

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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APRIL 2010



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Easter is a Time of Renewal

“And when they went to the tomb on that first Easter morning, they found the stone rolled away. . . Jesus was not dead, He was Alive, and Alive forever more..”

This is the Great Good News of Easter and the joy and message we have to share with the world! For as God in Christ dwells in us, we not only find hope and promise for our own life, but more than enough to share with others.

And not only is Easter filled with hope and promise, it is also an important time of Renewal for our faith! It is a time when life and its meaning can take on a sense of renewal for the present and future. For as God gives us new life, God also gives us new chances, and in those new chances there can be new beginnings.

As we know at St. Paul there will be changes taking place in our ministry. We pray the best for David and his family and we anticipate new chances for them. That there will be a renewal of spirit and faith, a renewal of purpose and commitment, and a renewal of the gifts of God entrusted to all of them. This renewal will bring about a joy and peace and will provide for them new hope in new beginnings.

And at St. Paul, the life and ministry of the church will continue, and at the same time, there will be a renewal of the church's life and faith, and there will be new directions and chances for ministry with our new minister and his family. We are excited about the future for St. Paul United Method-

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ist Church, for soon will begin a new chapter in our ministry in this community. It will also be for us a Renewal of our spirit and faith, and a renewal of our purpose and commitment as the Church of The Risen Savior!


In the next several months, Rev. DeHart and I will be “kinda filling in,” and this is a joy for us as we are a part of St. Paul’s ministry. In this way, we also hope to be a part of the Renewal that God is bringing about in our midst. So, as we work together for the good of all, we celebrate The Easter of The Risen Christ! Christ the Lord is Risen! Alleluia, Amen!

Doug Kanney, on behalf of
 Charles and Doug

Graduation Sunday


It is that time again to recognize our graduates from high school, college and university! It is an exciting time in their lives as they achieve new levels of education and training and prepare for and continue their life’s work.

And so, on Sunday, June 6th at the morning worship services we will recognize our 2010 graduates. You can help us by letting the Church Office know of those who will be graduating, so that we can recognize and honor them for their achievements.



April Birthdays

Ruth Boothe—1
 Betty Semones—1
 Allene Graham—2
 Eric Bass—3
 Tempest Reed—5
 Gary Sparks—6
 Mia Bravo—7
 Mark Bamman—8
 Polly McMillan—8
 Anna Burns—10
 Sarah Bravo—11
 Annell Winbery—12
 Helen Simmons—12
 Sara Lane—12
 Carol Cornish—14
 Bernadine Lester—15
 Bryce Wade—15
 Todd Altizer—16
 Tina Sheppard—16
 Charlton McCoy—17
 Anne Lawson—17
 Victoria Moran—18
 Justin Bowler—19
 Kelsey Boone—19
 Matthew Jordan—26
 Otis Sutphin—27
 Daniel Warren—28
 Charles Dirico—30
 Betty Sturgill—30
 Hamp Akers—30



Focus on the Five Fruits

St. Paul is continuing to engage in a Lenten congregational Focus on five practices of vital, growing, fruitful congregations. Based books by Robert Schnase, including our devotional guide (still available) entitled *Cultivating Fruitfulness*, this process challenges churches to re-invent themselves by focusing on: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. This initiative is congregation-wide and beyond. We invite you to Join us and immediately see y our voice and ideas make a difference. difference. For more information contact Melodee Wade at 320-0995 or layleader@stpaulvaumc.org.

The Church Reaches Out to Others!

What we in the church have to offer is exciting to those outside the church, but we often have to make it attractive for them to discover. The irony of this is that once they discover the church, and what it can mean for their lives, they don't want to let go!

Several years ago, I found these seven ways a church can reach out to people for Jesus! There can be no greater calling than for us to be the church for others! So here goes, how many of these seven are we about.

1. We can care about people who don't know Jesus.
2. We must believe God can reach others through us.
3. We can make plans to reach out to others.
4. We can offer help in times of need.
5. We can offer to them the faith and fellowship of our Church Family
6. We can work together and with them to make the church a wonderful support group and mission team.
7. And we can share our faith in the simple and ordinary ways of life, to let others see the love and concern of Jesus.

I don't know about you, but I can strengthen my resolve to do some more of this and to find ways to do what I am not presently doing.

Doug Kanney, Minister of Pie, Cake and Ice Cream

Visual Ministry Committee

There is a new and exciting committee here at St. Paul. Members of the Visual Ministry Committee are busy exploring ways to enhance the worship spaces throughout the church.

The attention to worship spaces is not new. It is part of the tradition of worship outlined in the Old Testament. In Exodus 31, God commands that the tabernacle space should be filled with “artistic designs” (NRSV).

God, our Creator, takes pleasure in creating beauty. When we make something beautiful, we reflect God’s creative nature, just as when we show love to others, we reflect God’s loving nature.

Visuals would include, but not be limited to:

- A. innovative altar designs that would draw the worshiper nearer to God. The first thing people see when they come to church is the altar. That moment of impact should say, “Welcome to the celebration of God’s word”.
- B. Banners
- C. Artwork
- D. Candles
- E. Floral designs

God is honored when we use our talents for good purposes, it is especially meaningful to beautify the house of the Lord.

