

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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MAY 2010



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

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A Note From Pastor Charles

In the whole scheme of things, Viv and I are certain that God has placed us into this wonderful town of Christiansburg, Virginia, nestled in the historic and beautiful valley of the New River, to be in His service within the community of faith known as the St. Paul United Methodist Church. We couldn't be more thrilled with our Lord for sending us here. The recent opportunity for this pastor to join hands with The Rev. Doug Kanney in carrying out the Lord's work here as St. Paul UMC has been nothing short of exhilarating for me. By using all of the gifts and graces which God continues to bless me with for the advancement of His kingdom, I'm simply overjoyed at the prospect of partnering with you to spread the love and gospel of Jesus Christ with as many of our citizens as possible. Viv and I want to say how much "at home" ya'll have made us feel as we come into this church as new residents back on June 28th of last year. You are a terrific church family.

Thank you.

Since January 4th of this year, this pastor has also been (and continues to be) truly thrilled to be your Coordinator of Children and Youth. There—within these young people—exists the power and presence of our Lord to do mission and ministry in new and exciting ways. Our Youth hoped to have had an opportunity to work alongside peoples of other cultures and to witness our faith life to them while doing this in their own mid-western communities. Alas! Transportation could

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not be worked out for this journey of faith building, but I ask all of our members and friends to pray for and encourage our Youth that another excellent mission event is just on the horizon (Romans 12:3-8). With the dedicated leadership of Jannette Clavez, Mary Sherman, and Chris White, these young people have coalesced into a very tight group which loves to serve! All that they ask of us adults is to give them the opportunity to advance the cause of Christ. Don't be surprised if our Youth demonstrate for you their genuine love to serve the Lord through several fund-raisers this Spring/Summer that are designed to provide necessary resources to make their next mission trip possible. "all of you surely know that you are God's temple and that His Spirit lives in you. Together you are God's holy temple . . ." (I Cor. 3:16-17). To God be the glory!

May God richly bless you for supporting their work. And may our Lord give to each of us the gift of the Holy Spirit known as "encouragement".

Always in Christ,

Pastor Charles



May Birthdays

Gene Peyton—1
Nancy Endicott—2
Louise Quesenberry—2
Sara Charlton—4
Lee Griffith—4
Carmen Thompson—4
Doug Kanney—6
Susan Harrison—6
Jimmy Reynolds—6
Lucille Dobbins—8
Kris Buhrdorf—9
Rusty McCoy—9
Rachel Feggeler—9
Steven Feggeler—9
Jackie Sutphin—12
Erin Birchfield—13
Melissa Gunter—14
Dave Duncan—16
Maria Goff—18
Brooks Sherman—18
James Pharis—18
Lee Cooper—18
Stuart Cochran—20
Fred Koziol—20
Julia Dickenson—21
Pat Burns—22
Jace Thompson—24
Sharon Davis—25
Tommy Myers—25
Garland Linkous—29
John Eanes—30
Marietta Hanks—31
Jim Moyer—31
Jane Stafford—31
Jean Woodyard—31
Dolly Goss—31

Update from Pastor David...

“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46

I am now about one month into a renewal/transition leave predicated, in part, upon the divine directive expressed in the opening line of Psalm 46 (above): “Be still ... and know that I am God.” In the twenty-four years of pastoral ministry in which I have been engaged thus far, there has been an ever-present temptation for me to equate Christian ministry (and by extension, the Christian faith) with activity. Exalting activity and perceiving one’s busy-ness as a virtue is a temptation for people of faith because the culture in which we live sees activity as an indication of productivity. And each of us, in our way, seeks the approval of the world around us. So it is that we find ourselves living an increasingly harried, 24/7 existence. It is a pattern not ordained by God, but developed and encouraged by the world around us – a world that values doing at the expense of being.

