

THE EPISTLE



February

Love

It's February and LOVE is in the air! Yes, some of you are making a note right now to purchase a card or other token of love for someone in your life as Valentine's Day is fast approaching.

To love and to be loved are integral parts of how God has created us. We are made for relationships, both with God and with others. When asked by the Pharisees to name the greatest commandment, Jesus responded, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* (Matthew 22:37-40 ESV) Through Jesus, we see more clearly how it looks to love God and to love others.

This month we have an unusual opportunity to consider what loving God and loving others requires. On February 14, we will simultaneously celebrate love on Valentine's Day AND acknowledge our sinfulness and mortality as we observe Ash Wednesday. At first glance, these may appear to be very different or even opposite kinds of observances. However, upon closer examination, I would suggest that our ability to love God and others begins with an acknowledgment of our sinfulness and mortality, thus leading us to the realization that it is only through God's grace that we can move beyond our human condition to a place where we can receive God's love and then share it with others.

As we travel through Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day and on into the Lenten season, we will explore together different aspects of God's amazing love. Through the Old Testament lectionary readings for these weeks, we will consider God's faithfulness, generosity, holiness, graciousness, and patience.

Are these also words that describe your love for God and others? Do they name some ways in which you need to grow in love? How is God shaping you into a more loving person?

I look forward to exploring these questions with you in worship this month.

With LOVE,

Pastor Susan

Reaching New People Seminar

How exciting it is to have ten attendees to register for the Reaching New People Seminar on **February 2-3**. We will leave the church parking lot at **3:30 P.M.** on Friday, **February 2**, in order to sign-up, get something to drink, and be ready to start at 5 P.M. This is an exciting time in our church as we will learn from Jim Griffith and Paul Nickerson how to reach new people and then will have the option of being coached by Paul in the year ahead on how to implement what we have learned.

Young Adult Fellowship

The Young Adults will meet at the **parsonage** on **February 4**, at **6 P.M.**

UMW

The Louise Best Circle will meet on **February 6**, at **3 P.M.** in the **Social Hall**.

Methodist Men's Group

The Methodist Men's Group will meet at **Butler UMC** on Thursday, **February 8**, at **6:30 P.M.** for fellowship and at **7:00 P.M.** for a meal and a program.

Observance of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent and emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The receiving of ashes helps us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The ashes placed on our forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for our sins.

The morning of **February 14**, from **6:30-7:45 A.M.** you are invited to **drive by St. Paul** to receive the **Imposition of Ashes** on your way to work along with a cup of coffee.

At **noon** on **February 14**, you are invited to the Community Ash Wednesday service at **St. Paul UMC** and to lunch in the Family Life Center following the service.

Church Council

Council will meet Wednesday, **February 21**, at **7 P.M.** in the **Social Hall**.

Backpack Ministry—Note Time Change

Join us in the **Family Life Center** on Thursday, **February 22**, at **4 P.M.** to pack the food for the children in Saluda County. We will meet at 4:00 instead of 5:00 so that we can finish before Bible Study begins. A light meal will be served. **ALL** are invited.

Safe Sanctuary

In order to be in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary Policy, we need to insure that all volunteers working with children, youth, and vulnerable adults have received Safe Sanctuary training, have a background check, have received and read a copy of the policy and then signed the covenant, and signed a photo release form.

Parents of children attending GIG Kids and UMYF must sign and return a participation and medical authorization form and a photo release form.

When you receive this information, please return it in a timely manner .

Be an Encouragement to Others—Volunteer

1—COUNCIL ON AGING

The Saluda Campus for the Council on Aging is need of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diane Williams at 864-554-5499.

2—MEDICAL SERVICES OF AMERICA HOSPICE

Become a Hospice volunteer by donating one hour of your time, one to four times a month, in the Saluda area. Medical Services of America Hospice volunteers offer a variety of services. Lend your heart and hands to help lift their burdens. More information is available on the bulletin board.

Trustee Report

Several church repairs may have been completed by the time you read this, but others may be in progress or in the future.

One of our members will replace the ceiling outside of the elevator on the second floor. James Hardy Crouch has been hired to paint after the installation is completed.

