

# Saint Paul UMC

## EPISTLE

Welcome to Saint Paul's new newsletter. Join us as we explore what is to come this month and the great adventures we have had in the past month!

Contact Us:  
Rev. Matthew Greer  
864-421-3800  
matthewgreer@gmail.com

Church Office:  
Melissa Campbell  
864-235-3494  
saintpaulumc1107@gmail.com

### Happening This Month

- 11/5 - All Saint Sunday
- 11/5 - SALT Class luncheon
- 11/8 - Fellowship Dinner
- 11/10 - Office Closed
- 11/10 - Parents' Night Out
- 11/13 - School bag packing
- 11/13 - S/PPRC meeting
- 11/14 - Fellowship Luncheon
- 11/14 - Women's Community
- 11/15 - Men's Community
- 11/16 - Golden Girls
- 11/20 - Finance Committee meeting
- 11/23 - Happy Thanksgiving
- 11/24 - Office Closed
- 11/26 - Decorating of the church
- 11/27 - Church Council meeting

### Always Happening

- Chancel Choir rehearsals every Wednesday night at 7pm
- Sunday School every Sunday at 10am
- Worship Service every Sunday at 11am
- Youth Group every Sunday at 5:30 unless otherwise noted.

### *From Pastor Matt*

In order to make Youth ministry at Saint Paul more excellent, we are looking for people that can:

- 1) Provide/prepare meals for the youth and leaders,
- 2) Spend time with the group to make sure that Safe Sanctuary is being practiced and,
- 3) Lead lessons and facilitate group discussions.

Please let me know if these are things you'd like to do Thank you!

### UPCOMING MISSIONS

#### Missions Collections

During the month of November, we will be collecting for our Missions fund and our School Missions fund. The money raised will be divided equally between the two funds to help us in coming outreach projects.

#### Project Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone you volunteered to sponsor a child for Christmas this year! We will be helping 31 children have a very special Christmas morning. If you would like to donate money toward this mission, you can do so to our Missions fund and mark it as "Christmas child".



## From Pastor Matt

It's not even 5:30 pm, but it's dark. I think that's so annoying; but I'm still thankful. To fight against this unwelcomed darkness, we've put out a lot of lights around the house...and wrapped them around garland...and weaved them through a few artificial trees. What I'm trying to say is, before Audrey and Elliott went Trick-or-Treating, the Greer home was decorated for Christmas; BUT (I promise) we're still thankful.

Oh the nerve of those who claim premature decorators like myself are skipping Thanksgiving, I would never. I even saw the Facebook post: "How about instead of rushing from Halloween to Christmas, we use November as a month of THANKS to properly prepare...". NO! How about BOTH? So under the glow of my Christmas tree and beside the stockings all hung with care, I'm listing out three practical ways to give an outward expression of thanksgiving during this time of year, and beyond:

1) At Meal Time: Dust off your WWJD bracelet as this is seen in the Gospels from what Jesus actually did. At the last supper, before the bread was broken, before Jesus verbalized the Good News of what that meant, JESUS GAVE THANKS (Matthew 26:26). At this same meal, this same pattern is also seen with the cup (Matthew 26:27).

2) With Friends: Throughout the Epistles, we see opening notes of expressed gratitude for the recipients of the letters. Philippians 1:3 states, "I THANK MY GOD every time I remember you". Oh how the times those who brought peace, wisdom, a good laugh, trust, encouragement, or a shoulder to cry on come popping up in my mind (or on my social media timelines). I'll challenge myself, and you as well: could it make a difference if we sent a message of THANKSGIVING to those people when the Holy Spirit brings them up to us? For those wondering, similar verses are found in Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, and Philemon 1:4-5.

3) GIVING: Do you know what "will result in THANKSGIVING to God"? According to 2 Corinthians 9:11 it is "generosity". The news gets better! That same verse lets us know that we can be generous because we "will be enriched in every way so that we can be generous on every occasion". May we demonstrate our THANKFULNESS for our money, time, resources (like food), knowledge, grace, and love by sharing and giving away said things to those in need of them.

Friends, life is too tough for the sun to go down so early. May we withstand this battle with Christmas AND Thanksgiving. May your November AND December be full of decked halls, thanksgiving, boughs of holly, good meals, good friends, wreaths, giving, generosity, Thanksgiving turkey, Christmas ham, and sharing.

Merry Christmas,  
Pastor Matt

P.S. I'm really thankful for y'all!

## Happy Birthday To

11/2 - Thomas Pool, Lisa Pool  
11/3 - Christopher Searcy, Owen Roberts  
11/4 - Randy Rogers  
11/5 - William Hall  
11/7 - Steele Gamble, Jenna Ackerman,  
Olivia Newman  
11/11 - Rebecca Roper  
11/12 - Tommy Head  
11/14 - Dot Huff  
11/16 - Bill Huff  
11/20 - Vicki Bolen  
11/25 - Larry Jones, Donna Connelly

## Happy Anniversary To

11/17 - Matthew & Charmaine Pool  
11/27 - Jason & Whitney Feaster

Congratulations!

## Financial Standing for October

Monthly goal was \$10,150.73  
Total giving was \$9,803.24  
Money transfers \$12,875.00

Expected budget was \$21,749.48  
Actual spent was \$17,488.12

Expected giving YTD is \$109,465.29  
Received YTD is \$104,960.43•

## Bible Study, Sunday School, and Other Groups

We have Sunday School classes for all ages every Sunday morning at 10am. Golden Girls Bible Study luncheon for our mature ladies meets every month on the third Thursday at 11:30. Our Women's Community and our Men's Community meet monthly in the evenings at various locations. Our Youth Group meets each Sunday at 5:30. We also have monthly Fellowship Lunches and Dinners.



# LOOK AT WHAT WE DID!

We did so much the past month! We attended and helped with the Fall Festival at the Sterling Center and hosted our very own Fall Block Party with trunk-or-treating, music, food, characters, and fun!





# FURMAN WESLEY FOUNDATION



Thank you for all the generous giving during the month of October in support of Furman's Wesley Fellowship Foundation. We raised \$419.63. I am sorry for our Carolina fans, but you came in last with \$32.01. Our avid Clemson supporters tried their hardest, but came in second with \$186.00. Congratulations to our Furman fans! They won the day with \$201.62. Thank you and may the best team wear purple!

## A Note from S/PPRC

We are collecting for the Staff Christmas Bonuses for Melissa, Bill, and Gary through Sunday, December 17th. Please consider a generous donation to help us thank our wonderful staff for their continued dedication to St. Paul. Please ensure you designate your donation as "staff Christmas Bonus" when donating.