

SUNRISE CHURCH | AUGUST 2026

The Beacon

Walk Boldly into the New School Year

God wants to remind you, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds . . . ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

On the first Sunday in August, the theme for the worship service was, ***The Inspiration of the Holy Spirit***. The theme had been suggested to me by a comment of one of our members who has found tremendous solace recently in the presence of the Holy Spirit. He observed that he felt God's incredible presence in this gift, promised by Jesus. His comments set the theme for the sermon.

Above are the Apostle Paul's observations about the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian community. The backdrop is obviously some contention within the community; probably people arguing about who is more deeply connected to God's work and purpose. Paul lists a variety of ways that people serve God's purpose. He reinforces the truth that all these different ways of serving are *activated* by the same *Spirit*. The familiar hymn, *We Are One in the Spirit* comes to mind.

*We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.*

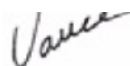
Chorus: *And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

Early Saturday evening, two of our Middle School Youth who had gone on very special mission trips this summer texted me that they were back in town and would love to share their experience with the congregation. The timing was perfect! Brooklyn and Kaleigh delivered the most amazing testimonials about their mission trips. Brooklyn had gone to Hungary and Kaleigh to the northern part of Australia. Kaleigh shared how her own life experience had opened the way for one young woman the same age as herself to find her life changed by Kaleigh's witness.

In my message, I told the congregation that I felt God's hand in the way Sunday's service had come together. It was not my planning; it was the working of the Spirit that shaped the service. My role was simply to say *yes* to all the opportunities that were being presented.

As we move into the fall and a new school year, we are being presented with remarkable opportunities. The one Spirit that the Apostle Paul speaks about is activating Sunrise and each of us. As Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth, each of us are given gifts by the Spirit to share. The question for each of us is to recognize how our gifts are being used by God to build up the family of faith and reach out into the world!

In God's grace,





Thank you for your generous contribution to the Remembrance Garden...

- In memory of Dick Blanchard and Niel Crocker given by Roberta and family

Sunrise Columbarium & Memorial Garden



Families used to purchase plots in cemeteries to provide the final resting places for family members. Today, many families are purchasing groups of niches in columbariums for that purpose. Members of Sunrise and family (including parents, children and grandchildren) are eligible to purchase niches in the columbarium. If your family is interested in purchasing a group of niches, information is available on the church website at www.oursunrise.org under Resources, at the church office or by contacting Ralph Byers at ralphbyers@gmail.com or at (917) 273-6173.

Donations to the Columbarium Fund may be made *in memory* or *in honor* of someone, or for the perpetual care of the columbarium and garden. These donations are always appreciated and will be recognized in the Beacon.

Sunrise Prayer List

Please continue to pray for those on the prayer list:

Recent Prayer Concerns: Wendy McClary, Ann Reaser, Daphne Byers, Brooks Geer, Anne, CiCi Hensley, George Ducker.

Continuing Prayer Concerns: Dee Goodnight, Jena Salem, The Lowry Family, Jake & Robert Taylor, Jean Campbell, Byrtie Campbell (Linda's sister), Lou Mintz, Matt, Greg & Kathy Woodbury, John Marty, Marty Belk, Jeanie Heath, Bill Schupp.

If you'd like to add someone to either prayer list, please let the church know at hello@oursunrise.org or [843.883.3888](tel:843.883.3888). 1) indicate if the person should be placed on the Recent OR Continuing prayer list and 2) the individual's mailing address so that they may receive postcards with expressions of care and concern from the congregation.



Your Sunrise Stephen Ministry continues to expand our support to the Sunrise community. In addition to our Weekly Care Visits for anyone who requests our confidential care during a difficult time, we also offer less formal Single get-togethers for anyone who might want to share their concerns with someone they can trust.

We are also aware that there are people who used to attend worship with a spouse, partner, or dear friend, but after a loss, have been attending virtually because in-person worship can be a challenging reminder. So, we offer to be your Pew Pal if you might enjoy some company sitting with you during in-person worship. We do not want to make you feel uncomfortable; just a friend joining you during worship.

We would also like you to know that we are available as a Prayer Pal, to sit with you in a quiet room after service if you would appreciate a private prayer. Just find one of us before, during, or after worship. We wear Stephen Ministers name tags during worship.

