

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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FEBRUARY 2012



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

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From the Pastor's Study

In my last newsletter article, I invited the members and friends of St. Paul to make a commitment to spending at least twelve minutes daily during this calendar year in reading the scriptures devotionally and in prayer. Perhaps you have made this commitment already and you are doing your best to give a few minutes each day to these means of grace. Wonderful! Please keep at it! If you have not made a decision to do this yet, then I encourage you to give this some thought. There is still plenty of time left in this calendar year for each of us to make a new or to renew a decision to be more intentional about practicing spiritual disciplines.

As we begin the month of February our minds will surely think about our sweethearts and special loved ones as Valentine's Day approaches. I give thanks to God for the sweetheart that I have in my wife. Donna is very special to me. I hope that each of you has at least one sweetheart in your life that is very precious to you, too; either a spouse, a significant other or a very dear friend.

As we move further into the month we, as a church, have an opportunity to focus our attention upon one of the high, holy seasons of the Christian year. I am referring to the season of Lent. Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday and this year that falls on February 22. We will plan to have an Ash

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Wednesday Service that evening. We will sing hymns, pray, read some scripture and reflect upon its meaning for our lives. We will also have the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross upon our foreheads made with the ashes of palm branches.

Lent is a season of forty days excluding Sundays. The number forty is important as it calls to mind the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his public ministry. Lent is a time that we may give to preparing for the celebration of Easter. "Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians." (Copied from The United Methodist Book of Worship.) A little fasting and repentance would probably be a good thing for all of us and I certainly include myself!

Whether we spend a regular period of time fasting during Lent or seriously focusing upon repentance, I do hope that we will each practice the spiritual disciplines seriously during this time and do our best to participate in the bible studies and worship of our community of faith. These things will surely help us prepare for that grand and joyous celebration that is Easter.

Blessings to each of you,

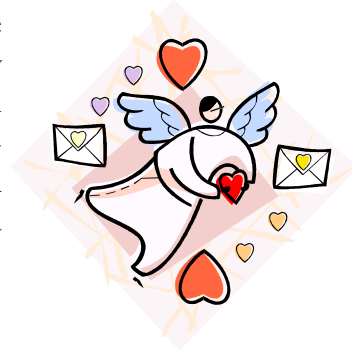
Pastor Michael

February Birthdays

Samuel Copeland—1
 Arthur Poff—1
 Donna Copeland—3
 Meg Clark—3
 Jack Thompson—3
 Louise Collins—4
 Terri Moore—7
 Bill Ayres—7
 Hannah Barrett—10
 Bob Birchfield—10
 Doris Elliott—11
 Justin Griffith—12
 Pauline Pitsinger—13
 David Lane—13
 Mary Joyce Stevens—14
 Tracy McCoy—16
 R.B. Phillips—17
 Iris Simpkins—17
 Ethan Bass—17
 Betty Shadel—18
 Mary Sherman—18
 Ethan Buhyoff—18
 Delia Lugo—19
 Jimmy Epperly—20
 George Gammon—22
 Henry Nixon—23
 Rally Williams—23
 Oakley Williams—23
 Agnes Payne—23
 Janie Cassell—24
 Jean Nelson—28
 Kelly Robertson—28

Sweetheart Dinner

The United Methodist Men of St. Paul are pleased to invite you to our annual Sweetheart Dinner on Saturday, February 11th in the fellowship hall! The cost is \$12.50 per person with tickets available in the church office or from any United Methodist Men member. Entertainment will start at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



A CARING PEOPLE, CALLED TO CARE

It is a wonderful thing to be cared for! It is a joy to experience and a joy to behold! What it all boils down to is that for folks to care for us, means we are persons of worth and value and persons who are loved.

And the wonderful thing about all of this is, that to be cared for, in turn enables us to also care for others. To offer to them, what we ourselves have received. And it is in this receiving that we understand the beauty of caring for others. For what we have experienced and enjoyed, can also be a blessing for others. To give to them, what we have received, is a way for us to express gratitude for our care and our concern, to us, for them!

So, what a wonderful opportunity it is for us to be a caring people, and to be called to care for others. Think about it, isn't it a wonderful thing to be cared for, and to care for others. This is the nature of the People of God!

Doug Kanney

Minister of Discipleship Care

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

During the Month of December we gave assistance in the amount of \$1,517.00 to 34 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.

The Church Is Called To Be!

Several years ago in one of my training events for the larger church membership, I came across what can be described as the “raison d’etre” for the church’s life, the “reason for being.” It is pretty simple and I want to share it with you. Here it is.

The Vision of The Church:

To be a church that glories God in everything it does.

The Mission of The Church:

To WIN, to bring others to Christ and His Church.

To Disciple, to train and equip believers to grow
in the faith.

To Serve, to place members in meaningful
ministries to exercise their spiritual gifts
and talents.

This is what the Church is called to be, to do, and how to live and work and serve in the name of Jesus Christ! We are the Church!

