

**James R. Crumley Jr Archives
2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly**

Administration

Personnel and Hours of Operation

The Archives employs five part-time workers: Shannon Smith, director and archivist; Trudy Bouknight, office manager; Scott Reeves, digital archivist; Ashley Ragland, assistant archivist; and Laura Hendrickson, project specialist.

Accessions

New and reoccurring accessions from Region-9 synods, congregations, and individuals are deposited in the Crumley Archives and are processed by staff.

Special Projects:

“Unsung: A Chronicle of Black Lutherans”

The Crumley Archives, under the direction of Dr. Harvey Huntley and Scott Reeves, is producing another feature film entitled, “Unsung: A Chronicle of Black Lutherans”.¹ Filming began with pastors and laity from the S.C. and S.E. Synods who shared their stories and memories. This film is based upon the scholarship of Dr Huntley, who for more than two years has sought to compile and catalog congregation, mission, and personal records related to African descent Lutherans. These records are preserved in the Crumley Archives. Filming will involve each synod in Region-9. Please check our website for updates as segments are produced.²

If you have a story or record to share, please contact Shannon Smith at archivist@crumleyarchives.com.

Archives Relocation

After LRU’s decision to move the Seminary to the Hickory campus, the Archives has begun investigating possibilities for its relocation. Discussions among the Crumley Archives board of directors and synods are active and ongoing.

Friends of the Archives Banquet

This year’s banquet will be held in Columbia, S.C. and will honor the Rev. Dr. Bill and Mrs. Karla Trexler; St. Mark’s Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL), and the FL-BAH Synod. It will be held Friday, Sept. 12. Details will follow. Please contact Shannon Smith at archivist@crumleyarchives.com for more information.

Shannon L. Smith

¹ See trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SobFCVCcFOI>

² Crumley Archives: www.crumleyarchives.com

SC Synod Inclusiveness Network

2025 South Carolina ELCA Synod Assembly

Thank you for this opportunity to share what we are involved in. We are seeking to apply Galatians 3:28: There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. The overarching goal of the Inclusiveness Network is to invite all people into learning, growing, and advocating for equity and inclusion for all people.

Currently the Inclusiveness Network encompasses 2 initiatives:

- Cultural/Race Reconciliation (led by Rev. Bruce Kreutzer)
- Gender Equity (led by Rev. Christopher Girardeau)

In Cultural/Race Reconciliation, we are currently working in the following areas:

-Fine tuning our purpose statement and goals for the future and update what's available on the Synod website.

-Continuing to provide dialogue about reconciliation and healing through Book studies. We have completed reflection on Dear Martin and Stamped: A Remix of the National Book Award-winning Stamped from the Beginning. We have begun in March, The Autobiography of Malcolm X, meeting monthly. We are open to suggestions from the entire Synod on what to study next.

-Providing effective educational and worship experiences for MLK Jr. Day, Black History month, the Emmanuel 9 commemoration, and Juneteenth.

-Showing the movie "Origin" in multiethnic settings and opening it up to other denominations to join us.

-Offering opportunities to consider important issues which are relevant to our Synod.

-Planning a trip to Atlanta in 2026 to visit some important places regarding freedom and equality.

For Gender Equity, we are currently redeveloping the network and developing goals.

Thank you for your encouragement, support, and participation in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted: Pastor Leroy Cannon, Sara Coffman, Pastor Christopher Girardeau, Dan Koon, Pastor Bruce Kreutzer, and Pastor Jackie Utley

Lutheran Disaster Relief Carolinas 2025 South Carolina ELCA Synod Assembly

We continued promoting preparedness and developing a network of interested individuals and congregations throughout the year. We have visited twenty congregations to provide an LDR Sunday or other event, including preaching or teaching about personal preparedness, congregational preparedness, best practices when a disaster occurs, and to talk about the work of LDR Carolinas following disasters. We encourage congregations to discuss ways that they can respond to disaster in their communities and beyond. We welcome invitations to come to your congregation!

We also attended meetings with conference clergy, synod deans, the annual gatherings of Lutheran Men in Mission and Women of the ELCA, as well as synod assemblies in both NC and SC.

We have participated in quarterly meetings of both NC & SC VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) to develop relationship with other organizations and individuals providing disaster services. We participated in special meetings before and after major events. We also serve on the National VOAD Preparedness Committee.

We have been in contact with conference deans and rostered leaders in congregations following disaster events impacting their congregations or communities, including severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in several locations, a fatal police shooting in Charlotte, plus Tropical Storm Debbie, PTC-8 (Potential Tropical Cyclone 8, also known as the No-Name Storm), and Hurricane Helene which had a tremendous impact on both North and South Carolina.

We have requested financial assistance from synod disaster funds when congregations experienced damage or to assist with other needs in the community following local disasters. We applied for and received LDR Solidarity Grants to assist recovery in affected communities following a major hailstorm in Rock Hill SC, Tropical Storm Debbie in several areas across NC, and PTC-8 which caused severe flooding in Brunswick County NC. We also received additional grant funding from LDR following Helene, which has funded positions for two Response Coordinators. (These positions – one each in NC and SC – were filled in early 2025.)

With financial assistance from the NC Synod Heilig Resource Center, the NC Synod Michael Peeler/Virginia Casey Grant Fund, and the SC Mission Fund, we completed projects and events including an online book study on **A Ready Hope**, work to upfit the NC Synod trailer for disaster response, a service trip to assist Craven County (NC) Disaster Recovery Alliance with ongoing recovery work following Hurricane Florence in 2018, and congregational preparedness mini-grants,

During the final quarter of the year, our work has been centered on Hurricane Helene response in both North and South Carolina. An outpouring of generosity from individuals and congregations in the Carolinas and beyond has made it possible for us to supply cleanup kits, personal care kits, children's comfort kits, quilts, and a myriad of other items needed across western NC following Hurricane Helene. We are grateful to congregations in both synods that served as collection points for these donated items, including Good Shepherd, Raleigh; Grace, Salisbury; and Zion, Hickory NC; plus Good Shepherd, Walterboro; and Zion, Lexington SC.

