

# *Epistle*



**Saint Paul**  
Methodist Church

**FALL 2025**

# Welcome to the Saint Paul Epistle

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**Church Office Hours:**

**Monday-Thursday**

**9 AM - 12 PM**

**& 1 PM - 5 PM**

**Friday**

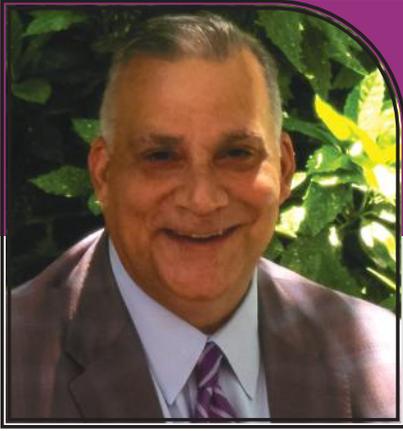
**9 AM - 12 PM**

*(Closed on Fridays from  
Memorial Day to Labor Day)*

**Contact the  
Church Office at:**

**(919) 734-2965**

[stpaul@stpaulgoldsboro.org](mailto:stpaul@stpaulgoldsboro.org)



## *A Message From Our Senior Minister Rev. James H. Harry*

***Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:***

The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and I are very excited to share the good news of two new full-time staff members joining the Saint Paul Ministry Team beginning January 1, 2026. We welcome Mr. Zach Blackburn as our new Music Director and Rev. Tim Fitch as our new Associate Minister.

### ***Welcoming Mr. Zach Blackburn, Music Director***

All of us have enjoyed the spiritual and musical gifts of Zach Blackburn since he joined us as our intentional interim Music Director in August. After having Zach be a part of both our music and the overall ministry of the church, the SPRC met with him through several conversations. Ultimately, this led us to invite Zach to join our Ministry Team and SPMC as our full-time Music Director.



Zach brings a youthful yet spiritually mature presence to our church. He is twenty-five years old and is from Warsaw, NC. He grew up in Duplin County and has been playing the piano for most of his life. He now makes his home in his very first solo residence in Faison, NC. Zach attended the University of Mount Olive, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business. While at UMO, he began taking organ lessons and has served several churches as both a substitute musician and part-time music director.

Zach came to Saint Paul to help lead our 9:00 a.m. non-traditional service and to serve as accompanist for the 11:00 a.m. traditional service. He sensed the Lord moving in his life for many years and dedicated his life to Jesus at an early age. He has continually offered his gifts and talents to the Lord, asking to be used by God in whatever way God would provide. We

# *From Our Senior Minister*

## *(continued)*

believe this new appointment of Zach to serve here with us is both directed by God and an answer to Zach's longtime prayer.

Zach will begin working full-time at SPMC at the beginning of the year, just a few weeks from now. In this role, he will be responsible for working with the Ministry Team to provide the overall vision, structure, and musical offerings for all our worship services. He will lead the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and Handbell Choir, and oversee all areas of our music ministry. I know you will join us in congratulating and welcoming Zach to Saint Paul Methodist Church.

### ***Welcoming Rev. Tim Fitch, Associate Minister***

Rev. Tim Fitch will begin serving as our new Associate Minister effective January 1st. Pastor Tim is a native of Avon, NC, and has lived his entire life on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.



He answered the call to ministry early in life and served as the Youth Pastor at Edenton United Methodist Church and Kitty Hawk UMC. Pastor Tim began the UMC Course of Study while serving the church and became a Licensed Local Pastor. For the past eight years, Rev. Fitch has served as the pastor of Gates-Bethel Church in Buxton, NC.

His SPMC appointment will be the very first time Pastor Tim and his family will live on the mainland of the continental United States. As our Associate Minister, he will serve as a general practitioner of pastoral ministry, helping to lead us in every aspect of our church's ministries — including, but not limited to, pastoral visitation, mission and outreach, preaching and teaching, and encouraging us to move into new places and opportunities for ministry.

