

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

NOVEMBER 2009

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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

I remember as a child in grade school how the artwork on the bulletin boards would vary from month to month to emphasize the changing seasons and different holidays. During October the theme would usually be autumn and Halloween with lots of turning leaves, pumpkins, and ghosts and goblins. The autumn theme might continue into November, but the holiday theme would switch to Thanksgiving with pictures of turkeys, Indians, and Pilgrims.

During this autumn of 2009 we have a couple of holidays (actually "holy days" as they were originally called) to observe in the life of the church. The first is *not* Halloween. In fact, the Halloween traditions that children enjoy today of dressing up in spooky costumes and trick-or-treating have evolved over time from what originally began as a pagan corruption of a Christian holiday. November 1st, All Saints' Day, has been a holy day observed on the Christian calendar for centuries. It is a day when those of us who comprise Christ's church on earth remember our beloved dead who have died in Christ and now comprise Christ's church in heaven.

Halloween, on the other hand, originally developed out of a pagan notion that the souls of the dead would appear, terrifying the inhabitants of earth, on the night of October 31st, the eve of All Saints' Day (All Hallows E'en). The Christian observance of All Saints' Day could not be more different. It is a recognition and celebration that our departed loved ones in Christ (the saints), while absent from this realm, inhabit God's heavenly kingdom and are yet in communion with us through the power of the Spirit. Thus it is that in our observance of All Saints' Day, the church militant (us) and the church triumphant (them) are joined in unity

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of purpose and witness in praise of God. *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

I look forward to experiencing **All Saints' Day** with you this **Sunday, November 1st**, as we gather in the St. Paul sanctuary for our morning services of worship. As we break the bread and drink of the cup, the risen Lord draws us into communion with himself and those of the church of every age. Through the reading of the Roll of the Faithful, we will commemorate the contributions of those sisters and brothers of the St. Paul congregation who have departed this life during the past year. It is for us a time of solemn and blessed remembrance.

Later in the month of November we celebrate Thanksgiving. Many families and friends will gather in someone's home on the designated Thursday to share a meal, perhaps watch some football, and observe this distinctly American national holiday. On the night before, **Wednesday, November 25th**, we have an opportunity to gather with fellow believers from throughout the Christiansburg community to express our thanks to God in worship. You are invited to participate in the annual **Community Thanksgiving Service** sponsored by the member churches of the Christiansburg Ministerial Association. It is being held this year at St. Thomas Episcopal Church (103 E. Main St.) at 7:00 PM. Rev. Nate Spencer, newly-appointed pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church is the preacher. Worshippers are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for distribution through the MCEAP Food Pantry (Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program).

The harvest season is a reminder to us of the abundance of God's grace and mercy. These upcoming worship experiences provide a wonderful opportunity for us to praise God with thankful hearts. Be a part of it!

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor David

November Birthdays

Elizabeth Blount—1
 Charles Whitescarver—2
 Julie Clark—3
 Donna Chafin—4
 Mary Lee Bush—5
 Sue Speed—6
 Mike Gummer—7
 Susan Hood—10
 Joyce Kanode—10
 Karen Poff—11
 Ava Grayce Tucker—12
 Karen Birchfield—13
 Alan Sherman—16
 Beulah Claflin—18
 Greg Thompson—19
 Pat Paxton—20
 Terri Mitchell—21
 Jordan McCoy—22
 Matt Birchfield—23
 Kris Peter—24
 Nora Tucker—25
 Bruce Schleicher—25
 Sandy Cox—27
 Kady Cox—29
 Bill Lyons—30



Stewardship Thoughts -- Tom Bell

Here is the tenth of the 12 “Qualities of a Christian Steward.” Being November, we think of Thanksgiving and the bounty of the harvest. It is important to also remember the sacrifice that early settlers had to make in order to create communities in the ‘new world.’ May we be moved to make appropriate sacrifices of what bounty, gifts, or blessings have come to us so that we might help create the communities of God’s Kingdom, the world made new!

A Christian steward *sacrifices*.

Christian stewards follow Jesus' teaching to sacrifice what they have out of gratitude for their many blessings (Mark 12:41-44).

Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all that she had, all she had to live on (Mark 12:43-44).

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go? During the month of September we gave \$1,019 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.

St. Paul Charge Conference

The St Paul Charge Conference will be held this Sunday, November 1, 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Our Roanoke District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Hundley, will preside at this cluster meeting of Christiansburg area United Methodist congregations.

The members of the St. Paul Administrative Board and our clergy (active and retired) comprise the voting membership of the Charge Conference. All church members and friends are invited to participate.

A Caring Community

We are A Caring Community of people whom God has richly blessed! What a joy this is as we care for one another and share God's love as a Church Family! I am grateful for each of you and for the faith we share together.

On Sunday, November 22nd, as the Minister of Discipleship Care I will be preaching at both services. The scripture for that day will be Luke 5:17-26 and the title of the sermon will be "A Helping Hand." The sermon will emphasize the simple fact that we all need a little help in our faith's development, and that we are in this world's experience together. A basic statement of faith and faith!

