

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

JANUARY 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®

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

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JANUARY 2010

From the Pastor's Study

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

This December 31st marks not only the close of the year but the close of the first decade of the 21st century. Citing the horror of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the economic recession, one national magazine recently featured a cover story calling the last ten years "The Decade from Hell". Although I am fairly certain that the writer's intention was to come up with a catchy title rather than make a theological statement, this assessment of the perils of the last decade does speak to a Christian perspective concerning these horrific events.

The term hell refers to the dominion of evil. Insofar as these events are so clearly at odds with the will of God for us as espoused by the prophet Jeremiah above, the suffering, death, and anxiety we have witnessed and experienced in these years are a reminder to us that the powers of evil in this world are very real. Evil tries to exert its malevolent influence upon us from without and from within.

On the cusp of a new era, we do well to hold fast to the word of God – an assurance that God prepares a hopeful future for the faithful. Even as God has provided for us all amidst the chaotic times we have witnessed in the last decade, may

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you know God's sustenance and blessings for the New Year and beyond.

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor David

St. Paul Welcomes our New Children and Youth Coordinator

The St. Paul Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to welcome the Rev. Charles DeHart as the St. Paul children and youth coordinator. Charles and his wife, Viv, moved to Christiansburg this past summer after retiring from the UMC ministry in the Holston Conference. They immediately became an active and vital part of the St. Paul family. Charles will be overseeing our children and youth programs and working closely with the Education Committee. His experience, vision and warm personality are a welcome addition to the St. Paul staff.

January Birthdays

- Bill Smith - 1
- Brenda Reynolds—1
- Grace Karnes—1
- Becky Pharis—5
- Kathryn White—5
- Dubby Charlton—6
- Eric Burlingame -7
- Roger Flora—7
- Curtis Chrisman—8
- Cynthia Sowers—8
- Charles DeHart—8
- Joe Draper— 8
- Bowman Altizer—9
- Jim Mattox—10
- Nancy Moye—10
- Madison Williams—12
- McKenzie Cunningham-12
- Blake Owen—12
- Jay Newman—12
- Anna Clabaugh—13
- Grace Goodpasture—13
- Jannette Clavez—14
- Brianna White—17
- Laurie Tucker—18
- Dennis Semones—20
- John Peters—20
- Todd Fitch—21
- Eliza Eaton—22
- Lindsey Peters—26
- Dewey Lusk—29
- Jay Jones—31
- Andy Caudle—31



Stewardship Thoughts -- Tom Bell

..and happy New Year! As we begin a new year, let us resolve to be worthy of the trust God shows in us as he gives us dominion (responsibility) for his creation!

12. A Christian steward is trustworthy.

Christian stewards can be trusted to make wise decisions concerning the resources placed within their care (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy (1 Corinthians 4:1-2).

Here, in summation, are the qualities of a Christian steward that we have looked at over the past twelve months. Let us pray that we may be: compassionate, content, generous, grateful, loving, loyal, obedient, prayerful, responsible, sacrificial, sharing, and trustworthy.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of November we gave \$1,218 to 24 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.

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 January/February issue, take one home today for your family to use.

Caring for Others

It is a wonderful experience to have someone care for you! It means that you are important to them, and that what happens to you is of concern to them. More often than not, what happens to others, may well in time also happen to us. Now this is not a pessimistic attitude, rather one of the reality of life.

So, if this is true, and it seems to be, then as we care for others, in time, others will care for us. In the best sense of the word, "What goes around, comes around," and we are blessed in our care and concern for others, as they in turn care for and are concerned about our well being.

Why not give it a try and see if it works! We have much to gain in caring for others, for in this way we fulfill the Law of Love of Christ, as we love our neighbors and friends and each other!

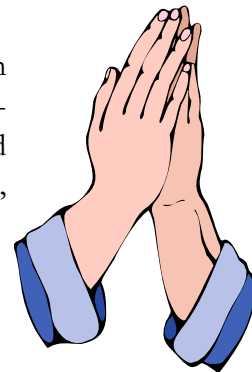
Grace and peace in your loving!

Doug Kanney,

Minister of Discipleship Care

Praying for Each Other!

As always thanks for your support and encouragement of those on our prayer list! For they are our neighbors and friends and members and they are important and special to us. Their concerns and needs are also ours! Continue to pray for them and their needs, and pray for each other.



THE CHOIR WANTS YOU!

From Judges 5:3 . . . *I will sing to the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to the Lord . . .*

Psalm 30:4—*Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.*

If you have ever wanted to sing in church, if you have ever wanted to lift voice to God, if you sang in the past and for whatever reason have slipped away, if you have ever wanted to be part of something special in worship, now is a great time to come and sing. The choirs look to share joy and praise through music. What a wonderful New Year's resolution...to share such joy. A philosopher once said, "Music sounds the way feelings feel." Time to share the good feelings of your heart with others. Studies reveal that congenital Amusia (tone-deafness) only affects 4% of humans, yet a far higher population seems to believe they are part of the amusiatic minority. It just isn't so!

Come. Join us. Give it a try. You'll be glad you did.

Choirs practice Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 downstairs in the choir room. For more information contact Christopher White through the church office or at

music@stpaulvaumc.org.



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.



God's Sustaining Grace

- Grace releases within us the supernatural strength to keep us going through bad times.
- Grace ignites within us determination to keep going no matter what.
- Grace echoes in our spirit that God is with us in our tough times as our friend and supporter.
- Grace keeps pointing us to God's goal of teaching us.
- Grace reminds us that our Holy Father enables us to come through in faith and strength.
- Grace embraces us in assurance that God is in control and sets limits on what we can bear.
- Grace awakens our faith with conviction that God will turn our tough times for something good.

The awesome Grace of God!



The New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

-C. Neil Strait

An English Lesson

My English teacher would be proud of me! I looked up the word “*care*” in the dictionary and was surprised at what I found. I was disappointed at the definition I saw there, so I have made up my own meaning and definition. So here goes.

TO CARE, means to be so involved in what is going on around you, that you do something positive and good about it. **THAT IF** you are concerned about someone and their needs, you offer help and support and encouragement. **THAT IF** you see an opportunity to help someone, you do it!

THAT IF. . .

So **TO CARE** is to be involved directly and personally in the lives of other people. Now, I like that definition, don’t you!

Doug

Minister of Pie and Cake

Grandparents As Parents

A program offered by New River Valley Community Services for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

This is a 7 session program designed to help participants with the challenges of raising a grandchild. The program also provides practical information and opportunities for participants to develop skills needed to foster a healthy relationship with their grandchild. This will be a time for participants to meet other grandparents and share their experiences in a comfortable atmosphere.

Dinner and childcare provided

No fee is charged for these classes but you must pre-register by January 8

Classes will be held at New River Valley Community Services

700 University City Boulevard

Blacksburg, Virginia

January 11—February 22, 6:00-7:30 pm

You can contact Sue Muffo at 961-8348 to get a registration form.

Bible Wordsearch

Mark 3:22-30

Parable of a House Divided

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

AGAINST	LAW
BEEZEBUB	MEN
CALLED	NEVER
CANNOT	OPPOSES
CARRY	PARABLES
DEMONS	POSSESSED
DIVIDED	PRINCE
DRIVING	ROB
ENTER	SATAN
ETERNAL	SINS
FORGIVEN	SPIRIT
GUILTY	SPOKE
HIMSELF	STAND
HOLY	STRONG
HOUSE	TEACHERS
ITSELF	TELL
JERUSALEM	TIES
JESUS	TRUTH
KINGDOM	UNLESS
	WHOEVER

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

Wordsearch No.172

Psalm 19

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

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