



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

The Pastor's Pen

Matthew 18

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

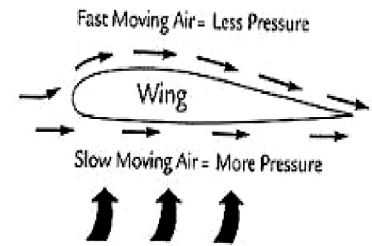
Adding Some Curve

Yesterday I was driving around and wondering what to give Lisa for the newsletter. [Seems like every week she is asking me for another Pastor's Pen.] So I was driving around, hoping for some kind of inspiration. Then, I saw a small airplane that seemed to be headed for the Spartanburg airport, but maybe not. Thank you, Lord, for answering my prayer.

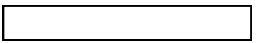
When I saw the plane, I had several thoughts, seemingly all at once: "I wonder where that plane is going?" "Where has it been?" "I wish I could fly a plane." "What was the name of that book I read when I was a kid about the American pilots in France during World War I?" (You know how it is when your mind wanders.) And then, "Bernoulli's Principle."

Have you ever flown? Have you ever looked out the plane window at the wing and wondered, "How does the wing lift the airplane off the ground?" The answer to that question is Bernoulli's Principle. Let me offer a brief and simplified explanation.

Notice in the picture of the wing the top edge is curved. The absolute distance from the front of the wing to the back edge is the same, but the path over the top of the wing is longer. The molecules that move above the wing are forced to move faster relative to the wing surface than those below the wing because the ones above are traveling a longer path. This causes a reduction in pressure above the wing and thus produces lift.



"Why in the world is Jeremy rambling on about airplanes and how they fly?" Because it occurs to me that we are like an airplane wing. Or, perhaps, we are more like potential airplane wings as in this image. Imagine this as our wing. Will it fly? No, because the air speed and pressure are the same above and below. If we want it to fly, we will have to add some curve.



The same is true for our spiritual lives. I don't know how many people tell me that they don't like change. They want things to just stay the same. But Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change..." We have to be willing to let change into our lives. We have to add some curve.

What kinds of things can we do to add curve to our lives? First and foremost we can add prayer. We talk about praying a great deal, but how much time do we actually spend in prayer each day. If we were asked to answer truthfully how many minutes we pray each day, would the answer embarrass us?

We add curve when we stretch ourselves to do more for other people. When we give a time and effort to easing someone else's burden.

We add curve when we trust in God and give up our worries. I didn't finish the quote earlier. "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children." Does Jesus mean that we should be childish and immature? No, He is saying that we must have faith as children do. We must trust in God's love and care as a little children trust their parents.

Now, the reason that seeing that small plane was the answer to my prayer? Let me ask you this: What happens when we add some curve? When we add it to the wing, we get lift. The same is true for our spiritual lives. As we add the curve, God will lift us up. So, if you are feeling a little flat, if your life has you down, then I say to you, "Add some curve!"

"And God will raise you up, on eagle's wings....."

Peace,



Jeremy

Youth Pickleball 5-week Clinic:

Ages 8-12 years old

October 14, 21 & 28

November 4 & 11

11:00AM to 12:30PM in the
Gym in Shuler Center

Cost: (1) donated canned good per session
For more information / Registration papers,
please contact Diane Remeta at 864-590-0169 or
email her at dremeta@att.net.
(Maximum of 20 players)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 3:00 Charge Conference 4:45 Youth United Jon Schanen Briggs Hardy	2	3 6:30 Renovate Bible Study Rick Harward	4 6:30 Choir Rehearsal Anne Ratliff	5	6 10:00 Threads of Agape	7
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service ~11:15 Church Planning Council 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United Trish Ratliff	9 11:45 Elsie Greer Circle	10 11:30 49ers 6:30 Renovate Bible Study 7:00 Alice Walker Circle (outside venue) Olivia Bravo	11 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	12 Preschool FALL FESTIVAL	13 Jesse Cooksey	14 5-week Pickleball Clinic for Youth begins 11:00am-12:30pm Sylvia Robertson Suzanne Seager
15 Preschool Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	16 10:00 Blanche Greer Circle Steve Gurganus	17 6:30 Renovate Bible Study Cathy Boss	18 Newsletter Deadline 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	19 5:45 PS Board Meeting	20 10:00 Threads of Agape	21 5-week Pickleball Clinic for Youth Week 2 11:00am-12:30pm Donna Gurganus
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	23 Madison Cooksey	24 6:30 Renovate Bible Study Clarissa Vereen	25 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	26 5:30 Church Fellowship Meal Rod Harley Page Candler Stephanie Davis	27	28 5-week Pickleball Clinic for Youth Week 3 11:00am-12:30pm
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 1:00 Pickleball for Members 4:45 Youth United	30 Rick Pennebaker Tony Ravan Rocky Herdinar	31 HALLOWEEN Andy Horton Barrett Hardy Devin Purdy				

Altar & Narthex Flowers

Altar Flowers are given on October 8th for the Glory of God by Beth Stott and Melanie Owen in memory of their parents, Shirley and Bobby Hart.



Narthex Flowers are given on October 22nd for the Glory of God by Cyndi Hutchens Wilson in loving memory of her son, Colby Wilson's, birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on October 29th for the Glory of God by Jack and Karen Moyer in memory of Jack's parents, Gene and Gladys Moyer.

World Communion Sunday,

October 1: The World Communion Sunday offering funds graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs. Please give generously on Sunday, October 1st.

49ers: The 49ers are meeting again! Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th at 11:30am in Poston Hall. We will provide fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. 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

The Blanche Greer Circle will meet on Monday, October 16th, at 10:00 AM in Poston Hall. Plans will be discussed for the year. All interested women are invited. Light refreshment will be served. Women may bring any toiletries for the Angel's Charge Ministry.

The Alice Walker Circle will also be meeting on Monday, October 16th, at 6:30 PM, at the home of Cindy Hart.

*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!

The Church Planning Council will meet on Sunday, October 8, after worship service, 11:15am until 12:00Noon in Room 104. Please plan to attend.

The Faith Initiative To End Child Poverty, Spartanburg, is a consortium of churches

and congregations working to end child poverty in Spartanburg. It is focused on education, and ESPECIALLY how our congregations can best support students and educators. This group is focusing on what churches are doing, collaboration opportunities between our many congregations and organizations, identification of gaps in outreach efforts, etc. The need is great regarding child poverty in Spartanburg. We can do better, together, by building a culture of connection and sharing.

The Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty will host a summit on Thursday, October 19, 8:30am-2:00pm at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (502 S. Daniel Morgan Ave., Spartanburg, SC 29306). A light breakfast and lunch will be served at no cost to attendees.

A special invitation is extended to congregations and educators throughout Spartanburg County who are partnered to serve students in schools, just as we do at Saint Paul! ALL are welcome! If you are interested in attending, please send an email to Scott Neely (neelysj@gmail.com). If you have questions or need further information, please contact Carol Mabry at (864) 345-3428 or email: cjmbjm@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!



Financials & Attendance

	Aug. 27	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Received	\$2,970	\$30,327.34	\$9,095	\$2,979	\$3,326
Non-Restricted	\$28	\$112	\$16.75	\$30	\$24
Restricted	\$316	\$421	\$598	\$460	\$570
Total	\$3,286.28	\$30,770.34	\$9,700.75	\$3,469	\$3,920
Sunday School	33	30	33	28	39
Worship	89	87	96	79	76