Pastor Tim is scheduled to be ordained a Deacon in the North Carolina Conference of the GMC in June 2026. He will continue the Global Methodist Biblical Course of Study while serving among us on his journey toward ordination as an Elder. Pastor Tim is thirty-four years old. He is married to Sarah, and together they have three children: Becca (15), Ethan (10), and Daniel (8).



### ***A New Home for Our Associate Minister***

Several contributing factors arose during our search for a new Associate Minister. Because of these, the Administrative Council determined it was the right time to purchase a new Associate Minister parsonage and sell the current Jefferson Street parsonage. A Parsonage Search Committee was created with members from the Council, Finance, SPRC, and Trustee committees represented. After a several-month-long search, we will close on November 14th on a new home for our Associate Pastor and family in the Morgan Trace subdivision, located in the Lane Tree area of Wayne County.



Our hope and prayer are that this new home will serve our Associate Minister families well — that it will be large enough to accommodate them, provide a good school district for their children, and honor the people of Saint Paul. Sarah and the children will be moving here on December 19th and will be present for our Christmas Eve service. Pastor Tim will continue to serve Gates-Bethel through their Christmas Eve service, after which he will drive to his new home to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with Sarah, the children, and his new Saint Paul family. The SPRC will be sharing creative ways you can help welcome them to Saint Paul, Goldsboro, and Wayne County.

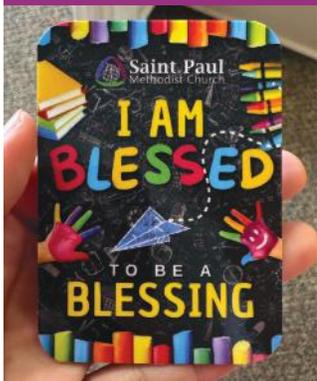
### ***God Is Moving at Saint Paul***

Friends, these are just two wonderful examples of what God is doing at SPMC. This quarterly Epistle will highlight several other areas of our church’s ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness in practicing the holy habits of both head and heart, and for your continued spiritual and financial generosity that allows the Holy Spirit of God to move so freely among us.

*Rer. J.*

# Fall WORSHIP Highlights

*During our 9am & 11am Blessing of the Backpack Worship Services in August, we prayed over our Saint Paul Kids and Teachers as they prepared to return to school.*



*Our Saint Paul Kids brought school supplies with them to the altar during the Blessing of the Backpacks services to be donated to Carver Heights Elementary students. Our Saint Paul Youth stuffed the school supplies into 48 new backpacks provided by our Missions Team and delivered them to Carver Heights. We were truly blessed to be a blessing to others in this season!*



*Our Saint Paul Children's Choir sang joyfully during our 11am Worship Service.*



*We are grateful for the special Women's Choir who led our worship during Women in the Pulpit Sunday.*



*Thank You to all the women who helped for our Women in the Pulpit Sunday Worship Services!*

## All Saints Sunday



### **Roll Call of the Saints**

*Kimberly Deettet (Farrell) Barnes*

*Lillian Overman Bridgers*

*Michael Randy Caulk*

*Henri Charles "Danny" Clay*

*Laura Pike Deprill*

*Jimmie Lee Edmundson*

*Carolyn Daugherty Hinnant*

*Ruby Lee Pittman Rains*

*Mailande Bishop Schrum*

*Judith Darwin Terry*

*John Wilkerson Thompson, Jr.*





## *From Zach Blackburn*

.....  
***Where there is no vision,  
the people perish.***

— *Proverbs 29:18*  
.....

### ***Greetings Saint Paul Methodist Church,***

For those of you who may not yet know me, my name is Zach Blackburn, and I have had the privilege of serving as the accompanist for both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services at Saint Paul over the past 11 months, as well as piano instructor for the Theria McPhail School of Sacred Music.

After much prayer, I accepted the full-time Music Director position on October 16 and look forward to joining the staff full-time in January. Words cannot describe how excited and blessed I am to pursue this calling. Being in full-time ministry has always been a desire of mine, and I am deeply grateful to be able to share the gifts God has given me with all of you.

