

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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JULY/AUGUST 2010



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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PASTOR'S ARTICLE

I know that I have said it from the pulpit. And, I have said it at a meeting of our Administrative Board, but I would just like to say "thank you" once more for the way that you have welcomed my family to St. Paul and to Christiansburg. We are grateful for your words of encouragement and for the acts of kindness that you have shared with us. We also appreciate the things that you have done to make the parsonage a comfortable home for our family.

I would like to share just a few random thoughts here. Since pastors tend to work a lot of evening and weekend hours they typically take a day off between Monday and Friday. I have always preferred to take a day off during the first part of the week, so I will be taking either Tuesday or Monday off each week depending upon the church's calendar and my schedule. Carol Gunter, our Church Secretary, will always be aware of when I am taking a day off.

Good communications are critical to the success of any institution or organization including a local church. I do have computers and email but I confess that I am not very savvy with the technology stuff (It's a love/hate relationship with these things!). You may communicate with me via email at pastor@stpaulvaumc.org. That email address existed before my arrival and it continues to work just fine. I will check this email when I am in the office. I do have a cell phone that I use for professional as well as personal use. Carol also has my cell phone number so she can reach me when I am away

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from the church in the event that I need to be informed of something.

We will return to our Wednesday evening programs on September 8. On the 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th I will host a time for sharing our “Faith Stories” beginning at 7:00 PM. I will be the “guinea pig” on the 8th and share with those who are interested my journey in faith and calling to ministry. This will also be a time when you may ask me questions about topics in church life, theology and so forth. On the other three evenings you will be invited to share your faith story. How did you become a Christian? A United Methodist? What brought you to St. Paul? Who are the people who have had the greatest influence on your faith development? We will also spend a little time during these Wednesday gatherings to talk about programs and studies that may be of interest. I do hope that many of you will join me for this time. This will be a good time for us to become better acquainted with each other.

It is a privilege to be in ministry with you!

Pastor Michael (1 Corinthians 12:1-13)

September Birthdays

Matthew Bravo—2
Ruth Weaver—3
Jim Kirk—4
Kevin Buhrdorf—4
Amanda Kraker—5
Meaghan Wade—6
Carol Gunter—8
Karen Cox—8
Anita Poff—9
Layla Peters—9
Heather Owen—10
Ken Paxton—10
Betty Linkous—11
Sandra Chapin—12
Jeremy Williams—13
Ross Blount—13
Kathy Davis—13
Eunice Smith—24
Flora Gutshall—17
Lynette Reed—19
Pauline Kirk—19
Ainsley Altizer—20
Paul Cassell—21
Peggy Long—21
Gwen Ward—21
LynnCaudle—22
David Rhudy—22
Russell Williams—24
Sherri Altizer—24
Hunter Blount—25
Bruce Stevens—26
Lucy Draper—26
Patsy Sparks
Ruby Clarkson—27
Scott Wade—27
Michael Duncan—27
George Rust IV—29
Opal Jones—29
Nancy Mattox—30

Our Prayer Covenant

It has been several months now that we began our Prayer Covenant as a way to start morning devotions. Our Tuesday Morning Prayer Group has tried to keep the covenant in focus as we meet and express concern for those in our community, as friends and neighbors and members and others of concern.



We hope that you have joined us in using this covenant as a means of expressing concern for others and as a way to focus on and highlight your own daily devotions.

So, continue to pray with us daily using the covenant as a guide, resource, and inspiration for the needs and cares and concerns of other persons. For we are reminded that Jesus said the highest values in life are:

“to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourself.”

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group

A Code to Live By!

Now, one of the things that few people know about me is that I am a great fan of ole time cowboys (and cowgirls)! I have always been fascinated by the stories of the old west and the various actors who have portrayed the heroes of long ago.

For instance, there has been Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Gabby Hayes, Tex Ritter, The Lone Ranger (and Tonto), and countless others. In their portrayal of the ole west, there was emphasized a “code of conduct” which probably far exceeded what was reality in those days. And in their attempt to entertain there was also a desire to set a standard of behavior for their audience to follow. It is commendable what they tried to do.

