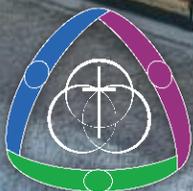


Epistle

ST. PAUL
METHODIST
CHURCH



Saint Paul
Methodist Church

SUMMER 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

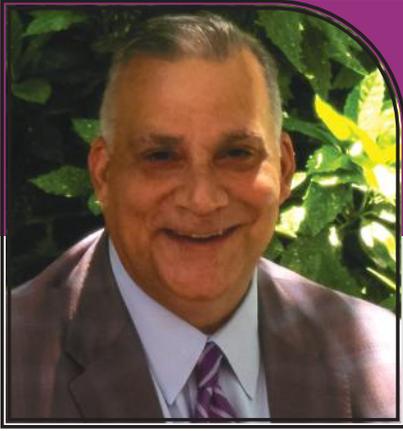
9 AM - 12 PM

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

**Contact the
Church Office at:**

(919) 734-2965

stpaul@stpaulgoldsboro.org



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

To the Members and Friends of Saint Paul Methodist Church:

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ! Happy summer to you all. It's been a while since our last Saint Paul Epistle. This hasn't been because of a lack of ministry or anything of the sort. In fact, it's been quite the opposite. All our ministries are operating on all cylinders. We are moving with the pedal to the metal. In a NASCAR race, the team strategy lies in trying to figure out the best time to come in for a pit stop and change its car's tires and top it off with fuel. Consider this season's Epistle as your Ministry Team's driving into Pit Row to catch you up with what has been going on at SPMC.

As you read this edition of the Saint Paul Epistle, I encourage you to do so with the same fervor as these early readers and hearers of first-century Christianity. Ask,

“What has God been up to in my church?”

And, after reading the Epistle, ask yourself,

“How can I help be a part of what God is doing here?”

The Bible's New Testament's epistles {little letters} are just that. They are personal letters from the pastors and church leaders of the local churches written at the end of the first century. What we call The Holy Bible was likely composed over roughly fifty years, from about 50-100AD, give or take. Thirteen of the twenty-seven New Testament epistles {letters} are attributed to the Apostle Paul. Our congregation is named after Saint Paul. So, it makes sense to me that the letter from the Saint Paul Methodist Church pastor and her church leaders is called the Saint Paul Epistle.

Change is constant. Time and information changes rapidly. As I get older, I find that I have more difficulty keeping up with the pace of change than I once did. We want to help bridge this rapid change of pace gap with the Epistle. Each edition of our

From Our Senior Minister

(continued)

Saint Paul Epistle updates and brings new voices and new ministry reports from our Ministry Team members to you. Our goal with each update is to share our ministries, report on past events and celebrations, update you on current happenings, and provide you with a look at the immediate future of our ministries. We want to engage with you to share what has happened, what is happening, and is coming up as the Holy Spirit moves in and among our congregation.

We are a vibrant, active, spiritually growing, numerically growing, missional-minded, financially strong, healthy congregation. We belong to and are connected to local Global Methodist churches and an Annual Conference that is growing rapidly and expanding

through all parts of North Carolina, from the mountains to the sea. And we are a part of a new and fresh Methodist movement that is exploding across the world. New churches and Annual Conferences are being added to our number across the globe. We are truly a global denomination! The first-century Christians waited with bated breath to hear a word from their pastors and leaders. They wanted to hear what God was up to in their new movement of Jesus-followers. As you read this edition of the Saint Paul Epistle, I encourage you to do so with the same fervor as these early readers and hearers of first-century Christianity. Ask, "What has God been up to in my church?" And, after reading the Epistle, ask yourself, "How can I help be a part of what God is doing here?"

Rev. J.

Saint Paul WORSHIP RECAP



Thank You to our Saint Paul Acolytes for carrying the light of Christ into the Sanctuary!



During Promotion Sunday, we celebrated the Saint Paul Kids moving into the 6th grade and beginning their journey in our Saint Paul Youth group—Anna Bennett Johnson and Avery Krochta (Not pictured: Henry Price, Kellum Nunn, and Sadie Sloan).