Dale Edgerley' Pest Control won the bid for extermination of pests and termite treatment for both the parsonage and church buildings. Combining the services and changing exterminators reduced the total bill.

The Sanctuary porch will be sand-blasted and repainted. This is at no cost to us, since the paint contractor assumes that responsibility.

Chairs with padding have been ordered for the former Social Hall. Those attending Bible Study and/or meetings will be more comfortable with these additions.

Another leak was repaired in the roof. Please consider giving part of your tithe to Capital Improvements. Those funds may be needed for further repairs to our church and parsonage.

Anne Watkin's former office has been designated for the Christmas Box project. The room will also be used for storage for seasonal decorations.

Please report to a Trustee anything that you believe needs to be addressed concerning the grounds and buildings. The committee members want St. Paul to be maintained properly.

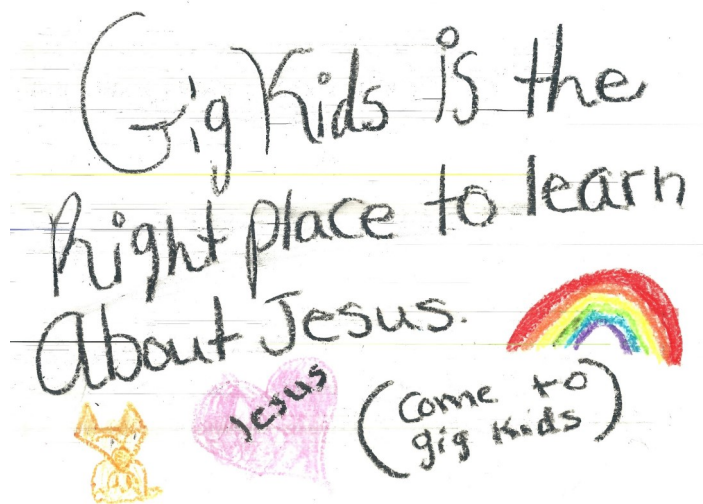
Asbury Hills Service Weekend

Anyone attending the Hands and Feet Service Weekend, please turn your check into the church office as soon as possible made payable to St. Paul in the amount of \$40. Please remember to mark the memo for Asbury Hills.

Growing in God Kids

GIG Kids will continue to meet on Sunday night at 6 P.M. every week in the **Social Hall**.

We have had some perfect attendance by several and we are so proud of them!



Artwork by Carmellia Matthews



Artwork by Grace Stover

Welcome

We welcome Judy Proctor as our new Financial Administrator. We look forward to having her on our staff.

Prayer List

Nursing Home: Dorothy Phillips, Ann Thompson, Billy Coleman, Clyde Wade, Kathleen Padgett, Irene Riddle

Shut Ins: Ruby Herlong, Linda Beber, Grace Givens

Members: Rose Eva Rankin, Peg Bolton, Bill Perkins, Eileen Quattlebaum, Billy Higbee, Patsy Quattlebaum, Allene Able, Gina Fingerlin, Fairy Smith, Bela Herlong, Helen Humphries

Friends and Family: Charlie Beber, Reba Bodie, Tyler Stegall, Russell Durst, Carol Snipes and her mother, Skylar Knight, Jessica Suggs, Andrea Stevens, Gloria Edwards, John Higgins, Harriett Ryan, Mike Skinner, Butch Bledsoe, Kayla Matthews, Chuck and Sandra Collard, Faculty and Students, Joyce Fingerlin, Rich Coots, Evelyn Stewart, Wayne Riddle, Clyde Hendrix, James Andrews, David McDaniel, Austin Harding, Jennifer Yawn, Mary Lee Butler, Bernard and Marsue Brazell

Those Battling Cancer: Calvin Martin, Billy Wall, Sheryl Maffett, Pam Williams, Ron Depin, Annette Latham, Anthony Corley, Kathy Dodgen, Fred Parkman, Patty Coleman, Myra Bennett, Delores Lester, Lucy Ackerman Higgins, Cyndi Keats, Harvey Sauls, Arnold Stone, Richard Eargle, Peewee Bledsoe, Brenda Coleman, Joye Hutto, Charles Taylor, Nancy Ann Coleman Wooten, Josh Enlow, Brad Coleman, Deborah Minick, Chad Arant, Beth Sauls, Brenda Shorter

Military: Chris Crouch, Chuck Bearon, Ryan Caulder, Robbie Grafton, Brandon Bryan, Shannon Corley, Parker Hite, Patrick Wilson, Matthew Rollins, Ben Walker

Condolences

The pastor, staff, and congregation extend loving sympathy to the family of Mike and Patti Stevens.