A major new project with Mennonite Disaster Response has emerged since Helene. Bridging Together is a partnership to replace private bridges in western North Carolina that were damaged or destroyed by flooding. (Construction on the first bridge in this partnership began in 2025.)

We continue to share information with others via our website www.ldrcarolinas.org which includes a resource page, blog, and a page dedicated to the Bridging Together project. We also have a Facebook page www.facebook.com/ldrcarolinas which we have used to post information about events and response to disasters, and a YouTube page www.youtube.com/@LDRCarolinas with recordings of our online network meetings and book study.

The Revs. Ray & Ruth Ann Sipe

Report of the 200th Anniversary of the South Carolina Synod Planning Team

2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly

Before the year began, the 200th Anniversary Committee of the South Carolina Synod came into being. Realizing that the actual founding of the Synod occurred on January 14, 2024, at St. Michael, Irmo, the committee was also aware that identifying a specific anniversary for the formation of the Synod was difficult. Several synod meetings during 1824 resulted in a lasting Synod that continues to exist to this day.

As we planned how we would celebrate this anniversary time, we also wanted to emphasize ways our history as a Synod informed the present ministry of congregations in the South Carolina Synod. And in 1891, the Woman's Foreign and Home Missionary Society became instrumental in women's ministry and in the mission to Japan. We also emphasized the importance of South Carolina in ordaining the first African American Lutheran pastors in the United States and in the initial mission work in Liberia. And in more recent years, our Synod has begun efforts throughout the state in reaching out to Spanish speaking people who have settled here.

As the year progressed, we invited all the Synod's institutional partners to provide histories of their organizations and each month a different ministry was highlighted across the Synod. The committee wishes to thank Neal Fischer, Director for Communications, for producing a series of History Moment videos made available to congregations on the synod's YouTube channel.

Further, when we were planning the celebration of our anniversary for our Synod Assembly, we commissioned Pr. John Trump to write a play for the Celebration Banquet. And, when we learned that Dr. Susan McArver had provided an historic keynote address for the 175th anniversary of the Synod, we invited her to provide an updated presentation at the 2025 Synod Assembly.

While a multi-month emphasis on our history of mission has been important, it does not begin to capture the sense of life and vitality the South Carolina Synod has enjoyed for the last two centuries. We discovered all sorts of ministry stories during our time together as we would plan for how we were presenting each piece of this rich history.

Lutherans have been important to the spiritual and culture fabric of the State of South Carolina for nearly 300 years. In fact, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg organized his first congregations in America in Charleston and in Savannah.

Those persons serving on the planning team include: The Rev. Mark Scott, chair; The Rev. Gregg Hoffman; Judy Lybrand; Dr. Susan McArver; The Rev. Robert Harrell; Ms. Carolyn Donges; Ms. Shannon Smith; and The Rev. Joanna Gragg. In addition, the Synod Liaisons to the team include: Mr. Neal Fischer, Communications Director; The Rev. Ozzie Herlong, Synod Secretary; and Ms. Wendy Davidson, Assembly Manager

God's work has truly been evident in our state in many ways. And, as our history has unfolded, All of our congregations have developed interesting and inspirational stories. Truly the Holy Spirit has worked (and continues to work) in the lives of ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through God's love in action.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Scott, Chair

The Impact of Our Benefits

Portico Benefit Services' Report to 2025 Synod Assemblies

As the ELCA's benefit ministry, Portico is dedicated to helping our rostered ministers and church professionals live holistically healthy lives, so they can serve others with confidence and grace. Here is a visual recap of what our community of over 52,000 plan members experienced in 2024.

52,067

Members served by Portico



2,998

Text/Virtual Health Care Visits

To 98point6®, and 699 of these were ELCA-Primary plan members new to our text-based primary care service.



198

Births & Adoptions

10th

Consecutive Year

Of our Customer Care Center being named a Center of Excellence by Benchmark Portal.



518

*Changes of Call**

1,199

Sword Health Enrollments

And nearly 26K total sessions in their Thrive, Move, and Bloom digital physical therapy and mobility programs.

15.17%

of Member Income

Saved for retirement, on average, by members sponsored in the Traditional Benefits Program, thanks to employer and member contributions.*

\$199K

Debt Paid Off

By members via LSS of Minnesota Financial Counseling, with over \$2.4M paid off since 2008.

16K

Members and Employers Invited to Participate

In our Benefits reExamined surveys, with more than 4,100 responses.*



39

*Beginning Disability Benefits***

\$209M

Made in Annuity Payments

And 515 retirements.



Nearly 10% of Our 10K ELCA Medicare-Primary Plan Members

Participated in the SilverSneakers fitness program with an average of 8 visits to a fitness center per month.*

We design our benefits to align with the needs of the church and seek to provide accessible support that enhances and improves everyday living and brings value to those who serve.

*Source: Traditional Benefits Program. All other numbers and percentages are drawn from across Portico's benefit programs.

**Total as of 2023; 2024 disability claims numbers have not been finalized.



The Mission Investment Fund: Empowering communities with financial services



For more than 150 years, the Mission Investment Fund (MIF), *a financial services ministry of the ELCA*, has been a **steady and reliable financial partner** for congregations, ministries and individuals. Through times of growth and uncertainty alike, MIF has remained committed to strengthening ministries and communities through customer-centric support and flexible financial resources.

In 2024, MIF continued to support ministry growth across the ELCA. Your investments helped expand worship spaces, create new education and youth ministry areas, fund schools and programming for the next generation, start green projects and support accessibility remodeling for community spaces. These projects ensure that ELCA ministries remain welcoming, inclusive and equipped to serve their communities.

By the Numbers:

- **Total Loans Outstanding:** \$610,534,000
- **Total Assets:** \$774,550,000
- **Total Investment Obligations:** \$547,491,000
- **Net Assets & Capital Ratio:** 27.5%

Why Is MIF the Right Choice?

