



Cornerstone Church

The stone the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see.— Psalm 118: 22-23



Cornerstone's first Cantata on December 14th was a beautiful service entitled "This is Christmas." This amazing, dedicated group of talented people under the direction of Ruthie Brannen, who was subsequently hired as the new Music Associate at Cornerstone left us excited for future music programs. Our music program is growing at Cornerstone, with the continuation of the choir and the plans for Handbell Choirs! If you'd like to be a part of the choir, see page 2.

News from the Pastor

Enhancing Cornerstone's Reach

The Church Council (our elected leadership body) had a lengthy discussion about how we can reach more people for Christ, attract young families with children, offer more for our young adults, provide the most genuine worship experiences for our existing church family, and have multiple worship opportunities.

One outcome of this discussion of the Church Council is to have a five-week schedule featuring two worship services. Both will be based upon the same Scripture. One will be strongly traditional. We will sing hymns accompanied by a piano/electronic organ, have a choir, include more traditional elements of worship, and hopefully have acolytes. The other will be modern contemporary. We will sing worship songs and hymns accompanied by a worship band and have a less

formal format. Both of these services will be done with excellence unto the Lord of excellence.

These services will be held on the five Sundays of Lent before Holy Week: February 22, March 1, 8, 15, and 22. Traditional Worship will be held at 9:00 a.m. Cornerstone Modern Worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. There will be a fellowship time with refreshments between the services in the cafeteria. Our prayer group will meet at 8:30 am in the Media Center. Plans are to have adult Sunday School classes at 9:00am and 10:30am. Children's worship/church school/nursery plans with times and locations are available from Eleanor Cannon.

Please help us to get the word out and invite people to worship.

Scott H. Wachter

TWO SERVICES DURING LENT
February 22,
March 1, 8, 15, and 22

Traditional Worship
9:00am

Cornerstone Modern Worship
10:30am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Worship
March 29, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday
April 2, 6:00pm

Easter Sunday Worship
April 5, 10:00am

Upcoming Opportunities

Welcome Our New Music Associate



Ruthie Brannen comes to Cornerstone with over 30 years in Church Music Ministries, as Director of Choirs, Handbell

Choirs, Instrumental Ensembles, Youth Choirs, and as Pianist and Organist. She holds a degree in Organ Performance, as well as Georgia and South Carolina State certifications in Education.

Ruthie is excited to be part of ministries and growth at Cornerstone, and looks forward to launching new and exciting Music Ministries! She cannot wait to see how God moves in this season and opportunity!

Ruthie lives in Chapin, SC with her 4 cats and Grandson, Christian.



CORNERSTONE CHOIR

Cornerstone Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, January 15th at 6:30pm at The Ministry Hub, 3967 Southeastern Way. If anyone is interested in singing for a season or as a committed Choir Member, we welcome all!

The Cornerstone Choir will lead music on Traditional Worship Sundays and will offer special music in various worship experiences.

Global Methodist Church of South Carolina

SUMMER SERVE 2026 - MAKING AN IMPACT IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Join us in 2026 as the GMC of SC will host five week-long student service camps bring hope and strength of the Gospel to those living in poverty. Wightman Methodist Church of Prosperity, SC will be the host church in the Midlands. Cornerstone Church of West Columbia will be participating in this camp. The camp is be held July 25th – August 1st. Students who are 14 years old and up can register for this camp. The cost per person is \$250.

The Midlands Summer Serve camp will partner with homeowners in need of home repairs in the Newberry County area. Each home is different so projects will vary from roofing, painting, flooring, bathroom plumbing and possibly building ramps.

Our goal is to be representatives of Jesus Christ serving with unconditional love as we build relationships and serve as if we are the hands and feet of Christ meeting needs of real people in our state. This is a physically demanding camp where campers will learn how to build and serve in very practical ways. We will work, eat, have fun and worship together creating bonds that build up the kingdom of God together.

