

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

MARCH 2010

Phone: 540-382-2410

E-mail: info@stpaulvaumc.org

Web: www.stpaulvaumc.org



*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

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

FEBRUARY 2010

From the Pastor's Study

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." (Genesis 12:1)

Pastor Les Horning of the Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship preached on the scripture text above at the first of this year's ecumenical Community Lenten Worship experiences held recently at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. I sat in the pew and reflected upon this call of God to Abraham as the archetypal call of the divine to which God's people have been responding ever since. I reflected as well upon the latest call of God in my ministry – mediated in this instance through the work of our denominational authorities. I had recently been informed that our Bishop of Virginia and the eighteen District Superintendents who comprise the Bishop's Cabinet, through the deliberative process called appointment-making, had determined that I should begin a new pastoral appointment with another congregation beginning July 1.

United Methodist pastors serve in an itinerating ministry. That is to say, as members of the Annual Conference, we are assigned annually to our particular places of ministry according to the discerned leadership needs of the churches of the Annual Conference. It is an arrangement of which United Methodist clergy are fully aware by virtue of the terms of our ordination: *"(Elders in Full Connection) offer themselves without re-*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Focus on 5 Fruits</i>	3
<i>Easter Tulips</i>	3
<i>UMW</i>	4
<i>Lenten Services</i>	4
<i>Children & Yout</i>	5
<i>Upper Room</i>	5
<i>Communion</i>	5
<i>Stewardship</i>	6
<i>Confirmation</i>	6
<i>Lay Speaking</i>	7
<i>Study</i>	7
<i>Reaching Out</i>	8
<i>We Are the Ch</i>	9
<i>UMCOR</i>	10
<i>Cantata</i>	11
<i>Pledges</i>	11
<i>Wheatland</i>	12
<i>June Trip</i>	12

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

serve to be appointed and to serve, after consultation, as the appointive authority may determine.” (The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2008, Par. 333.1). The Lord called Abraham to go to “*the land that I will show you*”. Making the journey to a new pastoral appointment feels a lot like that – great uncertainty awaits. Like Abraham’s response to the divine call, it is an exercise in trust. And God assures Abraham that through his faithfulness to the call, he will be blessed: “*I will bless you ... so that you will be a blessing.*” (Genesis 2:2b).

Preparing to leave this congregation at St. Paul United Methodist Church will feel a lot to me like Abraham’s call to “*go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house*”, such are the bonds of love that I feel for and with you. I consider it a singular privilege to have been entrusted with pastoral responsibility for this great church for the past six years. I have tried to discharge that sacred trust honorably, if not always fulfilling the high expectations to which the clergy, as emissaries of Christ, are held. I ask your forgiveness for my failings and express my deep appreciation for all who have supported my family and me during our time among you. We are pleased that my wife, Jannette, will be receiving a ministerial appointment on the district to which we are being newly assigned. Please pray for our daughters, Grace and Louise, as they negotiate the trials of leaving friends and a beloved community behind. And know that our prayers will be with you during this time of challenge and new opportunity for St. Paul and for my family and me. God bless you all!

Pastor David

March Birthdays

Lois Basham—2
 Kay Porter—3
 Brenda Ross—4
 Alec Anderson—5
 Margaret Ann Peyton—6
 Caroline Clark—7
 Martha Flora—8
 Scott Weaver—8
 Hayley Tucker—8
 Melissa Akers—8
 Ted Woolwine—9
 George East—11
 Alex Cooper—11
 Dan Rhudy—12
 Angel Anderson—12
 Sarah Fitch—13
 Robertine Jordan—13
 Joyce Bishop—15
 Louise Goodpasture—16
 Sydney Duncan—16
 Beverly Thomas—18
 Kitty Byrd—18
 Betty Jones—18
 Kaytlin Lane—19
 Adam Caudle—20
 Abby Caudle—20
 Perry Cox—22
 Reese Ann Altizer—23
 Connie Turner—23
 Cindy Koziol—25
 Taylor Newman—26
 Alaina Anderson—26
 Del Lane—27
 Don Karnes—28
 Jennifer Cooper—29
 Chip Warren—31

