

July 2021
**PARISH
VOICE**

A MESSAGE FROM HALE

July will begin a new sermon series "Geared Up for Life". We will continue with lectionary based sermons, but will spend seven weeks in Ephesians.

The Epistle to the Ephesians contains everything one needs to explain faith in one complete package: the first three chapters lay a theological foundation of faith and in the last three chapters teach us how to live out this faith.

Tradition holds that Paul wrote the book of Ephesians while he was in prison in Rome, accused of defiling the temple by bringing Gentiles into the inner court. The commander of the local Roman guards captured Paul, placed him in a Roman prison, and Jewish leaders sought his transfer back to Jerusalem to execute him. Paul boldly appealed to Caesar in Rome, defending each person's rights to worship. The letter echoes Paul's thoughts on the rights and privileges we all have as members of the family of God.

Ideas as to the letter's authorship and audience have been proposed by scholars, but the purpose remains. Ephesians gives direction in theology to the church and encourages believers to reflect the image of Christ. This message is just as important for us today. Paul said God had each of us in mind before He laid the earth's foundations and had a plan to adopt us into His family through Jesus Christ. We are a part of those grafted into the chosen. Paul encourages hope because of our inheritance into God's family. Our goal is to bring praise and glory to God. We can celebrate in the knowledge that God works out all things to the purpose of His will.

This series is set in the middle of summer and starts with celebration on July 4th. The fact that God blesses us and has adopted us is certainly worthy of celebration. Our lives can, and should, be lived as a celebration of our salvation and the promise of blessings to come.

I am planning a picnic or cookout very soon and want us to share in those blessings as we gather around the grill. As we celebrate, perhaps you can tell someone your story, or share it with me, and I can insert it into a sermon or email. God has richly blessed us in this year and throughout our lives.

Ephesians tells us that we should gear up for the journey. It tells us that our faith is not hidden deep inside us but lived out in celebration of God's grace. So gather up some friends, bring them to church, invite them to a picnic and share the love and hope that we all have in Jesus Christ.

Blessings and have a great summer,
Hale

JULY 4TH WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, JULY 4TH | 8:30 AND 10:00 AM

Join us for a special worship service
featuring patriotic anthems and a
brass ensemble.

HALE BISHOP
Senior
Pastor

ROB GROTHEER
Associate
Pastor

PAUL CHANT
Director of
Music Ministries

MICHELLE JOHNSON
Director of
Education

HANNAH BASS
Director of Children
and Youth Ministries

LYNN ALEXANDER
Office
Coordinator

GRACE WILSON
Communications
Coordinator

ASHLEY SAPORITO
Controller

SUMMER of *Singing* SPECIAL REPORT OF MUSIC MINISTRY

The Chancel Choir continues to sing every Sunday throughout the summer. It is always a blessing to lift our voices together and "make a joyful noise to the Lord." Here are some of the upcoming hymns along with some background on their origin and meaning. The music and words resonate in our hearts, and we hope that they will touch yours as well.

God of the Ages

Daniel C. Roberts's text has become one of the most loved national hymns. It is a prayer for safekeeping and righteousness with the beginning and ending notably acknowledging God as leader.

It Is Well with My Soul

Horatio Spafford wrote the words after traumatic events in his life: the death of his four-year-old son, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and the death of his four daughters enroute to England with his wife (who survived).

How Firm a Foundation

The anonymous text is a skillful paraphrase of Isaiah 43:1-3, plus other biblical phrases, including "firm foundation" from 2 Timothy 2:19 and "I Will Never Forsake You" from Hebrews 13:5. It is a message of hope and courage.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

The words are from a long poem written by Bernard of Clairvaux, a twelfth-century monk. It reminds us of the importance of contemplation and devotion in the life of the Christian.



