



**August 2018**

**First United Methodist Church  
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**MOULTRIE FUMC: We Love, We Grow, We Serve for Christ.**

### **School is starting; Prayers Are Needed**

Some really special people need our prayers: students, teachers and educational administrators. These folks will be getting back into the swing of things in the month of August. Supplies will be bought, dress codes will be examined, clothing will be purchased, and many people will be looking very hard at how to end the summer Sabbath time and start back to school.

We believe that school is very important to the maturation process of our children. They learn the basics and then the not so basic lessons of life. Reading, spelling, writing and arithmetic are offered as is basic science and social studies. Biology, Chemistry and Literature are offered at a higher level. All of this establishes a foundation of education for our young people.

Educators are called to share what they know and are passionate about teaching to help our young people grow and come to a knowledge of this world and all that is in it. We pray for these folks to have great influence over our young people and to steer them in positive directions.

What is often left out of the equation is the role of faith and the importance of values. This is a spiritual education that begins at home with basic lessons of right and wrong. It continues with lessons about God and the characters of the Bible. It grows as children grow into teens then into adults and learn how to integrate Biblical knowledge and ethics into their personal lives. Making a personal connection with God and having a strong (I - thou) relationship with God is the role the church plays in all of this.

We need to be in prayer that we, the church, are as passionate about our role as are the teachers in our schools about their subjects. Our society has become more secular and the work of faith transmission is more difficult than ever before. The church today serves a mission field in America that is comparable to the one the church spoke to in Palestine, Asia Minor, Italy, Egypt and Greece in the first century AD.

Rev. Stephen Grantham