

St. Paul United Methodist Church

The Goodnews Letter

July 2023

A preacher made a difference

One of my favorite books I enjoy going through from my dad's library is his copy of *Called to Serve: United Methodist Ministers of South Carolina 1991*. According to the editors, Mary and David Nichols, their goal was to make "every possible effort to "contact ministers for their biographies." Each entry is a pastor's story that has touched the lives of many Christians and people in every appointment they have served. When I was preparing to graduate from Duke Divinity School, I waited with excitement for the news of my first appointment. I studied each entry of the 1991 *Called to Serve* wondering "Where will I be sent?" In March 2021, I received the letter from my District Superintendent congratulating me on my first appointment to St. Paul United Methodist Church of New Ellenton in the Orangeburg District. After reading the letter, I realized I will now have my own biography entry. My story begins with the people of St. Paul UMC of New Ellenton.

During my first Advent in my appointment at St. Paul, I researched my church's history to find out who were the pastors that have come before me? I earmarked with posted notes my dad's 1991 *Called to Serve* and had it on display on the dining room table in the parsonage during an open house party after church. As I spoke with congregation members about their former pastors, I received so many rich and beautiful stories from them about how God had used them to touch and bless their lives, church, and community. Stories and ministries of Rev. James Alewine, Benjamin B. Barnes, and Rev. Ray Smith are inspirational and fill me with courage as I step fully into the life of ordained leadership in the church.

David Nichols stated in the forward of the 1991 *Called to Serve*, "Every biography is a story of joy and sorrow, or gain and loss. Each story carries with it the component of all our lives. We are born and we were called and we serve." Each biography represents a story of how God summoned among the baptized those who would serve as pastors, prophets, teachers, and counselors for God's people. Throughout our history, South Carolina Methodists have published directories and biographies of pastors that have contained a record of their itineracy and ministry.

While in a rare book store in Aiken, South Carolina, I found a copy of *Twentieth Century Sketches of the South Carolina Conference M.E. Church, South* published in 1914 by the Rev. Watson B. Duncan. Many of the pastors in this book were pastors who were born in the mid to late Nineteenth Century. One of the major differences between the 1914 and 1991 directories is the format of the biographies. The 1991 directory contains a list format of pastor's credentials and their appointments in chronological years as well as the dates for marriages and children's birthdays. The 1914 biographies were written in a narrative format. An example comes from the Rev. Geo W. Davis. Davis was described in his biography as "an excellent preacher and pastor."

The biographer goes on to state “There is a vein of humor which often appears in private, and sometimes in public, but it helps rather than hinders the effort of his earnest messages.” We receive a glimpse into Rev. Davis’ personality and his preaching. Unless you know the pastor, you do not receive this information from latter biographies.

Rev. Davis’ first appointment was the Ellenton Circuit (1890-1891). Rev. Davis served Cedar Creek Circuit 1892-1893; Lexington Fork Circuit, 1894-1895; Johnsonville Circuit 1896-1897; Union Circuit 1898; Darlington Circuit, 1899; and Edgefield Circuit, 1900.

Another biography in the 1914 *Sketches* that caught my eye was the Rev. John Wesley Bailey. Rev. Bailey was born in Spartanburg County on May 28, 1869. Rev. Bailey attended Emory College for academic studies. He married Miss Anna M. Baird of Oconee County, Georgia on July 14, 1892. In his biography, it states “Mr. Bailey was reared by a true Christian Woman after the good old Methodism type, who prayed and shouted the love of Methodism indelibly into his young heart.” After the example of Rev. Bailey, I need to update my own clergy profile for the District Superintendent and include the influence my own Methodist Mother.

Rev. Bailey started off in the Methodist Protestant Church and converted to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in 1899. His appointments included McLure Circuit, 1901- 1902; Star and Iva, 1903-1906; Mr. Carmel, 1907-1908; Gallivants 1909- 1910; Scranton, 1911-1913; and Pinopolis, 1914.