The committee members are at work and are excited about the possibilities for carrying out the purpose of the committee.

First Thursday Luncheon

The First Thursday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 1st, with devotions and Communion at 11:45 am, followed by lunch and a program. The menu will be:

Ham, green beans, macaroni and cheese, deviled eggs, slaw and rolls, with cake and ice cream for dessert. Hope to see you there!

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes are now in full swing on Sunday afternoons at 4:30-5:30 pm. Our class of eight “Confirmands” are intentionally growing their faith in God the Father and Jesus, the son and with the certain expectation that each confirmand will apply this curriculum into their hearts, souls, minds and strength by taking what they’ve learned into our church family and community in words and deeds—by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Folks, this is “Intentional Faith Development”! Please offer your support to the wonderful young people. They are: Megan Caudle, Layla Peters, Alec Anderson, Brianna White, Matthew Feggeler, Inessa Cooper, Kady Cox, and Madison Williams. God will certainly bless the giver and receiver of your lovingkindness. Many thanks.



Pastor Charles

Pastoral Concerns

During the Interim Period from April to July before the arrival of our New Minister, Rev. DeHart and Rev. Kanney will be on call for Pastoral Concerns and Emergencies. Please feel free to call either Charles or Doug during this time. Their numbers other than the Church Office Number (382-2410) are for Charles (381-2213) and Doug (641-1384).

The Upper Room

The Upper Room guide is made available to the congregation bi-monthly as an aid to spiritual growth. If you have not yet picked up the March/April issue, take one home today for your family to use.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of February we gave \$1,225 to 17 families in the Christiansburg area. This has helped these families keep their electric on, food on their table, a place to live and in other ways where there is need. Your special Communion offering makes this possible. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2010 is just around the corner, so mark your calendars - July 12 - 16. The Cokesbury Galactic Blast VBS program will send our cadets on a voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, the kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The admiral calls for all cadets whose age is between 4 – 11 years to make ready for this cosmic adventure.

We are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children, and those who get excited to see the love of God light up a child's face. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the youth of our church and the surrounding community. No prior experience or specific skills required. Please contact Sharon Barrett (381-2888) or Sheri Altizer (381-4520) or Pastor Charles (381-2213) if you'd like to volunteer.

“To God Be the Glory”

UPDATE

2010 Financial Stewardship Campaign

St. Paul United Methodist Church

To date, 106 Commitment Cards representing \$256,009 in pledges have been received. This represents 62% of this year's approved ministries budget of \$417,920 and represents an 8% increase in commitments over last year's total.

A big “Thank You” to every household that is helping make our campaign a success!. If you have not yet returned your card, please help us conclude the campaign soon. Cards and envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

A Reminder

The 2010 Census questionnaires are now arriving by mail. Each household in our community is encouraged to complete the short form and return it soon. By May 1st, Census workers will be going door-to-door to those households that have not responded to the mailer.

The impact of the Census can not be understated as it will impact the amount of federal dollars that will be given to our communities, as well as impact the upcoming reapportionment process in the General Assembly. Our area has grown over the last ten years and will continue to grow, and we need the appropriate resources to meet this need.

The census count impacts the funding available for the following:

- Students in Elementary, Middle and High School.
- Students in college.
- Anyone receiving state or federal funds to attend colleges or universities.
- Families served by Head Start programs.
- Anyone utilizing programs for Senior Citizens.
- Anyone who drives on a state maintained road or highway.
- Anyone who accesses health care.
- Local governments, city planners, business leaders.

The results of the census touch all of our lives. Be sure to complete your questionnaire.

June Trip

Join your church friends for the June 15—17 “getaway” to Lancaster, PA. “Joseph” and the coat of many colors highlights this trip with Terry’s Tours. Contact Gene Peyton at 382-6568 for your flyer, or pick up one in the church office.



Ways to Join This Church—You are Invited!

If you desire to become a member of St. Paul UMC, we are excited to invite you to join by. . .

Profession of Faith—This means that you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and the Lord and are willing to be baptized as an expression of your faith.

Transfer of Membership—If you are a member of another church (denomination) you can join by requesting that your membership be Transferred from that Church to St. Paul. We do not require re-baptism.

The ways of joining the church mentioned above may be accomplished by **Coming Forward** at the end of the service when the minister gives an Invitation for church membership, or

Contacting one of the Pastors before or after a service of worship for more information and opportunity to join the church.

Easter Hasn't Come and Gone!

True, Easter Sunday Morning is past, but Easter is Here and Now! What we celebrate on Easter Sunday is the annual celebration of what we do every Sunday morning. For each Sunday morning is a “Little Easter,” in that we are reminded every Sunday of Christ’s Resurrection and life in us! So, to that end, I offer to you this poem and prayer for your every Easter Celebration!

“O Life that seems so long ago, and yet is ever new,
The fellowship of love with Thee, through all the years is true.
O Master over death and time, reveal Thyself we pray,
And as before amongst Thine own, dwell thou in us today!”