- **Proven Stability:** With over a century and a half of experience, MIF has weathered changing economic and political landscapes, maintaining financial strength for ELCA ministries.
- **Deep Expertise in Church and Ministry Financing:** We understand the unique needs of faith communities and have longstanding experience in congregation and ministry-building projects.
- **Competitive Rates and Terms:** Our financial offerings are structured to support ministries of all sizes.
- **A Full Suite of Financial Services:** In partnership with the ELCA Federal Credit Union, we provide a range of financial solutions for congregations, ministries, and individuals.
- **Faithful Stewardship:** Investments in MIF directly support loans that fund hundreds of capital projects across the church.

With 2025, MIF has entered a new era of modernization—enhancing our tools and financial services to better support ELCA ministries. While embracing innovation, we remain rooted in the trust and stability that have defined us for generations. Through every season, we stand with ELCA members, congregations, and ministries, walking together in faith and financial stewardship.

MIF at work in the South Carolina Synod (as of December 31, 2024):

- 7 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$4,670,866
- \$3,440,837 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org
or contact your Regional Manager, Jerry Johnson: 773-380-1722 jerry.johnson@elca.org

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS Seafarers International House

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: We cannot wait till the world is sane

Dear friends of Seafarers International House (SIH):

Thanks to your support, we assisted 19,066 people, over 1,000 more than last year! We had many reasons to rejoice as we journeyed together with seafarers and immigrants legally seeking asylum, even though the year itself can be described as "unsteady".

In January, Houthis fired upon two US-flagged container ships, putting seafarers in danger. From November 2023 until their release on January 22, 2025, 17 Filipinos, 3 Ukrainians, 2 Bulgarians, 2 Mexicans, and 1 Romanian of the MV Galaxy Leader, a vehicle carrier, were held hostage. Since November 2023, over 90 vessels have been attacked, sinking at least two ships, and killing four mariners. Add the "normal" isolation of contracts lasting for 6-9 months and you understand that seafarers continue to make great sacrifices.

Thanks to your support, our Port Chaplains can bring a ministry of presence, essentials, and transportation to seafarers. Last February, we celebrated the official start of our Ukrainian-born Port Chaplain Pastor Vitalii Guz, who serves with our partners at the Baltimore International Seafarers Center (BISC). We also welcomed our ship visitor, Tim Marzik, who has big shoes to fill with the retirement of our beloved Ruth Setaro after 27 years of service.

We reignited our partnership with the Deutsche Seemannsmission e.V., which traces its roots to 1907, when the son of the director of the German Emigrant House (a predecessor of SIH), helped found the German Seamen's Mission in the Port of New York, a service we continue to this day.

Tragically, on March 26, the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore was struck by a container ship. The accident killed six construction workers, all of whom were immigrants. In the aftermath, 7 ships operated by 120 seafarers were temporarily trapped, and to this day many of the crew members on the accident-causing ship continue to be held in the US as litigation progresses. With Baltimore International Seafarers Center (BISC), and Chaplain Vitalii and – returning from retirement – Chaplain Rev. K. Robert "Bob" Schmitt, SIH was able to provide relief to those affected.

In April, it was party time! Thanks to our honorees Katie Higginbottom, Randi Ciszewski, and Tim Nolan and the support of their friends, the Setting the Course Reception was a success! 180 attendees ensured through their contributions that we would be able to serve 13,556 seafarers in the Ports of Albany, Baltimore, Duluth, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, and with accommodations in NYC.

Then in August, we bid fair seas and following winds to two SIH icons: Arthur William Clark (1944), a long-time SIH board member and treasurer for over 20 years; and Port Chaplain Rev. William C. Fensterer (1930), who for over 50 years provided unparalleled service to mariners.

We exulted, when, in September, the Ghanaian family, who we supported at the Lighthouse, found their own home. All four miraculously survived the dangerous journey through the Darian Gap and almost drowned before legally applying for asylum and working hard to become self-sufficient. Throughout 2024, we assisted 33 asylees and provided them with a safe place for a

MISSION

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants.

SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in the Ports of Albany, Baltimore, Duluth, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, and in New York City.


combined 1,508 lodging nights.

After the November elections, we pray that legal immigration will remain possible and vow to stand with people who are persecuted or experience violence elsewhere.

At Christmastime we rejoiced! With the help of all those listed on page 5, we delivered a record setting 3,507 satchels to seafarers out at sea spreading love around the globe.

With this bittersweet year in mind, I would like to close this report with excerpts from Madeleine L'Engle's poem *First Coming*:

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were
unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release. ...*

*... We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Peace,* 


Pastor and Executive Director

2024 Program Impact

19,066 immigrants and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services (up from 18,004).

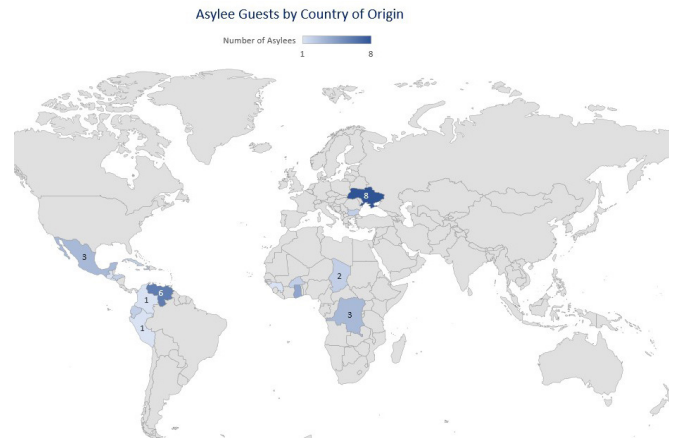
2,225 lodging nights provided to 140 seafarers in Manhattan.

13,556 seafarers were visited and counseled on 1,232 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

1,830 seafarers were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

3,507 seafarers, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize their sacrifices. Up from 3,216 last year!