The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” My first goal as Music Director is to help cast a new vision for worship music at Saint Paul—one that honors our past while embracing new styles. With both services continuing to grow, I see a wonderful opportunity to carry our music ministry to new heights of excellence. Whether through familiar hymns or new songs of praise, my prayer is that the Holy Spirit will inhabit the worship of His people and that Jesus Christ will be glorified.

God gave His best for us when He sent Jesus Christ to the cross to purchase our salvation. Therefore, everything we do for Him should reflect our very best. My desire is to cultivate a music ministry marked by excellence, unity, and authenticity in worship.

### ***My Vision for the Music Ministry***

In the coming months, my vision for the music at Saint Paul is threefold:

# From Zach Blackburn

(continued)

## **1. To build a culture of worship over performance.**

Our goal is not simply to make beautiful music, but to lead hearts into the presence of God. Whether through the timeless beauty of a hymn or the energy of a modern praise song, I want our music to invite everyone—young and old—to encounter Jesus in a personal way.

## **2. To strengthen and grow our musical teams.**

I hope to continue developing our chancel choir, children's choir, handbell choir, praise band, and instrumental ensembles—fostering a spirit of teamwork and discipleship within each group. My dream is that every participant—whether a seasoned musician or someone just discovering their gift—will find joy and purpose in serving the Lord through music.

## **3. To honor our heritage while embracing the future.**

The 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services each have their own unique expressions of worship, and I believe that diversity is one of our greatest strengths. I plan to preserve the richness of our traditional hymns while also introducing fresh arrangements and contemporary songs that speak to today's generation. Together, these styles can create a vibrant, intergenerational worship experience that unites our whole church in praise.

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### **The Thera McPhail School of Sacred Music**

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In addition to the worship ministry, I am equally excited about the future of the Thera McPhail School of Sacred Music. I believe the school plays a vital role in both the present and future of Saint Paul's mission. My vision is for the school to become a place where musical excellence and spiritual growth go hand in hand—a place where students not only learn how to play or sing but also how to use their gifts to glorify God and serve His Church.

My vision for the school is also threefold:

**1. Building musicians for the Church.** One of our greatest opportunities is to train and equip new generations of musicians who can serve not only here at Saint Paul but also in other congregations throughout our community. Many churches in and around Goldsboro rely on tracks or lack live music altogether. By mentoring students in both musical skill and spiritual maturity, we can help raise up worship leaders, accompanists, and instrumentalists who will carry the message of Christ through their music for years to come.

**2. Reaching our community through music.** The school is also a powerful mission field. Through lessons, workshops, and special events, we can connect with families who may not yet have a church home and invite them into the life of Saint Paul. Music has a way of opening hearts, and my prayer is that the school will continue to be a place where people experience the love of Jesus—sometimes even before they step into a worship service.

**3. Creating opportunities for performance and outreach.** I hope to expand our concert offerings throughout the year—from student recitals and sacred concerts to community music events. These performances can serve as bridges between the church and the wider community, showcasing the gifts God has given while pointing all glory back to Him.

Through these efforts, I envision the Theria McPhail School of Sacred Music becoming a vibrant extension of .....  
Saint Paul’s ministry—  
nurturing musicians,  
blessing the community,  
and proclaiming the gospel  
through the universal  
language of music.

My prayer is that both the worship and educational ministries of Saint Paul will continue to be beacons of hope, healing, and joy in this community. I invite you to join me in this vision—by praying, participating, and praising with all your heart. May every note we sing and every chord we play be offered as an act of love to the One who is worthy of all our worship.

With gratitude and excitement for what God will do,

In Christ,

**Zach Blackburn**  
**Music Director**  
**(beginning January 2026)**

.....  
***May every note we sing and  
every chord we play be offered  
as an act of love to the One who  
is worthy of all our worship.***  
.....

# From our CHILDREN'S Ministry

## ***Hello, Saint Paul!***

Fall always has a way of invoking refreshed feelings of something new, doesn't it? It has been so good to be back together in this new season. Our children have returned to a weekly time of fellowship and growth in Sunday School, where we began in Genesis, exploring the Creation story and working our way through God's beautiful story of redemption and grace—one lesson at a time.