If you have questions about this Summer Serve Camp, please contact James Day (day24jd@aol.com) of Cornerstone Church or Gryff Carosiello (gcarosiello@gmcfsc.com) of Wightman Methodist Church. Please consider volunteering or making a monetary donation to make a local impact. Your prayers are also needed to make this a successful camp.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

We will have our next new member class on Sunday, January 11 at 8:45am in the Upper Room.

Come learn more about Cornerstone and meet new people. Membership forms are available from James Day or Pastor Scott.

ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Are you included in Cornerstone's online directory? Unless you have **opted in** to the directory on your profile in Realm, your information is not visible. **Please check the list Al Cromer has available.**

If you would like to be included in our church family directory, all you have to do is sign Al's list.



Confirmation Retreat will be held on March 6-8 at Camp Gravatt. This is our first combined Conference Retreat, and our first Confirmation Class! Please be in prayer for our Confirmands as they prepare their hearts and minds for a big day of affirmation of faith!

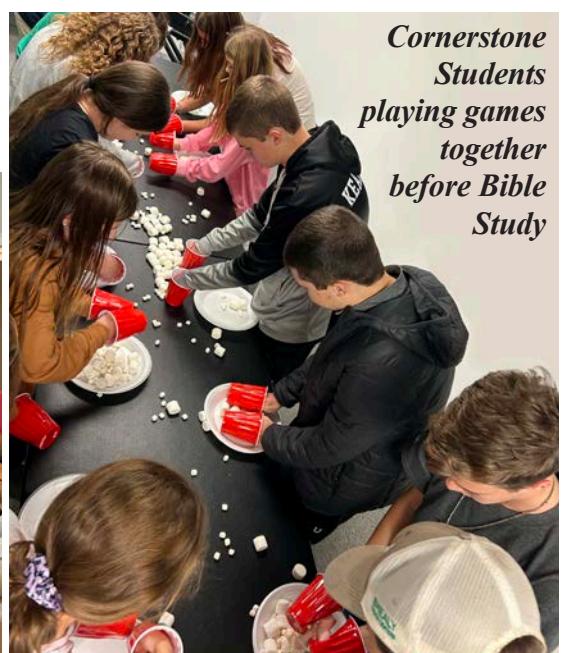
Spring Youth Retreat will be on March 13-15 in Saint Simons Island, GA at Epworth by the Sea. This retreat is for all Students aged 6th grade through 12th grade, and will be a weekend of fun adventures and spiritual refreshment! We'll have beach time, lots of food and hangout time, bonfire, etc. Cost is \$100 per person. Friends are welcome!

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS

If you're 18 – 30 years-old and interested in a new Young Adult Bible Study reach out to the church office or Pastor Scott to let them know.

Joyous Fellowship, Food, Shenanigans & Studies

Cornerstone Students celebrated Christmas together with their Christmas Party hosted by Will & Genia Kearney. They enjoyed holiday food, fellowship, games and a gift exchange. Of course, there were lots of laughs and shenanigans!



Cornerstone Students (left) enjoying the first day of Christmas Break together with a Christmas Movie Night! We watched Elf, had lots of snacks and hot cocoa, and made Christmas ornaments!

Ministry News **Come, Serve and Grow**

CORNERSTONE MENS' FELLOWSHIP (CMF)

The CMF had a very busy 4th quarter of 2025. We helped a young church member with his Eagle Scout Project. We were also able to make financial contributions to Operation Christmas Child ministry, Southern Boys' disaster relief (NC Hurricane Helene disaster relief), and Kairos Prison Ministry in which our own Pastor David Day serves.

CMF came together in November for a meeting and fish fry. One hundred men, including twenty from other area churches, like Red Bank Methodist, enjoyed food and fellowship.

We now have CMF mission t-shirts so we can be identified as Cornerstone Men while working on projects in the community. One of our recent projects was building a ramp for our own, Eddie Porter. We proudly completed the project before Eddie came home from The Shepherd Center.