Rev. Henry B. Hardy’s story describes both his conversion to the Christian faith and his call to preach. Mr. Hardy was interested in government studies and wanted to pursue a government position. There was a revival service that took place at Old Bethlehem Church in Saluda. Mr. Hardy was enrolled in a Sunday School class and his Sunday School teacher prayed “earnestly for the young man’s conversion.” According to his entry, “At midnight on a hot August night, he [Mr. Hardy] closed his book and retired. In a few moments he was happily converted. He immediately felt the call to preach, but tried to evade the duty by teaching school.” Praise God for our Sunday School teachers who live into the words of St. Paul “to pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Mr. Hardy finally yielded to the call to preach after teaching school for four years. He was ordained an Elder in the Church in 1910 by Bishop E. R. Hendrix in Charleston. He served Hendersonville Circuit, 1907; Yorkville Circuit (now Clover), 1908; Blackstock, 1909-1912; and Hickory Grove, 1913-1914.

Each pastor’s story and biography reveals how God called them to the ministry, how God uses each one’s gifts, and the people God has used in their lives to bring them to answering the call to preach for the Kingdom of God.

According to Rev. James H. Carlisle, who wrote the introduction to the 1914 *Sketches*, the book is like a large Family Album. Even though pastors move from place to place, they have discovered the joy of forming relationships with Methodist pastors and families and seeing their closest clergy friends at the Annual Conference each year. Rev. Carlisle makes the statement “In many sections of our State, once a year hundreds ask with anxiety, “Who is our new preacher?” The directories and biographies gave Methodist each year the opportunity to research and find out more about the pastor they were receiving.

Now a days, if your church wants to research a pastor, all they have to do is use the power of Facebook to look you up and find out everything there is to know about you. The reverse is also true of churches. Pastors can also do the same for churches in the digital age even after receiving the official church profile from the district office (This does not also include the secret drive by just before the introductory visit with the congregation and District Superintendent)

The conference directories and biographies reveal the beautiful stories of how God's servants have been summoned to serve and preach and to where they have been sent through the process of itinerancy. In each community, church, and appointment each preacher has made a difference in the people's lives. Each pastor blesses their communities by leading people to Jesus Christ, baptizing the young and the old, teaching the Word of God, and visiting people from house to house. At some point along our journey, God sent someone into our lives to teach us the Love of Jesus. Perhaps God sent you a Methodist preacher to change your live for the better in Jesus Christ. There will be days where the question is asked "are we making a difference at all for God's kingdom?" It is in this question where I am encouraged by the stories of God's servants who have come before us. They witness to us God touched our lives by sending someone to teach us about the love of God that is poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). We are also sent into someone's life to make a difference for God's kingdom. Just when you think your ministry is fruitless, God will show you a person or situation in which you will realize, this is the reason for why you were sent - "to proclaim good news to the poor and to the sick and to the captive" (Luke 4:18-19) Let us be encouraged by the saints who have come before us and who serve as mighty inspirations for our service to God.

When my father, the Rev. Kenneth J. Kovas came into the ministry, he received a letter from the Rev. Bryan Crenshaw- arguably one of the most well-respected pastors of the South Carolina Conference of his generation. Rev. Crenshaw shared with my father before he was sent to his first appointment to the Lodge, Adnah, and Williams Charge of the Walterboro District, that the greatest appointment in the South Carolina Conference is the one you are serving. As we receive new pastors across the state and as churches welcome new leaders in this season, may God's grace open our hearts to see the wonders of the Lord's Kingdom in new places and new people. May each pastor see that the greatest appointment in their journey and biographies is the one they are serving.

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Rev. Joseph D. Kovas
is the pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church - New Ellenton, SC
and serves as the Vice President of the SC UMC Conference Historical Society

(Article Posted Online)



Sunday, July 2— Sunday, July 23, we will be collecting school supplies for the children at Greendale Elementary and New Ellenton Middle Schools.

Please Donate School Supplies - Items needed are listed below.

We will blessing our school supplies
at the 10:30 AM worship service on July 23, 2023.

