

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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DECEMBER 2010–JANUARY 2011



*St. Paul United Methodist Church
Christiansburg, Virginia*

Handwritten signature



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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DEC. 2010- JAN. 2011

From the Pastor's Study

I can still remember a time when I was a boy when I was so excited by the fact that my Uncle Ben was coming for a visit. When the Saturday that Ben was supposed to arrive finally came, I went to the window in the formal living room of my parents' home countless times to watch for my uncle's arrival. After a while I asked my father what time he thought Ben would arrive. He gave me his best guess and so I took a break from making constant trips to the window in the living room.

About thirty minutes before the time my father said he thought Ben might arrive, I went to my bedroom on the second floor of the house where I could get a better view of the streets leading up to the road where we lived. I put a chair next to the window that would give me the best view. I opened up the Hardy Boys mystery novel that I was reading at the time and began to read. I spent quiet some time sitting near that window reading and also watching out the window. I don't know how long I sat there waiting for Ben to come but it felt like forever! Finally, I saw my uncle's car turning onto the road where we lived. I jumped up from my chair and rushed out the bedroom shouting down the steps to my parents, "He's here! Ben is here!" I was so excited that my uncle had come to our home for a visit!

I remembered this event from my childhood several days ago while thinking about some plans for Advent and Christmas. Advent and Christmas are the seasons that call to mind the wonderful truth that God came to visit the world in human form in Jesus Christ. There have been times in my life when I know that I have greeted this great story and news with en-

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thusiasm. Yet, I must also confess that there have been too many times when I have taken this news for granted; times when my inner being was not really shouting, “He has come! He is here with me! He has come to be with us!” I can come up with many reasons (or excuses) that might explain the dampening of my excitement. But, rather than worrying about those moments in the past when my exuberance was less than it should have been, and instead of wasting precious time trying to come up with a litany of excuses to explain away those moments, I would prefer to pray that the God whom Jesus revealed to us will use this Advent Season to inspire a renewed sense of both joy and awe in my life for the great gift of God’s visitation among us. I will make this desire my prayer during the days ahead. What will be your prayer during this Advent and Christmas?

Donna and I wish the members and friends of St. Paul a very blessed and wonderful Christmas as well as a great New Year ahead!

Pastor Michael (Psalm 122)

United Methodist Family Services

December is United Methodist Family Services Month. Through your support of UMFS December offering, you can help touch a life and create a future for children and families whose lives have been full of despair.

Checks may be made payable to St. Paul and marked for “UMFS”.

December Birthdays

Glenn Cochran—1
 Vickie Charlton—2
 Tara McCoy—3
 Lee Buhyoff—3
 Judy Harkrader—4
 Betty Lambert—5
 Justin Griffith—6
 Chelsea Wood—6
 Penny Kanney—6
 Pat Simpson—6
 Nate Birchfield—9
 Elaine Clark—11
 Foster Williams—11
 Eddie Lester—14
 Layla Price—15
 Peggy Chafin—16
 Ernie Akers—16
 Elena Linkous—17
 Debbie Williams—17
 Bailey Wood—18
 John Byrd—19
 Wayne Bishop—22
 Phyllis Williams—24
 Mike Randall—24
 Betty Thompson—26
 Bill Clarkson—27
 Lois Bersch—28
 Kim Newman—30



January Birthdays

Bill Smith—1	Nancy Moye—10	Dewey Lusk—29
Brenda Reynolds—1	Jim Mattox—10	Franklin Lawson—29
Grace Karnes—1	McKenzie Cunningham—12	Andy Caudle—31
Becky Pharis—5	Jay Newman—12	Jay Jones —31
Kathryn White—5	Blake Owen—12	
Dubby Charlton—6	Anna Clabaugh—13	
Eric Burlingame—7	Brianna White—17	
Roger Flora—7	Laurie Tucker—18	
Curtis Chrisman—8	Dennis Semones—20	
Cynthia Sowers—8	John Peters—20	
Charles DeHart—8	Todd Fitch—21	
Joe Draper—8	Eliza Eaton—22	
Bowman Altizer—9	Lindsey Peters—26	

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th at 7:00 pm

Candles, Carols and Communion.



Singing the Season



Our annual caroling to shut-ins will be on Sunday, December 19, from 4 to 5 pm. Meet in the church parking lot at 4:00 to travel together in the bus. Refreshments will be served at the church at 5:00. Come lend your voice and time to brighten someone's day with Christmas cheer!

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

During the Month of October and November we gave assistance in the amount of \$2,210.00 to 62 individuals/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. The needs seem to be greater at this time. Your special Communion offering makes this possible. Thank you.

UMM Card Drop Fundraiser

The UMM will be sponsoring a Christmas card maildrop fundraiser in the Narthex. We ask that you file cards to fellow members of the congregation in the alphabetical pendaflex and donate the saved postage in the drop box to be donated to MCEAP. This is an easy way to avoid late mailings and to help the needy at the same time. Be sure to check during the season for cards from fellow members of the congregation!