-W. Russell Bowie

Doug Kanney

Minister of Discipleship Care

Children & Youth Ministries

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those parents who helped make the “Children’s Day-Out” program such a success last month as we took a bus trip to the Lyric Theater on March 6th; to see “Billy-Goat-Gruff”. It was a success—the children lived the Barter Players Touring Production, and seemed to laugh the hardest when Ribit-Ribit “The Frog” showed up. A special thanks goes to Blake Owen for driving us to and from the Lyric Theater with such grace. Thank you, Blake!



Easter Egg Hunt

Time and date has been changed in order to offer more time and less “dew-laden” grass in which to seek out and find those precious little Easter eggs. The new time is 2:00 pm on Holy Saturday afternoon, April 3rd. We hope this change doesn’t cause you any inconvenience, and I look forward to seeing you on our St. Paul UMC grounds for this event!



The Easter-Sunrise Service

Will be held at the Sunset Cemetery on South Franklin Street at 7:00 am. We are hoping for a clean and mild morning for this event. Sunrise will be at 7:01 am, so this should be a fantastic service for everyone who attends. The Christiansburg Ministerial Association sponsors this event from year-to-year, and really appreciates all of those early risers who can attend. A Sunrise Service Community Breakfast is also offered. More info later.

Pastor Charles

Bible Wordsearch

The Vineyard
Workers

Wordsearch 175

Matt.20:1-16

K G S I X T H M O R N I N G D
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AGREED KINGDOM
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 ENVIOUS RECEIVED
 EQUAL RIGHT
 EVENING SIXTH
 EXPECTED STANDING
 FOREMAN STILL
 GENEROUS TOLD
 GRUMBLE UNFAIR
 HEAVEN VINEYARD
 HIRE WAGES
 WORKERS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a
 Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
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United Methodist Women Happy Spring

First of all I would like to make a correction to last month's article. Our unit made \$640.00 at our pancake supper, not \$120.00. Your support is so appreciated and helpful with our mission work.

On April 10th (Saturday) we will host a "Brunch" at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Our guest speaker will be Erica Williams from Social Services. She will speak to us about the Adoptive Parent and Foster Care Program thru their agency. She will also bring to us some ideas about service projects that we can be a part of in our community.

We would like to invite anyone within the church family to attend and bring any friends that you think would be interested in this program.

Please consider becoming a part of our UMW and our mission work here at St. Paul and throughout our District.

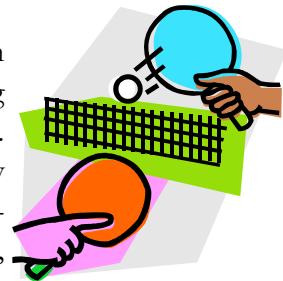
If you have any questions contact Patsy at 731-1402.

In Christ,

Patsy Sparks, UMW President

Who Knew?

Who knew that a kid with an off-beat idea could raise so much money for charity? Alex Cooper organized an ecumenical youth ping-pong tournament at St. Paul for Sunday, March 21, as a fundraiser. He wanted to do something to support MCEAP after hearing how the organization was struggling this winter. There were 13 participants from three local churches, along with spectators, chaperones, and even a yearbook photographer. Congratulations to our own Justin Bowler who won the 1st annual 'St. Paul Cup.' And with their entry fees, the teens collected \$97.18 for MCEAP! Way to go guys!



Easter Morning Breakfast

There will be an Easter Morning Breakfast sponsored by some of the men of the church. With the Easter Sunrise Service at Sunset Cemetery being held at 7 am, the breakfast at St. Paul will be at 8ish (that means about 8 am) with a simple meal and wonderful fellowship as we celebrate the joy and hope and promise of Easter Morning! We hope to see you there!



Pack 145 Yard Sale—Saturday, April 10th

The Cub Scouts and families of St. Paul UMMs Pack 145 are working on their 4th Annual Yard Sale from 7:30 am—12 noon at the St. Paul Activity Building. This fundraiser offers great bargains and delicious goodies to raise money for Scouting activities from May until November. Donation of items are also accepted on Friday, April 9th, just contact Lisa Bass at 381-1077 to arrange drop-off or pick-up. Thanks for your support of Cub Scouting at St. Paul UMC!

You Can Join Scouting ANYTIME!

There is also a BIG recruitment for Cub Scouting in the fall, but boys in grades 1-5 can join the fun any day of the year! If you have considered Cub Scouts, but wasn't sure...NOW is the time!

Boys in **rising** (next Fall 2010) grades 1 to 5 who register before May 1st can enjoy all the Scouting opportunities this summer! There is Day Camp at Shawsville's Camp Alta Mons. Adventure Camps in Pulaski's Camp Powhatan and the terrific Pack monthly special events!

If interested, please check out www.CubPack145.com and take a look! Then, write us an e-mail on the "Contact Us" webpage or stop by any Pack event listed on our calendar. A registration form will be provided. Complete the form, attach a \$24.00 fee and your adventure begins!