SIUMC Olympics 2021

Unity with a body of believers may be too abstract for children to understand, but many know what it feels like to have team spirit. The Olympics theme of this year's vacation Bible school instilled the pride and honor of being on the best team- God's team. Through the week, children were challenged to follow Joshua's heroic example of wholehearted obedience to God and learned how to live their lives in full allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Many young children attended VBS for the first time, and possibly church for the first time. Latne McMakin was a "coach" for the youngest group of 3-4 year old "athletes". She saw the children grow more comfortable and confident with the group as the week progressed. On the last day, all ages gathered on Bailey Hall stage for a proud performance of the theme song. Even the smallest was a shining star at showtime!

"One of the youngest in the group said 'Jesus lives in my heart!' Being a 'coach' for our young is a joyful blessing that puts a song in your heart!," Latne said.

"Athletes" were completely engrossed during each day's story time in the chapel. Entertaining and costumed "eyewitness" costumed storytellers guided children through the Israelites' remarkable journey to the Promised Land and always pointed their story back to God's goodness. "The 'athletes' absorbed information and lessons that were taught and remembered details of the stories days later," coach Sharon Bury said.

She particularly enjoyed seeing the children exposed to new songs and instruments by Joey Timmons, taking turns keeping beat on the drums and peeking at the strings inside the piano. Scripture verses set to music made memory verses easy, and fun, to remember.

We continue to pray the "athletes" live out the lessons they heard and continue to "run the race" of faith.

Big Thanks to Our Coaches:

Latné McMakin	Judy Crenshaw	Sharon Bury	Kathy Ernst	Jane Cook	Duane Oden	Toni Floyd	Zach Moore
Nancy Sheets	Phyllis Albertson	Bettie Negley	Joey Timmons	Nancy Cutting	Jane Bruno	Tara Setter	
Susan Donovan	Julie Mayville	Beth Larance	Cindy Hudgins	Maddie Hughes	Jami Sanders	Luke Johnson	
	Will Loving	Grace Loving	Michelle Negley				



SAVE THE DATE

July 25 • 11:00 am • Sanctuary

All are invited to a special presentation to introduce a concept to build a pavilion on our church campus. We will provide an overview of the features of the pavilion, construction timeline and other details.

Our prayer is that it will be a place for our church family and community to gather and grow together.



MIND. BODY. SPIRIT.

Skidaway Island United Methodist Church will be hosting the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family course September 28 through November 30.

The free, in-person educational program is for family members, caregivers and friends of people living with mental illness. NAMI-trained family members will lead the 9-session course.

Contact Pam Clinard @ 912-401-2689 for more information and to register. Space is limited.



October 16 • Wesley Gardens

Ladies, mark your calendars for a retreat at Wesley Gardens on Moon River in October. More details to come on this full day event for encountering God in nature and community.

A NOTE FROM ROB

A man's wife had left him. He was completely depressed. He had lost faith in himself, in others, and in God. One rainy morning the man went to a small restaurant for breakfast. Several people were in the diner, but no one was speaking. Our miserable friend hunched over the counter, stirring his coffee.

In one of the booths was a young mother and her little girl. They had just been served their food when the little girl broke the sad silence by almost shouting, "Momma, why don't we say our prayers here?" The wise waitress turned and said, "Sure, honey, we pray here. Will you say the prayer for us?"

The little girl turned to the rest of the people in the restaurant and said, "Bow you heads." All did just that. "God is great, God is good, and we thank him for our food. Amen."

That prayer changed the entire atmosphere of the place. People started talking to each other. The waitress exclaimed, "We should do that every morning." The depressed man's whole frame of mind started to improve. He started to thank God for all that he did have. He started to be grateful.

It's amazing what one small voice can do. It's amazing what prayer can do.

-Rob

JULY LECTIONARY TEXT

July 4th: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 | Ps 48 | 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 | Mark 6:1-13
 July 11th: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 | Ps 24 | Ephesians 1:3-14 | Mark 6:14-29
 July 18th: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a | Ps 89:20-37 | Ephesians 2:11-22 | Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
 July 25th: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 | Ps 14 | Ephesians 3:14-21 | John 6:1-21



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