nazarene**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Dr. Eddie Estep, District Pastor

Number of congregations in SC 2007: 64

*Heavenly Father, bless all of the pastors across the state of South Carolina as they shepherd their flocks. May the powerful indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit empower them as they lead their congregations in worship and discipleship. May those who lead our churches in ministry be strengthened day by day by your power and presence. Amen.*

The Reverend James M. Bearden  
--from Yearbook of Prayer 1994

## March 29

Today's Prayer: **Advocacy Workgroup of the SCCAC**

*God of all, we ask that you give us clear eyes, uncluttered minds, and open hearts so that we may discern your purposes. Nurture in us wisdom and courage to advocate for social justice in South Carolina, confident that you are with us always. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

Ms. Rowena Nylund

Shandon Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Columbia

## April 5

Today's Prayer: **Alliance of Baptists Congregations in SC**

*Holy One, we ask your presence and guidance for the Alliance of Baptists during their National Convocation later this month (April 17-19, 2009). We thank you for their courage to be a progressive voice among your people in the United States and throughout the world. Give them grace, wisdom, and strength to continue that vital witness. Amen.*

Dr. John C. Whatley, III, Pastor  
The Community Church of the Midlands, Columbia

## April 12

Today's Prayer: **Peace**

*O God, our planet groans with the pains of senseless war, violence, hatred, disrespect, racism, poverty, and crime. We lack Shalom, the wholeness that completes us and brings peace to our souls. Today—as Easter People—we ask you to help us seek your face, God, and in the seeking, find real peace. Amen.*

Presiding Elder Rosalyn G. Coleman  
African Methodist Episcopal Church

## April 19

Today's Prayer: **Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of SC**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Dr. Marion D. Aldridge  
Coordinator

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 80

*Great Creator God, we ask that your Spirit blow fresh in the midst of the Cooperative Baptists throughout their General Assembly, April 24-25, in Greenwood. We pray they will commit themselves to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you while they are together and when they are apart. In the name of the One who has called us and redeemed us, Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Christina Whitehouse-Suggs  
Associate Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

## October 11

Today's Prayer: **Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina**

Judicatory Head: The Right Reverend Dorsey Henderson  
Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 63

*Almighty and ever-living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the annual convention of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina on October 16-17 for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Bishop Dorsey Henderson

## October 18

Today's Prayer: **Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Judicatory Head: Ms. Gita Larson and Ms. Sally Prugh,  
Co-clerks, Columbia Meeting

Number of meetings in SC in 2007: Five

*In the Spirit, we join with all people of all races, cultures, preferences, and beliefs, as we pray for peace in our world, our country, our state, our cities, our places of work and worship, our homes, and our hearts. Today we pray for Friends, that the way they relate to one another will mirror the love of God. May we and they see and love that which is of God in each face here and everywhere in the world. May we learn better how to live simply, in integrity, in equality, in community, and in peace, with courage. We hold in the Light all peoples as we seek to walk these ways together.*

Ms. Gita Larson

## September 27

Today's Prayer: **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
Judicatory Head: The Reverend Sotello V. Long, Regional Minister

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 41

*Eternal God, we pray today for the South Carolina Regional Conference of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) gathering October 2-4, 2009. May God's life changing presence strengthen the bond of love and empower our brothers and sisters for greater service to the world! Amen.*

The Reverend Sotello Long

## October 4

Today's Prayer: **World Communion Sunday**

*Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins*

*As we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Save us from the time of trial*

*And deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power,*

*And the glory are yours*

*Now and for ever. Amen.*

Ecumenical Version

English Language Liturgical Consultation 1988

## April 26

Today's Prayer: **National Workshop on Christian Unity**

*Good and gracious God, in you dwells our unity. Help us, along with those who gather tomorrow in Phoenix for the National Workshop on Christian Unity, to celebrate the unity which exists among your children and to search for ways to overcome the divisions that remain. In your name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Mary Finklea, Pastor  
Cross and Crown Lutheran (ELCA) Church, Florence

## May 3

Today's Prayer: **Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of SC**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Dr. Benjamin D. Snoddy  
President

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 435

*Eternal and Almighty God, we honor you and praise you as we ask you to look on the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina with favor as they convene their 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session, May 4-8, 2009. We pray for them your wisdom and understanding as they deliberate on challenging issues and concerns. May your will be done through the power and the working of the Holy Spirit in their session and throughout all the constituent churches. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Benjamin Snoddy