During Scholarship Sunday, we awarded 13 college students with the J.C. Harrell Memorial Scholarship and celebrated the high school graduation of Miss Anna Morrison Underwood.

From Holton Johnson



Dear Church Family,

As I sit to write my final Epistle article to you all, I find myself reflecting on the incredible growth that has happened here at Saint Paul since I came in July of 2023. God has moved through us and enabled us to minister to His Kingdom in so many glorious ways. I say that not only as someone who was a part of carrying out that ministry, but also as someone who was ministered to by this community.

I will always mark my time here at Saint Paul as a major turning point in my life. I can confidently say that this church and her community are where all my Christian foundations come from. It was here I learned of true Grace, given new birth, and given the room to grow in Christ, as a professional, and as a person.

It was to this place I was called to serve through God's Prevenience in my life, to start the path of discipleship and use what gifts I have to help others do the same. Here God worked to build my heart for mission and service to His Kingdom. None of that could have taken place without the support I have received from you all.

It was in your Sanctuary where I was baptized, this town where my daughter was born, and my journey as a Father began. It was here where my family was able to start to grow.

I am eternally grateful for everything I have been able to do here at Saint Paul.

.....
*I thank my God every time
I remember you, constantly
praying with joy in every one
of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in
the gospel from the first day
until now. I am confident of
this, that the one who began
a good work among you will
bring it to completion by the
day of Jesus Christ. It is right
for me to think this way about
all of you, because you hold
me in your heart, for all of
you share in God's grace with
me, both in my imprisonment
and in the defense and
confirmation of the gospel.*

Philippians 1:3-7

.....

Shepherd's Hymn

Verse 1:

*In quiet moments, I lift my gaze,
To hills and heavens, in awe I praise.
My refuge strong, my guiding light,
In shadows deep, you make all things right.*

Chorus:

*Oh, Shepherd true, lead us in grace,
In pastures green, in your embrace
With thankful hearts, we sing this psalm,
Our trust in you, our eternal calm.*

Verse 2:

*Beside still waters, your mercy flows,
Restoring souls, in love that glows.
Though trials come, we fear no ill,
Your rod and staff, our hearts instill.*

Verse 3:

*Prepare a table, midst foes we dine,
Anointing heads with oil divine.
Goodness and mercy, faithful kin,
Though they are near, Our King will win.*

Verse 4:

*With every breath, with every song,
We'll praise you, Lord, our hearts prolong.
In psalms of old and hymns anew,
Our Shepherd's love forever true.*

As I prepare for the next chapter of ministry God is calling me to, I do with trust that the music of Saint Paul will continue to glorify God and lift hearts up.

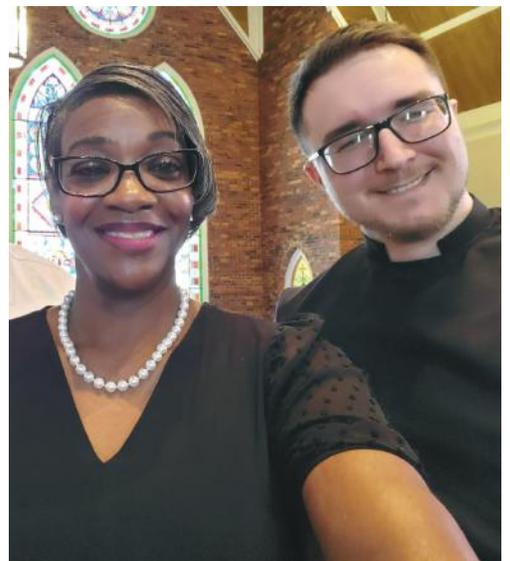
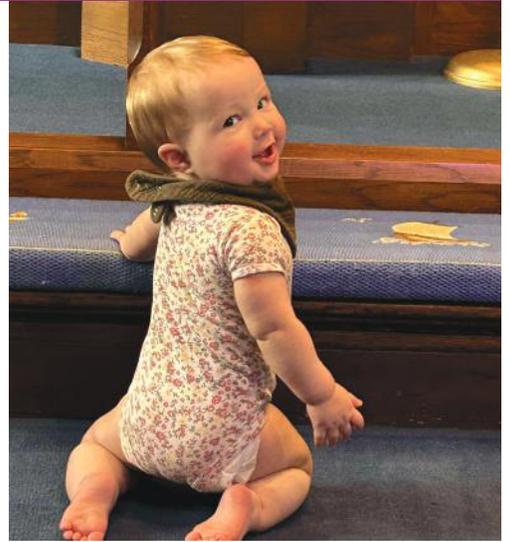
My prayers for this community echoes that of St. Paul in his letter to Philippi. That I will thank God every time I am able to lead people in worship through music, that St. Paul was my foundation. Because of the Grace shown to me, I was able to return Grace to others, and become the man I am today.