Focus on the Five Fruits

St. Paul is continuing to engage in a Lenten congregational Focus on five practices of vital, growing, fruitful congregations. Based books by Robert Schnase, including our devotional guide (still available) entitled *Cultivating Fruitfulness*, 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. This initiative is congregation-wide and beyond. We invite you to Join us and immediately see y our voice and ideas make a difference. difference. For more information contact Melodee Wade at 320-0995 or layleader@stpaulvaumc.org.

Easter Tulips

Easter Tulips will be placed in the church this year on Easter Sunday, April 4th. All orders will be placed through the church office and paid to the church. The cost is \$5.75 per plant. A form is provide 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 office by Wednesday, March 24th, so we can insure delivery.



NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

From the United Methodist Women::

The air outside was cold and the ground covered with snow, but inside the fellowship hall was warmth and smiles everywhere.

Thanks to the support of our church family and friends we made \$120.25 on our pancake supper. This will continue to help us support our mission work in the NRV.

We would like to extend an invitation to our church family for a brunch we will be hosting on April 10th (Saturday) from 10:00 am till 12:00 noon.

Our guest will be from Social Services and will talk to us about ways we can be of service to them with their Foster and Adoptive Parent Program. Plan to attend and bring any family or friends that you think might be interested in this program.

Thanks again for your support and we'll be back throughout the year with good food and fellowship.

God Bless and remember to smile and greet one another in love.

Patsy Sparks

Community Lenten Luncheon/Worship Services –

Lunch 11:30 am Worship-12:25 pm

Friday, February 26th – Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Friday, March 5th – St Paul United Methodist Church

Friday, March 12th – Christiansburg Presbyterian Church

Friday, March 19th – Asbury United Methodist Church

Friday, March 26th – Christiansburg Mennonite Fellowship

Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday Service – Park United Methodist Church

(noon-3:00 pm, no lunch)

From the Director of Children & Youth Ministries



“Billy-Goat-Gruff” is being presented by the Barter Theatre players at the Lyric Theatre of Blacksburg, Virginia, on Saturday, March 6th, at 2:00 pm. No tickets are needed and reservations are already placed for our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Sunday School classes to see this event together with all parents who wish to attend with Vivian and myself. Sunday School teachers, the Sunday School Superintendent, and Mr. Blake Owen who will be driving our bus for this “Children’s Day Out” program. We should all be aboard the St. Paul UMC bus by 1:30 sharp. There is **no cost** for this production, however, you may want to bring some concession money. Permission slips are vital! Our respective teachers of each class have handed their slips out, and the church office does have a small quantity of them if needed. We are excited about this trip and hope you are too!

All Aboard!!!

Coordinator of Children & Youth Ministries

Pastor Charles

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 March/April issue, take one home today for your family to use.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of January we gave \$2,438 to 34 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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER -- by Tom Bell

We are considering stewardship of our time, during this first quarter of the year. As we close that quarter out with March (time is passing!), I was struck by some words about time that have come to me from readings and elsewhere. The first is deliberate. This came from reading again (with an Upper Room meditation) the Genesis creation story, where I noted that the process is described as being done stepwise, with deliberateness. Next, is the word productive, which came from a recent sermon. Productivity is part of recognizing the value of our time and challenges us to see that we fill it with chosen activities. Appropriate is a word to apply to our time, based upon Ecclesiastes 3 (“...a season for every activity...”). It reminds us that we should select what we are doing based upon what current needs and circumstances are. After much activity, we need to take time for rest and renewal, as Jesus taught by action and God is represented as doing at the end of creation. During our rest periods, we want to look at our recent time and what we did with it on behalf of creation and be able, as God did, to say; “...it was good!”

