

The *Epistle* of St. Paul

November 2025

St. Paul

United Methodist
Church

244 Kurtz Road
Marietta, Georgia
30066
770-422-1089

www.stpaulumc.com
churchoffice@stpaulumc.com
<https://onrealm.org/stpaulumc>

Rev. Shelia Preacher
sheliapreacher@comcast.net
678-925-0103

Children's Ministry
Victoria Godfrey

Music Director
Hope Field

Accompanist
Dorothy McCracken

Administrative
Assistant
Louise Byrd

Financial Secretary
Ed Jackson

Lead Nursery
Morgan Field

Nursery Assistant
Zahra Taylor

Sunday Schedule
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

Thanksgiving or Thanks-Living?

Mike McMillin

As autumn colors paint the trees and we feel that first cool breeze in the air, and as we watch the White House turkey get its pardon, our hearts naturally turn toward Thanksgiving. It's a season of family, food, and gratitude—a time to pause and remember how richly God blesses us.



But for people of faith, Thanksgiving isn't limited to one day on the calendar. God invites us to turn **Thanks-Giving** into **Thanks-Living**—a way of life that reflects His grace every single day.

There's a difference between the two:

- ☛ *Thanksgiving* happens once a year; *Thanks-Living* happens every day.
- ☛ *Thanksgiving* speaks words of gratitude; *Thanks-Living* shows it through godly actions.
- ☛ *Thanksgiving* counts blessings; *Thanks-Living* shares them.
- ☛ *Thanksgiving*, we share dinner with our family; *Thanks-Living*, we serve dinner at Hope House.

At St. Paul, we see Thanks-Living every time someone sends a card, visits a sick friend, mows someone's lawn, delivers a meal, prays for a neighbor, volunteers in the community, or simply offers a smile that lifts another's spirits. These are the small but powerful ways God's love shines through His people.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, once encouraged us: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can." That's what Thanks-Living looks like—faith in motion, gratitude in action, love that overflows.

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Thanksgiving or Thanks-Living? *(Continued from page 1)*

So, as we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving—with turkey, sweet potatoes, laughter, and stories—let’s also gather around a more profound sense of gratitude. Let’s not let our thanksgiving end when the leftovers are gone.

Let’s live it out daily—in our words, our kindness, our giving, and our worship.

Because when we live with thankful hearts, others can see Christ reflected in us. This November, and every other month, may our homes, our church, and our lives overflow not just with Thanksgiving, but with Thanks-Living.

Happy Thanksgiving, St. Paul family—
May your days be filled with joy, gratitude, and grace!

Prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for every good gift You’ve placed in our lives. Teach us not only to give thanks, but to live thanks – in our words, our actions, and our love for others. May our hearts overflow with gratitude so that all we do for others brings glory to You.

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Save the Date!

Messy Church Thanksgiving Feast!

Saturday, November 22 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Get ready to **gather, giggle, and give thanks!**

It’s been far too long since our famous St. Paul suppers filled the Fellowship Hall with the smell of home cooking and the sound of happy chatter. So... we’re bringing it back—Messy Church style!

Our theme this month is “**We Are Thankful,**” inspired by Psalm 107:1-9. Together we’ll celebrate God’s steadfast love—the kind that fills hungry bellies and grateful hearts.

After a fun, hands-on worship experience, we’ll sit down to a feast fit for a thankful people: St. Paul’s world-famous chicken pot pie, green beans, rolls, cranberry sauce, and of course, **pie!**

Come as you are—young, old, messy, or tidy—and start the holidays with a thankful heart and a full plate. **Everyone’s welcome. Everyone’s family. Everyone belongs.**



Mission Outreach—November Sawyer Road Elementary

Susan Short

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you," (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful for the many blessings in our lives, including sufficient food. We can express our gratitude by sharing a meal with those in our community who are hungry. Thanksgiving will be even more meaningful by providing dinner for another family. They will not know our names, but God's love will be warmly felt as the family joins together to break bread.