United Methodist Men Valentine Sweetheart Dinner

We will have dinner, devotions, music, games and funny stories! Line up your dates now. This will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Country Kitchen will be catering the meal. Tickets will be available in advance at a cost of \$12.50 per person, which includes sales tax, local food tax and tip. Checks can be made payable to St Paul United Methodist Men. You will be able to purchase your tickets from Arthur Poff, Harvey Sowers, Jim Mattox or Carol Gunter in the church office. Have your reservations in by February 5th. See you there!



CELEBRATION SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS:

DECEMBER 19TH at 8:45am Potluck Breakfast hosted by the UMW

at 9:45am Children's Choir and Youth will perform in the sanctuary

at 11:00am the Cantata by our Choir.

There will be no Worship Services or Sunday School this day. Please plan to come and worship with us as we celebrate the Christmas Season.

DECEMBER 24th at 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service (one service only)

December 26th at 10:00am Worship Service. There will be one service only and no Sunday School.

Also, in celebration of Christmas this year we will have a "Blessing of Nativity Sets" from the Book of Worship. This will take place in the fellowship hall following breakfast. If you have a Nativity Set you would like to bring for the blessing please contact Janet Shelburne (394-7129) or Patsy Sparks(731-1402).

These will be placed on tables on the stage in the fellowship hall. This will be a time to share and see all the many types of Nativity Seta that are used during our Christmas season.



Devotionals

Just a reminder that the January/February Upper Room will soon be available in the church narthex. This is a wonderful daily devotional guide suitable for the entire family to have time together in God's Word .

Flowers for 2011

The cost is \$25 and checks can be made payable to St. Paul and mark for flowers. We will order the flowers for you each week.

January 2 _____	July 3 _____
January 9 _____	July 10 _____
January 16 _____	July 17 _____
January 23 _____	July 24 _____
January 30 _____	July 31 _____
February 6 _____	Aug. 7 _____
February 13 _____	Aug. 14 _____
February 20 _____	Aug. 21 _____
February 27 _____	Aug. 28 _____
March 6 _____	Sept. 4 _____
March 13 _____	Sept. 11 _____
March 20 _____	Sept. 18 _____
March 27 _____	Sept. 25 _____
April 3 _____	Oct. 2 _____
April 10 _____	Oct. 9 _____
April 17 _____	Oct. 16 _____
April 24 Easter	Oct. 23 _____
May 1 _____	Sept 30 _____
May 8 _____	Nov. 6 _____
May 15 _____	Nov. 13 _____
May 22 _____	Nov. 20 No Flowers
May 29 _____	Nov. 27 _____
June 5 _____	Dec. 4 _____
June 12 _____	Dec. 11 _____
June 19 _____	Dec. 18 Poinsettia Sunday
June 26 _____	Dec. 25 _____

Wonderful Wednesday Dinners in December

Dec. 1 - 'Plentiful Potluck'- Please bring a dish or dishes to share.

Dec. 8 - 'Christmas Favorites' - The 'kitchen crew' will provide us with their family's favorite holiday recipes.

Dec. 15 - Now take a break from cooking and holiday food and enjoy PIZZA!

Join us at 6:00 p.m. each week for food and fellowship. If you would like to contribute food or have questions, contact Jennifer Cooper at 381-5854 or publicity@stpaulvaumc.org.

(Dinner) Times They Are a-Changing

Starting November 10, Wednesday night dinner will begin at 6:00

December 1, 8, 15 Melodee Wade and Tom Bell will lead "The Birth Narratives" study focusing on birth stories of Jesus.

December 22, 29 There will be no Wednesday night dinner or classes for Christmas

Christmas Cantata

The St Paul Sanctuary Choir will present their cantata, "Christmas Seekers" on Sunday, December 19th at the 11:00 Worship Service. "Seek and you will find." It is one of our best-known and oft-quoted scripture passages. In a broad sense, all Christians are seekers: seekers of Christ in all parts of our lives, much as those centuries ago were seeking a Messiah to lead the faithful out of the darkness and into a promised land. And it is from this interesting premise that the familiar Christmas story is brought to life in text and music for us today much as it was for Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, and the angels years ago.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! for your generous support on Sunday, October 31st. We received \$537.50 for our local mission work. Our Executive Committee will meet on November 30th to disburse our funds and we have been blessed with a great year and will be able to share this with several agencies in the NRV.

Starting in January we will designate the 3rd Sunday of each month as "Stamp and Label Sunday". On this day everyone in our congregation is asked to bring your cancelled postage stamps, soup labels and educational box tops and place them in the containers that will be provided for each. With the help of our whole church family we will be able to collect a larger amount of these to be used by UMW District. If you have any questions please contact any member of our UMW and she will be glad to help you.

Another item of great interest I would like to share is about a Backpack Program that Belview UMC sponsors. At the present time they are providing backpacks for children at Belview Elementary and will also be doing this for Christiansburg Middle School. These backpacks provide weekend food for children and help parents stretch their food budget. Students that participate in the school's free or reduced-cost lunch program are eligible to participate. Parents or guardians must agree for their child to participate and complete a permission form.

