

The Courier

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Court Street United Methodist Church

Paul of Tarsus

Saul, also known as Paul, Paulus, and Saint Paul the Apostle, (AD 3—67) is widely considered to be central to the early development and spread of Christianity, particularly westward from Judea. Many Christians view him as an important interpreter of the teachings of Jesus. Paul is described in the New Testament as a Hellenized Jew and Roman citizen from Tarsus (in present-day Turkey). He was a persistent persecutor of early Christians, almost all of whom were Jewish. Then came his "Road to Damascus" experience, which brought about his conversion to faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Through his Epistles to Gentile Christian communities, Paul attempted to show that the God of Abraham is for all people rather than for Jews only. He, however, did not originate this idea. Jewish tradition teaches that all people ought to recognize the God of Abraham, though Judaism has not historically encouraged conversion or proselytism. (For other examples, see Isaiah 56:6-8 or proselyte or Great Commission, or Simon Peter's vision of the sheet descending from Heaven in Acts 10:9-23a). Paul is venerated as a Saint by all the churches that honor them, including those of the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Anglican traditions, and some Lutheran sects. He is the "patron saint" of the City of London and has also had several cities named in his honor, including Sao Paulo, Brazil and Saint Paul, Minnesota. He did much to advance Christianity among the Gentiles, and is considered to be one source (if not the primary source) of early Church doctrine, and the founder of Pauline Christianity. His epistles form a fundamental section of the New Testament. Due to his body of work and his undoubted influence on the development of Christianity, many modern scholars consider Paul to be the founder of Christianity. They deem Paul's modifications of Jesus' teachings and addition of important new doctrines as instrumental in establishing Christianity as a distinct religion, rather than a sect of Judaism, as Christianity was first known. Paul wrote a number of letters to Christian churches and individuals. However, not all have been preserved; 1 Corinthians 5:9 alludes to a previous letter sent by him to the Christians in Corinth that has clearly been lost. Those letters that have survived are part of the New Testament canon, where they appear in order of length, from longest to shortest. A subgroup of these letters, written from captivity, are called the "prison-letters", and tradition states they were written in Rome. His possible authorship of the anonymous *Epistle to the Hebrews* had been questioned as early as Origen. Since at least 1750, a number of other letters commonly attributed to Paul have also been suspected by some of having been written by his followers in the 1st century.

~ *Pastor Bill Burleigh*

CHURCH IS NOT SOMETHING YOU GO TO. IT'S A FAMILY YOU BELONG TO.

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Leanne & Patrick Pillow



Married on June 12th, 2021

Musical Musings

Help! I Don't Like the Music at My Church

Excerpts from an article by Matt Merker on [Crossway](#)

Too loud. Too soft. Too rhythmic. Too classical. Not relevant enough. Not transcendent enough. Not polished, creative, innovative, interesting, or powerful enough. Not good enough—at least not for me.

How do you feel about the music at your church? Are you ever disappointed by it? Why?

It is no wonder that Christians have strong opinions about music. Scripture calls God's people to "make melody," "sing to him a new song," and "play skillfully" on musical instruments (Ps. 33:2–3). Paul tells us to address one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs when we gather as a local church (Eph. 5:19). God has created us to use our voices to praise him, so singing rightly plays an integral role in corporate worship.

Yet, there is a subjective element when it comes to evaluating music. Our tastes for music do not develop in a vacuum but vary depending on our cultural background, location, family, upbringing, and more. The New Testament calls us to sing, but it (thankfully!) does not give us detailed rules on genre, instrumentation, or arrangement. That is not to say that those factors are unimportant, but that they are left up to Christian freedom and prudence.

So what should you do if you do not like the music at your church?

Before I answer that question, we should make a key distinction. When we consider congregational singing, there is a difference between *songs* and the *music* that accompanies them. Both are important, but the words that we sing matter more than the music played by any instruments the church may use. The New Testament commands us to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God" (Col. 3:16). Every song is a teaching tool. Our songs either anchor us in truth, or they lead us astray. For that reason, it is better to sing words rich in Christ-exalting doctrine to lackluster musical accompaniment than it is to sing empty platitudes along with the finest orchestra or most thrilling band.