Just recently, I came across a reminder of some of those great characters and the roles they played. One in particular caught my attention as a good way to live, a sort of “Code of life,” from a cowboys perspective. I share it with you as a consideration for your own life, as a cowboy or cowgirl Here is

Gene Autry's Cowboy Code

1. A cowboy (and cowgirl) must never shoot first, hit a smaller person, or take unfair advantage of anyone.
2. A cowboy and cowgirl must never go back on their word.
3. A cowboy and cowgirl must always tell the truth.
4. A cowboy and cowgirl must always be gentle with children the elderly, and animals.
5. A cowboy and cowgirl must not advocate or possess racially or religiously intolerant ideas.
6. A cowboy and cowgirl must help people in need or distress.
7. A cowboy and cowgirl must always be a good worker and helper with others.
8. A cowboy and cowgirl must keep themselves clean in thought, speech, action and personal habits.
9. A cowboy and cowgirl must respect others, their parents, and the nations laws and values.

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10. A cowboy and cowgirl are patriotic and seek to do the best for their country and the peoples of their nation.

Now, I know these don't seem at first glance to be "too" religious, and yet if given a place in life, they may well speak of values, and goals and attitudes which will make life better for us and for others! So, join with me in making these a way of life an a "code to live by!"

Doug Kanney,
Minister of Discipleship Care

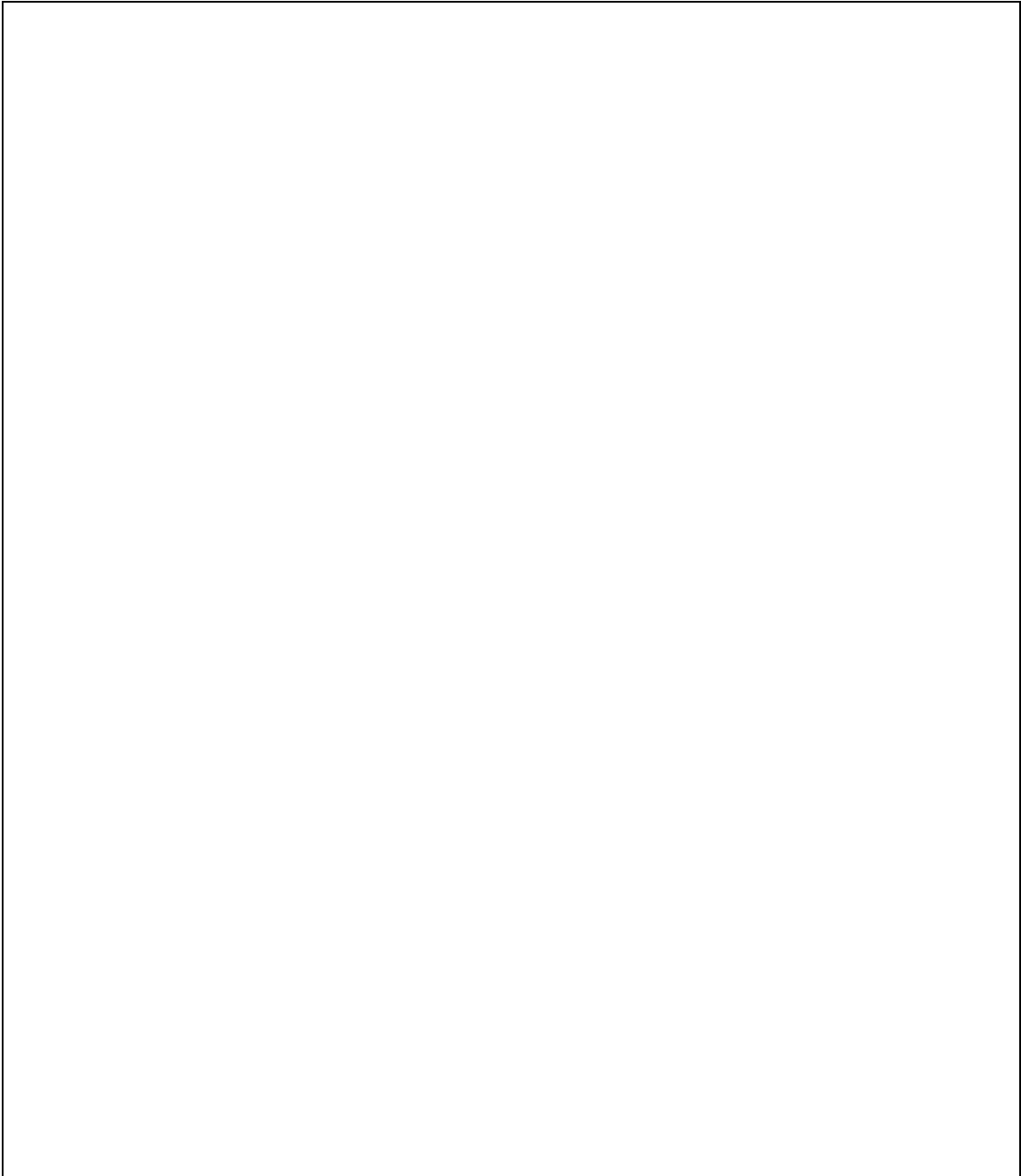
Custodian Staff

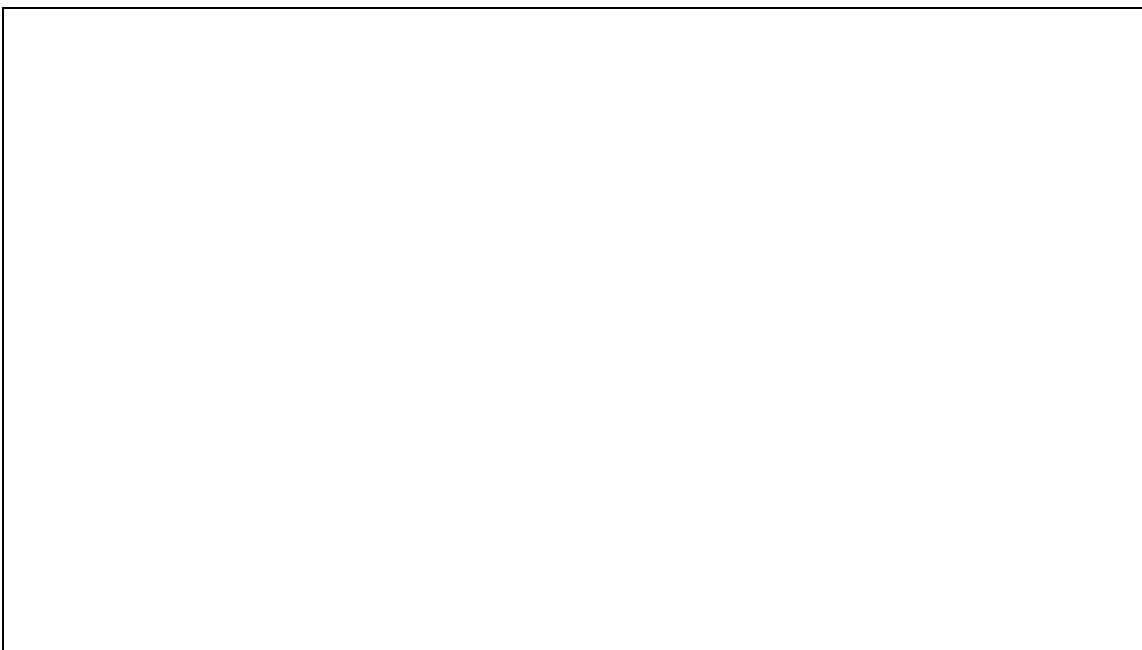
The Staff/Parish Committee is pleased to welcome to St. Paul our new custodial team. Robin Raines will be joining us on Aug. 16 as the cleaning custodian, responsible for all indoor cleaning. She will be working with us in the afternoons. Eddie Duncan will be rejoining our staff as the maintenance custodian, working with such things as painting, electrical issues, outdoor maintenance, snow removal, etc. Please make sure to welcome them when you see them around the church



Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of May thru June 20th we gave \$4,097 to 81 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. As you can see, we have been experiencing a great demand for assistance in the past two months. Thank you for your help.

