



Saint Paul United Methodist Church
1320 Fernwood-Glendale Road
Spartanburg, SC 29307

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Spartanburg, SC
Permit No. 33

e-mail churchsecretary@stpumc.org

The Epistle

www.stpumc.org web

voice (864) 582-4040
Sunday Service at 10:00 A.M.

News For The Weeks Of August 22, & 29, and
September 5, & 12, 2022

(864) 583-0850 fax

Return Services Requested

Hello, Saint Paul!

With all the hard times so many families are going through, buying some school supplies would be very helpful. I am collecting school supplies that may be dropped off at Saint Paul's Church, inside the Visitor door entrance. As always, thanks for all you do for these children. It doesn't go unnoticed!!

Bobbi Duncan

Needed School Supplies:

Composition Notebooks
Notebook Paper
Spiral Notebooks
Large Back Packs
Pencils
Crayons
Colored Pencils
Glue Sticks
Erasers
Hand Sanitizer
Tissues
Rulers
Markers
Folders
Binders

Volunteers for August 21, & 28, and September 4, & 11, 2022

Communion Assistants	09/04	Bill Duncan Bobbi Duncan
	08/21	Darrell & Judy Querin
	08/28	Lois Reinhardt, Bob McFarland
Worship Greeters	09/04	Lillian Hudson, Judy Lamb
	09/11	Jim & Marian Hampton
	08/21	Wanda Steele
	08/28	Bob McFarland
Liturgists	09/04	Jason Traxler
	09/11	Susan Wingo
	08/21	Bob McFarland, Sherrill Bland
Ushers	08/28	Jay Hampton, Sam Foster
	09/04	Guy Davis, Delton Vereen
	09/11	Ray Parker, Phil Womble
	08/21	Don Wasness
	08/28	Phil Womble
Sound System	09/04	Guy Davis
	09/11	A.D. Page, Jr.
	08/21	Bill Duncan
Offering	08/28	Delton Vereen
Depositors	09/04	Peter Hamel
	09/11	Rebecca Parrish

Altar Guild - August: Connie Muzzy-Chair; Kay McBee, Caroline Greer, Susan Owens, Pat Campbell; **September:** Johnsie Page-Chair; Eileen Byers, Michele Bishop, Amy Schanen, Mary Page Yarborough

The Pastor's Pen

On the first Sunday I was here, I asked the congregation to turn in their Bibles to Jeremiah 33:3, that I had been meditating upon that verse, and asked them to do so as well. [Thus says the Lord:] "3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

I hope you are praying for God to show us hidden things we have not known. The danger in that prayer is that God may indeed answer it. That God may show us things that we have not known, that are new to us, that require us to change. This brings to mind the story of the old minister talking to the young minister.

Old: "You know the seven last words of Christ, don't ya?"

Young: "Of course!"

Old: "Do you know the seven last words of the church?"

Young: "Noooo..."

Old: Well, sometimes it goes like this: "We've never done it that way before." And sometimes like this: "That's the way we've always done it." Depending on which one suits their argument better.

I know change is difficult and sometimes uncomfortable. As we begin our season of ministry together and are confronted with the possibility of change, I want to offer two definitions that I find helpful. The first is *habit*. A *habit* is something you do, and you do it a particular way 'cause that's the way you've always done it. Next, *tradition*. A *tradition* is something you do, and you do it a particular way 'cause that's the way you've always done it, and you know why. You have a reason for it. What you do and how you do it has special meaning. As we go forward, I hope we will agree to talk about changing habits and celebrating traditions.

My friends, if coming to church is just a habit, if putting something in the offering plate is just a habit, if singing the hymns is just a habit, then you'll find it really hard to stand firm and hold fast. If all this is just a habit, let me tell you then that the rock of ages will seem really slippery when the storms of life come. Habits don't hold fast. Habits don't have much gripping power.

If, however, you come in response to God's call, if you are here and you know why, if your actions have meaning and purpose, if you come to love God and to offer yourself to him, then, as Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:17, you will be strengthened in every good work and word. And then you will find it easy to hold firm and stand fast.

Friends, change is happening at Saint Paul whether we want it to or not. We have a new pastor and a new choir director. These changes are a bit scary. At the same time, this means that God is offering us new opportunities.

Earlier, I said: "I hope you are praying for God to show us hidden things we have not known." But that's not all that God said. God said: "3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." God isn't just waiting to show us new things. God has great things that we have not known in store. So I ask you, prepare your heart and mind for new things. Be ready to step forward to do small things, large things, great and hidden things!

Be praying! Be ready! God has great and hidden things waiting for us!

Jeremy



Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on August 21st for the Glory of God by Jane May in loving memory of her daughter, Melanie May Hoffer..