As I reflect on the past 2 years, I come back to how I was able to truly express my faith here in ways that are extremely meaningful to me. I would like to leave a gift of dedication to the church. I wrote a hymn titled "Shepherd's Hymn" during my first season of Lent here. It is symbolic for me, in that you all have been shepherds to Katelyn, Anessa, and me. This hymn is my dedication to the community of Saint Paul. I hope it is as meaningful for you all as it was for me.

Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving as Music Director for the past two years. Thank you for welcoming my family into your lives and sharing the gift of ministry and music. The journey we have shared has been a gift beyond measure, and the memories will remain close to my heart.

Peace and Love,
Holton Johnson

A few of Holton's favorite memories



From Our CHILDREN'S Ministry



Hello Saint Paul family!

What a joy it has been to journey through these first few months as a staff member with so much support from all of you. I am grateful for your words of encouragement, your helping hands, and the excitement we share for all God has in store for the children of Saint Paul.

As we look forward to the upcoming Sunday School year, I pray with each time we come together and the times in between, we strive to build a home for our children not only at Saint Paul, but in Jesus. Wherever their lives may lead them, through every hill or valley, that they will always know intimately God's love and grace.

We began the summer right out of the gate with Vacation Bible School, which was GREAT fun. It was a lively week focused on living like Jesus. Through the week, we read scripture that was reinforced each night with activities focused on loving one another, being kind to one another, forgiving one another, and serving one another. Our "Live It Out" theme was a real camp adventure. With the help of dedicated volunteers, the spaces of Saint Paul felt like a camp in every way – it was incredible. The children's classrooms were transformed into camp cabins for smaller group activities. Each night, the children played games and made some really special crafts. We finished the week with 71 children and over 40 volunteers. God was surely moving at Saint Paul!

I cannot say enough wonderful things about our volunteers – those who helped pull together and prepare decorations and craft supplies, our Scouts and ACTS Circle who came in to serve supper, our teachers, games and crafts leaders, our stage crew who led our large group time at the start and finish of each night, everyone who helped prepare food, our ladies checking in all 71 children each night, those who came to oversee security and leaders of our music time – there

From Our CHILDREN'S Ministry

(continued)

were so many roles with so many helping hands which allowed us to offer many experiences and create a memorable week for us to be together. We enjoyed sharing a snippet of our VBS dance moves during the Fifth Sunday luncheon in June.

Throughout the rest of the summer, our children came together to hear God's word with "Scripture and Scoops" at Sweet Frog and learned to pray in color with "Popsicles and Prayer" at the Bryan Center splash pad. We wrapped up the summer with a Back-to-School Kickoff Pool Party on August 10, which was a night full of fellowship and fun as we prepared to jump into the next season at Saint Paul.