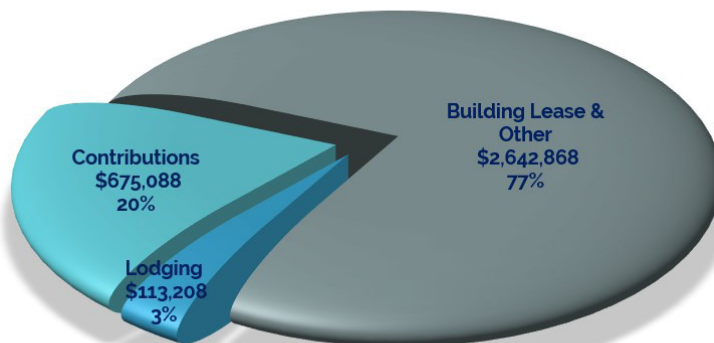
33 asylum seekers received lodging for a total of 1,508 nights. They hailed from Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Ukraine, and Venezuela.



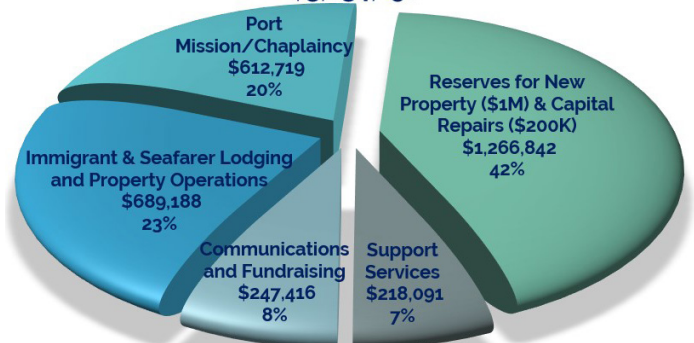
2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

In accordance with our 2024 - 2028 strategic plan, operating gains continue to help to build reserves for a new property (\$1M) with mission-based guest rooms and offices. These gains also allow for capital repairs on the guesthouse (\$200,000), which is leased to Breaking Ground, a NYC-based non-profit which provides transitional housing to the community. Lease revenue provides only a portion of necessary means to support our mission to seafarers and immigrants. Donations remain a vital pillar of income to support our services and future expansion. Program services and reserves accounted for 85% of expenses with only 15% spent on support services and fundraising. These figures reflect *unaudited revenue and expenses and are subject to change*. To request the audited 2024 financial statements please send an email to henryk@sihny.org.

Operating Revenue 2024 (pre-audit)
\$3,431,164



Operating Expenses & Reserves for New Property 2024 (pre-audit)
\$3,034,256



The Rev. Jack D. Deal, Sr

The Rev. Jack D. Deal, Sr., 92, of Ladson, SC, passed away Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Born March 8, 1932 in Hickory, NC, Jack attended city schools there. After that, he served 7 1/2 years with the US Air Force and also obtained his college degree in 1959 from Florida Southern College in Tampa, FL. He then continued his education with the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC.



Upon finishing in 1962, he was ordained as a Lutheran minister. For his first church, he served as a mission developer & Pastor for the next 4 years at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Southern Pines, NC. His next church as Pastor was at St. John's Lutheran Church, Concord, NC, one of the oldest Lutheran Churches in NC. The next & last chapter of his ministry brought him to SC to be a mission developer again, where he was Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, North Charleston, SC for 42 years.

Preceded in death were his parents, Vernie Hugh & Violet Mundy Deal & his brothers, Everett & Vernie, Jr. Surviving brothers in NC are Barney & Dick Deal. Jack is survived by his wife of 74 years, Carolyn Hollar Deal and his 4 children, Jack D. Jr. (Angelica & son, Mark), Cathryn (Kim), Paul (Yalile & son, Brad) and Stephen.

A memorial service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on June 11, 2024 at 11:00 am for all that want to attend.

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. McCollum

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. McCollum, 85, of Newberry died June 3, 2024 surrounded by his family.

Born on December 15, 1938 in Chester, SC, he was a son of the late Thomas W., Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Fennell McCollum.

Throughout his life, Bob was a man of service. He graduated Chester High School and then Erskine College and worked as the administrator for Chester County Hospital and Nursing Center for many years. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Bob felt called to change vocations, and received his Masters of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, and later his Doctorate of Ministry from Erskine Theological Seminary. Throughout his 49 years in the ministry, Pastor McCollum served as Pastor at Summer Memorial Lutheran Church, Chester/York Lutheran Parish, St. Thomas Lutheran Church, and Silverstreet Lutheran Church and as interim Pastor at Mayer Memorial, St. John Lutheran Church, and Bethany Lutheran Church. He was active in church groups, and received four Honorary Life Membership in the Lutheran Men in Missions. He loved music and was a member of the Silverstreet Inspirations Quartet singing at various churches throughout Newberry County.

He was a graduate of the US Army Chaplain Center and School and served as the Chaplain of the SC. Army National Guard and the City of Newberry Fire Department.

He was active in his community and was a former member of many organizations including the Newberry Kiwanis Club and the Lowman Home Board of Trustees and was an honorary member of the City of Newberry Fire Department. He served as a Chester County Rescue Squad Training Officer and received Chester Rescue Man of the Year in 1970.

Pastor McCollum, Bob, was a man of character and service. He dealt with things head on, even when it was tough. He was genuine and honest and when you needed him, he always showed up. He became a mentor and set the standard for many who later pursued the calling to ministry. He loved his family and friends dearly, he loved those whom he pastored, and he never lost his “sense of the call.”

He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Linda G. McCollum; sons, Samuel Eugene McCollum and Charles L. Livingston; and four grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his first wife, Billie Ann McCollum; infant daughter, Cynthia E. McCollum, son, Robert Delano McCollum; and brother, Billy McCollum.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 3 pm at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. Visitation will be from 1:30 to 2:30 PM, Friday prior to the service, in the Family Life Center at the church.

The Rev. George Baylis Corley

The Rev. George Baylis Corley, formally of Orangeburg, SC, passed away on June 2, 2024, at the home of his daughter in Seneca, SC, one month shy of his 100th birthday.

He was the husband of Barbara Ruth Dennis Corley for nearly 75 years.

Pastor Corley was born on July 9, 1924, in Lexington, SC, the son of Samuel Perry Corley and Leola Wingard Corley. He was a 1946 graduate of Newberry College, where he was the president of the student body his senior year. In 1949, he graduated from The Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, with a Masters of Divinity. Pastor Corley was ordained by the South Carolina Synod of the Lutheran Church of America in 1949.