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes are coming to St. Paul UMC beginning on Sunday, March 14th through May 16th, from 4:30—5:30 pm in room #104. This is an eight week journey of faith which will yield a tremendous spiritual growth for our “Confirmands.” Within this eight week curriculum, we will observe two Sundays off (Easter on April 4th and Mother’s Day on May 9th). Makeup days will be available if needed. Sunday School teachers, myself, and parents of selected children will be involved in determining the number of confirmands for these classes. At the conclusion of the eight week journey, Confirmation Graduation will be on Sunday, April 23rd (Pentecost) at both 8:45 and Eleven O’clock services. For more information, please give me a call at the church (382-2410), or at home (381-2213).

*Roanoke District Spring Lay Speaking Ministries Rally
And Training Event*

Northview United Methodist Church
521 Ridgecrest Drive at Plantation road
Roanoke, Va 24019
April 23rd and 24th, 2010

Classes Offered:

The Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course (GBOD required course), taught by Rev. Mickey White, Pastor of Mountain View Charge

Lay Speakers Discover Spiritual Gifts, taught by Rev. Stan Thompson, current minister at Prices Fork and Trinity in the Blacksburg area.

Lay Speakers Interpret to Others Our United Methodist Heritage, taught by Pastor Bart Weakley who is in his seventh year at Northview United Methodist Church.

Registration fee \$25 for Basic Class and \$30 for Advanced Class. Check payable to Roanoke District UMC (Memo: Lay Speaking Event). Fee includes Saturday breakfast, lunch, snacks and literature. Registration forms are available from Melodee Wade or in the church office.

Scholarships are available—call 540-254-3128 or e-mail sdyerlsm@live.com

Study the Book of Revelation

Friday, March 19, 7-9 pm and Saturday, March 20, 9am – Noon

Cave Spring United Methodist Church in Roanoke, led by Dr. Mickey Efird from Duke University Divinity School. Join us for a thought provoking study of the book of Revelation. A registration fee of only \$5 covers both Friday and Saturday sessions. For \$7 per person, supper is available on Friday, March 19th from 6-7 pm. The menu includes soup, sandwich, salad, dessert and beverage. Register for the meal by calling the church office at 989-3673.

Reaching Out To and For Others

Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . . Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:35, 40

Have you ever been a visitor to a new or different church other than your own?

How did it feel? How were you received? Were you made to feel welcomed and included? How many of the church's members spoke to you? Did the Ushers and/or Greeters make you feel at home?

Now, all of these are personal and important questions in that what we may have experienced somewhere else as we visited another church may well be the response and reception others feel when they visit us!

Of all the places where strangers or new people should be welcomed and feel at home, surely the church-our Church ought to be that place!

What are you doing to welcome and include others as a part of our Church and Fellowship?

Our study of the "Five Practices" talks about "Radical Hospitality" as being "new" and "different" from what we normally do.

I don't believe that is the case at St. Paul Church in that I believe our Hospitality and Welcome is warm, friendly, inclusive, caring; and that it makes visitors and new folks feel welcomed and included! That it is normal for us!

What do you think? And what are you doing to help in this way?

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." -Romans 15:8

Doug Kanney

Minister of Discipleship Care

We Are The Church!

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and
with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with
all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”*

By now you have all heard that David will be receiving a new appointment come July! David and his family will be missed and we certainly wish and pray for them the best in their new home and ministry!

This will also mean a new ministry for St. Paul in terms of ministerial support and family. However, there is one thing that will not change drastically and that is our Nature as the Church! For St. Paul has been for almost 200 years (1817-2010) a community church of people who are involved in the life and needs and cares of Christiansburg and beyond.

We are the Church as we seek to minister to the needs of our community, of our neighbors and friends and members. And if you know the “nature” of St. Paul Church, they come our way. It may well be for us that strangers and new folks are just friends that we are just meeting for the first time.

With a new minister and family we will take on some difference but will by and large be the same folks that we are now.