For the 1st quarter of 2026, the activity and energy will continue. We plan to provide gifts to Cornerstone graduates. We are excited for the 2 fundraisers coming up in the first quarter that will help with various mission projects. First is the Annual Chicken Bog fundraiser, on Superbowl Sunday, February 8th. Look for the tickets for quarts to be on sale soon. Also, the Slow Cooked Boston Butt and hash sale will be in early April –*Watch for details*. We thank you in advance for your support.

The next CMF meeting will be January 27th at 6PM. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6pm at Cayce Masonic Lodge. We are always looking for ways to continue serving our community and our church family, while making disciples. Your questions and concerns can be directed to the 2026 CMF officers and board members listed below:

Officers

President: Mike Sharpe
Vice Pres.: Todd Pickler
Secretary: Mike Edwards
Treasurer: Ronnie Pickler

CMF Board Members

ID Hook	Rick Thain
Todd Blalock	Ben Welch
Jason Rish	Kevin Ivey
Marshall New	Lynn Moore

HANDS TO CREATE • HEARTS FOR GOD

If you know how to knit, crochet, sew OR want to learn. Please join this ministry on Thursday mornings at 10:45 at the Hub. Call Treva Hill (803) 261-1961, Heather Pickler (803) 608-3692 or Connie Cothran (803) 622-4570 for more information.



SENIOR ADULTS

Cornerstone Senior Adults have been busy the last few months. We enjoyed a tour of Historic Brattonsville, lunch at Tony's Pizza, and ice cream at Bush-N-Vine Farm in October. We had our annual Thanksgiving luncheon, with 73 in attendance. After lunch we all enjoyed a saxophone concert by Bob Michalski.

To start the Christmas season off, we took a trip to Moncks Corner to see the Creche Festival (*photo above*). Everyone enjoyed seeing the 91 nativity scenes from around the world. We ended the year with our annual finger food luncheon and Christmas gift auction. Thanks to everyone that attended and helped us raise \$686 for Operation Christmas Child boxes!

ALONE/TOGETHER

This group of ladies will be kicking the new year off a little differently with their first meeting being Sat., Jan. 17 instead of the first Sunday of the month. The ladies are invited to attend a drop-in at the home of Marty Johnson on that Saturday. The group will resume the usual monthly meeting on Feb. 1, with lunch and fellowship after church at the home of Diane Senn.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you want your college-bound son or daughter to be remembered during the school year with Cornerstone care packages, gift cards and messages of encouragement add their name to the list or update their address by emailing Allison Jeffcoat at allisonjeffcoat0@gmail.com or Terri Rabon at office@cornerstonechurchwc.org.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry continues to meet monthly and recently made monetary donations to Oliver Gospel Mission, La Vie Pregnancy Crisis Center, Cornerstone's Fall Festival, Kairos Prison Ministry and Operation Christmas Child shoe box ministry. We have prepared several meals to support members who have lost loved ones. The Christmas Ornament Fundraiser was a success, selling 116 ornaments with a profit of \$592, which will be used for future mission projects.

Our December evening meeting had one of our largest turnouts, with 50 ladies in attendance. At this meeting, we voted to change our schedule for 2026 to alternate between lunch and dinner meetings. February's Meeting will be a dinner at 6:00pm at the Pineview Ruritan Club.

PRAYER MINISTRIES

First Timothy 2:1 Prayer Ministry We believe in the importance of prayer and the power of God, who answers those prayers. First Timothy 2:1 Prayer Ministry (email prayer ministry) provides an informational conduit to its members so they may raise up intercessional prayers on behalf of those in need. There are currently over 90 email addresses in the ministry distribution list. To participate in this ministry or share a concern or praise, email FirstTimothy2.1@outlook.com.

M135* – Wednesday Morning Prayer 7:00-8:00am at the new Ministry Hub 3967 Southeastern Way. Our name comes from Mark 1:35*. Each week we hear a brief Bible lesson and pray together.

