

Thank you for Serving!		
	Today – September 21	Next Sunday – September 28
LITURGIST:	Ross Mecham	Priscilla Rollins
USHERS:	David Johnson & Debbie Lawrence	Les & Sonia Badillo
ACOLYTES:	Ezra Arthur	Daphne Arthur
SECURITY TEAM:	David Linkous & David Johnson	David Linkous & David Johnson
ALTAR TEAM:	Mike & Sherri Derflinger	Mike & Sherri Derflinger

This Week at St. Paul		
Sun, Sept 21	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM-9:50AM
	Worship Service	10:00AM
Mon, Sept 22	Baby Shop Pack Up Orders	10:00AM-12:00PM
	Finance, JOY Classroom	7:00PM
Tues, Sept 23	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM-8:00PM
Wed, Sept 24	Wonderful Wednesday	
	Potluck Meal	6:00PM
	Community Children’s Choir	6:30PM-7:00PM
	Guest Presenter Dr. Rianne Bolin of RU	6:30PM-7:00PM
	Chancel Choir	7:15PM-8:30PM
	Life Recovery Ministry, JOY Classroom	7:00PM
Next Week		
Sun, Sept 28	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM- 9:50AM
	Worship Service – Homecoming	10:00AM
	Fellowship Meal after Worship, FH	
	Pack 145 Meeting, FH & Classrooms	2:00PM
Mon, Sept 29	Baby Shop Pack Up Orders	10:00AM-12:00PM
Tues, Sept 30	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM-8:00PM
Wed, Oct 1	Wonderful Wednesday	
	Potluck Meal	6:00PM
	Community Children’s Choir	6:30PM-7:00PM
	Guest Presenter, Women’s Resource Center	6:30PM-7:00PM
	Chancel Choir	7:15PM-8:30PM
	Life Recovery Ministry, JOY Classroom	7:00PM
Thurs, Oct 2	Baby Shop Pack Up Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM
Fri, Oct 3	Baby Shop Pack Up Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM
Sat, Oct 4	Baby Shop Client Pick Up	9:30AM-12:00PM

Mike Derflinger, Pastor, mikederflinger@vaumc.org, 540-631-4469
Carol Slaughter, Administrative Assistant, office@stpaulvaumc.org, 540-382-2410
Carolyn Mills, Organist & Director of Choirs, millsmusic@hotmail.com
Robin Raines, Custodian, rainesrobin88@yahoo.com



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 Church office hours Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:30PM

Public page - <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulcбург>
 Private page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulvaumc>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA>

St Paul envisions
“Growing into a most Vibrant, Joyful Christian Community,
Unified in Loving Service to our Neighbors, for the Glory of God.”
 --Vision Statement, approved by Church Council, 2018—

September 21, 2025	Season: Pentecost	Ten O’Clock
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Please ask an usher for assistance for handicap access.
 Please turn your cell phone off or mute during worship.

***Please stand for these acts of worship as you are able.**
Welcome! There are Scriptures that Pastors might not normally preach on. Such is the case today as we look at The Story of the Crooked Manager. God bless you as we worship.

Gathering & Prelude	“How Firm a Foundation”	Carolyn Mills
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Welcome Pastor Mike Derflinger

*Call to Worship Liturgist Ross Mecham
 Liturgist: When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...
People: Help us, God, for the glory of your name!
 Liturgist: When we question which way to go and how to follow God’s path for us...
People: Give us discernment, God, for the glory of your name!
 Liturgist: When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God’s embrace...
People: Give us patience, God, for the glory of your name!
 Liturgist: We come ready to listen and discern God’s help that meets us right where we are.
People: Give us joy, God, to extend your love to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name!