During this slower season of our church, I have reflected much about where God might be leading us in the important work of discipleship with the children of Saint Paul. Reverend Jim once encouraged our Children's Committee to always remember the "why" of what it is we are doing. He reminded us that with every activity planned and every prayer shared, we are building a home in the hearts of the children of Saint Paul – a home to which they will always come back to Jesus. Reading C.S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew* recently, this home in Jesus was painted in such beautiful imagery: "Both the children were looking up into the lion's face as he spoke these words. And all at once (they never knew exactly how it happened) the face seemed to be a sea of tossing gold in which they were floating, and such a sweetness and power rolled about them and over them and entered them that they felt they had never really been happy or wise or good, or even alive and awake, before. And the memory of that moment stayed with them always, so that as long as they both lived, if ever they were sad or afraid or angry, the thought of all that golden goodness, and the feeling that it was still there, quite close, just round some corner or just behind some door, would come back and make them sure, deep down inside, that all was well."

As we look forward to the upcoming Sunday School year, I pray with each time we come together and the times in between, we strive to build a home for our children not only at Saint Paul, but in Jesus. Wherever their lives may lead them, through every hill or valley, that they will always know intimately God's love and grace. May we live into the very baptismal covenant we took to pray for them and guide them as they grow in their discipleship. This Fall, we are inviting the congregation to commit to pray specifically for each of our Saint Paul children as they grow in faith through the upcoming school year. Be on the lookout for ways to be involved in this ministry as a "Seed Sower" and plan to join our congregation to pray over our Saint Paul children as they come to receive God's blessing over their upcoming school year with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on August 17.

Sunday School classes for the school year will begin September 7. If you feel God's call to join in this ministry, please consider attending a volunteer interest meeting between services on August 17 or reach out to me any time. Lastly, parents, please be on the lookout for Christmas Pageant registration! It is our goal to get an early start this year practicing the treasured story of Christ's birth. There is much going on in the life of the Saint Paul children, and I am endlessly grateful for your support as we partner in this important ministry.

Mary George Barwick
Children's Director

Saint Paul CHILDREN'S RECAP

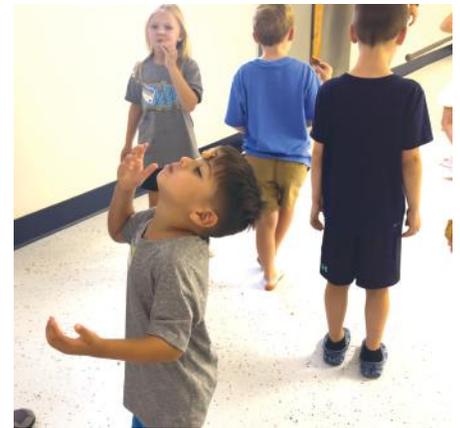


Saint Paul Kid's End-of-semester Sunday School Worship Gathering



Vacation Bible School

Over 70 kids attended our Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School



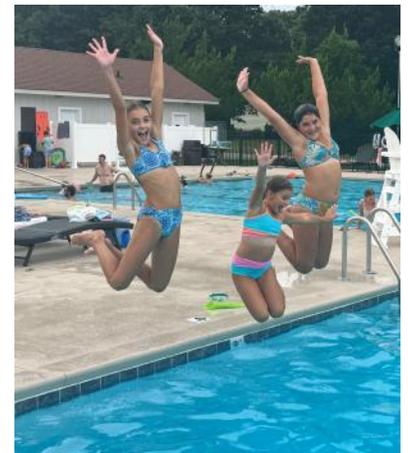
Over 45 Adult
Volunteers served
at VBS each night



Saint Paul CHILDREN'S RECAP

(continued)

Back-to-School Pool Party



NEW Ministry: 2025 Seed Sowers

Saint Paul is launching a brand-new churchwide ministry called Seed Sowers — an opportunity for adults to partner with our Saint Paul Kids in intentional prayer throughout the upcoming school year. Each adult who signs up will be paired with a specific child and will commit to faithfully pray for that child, sowing seeds of faith, encouragement, and hope into their life. You will receive an “About Me” information sheet from your child to help guide your prayers. We will also have a special meet-and-greet for Seed Sowers and Saint Paul Kids during the Children’s Sunday School Worship Gathering on Sunday, September 28 at 10 am. Sign up online or contact the church office to be part of this meaningful ministry that plants seeds for a lifetime of faith.