At the end of each month, our children gather for a Bible lesson with Reverend Jim. It is a spirited time of song and learning sacred aspects of worship, such as bringing forth an offering. This year, the children's offering will sponsor a child in Ethiopia named Temesgen. Through this contribution to Temesgen's family, he can continue his education and pursue his dream of serving in healthcare one day.

September marked the first of our worship gatherings for the fall semester. It was particularly special as we welcomed our Saint Paul Seed Sowers for this meaningful time of worship and to meet the child for whom they will pray this year. If you would like to know more about this opportunity or would like to participate, please reach out. It is never too late to join in this purposeful work of prayer over the children of our congregation.

We have many opportunities to worship, grow, and serve together as we look forward to all that God has in store for our children in the remainder of 2025.



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***It is never too late to join in this purposeful work of prayer over the children of our congregation.***

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### ***Advent Family Night – November 24***

November 24 will be our Advent Family Night—what you may remember as “Deck Saint Paul.” In the coming weeks during Sunday School, our children will be creating beautiful new Chrismon ornaments to adorn the Saint Paul Christmas trees.

We hope you’ll join us on November 24 as we decorate, enjoy pizza and fellowship, and—embracing something new—assemble our own Advent wreaths to help prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of the Christ Child. Additionally, we will make wreaths to share with our beloved TLC members who are not able to worship with us in person.

### ***Children’s Christmas Pageant – December 14***

This Advent season will be filled with song, liturgy, carols, and, of course, the children’s beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus’s birth at our annual Children’s Christmas Pageant on December 14.

The fervor of fall will soon give way to the watchful season of Advent and the majesty of Christmas. Be sure to stay tuned to announcements, text communications, the Saint Paul website, and social media so you can participate in all that this season has to offer.

*Mary George Barwick*  
Children’s Director

# Fall CHILDREN'S Highlights



*Saint Paul Children's Sunday School Classes are for ages 2-5th Grade*



*Our Saint Paul Kids enjoy gathering all the Children's Sunday School Classes together once a month for a time of worship.*



*Our Saint Paul Seed Sowers joined us for the fun during our September Sunday School Worship time.*



# Fall CHILDREN'S Highlights (continued)



.....  
*Saint Paul Family  
Campfire & Chili  
Night was on fire!*  
.....





# Saint Paul Methodist Church

## ★ KIDS FALL 2025 ★

### SEPTEMBER

- 07 SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF
- 14 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 21 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 24 CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 5 & 5:30 PM
- 28 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL  
WORSHIP GATHERING @ 10 AM
- ★ RISE AGAINST HUNGER @ 3 PM

### NOVEMBER

- 02 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 09 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- ★ FAMILY CAMPFIRE & CHILI NIGHT @ 5:30 PM
- 16 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 23 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL  
WORSHIP GATHERING @ 10 AM
- 24 ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT @ 5:30 PM
- 30 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ADVENT CANDLE READINGS  
(4-5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS)

### OCTOBER

- 01 CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 5 & 5:30 PM
- 05 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 08 CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 5 & 5:30 PM
- 12 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- ★ KIDS SING @ 11 AM WORSHIP
- 19 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 21 HEARTS APART MILITARY  
FAMILY DINNER (@ SJAFB)
- 26 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL  
WORSHIP GATHERING @ 10 AM

### DECEMBER

- 03 CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 5 & 5:30 PM
- 07 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL  
ADVENT CANDLE READINGS  
(2-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE CLASS)
- 10 CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 5 & 5:30 PM
- 14 KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL
- ★ KIDS SING @ 9 AM WORSHIP  
ADVENT CANDLE READINGS  
(K-1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE CLASS)
- ★ CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
& RECEPTION @ 4 PM
- 20 KIDS CAROLING HAYRIDE @ 4 PM
- 21 ADVENT CANDLE READINGS  
(TOTS CLASS)

# From our YOUTH Ministry



## ***Finding Our Rhythm***

It's hard to believe that we're already in the short rows of our first semester of Saint Paul Youth—it's been such a promising start! Like anything new, we had to go through what I like to call the "awkward stage" of program development as students got to know us and we got to know them. Slowly but surely, that trust and relationship have been growing, making Sunday evenings so much fun.

