

God is love and love lives here!



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Office Hours: Mon-Thur 8:30a-12:30p

Rev. Tommy Odum

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Sunday, October 8, 2023

Saul to Paul: A Brief Biography

Saul of Tarsus, later known as the Apostle Paul, was a pivotal figure in early Christianity. Born in the city of Tarsus in Cilicia (modern-day Turkey) around 5 AD, he played a significant role in spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Saul's transformation from a zealous persecutor of Christians to one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity is a testament to his unwavering faith and dedication.

Early Life and Education:

Saul was born into a devout Jewish family and was given the Hebrew name "Saul" after the first king of Israel. Growing up in Tarsus, a cosmopolitan city known for its intellectual and cultural diversity, Saul was exposed to various traditions and ideas. His family, however, maintained a strong adherence to the traditions of Judaism. Saul's father was a Pharisee, a Jewish religious sect known for their strict observance of Jewish law.

From an early age, Saul displayed exceptional intelligence and a passion for learning. He was sent to Jerusalem to study under the renowned Rabbi Gamaliel, one of the most respected Jewish scholars of the time. Under Gamaliel's tutelage, Saul became well-versed in Jewish law and traditions, earning a reputation as a skilled Pharisee.

Persecution of Christians:

Saul's life took a dramatic turn when he encountered the burgeoning Christian movement. At that time, Jesus' followers were seen as a threat to the established Jewish religious order. Saul, being a devout Pharisee, viewed the early Christians as heretics and a danger to Judaism. He took it upon himself to persecute and imprison those who professed faith in Jesus Christ.

Saul's most infamous act of persecution was his involvement in the stoning of Stephen, one of the early Christian deacons. This event marked a turning point in Saul's life, as it deeply affected him and planted seeds of doubt in his heart.

Conversion and Ministry:

It was during Saul's journey to Damascus, where he intended to arrest Christians, that he experienced a life-changing encounter. According to biblical accounts, a blinding light from heaven enveloped him, and he heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him. This encounter left Saul blind and humbled. He spent three days in Damascus, fasting and praying, before his sight was restored through the intervention of Ananias, a Christian disciple.

Following his conversion, Saul embraced his new identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ. He changed his name to Paul and dedicated his life to spreading the teachings of Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Paul's ministry was characterized by his tireless travels, numerous missionary journeys, and the establishment of Christian communities in various cities.

Paul's writings, which form a significant portion of the New Testament, became essential theological texts for the early Christian community. His letters, known as the Pauline Epistles, addressed various issues faced by the early churches and provided guidance on matters of faith, doctrine, and Christian living.

Martyrdom and Legacy:

Paul's commitment to his mission came at a great personal cost. He endured persecution, imprisonment, and physical hardships, yet he remained steadfast in his faith. Tradition holds that Paul was eventually arrested in Rome during the reign of Emperor Nero and was executed by beheading around 67 AD.

Paul's legacy as an apostle and theologian is immeasurable. His teachings on grace continue to influence Christians around the globe 2000 years later. Writing almost half of the New Testament we see the measure of a life committed to Christ and the Church for the glory of God.

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Scripture & Sermon:

Acts 13:1-12

"Apostle Paul:
Paul's Commission"



New Concerns

Ann Stafford
Debbie Gray

Continue Prayers for:

Sharron Schall
Ray Hubbard
Kitty Barfield
Blanchard great grands
Christa Avret
Fran Jones
Nita Fender
Hollis Family

Warren McDow
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Sarah Mayer
Cary Martin
Mac McNeal
James McNeal
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for

October 1

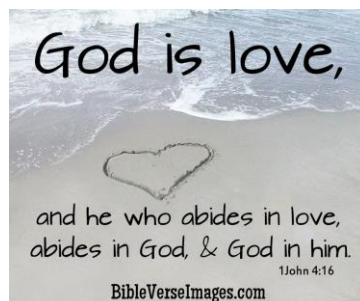
Operating Budget..... \$13,682
Local Mission..... 381
Total..... \$14,063

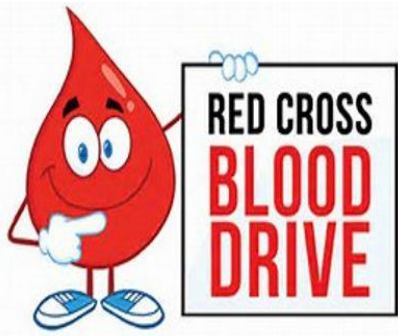
Worship Attendance:

127

Sunday School:

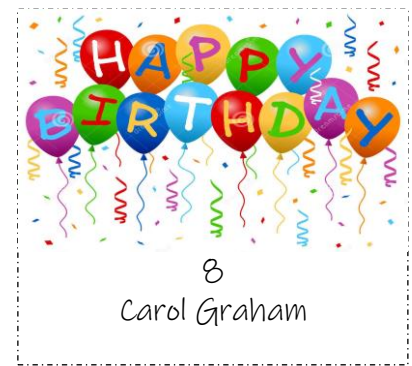
60





Red Cross Blood Drive

Giving blood helps saves lives. If you'd like to give blood, our next blood drive is October 6, 1p-5p in our Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter CUMC (yes, they need to update that...) or you can just drop by!



Community Missions

- September totals for the Food Pantry: families served- 775; people served- 2677; portions given out- 1036; weight distributed- 25,007 pounds... September 27 was a record for the year! Thank you, volunteers, for all your hard work! You are greatly appreciated and loved!
- The next Food Pantry October 11, 11a... come on out and volunteer! You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- Clothes Closet Volunteers for October 10- Barbara Hilliard, Nancy Brechin
- The Clothes Closet totals for September: 114 people served, shopping for 313 people.
- Our Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday, 9a-noon.
- Beginning October 11, the Clothes Closet will be open 9a-12noon on Food Pantry days, which is the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Anyone willing to volunteer, please call Susan Howdeshell at 478-508-0709 or Sabrina Williams.
- Thank you for your generosity to the Open Door Clothes Closet. Each week we see more and more clothed and cared for because of your gifts of love. **Winter is Coming** and we will be in need of several items. If you're cleaning out your own closets or looking to donate items, please consider donating to the Clothes Closet. We also ask you to look for some of the specific items listed below as you are preparing for the change in season. Thank you again for all you do to support our ministry!
Winter clothes/coats/jackets/shoes/socks/scarves/hats/gloves;
linens/sheets/blankets/throws/comforters; towels/washcloths.
- Workers are needed in the Clothes Closet on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9a-12 noon.

Bible Reading Plan

Week of October 8th:

Sunday.....	1 Kings 12
Monday.....	1 Kings 18
Tuesday.....	2 Kings 17
Wednesday.....	2 Kings 18
Thursday.....	2 Kings 25
Friday.....	Ezra 1
Saturday.....	Ezra 6

Church Apparel

We now have order forms for those that would like to order, at your cost, church apparel other than the tshirts. We have available polo shirts, long-sleeved tshirts, sweatshirts, pullover hoodies, zip-up hoodies and hats. You can pick up an order form from the office, the tables around the church or I can email one to you. Please have your completed order form, with payment, to the office by October 16th.

Family Promise

If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>



Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- October 1

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Roy Carter
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
W.C. Hester, Michael Walston
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship



Greeters

10:30a Joy Fleming, Susan Glidewell

Communion Servers

Jimmy & Mary Thrasher- Monk
Stevie Bowen & Kay Kelley



Finance Stewards

Nancy Hudson, Amber Gamble, Joy Fleming

Assisting with Children

Sunday- October 1

Nursery- Linda Blanton, Dawn Wilkins,
Laura McKenzie

Children- Katie Odum

Sunday- October 8

Nursery- Marie Davis, Dawn Wilkins,
Laura McKenzie

Children- Amber Gamble



United Women in Faith

Monday- October 2

10:00a Quilters

6:30p Men at the Well

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Tuesday- October 3

9a-12n Open Door Mission Closet

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Partners in Prayer

10:00a Yoga

6:30p Miss Terry's Circle

6:30p Bass Club

7:30 p Narcotics Anonymous



Wednesday- October 4

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast

6:30p Choir Practice

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday- October 5

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'

10:00a Yoga

5:30p Dulcimers

6:30p Handbells

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Friday- October 6

1p-5p Blood Drive

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous



Saturday- October 7

7:30p . .Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth
Pilgrims

Studies

Favorite Scripture
Matthew
Psalm 91
1 Corinthians
Giants in the Bible
Acts

Teacher

Class Members
Katie Odum
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Eric & Gloria Nelson
Kathy Blanchard

THE WELL AT CENTERVILLE

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

600 N. Houston Lake Blvd, Centerville 31028

Saturday December 2rd

9AM - 2PM



Take Pictures with Santa 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Bring your camera or phone

Vendors and Christmas Items

Music

Fresh Baked Goods

School Choirs

Quilt Raffle

Arts and Crafts

Children's activities

Bouncy House

Food

Vendor Spaces Available

Call, email or come by the office for a vendor application