Before his retirement in 1990, Pastor Corley served Lutheran Churches in the following South Carolina towns: Ehrhardt (1949-1950), Georgetown and Kingstree (1950-1955), Newberry (1955-1960), Cameron and Creston (1960-1983), St. Matthews (1963-1983), and Lexington (1983-1990). In 2012, he was designated Pastor Emeritus at both Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cameron and St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Creston.

In addition to his wife Barbara, Baylis Corley is survived by daughters Denise Corley (Steve) Godowns of Houston, TX, and Ruth Corley (Ed) Pekarek of Seneca, SC; grandchildren Amy Elizabeth Pekarek, Jeffrey Baylis (Lesslie) Pekarek, Andrew Edward (Carmen) Pekarek, and Franklin Dennis Godowns; great-grandsons John Baylis Pekarek, William Douglass Pekarek and Patton Edward Paul Pekarek; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his four older siblings, Sarah Steele, James Corley, Ellis Corley, and Frances VanPatton.

A celebration of Pastor Corley's life will be held at a later date at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cameron, SC.

The Rev. Clifford Alfred Riis

The Reverend Clifford Alfred Riis died on May 11, 2024 in Manassas, Virginia.

Pastor Riis was born in New York on October 6, 1926 and ordained in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in 1953. After leaving the Missouri Synod, he was ordained in the LCA in 1967, after which he served Trinity, Georgetown from 1967-1974 and St. Johannes, Charleston from 1974-1993. In retirement, he served as interim pastor at Holy Comforter (now Holy Spirit) in West Ashley.

Pastor Riis is survived by his wife, Jean, children, and grandchildren. His funeral service will be held at St. Johannes, Charleston on Saturday, June 29th at 11 AM, with a visitation before the service at 10, and inurnment at Riverview Memorial Park Cemetery in North Charleston following the service.

The Rev. Robert Brown Lineberger

The Reverend Robert Brown Lineberger, of Columbia, SC, died peacefully with family the evening of July 17, 2024, one day before his 94th birthday. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, May Thompson Lineberger.

Rev. Lineberger was predeceased by his wife of 52 years and mother of his children, Catherine Steele Lineberger, in 2004. Rev. Lineberger is survived also by his daughters, Lela Lineberger (Dan) Groene and Sara Lineberger (Sergio) Mendes, and his daughter-in-law Jenette Jones Lineberger; he was predeceased by his son Peter Robert Lineberger in 2019. He was blessed with five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Rev. Lineberger, who married May in August 2005, is also survived by May's sons Steve



(Heather) Abbott and Mark (Alisa, deceased 2019) Abbott, and her two grandsons. Rev. Lineberger was the youngest child of Rev. Frederick Louis and Nettie Mava Corley Lineberger. He had five siblings and their spouses who predeceased him, and many nieces and nephews.

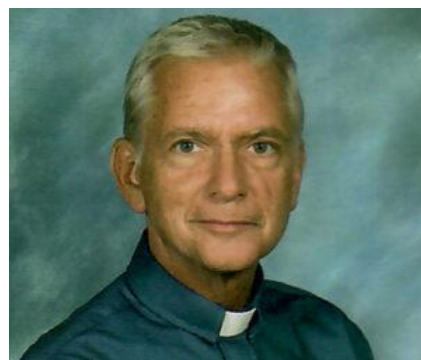
Rev. Lineberger was born in Columbia, SC. He graduated from Charles L. Coon High School, Wilson, NC, in 1948, and from Lenoir-Rhyne College (now University), Hickory, NC, in 1952, where he met his wife Catherine. They were married in August 1952. He graduated from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, SC, with a Master of Divinity in 1955, and was then ordained into the Lutheran ministry by the North Carolina Synod.

Rev. Lineberger served in Lutheran churches for 40 years. Congregations he served were Morning Star Lutheran in Matthews, NC; St. John's Lutheran (Asst. Pastor) in Salisbury, NC; St Paul's Lutheran in Hampton, VA, where he was Pastor from 1962-1978; Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Pastor/Developer), Chesterfield, VA; Immanuel Lutheran in Bluefield, WV; and Christ the King Lutheran in Columbia, SC, from which he retired in 1995. Throughout his service in all the congregations, he was active in the church Synods and many local church pastoral group activities. He also served as contact pastor for several military bases, hospitals, and colleges.

Memorial Service to be held Saturday, August 31, 2024 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull St, Columbia, SC 29201. Visitation at the church at 11:00 a.m., Service at 12 noon.

The Rev. Caldwell N. "Cobby" Day

The Reverend Caldwell N. "Cobby" Day's 's funeral service will be held at Lutheran Church of the Epiphany in Winston-Salem, NC, on Friday, August 30, at 4 pm. A live stream will be available for those unable to attend in person on LCE's website and YouTube page. Please keep Pastor Day's family in your prayers, especially his wife, Terry.



The Rev. Russell Howard Anderson

Russell (Russ, Pastor Russ, Uncle Russ) Howard Anderson, son of Arnold Howard Anderson and Odessa Marie Paulsen Anderson, was born on July 7, 1946, in Boone, Iowa. He was the second born of four children: His sister, Anita Colleen Anderson, was born on August 22, 1944. His brothers, Roy Lee Anderson and Ray Dean Anderson, were born on March 4, 1954.

Russ was baptized on September 15, 1946, at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Centerville, South Dakota. He was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 17, 1959, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Story City, Iowa. He was ordained as a Lutheran pastor on October 22, 1978. He was a vicar at Grace Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Florida (1976-1977). He was the pastor at four churches: Calvary Lutheran Church, Hendricks, Minnesota and Marble Lutheran Church, Canby, Minnesota (1978-1983); First Lutheran Church, Brookings, SD (1983-1990) and Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina (1991-2006). While serving at Ascension, Pastor Russ became well known for his ministry to children,



especially through his children's sermons. Many of the parents of these children as well as the children themselves report that they have passed on the lessons in these sermons. Adults would often comment how lucky they were to get two sermons.

Pastor Russ retired on August 1, 2006, and served as a substitute pastor at Christ Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina from 2007-2011.

