



St. Paul United Methodist Church

New Ellenton, SC

The Goodnews Letter

January 2023

God is running amuck in public high schools. 18th century writer and poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge is among one of the culprits. Coleridge is well known for his work *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. In Christian terms he tells a story of a sinner (the mariner) in need of God's grace for his heinous crime against the beautiful albatross bird. At the end of the mariner's tale, he explains to his wedding guest friend he has been charged and commissioned to teach anyone who he finds the "love and reverence to all things that God made and loveth:"

"He prayeth best, who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all"

Not only does the mariner proclaim God's love for us and for all creation, but he also declares he is a missionary. Coleridge was raised by a vicar in the Church in England. This comes as no surprise when one studies his writings. However, what is shocking is to find out in a society that tries to separate Church and State, the Church of Jesus Christ is running amuck in public high schools where authors like Coleridge and his works are being studied.

Another example comes from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Poem "The Village Blacksmith." Longfellow describes in the poem a village blacksmith who is a faithful worker and father to his children and family. His wife had died but he does not neglect his duties of taking his family to church each Sunday. As he listens to the parson preach and his daughter as they sing in the choir, "it makes his [the blacksmith] heart rejoice." This may inspire a youth who has never been to church to consider "would my heart rejoice like this blacksmith if I were in that place called church?" Jesus is evangelizing in the pages of Longfellow in English 3 literature.

But the one author who gets away best with proclaiming Jesus in the public schools is the Rev. Jonathan Edwards. High school students are required to read his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."
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Edwards in the spirit of John the Baptist calls for his listeners to repent, to flee from the wrath to come, and to go toward “the doors of mercy wide open” in Christ. High schoolers hear God’s mercy proclaimed in the midst of judgement. Many desks in classrooms become the place where English writers may have converted souls for Christ and where their hearts were forever changed.

The English department is not solely responsible for unleashing the King of kings in the classroom. In almost every department, Jesus can be seen causing havoc around the school. Jesus as the Word of God made flesh became incarnate in history. Jesus made such a ruckus in the 1st century that we still are talking about him today and have to take him into historical consideration when talking about world events. World History discusses in high school classes the development of the Church and how Christians have changed the world from the time of Emperor Constantine to Martin Luther’s Reformation. One cannot fully understand this history without first realizing that the historical foundation for world events was rooted on the understanding of Jesus Christ.

After the students leave the history classroom, Jesus continues to pester them throughout their day in Math and Science. If the student thinks the Enlightenment has given them respite from Jesus in these subjects- beware! People who have influenced our understanding of math and science were Christians such as Sir Isaac Newton (Newton’s law of Physics), Robert Boyle (Boyle’s Law), Florence Nightingale (Nursing), George Mendel (The father of genetic and Augustinian monk), and William Thomson (Lord Kelvin- the Kelvin Scale). All of these brilliant mathematicians and scientists all have one thing in common in their biographies. They were Christians who followed and were formed by Jesus.

After realizing the Enlightenment could not shield the high school student from Jesus, they may try to escape during lunch. Lunch time became a disappointment because they soon discovered their friends who they eat with were members of the local United Methodist Youth Fellowship that meets on Sunday night’s. Their conversations were on their experience from last weekend’s youth conference.

As the student walks from lunch to their next class, they may think to themselves, “surly Jesus will not disrupt my Spanish class.” In Spanish, the topic of the day was on Spanish artists. Among these artists was El Greco. As soon as the student turned to the page in their textbook about El Greco, they realized with horror that Jesus had shown up again. But this time in artistic style. El Greco was trained as an Iconographer early in life and used his skills to craft beautiful pieces of artwork such as “Christ healing the Blind” and “Christ Carrying the Cross.”

The High Schooler walked from Spanish to their final class in a surrendered state asking to themselves “How will Jesus show up unannounced in their last class?” The student looked all around the classroom to make sure that Jesus was no where in sight. After their search, they sat down for what they thought was going to be a Jesus free class in Band. The band teacher gave out a new piece of sheet music to practice for the upcoming Christmas parade. The title of the sheet music was “Hark the Heald Angels Sing.” The student saw that the composer was a guy by the name of Charles Wesley. Because phones were permitted at the beginning of class, the student decided to look up this song and composer and that is when it happened. Jesus ambushed the student! They learned about Charles Wesley being an Anglican Priest in the 18th century who helped lead something called the Methodist Movement. They went through the lyrics of the song quickly before sightreading the music. As the whole class played the song, the words of one lyric were stuck in the student’s mind “Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.”

Praise be to God that in a separate Church and State society, Jesus is running amuck, causing mayhem by using writers, scientist, mathematicians, artists, and composers across time to reveal, in the words of Charles Wesley, God’s “love divine all loves excelling” to those who may have never set foot in a church building. If this is the case, then does then mean we need to stand outside Sliver Bluff High School each day waiting to embrace new converts to the faith and give them a church home at St. Paul United Methodist Church?

-Pastor Joseph D. Kovas

ST. PAUL UMC VOLUNTEERS

Acolytes

01/01 David Ignaffo
01/08 J. B. Morrow
01/15 Zoey Hall
01/22 Eve Morrow
01/29 Lauren Akins

Communion Preparation

Ann Summer

Nursery Volunteers

01/01 Eirene Ferguson & Amanda Kirkland
01/08 Toby James & Eve Morrow
01/15 Melinda Brinkley & April Ramos
01/22 Kathy Moore & Christy Boatright
01/29 Minnie Goodman & Eirene Ferguson

Lay Servants

01/01 Charlie Wyont
01/08 Melinda Brinkley
01/15 Randy Stowe
01/22 Jimmy Brinkley
01/29 Charles Goodman, Sr.

Offering Accountants

Karen Wyont & Janice Watkins

Lay Servant Substitute: Jennifer Akins

If you are unable to serve on the Sunday you are scheduled for, please find a replacement and contact the church office.

Thank you,
Volunteers!



JANUARY 2023

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 600 Main Street South
 New Ellenton, SC 29809

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 AM worship	2 Helen Bessinger (B)	3	4 5:15 PM-Mimi M & M Choir practice	5	6	7
8 10:30 AM worship Ann Summer (B)	9 6 PM-Worship meeting-FH	10	11 5:15 PM-Mimi M & M Choir practice	12	13	14 Curtis Summer (B)
15 10:30 AM worship Mimi M & M Choir sing	16 Eddy Parry (B)	17	18	19 Jennifer Akins (B)	20	21 Penelope Moore (B) Michael Ramos (B)
22 10:30 AM worship 5 PM-MYF-FLC	23	24	25 Charles Goodman, Sr. (B)	26 Billy Stephens (B)	27 8:30 AM-ACTS food distribu- tion	28
29 10:30 AM worship 5 PM-MYF-FLC	30	31				



ST. PAUL

United Methodist Church

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On Facebook at
facebook.com/umcne



St. Paul UMC is scheduled to load the
ACTS food
distribution truck
on the 4th Thursday of the month.

ACTS Food Distribution

Friday, January 27, 2023

8:30 AM

New Ellenton Civic Center