

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

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 week-end 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

- Howard Gardner -1
- Christopher White -2
- Ruth Gregory -2
- Jack Poff -3
- Jon Thomas -3
- Ellie Wade -3
- Julie Rhudy -3
- Katherine Harrison—3
- Erica Williams—6
- Woody Nester—7
- Diann Eaton—7
- Evangeline Swain—7
- Roger Thompson—9
- Beth Chrisman—10
- Janet Schleicher—11
- Ruby Graham—12
- Katherine Sherman—12
- Allison Sherman—12
- Faye Chrisman—15
- Bill Payne—15
- Denise Warren—16
- Taylor Cecil—17
- Harold Akers—18
- Bobbie Akers—18
- Brandy McCoy—19
- Ron Barrett—21
- Butch Phillips—21
- Michael Copeland—21
- Marjorie Vitale—22
- Sonny Speed—26
- Jackie Buhrdorf—26
- Jim Moran—28
- Anna Lee Lawrence—29
- Linn Feggeler—29
- Norma Graham—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

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.



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 July, we gave \$1,359 to 30 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.

From the "Lone Star" State

God is so good! Just look all around, no matter where you are, and you can see His glory! And His angels are all around. Take, for example, a wonderful and well timed word of encouragement to Viv from another female cancer patient while riding in the hotel elevator here at MainStay Suites. This was a total stranger to us, but her encouraging words could not have come at a better moment. Viv really needed this experience. To God be the Glory! And then, we have grown into a much larger friendship (two weeks) with Keya, the lady in charge of the continental breakfast services here at the hotel. Keya has very simply poured her love upon Viv and has drenched her with positive and encouraging thoughts. It seemed to me that these two women just grew up together; yet, were strangers until two weeks ago. God really has a knack for putting His people in the right places and at the right times. And then, there is the occasion Sunday before last, August 8th, when the owner of this hotel invited Viv and myself to attend his church downtown. We were delighted. His church is the Lakewood Community Church where The Rev. Joel Osteen and his wife, Victoria, lead this massive congregation. The preaching was excellent. The music was loud. . . . yes, it is true that they have a 110 member choir. . . but the style of the music was more contemporary than I am. I prefer the traditional to blended style of service. . . just like we have at St. Paul UMC. Yet, through all of this humanity at this recycled Houston Basketball Arena—perhaps 15,000 in the congregation, God's **AMAZING GRACE** was all around us and filling us to the brim. To God be the glory!

Viv and I have been able to attend the Wednesday (Mid-week Services) at St. Paul's UMC at 5501 South Main Street in Houston. There we met and spoke with the senior pastor, Dr. Jim Bankston, and one of his associate pastors, Shelli Williams, before and after the service. This is no small task because our hotel shuttle buses do not run on the weekends. However, Dr. Bankston offered to have two of his church members pick us up at the hotel and bring us to St. Paul's UMC. Mr Jim Hoqze and his wife Suzanne treated us to a wonderful Sunday as they chauffeured us around as if we were a king and queen. That's an awkward feeling for us. It reminded us of Saturday night on the Walk to Emmaus. We felt such an agape love. The preaching was excellent by Dr. Bankston, and the traditional music was very refreshing by the 42 member choir. Yet, perhaps the most meaningful experience for Viv and I were the many gestures of hospitality and encouragement from the laity of the

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Church; starting before the prelude and continuing after the postlude until we were locked into our seatbelts in Jim and Suzanne's Toyota.

As of this writing, Viv's surgery is scheduled for next Tuesday, August 24th. Our confidence is very high in these professionals here at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, but of course, it is the Lord Jesus who will render His healing hand upon my beloved wife. She will get her life back! And His marvelous love for the DeHart's will bring the two of us even closer to His will and His way. It occurs to me that there are two lessons for this pastor to really appreciate from our experience here in Houston. 1) No matter what size church we attend, or how big the choir may be, or how excellent the preaching is . . . every lay person can affect a positive experience for the new folks coming in to worship as they receive generous amounts of hospitality and encouragement for being there. 2) There is no doubt in my mind that each one of us will encounter God's people along our pathway at many points along the pages of our history. I can speak for my wife and myself, Hebrews 13:2 is not just a platitude, and it is certainly not an occasion for someone living in a surreal world. Viv and I have been entertained by angels unawares. The unknown author of Hebrews says it best, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." God's love is so magnanimous! Don't you feel His love for you?

This final paragraph brings me to the key point of this letter. On behalf of Viv and myself, and with our collective voices shouting from the rooftops, **Thank you, thank you, thank you for your many cards, letters, phone calls, and other expressions of superlative support for Viv and myself out here among these Texans.** It has been very hard for us to do the necessary waiting and waiting for the day of surgery to come. Yet, our days have been made much easier to endure as we have received so much agape love from ya'll back home. We have inscribed these moments on our collective hearts, and we shall never forget your love and friendship. God's richest blessings on each of you for your loving kindness. Bye for now.

Always in Christ,

Pastor Charles

Wonderful Wednesdays Return!

On Wednesday (well duh!) September 8

Children's Choir	6:00 – 6:45
Dinner	6:15 – 7:15
Handbells	6:30 – 7:30
Adult Study	7:00 – 8:00
Children's Program	7:00 – 8:00
Youth Program	7:00 – 8:00
Adult Choir	7:30 – 8:30

During the month of September, Rev. Copeland will be discussing his Faith Journey. So plan to come and take this opportunity to get acquainted with him as well as enjoying wonderful food and Christian fellowship!

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!

Bible Wordsearch The Four Horsemen

No.180

Rev.6:1-8 niv

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

- ANOTHER
- BARLEY
- BEASTS
- BLACK
- BOW
- CLOSE
- CROWN
- DAMAGE
- DEATH
- EARTH
- FAMINE
- FIERY
- FIRST
- FOURTH
- HADES
- HEARD
- HORSE
- KILL
- LAMB
- LIVING
- MEN
- NAMED
- OPENED
- PAIR
- PALE
- PEACE
- PLAGUE
- POWER
- QUART
- RED
- SCALES
- SEALS
- SECOND
- SLAY
- SWORD
- THIRD
- VOICE
- WAGES
- WATCHED
- WHEAT
- WHITE
- WILD
- HOLDING
- CREATURE
- CONQUEROR

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

Psalm 23

Our Church Finances

As we move into the fall and our programs and activities begin again, the level of excitement rises to the occasion! We are in for some wonderfully good times and activities and forms of ministry through St. Paul United Methodist Church.

One of the ways we make our presence known and are able to do the work of the church is through our financial support of St. Paul's ministries with children, youth, adults, and in the various forms of ministry in our community and through the work of The United Methodist Church around the world.

As we support the church with our prayers, presence, gifts and service, we do God's work in the name of Jesus Christ in our own place and time. Each of these, prayers, presence, gifts and service are essential and critical for our work.

As we begin September, we want you to be aware of our finances for the year so far. We are ahead in our giving over 2009, which is a good thing and indicative of our church's strength. And to date we are a little behind in our Budget needs with the best giving period of our year still ahead of us. This also is a good thing, for it means that any "shortfall" we may have now, we can easily make up in the next month or so. This is also a good thing!

Listed below is our latest facts and figures regarding our 2010 St. Paul Church Budget:

2010 Budget Needs for Ministry and Mission	\$417,920.00
Needed to Date (08/22/10)	\$273,255.00
Received to Date (08/22/10)	\$262,865.00
(Behind to date)	(\$10,390.00)

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!