*Songs	“He is Exalted” (2x, on screen only)	Liturgist Ross Mecham
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♪152 **“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”, all vv.**

*Unison Scripture	1 Timothy 2:1-6	Liturgist Ross Mecham
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Anthem	“ <i>For Where Love Is, There Is God</i> ”	Chancel Choir
Children’s Message	God Stays with Me! <i>Children may go to Children’s Church at this time.</i>	Pastor Mike Derflinger
Announcements and Sharing our Joys and Concerns		Pastor Mike Derflinger
Unison Prayer of Confession and Action		Liturgist Ross Mecham
Loving and Gracious God, Tender One to all who call upon you with repentant and believing hearts: bless us, we pray, with your presence this day. Teach the little ones who have gathered to learn your ways. Inspire those who seek your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak. Remind us that we have a part in helping these actions occur. Fill our hearts with your praise and lead us in holiness and a right standing now and in the hours to come. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.		
<i>Individual, silent prayers.</i>		
Words of Assurance		
After each petition, all respond: <i>Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayer.</i>		
The Lord’s Prayer		
Instrumental	“ <i>Leaning on the Everlasting Arms</i> ”	Carolyn Mills
Scripture	Luke 16:1-13	Liturgist Ross Mecham
Message	The Story of the Crooked Manager	Pastor Mike Derflinger
Offertory Prayer	<i>from Psalm 4</i>	Liturgist Ross Mecham
Heavenly Father, I know that you are gracious to me! You hear my prayers and when I am in trouble again. So I will commune with You in my heart; I will be angry but not sin; I will give you an offering that is right and worthy. At day’s end, I will be ready for sound sleep. You, God, have put my life back together. Amen.		
Offertory	“ <i>I Am Thine, O Lord</i> ”	Carolyn Mills
*Doxology		
*Recap		
*Closing Song	♪206 “I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”, all vv.	
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“ <i>I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me</i> ”	Carolyn Mills

If you are new to St. Paul, please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad in the pew. How may we serve you? Check the boxes which apply to you and leave it in the pew, and leave us a best contact phone and email. Thank you.

You can schedule a visit with Pastor Mike in your home or in the church office. Please call the church office or speak with Pastor Mike to arrange a visit. Phone call visits can also be scheduled for your convenience.

September 21, 2025	Luke 16:1-13	Message Notes

September is Staff Appreciation Month! We would like to take this opportunity to recognize our staff, and thank them for their years of service at St. Paul.
Carolyn Mills - 16 years
Robin Raines - 15 years
Carol Slaughter - 9 years
Thank you to each of our staff members, who keep St. Paul running smoothly. We appreciate you!
~ SPRC

Wonderful Wednesdays Times of Sharing! All sharing times 6:30-7:00.
Dinner is 6:00-6:30. Children’s Community Choir meets from 6:30-7:00.
The format is a 15-20 minutes sharing with a Q&A afterwards in the fellowship hall.
Sherri King will receive McDonald’s Happy Meal orders for the kids.

09/24: Dr. Riane Bolin of RU shares what is happening in the Criminal Justice programs there and what is being offered in our communities. Riane has sung in the past two Cantatas and their two children are in the community children's choir.
10/01: Outreach Wellness Coordinator from Women’s Resource Center.
10/08: Connie Bell and Karen Birchfield on our Prayer Shawl Ministry.
10/15: open.
10/22: Elizabeth Wray, Commission on Aging.
10/29: CHS Homecoming parade. No WW. Carolyn will decide about chancel choir rehearsal.
Interested in sharing? Contact Sherri King at 304-320-1368!

The first floor of the Activities Building is closed until further notice. We have some water damage in the kitchen and are addressing it. Groups scheduled to use the AB are being offered the fellowship hall and classrooms. Life Recovery Group will relocate to meet in the JOY classroom on WW until further notice.
~ Board of Trustees

Please take notice of the new ground covering on our playground. The playground is the property of Saint Paul and used by our Preschool and church family, and widely used by children and families in our community. The work was done by S and M Lawn and Landscaping. Many thanks to our Board of Trustees and the “sweat equity” by several members!