## ***Our Amazing Students***

We are so fortunate to have such amazing students. Whether it's Annalee, Kellum, Sadie, and Anna Bennett leading us in worship, Henry telling us about his week at school, Eli and Isaac competing at the pool table, Will and Max battling Cooper and Parker in ping pong, Liyah, Alex, and Avery sharing stories around the table, or Grace, Merritt, and Gray hanging on the couch—Sunday nights are full of life!

## ***Thank You, Church Family!***

Thank you, church members, for stepping up in a big way to feed our youth on Sunday nights. The food has been delicious and has become something our students count on and look forward to each week. Thank you!

## ***Something New—and Familiar—is Coming Back!***

As we wrap up our first semester, we're excited to announce an upcoming trip this winter. It has come to our attention

.....  
***Sunday nights  
are full of life!***  
.....



that a ski trip was a core memory for many MYF at this church, and several have asked if we'd be bringing it back.

The answer is **YES!**

The youth will be heading to Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia, February 5–8, 2026.

We want this to be an opportunity for ALL of our students. Perhaps you don't have a child in youth but would be open to sponsoring a student—if so, please let us know!

### ***Serving with Grateful Hearts***

We also want to recognize our youth for giving up part of their day off from school to host the Veterans Day Luncheon at the church. We're so proud of their willingness to give of their time and to serve those who have so faithfully served us.

### ***Looking Ahead***

We are truly excited about where we are and what's ahead for Saint Paul Youth. As always, thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support!

**Bennett & Hadley Johnson**  
**Youth Directors**

.....  
***"The answer is YES!" —  
Winterplace 2026,  
here we come!***  
.....

# Fall YOUTH Highlights

## Youth Worship Night at Mount Olive University



## NEW Youth Sunday School Class



## Youth Leadership Team



## Sunday Night Youth Fellowship



# Fall YOUTH Highlights (continued)

## Veterans Day Lunch hosted by the Saint Paul Youth



# Youth Suite Renovation sponsored by the Saint Paul Shepherds



# SAINT PAUL YOUTH FALL 2025

ALL 6-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS ARE INVITED  
FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED!

BENNETT 252-315-7308 // HADLEY 910-849-4167

## SEPTEMBER

7

OPENING YOUTH NIGHT

14

VELOCITY WORSHIP NIGHT  
@ UMO

21

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

28

RISE AGAINST HUNGER  
CHURCH MISSIONS EVENT

## OCTOBER

4

SATURDAY NIGHT  
CHRIS TOMLIN CONCERT

5

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

12

NO YOUTH

19

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

26

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

## NOVEMBER

2

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

9

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

11

TUESDAY VETERANS DAY  
COMMUNITY PROJECT

16

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

23

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

30

NO YOUTH

## DECEMBER

7

SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY

14

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

21

NO YOUTH

28

NO YOUTH



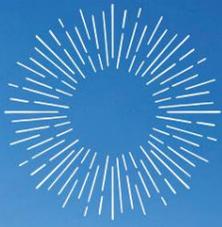
**Saint Paul**  
Methodist Church

Worship • Grow • Serve

204 EAST CHESTNUT ST. | GOLDSBORO

ALL YOUTH SUNDAYS MEET IN THE YOUTH SUITE:

- 10:00-11:00 AM: YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 5:30-7:00 PM: SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH {DINNER @ 5:30}



SAINT PAUL YOUTH



# SKI TRIP

FEB 5-8, 2026

AN UNFORGETTABLE YOUTH ADVENTURE!