## May 10

Today's Prayer: **Families**

*O Lord, we pray today for families—big families, small families, traditional families, and unique families. Give abundant love to couples as they depend on each other. For every situation, grow wisdom and patience in parents; help them guide and train children toward godly lives with the tenderness that builds sweet memories and the discipline that strengthens children and parents spiritually and emotionally. Comfort those who mourn the death of a loved one and those lonely and hurting due to separation or divorce. Above all, may love overflow in our families, may spiritual kinship be known through worship, and may all experience an exuberant joy in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Ms. Edna Ellison, PhD  
Morningside Baptist Church, Spartanburg

## May 17

Today's Prayer: **76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SCCAC**

*O God, our almighty and everlasting Father, we give you honor and glory for your goodness and your mercy in spite of our unfaithfulness. We pray for the South Carolina Christian Action Council and for the work this organization does in your name. We pray that you bless the Annual Meeting (May 21, Morris Brown AME, Charleston) with your Holy Spirit so that your will be done. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Hiram Spain, Jr., Executive Secretary  
Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention

## September 13

Today's Prayer: **Reformed Episcopal Church, Diocese of the Southeast**

Judicatory Head: The Rt. Reverend Alphonza Gadsden, Sr.  
Bishop

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 33

*O most gracious and all-wise God, who through the Holy Spirit presided over the Councils of your Church through the ages, we pray that you would likewise preside in the Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church, as they convene their 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Synod on September 18, 2008, through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Bishop Alphonza Gadsden

## September 20

Today's Prayer: **Clergy and Church-Employed Persons**

*In your wisdom and in your own way, Lord, you have chosen some of your people to be prophets and priests, some to be pastors and preachers, and some to be teachers, bookkeepers, custodians, and other staff of congregations. We pray for them and for their families. May they remain vigorous in their proclamations, never growing weary in their care-giving, and may your strong spirit produce strength in their spirit. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. L. Wayne Bryan  
Executive Minister, retired, SCCAC  
--from Yearbook of Prayer 1994

## August 30

Today's Prayer: **Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston**  
Interim Administrator: The Reverend Monsignor Martin  
Laughlin

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 115

*God of all peoples and of all places, we praise you for the marvelous tapestry of culture and faith within the State of South Carolina. Draw us together and deepen our concern for the common good. Call forth from the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Charleston a renewed enthusiasm for the gospel so that, joined together with all in common purpose and care, a clearer witness to your love will be visible across our state. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Father Sandy McDonald, Ecumenical Officer  
Roman Catholic Diocese of SC

## September 6

Today's Prayer: **Teachers of Religious Education**

*Blessed teacher, you taught your disciples with stories, through experiences, and by example. May those who teach in congregations, Bible colleges, and seminaries share your mission to proclaim the good news that the kingdom of God has come near so that students and teachers alike may be faithful witnesses to the Word made flesh. Amen.*

The Reverend Karen S. Hawkins, Pastor  
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Columbia

## May 24

Today's Prayer: **Those Living and Working in Retirement Communities**

*Our Father, abide in these, our aging sisters and brothers, and meet their deepest need. Whatever their lot, may they experience your love, joy, and peace. May those who love them love them deeply; and those who care for them care for them compassionately. May those who serve and those who wait know your abiding presence. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

Mrs. Stephanie Morris, Family at Lowman Home  
New Hope Christian Fellowship, West Columbia

## May 31

Today's Prayer: **United Methodist Church, SC Conference**  
Judicatory Head: The Reverend Mary Virginia Taylor, Bishop  
Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 1018

*Eternal God, we pray for our United Methodist sisters and brothers as they gather today in Annual Conference. May your grace enable them to use their gifts for the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. May we grow together in the unity of Christ. Amen.*

Bishop Virginia Taylor

## June 7

Today's Prayer: **United Church of Christ, Southeast Conference**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Timothy Downs  
Conference Minister

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 3

*Sovereign God, we offer prayers for the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ in the words of Jesus, "that they may all be one," within their fellowship and with Christian sisters and brothers across the South. As they prepare to gather for their Annual Meeting this week, may they extend an extravagant welcome to all of God's children, proclaim a word of justice both near and far, and accept the cost of discipleship, while celebrating the joy of serving you. We pray this in the name of Christ, who gathers, reconciles, and liberates. Amen.*

The Reverend Timothy Downs

## June 14

Today's Prayer: **Inter-religious Understanding and Tolerance**

*Creator God, this world witnesses to all the variety you have used in populating the earth with many types of the same plants and animals. You do not see superiority in one species over another, but a wonderful medley of life. Help us to see that you desire believers of all description, each faith bringing yet another harmony to the joyful noise! Amen.*

The Reverend F. Torrance Osgood, Pastor  
First Christian Church, Columbia

## August 16

Today's Prayer: **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, SC Synod**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Herman R. Yoos, Bishop  
Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 164