Many of our neighborhood children attend **Sawyer Road Elementary School**, and some of their families need assistance with their **Thanksgiving dinner**. If you would like to participate in this project, **sign up in the church narthex** and **pick up a decorative bag** at that time. As you shop for your November food items, perhaps take the decorative bag with you, and **fill it with the foods listed below** to feed a family of six. The school also requests a \$20.00 gift card to Kroger, Publix, or Walmart so the family can purchase a turkey or ham to complete their Thanksgiving meal. If you know someone who cannot

shop but would like to participate, perhaps you could shop for them or share a bag—with one buying the food items and the other providing the gift card for your bag.

Place the gift card and its receipt in an envelope and tape the envelope to the upper inside of your food bag. **Please bring your decorated bag of food and gift card** to the MUST box in the church narthex by **November 16th**. A representative for the school will pick up the bags from the church and deliver them to the families before the Thanksgiving break. Kindly pray for the recipients as well.

The congregation of St. Paul continues to reach out to our community in so many ways! Thank you for your kindness, generosity and support for our neighbors!! With an attitude of gratitude, God bless you and the families served in His name. Thanks be to God!



Suggested canned or boxed items to feed a family of six:

- Green beans
- Corn
- Sweet potatoes
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy
- Stuffing - box/bag
- Applesauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned pumpkin
- Evaporated milk
- Brownie mix
- Cranberry sauce

Thanksgiving and the Joy of Giving to the Church

Maureen Fleming

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, Thanksgiving invites us to pause and reflect on the blessings that surround us. It's a season marked by gratitude—a time when we gather with loved ones, break bread together, and give thanks for God's provision in our lives. But as we count our blessings, Thanksgiving is also a time to consider how we might *be* a blessing to others.



One of the most powerful ways we can express our gratitude is through **giving**—not just to family and friends, but also to the body of Christ, our church.

In 2 Corinthians 9:11, Paul writes, *"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."* Generosity is both a fruit and a fuel of gratitude. When we recognize how richly God has provided for us—through salvation, community, resources, and grace—it stirs in us a desire to give back.

Giving to the church is not just about supporting buildings or budgets. It's about **participating in the mission**—spreading the Gospel, serving the community, discipling believers, and caring for those in need.

Our little church is often the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. Through ministries, outreach, teaching, and acts of compassion, St. Paul embodies Christ's love. Your giving helps make that possible.

Whether it's:

- 🕒 Feeding families during the holidays,
- 🕒 Providing counseling and care,
- 🕒 Offering Bible studies,
- 🕒 Keeping the lights on and the doors open,

your generosity plays a vital role.

Giving is an act of worship. Just as we sing, pray, and serve, we give as a tangible response to God's goodness. When we give to the church, especially out of a thankful heart, we acknowledge God as our provider and Lord over all we have.

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This Thanksgiving, as you reflect on what you're thankful for, ask yourself: *How can I give back to God what He has so freely given to me?* Let this season be not just about counting blessings—but about **becoming** one.

Practical Ways to Give

- 🕒 **Financially** – Consider a special Thanksgiving offering or setting up regular giving.
- 🕒 **Time** – Volunteer for a ministry or holiday outreach program.
- 🕒 **Talents** – Use your gifts to serve in worship, tech, teaching, or hospitality.
- 🕒 **Presence** – Simply being part of the body, encouraging others, and showing up matters.

Thanksgiving is more than a holiday—it's a posture of the heart. And when gratitude overflows, it becomes generosity. Let's enter this season with open hearts, willing hands, and a renewed commitment to supporting the church—not out of obligation, but out of joyful thanks for all God has done.

