

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

FEBRUARY 2010

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*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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From the Pastor's Study

“The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” So begins an opening paragraph within The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church . This statement of mission for the people and churches called United Methodist is essentially a paraphrase of Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples found in Matthew 28:19-20a: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

Beginning in this month of February, we as a congregation are embarking on an experience called “Five Practices of Faithful Congregations”. At its core, this focus on five practices – 1) radical hospitality, 2) passionate worship, 3) intentional faith development, 4) risk-taking mission and service, and 5) extravagant generosity – helps us consider the nature and purpose of our mission in order that we might expand and grow in faithfulness to it.

There is a wealth of information within the pages of this newsletter that speaks to these five practices and the many ways that we are already experiencing aspects of them in our mission to make disciples and transform the world. One of the things that we draw from our faith in seeking to transform the world is hope. Whether it be for people in our own

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church or community despairing over the circumstances of their family finances or personal health, or for persons we have never met in earthquake-wracked Haiti, we offer resurrection hope – hope and resources for a new and better day to come. Such is our proclamation and witness in Jesus Christ.

Pastor David

Sweetheart Dinner - Friday February 19th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy an evening of entertainment, food, and fun hosted by the St. Paul United Methodist Men on February 19th.

Savor a fabulous dinner catered by the Country Kitchen restaurant. Some would say their macaroni and cheese alone is worth the price of admission.

In addition to a fantastic catered meal you will experience a variety of music and games, and maybe even a surprise or two!

Tickets will be available for a minimum donation of \$10 per person in the church office starting Sunday January 31st through St. Valentine's Day Sunday February 14th.


This fun-filled event is for “Sweethearts” of all sorts so bring a mixture of familiar and new faces, couples and singles alike.

Last year's event was a rousing (yet reverent) crowd-pleaser. Don't miss the talk of the town - a can't-miss evening of great food and fellowship.

Please contact Todd Fitch at umm@stpaulvaumc.org or 320-7413 with any questions or to take a block of tickets.

February Birthdays

Arthur Poff—1
 Jack Thompson—3
 Meg Clark—3
 Lewis Meredith—4
 Louise Collins—4
 Terri Moore—7
 Bill Ayres—7
 Joette Farrar—9
 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
 Red Phillips—17
 Linda Owen—17
 Iris Simpkins—17
 Ethan Bass—17
 Mary Sherman—18
 Ethan Buhyoff—18
 Amy Price—19
 Jimmy Epperly—20
 George Gammon—22
 Rally Williams—23
 Oakley Williams—23
 Agnes Payne—23
 Henry Nixon—23
 Janie Cassell—24
 Kelly Robertson—28



Focus on the Five Fruits

St. Paul will engage in a five-week congregational focus on five practices of vital, growing, fruitful congregations. Based on the book by Robert Schnase entitled *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, 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. These ideas aren't secret or new, but they are the practices that can lead to excellence and growth in the life of our church. And they are the practices we will be focusing on for five consecutive weeks, beginning in February.

Just imagine what can happen if everyone in our congregation will spend five weeks—just thirty-five days—reading, praying, discussing, and focusing on these Five Practices. God can change individuals, entire families, and our whole church—thus changing the difference we can make in and beyond our surrounding community.

This initiative is congregation-wide. You are invited to participate in this exciting emphasis in a variety of ways:

Sunday morning worship

At-home devotional readings

Planning Groups

Special teams

Church-wide Work Day

Join us and immediately see where your voice and ideas can make a difference. For more information visit www.stpaulvaumc.org or contact Melodee Wade at 320-0995 or layleader@stpaulvaumc.org.

Endowment Committee

St. Paul Endowment Committee? What is that? What do they do?

Do not fret: "There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries" (Daniel 2:28).

Stay tuned y'all. All shall be revealed... in the month of February.

Greetings and Happy New Year from the United Methodist Women.

Our St Paul unit ended with a great year. At the present time we have 77 members in our 4 circles and would like to invite all ladies to join and become a part of our mission outreach.

Besides our giving to the Roanoke District UMW our unit disbursed \$1700.00 at the end of 2009 to local missions in the NRV. This was made possible by our members and the support of our church family. Listed below you will see where our money went:

Henry Fork Service Center-----	\$100.00
MCEAP-----	\$300.00
Valley Interfaith Child Care Center-----	\$150.00
Free Clinic-----	\$250.00
Christian Aid Closet-----	\$200.00
Sonshine Fund(Park UMC)-----	\$200.00
Caring Pregnancy Center-----	\$100.00
Christmas Store-----	\$200.00
Women's Resource Center-----	\$200.00

This being said we are ready to begin a new year with our first fundraiser. We will be hosting a PANCAKE SUPPER on Tuesday, February 16th at 6 PM.

Menu will be pancakes, bacon, sausage gravy, biscuits, fruit and drink. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend to enjoy great fellowship, food and to help support your UMW and their mission work here at St Paul. Last year we made over \$650.00 at this event, with your generous donations, and hope to increase that amount this year. As we are all aware the needs everywhere are greater each day and as we are blessed we need to share and help others.

God Bless and if any questions, please call.