By contrast, the word of God in scripture calls us to live a life of balance – a life of work and of rest, of doing and of simply being. Our faith holds that this pattern is built into the very essence of God’s creation:

“By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.” – Genesis 2:2

Observing Sabbath is about being still – about stepping out of the patterns of work and responsibilities periodically and regularly, in order to rest and restore one’s relationship with the Lord. As the designated spiritual leader of the St. Paul congregation for the last six years, I fear that I have failed you in this regard – by not modeling appropriate Sabbath rest in my own life and example, and by not insisting upon its vital centrality in our practice of the faith together.

The burdensome anxiety that has necessitated my withdrawal from the day-to-day challenges of pastoral ministry for this time of sabbatical and spiritual rehabilitation is an anxiety borne out of pursuing one’s salvation through works rather than by accepting God’s grace in Jesus Christ through faith. This is the sin to which I have fallen victim and it is a sin that besets and tempts all of us. Fortunately, as a closing line in Psalm 46 reminds us, *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”* (Psalm 46:10a). Sometimes we simply need to be still long enough to allow that reality to manifest itself in our experience. I thank all of you who are part of the St. Paul family for making it possible for me to have this time of restoration and healing before beginning a new challenge in ministry this summer. May God bless you deeply.

Joy and peace,

Pastor David

Visitation as an Art!

You know it takes practice to make a good visitor! Yes, what I mean is that to be a good visitor, you have to work at it. To take the time to listen, to move from house to house, place to place, person to person.

As we talk about caring for each other, visitation is a part of the way in which we can express our concern for each other. To go into someone's home, business, or hospital room is a personal and direct way to express our concern for each other and to make our witness to God's love for all people.

I want to encourage you to consider the ways in which you might become a visitor! To reach out to others in a direct and personal way to express your concern for others.

We are the church and in whatever way we can, we are to be involved in the lives of our neighbors and friends, to care for them.

I want to invite you to be about the work of the church as you consider how you might be a visitor. It starts simply, and then grows into a thing of beauty. So consider how you might visit with someone today, to make a difference in their life and in yours.!

Doug Kanney

Minister of Congregational Care

First Thursday Luncheon

The First Thursday Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 6th, with devotions and Communion at 11:45 am, followed by lunch and a program. The menu will be:

Parmesan chicken breast, mashed potato casserole, green beans, jello salad, rolls and banana pudding.

Confirmation Classes

Sunday afternoons at 4:30 have become a high point for Viv and myself because we are witnessing a dramatic transformation in the faith life of our eight “Confirmands”. Good questions are being raised from the class on all aspects of Spiritual Growth relating to their own personal journey of faith, and it is purely joy to be a part of this class.



Though Viv and I were not able to convene a class on Sunday, April 18th at 4:30 due to a death in the family, a series of make-up sessions will enable us to remain on schedule for “Confirmation Graduation” on **YOUTH SUNDAY**, May 23rd.. We are very excited also to have two young people who will be baptized at this service of worship. To God be the Glory!

Pastor Charles

Pastoral Concerns

During the Interim Period from April to July before the arrival of our New Minister, Rev. DeHart and Rev. Kanney will be on call for Pastoral Concerns and Emergencies. Please feel free to call either Charles or Doug during this time. Their numbers other than the Church Office Number (382-2410) are for Charles (381-2213) and Doug (641-1384).

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of March we gave \$995.00 to 22 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.

Vacation Bible School

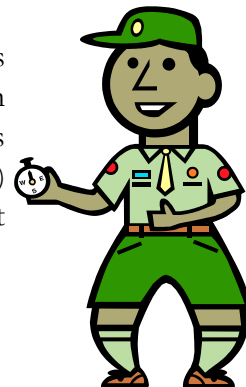


Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2010 is just around the corner, so mark your calendars - July 12 - 16. The Cokesbury Galactic Blast VBS program will send our cadets on a voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily missions, the kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. This cosmic combination of faith and fun will have your cadets developing a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The admiral calls for all cadets whose age is between 4 – 11 years to make ready for this cosmic adventure.