Remember the Purposes of the Church's Gathering

First, remember the purposes for which God gathers his people each Lord's Day. The church meets for *exaltation*: we praise, thank, magnify, and glorify the God who made us and redeemed us (Eph. 5:20, Col. 3:17). We meet for *edification*, the building up of the whole body of Christ into greater maturity, unity, and love (1 Cor. 12:7, 14:26). As we focus on God's glory and doing one another good, *evangelism* occurs as well—the unbeliever overhears the good news we proclaim and is converted (1 Cor. 14:24).

In other words: the gathering is not mainly about you or me. The mark of a faithful church service is not whether it caters to our tastes, but whether it orients us to devotion to God, love for the body, and zeal to see our neighbors know Christ.

Hold Your Musical Opinions Lightly

Second, recognize that your musical opinions are just that. The Bible simply does not prescribe a particular musical style that churches must use. That is not to say that form or genre do not matter. The medium does shape the message. Believers are entitled to hold a view about which forms of music best serve the purposes of exaltation, edification, and evangelism mentioned above. But evangelicals often have only two speeds when it comes to matters like these: something is either of utmost importance or it is not important at all. Musical genre matters, but it is not of utmost importance. Believers can disagree about musical style and still be members of the same church, like the Christians at Rome who disagreed about eating meat sacrificed to idols.

We must admit that our views on music may be limited or misguided. You are entitled to your opinion, but you are not entitled to stand in judgment over the whole church and insist that your view is the best.

Lay Down Your Preferences for the Sake of Unity

Third, recognize that you have an opportunity to promote the unity of the body by sacrificing your preferences and desires. That is the Christ-like model Paul calls us to follow: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3–4).

What matters more to you: that your church plays your favorite musical style, or that your church is a community where believers from all different backgrounds lay down their tastes for the sake of the body?

We live in an era in which we can listen to our favorite music nonstop. Surely sacrificing our preferences for ninety minutes on a Sunday morning is not too much to ask of those whose core creed is that Christ gave up *his whole life* for us.

Even if you don't like the style of the music, singing is a way we "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15). When your church gathers, there are dear brothers and sisters in nearby pews facing anxiety, cancer, depression, temptation, unemployment, loneliness—the list could go on. One of the ways God intends to encourage them is through *your* singing. In this sense, Christ has enlisted every church member to join the choir. Singing is part of your ministry.

If we refuse to sing because the music is not up to our standards, we rob God of the glory he deserves.

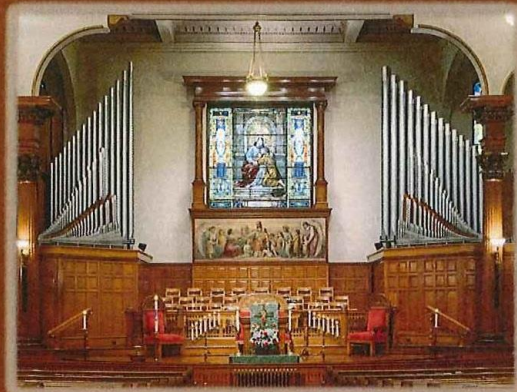
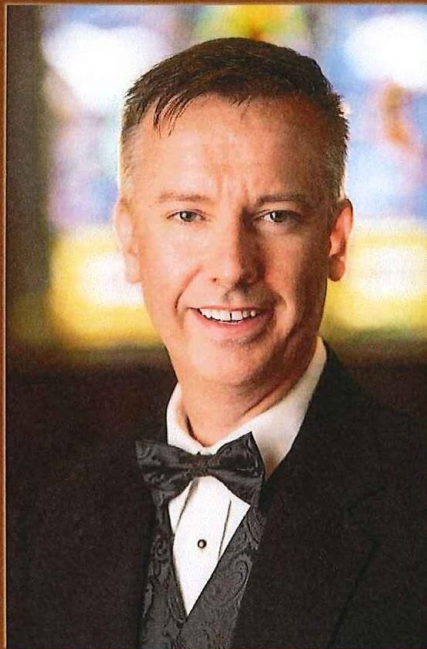
AUGUST'S ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS

August 1: **“Worship”**
August 8: **“Resignation”**
August 15: **“Protest”**
August 22: **“Angry Despair”**
August 29: **“Acceptance”**

Join us every Sunday after worship service in the Wesley Guild Room!!!!

JOHN LOWE
IN RECITAL

**COURT STREET
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**SUNDAY
AUGUST 15TH
4:00 P.M.**

**DM FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN ORGAN PERFORMANCE.
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST AT GAINESVILLE,
FLORIDA'S HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Made Possible by the Virginia Whitehouse Music Emphasis Fund

**621 COURT STREET
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LYNCHBURG,
VIRGINIA 24504**

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays	August Anniversaries	September Birthdays
Christopher Lilly August 01	Sarah & Aaron McGlothlin August 02	Mike Russell Sept 01
Walter Wright August 08	Debbie & Richard Chaffin August 23	Alicia Speer Sept 01
Charlotte Larkin August 09	September Anniversaries	Dane Peterson Sept 04
John Sweeney August 09	Nancy & Mike Russell Sept. 03	Cecil Kidd Sept 06
Martha Moorman August 10	Stuart & Tracy Jackson Sept. 24	Mark Roper Sept 06
Susan Hall August 11	Lisa & Jeff Thaxton Sept. 25	David Case, Jr. Sept 07
Josh Larkin August 13		Pam Jackson Sept 10
Jay Kelly August 18		Dennis Pruitt Sept 10
Ann McDaniel August 20		Robert Draper Sept 16
Cheryl West August 20		Aubrey McDaniel Sept 29
Matthew Diuguid August 22		
Debbie Chaffin August 26		
Robert Allen Tyree August 31		

PRAYER CONCERNS

All Men and Women serving in the Military

Travis Dean Burleigh – 7425 Snowy Owl St., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084
son of Shelley and Rev. Bill Burleigh

SICK (Church members*)

- Anne Burleigh ~ 2608 Plum Branch Road, Concord, VA 24538
mother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- Phillip Burleigh ~ brother of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Noel Draper - 501 VES Road Drinkard 619, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- Susan Dwyer – sister of Rev. Bill Burleigh
- *Christopher Lilly – 1705 Rivermont Ave. Apt 8, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Dane Peterson - 901 Jefferson Street – Apt. 3E, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Phil Ripley – 60 Jill Alison Circle, Ormond Beach, FL 32176
- *Alicia Speer – 1815 Rivermont Ave #68, Lynchburg, VA 24503
- *Robert Tyree – 1404 Brookville Lane, Lynchburg, VA 24502
son of *Mary Tyree, brother of *Debbie Chaffin
- * Church members



The Finance Committee elected to transfer Thirty Thousand of the memorial gift given by Doug and Eleanor Pillow's Estate to the Capital Campaign Fund in gratitude for all of the hard work and dedication given by Doug to reach our goal.

Update on Capital Campaign:

Campaign Goal	\$300,000
Promised as of 7/25/21	\$278,981
Balance needed to reach goal	\$21,019
Received to Date	\$241,416
Received since last update	\$30,050.00
Elevator fund	\$10,328

Court Street UMC
621 Court Street
Lynchburg Va. 24504



In worship, praise and ministry, we respond to God's call by reaching out to all people with light, hope, and a vision of God's love.

COURT STREET UMC WEBSITE: www.courtstreetmethodist.com

EMAIL: 621courtstumc@gmail.com

PHONE: 434-845-3427

Please contact the church office at:
621courtstumc@gmail.com or (434) 845-3427 on or before Wednesdays to have events and notices posted
on the church website.