Sunday Morning Prayer Group currently meets Sunday before worship from 9:30-9:45am in the media center at East Point Academy. During Lent the group will meet at 8:30am. We pray for our congregation, our pastors, and our worship services. Please join us.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

On January 8th, the Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study begins a new study on Romans, by Max Lucado. This is a six-week study. Cost for a book is \$15. All women are welcome to join this group. We meet each Thursday morning, 9:00-10:30am in the Ministry Hub. Contact Pam Kelley at (803) 206-1330 with questions.

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY

It is not too late to join this study of John's Book of Revelation. We meet at the Ministry Hub, 3967 Southeastern Way. We have sessions at 11:00am and 6:00pm. Bring a Bible. Pastor Scott uses the latest edition of the NIV.



MAHJONG WITH A MESSAGE

Mahjong with a message met at the HUB in November and December with hopes to continue to play in 2026. Look for the sign up in Team Reach App.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Friendship Class meets in the media center at East Point Academy each Sunday morning, 8:45-9:30 with the exception of Fourth Fellowship Sundays. During the Lenten season, class times will change and a second class will be offered. Keep watching communications and announcements for updates and come join us!



The Friendship class

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. –Philippians 4:19

Living Generously

Disciples of Jesus are the recipients of the greatest act of generosity in history. Jesus gave us all his righteousness in exchange for all our sin.

In response, we strive to live increasingly generous lives. Our generosity is an act of worship by which we declare both God's worthiness and His trustworthiness, and generosity fuels God's mission in the world.

Ask God: Does the way I think about and use my finances reflect a desire to see your kingdom move FORWARD? God, show me what it looks like to put you and your mission first in all areas of my life, even my finances.

As we approach our two-year anniversary at the end of January, we look forward to it with great anticipation for exciting times in the days ahead for Cornerstone Church.

Remember, pray daily, give generously, and walk in faith.

ID Hook, Chairperson Forward in Faith

WAYS TO GIVE

- ✓ Mail checks to PO Box 4928, W. Columbia, SC 29171
- ✓ You may also conveniently use your phone's camera to scan this QR code to make a contribution.



Contributions 2025

General Fund	\$514,376.19
Designated Gifts	\$31,185.50
Forward in Faith	\$199,173.63

Expenses 2025

General Fund	\$322,399.31
Designated Funds	\$17,611.00
Forward in Faith	\$0.00

Total Contributions by Year

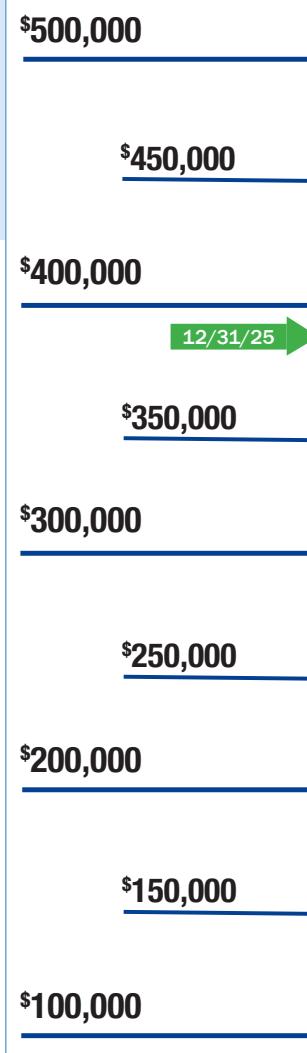
2024	\$540,342.52
2025	\$744,741.32



FORWARD in Faith

Objective:

To provide funds for the establishment of a more permanent home for Cornerstone Church, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the Cornerstone.



We are grateful for the facilities God has provided for us. As we move forward, be in prayer that the Holy Spirit guides us to the best solution in the purchase of an existing structure or property on which to build. Your gifts will be seed money for the direction the Holy Spirit leads.

In an effort to be good stewards of church resources, the capital campaign was kickstarted with \$100,000 of your tithes and offerings.

Mid 2026 Goal: \$500,000

Where there is no vision, the people perish.