A reminder of who we are and what we do:

Your active Stephen Ministers are Carol Bulwinkle, Ron Connelly, David Edwards, Julie Milly, Johnny Myatt, Helen Panitt, Mark Plecity, Cyndi Stein, and Michele Smith. Your Stephen Ministers provide a one-to-one Christ centered empathetic presence, listening without judgment as you work through the inevitable emotional hurdles that accompany a loss or crisis. These challenges can include serious illness, grief, loss of a loved one, significant loss of function, caring for a family member with long-term needs, divorce, loss of a job, or any issue you experience in a profound way. We are not a substitute for your healthcare providers, pastors, or home services. Each Stephen Minister has received over 50 hours of training as lay Christian caregivers, reflecting God's compassion for our Sunrise community, both members and non-members.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry or any of these services, please call me, Michele Smith, at 301 928-3262, or e-mail me at mlsmith755@gmail.com, to discuss what we might be able to do for you.

August at Sunrise

Growing Faith's meets monthly in the Middle School Youth Group room. Any older elementary & middle school students (4th - 8th grade) are invited to join us!

The Adult Sunday School class will begin a new Bible study in June using the book *Out of the Depths: The Psalms Speak for us Today*. This book offers a fresh reading of the Psalms and examines their enduring relevance to today's theological issues. The class meets weekly in the library at 9:00 a.m. There is a video conference option via google meet. ~ Vance

Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th grade) meets Sundays at 10:30 am. This month's evening meet up dates have yet to be determined but meetings will include dinner, games, and a group devotional. If you have any questions, please reach out to Breezy at breezy@oursunrise.org or (843) 860-9581.

Our college-age group meets on Thursday evenings at Sunrise through the summer at 7:00 p.m. for Bible study, a meal, and then finishing the evening with a game like Uno. This youth group is a continuation of our Senior High group from last year under the leadership of Harrison & Ritchie.

The Women's Morning Bible Study is on summer break and will resume in September. Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you in the Fall!

The Women's Evening Bible Study will meet August 18 at 5:30 pm and finish their study of the book *Esther: Daring Faith for Such a Time as This*. In September they will begin a new study using the book *The Gospel of John* by Melissa Spoelstra, so if you are interested in joining as a new member, this would be a great time. New members are always welcome! ~ Caroline

Cents-Ability is collected the 2nd Sunday of each month. Thanks to you, donations have been made to Neighbors Together, East Cooper Meals on Wheels, and East Cooper Community Outreach. Please continue to give at least two cents per person per meal in the bowl in the Narthex. This simple act is an expression of thanksgiving for what we have received.

Start off your Tuesdays with the **Jerry Dillon Men's Prayer Breakfast** at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy great food, fellowship, and a devotion.

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service		8am - Men's Breakfast	10am - AA Meeting	5:30pm - Agape Do Karate 7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Communion & Family Service 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service		8am - Men's Breakfast	10am - AA Meeting	Veritas Teacher Orientation 7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	8:30am - 2nd Pres Retreat
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Cents-Ability 8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service		Polling Station 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Women's Morning Bible	10am - AA Meeting	7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	1pm - Dillon Memorial
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 9am - Growing Faith - Family 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service	Veritas Parent Orientation	8am - Men's Breakfast 5:30pm - Women's Evening Bible	10am - AA Meeting 1pm - Stephen Ministry Meeting	6pm - Battery Gadsden - Sanctuary 7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth	6:45pm - Seaside Singers	8am - Men's Breakfast	10am - AA Meeting	7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
8:45am - Choir Practice 9am - Adult Sunday School 9am - Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) 10am - Family Service 10am - Worship Service 10:40am - Middle School Youth		8am - Men's Breakfast	10am - AA Meeting	7pm - College Youth Group	10:30am - Bridge - Fellowship Hall	Wedding

August Birthdays

4	Alice Petzold	17	Chip Law
5	Michele Smith	22	Marion Neese
7	Olivia Floyd	23	Evan Bell
7	Bill Rayburn	23	Andrew Chasman
8	Zach Champagne	24	Maryellen Bonheimer
9	Noah Parker	24	Courtney Crooks
10	Lisa Dykes	26	Jay Nelson
11	Cal McRae	26	Jim Smith
11	Heather Goforth	27	Bob Havelka
13	MaryAnne Crocker	27	Vivian Hauff
14	Debbie Polley	28	Jenna Hill
14	Gloria Clarke	31	Rachel Clark
14	Maya Naylor		
15	Sawyer Webb		

Church Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Phone: (843) 883-3888

www.oursunrise.org

Sunrise Staff

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