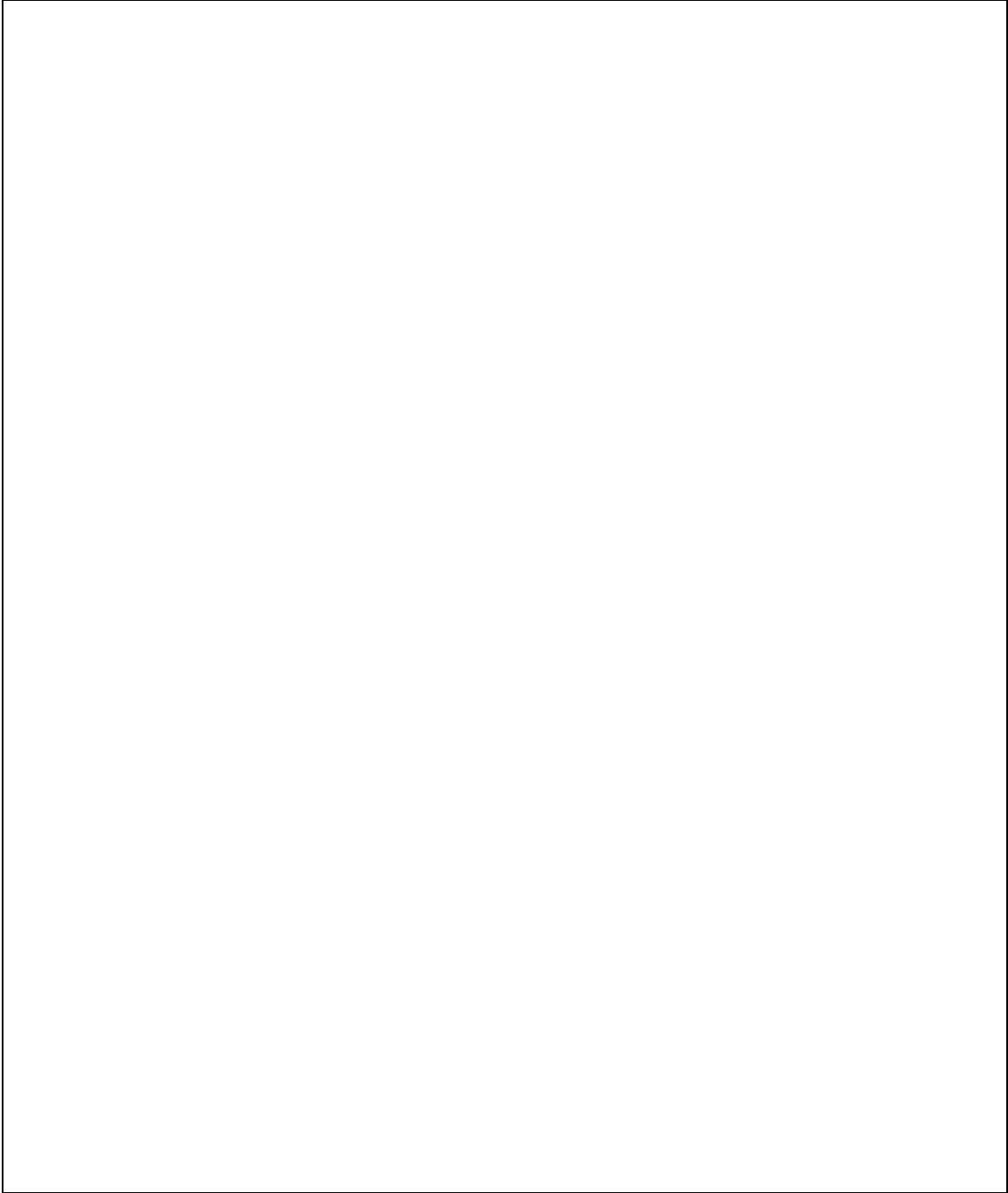




Boy Scout News



Cub Scouts of Pack 145 are looking forward to the 101st year of Boy Scouting in America and the start of the 72nd year at St. Paul UMC. Chartered by the United Methodist Men's Group, Pack 145 invites boys in grades 1-5 to join Cub Scouting. The 2010-11 calendar of exciting activities is set to go! Our first PACK meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st. Schools will be offering recruitment nights. Please view www.CubPack145.com for more information or call our Charter Representative, Henry Bass, at 381-1077.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

Just some info from our unit: Each of our circles have had their June meeting and will each resume in September. We will begin the fall with a potluck social on September 9th at 6pm in the fellowship hall so watch for information to follow about this event.