WINTERPLACE, WV

**\$400 COST INCLUDES:**

2-day ski or snowboard rentals & Lift tickets



Lodging at Glade Springs Resort

All Meals



Long sleeve T-shirt

**\$150 DEPOSIT DUE BY DECEMBER 10 TO SAVE YOUR SPOT!**

# Saint Paul WOMEN'S Ministry

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## **October 18-19, 2025 Women's Ministry Weekend**

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Our October 18-19 Women's Ministry Weekend was filled with worship, music, and fellowship. On Saturday, around 250 women from across our community gathered in the Saint Paul Sanctuary, sharing laughter, inspiration, and powerful moments of encouragement—a true celebration of unity and sisterhood in Christ. On Sunday, we were blessed by the leadership of the women of Saint Paul during our Women in the Pulpit Sunday worship services.

We are so thankful for everyone who attended, served, and helped make this ministry weekend so special!



*As Saint Paul Methodist Women, our vision is to live into the Saint Paul mission as a Christian fellowship of women whose ministry is to enhance the lives of others, focusing on women, youth, and children.*

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**Methodist Women's  
Circle Meeting Schedule**

*(beginning September 2nd)*

**Unity Circle:**

**1st Tuesday of the month at 11am**

*(Saint Paul JP Edwards classroom)*

**Faith, Hope, & Charity Circle:**

**2nd Tuesday of the month at**

**10:30am** *(Saint Paul Parlor)*

**ACTS Circle:**

**2nd Wednesday of the month at**

**6:30pm** *(upstairs of Hinnant Family Dentistry)*

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**Titus 2 Women's Ministry**

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Our Titus 2 Heart Moms love serving all the young ladies in our Titus 2 Women's Ministry!



# Saint Paul SERVE Ministry

## Rise Against Hunger



*Over 75 volunteers of all ages gathered at Saint Paul to pack 15,000 meals to help address food insecurity internationally.*



*Saint Paul was honored to sponsor and support the October Hearts Apart Dinner at Seymour Johnson AFB. This monthly gathering provides a meaningful opportunity for families of actively deployed service members to share a meal and connect with one another. Through the Saint Paul Missions Ministry, we provided Wilber's BBQ and our dedicated team of volunteers helped serve more than 150 attendees. We were grateful for the chance to support these families and show Christ's love in a tangible way.*

## Hearts Apart



**Saint Paul continues to financially sponsor orphan groups in Kenya and Malawi through the ZOE Empowers ministry program.**



# BEREAVEMENT Ministry



## ***Jimmie Lee Edmundson***

***December 2, 1948 - August 31, 2025***

Jimmie Lee Edmundson, 76, passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 31, 2025, at Kitty Askins Hospice Center surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Wayne County on December 2, 1948, to the late James Add Edmundson and Mary Rachel Smith Edmundson, Jimmie lived a life defined by service—to his family, his faith, and his community. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Faye Edmundson Westbrook, and his son-in-law, Adam Lewald.

Jimmie devoted 43 years of his career to Branch Bank and Trust in Goldsboro, retiring in 2013 as Senior Vice President. His professional success was matched by his commitment to public service. A tireless advocate for his community, Jimmie gave his time and leadership to numerous organizations, including the United Way of Wayne County, the Chamber of Commerce, the Military Affairs Committee (now Friends of Seymour), where he chaired the committee three times between 1983 and 2023, the Wayne Community College Board of Trustees, the Salvation Army Board, and the Committee of 100. His dedication earned him the respect of many and recognition through numerous awards for his contributions to Goldsboro and the surrounding area.

Outside of his professional and civic life, Jimmie found joy in the simple but meaningful moments—time with his family, working on the family farm, and living out his strong faith. As a member of St. Paul Methodist Church, Jimmie's faith was his steady guide and a source of strength throughout his life.

A service to celebrate Jimmie's life will be held on Friday, September 5, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Paul Methodist Church with Rev. James Harry officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. A private inurnment will follow in the church columbarium.

Jimmie is survived by his beloved wife, Donna Fortner Edmundson; daughters, Allyson Edmundson Mauzy and husband, Matthew, and Kimberly Lewald; grandchildren, Henry Mauzy and Addison Lewald; nephew, Todd Westbrook and wife, Kymme, and their daughter, Raechel Westbrook; special daughter, Barbara Atkins Lingle and husband, Matt; and special family friend, Fred Watson. He is also survived by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Donald and Sherri Fortner and Bobby and Jean Nasekos; and several special cousins, nieces and nephews he loved very much.