As a way to follow up on this sermon theme, that same Sunday evening from 6 to 8 pm, there will be a session for discussion and planning on our life together as A Caring Community! We will gather with some simple refreshments and begin to consider the ways in which we are "a caring community," and how to build upon that idea as we care for one another, and reach out to others who may need our concern and care.

At this point, what we are considering are the needs around us and ways of addressing those needs in a simple, easy and on-going manner. To be more obvious in our care and concern, and at the same time, to make it a free and natural way of being a Church Family in sharing our faith, hope and love!

I hope you will join with us on Sunday evening, November 22nd from 6 to 8 pm in The Willing Workers' Classroom. If you are interested and would like more information, I will be delighted to talk with you. And if you have a desire to be present with us, if you will let us know, we will have some goodies ready for you.

This is an exciting way for us to care for one another, and to both invite and receive new folks into our Church Family and to share with them our faith and witness in the world!

Doug Kanney,

Minister of Discipleship Care

Life Line Screening

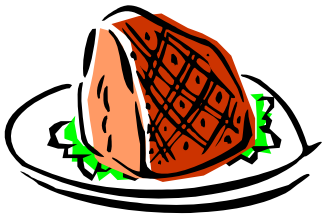
Life Line Screening is coming to your community on December 10th at the First Church of God to perform a day of preventive screenings. In case you are unaware, stroke and vascular disorders are progressive diseases, so we do suggest having these screenings every 12 months. We urge you to take these steps to protect your health and the health of those you love. Screenings are fast, painless and offered at low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology, and they scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which can lead to a stroke, aortic aneurysms which can lead to a rupture, and plaque buildup in the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. Also offered for men and women is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis. The screenings take about 90 minutes to complete. Our complete Wellness package includes the Stroke/Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Ankle Brachial Index (hardening of the arteries, which is Peripheral Arterial Disease) and the Osteoporosis bone mass density screening. This Wellness package is only \$129.00. Sign up for the Atrial Fibrillation screening (an EKG for an irregular heartbeat) and pay only \$149.

Appointments spaces are limited and pre-registration is required.

Sign up now by calling toll free to 1-888-653-6441.

Montgomery County Christmas Store

It is getting that time again. We, at St. Paul Church contribute to the Montgomery County Christmas Store by donating money to purchase hams for the families who benefit from this mission. Our goal is \$3,000 and \$10 will purchase one ham. You may make checks payable to St. Paul UMC and mark for "hams".



United Methodist Women

St Paul United Methodist Women are gearing up for another year. We finished 2009 as a SIX STAR unit by meeting all of our district requirements for mission giving. We are beginning our new year with 70 members but would like to increase that number, so please consider becoming a part of our unit if you are not currently a member.

To continue our support for local missions we will be having a SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON on November 15th following the 11 am service. Everyone knows what good cooks we have here at St Paul so plan to join us for lunch and taste each pot of soup that will be served. The donations that are received will go for local mission work in our community.

Thank you all for the support that you give to our UMW and our mission work.

If you have any questions please call (731-1402) or e mail garypatsysparks@verizon.net.

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 November/December issue, take one home today for your family to use.

In Everything Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends—
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word or deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk
For guidance in our daily walk—
In everything give thanks.

-Author unknown

The Tuesday Morning Prayer Service

What an exciting time we are having in our Prayer Group on Tuesday mornings! As we express concern and pray for those on our Congregational Concerns List, we become aware of the various needs of our congregation, our families and our friends. We pray for them on behalf of our Church Family and in response for those who have placed their names before us.

As our list has grown, it is not easy to keep up with all of these folks, and so we are asking those of you who have requested we pray for them, to let us know how they are doing. In this way, we can keep up with their needs and cares.

If you will please do this, it will be of tremendous help to us and will assist us in our prayers and outreach to our members, families and friends. For on Tuesdays we bring up to date (if possible) the condition of those on our list. It is a helpful way for us to be reminded of their needs. We are trying to follow up our prayers with some contact with the persons for whom we are praying.

And in the near future we hope to regularly update our list, so that it will change according to the needs of those for whom we are praying. We will add to and remove names from the list on a regular basis, according to the information we have and receive from you. So you can help us tremendously by keeping us informed. In this way, we can respond more directly to the needs expressed.

We want to thank you for your support of the Prayer Service and for your prayers for those of us who are praying for you and for others.

Doug Kanney, Minister of Discipleship Care (on behalf of the Prayer Group)

Communion at Wheatland

In our Fall activities and Congregational Care Events, one of the most meaningful and enjoyable is the monthly Communion Service held at The Wheatland Residential Center Chapel the Monday after the first Sunday.

Please join us as we celebrate The Lord's Supper with some of our St. Paul members and friends at Wheatland. It is a wonderful time of worship and fellowship together!

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Pre School Opening

There is an opening in the 3 year old preschool class at St. Paul Church. They meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:45-11:45 am. If interested, come by the church office for more information and to pick up an application.