Altar Flowers are given on August 28th for the Glory of God by Suzanne Metts in loving memory of her parents, George and Connie Ongemach.

Altar Flowers are given on September 4th for the Glory of God by daughters Kimberly, Sherry, Nancy and Susan in memory of their mother, Sally Kay.

Altar Flowers are given on September 11th for the Glory of God by Jim and Marian Hampton in honor of Abby Hampton's 15th birthday.

Narthex Flowers are given on September 11th for the Glory of God by Shirley Lee in memory of Francis Lee's birthday.

Upcoming Events

Every Wednesday	Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm
Every Sunday	Pickleball for Members 1:00-3:00pm UMYF 4:30pm (unless otherwise noted)
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Blood Pressure Checks ~11:15
2nd Monday of Each Month (not July & August)	Elsie Greer Circle 12:00pm-2pm
3rd Monday of Each Month (not July & August)	Blanche Greer Circle 10:00am-12pm
3rd Wednesday of Each Month	Anne Ratliff Circle 10:00am-11:30am
1st & 3rd Friday of Each Month	Threads of Agape 10:00am-12:00pm

Preschool Readers Needed!

One of the most fun ministries of this church is our wonderful preschool. For many years now, our congregation has supported the preschool by providing readers for the children. Readers will read to their assigned class every other week, on Tuesdays, at either 11:15am or 11:30am, for 5 to 10 minutes. The children absolutely love their readers and our readers get so much joy interacting with these precious children.

We are in need of TWO Regular readers and a few who would be willing to substitute. IF one of our regular readers has a conflict for their regular time, they may contact one of the subs on the list to help out that week. Books from which you read may be obtained from the public library, your own children's book library, or from what the preschool has available.

The reading program follows the District 7 academic calendar. We hope to start reading on Tuesday, August 23, and will continue until December 6.

Will you help? Please contact Barbara Barnes at barbara.barnes@charter.net or 864-583-4192 to volunteer or get more information.

Children & Youth Birthdays

August 28	Liam Cooke
August 31	David Lee Gentry
September 5	Jackson Bartholomew
September 9	Haddie-Lynn Scales
September 12	Abby Hampton
September 22	Nadia Davis

Epworth Is Our Ministry! Where do children go when DSS has taken them from their families because of abuse or neglect? Epworth is currently serving 354 children and families through their Residential and Independent Living programs, statewide Foster Care program, the Epworth Center for Counseling, the Early Intervention Center, and prevention services. Each of these children have found refuge in the ministry we share as United Methodists in SC. Epworth Children's Home has been welcoming children in Christ's name for 126 years through the generous support of churches like ours! We will participate in the annual Work Day Offering on Sunday, September 11th, to benefit the children who are served by Epworth. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry. For more information about Epworth Children's Home, visit www.epworthchildrenshome.org or find them on social media.

Let Us Welcome Our New Music Director, Charlie Faris!

Please join the SPRC and Choir in welcoming our new Music Director - Charlie Faris. Charlie comes to Saint Paul with a degree in music from Winthrop University. He has a background in church choral singing and leading and has been the choral teacher at Chesnee High School for the past several years.

Charlie brings his experience and his energy to our church family and we are very excited about what lies ahead for us in the future for our music ministry under his guidance.

Welcome Charlie!

Birthdays

August 17	Don Wasness, Allen Lassiter
August 18	Jason Traxler
August 20	Mike Byers, Brenda Ethington
August 21	Gregory Koller
August 22	Jody Stewart, Sam Foster, Audra Omer
August 23	Nell Davis
August 27	Suzanne Metts
August 29	Marilyn Sunderlin
August 30	Jean Ogden
September 1	Eileen Byers
September 7	Dinie Koller
September 9	Jean Long, Bobby Metts
September 11	Bill Duncan
September 12	Diane Farley
September 14	Henry Calhoun
September 17	Marlene Wasness
September 18	Shirley Hart, Ed Purdy
September 19	Lee Owens
September 21	Marilyn Glasgow
September 24	Richard Petty
September 25	Camille Whitlock
September 26	Bonita Cash
September 27	Marge Petty, Ginger Page
September 28	JoAnne Calhoun

Financials & Attendance

	<u>July 17</u>	<u>July 24</u>	
Received	\$8,790	\$7,354	
Non-Contributed	\$0	\$52,287.50	
Restricted	\$61	\$0	
Total	\$8,851	\$59,641.50	
Sunday School	40	33	
Worship Service	110	99	
	<u>July 31</u>	<u>August 7</u>	<u>August 14</u>
Received	\$3,515	\$14,327.11	\$28,111.74
Non-Contributed	\$0	\$0	\$0
Restricted	\$61	\$464	\$425
Total	\$3,576	\$14,791.11	\$28,536.74
Sunday School	33	45	41
Worship Service	100	117	109