### ***Lillian Overman Bridgers***

***June 18, 1930 - September 7, 2025***

Lillian Overman Bridgers, a beloved member of the Goldsboro, North Carolina community, passed away peacefully on September 7, 2025, at the age of 95. Born in Wayne County on June 18, 1930, she was the daughter of the late G.L. Overman and Dixie Montague Overman. In addition to her parents, Lillian is preceded in death by husband, Brutus “Chubby” Bridgers; and daughter-in-law, Kathy Miller Bridgers.

Lillian is survived by her children, Lee Stevens Bridgers and wife, Miki Musik of Moab, UT, Catherine Bridgers Byrd and husband, Gene Turner Byrd of Goldsboro, Dale Metz Bridgers of Goldsboro, John Montague Bridgers and wife Elizabeth Underwood Bridgers of Goldsboro; grandchildren, Mystery Ziegler and husband, Stephan, Vincent Bridgers and wife, Lauren, Johnathan Byrd, Catey Tewes and husband, Travis, Tom Byrd and wife, Amber, Matthew Bridgers, Mimi Steed and husband, Sam, and John Willis Bridgers, and wife, Anna Paige; and great-grandchildren, Theodore Bridgers, Violet Bridgers, Hannah Tewes and husband, Kaleb Thueson Tewes, Adelynn Tewes, Lila Byrd, Bridgers Byrd, Mina Lee Steed, Wesley Steed, Charlie Steed, Charlotte Bridgers, and Betts Bridgers. Lillian is also survived by her sister, Betsy Overman and husband, John Gardner of Brevard, NC.

Together with her late husband, Lillian faithfully owned and operated The Cloth Barn in Goldsboro. With warmth and dedication, she supplied countless customers with fabric for every need — weddings, quilts, costumes, and everyday creations. But more than just selling fabric, Lillian built lasting relationships — stitching together a community with the fabric of love, kindness, and everyday care.

A gifted pianist, Lillian’s love for music was evident in everything she did. She taught piano to students of all ages, played the organ for St. Luke United Methodist Church years ago, and filled every room she entered with melody and joy. Creative and thoughtful, Lillian also loved painting, reading, and moments of quiet reflection. Her faith in Jesus was the guiding light of her life — strong, steady, and full of grace. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her many talents, and the legacy of love she left in the hearts of all who knew her. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to Gentiva Hospice for the compassionate care provided to Lillian. A special thank you as well to her devoted caretakers — Gwen King, Rhonda Olson, and Cyndee Hutton — for their unwavering support, kindness, and love.

A celebration of Lillian’s life will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Seymour Funeral Home. The family will receive friends in the hour prior to the service, from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.

# HOSPITALITY Ministry

## Holy Baptisms

*On September 14, 2025, we celebrated the baptism of Chris Caulk, who publicly professed his faith in Christ and was welcomed into God's family through the waters of baptism.*

*On September 28, 2025, we joyfully celebrated the baptism of Archibald Branson Vickory. Surrounded by parents, family, and his church community, Archie was welcomed into the family of faith through this sacred act of grace.*



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## ***Celebration of New Life***

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*We are overjoyed for the arrival of Mary Kenan Taylor, born on October 6, 2025. We rejoice with her proud parents, Cameron and Meredith Taylor, and give thanks to God as they welcome this precious gift into their lives!*



### ***A Note of Thanksgiving from Rev. Jim***

*In this season of Thanksgiving, Robin and I want to offer our gratitude and sincere appreciation for the many cards, gifts, tasty treats, and creative ways you honored us throughout Pastor Appreciation Month. We feel truly blessed by God to worship, grow, and serve Christ alongside this wonderful congregation. Thank you all.*

*Blessings,  
jhh*

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## *Advent and Christmas at Saint Paul*

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### **Save the Dates for our Advent and Christmas season at Saint Paul!**

