

THE EPISTLE



Let's Celebrate!

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Stephen Love, often reminds our pastors and churches that they need to celebrate the many ways that God is working in and through us. Celebration is a way of giving glory to God. Celebration is a way of helping us move toward excellence in all that we do, as we acknowledge the positive forward-focused steps that we are taking to fulfill God's mission of disciple-making and world-transformation.

As I reflect on our first quarter together here at St. Paul UMC, I realize that we have much to celebrate. Here are some of the celebrations that come to mind:

- *Commitment to regular worship attendance has increased
 - *Sunday school classes have reorganized and grown in participation
 - *Sunday evening Singing and Sharing has begun with enthusiasm as children, youth, and adults gather to give praises to God
 - *Sunday evening Prayer Walks have given us an opportunity to take a closer look at our community and to cover it in prayer.
(We are also getting some good exercise!)
 - *Our Forward Focus Team is diligently completing the work of gathering data about our church and community, as the whole congregation is praying to discern God's next steps for our faithful ministry together.
 - *Numerous improvements have been made to our facilities, such as the refinishing of the floor in the narthex, repair of a roof leak, some deep-cleaning and cleaning-out of several of the well-used areas of the church, and the placement of a welcome banner by the front parking area.
- As you look back at the last three months, what do you celebrate? In what ways have you seen God at work in the life of this church? In your own life?

*"They shall **celebrate** the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness."*

Psalm 145:7

Glory to God for all that God is doing in our midst!

Pastor Susan

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Singing and Sharing

Singing and Sharing for all ages will take place in the Family Life Center **each Sunday evening**, at **5:30 P.M.** and will continue **through November 26**. Then at 6 P.M., the group will divide into adults, UMYF, and GIG Kids for study and activities.

Louise Best Circle

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

Trustees

The Trustees will meet Tuesday, **October 3**, at 7 P.M. in the Laura Rollins classroom.

Beautifying Saluda

Monday, **October 9**, The Garden Club of Saluda invites you to St. Paul's Family Life Center at 2 P.M., to hear guest speaker, Katie Dickerson. Katie is a horticulturist with Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City. Katie will be speaking to our community about the beautification of our town of Saluda. All are invited to attend and to be a part of making Saluda a more appealing town.

Forward Focus Team

On Wednesday, **October 11**, the Forward Focus **Team** will meet in the social hall at 7:15 PM. Congregational Specialist Jim Arant will meet with us as our Forward Focus Team Leader on this evening.

UMYF

10/17—Hickory Hill
10/21—Carowinds Trip
10/29—Bonfire
12/1—Christmas Outing/Lock-In
12/9—Christmas party

If anyone would like to donate snacks/light supper for the youth on Sunday evenings, there will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

Charge Conference

St. Paul Charge Conference will be held on Saturday, **October 14th**, at 12:30 P.M. in FLC, and will be in the form of a worship service led by our District Superintendent. All members of the Church Council are expected to attend. All members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be served immediately following the service.

Lay Servant Classes

The 2017 Fall Lay Servant Ministry School is set for **October 15 and 22**, 2:00 p.m. – 7:30 P.M., at Mathews UMC, 800 Wright Ave., Greenwood. Registration forms are available in the narthex. Registration deadline is October 5th. A light meal will be served each evening.

Church Council

On Wednesday, **October 18th**, Church Council will meet at 7 P.M. in the Social Hall.

Shoes for Kenya

Our Greenwood District Lay Servant Ministries is collecting clean, gently used shoes for Kenya. Donating shoes will help in three ways:

1. Keeps them out of the landfill
2. helps protect the recipients from infection from parasites
3. the small amount of money that Kenyans will pay for these shoes will help fund hand-drilled water wells in their communities.

Place your gently worn shoes in the box located in the vestibule.

Samaritan's Purse

Now is a great time to collect some items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Please pick up a flyer in the vestibule for suggestions of items to fill your shoebox. Mark your calendar for the packing party on **Nov. 5** at 5 P.M. in the FLC.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Asbury Hills Fall Festival

Asbury Hills Fall Festival will be Saturday, **October 21st**, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and is open to all ages.