To support this great program you may send your donations to Belview UMC, (mark check Backpack Program) 3619 Onyx Dr, Radford, Va 24141. For \$20.00 a month you can help fill one of these backpacks so a child may have food for the weekend. Please consider this worthwhile program and if you have any questions please contact me or Belview Church at 639-1230.

Patsy Sparks,

President UMW

731-1402

The Secret of Winning

And Jesus said, "Let whoever among you would be greatest, let them be servant of all."

Recently I read an article on "The Secret of Winning!" It was both interesting and thought provoking, in that more often than not, when we think about "winning," we think we do so at the expense of someone else or that others come in second best. This, however, does not have to be the case!

For in the article, it says that to win, we must be willing to do "Whatever Is Necessary!" Win-whatevery is necessary!

Now, we can look at this in a positive way, or in the negative sense of doing "anything," which I don't believe the article meant. Rather, we are called to do that which is "good and kind and loving," in whatever way, and with whatever means that are available to us. And sometimes this means that we do "whatever is necessary" because it is necessary at the time, for the good and well-being of those we seek to serve, help, support, encourage, and express God's love to and for!

In this way, I believe it is a "win", "win" situation for all concerned, in that we are faithful to our calling to love others in the name of Jesus Christ, and that in so doing, we help others along the journey of life! To me, this is "The Secret of Winning!" How about you? What do you think?

Doug Kanney

Minister of Discipleship Care

Flowers for the Altar

You are reminded of the flower calendar located outside the church office. This provides you an opportunity to place flowers in the church on Sunday morning in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$25.00, and you can make checks payable to the church and mark for "flowers". Give the church office a call the week prior to the Sunday you have signed up for so we can put the proper announcement in the bulletin.



January 2011 Calendar

<u>Sunday, January 2</u>	<u>January 9</u>	<u>January 16</u>	<u>January 23</u>
8:45 Worship	8:45 Worship	8:45 Worship	8:45 Worship
9:45 Sunday School	9:45 Sunday School	9:45 Sunday School	9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship	11:00 Worship	11:00 Worship	11:00 Worship
4:30 Youth	4:30 Youth	4:30 Youth	4:30 Youth

<u>Sunday, January 30</u>	<u>Monday, January 3</u>	<u>Monday, January 10</u>	<u>Monday, January 17</u>
9:45 Sunday School	7:00 pm Staff Parish	7:00 pm Staff Parish	7:00 pm Ad Board
11:00 Worship			
(one service only)	<u>Thursday, January 20</u>	<u>Tuesday, January 25</u>	
4:30 Youth	6:30 pm Meth.. Men	7:00 pm UMW Executive	

Thursday, January 27
7:00 pm Council on Ministries

Each Tuesday
9:00 am Prayer Group
10:00 am Joy Singers

Each Wednesday
10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
6:00 pm Dinner & Children's Choir
6:30 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Youth, Children & Adult Study
7:30 pm Choir Practice

Circle Meetings
Circle 4 Tuesday, January 11, 2:00 pm
Circle 2 Tuesday, January 11, 7:00 pm
Circle 5 Thursday, January 13 10:00 am
Circle 3 Thursday, January 13 7:00 pm

A Good Thing To Remember!

As we describe ourselves as Christians, remember that others recognize us by our qualities and values, in the life we live, through our words and our actions! So when others see us, let's hope they see these qualities in us!

*“Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,
Gentleness and Self control”*

Wouldn't it be a good thing, if they did?

Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the church this year on Sunday, December 19th. All orders will be placed through the church office and paid to the church. The cost is \$18.00 per 2 plant poinsettia. A form is provided below for your order and how you would like it to read in the special bulletin insert. If possible, your order should be in to the church by Friday, December 10th so the florist can insure delivery.

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group

As you know, we have a Tuesday Morning Prayer Group that meets (just about every Tuesday), and this group has been praying for you and others for a long time now. We try to pray on a regular basis at 9 am every day for the needs and concerns of the world, close to home and far away. We include our neighbors, friends, church members, leaders of the church, nation and world, and any “other” concerns that come our way. We see this as a joy and blessing, for us and we hope for others.

We have recently talked about “Praying” in the following way. We hope you will join with us in this “approach” and whenever you have a chance to pray. Here goes:

Proclaim Jesus as Lord in every day living, in word and action.

Reach people with the Gospel of Christ every day—The Great Commission!

Assemble together in worship, in Sunday School, be a part of small groups within your church, such as Bible study and prayer groups.

Yes, Lord, I will go wherever you want me to go. Yes Lord, I will give you of my time, talents, gifts and service. I will care for the sick and dying. I will minister to the wounded and hurting, and I will offer compassion and care to those in need!

Yes, Lord, I will “PRAY” for the world, its people, and all of our needs!



Tuesday Morning Prayer Group