From our YOUTH Ministry



Saint Paul Youth has gotten off to a great start! We started back in May with our Kickball Kick Off event. We were so excited to have 24 students show up to enjoy some kickball, food, devotion, and fellowship (special thanks to Max Batchelor for bringing a truckload full of boys). Our devotion encouraged the kids to look for daily reminders of God's presence in their life.

In June, on quite possibly the hottest day of 2025, we packed up a van of students and conquered Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, VA. While the heat wasn't ideal, it helped keep crowds away and allowed the kids to ride as many roller coasters as their hearts desired. This trip fell on the same week as a Boy Scouts camping trip, so that left Henry Price as our only boy in attendance. He was our fearless leader, and we don't know what we would have done without him!

We also had a great night of fellowship and bonding at our "Rolling into the New School Year" skate night on August 6. The youth had fun racing Bennett around the rink--the youth won (they might have had a head start)!

As we look ahead to the fall semester, we want to share our vision. While trips and special events are certainly nice, the heart and soul of our youth program will be Sunday mornings at Sunday School and Sunday nights in the Youth Suite.

During Sunday School, the youth will be starting a new curriculum where we travel through the Bible in chronological order. On Sunday evenings, we will have a meal, sing some

Our vision is for Saint Paul Youth to be a place where kids want to be present and a place where they want to bring their friends. Christ will be at the center of everything we do as we also promote fun and relationships!



songs, hear a message, and unpack the book of John. We are committed to building Biblical literacy in our students as we believe God's Word is the foundation of our faith.

The Youth Suite has experienced a very nice facelift. Thanks to the Shepherds of Saint Paul, the youth received a financial gift for improvements. We have established a section in the youth suite for worship and also a place for relaxation and games. We are so proud of how that area has turned out and cannot wait for our youth to enjoy it for years to come! Thank you, Shepherds!

Lastly, our vision is for Saint Paul Youth to be a place where kids want to be present and a place where they want to bring their friends. Christ will be at the center of everything we do as we also promote fun and relationships!

If you're wondering how you can help us turn this vision into a reality, here's how you can help:

- Pray for us and our youth.
- If your child is between 6th and 12th grade...send 'em!
- Sign up to provide a meal one Sunday (more info coming)

We appreciate all of the love and support we have received from the members of Saint Paul! Thank you!

Bennett & Hadley Johnson
Youth Directors

Saint Paul YOUTH RECAP

Youth Kickball Kick-Off





Busch Gardens Trip



Youth Skating Night





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

SAINT PAUL YOUTH FALL 2025

ALL 6-12TH GRADERS ARE INVITED
FRIENDS ARE ENCOURAGED!

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

SEPTEMBER

- 7 OPENING YOUTH NIGHT
- 14 SAINT PAUL YOUTH SUNDAY
- 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 METHODIST WOMEN

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.

**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)*

October 18 @ 9:30am
The Harvest Is Here

Ladies, gather with women from across Wayne County for a powerful morning of worship and encouragement! Be inspired by Rachel-Ruth Lotz Wright, granddaughter of Billy Graham and a gifted Bible teacher and speaker, as she shares the hope found in Christ. We'll also celebrate the impact women are making through missions in our community. This free women's ministry event is presented together by the women's ministries in the Goldsboro District of the NC Global Methodist Church. Seating is limited—reserve your ticket now online or by contacting the church office.

<https://bit.ly/theharvestishere>

October 19 @ 9 & 11am
Women In The Pulpit Sunday

Join us for a special day of worship as our Saint Paul Methodist Women lead both of our regular Sunday Worship Services at 9am and 11am. We are excited to welcome Rev. Amy Kelly as our guest preacher. Come and be blessed as we celebrate the gifts and leadership of women in ministry.