*God of grace and glory, we lift up before you today the voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America meeting this week in Minneapolis. May the renewing power of your Holy Spirit bless and guide all the decisions that are made in this gathering. We especially lift up all of the ecumenical partner churches in full communion with the ELCA in anticipation of the same partnership of faith being affirmed with the United Methodist church at this Assembly. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.*

Bishop Herman R. Yoos

## August 23

Today's Prayer: **Trinity Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend Dr. Alan Arnold, General  
Presbyter/Stated Clerk

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 70

*Gracious God, you have cared for us since we were in our mother's wombs and made for us a part in your divine plan. We confess concerns that run from personal health to survival of the planet and too often trust ourselves more than we trust you. Revive your Spirit within our ministry as a presbytery and make of us faithful disciples who seek your son's way. Shine your light upon the path we should take that your reign on earth will come and your justice prevail. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Dr. Alan Arnold

## August 2

Today's Prayer: **Public Education**

*Gracious Lord, you sent your Son among us to be a teacher and servant, give us the will to follow His example. May we promote the education of all with our voice and our resources. Inspire those who teach and those who learn to seek you in all times and all places. We ask this in the name of Christ, who is our Lord.*

The Reverend Susan Heath  
Episcopal Diocese of Upper SC

## August 9

Today's Prayer: **African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
Seventh Episcopal District**

Judicatory Head: The Rt. Reverend Preston W. Williams, II,  
Presiding Prelate

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 634

*God of grace and glory, on your people pour your power. For the Conferences upcoming in our state and for the millions of Christians who serve you under the banner of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we ask for clarity of vision, hearts humble and open, selves ready to move to perform your will, and always—and in everything—a spirit of praise that you may receive glory, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Bishop Preston W. Williams

## June 21

Today's Prayer: **Presbytery of New Harmony of the  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

Judicatory Head: The Reverend William Judson Shaw  
Presbytery Executive/Stated Clerk

Number of congregations in SC in 2007: 78

*Most holy and loving God, Lord of compassion and peace, with humble hearts we lift up our prayers of thanksgiving. We are thankful for your love and grace that sustain us, and give us the courage to live our lives reaching out to others. We are thankful for the reconciling life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we speak out for peace and justice in a broken and sinful world. We are thankful for your Church, the Body of Christ. Gracious God, grant unto us the wisdom we need to seek your way, and the courage of heart to walk in your light. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*

The Reverend Judson Shaw

## June 28

Today's Prayer: **Church-State Relationship**

*God of grace and of glory, thanks be to you for our nation's founding fathers who instilled "the wall of separation" between church and state. As we "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's," help us remember from the lessons of history that religion and government flourish better apart than when one seeks to control the other. This we pray in the name of the One who instructs us in love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Mr. Flynn T. Harrell  
Shandon Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Columbia

## July 5

Today's Prayer: **Religious Liberty**

*Merciful and everlasting God, you have given us the truth and the truth has set us free. We thank you for the freedom of religion, unencumbered by government edict, and the ability to worship according to the dictates of our individual consciences. Grant us the wisdom, courage, and grace—even at the risk of being misunderstood—to assure religious liberty for our generation and all who come after us. In the holy name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.*

Mr. Flynn T. Harrell  
Shandon Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Columbia

## July 12

Today's Prayer: **Moral and Ethical Treatment of Immigrants**

*Fount of all life, you join together in unity and harmony all humanity and creation. Bring to the living water all those who thirst for community, inclusion, and respect. In your immense mercy receive our prayers. Bless our commitments to be your instruments for building a new world constructed with equality and harmony. Make us examples of your living Word making visible your unconditional love and grace for all people. Amen.*

The Reverend Sandy Jones, Pastor  
Iglesia Luterana Manatíal de Vida (ELCA), Columbia

## July 19

Today's Prayer: **Institutions of Childcare**

*God, we thank you for the gifted servants who extend your tender care to the children of our state. Bless them with patience and resilience so that children of all ages may discover healing, help, and hope. May their ministry give life and the assurance of your eternal love through the One who welcomed the children to himself. Amen.*

Mr. Lee Porter, Chief Program Officer  
Epworth Children's Home, Columbia

## July 26

Today's Prayer: **Death Penalty**

*Eternal God, we beseech thee to assist us as we wrestle with the Death Penalty issue. Help us, Lord, to follow the example of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated compassion to the thief on the cross. May we express compassion to those on death row. Transform us so that our hopes and desires will be truly fixed on justice for all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Reverend Bennie Colclough, Chaplain  
Turbeville Correctional Institution