What we will do, as we are the church is to invite our new minister to join with us in being the church of Jesus Christ, and help us in our ministry in this place at this time.

It will be a wonderful experience for all of us as we grow together, continue with a is our strength and offering to others, and discover new ways and forms of ministry!

It is going to be a great time in the life of St. Paul United Methodist Church! So pray for the present as we express appreciation for David and his family; and as we prepare for our new minister and his family!

“What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with God!?” Micah 6:8

Doug Kanney
Minister of Discipleship Care

A Caring Church—The Work of UMCOR

“Let each of us look not to our own interests, but to the interest of others”

-Philippians 2:4

Even before all the information about the Earthquake in Chile became available to us, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) was in Chile to bring some help and support and encouragement to the people there.

What a devastating and crippling disaster for the people of Chile! As most crisis of this dimension, it will be years before a complete recovery takes place, if ever. The people there are having and will have most difficult time for months and maybe years to come. It is obvious to say that their lives will never be the same.

And so, we give thanks to God for groups and agencies like UMCOR for they go where there is great need, and they go in our name and for the sake of our care and concern for them in the name of Jesus Christ!

It seems that before one crisis in the world is addressed or over, another one comes to the forefront. Even before the crisis in Haiti becomes stable and secure, now Chile is devastated by a major earthquake of monumental size.

In the days and months ahead, we as United Methodist will continue to express our concern for the world and the needs of its people, as we give to support the work of UMCOR in Haiti and now Chile; and in time, other places around the world, in far and distant places and closer to home!

On behalf of UMCOR and the people they will help in so many places around the world, thanks to you for your love and compassion and gifts to those in need.

*“For those who want to save their life will lose it, and
those who lose their life for my sake will save it.”* Luke 9:24

Easter Cantata

Come, Touch the Robe

By: Pepper Choplin

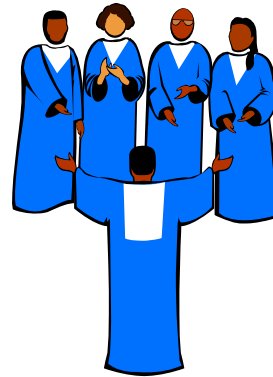
Sunday, March 28, 2010—11:00 Worship Service

Presented by the St. Paul Chancel Choir

Come, prepare your heart to meet Jesus in an intimate way;

Come, experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ.

Come, touch the robe of our Lord. . .



Note: There will be an 11:00 Worship Service only on that day, along with the Sunday School hour at 9:45 am.

“To God Be the Glory”

UPDATE

2010 Financial Stewardship Campaign

St. Paul United Methodist Church

To date, 105 Commitment Cards representing \$263,742 in pledges have been received. This represents 62% of this year’s approved ministries budget of \$417,920 and represents an 8% increase in commitments over last year’s total.

A big “Thank You” to every household that is helping make our campaign a success!. If you have not yet returned your card, please help us conclude the campaign soon. Cards and envelopes are available on the table in the narthex. Thank you!

Communion at Wheatland

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Acts 2:42

After the first Sunday's Communion for us at St. Paul, that next Monday is a part of the outreach of our church as Communion is taken for the residents and visitors at Wheatland Hills Retirement Home. This is a wonderful way for us to minister to some of our members there and to others who have made their home at Wheatland.

Usually there are anywhere from 5 to 10 folks who join together for a brief time of devotions, fellowship and Communion. It is both a joyful time of fellowship and a time of inspiration as those who attend share their faith through the journey of their lives. How much we learn from each other and how our own faith grows as we hear the different stories and rejoice in what God does in our lives!



If you are in the neighborhood on the first Monday of the month, you are most cordially invited to be a part of this service of devotions, fellowship and Communion!

June Trip

Join your church friends for the June 17-19 "getaway" to Lancaster, PA. "Joseph" and the coat of many colors highlights this trip with Terry's Tours. Contact Gene Peyton at 382-6568 for your flyer, or pick up one in the church office.