Unity Circle Luncheons



TLC Flower Deliveries



A Note from the Saint Paul Staff

To the amazing ladies of the Saint Paul Methodist Women Faith, Hope, & Charity Circle:

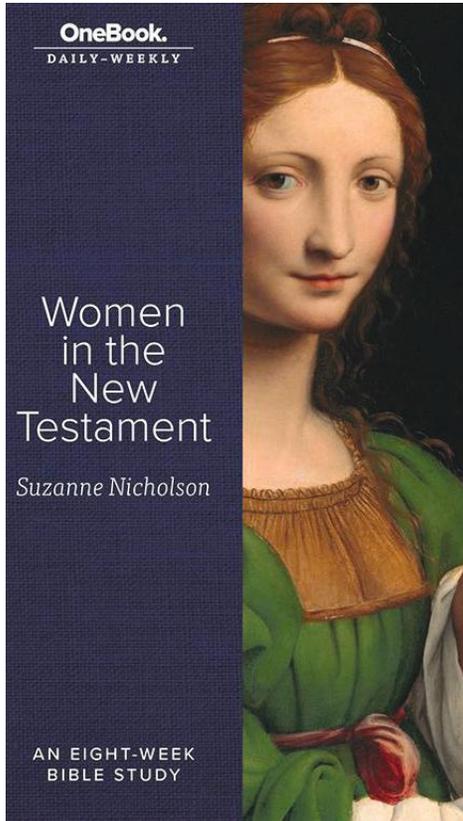
Thank you for the incredible Staff Appreciation Lunch—it was delicious, thoughtful, and such a bright spot in our week. We are grateful for your kindness, your encouragement, and the way you faithfully pour into our church family (and into our plates!). We left with happy hearts and happy bellies! You certainly made us feel loved and appreciated!

Saint Paul METHODIST MEN

The Saint Paul Methodist Men's Masters Luncheon was a hole-in-one! We enjoyed a delicious meal, lively fellowship, and a spirited putting contest that brought out the competitive side of a few golfers. Laughter, good-natured banter, and plenty of cheers made for an afternoon to remember. Congratulations to Larry Gerrard, who sank his putts with style and claimed this year's bragging rights! Thank you to all who joined in the fun!



Saint Paul Adult FALL BIBLE STUDIES



Women's Bible Study

1st & 3rd Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm

(Beginning September 3rd)

All women are invited to join us for an inspiring 8-week study on Women in the New Testament, beginning Wednesday, September 3. We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights at 6:30 PM in the Journeys Classroom. This study, led by Mary Ellis, will explore the stories and faith of remarkable women in scripture and how their lives speak to us today. Come Grow in faith through God's Word and enjoy fellowship with other women!

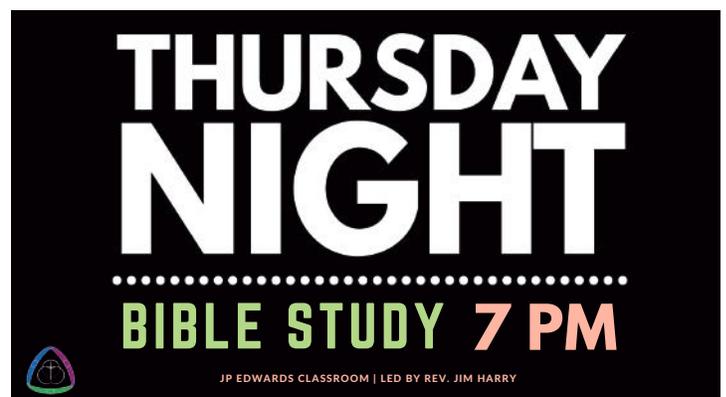
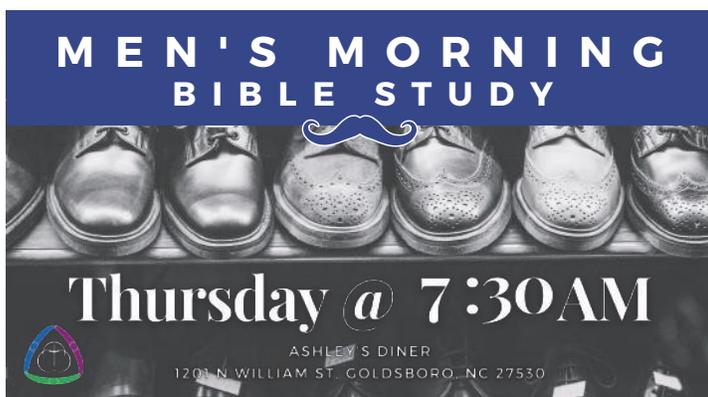
Sign up to receive information about this Women's Bible Study and join our Facebook group!