We are looking for volunteers who enjoy working with children, and those who get excited to see the love of God light up a child's face. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to the youth of our church and the surrounding community. No prior experience or specific skills required. Please contact Sharon Barrett (381-2888) or Sheri Altizer (381-4520) or Pastor Charles (381-2213) if you'd like to volunteer.

Cub Scout Spring Recruitment

Any boy rising to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade in the fall of 2010 is eligible to register for Cub Scouting. By submitting an application form by May 15th, a new Cub Scout can attend all the available camps (Day Camp at Alta Mons, June 21-25 and Adventure Camp in August) as well as Pack 145 special summer events. Please visit www.CubPack145.com or call 381-1077.



All in the Same Boat!

Several weeks ago now, our Tuesday Morning Prayer Group considered the “Who, What, When, Where, and Why” of Prayer.

As we talked about the reasons for prayer, the manner and the means of prayer, we discovered that probably everybody in the world prays in some form or fashion, at some time, and for some reason. Now, this should not surprise us, for it seems to be human nature to call on God when we are in need, trouble, or want to express our appreciation for life itself!

What we also discovered is that we are all in the “same boat” when it comes to life’s experiences! For what happens to one of us in time will probably happen to all of us, in some form or fashion.

So, from this, we can conclude that the “secret” to life is to live as if we share life together, and that all of us can be of help to each other! Now, this should not surprise us either, for it makes sense.

So, now, whatever we do, is of consequence to each other and in being aware of this, we should be a little more caring, a little more sensitive, and a little more loving toward each other. Isn’t this what Jesus was telling us! To love our neighbor, as we love ourselves! Wow!

Some Personal Reflections

What a joy it is for us to gather together for worship on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary—to listen to the beautiful sounds coming from our choirs; to participate faithfully ourselves in remembering orally the Creeds, Calls to Worship, Confessions, Invocations, and songs that have made us distinctively who we are in Jesus Christ. And to add to this mantra of great things, ya’ll have welcomed Pastor Doug and myself as interim co-pastors of this great church until July. Thank you for your warm and generous comments regarding these moments of experiencing the presence of Christ together at 8:45 and 11:0’clock. Preaching is definitely a passion for the both of us, and we humbly accept your warm embraces of lovingkindness.

Pastor Charles

The Relationship Between Servant and Lord

And old Arabic prayer says it this way:

*“It is glory enough for me,
That I should be your servant.
It is grace enough for me,
That you should be my Lord!”*

The joy and meaning of servanthood is a sense of to whom we belong and what our life ultimately finds as its purpose! For to know to whom we belong is a sense of our identity and to know that we are God’s is the joy of life, and to know for what purpose we have been called is the meaning of life. These two go hand-in-hand , and in their connection is the relationship between servant and Lord.

Jesus calls us to be his servants, but in so doing, he says we are his sisters and brothers. We choose to be “servants” in the sense that our life takes on meaning and purpose as we commit ourselves to Jesus Christ and choose to follow His way! So that servant and Master become somewhat identified with each other, and the way of the Master becomes the way of the servant!

Think about it. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, doesn't it follow that the way of the Master becomes the way of the servant, until the servant is identified with the Master.

So, I believe that the Arabic prayer is a way for us to identify with Jesus, in that it is the grace of God which enables us to be blessed, and in our service to others in the name of Jesus Christ, we find our glory!



Saying Good-by to Our Pastor and His Family

As you all know, we at St. Paul are in the process of saying good-by to our pastor, Dr. David Goodpasture and his family. They will be heading to a new appointment on July 1.

We would like to honor their many contributions to our church family in several ways.

First, a gift for the family: We hope to be able to present the family with a check made up of contributions from our members that will help them in their move. Monetary donations can be made by check (St. Paul UMC with pastor gift noted on the check) or cash to the church office. Carol is set up and ready to take donations.



