

THE EPISTLE



Focus on the Future

As I write this message, our Forward Focus Team has just met to begin a process that we will all be moving through over the next few months. You may be asking yourself at this moment, “Now, what is Forward Focus?” Glad you asked!

Forward Focus is a **process** of study and discernment of local church potential. It has been used successfully in other United Methodist conferences to help local churches determine a God-directed “**next step forward**” as they seek to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of their community and the world.

Key participants in this process include:

Prayer Team: The success of this process will be greatly improved with continuous prayer for God to show us where God is working in our community and how we are to come alongside that work. I am asking each person in this congregation to pray over this process now and continuously until it is completed. We will be gathering to pray together on Sunday evenings starting September 10 at 5:30p.m.

Forward Team: a group of individuals from our congregation who will gather data about our church’s mission, ministries, finances, attendance, and facilities. They will also gather data about who is in our community, and about the needs and services that are present there.

Forward Leader: A trained individual, assigned by our District Superintendent and Congregational Specialist, to serve as a coach for our Forward Focus Team. Rev. Dan Smyth, pastor of Cambridge UMC in Ninety Six, is serving as our Forward Leader.

Church Congregational meetings: These four meetings will be a time to share with the whole congregation the information that the Forward Team has gathered. This will be a time for additional input by the congregation and a time for asking questions. Our congregational meetings will be held in the **Family Life Center at 9:00a.m.** on the following Sundays: **September 24, October 29, November 26, and January 14.**

It is my prayer that each of you will participate in the Forward Focus process with your prayers and with your presence at all congregational meetings as we discern our God-directed “next step forward” in ministry to this community.

“I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God’s call, what is the richness of God’s glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God’s power that is working among us believers.” Ephesians 1:17-19a CEB

With excitement for the journey,

Pastor Susan

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SPRC

On September 3, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet at 5 P.M. in the Social Hall. If you cannot attend this meeting, please call Benjy at 864-993-0185.

Louise Best Circle

The Louise Best Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 5, at 3 P.M. at the home of Bonnie Sawyer.

Epworth Work Day Offering

On September 10th we will have an opportunity to invest in the lives of children, and I ask you to join me by making a generous financial gift to the ministry of Epworth Children's Home. We participate in the Annual Work Day offering because Epworth does not receive funding/apportionments through the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Instead, the conference sets aside the second Sunday in September as a day to collect an offering for Epworth. Today I am asking you to give for a different reason.

I ask you to give generously because Epworth's ministry matters. It matters for children like April. April has been in the foster care system since she was 5 years old. Now she is 14 years old and she started asking questions like "why me?" a lot. Her staff and counselors at Epworth have helped her find the tough answers to those questions and helped her see through the past and see the opportunities that are now in front of her. She has turned around her young life. Her grades are up at school and she is developing special musical talents. She is blossoming into a beautiful and happy young lady.

Epworth is breaking the cycle of abuse, neglect and shame and replacing it with lives of self-respect, responsibility and productivity. I ask you to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to share with the children of Epworth on Sunday, September 10th.

Forward Focus Team

On September 10, the Forward Focus Team will meet in the social hall at 4 PM.

Singing and Sharing

Singing and Sharing for all ages will take place in the Family Life Center beginning September 10, at 5:30 P.M. Then at 6 P.M., the group will divide into adults, UMYF, and GIG Kids for study and activities.

Growing In God Kids

GIG Kids will begin meeting September 10th at 6:00 P.M. in the Social Hall following the Singing and Sharing Time in the Family Life Center. We will be using the Faith Weavers Friends Curriculum. We look forward to kicking off the new season of GIG Kids and hope to see you there! Remember...bring a friend!

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet at 7 P.M. on Wednesday, September 13, in the Social Hall. Please submit 2018 budget requests to the church office prior to this meeting.

Church Clean-Up Day

Join us on Saturday, September 16, from 9:00-11:30 A.M. to clean the church. Bring your brooms, mops, cleaning buckets, rags, and lawn tools to spruce up our church for Homecoming. Many hands will get the job done in the allotted time. Sign-up sheets are located in the vestibule.

Homecoming 2017

St. Paul will celebrate Homecoming 2017 on Sunday, September 17, with Rev. Susan Maddox preaching at 10 A.M. All St. Paul members, former members, former pastors, former staff, families and friends are cordially invited to Homecoming Sunday. Following the service, we will enjoy a catered lunch in the Family Life Center. Please join us for this time of worship and fellowship. See you at 10 A.M on September 17.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Forward Focus Meeting

On Sunday morning September 24, at 9 A.M. we will have our 1st Forward Focus Congregational meeting in the Family Life Center.

Church Council

On Wednesday, September 27th, Church Council will meet at 7 P.M in the Social Hall. ***Please note the meeting date is the last Wednesday in the month as we are preparing for Charge Conference.***

Charge Conference

All reports for charge conference are due by Thursday, September 28, and are to be given to Pastor Susan. Charge Conference will be held Saturday, October 14 at 12:30 P.M. Church Council is expected to attend, including the members at large.

Children's Church

We are excited to announce we are offering Children's Church for ages 4 through 3rd grade in the Laura Rollins Room. During Sunday morning worship services, children are dismissed after the children's sermon to attend Children's Church.



Samaritan's Purse

Now is the time to be buying your items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. School supplies are currently on sale so it's a great time to purchase pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, colored pencils, pencil cases, stickers, notebooks, notebook paper, colored markers, note pads, scissors, crayons, glue sticks, etc.