Elementary Schools:

24 pack of crayons
Colored pencils
Markers
Glue sticks
Highlighters
Pencils
Dry erase markers
Pencil pouch/bag
Pencil box
Children's scissors
Large pink erasers
Composition notebooks
1 inch binder
Notebook paper
Plastic folders with prongs/pockets
Hand sanitizer

Middle/High Schools:

Pocket folders
Composition notebooks
Index cards
Tab dividers
Highlighters
Glue sticks
College ruled notebook paper
Pencils/mechanical pencils
Binders (any size)
Blue/black ink pens



Sunday, July 23 at 5:00 PM we will have a Back to School Bash
in our Family Life Center.

School children and families are invited to come, receive school supplies,
enjoy games and free popcorn.



Please mark your calendar for Sunday, July 2, 2023.

We will have our 4th of July Lunch following the church service in the Family Life Center.

Bring side dishes and desserts.

Please wear your patriotic themed clothes.

Vacation Bible School will be July 5-7, 2023.

5:00 PM—7:00 PM in our Family Life Center.

VBS is for all children under the age of 12 and youth ages 12 – 18.



Our Youth Ministry will attend Salkehatchie Summer Service July 8-15.

Please pray for our youth and adult leaders for a Holy Experience and great week.

Prayer for Salkehatchie Team 2023

O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered to, but to minister; we pray for your blessing on Salkehatchie Team. As your servants follow in God's footsteps, loving and serving their neighbors, fill them with wisdom, patience, perseverance, humility and courage. Enable our Salkehatchie team to share their gifts generously with those whom they meet.

Give them an attentive mind and compassionate heart to see the face of Christ in all those whom they may encounter. Give your servants daily encouragement and a ready will. Inspire our team with your love, that they may worthily minister in your name, in a spirit of reconciliation with God and with each and every neighbor. Keep your servants safe from injury, and bring them home renewed and rejoicing. All this we ask through Him who laid down his life for us, your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ST. PAUL UMC VOLUNTEERS

Acolytes

07/02 Vivianna Ignaffo
07/09 David Ignaffo
07/16 Lauren Akins
07/23 Zoey Hall
07/30 Vivianna Ignaffo

Communion Preparation

Kathy Moore

Lay Servants

07/02 Jimmy Brinkley
07/09 Charles Goodman, Sr.
07/16 Charlie Wyont
07/23 Melinda Brinkley
07/30 Randy Stowe

Nursery Volunteers

07/02 April Ramos & Melinda Brinkley
07/09 Destiny Ramos & Toby James
07/16 Amanda Kirkland & Eirene Ferguson
07/23 Minnie Goodman & Christy Boatright
07/30 Kathy Moore & April Ramos

Offering Accountants

Minnie Goodman & Ann Akins

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.



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

ACTS Food Distribution

Friday, July 28, 2023


8:30 AM

New Ellenton Civic Center



JULY 2023

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---|---|--|----------|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30 AM Worship | 3 | 4  | 5 Vacation Bible School — Family Life Center 5 PM—7 PM | 6 | 7 | 8 Salkehatchie Trip |
| 9 10:30 AM Worship | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Crystal Broughton (B) |
| Salkehatchie Trip | | | | | | |
| 16 10:30 AM Worship | 17 | 18 Philip & Kathy Moore (A) | 19 Nicole Ferron (B) Charlene Sundstrom (B) | 20 | 21 | 22 Don Matera (B) |
| 23 10:30 AM Worship | 24 Brooklyn Summer (B) Storm Summer (B) | 25 | 26 Casey Owens (B) | 27 | 28 8:30 AM-ACTS Food Distribution | 29 Robert Thompson (B) |
| 30 10:30 AM Worship | 31 | | | | | |



ST. PAUL

United Methodist Church

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On Facebook at

facebook.com/umcne



Lord God Almighty,
in whose Name the founders of this country
won liberty for themselves and for us,
and lit the torch of freedom for nations then
unborn:

Grant that we and all the people of this land
may have grace to maintain our liberties in
righteousness and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Independence Day,
Book of Common Prayer, 1979



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY