



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

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

The Epistle

News For The Weeks Of
September 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2023

www.stpumc.org web

(864) 583-0850 fax

Return Services Requested

Ice Cream Social

Thank you to all our Ice Cream Social volunteers. It was a great success! Fern Powell, Susan Owens, Jill Thrift, and Mary and Ray Parker made delicious homemade ice cream and Marian Hampton donated cookies! We also had 2 wonderful helpers to set-up and clean-up, Michele Bishop and Kathy Rogers. They all helped to make this a wonderful Sunday afternoon of fellowship. We also had a few helpers who played a little pickleball to show everyone what it's all about! Our turnout was ~65 people. Thank you to all who helped make this happen!



The Pastor's Pen

Newton's First Law can be expressed this way: An object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an external force. The resistance either to being set in motion or to changing direction or speed is called inertia. You experience this concept every time you drive a car. The car will sit there until you put it in gear and press on the accelerator. Once it is in motion, you have to apply the brakes in order to stop it. (Unless you come into contact with an immovable object. Ouch!)

Now, why am I talking about physics? Because as individuals and as a church we have inertia, a resistance to change. If you are like me, it takes great effort to get off the couch or out of the recliner when I'm comfortable. Usually movement requires some powerful force to motivate me, such as hunger.

Why do we resist change? Several reasons come to mind. Change requires effort, and we tend to be lazy. It is easier just to keep things the way they are. Changes in our past haven't always gone well and we fear new changes will go badly. We fear failure and disappointment.

As a church, we've bought into the concept of inertia as it relates to a moving object...that it will keep on moving. As Ed Foreman says, "If you always do what you've done, you will always get what you've always got." While there is some truth in that statement, it doesn't always work. Imagine what would have happened if Royal had said, "We will only manufacture typewriters." Consider the car mentioned above, unless you continue to press the accelerator, eventually gravity will bring it to a halt. As a church, we are good at doing what we've always done, but time is slowing us down.

When I look out from the pulpit on Sunday mornings I see empty places. Places that were occupied by folks that have moved from this life into life eternal. Age and illness now keep some at home or in assisted living. Whether we like it or not, change is happening. The question is: How will we respond to those changes?

Motivational speaker Les Brown says: "You cannot expect to achieve new goals or move beyond your present circumstances unless you change." The question the Board of Stewards is asking us to consider is: "What changes will help Saint Paul reach the people in our community?" I invite you to join me in praying over that question. Praying that God will show us how to grow, in number, in mission, and in ministry.

Peter Raymond Scholtes was a priest, consultant, and author. In the 1960s, as a parish priest and choir leader, Scholtes wrote the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." Scholtes says: "People don't resist change, they resist being changed." Ouch!

My friends, the first change that must take place within our church is within ourselves. If we are only content to do the same things we are used to doing, to be the same people we have always been, then change will not occur. Let us dare to pray:

"Lord,
give me the courage to change. Open my eyes to see what you are calling me to be and to do."

Peace,



Jeremy

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 7:45 UMM Breakfast Meeting 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	4 LABOR DAY - Office Closed	5 Jackson Bartholomew	6 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 6:00 Pickleball Dinie Koller	8 Eileen Byers	9 Jean Long Bobby Metts Haddie-Lynn Scales
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service ~11:15 Blood Pressure Checks 11:15 Board of Stewards Mtg. 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	11 11:45 Elsie Greer Circle Bill Duncan	12 11:30 49ers Diane Farley Abby Hampton	13 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 5:45 Preschool Board Meeting 6:00 Pickleball Henry Calhoun	15 10:00 Threads of Agape	16 Nancy Bane
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Marlene Wasness	18 10:00 Blanche Greer Circle Ed Purdy	19 6:30 Renovate Bible Study Lee Owens	20 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 6:00 Pickleball Marilyn Glasgow	22 Nadia Davis	23 Nancy Bane
24 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Caring Casserole Drive 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Mike Byers Richard Petty	25 Camille Norris Whitlock	26 6:30 Renovate Bible Study Marie Harley Bonita Cash	27 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Marge Petty Ginger Page	28 6:00 Pickleball JoAnne Calhoun	29 Garner Nettles	30 Nancy Bane

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on September 3rd for the Glory of God by Deb Schumann in loving memory of her sister, Denise.



Altar Flowers are given on September 10th for the Glory of God by Marian and Jim Hampton in honor of Abby's 16th birthday.

Narthex Flowers are given on September 10th for the Glory of God by Shirley Lee in memory of Francis Lee's birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on September 17th for the Glory of God by Jane May in memory of her dear friend, Sonny Moss.

Altar Flowers are given on September 24th for the Glory of God by Zach and Vanesa Davis in honor of Nadia Grace Davis.

49ers: The 49ers will start back on Tuesday, September 11th at 11:30am in Poston Hall. We will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. This will be a "Social" to give us time to catch up after the summer. I will need a few volunteers to help set up and clean up. Please call me at 706-7936 if you can help. Susan Owens



Financials & Attendance

	July 30	August 6	August 13	August 20
Received	\$2,476	\$11,009	\$8,365.46	\$9,785
Non-Restricted	\$19.90	\$0	\$1,238.46	\$16.07
Restricted	\$400	\$1,440	\$461	\$360
Total	\$2,895.90	\$12,449	\$10,064.92	\$10,161.07
Sunday School	33	38	34	36
Worship	80	104	100	94

*If you would like to put church-related information in the Newsletter, please send an email with your "blurb" to churchsecretary@stpumc.org before the Newsletter deadline date, September 20th. Thank you!

Drayton Mills

Elementary School Supplies:

Hello Saint Paul, I just wanted to let you know that Caring with Crockpots, Backpack Buddies (Drayton Mills Elementary & McCracken Middle) and monthly meals at Hope House will continue this school year. Districts 7,6 and 3 and Hand in Hand contact me for Crockpots and Electric Skillet for those living in motels. Backpack Buddies food is taken to the schools on Fridays. This ministry will continue as long as there is funding. Thanks to Saint Paul's generosity we have been able to continue this ministry. All donations are deeply appreciated!

Once again, I will be taking school supply donations to Drayton Mills Elementary as they come in. There is a list of supplies needed outside the church office on the bins the supplies will be collected in.

Once again thanks for always being willing to help with Saint Paul's outreach ministry. Bobbi Duncan

Caring Casseroles Ministry

Saint Paul started a meal-providing mission project for the members of our church and staff. There's a need for food to be available for members in times of sickness and bereavement. We support mission projects for the community but we must also take care of our own members' needs.

Our next Casserole Drive is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th, 9:00-11:30am. Please bring your items to Poston Hall when you arrive.

If you would like to help out with this Ministry, our needs are as follows:

- 8" X 8" tin pans of cornbread, cakes, muffins, vegetable or meat casseroles, etc.
- 9" X 13" tin pans of vegetable casseroles, mac & cheese, green bean casserole, rice consomme, etc.
- Quart or pint containers of soup, chili, etc.
- Quiche, breads, pies, cakes
- Other tried & true food items which you've had success with.

We are also happy to accept monetary donations in lieu of food. Please note "Caring Casseroles" on the Memo line of your check and turn it in to our financial secretary. Thank you for your help with this important ministry!
Susan Owens and Michele Bishop