Russ was a graduate of Story City High School, Story City, Iowa (1964); Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa (Bachelor of Science in Applied Arts in 1968 and Master of Arts in Applied Arts in 1972); and Lutheran Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota (Master of Divinity in 1978). While in junior and senior high school he delivered papers, worked on farms, and dug graves in the local cemetery. While in college in Ames he was employed as a draftsman for the Atomic Energy Commission. While in seminary he received compensation from the GI bill.

Russ was inducted into the United States Army on February 24, 1969. He was stationed at Fort Ord, Monterey Bay, California; Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas; Fitzsimons Army Medical Center, Denver Colorado, and the Third Field Hospital, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. He was trained as a medic and a surgical technician and served in that capacity in the war.

On September 28, 1973, he married Edna Earle Page (originally from Lake View, South Carolina) in Tucson, Arizona. At the time she was teaching Home Economics Education, and he was teaching Interior Design at the University of Arizona.

Pastor Russ had a very special goddaughter/granddaughter, Grayce Page Boozer. Grayce lived with Pastor Russ and Edna on the weekends and during some school vacations.

He was Russell to his siblings and in-laws; Anita Anderson, Ray and Deb Anderson, Shelly Anderson Kirsch, and Sue Page.

He was Uncle Russ to Ryan Anderson; Brian Anderson, Sarah Frith, Laura Lindorser; Andrea and Zack Kirsch; Steve and Joey Jolley; Susan, Ivy, Amanda, James, Natalie, and Harper and Case Johnson; Amy, Aaron, and AJ Smith; Anna Page and Nicole Godwin; Tami, Aryn and Victoria Hall; Kim, Mark, Cadyn and Gavin Crouse, Cindy, and Todd Reisman; Jordan, Cayce, Knox, and Sloane Reisman; Olivia, Brad, and Kayden Townsend; Debbie, Allen and Luke Everette; Jill, Anthony, Allie and Riley Carroll; Russ, Bayleigh and Ruby Rogers; Ross, Lindsey, Fisher, and Levi Rogers.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Odessa Anderson; his parents-in-law, Rupert and Lutie Page; his brother and in-laws: Roy Anderson; William and Agnes Jollye; Norma and Claude Rosson, Miriam Biggs; Lynn and Norma Jean Page; Ken Page and Carol Rogers; and his nephew Darrell Page.

Russ died on October 22, 2024, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Funeral services for Pastor Anderson will be Saturday, November 23, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Ascension Lutheran Church, 827 Wildwood Avenue, Columbia, SC. Pastor Jackie Utley, Pastor of Ascension, will preside at the service.

Barbara H. (Bobbie) Sides

With hearts full of love and gratitude, we celebrate the remarkable life of Barbara Sides, known affectionately as “Bobbie” to most. She touched countless lives with her kindness, generosity, infectious spirit, and subtle yet delightful sense of humor. Her unwavering devotion to her family and work family leaves an indelible mark- a legacy to be honored and cherished.

Bobbie’s connection to Newberry College was a cornerstone of her life. She fell in love with its character and charm, earning her secondary education there. Recognizing its potential, she dedicated 50 years to strengthening its foundation, ensuring its legacy would thrive for generations to come. In doing so, she unknowingly created a legacy of her own- a legacy built on love, service, and unwavering commitment to a place she held dear.



Bobbie was a loving and steadfast partner to her husband, Rev. Floyd Sides. She supported him with the same passion, faith, and dedication she poured into every aspect of her life. Together, they built a partnership rooted in faith, love, and shared purpose that continues to inspire.

As a mother, Bobbie set the standard for love and devotion. She balanced compassion with strength, always guiding her children and grandchildren with wisdom, patience, and selflessness. Her nurturing spirit shaped the people they are today, instilling values that will endure for generations.

Bobbie found joy in the simple pleasures of life. She loved reading, cooking, and exploring hobbies that allowed her to share creative tokens of herself with family, friends, and even strangers—who often became fast friends. She also had a gift for finding laughter in life’s challenges, bringing light to even the darkest moments.

On December 20, 2024, surrounded by love, Bobbie walked gracefully into the arms of her Lord. She was welcomed by those who preceded her, including her mother, Louise Honeycutt; her father, Bernard J. Holshouser; her grandmother, Sallie Mae Holshouser; her grandfather, Arch Holshouser, her stepmother, Naomi Holshouser; her father-in-law, George Henry Sides; and her mother-in-law, Esther Morgan Sides.

Bobbie’s legacy continues through those who loved her most. She is survived by her devoted husband, Rev. Floyd Sides; her daughter, Kim Havird (Benny); her son, Gene Sides (Carol); her sister, Lynne Flood; her brother, David Holshouser (Melanie); her grandson, Tyler Havird; her granddaughter, Kelsey Havird; her nephews, Matthew (Heath) and Timothy Flood (Catherine); her nieces, Emily Hill (Chris) and Laura Holshouser, grand-nephews, Connor Hill and Jack Flood; grand-niece Molly Parker Flood; a step-granddaughter, Devon Ruscito (Joe); and a step-grandson, Dylan Keim

A private service will be held for the family, honoring Bobbie's wishes. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date, allowing all who knew and loved her to gather in remembrance and gratitude for the profound impact she made.

Bobbie's life was a testament to faith, love, and service. Her legacy will continue to inspire and uplift, a reminder of the beauty she brought to this world and the joy she leaves in our hearts.

Betty May Habenicht Park

Betty May Habenicht Park, loving and much-loved wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, died peacefully at her home in White Rock, S.C. on Thursday, December 19, 2024. She was 95 years old.

Betty was born in Columbia, S.C. on August 9, 1929, to Frederick Seegers Habenicht and Florence Milne Seegers Habenicht. She had a wonderful childhood growing up in Columbia, enjoying church activities, piano, ballet and tap lessons, and time spent with her family, friends and neighbors. Her first job was in the summer of 1942 during World War II, at the age of 13. Because of the war, new shot gun shells were not available to hunters so a local businessman hired Betty and a friend to recondition used shotgun shells and reload them for sale. This very unique job was not heroic or glamorous, but properly executing the multiple steps did require great care and accuracy, skills Betty would exhibit and expect throughout her life as a family member, volunteer and professional.