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study at 7:30am

(Ongoing weekly at Ashley's Diner)

Rev. Jim's Thursday Night Bible Study at 7pm in JP Edwards Classroom

(Beginning September 18)



Saint Paul SUMMER MISSIONS

Dillard STEAM Summer Camp

The Saint Paul Missions Team was excited to sponsor the Dillard Academy STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Camp this July. Forty-two students attended this groundbreaking summer camp, marking the first community-sponsored educational program of its kind in Goldsboro's recent history. The idea for this camp was driven by the need for summer options for young people in the area who are not able to afford to attend traditional summer camps.

Our Saint Paul Missions Team learned about the proposal for this camp through our relationship with Saint James AMEZ. Through the generosity of the people of Saint Paul, we were able to fully-fund this local community program. You can read more about this camp through the Goldsboro Daily News online at: bit.ly/dillardcampmission

VBS Bible Mission Project

During this summer's Vacation Bible School, our Saint Paul Kids led a special Bible mission project in partnership with the NC Global Methodist Church. The goal was to provide Bibles for new GMC churches forming in Uganda by collecting funds for native-language Bibles and donating new and gently used English Bibles.

Thanks to your generosity, Saint Paul was able to provide over 400 Bibles!

In connection with GMC churches across North Carolina, our Annual Conference has now been able to send over 4,000 Bibles to churches and pastors in Uganda and South Sudan.

Thank you to everyone who prayed, gave, and encouraged our kids as they led this mission effort to spread the Word of God through our global connection.

Upcoming Saint Paul Missions Events

August 17 at 9am & 11am: Blessing of the Backpacks

As a new school year begins, we invite students of all ages, teachers, school staff, and volunteers to bring your backpacks, briefcases, or bags to worship on August 17 for our Blessing of the Backpacks. We will offer a special time of prayer and encouragement during our 9 am and 11 am Worship Services.

As part of our ongoing outreach with Carver Heights Elementary School, the Saint Paul Missions Team has purchased 48 backpacks for students who are without a backpack this school year. Our Saint Paul Kids are encouraged to bring school supply donations (pens, pencils, crayons, paper, notebooks, or composition books) to help fill these backpacks during our Blessing of the Backpacks on August 17. Our Saint Paul Youth will then stuff the backpacks with these supplies. Thank you to our entire Saint Paul church family for your ongoing generosity that makes our missions possible as we support, bless, and lift up everyone heading into a new school year! It is a blessing to be a blessing to others.

September 28 at 3pm: Rise Against Hunger

Mark your calendars and join us for our next Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Sunday, September 28 at 3:00 PM as we work together to pack over 15,000 meals! This is an all hands on deck event for all ages—a great opportunity for families, friends, and church members to serve side-by-side. Our Rise Against Hunger Experience provides a powerful, start-to-finish assembly process where volunteers work together to combine rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables, and a packet of 20 essential vitamins and minerals into life-changing meal packages. These meals store easily, transport quickly, and have a long shelf life—meeting the urgent nutritional needs of people facing food insecurity in communities around the world.