Response to Hurricane Harvey

The Greenwood District is accepting contributions from individuals and churches towards making flood cleaning buckets and health kits. You may send your check made payable to the Greenwood District (enter **disaster relief** in the item line on your check) and mail to PO Box 49968, Greenwood SC 29649. You may also drop your check made payable to St. Paul UMC (marked **disaster relief** in the offering plate and we will send a check to the Greenwood District. An announcement will be made at a later time with details for a district packing party to assemble the buckets. Be on the lookout for that announcement.

Backpack Ministry

We will once again package and distribute food donated by Harvest Hope Food Bank to the children identified by Saluda District One as needing additional meals and snacks for the weekend.

The first shipment of food is scheduled to arrive Thursday, September 28. We are planning to meet that evening beginning at 5 P.M. in the Family Life Center to inventory the shipment and pack the bags for the next month. However, we will be responsible for delivering the food bags each week due to limited storage at the schools.

We hope you can come and lend a hand to this very worthwhile project. ALL are invited. Many hands are needed.

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

Prayer List

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

Shut Ins: Ruby Herlong, Linda Beber

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

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, Victims of Hurricane Harvey

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, Pee-wee 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)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Don and Lynn Perry on the marriage of their daughter Rachel Perry to Michael Stoner on August 5, 2017. May God bless this new family!

New Members

We welcome into the membership of St. Paul UMC Keeli McDaniel by Profession of Faith on August 27, 2017 and Merle Maddox by church transfer on August 27, 2017.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

1-Luke Kester Holmes, Troy Hallback

2-Kaylee Hudson

4-M/M James Wills

6-Peg Bolton

8-Dan Guy

9-Helen Humphries, David Miller

10-Ruby Herlong, Gina Fingerlin, Kate Altman

11-M/M Steve Walker, James Grigsby,
Lisa McDaniel

12-Caroline Keith Herlong

13-Trey Fingerlin

14-Charles Long

17-Eileen Quattlebaum

18-M/M Dan Guy, M/M Tom Cox

19-Thomas Sample, Dorothy Bradshaw,
Haleigh Herlong, Maurica Easler

22-Debbie Crapps, Taylor Martin

23-Delaney Bedenbaugh

29-Ira Therrell

Memorials

In memory of Frances Crouch Merchant and Sandra Arant Crouch by M/M Frank H. Chapman

In memory of Lee Ann Sample Reigart by Kester Trotter, Eileen Quattlebaum

In memory of J.C. and Joye Johnson by Kester Trotter, Eileen Quattlebaum

In memory of Don Hancock by M/M Dan Guy

In memory of Kathleen Todd, Sandra Kay Fulmer, Floyd Hodge, John Christley, Novis Monts, Shirley Gibson, Betty Womack by Eileen Quattlebaum

In memory of Robert Metts by M/M Dan Guy

September 2017

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<div> <p>SAVE THE DATES</p> <p>Oct. 15 & 22—Lay Servant at Mathews UMC, Greenwood from 2:30-7:30 PM</p> <p>Oct. 31—Harvest Festival</p> </div>					1	2
<p>3</p> <p>Communion SPRC Meeting in SH 5 PM FLC reserved by Connie Sample 1-5 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Louise Best Circle at Bonnie Sawyer's home 3 PM Pastor Susan away at Bishop's School</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Epworth Work Day Offering Forward Focus Team Meeting in SH 4 PM Singing & Sharing for All Ages in FLC 5:30 PM, then Adults, UMYF, GIG Kids split up for study & activities at 6 PM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Make Saluda Beautiful in FLC 2 PM Patriot's Day Prayer Service 6:30 PM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Finance Meeting in SH 7 PM</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Church Clean-up Day 9-11:30 AM</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Homecoming 10 AM followed by lunch in FLC</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Forward Focus Congregational Meeting in FLC 9 AM FLC reserved by Johnnie Stevens 2:30-5:30 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Council 7 PM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Charge Conference Reports due Backpack Ministry 5 PM</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Call to Action 5K Run/Walk</p>

St. Paul United Methodist Church

102 E. Butler Ave
Saluda, SC 29138

Phone: 864-445-2232
E-mail: stpaulsaluda@embargo.com
www.stpaulsaluda.com

Invitation to 3 Community Events

1—Be Apart of Making Saluda Beautiful

Tuesday, September 11, The Garden Club of Saluda invites you to St. Paul's Family Life Center at 2 P.M. to hear our 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.

2—Community Patriot's Day Prayer Service—Remembering 9/11

Tuesday, September 11, you are invited to spend time in prayer on the courthouse lawn beginning at 6:30 P.M. We hope you will join us as we cry out to God to win our nation by calling us back to Him. Whether you are with us or elsewhere, stop and pray that God will do something great in our country.

3—2nd Annual Call to Action 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, September 30, 2017
7 AM Registration
8 AM Run/Walk starts
Matthews Field—Bettis Herlong Stadium

Register online runhard.org/calltoaction

Registration fees: \$5 per child/\$10 per adult/\$30 per family, Register by August 15 and get a 10% discount

Business Sponsorships: \$50-\$150 Bronze Sponsor—Logo on Race's Printed Collateral
\$151-\$300 Silver Sponsor—Logo on Race Side Signs & Printed Collateral
\$301+—Logo on Race's Printed Collateral, Race Side Signs, & Race T-shirts

For more information or to register, contact Jana Creighton at (864)445-7162 or saludapres@gmail.com, Jane Cason at (864)445-7408, or Melissa Campbell at (864)445-7771 or melcampbell10@gmail.com

100% of net proceeds will fund education needs and back-to-school supplies for students within Saluda County Schools.