

# St. Paul United Methodist Church

*New Ellenton, SC*

## **The Goodnews Letter**

*September 2023*

As St. Paul Turns 70:

St. Paul UMC traces our history back to the 1820's when Methodist circuit riders visited the area and a group of farmers started meeting in a brush arbor in the woods. Christian marriage and baptism of babies were considered essential aspects of life, and the early circuit riders fulfilled this need in the rural frontier. In 1841, the Methodists built a church near a spring in the Talatha community. Having a church and a school made living in the rural area bearable if not comfortable. Springs Methodist Church thrived for over a century through three different buildings and the monumental events and changes in our country. Then in 1950 this rural area was shocked to learn about the coming Savannah River Plant, and thus began the chain of events that led to our current facility.

Springs Methodist gained many new members from the Ellenton Methodist Church that had to be abandoned when the whole town was forced to move. Construction workers from all over the country flocked to the area, and their families sought a local Methodist church. The one-room church beside the spring was overwhelmed, and plans were made to build a modern brick church in the emerging town of New Ellenton, less than two miles away. Our new building was dedicated the last Sunday in September of 1953. We continued to go by the name of Springs Methodist for several years before we changed the name to St. Paul.

One of the most interesting mysteries about our history is we do not know who proposed the name for St. Paul. There is no record or minutes that contains this history. Even though we do not know how the name St. Paul was chosen, the congregation has lived into the spirit of their name sake by acknowledging "by grace we have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ for this is not of our doing but a gift from God" (Ephesians 1:7-8). St. Paul United Methodist Church has strived "to live into the wisdom of the saint to walk by faith and not by sight" for seven decades (2 Corinthians 5:7).

The congregation of St. Paul has been a major contributor to the growth of New Ellenton. The church was overflowing with members during the late 1950's and 1960's, making the new education wing necessary. Through the years, multiple generations have called St. Paul their church home. Many of us recall fondly the ministers who have steered our faith. We have so many memories of good times and of the saints who have worshipped here. Adults have served as role models for our children and youth. So many turning points of our lives took place here--baptisms, marriages, and memorial services. Those who grew up in the church, but have now moved away from New Ellenton, carry part of the church with them wherever they go.

As we approach our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, attendance has decreased and church membership has waned, but St. Paul remains a vital part of our community. We thank God for all that St. Paul United Methodist Church has meant to us and our families, and we pray for the future of this awesome community of faith as we seek a more excellent way to love God and others and as we follow the great shepherd Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Randy Stowe and Rev. Joseph D. Kovas



The people of St. Paul United Methodist Church of New Ellenton, South Carolina, have been truly blessed by your presence, family, ministry, and your love for the Lord Jesus Christ throughout our history.

**You are cordially invited to attend St. Paul's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Homecoming on Sunday September 24<sup>t</sup>.**

Our Homecoming worship Service will be held at 10:30 am in our sanctuary. Our guest preacher for the day will be the **Rev. Brian Gilmer**.

Following the morning service, we will have a **Burning of the Mortgage** Service outside the Family Life Center to celebrate all who have made this dream into a reality. You are also invited to stay afterwards for a special meal in the Family Life Center.

We hope you are able to join us for a special day as we celebrate all God has done at St. Paul for 70 years.

Peace,

-

Rev. Joseph D. Kovas  
Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church

### **Family Life Center Mortgage Paid Off**

Twenty-five years ago, on October 4, 1998, our church membership voted to begin updating our church facilities. The first step in that plan was to be the building of a Family Life Center, and the funding plan was designated the Leap of Faith. Initially we were thinking about a metal building, but we eventually settled on a nicer building to replace our ageing and tiny Fellowship Hall. The original loan was for \$384,300.10. We broke ground for the facility on August 13, 2006, and the building was consecrated on May 27, 2007, during the ministry of the Rev. Brian Gilmer.

Today we add a new date to our church's history, August 9, 2023, when we paid off the mortgage to the Family Life Center. We will officially "burn" the mortgage papers at our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary homecoming on September 24. We should have enough funds left in the Leap of Faith account to cover the utilities costs of the Family Life Center for the rest of this fiscal year.

This is an awesome accomplishment, and we want to acknowledge the congregation's faithful giving to help us pay off the mortgage, and we are reminded that memorials to former members of St. Paul who have passed on to the Church Eternal have been instrumental in this accomplishment. After we made this announcement during morning worship several weeks ago, the congregation joined in singing the Doxology. The words of this hymn are so appropriate in this situation: *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.*

## **ST. PAUL UMC VOLUNTEERS**

### **Acolytes**

09/03 David Ignaffo  
09/10 Lauren Akins  
09/17 Zoey Hall  
09/24 Vivianna Ignaffo

### **Communion Preparation**

Ann Summer

### **Lay Servants**

09/03 Randy Stowe  
09/10 Jimmy Brinkley  
09/17 Charles Goodman, Sr.  
09/24 Charlie Wyont

### **Nursery Volunteers**

09/03 April Ramos & Melinda Brinkley  
09/10 Destiny Ramos & Toby James  
09/17 Amanda Kirkland & Eirene Ferguson  
09/24 Minnie Goodman & Christy Boatright

### **Offering Accountants**

Charlie Wyont & April Ramos

*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.*

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

**ACTS Food Distribution**  
Friday, September 22, 2023  
8:30 AM  
New Ellenton Civic Center

# SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:30 AM Worship	4 Labor Day  Church office CLOSED	5	6 James Rembisz (B)	7	8 Dylan Akins (B) Viviana Ignaflo (B)	9 Michael Thompson (B) Daisy & Bo Herndon (A)
10 10:30 AM Worship Epworth Sunday  5 PM-UMWF-FH 5 PM-MYF-FLC	11 Eve Morrow (B)	12 Melinda & Jimmy Brinkley (A)	13   Church office OPEN	14	15 Graham Gustafson (B)	16 Barbara Johnson (B) Jayne Williams (B)
17 10:30 AM Worship	18	19	20	21 Ansley & Jess Sharpe (A)	22 8:30 AM-ACTS Food Distribution Austin Akins (B) Arni Clevenger (B)	23 First Day of Autumn
24 10:30 AM Worship 70th Homecoming  Brighton Hamer (B) Joseph Kovas (B) Grant Kovas (B) Destiny Ramos (B)	25 Ann Akins (B) Amanda Kirkland (B)	26 Tracy Owens (B) Zack Temple (B) Stacie Usry (B)	27	28	29 Mary Gentry (B)	30 5 PM Family Music Night

# St. Paul UMC MYF



Our Youth Kick off Night will be held on Sunday September 10 at 5:00 pm in the Family Life Center. All Youth and Parents are invited to come and enjoy the beginning of new semester.

*Please bring your family calendars for planning youth events for the fall.*



We have a MYF meal sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board near the church office.



**ST. PAUL**

**United Methodist Church**

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On Facebook at

[facebook.com/umcne](https://facebook.com/umcne)



Saturday, September 30, 2023

5:00 PM

Family Life Center

This is a free community wide event. We will have a light meal to start with; sandwiches, drinks, popcorn.

During the music portion, Patsy will play the piano and people will request their favorite hymns and everyone will sing.

We have a sign up sheet in the parlor for anyone that would like to sing a solo, duet or group with either Patsy playing or recorded music.

**All are invited to join us for a great night of music  
at St. Paul in our Family Life Center.**