Secondly, a service of farewell: Pastor David will be leading his last service with us on Sunday, June 27th. There will be only one service at 11:00 am.

Thirdly, a fellowship potluck dinner: UMW and Staff-Parish are sponsoring a covered dish, potluck dinner following the 11:00 am. service on June 27. Our church family will have an opportunity to bid the Goodpasture family farewell as we all fellowship together. UMW will be providing more information regarding the dinner at a later time.

During this time of transition, as we say good-by to the Goodpastures and then anticipate our new pastor, it is important that we, as a church, acknowledge and appreciate the “old” before we move on to the next chapter in our church life. The Staff-Parish Committee hopes that these planned activities will help us all to do just that.

The Real Meaning of Prayer

1. Prayer is not God doing things for us; prayer is God helping us to do things for ourselves.
2. Prayer does not change circumstances; prayer changes us.
3. Prayer is not escape; prayer is conquest.

-William Barclay



Mark Your Calendars for Celebration Sunday!

As we conclude our focus on the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and prepare to move forward into an exciting new future, we have much to celebrate. And so we will be having a special celebration on Sunday, May 2nd. After worship services, a potluck luncheon will follow at noon. At this time each committee chair will have a brief word about where they are, sharing ideas and thoughts which have resulted from their committee collaboration and which will be critical to keep our church vibrant and growing. We hope you will join us for this very special occasion. For more information about any of the Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations initiatives, contact Melodee Wade at mlgwade@aol.com or 951-0235.

Summer Staff Needed for Camp Alta Mons

Counselors, Support Staff, Nurses, Chaplains, CIT

Requirements for **Summer Staff**:

- Have completed at least Jr Year of High School
- Enjoy working outdoors and participating in outdoor activities
- Have worked with children and/or youth
- Growing Christian and feel comfortable supporting the goals of a Christian camp

Application available online at www.altamons.org or call the office at 268-2409.

THEME: "Handle With Care"

United Methodist Women Happy Spring

First of all I would like to make a correction to last month's article. Our unit made \$640.00 at our pancake supper, not \$120.00. Your support is so appreciated and helpful with our mission work.

On April 10th (Saturday) we will host a "Brunch" at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. Our guest speaker will be Erica Williams from Social Services. She will speak to us about the Adoptive Parent and Foster Care Program thru their agency. She will also bring to us some ideas about service projects that we can be a part of in our community.

We would like to invite anyone within the church family to attend and bring any friends that you think would be interested in this program.

Please consider becoming a part of our UMW and our mission work here at St. Paul and throughout our District.

If you have any questions contact Patsy at 731-1402.

In Christ,

Patsy Sparks, UMW President

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Sunday—May 23rd

Community Yard Sale—Saturday, May 29th, 8:00 am—12:00 Noon

We will be selling yard sale spaces in the parking lot. A wonderful opportunity to offer your unwanted wares and treasures while enjoying fellowship together. We will be offering parking spaces for \$10.00.



June Trip

The June trip deadline draws near. Don't wait too late to sign-up for June 15-17. Final registration and payments must reach Gene Peyton by May 10th. Give him a call at 382-6568.



Handbell Director

It is with regret that the Staff-Parish Committee has accepted the retirement of Jean Nelson as the Director of the St. Paul Handbell Choir. Jean has been such a vital part of the music life at our church and her presence on staff will be greatly missed. Jean's last performance with the bell choir will be on Music Sunday in May. We wish Jean all things good in her future endeavors.



Staff-Parish is currently advertising the position and encourages anyone with interest to apply. The job description and application can be found on our church website (www.stpaulvaumc.org).

Graduation Sunday



It is that time again to recognize our graduates from high school, college and university! It is an exciting time in their lives as they achieve new levels of education and training and prepare for and continue their life's work.

And so, on Sunday, June 6th at the morning worship services we will recognize our 2010 graduates. You can help us by letting the Church Office know of those who will be graduating, so that we can recognize and honor them for their achievements.