Doug, Minister of P, C, IC, and Fried Chicken

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women is one of many ministries to be involved in here at St. Paul UMC. If you are not involved, please consider visiting one of the circles available. There are two circles that meet during the day and two that meet in the evening. Please come and join us in fellowship and get to know more about how you can make a difference in our community. The meeting place and times vary and are available by calling the church office, 540-382-2410, or you may go online and find it on our church website, www.stpaulvumc.org, or you may call Jackie Buhrdorf, UMW President, and she will give you information & answer any questions that you may have. May God Bless you this year in 2012! We look forward to making a difference in your life and others! May God Bless You This Year in 2012!

Jackie Buhrdorf

UMW President, St Paul UMC

540 230-9556

Inclement Weather Policy

When there is snow (and/or ice) on Sunday morning, the Senior Pastor will consult with the Facilities Manager regarding the conditions of roads as well as the church's sidewalks and parking lot. The first decision to be made will be the possibility of canceling the 8:45 worship service. If one or all services are canceled the cancellations will be announced through local television stations; WDBJ Channel 7 and WSLS Channel 10. If any services are held you are urged to use your best judgment about getting out and trying to attend Sunday School and/or worship. No one should take unnecessary risks to their physical well-being nor risk damaging their or someone else's property such as a car. Sometimes these decisions are easy to make (a foot of snow or an inch of ice is a no brainer!) Sometimes these decisions are not so easy to make. The Senior Pastor will err on the side of caution when making decisions about cancellations due to inclement weather. Your safety and health are very important.

VOWELS OF SUCCESS

I have been a baseball fan forever, and one of my favorite players has always been Johnny Bench, the Hall of Fame catcher for the Cincinnati Reds and a mainstay on several of their World Series Championship Teams. He travels around the country giving motivational talks and inspiring others to achieve success in life. He has developed what he calls "Vowels of Success." And so, I would like to share these "vowels" with you, in the hopes that you may bring forth the best in yourself, and live to the great potential that God has for you. Here are the "A,E,I,O,U's" of life, from Johnny Bench. "Play Ball!"

A is the ATTITUDE we have every day. It emphasizes the positive over the negative!

E is the EFFORT we exert for excellence. To give of our best, as we have been given talents and abilities to use!

I is being the best INDIVIDUAL and person that we can be and accepting the responsibilities that are ours!

O is taking advantage of the OPPORTUNITIES that come our way, and making the best of them!

U is USING the knowledge and information available to us from all the Sources of technology and people around us!

So, in baseball terminology, I hope you hit a "home run" and that you remember the "vowels" of life and may you find faithfulness and success!

Johnny Bench, Baseball Hall of Fame
(as interpreted by Doug Kanney)

Boy Scouts

Oh Lord, build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past.."



SCOUT SUNDAY

The Boy Scouts of America annually celebrates its founding on February 8, 1910, based on the program started by Lord Baden Powell in England on August 1, 1907. Scout Sunday was added to the Scout celebration in the middle 1940s. The United Methodist church observes Scout Sunday on the second Sunday of February. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their "Duty to God" pledge.

In 2011 there were 115,000 Chartered Scouting Units. Approximately 68% of all units were chartered to faith based organizations. The United Methodist Church has the second most chartered units out of 25 church groups.

The Boy Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent". Both Cub and Boy Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

Cub Scout Pack 145 is very grateful to be chartered by the St. Paul United Methodist Men for 70+ years. Pack 145 feels very much a part of St. Paul UMCs outreach to serve the community. Together, Cub Scouting and St. Paul UMC can continue its impact on youth!

Pinewood Derby



The Pinewood Derby is a racing event for Cub Scouts in the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scouts build their own cars from wood, from kits containing a block of pine, plastic wheels and metal axles. The model cars are made to specified dimensions, created, carved, assembled, and decorated by Cub Scouts, under the guidance of the parents or helpers. The cars are gravity powered and run down a special track.

The purpose of the Pinewood Derby is to help the Cub Scout build a team relationship with their parent or helper, experience the sense of accomplishment and the excitement of competition, learn good sportsmanship, and to have fun. It requires some planning and preparation by Pack Leaders, but the payoff in fun and strengthening family relationships has been proven over the years. The BSA Pinewood Derby was selected as part of "America's 100 Best" as "a celebrated rite of spring" by Reader's Digest.

All members of St. Paul UMC are invited to attend this spectacular Pack 145 racing event on Sunday, March 4th anytime between 12:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

Virginia Advocate

Get the Virginia Advocate and be an informed United Methodist! The Advocate costs only \$15 for 12 issues. You can see who benefits from your stewardship of time and money through our church's mission work. Stay informed with up-to-date information on issues affecting Virginia United Methodists. Discover how God's vision is being shared through commentary from Bishop Kammerer and others.

If you would like to subscribe or would like your subscription renewed, please contact the church office at 382-2410.

February Calendar

Each Sunday

8:45 & 11:00—Morning Worship
4:00 pm—Youth

Each Tuesday

9:00 am—Prayer Group
10:00 am—Joy Singers
.....