We will leave the church at 7:30 A.M. and will return at 8 P.M. Wear comfortable walking shoes, as the mountainous camp is open to explore. Bring a light jacket as the temperatures may get cool. Activities are free, and available on a first come, first served basis (Includes: archery, hayrides, rock climbing wall, face painting, Leap of Faith* (participants must be 11 years or older for Leap of Faith), and more!

To participate in any of the high adventure activities, you need to be wearing closed toed-shoes and complete an Asbury Hills liability release form.

The camp store will be open with various items for sale. Homemade apple butter and fresh pressed cider will be available by donation, and also a BBQ lunch (adult \$10, child 10 and under \$5, funnel cakes(\$3) are available for purchase.

If interested in going to this event, contact Maurica Easler (803) 917-2000 or msalleneasler@gmail.com by Wednesday, October 18th.

Backpack Ministry

Join us in the Family Life Center on Thursday, **October 26**, at 5 P.M. to pack the food for the children in Saluda County. A light meal will be served. ALL are invited. Many hands are needed.

Reformation Celebration

On **October 29**, at 6 P.M., at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, we are invited to a Community Celebration of the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation. Attendees are asked to bring hygiene products for Christ Central. *(The 5:30 Singing and Sharing attendees will gather at the FLC and walk over to the Lutheran church together.)*

Congregational Meeting

We will have our 2nd Forward Focus **Congregational** meeting in the Family Life Center with breakfast being served on **October 29**, at 9 A.M. All of the congregation is invited.

Bishop's Tour

The one constant in today's world is constant change. In the midst of that change, God has called us to the eternal work of making disciples for the transformation of the world.

"By Faith, On Mission, Together" is the focus of the 2017-18 Bishop's Days with Church Leadership Teams, scheduled over the next five months in each of the 12 districts of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Greenwood District will gather on **Saturday, October 28**, from 9-12 at St. Mark Riverstreet campus in Greenwood. If you plan to attend, please meet at St. Paul UMC's parking lot at 8 A.M.

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston has invited all local church leadership teams to spend a morning with him, thinking about how we equip our congregations to walk faithfully into God's vision for God's church.

Teams will have the opportunity to hear what churches are learning from the Forward Focus process, and the day will close with Holy Communion as we celebrate our connection to one another and to Jesus Christ.

Safe Sanctuary Training

Please mark your calendars! Safe Sanctuaries Training for all who work with children, youth, or senior adults at St. Paul UMC will be held on Monday, **November 6**, 6:00-7:30 P.M. in the FLC. This will serve as the required update for those who have previously participated in this training, as well as certifying new individuals.

Prayer List

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

Shut Ins: Ruby Herlong, Linda Beber

Members: Rev. James Grigsby, Rose Eva Rankin, Peg Bolton, Bill Perkins, Eileen Quattlebaum, Billy Higbee, Patsy Quattlebaum, Helen Humphries, Allene Able, Mary Ann Bayer

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, Michael Stevens, Harriett Ryan, Mike Skinner, Butch Bledsoe, Kayla Matthews, Chuck and Sandra Collard, Faculty and Students, Joyce Fingerlin, Gayle Smith, Rich Coots

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, Stacy Irwin, Lucy Ackerman Higgins, Avie Sox, Cyndi Keats, Harvey Sauls, Arnold Stone, Richard Eargle, Peewee Bledsoe, Brenda Coleman, Chad Arant, Joye Hutto, Charles Taylor, Nancy Ann Coleman Wooten, Josh Enlow, Brad Coleman

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

(Please call the Church office and let me know of any prayer concerns that need to be added or removed, so that together we can keep the church informed. Thank you, Jill)

Please Note: Pastor Susan will be on vacation the week of October 1 and Jill will be recovering from surgery the same week. Kay Rankin will be checking the church phone for any messages on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you have an emergency, please contact Lay Leader, Myrle Holmes, at 992-0029 or Trustee Chair, Kay Rankin, at 993-6923.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