Until further notice **DO NOT OPEN ANY WINDOWS IN THE CHURCH.** Will give notice when we can open windows again. Thanks, Patsy

Many thanks to our Board of Trustees and everyone who has worked on getting our new outdoor digital sign up and running! Todd Fitch and Brooks Arthur are monitoring it and receiving content for display, and Carol Slaughter is backup.

Sabrina Porter has stepped up to serve as Youth Director on an interim basis as Staff-Parish Relations drafts a job description for the staff position of Children’s and Youth Programs/ Media Coordinator. This is a working position title. When the draft is complete, SPR will meet with the families of St. Paul for further input.

Stewardship Campaign for 2025

36 families in 37 households comprising 56 people for a total of \$176,944. You can turn in an Estimate of Giving Card for the remainder of 2025. Thank you.

September Stewardship

AMOUNT NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER \$29,379. We have four Sundays in September. September Offering Counters: Doris Elliott, Wayne Bishop

TOTAL SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP	09/14	Total
General Fund – Offerings and Loose Plate	\$4,780	\$7,993
General Fund – Online Giving	\$2,242.57	\$3,842.20

SPECIAL OFFERINGS	09/14	Total
Communion Offering (Annual Conference Ministries)	\$10	\$59
Christiansburg Fire Dept.	\$100	\$100
Baby Shop	\$200	\$200

To give an offering, you may place your gift in one of the offering plates located at the front of the sanctuary, or in the narthex (entrance). You can also mail it to the church office, or give online. We invite you to use the offering envelopes in the pew. God bless you!

Worship Attendance September 14, 2025				
In-Person Adults	Children’s Church	Livestreaming (Real Time)	YouTube (Recorded)	Total Worship
61	6	12	86	165

PRAYER LIST – Team Mark is our Caring Team this week
SPUMC Congregation, friends, family members and neighbors

Cancer Patients: Tommy Flinchum, Shirley Hodge, Gary Sparks
Roger Adkins, Loran Albin, Rob Bedford, Stephanie Boyd, Jennifer Canevari, Tina Cooper, Jamie Epperly, Tommy Harris, Lynn Huether (niece of Jim Mattox), Ruth Jones, Fran Kreider, Danny Lucas, Dana Nelson, Billy Proffitt, Sasha Simpkins’ mother

Parkinson’s: Jim Clark, Clara Sowers Lynn Huether niece of Jim Mattox

Alzheimer’s: Susan Chase, Roger Woolwine
Gerald Mills

Health Issues: Peggy Chafin, Scottie Dickenson, Ed Hayes, Anna Lee Lawrence, Becca King-Mallory, Bill Streich
Todd Brooks, Sherry Burke, the family of Jean & Tommy Dalton, Rob Holland, Jonathon Hudson (leg amputation) and his wife Julie, Tim & Jackie Rosche (Jackie has dementia), Tina Smith, Wayne Spencer, Stephanie Turner, Al & Louise Whealton, Mary & Don Wiggett, Sue Williams

Stroke: Bob Chapin (in May), Vickie Charlton, Bonnie Cochran, Jordan McCoy

Pregnancy: Eliza Kerr (December), Tara Underwood (high risk, 6 wks to go)

Anticipating Surgery: Sandra Hayes 10/6, thymus
Stephanie Turner 9/22 3 MRI’s, 9/25 surgery on her arm

Unspoken:
Amy Bishop

Recuperating from Surgery at Home: Nancy Mattox

Hospitalized: Bonnie Cochran, Radford Hospital with blood clots in her legs

Praises: *birth of Imani Mave Mason, 2nd granddaughter of Mace & Louise Mason.*

Youth & Children:
Claire Shores, 3, leukemia, Ellie Johnson, injured elbow

Grieving:
Family of Dude Griffith

If you wish to place someone on the prayer list for prayer only, please contact the church office, or write their name on the attendance pad with “prayer” after their name. If a person would like to receive ministry from our caring teams (cards, phone calls, visits, food, etc.) please list an address/phone number for our caring teams. Thank you!

