



“For you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard.” Acts 22:15

In this month of May, many individuals will be celebrating a major milestone in life with a graduation ceremony from high school or college. No doubt many graduation speeches given this month will encourage the graduates to seize opportunities that are now before them and to go forth and change the world for the better in some way.

In his book Coming Together Around What Matters Most, author Thomas J. Bickerton includes a chapter entitled “Seizing the Opportunity Before You”. In this chapter, Bickerton shares a story about a time when several clergy families went on vacation together. As they had all gathered at a restaurant for dinner one evening, the debate arose around the table about who should pray the blessing over the food? Should it be one of the clergy? Should a clergy spouse step up and offer the blessing? Or perhaps one of the children? As the debate continued, suddenly a voice said, “I will pray for you.” It turns out that the voice belonged to the waitress, who joined hands with the two nearest people in the group and began to pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the food she was about to serve them.

When the prayer ended, someone in the group asked her about the courage it took to offer herself in this way. She explained that at her church they encourage the parishioners to be courageous and bold in offering a public witness of their faith. As she heard them debating about who would pray, she thought to herself, “Why not me?” She seized the opportunity and provided a blessing the group will likely not soon forget.

Often, we defer prayer and other acts of public witnessing to those “called” to ministry. Yet everyone of us is “called” to a ministry that bears witness to the love of God in our hearts. This witness may be a well-thought-out strategy or a simple, spontaneous prayer or action.

Ask God today to give you the courage to increase your public witness. Be looking for those times when you can seize an opportunity to bless someone with the grace and love of God. You might just be surprised at how God can and will use you!

Why not you? Why not today?

With courage and grace,
Pastor Susan

Lord, give me the courage and the opportunity to bless someone’s life today. Use me to be an instrument of your will. Amen.

Welcome Our New Member Epworth's Annual Offering

We welcome Kim Adams Lake to our family of believers. Kim joined St. Paul UMC on April 22, 2018 by transfer from Hollywood Baptist.

Condolences

The pastor, staff, and congregation extend loving sympathy to the families of

- ◆ Ted Altman, uncle to Russell Altman
- ◆ Mickey Smith, brother to Jim Smith
- ◆ Angell Adams, sister-in-law to Bela Herlong and Caroline Herlong
- ◆ Paulette Corley Hendrix, sister to Gwen Shealy

National Day of Prayer

Prayer brings UNITY.

Let's pray for the next great move of
God in America.

The theme, **Pray for America--UNITY**, is based upon

Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Please join us for
National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 3, 6:30-8:00 A.M.
Drive by Prayer, Coffee, and Doughnuts
In front of the church

United Methodist Women

The Louise Best Circle will meet Tuesday, May 8, at 3 P.M. in the Social Hall.

Church Council

Council will meet Wednesday, May 16, at 7 P.M. in the Social Hall.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13, and it's a day that brings up a variety of emotions for all of us. For the children at Epworth Children's Home, these emotions are front and center as they go through this time of year without their mothers. It is our role as Methodists to make sure that on Mother's Day and every day, the children at Epworth have everything they need to be loved and grow up happy and healthy.

Epworth is our ministry. It's a place that we can be proud to support. We, as United Methodists, offer children at Epworth safety and security by surrounding them with loving, Christian adults like the Epworth tutors, counselors, pastors, mentors and cottage parents. Epworth does not receive apportionments from the United Methodist Conference; this is our opportunity to support this ministry. As you prayerfully consider the gift God is calling you to share with Epworth, I ask you to remember the children at Epworth and give generously.

Graduation Recognition

We will honor our graduates on May 20 during our worship service. We will have refreshments immediately after church on the front lawn.

Our graduates are:

Ethan Altman, Saluda High School

McKenzie Wertz, Saluda High School

William Yonce, Saluda High School

Allie Able, Furman University

We look forward to gathering on May 20 to celebrate this important milestone in the lives of our graduates.

G.I.G. Kids

G.I.G. Kids will meet Sunday, May 20, at 6 P.M. at Saluda Park.

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, Bela Herlong, Helen Humphries, Kim Hopkins, Lois DeLoache, Viola Goff, Russell Altman, Fairy Smith

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, Faculty and Students, Joyce Fingerlin, Evelyn Stewart, Wayne Riddle, Clyde Hendrix, Austin Harding, Jennifer Yawn, Mary Lee Butler, James Andrews, Tony Mauldin, Jonathan Goodman, Maverick and Stetson Durst, Rudolph Minick, The family of Dale Hallman, The Saluda Police Department, Colton and Jennifer Wilson and twin sons-Henry and Elias, the family of Cyndi Keats

Those Battling Cancer: 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, Richard Eargle, Joye Hutto, Charles Taylor, Nancy Ann Coleman Wooten, Josh Enlow, Brad Coleman, Deborah Minick, Chad Arant, Beth Sauls, Jeanne Ulmer

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

Memorials

In memory of Ted Altman and Mickey Smith by Patsy Quattlebaum

In memory of Lee Ann Sample Riegart by Ann Rauch, Janet Rauch Keen, Laura Rauch Hibbits

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1-Mollie Hallback, Tim Taylor,

James Manning Wills

3-David Cox

4-Kindra Wills Smith, Jennifer Wertz

5-David Werts, Jr., M/M George Wilbur Hopkins

7-Janet Mabe

9-Michael Pridmore, Rachel Perry

10- Zoe Horne

11-William Yonce

15-Marla Edgerley

16-M/M Mac Cromley

18-Davy Hite, M/M Charles Rollins

19-Myrle Holmes, Etheredge Rollins

21-Carrie Myers

24-Carol Bradshaw, M/M Brandon Warren;
Ethan Altman

25-Lori Able, James Smith

26-Luke Taylor

27-Doug McDaniel

31-Kester Trotter

Encourage One Another

Send words of encouragement to Jennifer and Colton Wilson, their address is—
Ronald McDonald House
The Wilson's
81 Gadsden Street Room 219
Charleston, SC 29401

Thank You

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, visits, gifts, and flowers...and to the children for the beautiful banner! The wonderful ramp is a great blessing, and my deepest appreciation to those who made it possible.

Thank you—thank you!

With love,
Viola Goff

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Prayer Walks Through Our Community

As part of our church's revitalization program, we want to lift our community up in prayer. Let's all join together and pray for our community. How do we do this? A guide is given below for you to follow for your walk:

Just listen to the Spirit

Walk slowly and observe

Pray for houses as you go by, both for the people in the house and that your church can reach people in those houses

Pray for issues you know are important in your community

If you see someone it is fine to engage that person in conversation

But the most important thing is to simply walk and let God work on your heart.

After the Walk

Reflect:

What did I see? Was there something that surprised me?

How did I sense the Spirit working on me?

What do I need to pray about because I walked?

In the Weeks Ahead

Invite another church member to go on a walk with you

Pray over a map of the region, asking for God's blessings

Make a list of community needs and pray over them

Pray about one person you know that you could invite to an upcoming church activity.

Organize a day of prayer or a prayer vigil that your church can reach the community and make a difference for Christ.

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 National Day of Prayer 6:30-8:00 A.M. in front of church	4 FLC reserved for Baby Shower Set-up	5 FLC reserved for Baby Shower by Doris Goff
6 Communion	7	8 Louise Best Circle 3 P.M. in SH FLC reserved for District Connectional Ministry Mtg. 6:30 P.M.	9	10	11	12
13 Epworth Offering Mother's Day 	14	15 FLC reserved for Soil & Water Conservation 3 P.M.	16 Church Council 7 P.M. in SH	17	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday Graduation Recognition G.I.G. Kids 6 PM at Saluda Park	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31		