In 1946 Betty graduated from Columbia High School and entered Duke University. The summer following her freshman year she served as a counselor at a Lutheran camp where she met "the man of her dreams," Harold Park. Their courtship was long distance since Harold had no car and was studying at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, earning his Master of Divinity degree in 1949. Betty earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University in 1950 and they married that June 27th when the temperature registered 104 degrees. Fortunately, their wedding reception was held in the airconditioned Jefferson Hotel, downtown Columbia. Betty and Harold were happily married for 69 years.

Betty was an active volunteer, visionary, planner and leader throughout her life. Her husband, Reverend Park, formed Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Forest Acres, Columbia, and Betty became the wife of its first Parish Pastor, mother of three children and Sunday School teacher between 1950 and 1958. When they moved to Princeton in 1958 for Harold to attend graduate school at Princeton Theological Seminary, Betty was a member of Princeton Seminary Wives and a charter member of the Princeton Newcomers Club. Moving back to Columbia, Betty became a Cub Scout Den Mother for three years. In 1964 she served as Chairman of Advanced Gifts, Women's Division of the United Fund of Richland/Lexington Counties.

Betty was an active member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church and the South Carolina Synod throughout her entire life. She attended and taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and Weekday Church School. She served on many different Ministry Boards, often as the Chairman, with special interest in Worship and Community ministries. Betty was the first woman elected as President of Ebenezer's Congregation Council in 1995 and served in this capacity three times. She was a Stephen minister, an active member of the Care Team and a Team Leader for one of Ebenezer's capital campaigns. Prior to that she was President of Lutheran Church Women at Ebenezer 1966-1970, Executive Board Member of Lutheran Church Women in South Carolina 1970 -1972 and Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1971 State convention. She also served the South Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as Chairman of the Social Ministry Committee, a member on the Regional Advisory Council, Lutheran Immigration and Relief Services, and a member on the Commission on Inclusiveness. Betty was elected President of the South Carolina Christian Action Council for four years, 1993 through 1996. Later she served on its Development and Long-range Planning Committee. The Council is the interdenominational agency of churches in the state.

Betty had a strong commitment to bringing people together and fostering teamwork to address community needs. During the late 1960's into the mid 70's she served in many roles with local and state levels of Church Women United as a member of the Executive Board, Chairman of the Executive Committee, President of Church Women United in Columbia, Board member of the S.C. Church Women United, Coordinator of the Ecumenical Action planning group. As President of CWU, Betty led in organizing the Volunteer Action Center of Richland/Lexington Counties in 1974, which centralized and coordinated volunteer needs and recruitment for numerous religious and community service efforts in the greater Columbia area.

A major communitywide need identified in 1974 was for home delivered meals. As a volunteer, Betty was the chairman of the first committee which conducted the study in November 1975 and started Meals on Wheels in Richland and Lexington counties. The first meals were delivered in December that year and four months later in April 1976, Betty was hired as the Director of Meals on Wheels. Her first professional paying job 26 years after graduating from college! Betty rendered outstanding service just shy of 16 years, leading the meals program into greatly expanded services, successfully navigating through major organizational changes in state and nonprofit agencies and through times of scarce financial resources. Her skills in planning, salesmanship and teamwork allowed Meals on Wheels to extend to every corner of Richland and Lexington Counties. Betty personally performed each task herself and delivered meals on each route over time to ensure volunteers and staff were properly trained and prepared, and resources were maximized. She appealed to groups, businesses, legislators and potential donors for support, listened to recipients and family members and interpreted and fulfilled necessary government and regulatory requirements. In 2001, the United Way of the Midlands awarded Betty its 2000 Community Leader Award in recognition of her work.

Education for people of all ages was important to Betty. She actively participated in PTA and Booster Clubs at her children's elementary, middle and high schools. For three years she volunteered at the Zion Office of Economic Opportunity (O.E.O.) Child Care Center at Zion Baptist Church. Between 1971 and 1975 Betty served on the Richland School District 1

Advisory Committee and as a Student/Teacher/Parent team member in the Support Public Education Program. Betty was a Laubach Literacy tutor with the Greater Columbia Literacy Council, Planning Committee member for Columbia College's School of Missions and served as a Discussion Leader with the S.C. League of Women Voters.

Following her retirement Betty remained involved as a Meals on Wheels volunteer. She also volunteered at the Lowman Home and served as President of the Board of Directors in the late 1980s. When Lutheran Homes of South Carolina was formed, Betty was elected to the new governing Board and for a time also served as Chairman of the Lowman Home Advisory Board. She served on the Lutheran Homes Foundation Board for six years, during which time she was asked to become Lowman's Volunteer Coordinator as a volunteer! In 2002, at age 72, Betty accepted the challenge and developed a robust volunteer program serving all the residents. In 2010, the Aging Services of SC Association, which represents providers and non-profit organizations serving older adults, recognized Betty and her work as the recipient of their 2010 Volunteer Service Award. She also found time to volunteer at the Cooperative ministry clothes closet, the Soup Kitchen at Washington Street United Methodist Church and Lake Murray Sisters in Service.

In her "spare" time, Betty enjoyed square dancing with Harold in the Tanglefoot Dance Club, working daily crossword puzzles and playing bridge. She coordinated the Wednesday bridge games at the Heritage until passing the torch in 2024.

Mrs. Park is survived by two sons and one daughter, Fred Park (Renée) of Bluffton, S.C., John Park of Greenville, S.C. and Lois Park Mole (Craig) of Columbia, S.C.; three grandchildren, Bryan Park, Ashley Park Twitchell (Mike) and Jennifer Park; four great grandchildren, Maggie, Claire, Grace and Ava and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Betty was predeceased by her husband of 69 years, The Reverend Harold F. Park, her parents, Fred and Florence Seegers Habenicht, and her half-sister, Hermine Habenicht Brown.

The family expresses a special thank you and great appreciation to the caregivers from BeWell Home Services, and the nurses and staff of Lutheran Hospice for their exceptional care and services.