Our Red Cross blood drive went well but we did not meet our goal of 30 pints. We missed that by 3 with 27 pints. Thanks to Joyce Bishop and everyone that worked and made it a good day.

Our unit sent 1 sewing kit and \$780.95 in monetary donation to Annual Conference to be sent to UMCOR. I'm sure with the flooding that's happened in the past few weeks that money will be put to good use. Thanks to everyone for their support of this project.

Also, the UMW has RADA CUTLERY available so if anyone is interested in purchasing knives (assorted sizes), vegetable peelers or spatulas please contact Patsy(731-1402). These are nice for your use or make great gifts for a new homemaker. Prices range from \$4.00 to \$7.00.

Wishing everyone a great summer and come join us in the fall and become a part of your Saint Paul United Methodist Women.

Thanks for all your support and GOD BLESS,

Patsy

Senior Youth Sunday School

How would you like to learn about the Bible through comedy and drama? Our new series is called "Good God Theater" and we will be starting in September. See you in class!

Here's Where We Are!!! (Church Finances to Date)

Just as an engine needs fuel to run, so does the Church! Fuel in the sense of support and encouragement and our gifts, tithes and offerings! To say money, is not to give proper respect for our response to the gifts of God to the people of God. First it is out of our love for God that we make our offerings for the work and ministry of the Church!

And since all of us are a part of the Church and its ministry, what we give is in response to and because of our ministry together in the name of Jesus Christ! We give because God has first given to us, so we give in response and gratitude!

We describe and interpret our ministry in terms of our goals, and then present a "budget" to meet those goals and accomplish what we set out to do in ministry. The gifts we give, as our response to God's gifts to us, fuel and fund the ministry we are about!

So, here is a capsule of our "budget" for the year, to date, and a description of how we are doing in meeting our ministry needs!

Our 2010 Church Budget	\$417,920.00
Needed Weekly	8,037.00
Needed to 6/21/10	200,925.00
Collected to 6/21/10	197,650.78
(Behind)	(3,272.00)

United Methodist Women

Well summer is almost over and it's time to get started on our fall activities. All of our Circles will resume their monthly meetings in September.

Our kickoff event will be a Potluck Dinner on September 9th (Thursday) at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. We want to invite all members to attend and bring ladies with you that are interested in becoming a part of our UMW. The most important part is to bring your favorite dish or two that you wish to share with the unit and lets enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship. Drinks will be provided.

We will have a guest speaker for the evening, Mary Kay Horton, who works as a Missionary thru the Navigators and serves at Penn State University, will be our speaker. You may visit www.navigators.org on the internet to learn about this outreach program.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a great evening.

God Bless, Patsy, UMW President

Popcorn Sale



In order to support all the Cub Scouting events and achievements, Pack 145 sells Trails-End Popcorn through the Blue Ridge Mountain Council to raise funds for the year. If you like popcorn, Trails-End offers many different varieties and available for viewing at www.TrailsEnd.com. Pack 145 believes in a stress-free fundraising. The Pack will only organize 2 Show-&-Sells and will not be seen in front of store-fronts. Cub Scouts will be offering popcorn products for sale on Sunday, September 26th before/after church services. Your support of Pack 145 would be greatly appreciated!

Staff/Parish News

Since our regular SPR meeting would be July 12, which is the start of VBS, Pastor Michael and I have decided to combine July and August into one meeting. We will need to meet on the first Monday, August 2, since Pastor Michael will be on vacation during our regular meeting day. So, please mark your calendars for SPR meeting on Monday, Aug. 2, at 7:00, in the resource room. Should a need arise before then, we will have a called meeting.

Sunday, July 4 will be Pastor Michael Copeland's first Sunday in the St. Paul pulpit. We are excited to have Pastor Michael and his wife, Donna, serving St. Paul. Our official welcome for the Copelands will be on Sunday, July 11. There will be ONE service at 11:00 a.m. on that day, followed by a welcome reception in the fellowship hall. We hope you will make plans to be present for these two important events in our church life.



Reminder

Beginning in August, on each 5th Sunday, there will be an 11:00 Worship Service only, with Sunday School at 9:45 am. This applies to months that have 5 Sundays.