Patsy Sparks,
President UMW

From the Director of Children & Youth Ministries



It is simply awesome! First class. Spirited! As your new advocate for children and youth programming, I am delighted to share these experiences in my first two weeks on board this marvelous church. From Sunday to Sunday I have been in every classroom from Nursery to Senior High. To God be the glory! I've seen a wonderful spirit and grace that brings great credit to the teachers, students, and certainly to the excellent parenting which is happening in the homes of our members and friends. The quality and content of learning about Jesus here at St. Paul seems very much to be on the right track. And within the next 45 - 60 days, our younger children may look forward to a special treat as we gather together for some fun in the Lord....outside of the Sunday School classroom. More info to come in our next newsletter. The Youth tentatively plan for a "Souper Bowl Luncheon" (Sun, Feb. 07) after church, and "Snow Tubing at Winterplace on Presidents Day, (Mon, Feb. 15). All of these young people represent our "tomorrow" here at St. Paul, so we thank you ahead of time for your wonderful support. And thank you God for sending the DeHart's to this holy place. God bless you all!

Menu for First Thursday Luncheon—February 4th

Barbeque on bun, cole slaw, chips and pickles, cupcake and ice cream .

Join us at 11:45 am for devotions, Communion, lunch and a program.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of December we gave \$1,100 to 25 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.

UMCOR

(United Methodist Committee on Relief)

“Thank you” to everyone from St. Paul who has contributed through UMCOR to relief for the victims of the Haitian earthquake. In the first two Sundays since the tragedy, our congregation has given over \$7,000 towards this effort.

What a wonderful response was the UMCOR action for the people of Haiti! For UMCOR is always one of the first groups of help and support in times of devastating catastrophes anywhere in the world!

This mission agency of the United Methodist Church is our way as United Methodists to care for the needs and lives of others as they experience tragedy and pain and sorrow in their lives.

As United Methodists we can be proud of what we as the church are doing in so many places around the world.

And remember, as we give to UMCOR, our money, all of it, goes for the mission projects, to provide help and hope for others!

“SEEN, HEARD, AND FELT!”

Two important and exciting ways to think about the nature of the church is to be visible and caring.

Recently the needs and cares of the people of Haiti have become most apparent with the devastating earthquake. Their lives will never be the same – sadly enough. But our hope and prayer is that with the peoples of the world offering help and hope, their lives in the long run will be better. Our hope and prayer!

In our own way as United Methodists we are offering our help and care, support and encouragement to the people of Haiti. Through our UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) we are there with food and water, medical supplies, doctors, nurses, relief workers, and volunteer teams in general.

We want to help them in their time of need. We want to be visible as the church and caring towards others as the people of God called United Methodist!

Stewardship Corner -- Tom Bell

During each quarter of this year I would like to look at one of four aspects of Christian stewardship with you. For the first quarter, it will be stewardship of time. This month, let's consider the following, taken from an October 21, 2007 article by Sandy Zeigler is the Director of Lay Leadership Development for the General Board of Discipleship.

OUR TIME: Being a good steward of the time God gives us can be difficult in our culture. There are so many demands placed upon our lives that we can barely escape for a time of rest and relaxation. But God calls us to be faithful stewards of our time, using it to deepen our relationship with Christ, to do good to others, to exercise our bodies — in general to take of ourselves, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically. How we use our time is a reflection of our faith and a witness to others. Consider how you use your time. When you have some "free" time, do you spend it in prayer, reading God's word, or meditating; or do you watch TV, surf the internet, and play video or computer games? Living life in the spirit of stewardship includes being thoughtful and intentional about how we spend our time.

Green Congregations Workshop

Sponsored by Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

and

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light

Saturday, February 27, 2010

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Presenter: The Rev. Dr. David Rhodes,

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Why? As Christians we have a special call to care for the earth by reducing our negative impact upon God's creation. We need to discover ways to better care for our earth.

If interested in attending as a team member from St. Paul, contact Janet Shelburne at shellibra@gmail.com or 394-7129.



100 YEARS OF SCOUTING



Celebrating the Adventure

Continuing the Journey

The first week of February is often referred to as Scouting Anniversary Week to commemorate the founding of the Boy Scouts of America and the issuing of its National Charter from Congress. The first Sunday in February is called SCOUT SUNDAY. The United Methodist Church recognizes this day on the 2nd Sunday in February which this year is on February 14th.

The Boy Scout movement was founded in England by British Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Scouting's first manual was both written and illustrated by Baden-Powell in 1908. During a visit to London in 1909, millionaire Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce became lost and was approached by a boy of about 12 carrying a lantern who offered to guide him to the address he was seeking. When Boyce produced a shilling, the boy replied, "No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not accept tips for Good Turns."

After finishing his errands, Boyce and the unknown scout went to British Scout headquarters where they met Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the famous British general who had founded the Scouting movement in Great Britain. From that moment forward, Boyce's interest in Scouting grew and Boyce came home determined to start Boy Scouting in America.

On February 8, 1910, Boyce and a group of outstanding leaders filed incorporation papers for the Boy Scouts of America in the District of Columbia. The purpose, he said, "Shall be to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues, using the methods which are in common use by Boy Scouts."

Today Scouting has served millions of young men aged 6-18 in a variety of programs including Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing. Earning Scouting's highest award--the Eagle Scout award--is only achieved by 4% of boys registered. Here are some famous people who earned the highest rank, Eagle Scout, in BSA:

Mike Rowe (Dirty Jobs host)

Steven Spielberg (film director)

Michael Moore (film director)

Bill Gates (creator of Microsoft)

Sam Walton (founder of Walmart)

Neil Armstrong (1st man on the moon)

Gerald Ford (former US President)

Gil Gerard (Buck Rogers' actor)

James Lovell (astronaut)

Ross Perot (corporation owner)

Donald Rumsfeld (former Defense Secretary)