Faith-Filled Thanksgiving

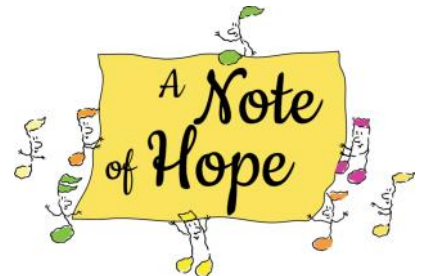
Hope Field

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him," (Col. 3:17). This verse is such a great reminder that our faith isn't meant to stay inside church walls or Sunday mornings. It's meant to flow through

everything we do. Paul is basically saying, "Whatever you're doing, big or small, do it for Jesus." Whether it's how we speak to someone, the effort we put into our work, or even how we treat a stranger, every moment can be an act of worship. It's easy to think only certain things count as "spiritual," like praying or reading the Bible. But Colossians 3:17 challenges that idea. Folding laundry, helping a coworker, running errands, or encouraging a friend, all of it can honor God when we do it with gratitude and love.

This verse also calls us to be mindful of our words and actions. Are we speaking with kindness? Acting with integrity? Showing grace when it's hard? When we remember we represent Jesus in all we do, it changes how we move through our day. So today, whatever comes your way, work, school, family, or quiet moments, do it in His name. Let gratitude lead you, and let your life reflect the One you serve.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!



Giving Thanks

Bob Trengove

Thanksgiving is almost here. Thanksgiving has always been a special time in our family. Yes, we did get together to share a meal, but we also got together to enjoy each other's company and catch up with everyone. My parents always traveled from Florida to our home in Georgia to celebrate Thanksgiving or Christmas. My dad always had his video camera sitting on a tripod to film the meal. We now have years of videos of all the meals my dad filmed. Even though we do not view them, we have them and hope that someday we will. The problem is that my dad also liked cameras, and the recordings are on different types of media. I will save them and pass them on.

I also remember a Thanksgiving meal my kids and I cooked when my wife traveled to Massachusetts to be with her dad, who was in hospice. I thought we did a good job, but we had left everything in the turkey, which made my girls say, "gross." I was proud that we were able to prepare the meal, but most of all, that my wife got to be with her dad.

Hosea Williams always furnished meals for those who were homeless or hungry and needed a meal. Even though he has gone to be with God, his organization continues to supply meals today.

Our church furnishes a meal at Hope House every month. My wife and I participated once, and it was a great experience to see all the people who appreciated the meals we provided.

Now we gather with our children and their families for the Thanksgiving meal. We do not worry about perfection or whether there is enough room for everyone. The smiling faces are all that matter. The whole point of the celebration is to be grateful—not just for the food, but for the people we get to share it with.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all the blessings you give us. Thank you for family and friends. Thank you for all the good work that is done every day throughout the world as we provide a meal, a smile, and a word of hope to all those who need an act of kindness. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to appreciate each other.

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.



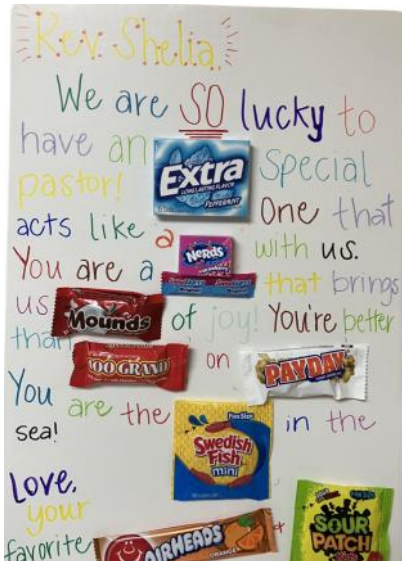
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Building & Grounds *(Continued from page 6)*

Many activities are still being performed at St. Paul by the Building and Grounds Team. The following are some of the tasks in progress:

- ❶ **Computers:** Mike presented this proposal at the last board meeting. The team approved the Dell computer quote, and the computers should arrive and be installed by the time this goes to press.
- ❷ **The October 4th workday** was a success. Eleven people came for the workday. We replaced a rotten timber in the playground, trimmed, edged, raked pine straw for the beds, weeded, and put down some mulch. The grounds look better, as this was the last workday of the year. Thanks to everyone who came out. We cannot do it without you.
- ❸ **Shelia** reached out to Cobb EMC about some pine trees that look dead near the power lines. Cobb EMC has agreed to take them down; however, they will not remove the wood.
- ❹ **Shelia** is looking into having a dead pine tree taken down near the playground, as well as a pine tree that is leaning toward the sanctuary. Since they do not involve power lines, Cobb EMC will not remove them.
- ❺ **Louise** is negotiating our gas rates for next year. We will either stay with Georgia Natural Gas, or move to Gas South, whichever can give us a better rate.

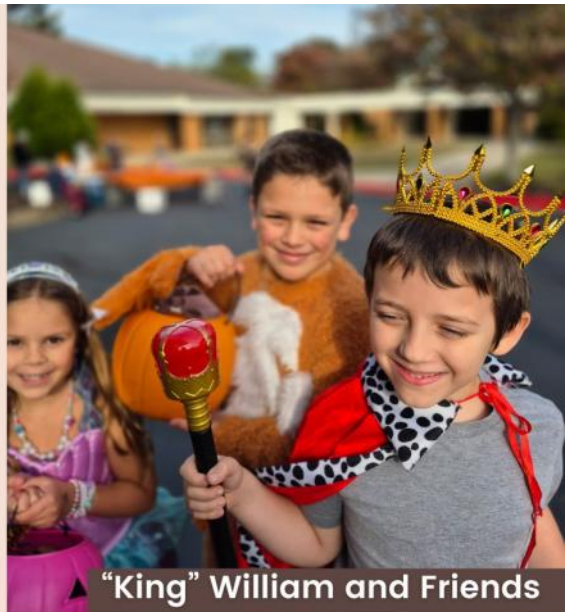
Clergy Appreciation Day







"Batty" Gwynn



"King" William and Friends



"Scary" Pedrick



Peggy "Ghoul"



"Haunt" Field



Ruth "Cast-a-Spell"
& "Scarem" LeCroy



Susan "McChillin"
& "Candy" Allen

Forever Young *Let's Declutter*



Forever Young Presents

Medicare Updates

November 5 @ 11:30
Fellowship Hall



RSVP to Susan McMillin or for Information
susan428@aol.com • (770) 310-4506

Medicare 2026 Update

**Presented by Janet Payne, SHIP Counselor
Georgia SHIP, part of the GA Dept. of
Human Services Division of Aging Services**

**Fellowship Hall — Doors open at 11:00,
Program starts at 11:30**

Janet will:

- ◆ Explain Medicare basics
- ◆ Answer questions
- ◆ Clarify enrollment periods, programs, and plans
- ◆ Cover Medigap, Part C, Part D, and other public health insurance options

The session is interactive and packed with helpful insights.



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism



Front: Vera Marie Martinez, Cyrus Andrew Moshglani
Back: Cypress Onofre Martinez

Cypress Onofre Martinez

Vera Marie Martinez

Parents: Kari-Ann and Gustavo Martinez

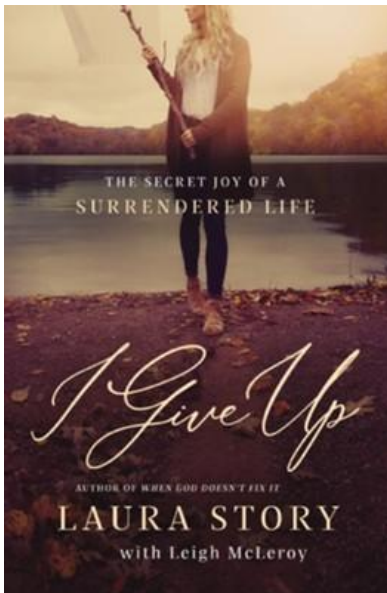
Proud Grandparents: Marilyn and Michael Lee, Gisela and William Martinez