–Proverbs 29:18

 Cornerstone
Church

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. –1 Peter 4:10

Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Prison Ministries – Project Angel Tree

This Christmas Season Cornerstone Church sponsored 14 local children, whose lives have been impacted by a parent being incarcerated. Members of the congregation quickly claimed thirty-three angels from the tree before the church service began. Five of the angels on the tree represented a gift card for the five caregivers. Twenty-eight of the angels were for a child's gift or stocking. The volunteers purchased each child or teen a gift suggested by their caregiver. One week later the unwrapped gifts were returned to church and volunteers enjoyed the “Wrapping Party”.

Household baskets were made by the Wrapped In

Prayer group for each home. Fruit baskets and cupcakes to celebrate Jesus' birthday were delivered to all the families. It was both exciting and humbling, as the Mission Team went to their homes in our nearby communities and personally delivered the gifts. The caregivers and the children were appreciative, many said that we had made their Christmas and we were like angels to their family. It was a joy to invite the families to join us at Cornerstone, and we pray that they come. Thank you, Cornerstone, for participating in this Christmas ministry.

Sincerely, Mary Hook

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry

Cornerstone contributed approximately 200 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child (OCC) and on December 8th, Seventeen volunteers were blessed



January 2026

Cornerstone Contacts

Rev. Dr. Scott Wachter, Pastor

email: [\(pastor@cornerstonechurchwc.org\)](mailto:pastor@cornerstonechurchwc.org)
(843) 685-4417

Rev. David Day, Associate Pastor

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(803) 587-1682

Eleanor Cannon, Worship Leader/Family Minister

email: [\(eleanor@cornerstonechurchwc.org\)](mailto:eleanor@cornerstonechurchwc.org)
(912) 332-2606

Terri Rabon, Administrative Assistant

Office and Ministry HUB

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Website: cornerstonechurchwc.org

Sermons on Youtube: [@cornerstonechurchwc](https://www.youtube.com/@cornerstonechurchwc)

Email Prayer Chain:
prayer@cornerstonechurchwc.org

GIFTS IN HONOR AND MEMORIAMS

In memory of Phyllis Busbee by -

I.D. and Mary Hook
James and Laura Day
Al and Sharon Cromer
Dale H. Henry
Brandy H. Pearrow
Diane Senn
Jean Hook

Bill and Dianne Youngblood
Jacob, April, and Annie
Vallentine
Wayne and Rhonda Hicks
Wayne and Charlie Hooker
Elizabeth Snell
Juli Blalock

In memory of J. Ruth Gibson by Annie Frazier

In memory of Randolph and Inez Senn by

Elizabeth Snell

In honor of James and Laura Day by Diane Senn

In honor of Richard and Ginger Dubose by Dennis and Mary Goginsky

In memory of Robert Earl and Jessie Ruth Chaney Gibson by -

Frank and Gayna Gibson Wall

In memory of all the generations of the Gibson family by -

Frank and Gayna Gibson Wall



**Worship Services at East Point
Academy Elementary Campus
1043 Chris Drive
West Columbia, SC 29169**



About a dozen Cornerstone members came to work our booth. Above: Anna Cate and Elizabeth Hook, Toney Rish, Connie Brock, Johnny Kelley, Jim Brock and Pam Kelley – All set up and ready to give out a lot of hot chocolate.

Cornerstone Communications is always seeking ways and places to introduce our church to the community. When we asked ourselves, “*Where can we meet young families in December?*” the idea of a local parade came up. Without enough lead time to enter a float in the West Columbia Parade of Lights on Dec. 13th, we opted to put up a tent along the parade route. We had a great time talking to people and handing out hot chocolate and candy cane cards with information about Cornerstone.

Thanks to all of you who helped this come together. We can’t wait ‘til next year!

Thank You!

We are very grateful to serve at Cornerstone Church! Thank you to everyone who came to our drop-in, sent us cards, baked us goodies, gave us gifts, take care of our fur family, and especially – pray for us. (Scott’s Brachytherapy is scheduled for January 12.)

We are excited to see what God has in store for this great congregation of believers in 2026!

Scott and Teresa Wachter