This year, we will celebrate a major milestone: crossing the 200,000 meal mark packed by the people of Saint Paul over the years! Pre-registration is required for all volunteers. Sign up online or contact the Church Office for assistance. bit.ly/2025spmcriseagainsthunger

HOSPITALITY Ministry

Holy Baptism

On July 13, 2025, we joyfully celebrated the baptism of Evan Aycock, who publicly professed his faith in Christ and was welcomed into God's family through the waters of baptism. That same day, Evan, along with his wife Emily, joined the membership of Saint Paul Methodist Church. We give thanks for their commitment to walk alongside us in faith as the people of Saint Paul who Worship, Grow, and Serve together, and we look forward to all that God will do through their lives in our church family.



Celebration of New Life

We are overjoyed for the arrival of Holly Dawn Krentz, born on August 10, 2025, at 2:27 AM. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19.5 inches long. We celebrate with her proud parents, Daniel and Jessica Krentz, as they welcome this precious gift from God into their lives. Big sister Hayden is already in love!



From Lyndsey Clark



Finding Family

Being adopted as a child, I've always known the significance of being chosen—of being loved not because someone had to, but because they wanted to. It's a powerful thing. As I grew up and became a follower of Jesus, I came to understand what it meant to be adopted again—this time into God's family.

In 2010, when Adam and I moved to Goldsboro, we didn't know anyone in the area, and all of our lifelong friends and family were miles away back in Georgia. It was just the two of us, newly married, trying to find our way in a new town. We visited Saint Paul Methodist Church, and on one of our first Sundays, we were greeted with big smiles and warm hugs, and ended up sitting next to Debbie Hughes and her mother. It seems like a small thing, but it wasn't. It was the beginning of something much bigger—finding family in a Sanctuary full of strangers.

Our first Christmas after visiting Saint Paul, we had no plans and no family nearby. But we met Johnny and Janet Peacock and were quickly invited to join their family at Ms. King's home on Christmas Day. I remember it was a joy seeing their family exchanging gifts, and then a gift found its way into our hands from under their family Christmas tree. When we asked how they knew we would be coming, we learned that their family always welcomed new faces into their home, even on Christmas Day. That gesture stayed with us. It was kindness we didn't expect, but deeply needed.

***See what love the
Father has given
us, that we should
be called children
of God; and that is
what we are.***

1 John 3:1

Over time, we found ourselves drawn into the rhythm of the 9 am worship service, and we would sign up with Milly Crain to help bring breakfast. Adam and I rolled up enough pigs in a blanket and made breakfast casserole for the 25 people who were attending the service at that time. Watching the worship service grow to over 150 people attending now has been a wonder—I have no idea how many pigs in a blanket it would take to feed all the kids there today!

We joined the new member class and found a home in Coach Whisenhunt's Sunday School class—which we helped name Journeys. Later, we helped start a young adult class with just us and Bennett and Hadley Johnson. It started small, but the class grew into something special—and even unexpectedly competitive with our side hustle trivia team, “Circle the Joker,” becoming a weekly highlight.

Over the years, we found ways to serve—starting the church Facebook page, running movie theater ads for Christmas Eve services, and even designing the church logo and helping share the mission statement. I still smile thinking of sitting on the sidelines as the statistician with John Strickland for the

men's church softball games (and later even becoming a very terrible catcher for the Saint Paul co-ed softball team).

There were Thursday Night Bible Studies, church committee meetings, Annual Conference trips, and of course, the Journeys of Paul cruise—a true trip of a lifetime. And when COVID hit, we learned how to record and livestream worship, with enough bloopers that could fill a full-length comedy series.

When the difficult season at Saint Paul came during disaffiliation, watching parts of our church family split apart was heartbreaking. Yet even in the trial, I felt God calling me more deeply into ministry. I stepped into a full-time staff role at Saint Paul in April of 2024, and what a blessing it has been to serve among people who are my family.

Being adopted taught me what it means to be chosen. Being adopted into the family of God taught me what it means to be loved eternally. And being a part of the Saint Paul family has taught me what it means to find home—real, every day, show-up-and-love-each-other family.

Lyndsey Clark
Operations Director