A Celebration of Life worship service will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1301 Richland Street, Columbia, S.C. A Hymn Sing will begin at 2:45 p.m. and a visitation will follow the service.

Betty was a very busy lady who enjoyed people. People enjoyed her! She had a good nature, positive attitude and the ability to remember people, dates and events important to them. Her faith in God's will was unwavering as was her love of her family and friends. A visionary and practical planner who cared about all people, she exemplified the ultimate role model of unselfish volunteer leadership, giving 100 percent of herself 100 percent of the time.

Mabel Shealy Trexler

Mabel Shealy Trexler, 97, of Louisville, Tennessee, passed away on Saturday March 1, 2025 at Morningview Village Rehab Center in Maryville, TN. She was pre-deceased by her husband of 67 years, Rev. Leroy Trexler, and two baby daughters Faith and Robin.

Born on May 7, 1927 in Moultrie Georgia, she was the daughter of the late Willie Ralph Shealy and Grace Aileen Reeder.

Mrs. Trexler was a graduate of Columbia High School and also attended Columbia College in Columbia SC. Her Lutheran faith was central to all aspects of her life and she faithfully supported her husband during his ministry at congregations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida.



Mabel was indeed blessed with many talents. As a pastor's wife, she gave much time helping with activities at church including singing in the choir, teaching young children in Sunday School, and encouraging Lutheran seminary students and their families. She was a loving homemaker who enjoyed sewing, knitting, gardening, and reading. She and Leroy really never retired, working with the church, enjoying special relationships with friends, and loving her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mrs. Trexler is survived by her sister, Dorothy Shealy of Mt. Pleasant, SC; her daughter, Nancy Amundson and her husband Melvin of Columbia SC, their two children Mark Amundson and his wife Linsey and Leah Amundson, and two grandchildren Bailey and Rhys; her son, Leroy Trexler Jr and his wife Debbie of Louisville TN, their two children Michelle Cone and her husband Mike, and Michael Trexler and his wife Renee, and three grandchildren Connor, Cayla, and Oliver; and by her son, Joel Trexler and his wife Melanie of Panacea FL, and their son Paul.

Funeral services will be conducted at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 525 St. Andrew's Rd, Columbia SC on March 15, 2025 at 1:00pm. Interment will be at Bush River Memorial Gardens, 5400 Bush River Rd, Columbia SC. The service will be live streamed at the church Facebook channel. <https://www.facebook.com/relu.church>

Kristen Nicole Frizzell Antley

Kristen Nicole (Frizzell) Antley, died on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. A celebration of her life will be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 3pm with a visitation immediately following in the gym.

Kristen was born on December 22, 1981 in Chattanooga, TN to Terry and Ann Frizzell. She was their only child, their pride and joy. She was brought home from the hospital on Christmas day; the greatest Christmas present they ever received. From a very early age she loved animals and the outdoors. She especially loved going on nature walks with her father to find bugs and other treasures out in the forest around their home. Kristen also loved being a girly girl, dressing up and wearing her clapping shoes. She and her mother shared a love for shopping and people watching. They loved spending time together, especially when they could go "scooter pootin" around town. Kristen was also an athlete, playing basketball and volleyball throughout her childhood and early teen years.



The family would move to North Augusta, SC in 1989. She attended Paul Knox Middle School and then North Augusta High School, where she graduated in 2000. She then matriculated to Clemson University where she was a proud member of the Clemson University Tiger Band, playing the alto saxophone. She was also a part of Kappa Kappa Psi, where she joined her fraternity sisters and brothers in helping to support and undergird the activities of Tiger Band. It was during this time that she met and began a blooming relationship with her future husband, as they were both Tiger Band members. Kristen successfully completed her degree requirements and graduated from Clemson University in May 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Parks and Recreation Tourism Management and a minor in Biological Sciences.

During her summers in college, Kristen completed a number of internships at the Greenville and Riverbanks Zoos. When she graduated college, she was hired at Jacksonville Zoo as one of their bird keepers. Before too long, she accepted a job opportunity closer to home at Riverbanks Zoo. She began her service at Riverbanks as a bird keeper but was soon promoted to the position of Primary Penguin Keeper. She adored her animals and loved to care for them in every way. She also loved to bring people behind the scenes and to give them an up-close encounter with Ricky the Rockhopper and the King Penguin, Scout. If you visit the Riverbanks Zoo even today, you may notice the bands of colored beads on the wings of the penguins. Kristen created these bands; a system she developed to identify and distinguish the penguins from one another.

Kristen then transitioned to an administrative specialist role at the Law School at the University of South Carolina. After serving there, she was accepted into, and successfully completed, her ultrasound degree and certification through Midlands Technical College. She was then hired at Lexington Medical Center, where she spent most of her career at both the main and Saluda Pointe campuses. She spent her last years at ImageCare of Northeast Columbia. At each of her

places of employment, Kristen was known as a hard worker and someone who served her patients with the utmost care and professionalism.

Beyond her professional career, that budding relationship from Tiger Band blossomed into true love. Kristen got married to Jason Antley in the summer of 2007 and they would share the next 17 years together loving and supporting each other in all of life's ups and downs. And the family grew with the addition of their twin girls, Carsyn and Peyton. Kristen was her best as a mother. She loved and was devoted to her girls with a voracious passion. There was nothing that made her happier than when she was with her girls. She provided for them in a way that was unmatched. She will be remembered by all who knew her for her elegance, her beauty, her beautiful spirit, and the way that she loved and supported her friends and family.

Kristen is survived by her husband, Rev. Jason Antley; twin daughters, Carsyn and Peyton Antley; parents, Terry and Ann Frizzell; grandmother, Carlene Templeton; aunts, Donna Cox (Charlie) of Soddy-Daisy, TN and Debra Templeton Payne of Sale Creek, TN; uncle, Jody Templeton (Pam) of Sale Creek, TN; father and mother-in-law, Rev. Barry and Debbie Antley of Graniteville, SC; sister-in-law, Jennifer Antley Storey of Warrenton, SC; brother-in-law, Joel Antley (Natalie) of Christiansburg, VA; niece, Makayla Storey; nephew, Walker Storey; and many cousins.