October

- 1-Madaline Herlong, Janice McDaniel
- 2-Mandy Vereen, Lynn Perry, Frank Stover
- 3-Leldon Bradshaw, Padgett Powe
- 4-Dianne Forrest
- 5-Belinda Rikard-Rushton
- 6-Brooks Turner Hall
- 7-Dr. David W. Keller III, Vera Smith
- 9-Angie L. Walker, April Griffis
- 10-M/M Walker Beddoes, Jennifer Yawn, Greyson Bradford Rushton
- 11-Katie Holmes, Carroll Dorn
- 12- Demi McDaniel
- 15-Natalie Rikard
- 16-Caroline Herlong, Robin Turner, Jill Forrest, Will Cromley
- 17-Heidi Corley
- 18-Brandy Cromley
- 19-Ben Webb
- 20-Johnnie Stevens
- 21-TJ Anderson, Matthew Trotter, Susan Wheeler, Russell Altman
- 24-Kes Holmes, Prater Street, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Easler
- 25-Pamela Rankin
- 28-Jack Griffith
- 29-Julia Yonce, Meredith Wertz
- 30-Carl M. Murray

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

If you are willing to keep the nursery on Sunday mornings, please contact Rene Miller at 445-3690.

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Singing & Sharing for All Ages in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids split up for study & activities at 6 PM	2	3 Louise Best Circle 3 PM in SH Trustees Meeting 7 PM in Laura Rollins room	4	5 N.C. Apple Picking Trip depart 9 AM Bus reserved	6	7 Bus & Van re- served by Cub Scouts all day
8 Singing & Sharing for All Ages in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids split up for study & activities at 6 PM	9 Make Saluda Beautiful Meeting in FLC 2 PM Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM in SH	10	11 Forward Focus TEAM Meeting 7:15 PM in SH	12	13	14 Charge Conference 12:30 PM in FLC followed by Lunch
15 Lay Servant Classes 2-7:30 PM Singing & Sharing in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids 6 PM	16	17	18 Church Council 7 PM in SH	19	20	21 Asbury Hills Fall Festival 10AM-5 PM
22 Lay Servant Classes 2-7:30 PM Singing & Sharing in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids 6 PM	23 Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM in SH	24	25	26 Backpack Ministry 5 PM in FLC	27	28 Bishop's Tour in Greenwood District 9AM-12 PM
29 Forward Focus Congregational Meeting with Breakfast in FLC 9 AM followed by Wor- ship 10 AM in FLC Singing & Sharing in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids 6 PM Community Reformation Celebration Service at Mt. Pleasant 6 PM	30	31 Fall Festival 5:30-7 PM	<div>NOVEMBER</div> <div> November 5— Daylight Saving Time Ends All Saints Sunday Loyalty Sunday Operation Christmas Child Packing Party at 5 PM November 6— Safe Sanctuary Training at 6 PM November 15— Church Council at 7 PM November 19— Community Thanksgiving Service at St Paul at 6 PM November 23— Thanksgiving Day November 26— Christ the King Sunday Forward Focus <i>Congregational</i> Meeting w/ Breakfast at 9 AM </div> <div> Singing & Sharing each Sunday at 5:30 thru Nov. 26 </div>			

St. Paul United Methodist Church

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www.stpaulsaluda.com



Apple Picking Trip



On Thursday, October 5, we will travel to the mountains of North Carolina to pick some delicious apples. We will depart from the church parking lot at 9 A.M. Call Bonnie Sawyer at 992-3860 if you plan to attend.



Fall Festival



**Tuesday, October 31
5:30-7 P.M.**

St. Paul will open its doors to the community by holding a Trick or Treating throughout the church. Games for the children will be held in the Social Hall and hot dogs will be served in the Family Life Center. Put on your best costume and join us for this fun-filled evening as we welcome the Saluda community to our church.

The Sheriff's office is also holding a Halloween event for the community. Representatives are needed from St. Paul for this Trunk or Treat event at the Law Enforcement Complex sponsored by the Sheriff's Department.

Please call the church office at 445-2232, Myrle Holmes at 992-0029 , or Sheree Riley at 554-2808 if you are willing to help.