- **Monday, November 24 – 5:30 pm | Advent Family Night** | Join us at Saint Paul on Monday, November 24 at 5:30 PM for a fun-filled family night as we prepare for the Advent season! Enjoy pizza and fellowship as our kids help decorate the trees in the church. Together, we'll also make Advent Wreaths for you to take home and enjoy throughout the season. Come be part of this special evening as we celebrate the beginning of Advent together!
- **Sunday, November 30 – 11am | 5th Sunday Combined Worship Service with Hanging of the Greens** | For our first Sunday of Advent, November 30, we will have one combined worship service at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the Hanging of the Greens. This special service marks the beginning of the Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. This will be a meaningful time of worship, beauty, and anticipation!
- **Wednesday, December 10 – 7pm | The Kings Brass Community Christmas Concert** | On Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM we will have a joyful evening of Christmas music with The King's Brass! This talented ensemble will fill our Sanctuary with festive sounds of the season, featuring beloved carols and inspiring arrangements that celebrate the birth of Christ. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this special Community Christmas Concert and share in the joy and wonder of Christmas together at Saint Paul! Nursery care will be available.
- **Sunday, December 14 – 9am Worship Service Music Special | 11am Traditional Worship Service | 4pm Children's Christmas Pageant & Cookie Reception** | Enjoy a music-filled day beginning with our 9:00 AM Worship Service Music Special or attend our 11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service. Then, at 4:00 PM come delight in the Children's Christmas Pageant, followed by a cookie reception for all ages. It will be a wonderful time to share in the joy and wonder of the Advent season with our church family!
- **Saturday, December 20 – 4pm | Kid's Christmas Caroling Hayride** | Our Saint Paul Kids will meet up at the Senior Parsonage for a Caroling Hayride on Saturday, December 20 at 4pm. This will be a fun time to gather and sing Christmas Carols for our families throughout the neighborhood.
- **Sunday, December 21 – 9am Worship Service | 11am Christmas Cantata** | Join us for a morning of celebration as we continue to worship together throughout the Advent season at our 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services. Our 11:00 AM Worship Service will feature beautiful music by our Christmas Cantata Choir. Come share in this special time of joy and praise!
- **Wednesday, December 24 – 4pm & 7pm | Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services with Communion** | We will have our Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Worship Services in the Sanctuary on December 24 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM.
- **Sunday, December 28 – 11am | Combined Worship Service of Lessons and Carols** | Join us for one Combined Worship Service of Lessons and Carols at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. This meaningful service blends Scripture readings with the singing of beloved Christmas carols, guiding us through the story of Christ's birth and the hope He brings to the world. This is a beautiful tradition of reflection, praise, and celebration.



**Saint Paul**  
Methodist Church

*Saint Paul Advent*

[WWW.STPAULGOLDSBORO.ORG/ADVENT-2025](http://WWW.STPAULGOLDSBORO.ORG/ADVENT-2025)

204 E CHESTNUT ST  
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530

**HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
**OPEN MONDAY-THURSDAY 9AM-12PM & 1PM-5PM**  
**& FRIDAYS 9AM-12PM**  
**CLOSED CHRISTMAS EVE AT 12 PM**  
**CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY**

# Saint Paul Advent

**NOV  
24** 5:30 PM: Advent Family Night

**NOV  
30** 11 AM (only): Hanging of the Greens Worship Service  
One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**DEC  
07** 9 AM: Second Sunday of Advent  
11 AM: Second Sunday of Advent

**DEC  
10** 7 PM: The King's Brass Community Christmas Concert  
Nursery care available

**DEC  
15** 9 AM: Christmas Music Special  
11 AM: Third Sunday of Advent Traditional Service  
4 PM: Children's Christmas Pageant & Cookie Reception

**DEC  
20** 4 PM: Kids Christmas Caroling Hayride & Family  
Reception at the Parsonage

**DEC  
21** 9 AM: Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service  
11 AM: Christmas Choir Cantata

**DEC  
24** 4 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service  
7 PM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

**DEC  
28** 11 AM (only): Lessons & Carols Worship Service  
One Combined Worship Service in the Sanctuary