Flowers on the altar today are in celebration of the 62nd wedding anniversary of Gary and Patsy Sparks. GOD IS GOOD!

Birthday Celebrations this week – Ron Barrett & Butch Phillips on September 21st; Barbara DeHart & Marjorie Vitale on September 22nd; Dolores Brockenbrough & Chuck Nelson on September 23rd; Sandra Collins on September 25th; Jackie Buhrdorf on September 26th; Suzanne Hamrick & Ryan Hamrick on September 27th.
Happy Birthday to all!

We are creating a parent’s lounge in room 104. This will be a nicer, comfortable room where parents can relax as their kids rehearse next door in the community children’s choir room. Room 104 will also be used for small groups to meet.

We need another Altar Team in 2026. Please speak with Pastor Mike

Finance meeting Monday, September 22nd 7:00PM in the Joy classroom.

Please remember our members in assisted living:

Ruth Boothe, Rm 308, Kroontje Health Care Center, 1000 Litton Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060, Cell: 919-906-5097

Wayne & Dolores Brockenbrough, Apt.217, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Susan Chase, rm.106, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct., Christiansburg, VA 24073

Kathy Davis, 328 Fieldstone Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540-250-2163 - mail cards to Rachel Link, 1534 Catawba Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060)

Marg Modlin, 3719 Knollridge Rd., Salem, VA 24153

Wilma Snuffer, Q6, 3939 Daugherty Rd., Salem, VA 24153

Margaret Woolwine, rm 235, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr., Blacksburg, VA 24060

Roger & Brenda Woolwine, Manchester Commons – Woodside Place, 6351 West Lake Road, Erie, PA 16505 (Brenda’s Cell Number: 540-320-0986)

And our dear friends and neighbors:

Former Pastor: Rev. Art & Willie Wingfield, 650 N Jefferson St., Apt. 218, Roanoke, VA 24016

Mary Childress, Rm 113, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct., Christiansburg, VA 24073

The choir year is beginning nicely! The Chancel Choir is such a great group of people! I NEED their good fellowship in my week! If you are looking for a meaningful place to serve, choir could be just what you need! I know that it’s what I need for my week...the fellowship and the joy in being together is so nice. Join us!
Our Community Children’s Choir has so much joy! We sang songs, clapped rhythms, played lots of instruments and enjoyed movement activities. We had 12 children (6 were new children to come and see what we are about!) We also had both boys who aged out of choir decide to join us as youth helpers!
~ Carolyn Mills

September is National Recovery Month Theme: Recovery is REAL (Restoring Every Aspect of Life)

Week 4: Purpose
This week focuses on how a sense of purpose drives positive change and fosters resilience.
Key Messages:

- Be part of other people’s recovery journeys.
- Many voices, multiple pathways, one hope. Where there is hope, there is recovery. Everyone can play a role in recovery – what’s yours?
- You are worthy of joy. It is closer than you think.
- You are not alone. Building social networks and a sense of community can support recovery. Together, we can make a difference.

Are your friends or family looking for a great space to host their next event or meeting?
Our Activities Building offers a spacious, well-maintained venue at a very reasonable price, making it an excellent alternative to other rental options in the area. We highly recommend you consider referring our Activities Building for your friend’s and family's next event—it’s a great choice for both their budget and their experience! Please contact the church office for the facility use agreement.
~ The Stewardship Committee

Our thanks to everyone who stayed after worship last Sunday to attend the Baby Shop Open House and the sharing on youth ministry and children’s ministry!

Our Homecoming is September 28th! Our theme is Missions. The Community Children’s Choir will sing. Our meal will be catered by Mission BBQ. All you have to do is come to worship and to eat! How does that sound?! See you here on the 28th!
We will receive a love offering at Homecoming to benefit our Community Children’s Choir. Right now we’re thinking a quality polo shirt and khaki outfit for each child. They will wear them when they sing in church, nursing homes, and other venues. Thank you for supporting the Community Children’s Choir.