Cyrus Andrew Moshglani

Parents: Jessica and Pejman Moshglani

Proud Grandparents: Katherine and Ayon Lim Sang, Deborah and Rahim Moshgelani

Baptism: September 28, 2025, at
St. Paul United Methodist Church



I Give UP: the Secret Joy of a Surrendered Life

In this five-session video Bible study, recording artist and bestselling author Laura Story demonstrates the ironic joy found when we surrender it all to God and simply give up. Surrendering expectations and power is not a step-by-step process but a willful, daily decision worth every single ounce of effort.

Join us Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in Room 206 for this study!

Spotlight on: Betty Meeks

A Life of Service and Southern Charm

Kathy Lim Sang

We're delighted to shine our Membership Spotlight on Betty Murphy Meeks, a vibrant soul who, at 92 years young, is the epitome of an authentic *Southern Belle*, still maintaining her true Savannah, GA accent. Betty has been a steadfast member of St. Paul since 1967, making her a true pillar of our church community.

Betty and her late husband, James Meeks, first discovered St. Paul after moving to Marietta and searching for a new church home. They watched both their family and St. Paul grow, helping to build the community that stands today and witnessing the sanctuary and annex take shape. Betty was blessed to share 60 wonderful years of marriage with James, whom she describes as the most loving and precious partner. They first met in a Sunday School class at their church in Savannah, Georgia. James passed away last November at age 95, and she misses him dearly every day.

The Meeks family raised three children: Robert (56), Alice (54), and their eldest, Walter, who sadly passed away at 45. Betty is also the proud grandmother of five grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 to 23.

Betty's God-given talents extend from the kitchen (her family loves her Southern



St. Paul
Member Spotlight

Betty Meeks



cooking, especially her sweet tea, sweet potato soufflé, and green beans) to her vibrant personality. She's famous for her big smile and Southern drawl, and her true strengths are her personality traits: honesty, generosity, loyalty, and friendship.

She is a lifelong Methodist, born into a Methodist family. Betty's involvement at St. Paul has been one of the greatest joys of her life. Over the years, she and James kept the nursery, helped with Vacation Bible School, chaperoned trips to Camp Glisson, and served as communion stewards. Betty worked with the lunch team to make meals for MUST Ministries and, in 1975, started a "Children's Church" to keep the little ones engaged during sermons. She also helped sew the lined, pleated curtains for the upstairs rooms in the educational building.

Before marriage, Betty worked for 12 years at the Savannah Chamber of Commerce as a bookkeeper and records supervisor, where she earned the nickname "Slugger" playing softball. After marriage, she took

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Thankfulness Changes our Hearts

Victoria Godfrey

As November rolls around, we're surrounded by reminders to "be thankful." We see it on banners, hear it in songs, and in endless crafts covering our classroom walls. But in Children's Ministry, we get to watch thankfulness in action—pure, simple, and most-likely unfiltered.



Whether it's being thankful for Ms. Morgan bringing in their favorite doughnuts or precious new kittens, it's in these moments with our little ones that I'm reminded that gratitude doesn't need to be grand to be genuine. These simple, everyday expressions show that thankfulness isn't just a seasonal message for November but that it's really a way of living.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, *"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* What a powerful reminder that gratitude isn't dependent on everything going perfectly. Children seem to understand that truth instinctively. Their thankfulness often bubbles up from a place of trust. They believe that God is good. Period.

But in the chaos of life, packed calendars, overflowing inboxes, and endless to-do lists, it's easy to let gratitude slip quietly to the background. We forget that taking time to say "thank you" is one of the simplest ways to reflect God's love to others. When we pause to appreciate the people around us we're shining light into their lives.

Thankfulness doesn't just change our attitude—it changes our hearts. It shifts our focus from what's missing to what God has already given. And when we take time to thank God and one another, gratitude begins to grow, overflowing into every corner of our church family.