Thank You

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits, calls and food. I truly appreciate your kind thoughts. In Christ's family there is so much comfort. Love,
Mary Ann Bayer

Birthdays and Anniversaries

February

2-Doris Goff, Debra Shealy
3-Gideon McGrew-Keller
4-James Hardy Crouch, Rob Shealy
6-McKenzie Wertz, M/M John White
8-Lois DeLoache
9-Lee Wertz
10-Colton Wilson, Grace Givens
11-Alice Dawn Herlong
15-Nicholas Horne, Ryan Fingerlin
17-Benjoy Bradshaw
21-Betsy Pope
22-Hunter Riggs Trotter
23-Walker Rollins
24-Ryleigh Elizabeth Gullede
27-John Mac White
28-Jackson Prewett

Memorials

In memory of Mike Stevens by M/M Dan Guy, Kay Rankin, Bob & Gwen Shealy, Allene Able, M/M Walker Beddoes, M/M Mike DeLoache & Allison, M/M Wilbur Humphries, Patsy Quattlebaum, David Paul Johnson, Alvin & Reatta Cohen, Lynn Anderson, Caroline Herlong, Joe & Julia Taylor

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stevens by M/M Hascal Goff, Elizabeth & Herman Shealy, Pyracantha Garden Club, Gwen & Barney Gunnells

Thank You

The families of Michael and Patti Stevens greatly appreciate the use of St. Paul UMC's sanctuary and FLC for Michael's service, meal, and visitation and FLC for Patti's family meal one week later. Pastor Susan and St. Paul's members truly opened up their hearts and prayers for us in our dire time of need—losing both of them six days apart was extremely hard. So much love and caring has been shown us. We are grateful to God for their lives and many blessings to all of us. Thank you!!

February 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 Covenant Bible Study 6:15-8:15 PM in SH	2 Reaching New People Seminar Grace UMC in N. Augusta	3
4 Communion GIG Kids 6 PM in SH Young Adult Fellowship at parsonage 6 PM	5	6 Louise Best Circle 3 PM in SH	7 Covenant Bible Study 10-noon in SH	8 Covenant Bible Study 6:15-8:15 PM in SH	9	10
11 GIG Kids 6 PM in SH	12 Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM in SH	13	14 Drive-thru Ashes & Coffee 6:30-7:45 AM Covenant Bible Study 10-noon in SH Ash Wednesday Service at St. Paul 12 noon, followed by lunch	15 Covenant Bible Study 6:15-8:15 PM in SH	16	17 Asbury Hills Hands & Feet Service Weekend
18 GIG Kids 6 PM in SH	19	20	21 Covenant Bible Study 10-noon in SH Lenten Service	22 Covenant Bible Study 6:15-8:15 PM in SH	23	24 Family Life Center Reserved
25 GIG Kids 6 PM in SH	26 Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM in SH	27	28 Covenant Bible Study 10-noon in SH			

St. Paul United Methodist Church

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Community Lenten Services 2018 *People of God, Prepare for Amazing Grace!*



The community is invited to join at noon each Wednesday in Lent for worship, 12:30 for lunch and fellowship. An offering of financial or canned goods will be received and then given to Christ Central.

As our community widens in God's Grace, let us come together as sisters and brothers in Christ!

<u>Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14</u>	St. Paul UMC	Susan Maddox
<u>February 21</u>	Red Bank Baptist	Stacey Smith
<u>February 28</u>	Saluda Baptist	Paul Holcombe
<u>March 7</u>	Zoar UMC	Louie Murray
<u>March 14</u>	Saluda Pentecostal Holiness	Jim Glander
<u>March 21</u>	Mt. Pleasant Lutheran	Ken Freeman