

# INFORMER

EASLEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## GOD AND THE ANGELS

By Jan Batchelor

When Pastor Ken asked me if I would share my story to be included in "The Informer", I was hesitant. I am a private person, but the task of writing about my experiences has been a blessing. In Jeremiah 29 verse 11, the Bible says, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, Plans to give you hope and a future. This scripture means everything to me and relates to my life experiences.

Thirty years ago I found myself alone with two children. Life was tough at times, but we worked hard as a little family; and both children grew up to be successful adults. I, on the other hand, had become reclusive and found comfort in solitude when I came home from work. However, you just can't handle life by yourself!

In the summer of 2016 I was diagnosed with a very rare life-threatening condition. The year after that I learned that I had also developed cancer of the salivary gland. By this time I was so depressed and hopeless about my situation that medication and counseling for my mental state did not work. I was begging God to help me. My problem was that I did not really know God at all. I finally turned for help from a friend at work whose husband

was a preacher. My friend assured me that God was always there right by my side. I just had to let him into my heart. I began to study the Bible and prayed fervently as I asked God to take me and save me. Months passed by, and one day God revealed himself to me in a remarkable way. I suddenly felt all depression and sadness leave my body. God had answered my prayers, and I gave thanks for the strength and comfort I had received.

I know God can use angels to accomplish certain tasks. Sometimes the help may be conveyed through ordinary people we meet. I had wanted to find a church family that would be accepting and loving, but I had not really found a church yet that provided what I needed. One day while I was at work in the Garden Department, a lady came to me needing help picking out some garden gloves. I helped her; and as I was checking her out, I suddenly looked at her and said, "You're a Methodist, aren't you." Startled, she answered that she, indeed, was a Methodist and how did I know? I said nothing and just pointed my finger upward toward Heaven. She told me her name, where she went to church, and said that she would return in a few minutes. She came back carrying

literature about Easley First United Methodist Church and invited me to church on Sunday. The next day I received a phone call from Pastor Ken inviting me to church. I told him about the lady whom I had met the day before. Pastor Ken remarked, "I know. I was in your checkout line too, right behind her. She didn't know me, and I didn't know her because I had just arrived as the new pastor!"

God may use an angel to guide us. Sometimes the angel may work through the hearts of people we know. Over the next year, I fell in love with my church and, in particular, the wonderful people in my Sunday School class. Recently in the Fellowship Hall a precious and mischievous "rogue angel" took my hand and placed it in the hand of a wonderful and caring man. My hand has been in his hand ever since.

My personal story is filled with miraculous events. I hope that it will help someone else who is lost and hurting. The most important objective for all of us is that we experience salvation through Jesus Christ.



FROM REV. DEANA:

## Youth News!

Our youth have had a busy fall, and we thought you might like to see a few pics. From hiking in the mountains to bouncing around at Big Air, a scavenger hunt that searched for food for United Christian Ministries and creating a Live Nativity; they have been involved in fellowship and service activities.

Plan to join us for our winter and spring activities which will include many more service opportunities, our annual ski trip to Lake Junaluska, a Super Bowl party, the Souper Bowl of Caring offering and Youth Sunday.



**United Methodist Women** will meet Wednesday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the the Fellowship Hall. Fran Smith will present the Service of Prayer and Self-Denial Annual Program. Please attend and enjoy fellowship and lunch. In case of inclement weather UMW meetings will follow the Pickens County School District cancellations.



## Annual Youth Ski Trip

February 7-9  
Lake Junaluska

It is almost time for our annual trip to  
LAKE JUNALUSKA!!!!  
February 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Cost per youth is \$130.  
Friends are welcome!

Speaker for the weekend: Chalice Overy  
Band: Cameron Moore

Pick your activity: Snow Tubing or Skiing  
Please register AS SOON AS POSSIBLE by  
contacting Deana [deana@easleyfumc.org](mailto:deana@easleyfumc.org)



As the new year begins, would you consider giving one morning to helping in the church office? Typical duties include answering the phone, and greeting and directing guests. Thursday is typically the day the bulletin is folded, so there is a special need for those mornings, as well as Mondays when the offering is counted. **Please contact Kitty if you are interested in serving.**



## Mental Health Conference

### Save the Date

February 22, 2020

Registration/Exhibits 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Conference 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Bethesda UMC

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## Thank You

### from Hope Town; Abaco, Bahamas!

Dear Easley First,

God bless you all for the gifts sent to help us re-build Seagull Cottages and Fishing Charters in the Bahamas. Hurricane Dorian destroyed our property and livelihood but our spirits have been restored. Our hope was lost until we received words of encouragement and support to aid us in our greatest time of need. Thank you!

We have a slow road of recovery ahead, but with God's strength, we will get there one day at a time. The love and support we have felt from friends like you is immeasurable. With grateful hearts,

Karen Huff-Lowe, Robert, Stoney and Eli Lowe





**Pastor Ken's Study** will start back on Wednesday, January 8, at 10:30 and 6:00. We will be reading and discussing "Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life" by Marjorie Thompson. We will discuss the chapter one at the first meeting. Copies of the book are available in the office and in the narthex. We are asking for a \$15 donation for the books.



### **FREE ORGAN CONCERT**

St. John's United Methodist Church  
515 S. McDuffie Street, Anderson, SC  
Friday, January 10, 2020 7:30 PM

Jonathan Dimmock  
Organist for The San Francisco Symphony  
[jonathanDimmock.com](http://jonathanDimmock.com)

This concert is a gift from Rev. Dr. Mike Vandiver and his wife, Donna, on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

### **A Big Thank You!**

A big "Thank You" to Carol Ann Hoxit and Kathie Cannon who have been teaching our Elementary Sunday School class. They are both stepping down in January to allow them to do other volunteer work. They have both been wonderful and creative teachers. Their dedication to the children of EFUMC has made a difference in an untold number of lives. They certainly leave big shoes to be filled. Carol Ann will continue to lead our Children's Council and is working on a three-year plan for Sunday School lessons to pave the way for our new Sunday School teachers. Please take the time to tell them thank you for all they have done and all they continue to do as servant leaders in our church.