Betty Meeks *(Continued from page 12)*

on the titles of CEO, CFO, and CIO of the Meeks household—a fulltime housewife and mom.

For fun, Betty used to love square dancing and shopping at icons like Woolworth's and Rich's. These days, she enjoys watching *Wheel of Fortune* and *The Price is Right*, and she always looks forward to the fun social gatherings at St. Paul. Her personal mantra? Just say no to drugs, alcohol, and cigarettes!

Please join us in celebrating Betty Meeks—a kind heart, a generous spirit, and a cherished member of our St. Paul family!



UPCOMING EVENTS DECEMBER

Date	Time	Event
6	3:30 p.m.	Story Time w/ Santa
14	11:00 a.m.	Cantata "Love"
23	4:00 p.m.	Hope House
24	5:30	Christmas Eve Svc.



A New Way of
Doing Church!

Saturday, November 22
4:00–5:30 p.m.



GriefShare®

Surviving the Holidays

Saturday, November 1
10:00-Noon in Person
<https://www.griefshare.org/events/269377>

Thursday, November 6
6:00-7:30 p.m. (via Zoom)
<https://www.griefshare.org/events/269379>



STORY TIME WITH SANTA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
3:30-5:00 P.M.

CRAFTS...

FOOD...

STORIES



Serving This Month



November Servants

Worship Leader—Bob Trengove

Open/Close Facilities—Robbie Littlefield

Monday Servants

11/03 Tom Short & Ruth Castellaw
 11/10 Darrell Morgan & Marj Rhodes
 11/17 Tom Short & Ruth Castellaw
 11/24 Darrell Morgan & Marj Rhodes

Media Team—Mike McMillin

Easy Worship—Terry Palmer, Tom Preacher

Audio/Video—Robbie Littlefield, Jyo Vanapalli

Could it be YOU? Join Us!

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Christine Heldreth | 14 Jyotsna Vanapalli |
| 2 Doug Conley | 16 Susan Woodward |
| 3 Ruth Gmyrek | 18 Mary Lou Flenner |
| 6 Alex Grega | 24 Abby Grega |
| 7 Carol Preuss | 26 Carol Hiers |
| 12 Debbie Isbell | 30 Daryl Wright |



Our Faithfulness

*"I will be loyal to St. Paul United Methodist Church
 and support her with my prayers,
 my presence, my gifts, my service and my witness."*

SEPTEMBER 2025

Our Presence

Average weekly Sunday School attendance16
 Average weekly 11:00 worship attendance 47
 Average weekly online attendance..... 49

Our Gifts—General Fund SEPTEMBER 2025 INCOME

Contributions\$ 15310.00
 Processing Gifts..... \$ 87.80
 Total Contributions..... \$ 15397.80
 Rental Property..... \$ 1,695.00
 Soccer Rental..... N/A
Total Revenue\$ 17,092.80
YTD 2025 Income..... \$149,848.09
Total Expenses for SEPTEMBER \$ 21,547.04
TOTAL 2025 Expenses..... \$172,278.09

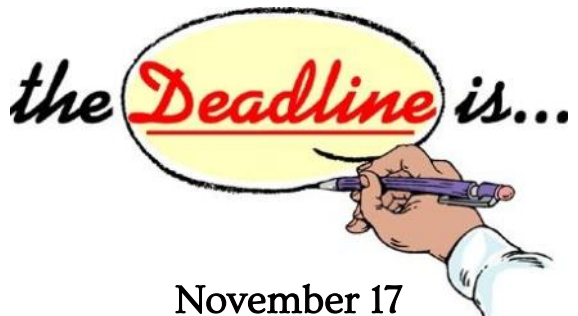


Altar Flowers

Cost: \$50.00

11/02: Marj Rhodes
 11/09: Available
 11/16: Available
 11/23: Available
 11/30: Available

**Sign up on
 Bulletin Board**



November 17

Suggested word count: 350-400