Each Wednesday

10:00 am—Ladies Bible Study
6:00 pm—Dinner

6:30 pm—Handbells
6:30 pm—Children’s Choir
7:00 pm—Youth
7:00 pm—Children’s Program
7:00 pm—Adult Study
7:00 pm—Choir Practice

UMW Schedule

Thursday , February 9
10:00 am—Circle 5
7:00 pm—Circle 3

Tuesday, February 14
2:00 pm—Circle 4
7:00 pm—Circle 2
Executive Committee
7:00 pm, February 21

Special Events

February 2, 11:45 am
First Thursday Luncheon

Saturday, February 11, 6:00 pm
Sweetheart Dinner

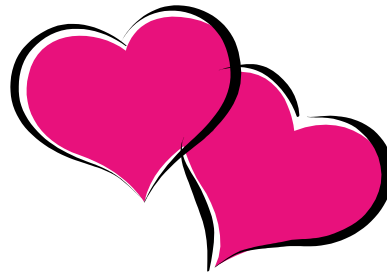
Special Meetings

Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 pm
Staff Parish Committee

Sunday, February 12, 4:30 pm
Sunday School Teacher Workshop

Monday, February 20
Finance Committee—6:00 pm
Administrative Board—7:00 pm

February 17
Newsletter Deadline



Special Worship Services

On Sunday, February 19, our worship services will be led by members of the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. This will be a very special day that you will not want to miss! Come and show your support for this important ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Shrove Tuesday

February 21 is Shrove Tuesday at St. Paul UMC. There will be a Pancake Supper. Serving starts at 6:00pm and will take place until 7:00pm. It will be located in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are accepted and will be given to local missions. The United Methodist Women are sponsoring this supper. Please plan to attend and join us in fellowship.



A message to the United Methodist Women

Please let Marjorie Vitale know if you have a UMW book signed out. We are trying to update our library. Thank you!



DO YOU ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH CHILDREN?

The MOPS group (Mothers of Preschoolers) at Blacksburg UMC needs your help assisting their lead teachers. We are seeking volunteers... anyone who has a desire to help show God's love to little children! If you are free any of the following Monday mornings from 9am-12 noon and would enjoy sharing your time, please contact Julie Clark at 381-4665 or rdjeclark@verizon.net: Feb. 13, Feb. 27, Mar. 12, Mar. 26, Apr. 16, Apr. 30.

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 197

Ex.20:1-17

The Ten Commandments

T	T	W	G	S	R	E	T	A	W	S	N	I	D	Y
H	E	A	N	S	L	A	B	O	R	E	W	K	E	S
O	V	L	I	E	S	E	M	E	R	O	R	K	T	G
U	O	I	H	M	A	E	H	D	R	O	N	I	S	A
S	C	E	S	A	N	T	L	S	W	O	D	F	E	T
A	D	N	I	N	A	I	H	T	D	O	E	N	R	E
N	N	A	N	F	H	I	A	H	L	A	E	T	S	S
D	E	T	U	C	P	T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y
B	I	I	P	G	H	R	S	M	G	N	U	S	E	L
L	T	M	T	O	H	E	O	H	E	E	E	G	V	O
E	H	M	N	H	S	T	B	E	L	S	T	V	A	H
S	E	O	L	U	H	O	E	S	U	O	L	A	E	J
S	R	C	S	E	R	H	T	R	A	E	V	A	H	S
E	O	I	R	S	A	B	B	A	T	H	R	E	F	D
D	M	U	R	D	E	R	Y	R	E	T	L	U	D	A

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| ALIEN | HEAVENS |
| BLESSED | JEALOUS |
| COMMIT | MISUSES |
| COVET | MOTHER |
| EARTH | MURDER |
| FALSE | NEIGHBOR |
| GATES | NEITHER |
| HATE | PUNISHING |
| NAME | SABBATH |
| LOVE | SEVENTH |
| HOLY | THOUSAND |
| HONOR | WORSHIP |
| IDOL | ADULTERY |
| STEAL | CHILDREN |
| LABOR | DAUGHTER |
| RESTED | DONKEY |
| WORK | GUILTLESS |
| WATERS | FATHERS |
| | TESTIMONY |

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

Prov.14

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Gifts to Give Your Church

Having accepted Jesus as your Savior and having made this known by uniting with His church, I promise to give my church the following gifts:

1. I want to give my church ***affection*** that it might be strengthened by the knowledge that I will serve sacrificially.
2. I want to give my church a word of ***appreciation*** for its ministry, recognizing my part in sending its message to the ends of the earth.
3. I want to give my church ***encouragement*** when temptation and hindrances make the work of Christ slow and difficult.
4. I want to give my church ***faith*** so it may be free to proclaim the message of peace, goodwill, and brotherhood.
5. I want to give my church ***prayer*** for God to bless its ministry and make its services a blessing to everyone who attends.
6. I want to give my church ***reverence*** as the divine institution which Christ has commissioned to continue His work in the world.
7. I want to present ***tithes and offerings*** to support my church's important work.
8. I want to give my ***time*** to serve where I am needed so my church can reach out to others in the name of Christ.

