

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015



*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

DEC. 2014 JAN. 2015

From the Pastor's Study

As we enter the season of Advent once again with the anticipation of both Christmas and another calendar year, I invite you to read and contemplate this prayer by Donald Shelby...

Lord, the calendar calls for Christmas. We have traveled this way before. During this Advent season we would see what we have never seen before, accept what we have refused to think, and hear what we need to understand. Be with us in our goings that we may meet you in your coming. Astonish us until we sing "Glory!" and then enable us to live it out with love and peace. In the name of your Incarnate Word, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

—From The Unsettling Season

I found Donald Shelby's prayer in *A Guide to Prayer for All God's People* edited by Reuben P. Job and Norman Shawchuck and published by The Upper Room. There is much food for thought contained in this brief prayer and it seems like a prayer that is worthy of my attention and meditation during this Advent season. Perhaps you will agree and make this prayer a part of your devotions for the next few weeks as I plan to do.

May each of you experience a blessed Christmas and may this next year bring with it a renewed sense of spirituality for our community of faith!

Pastor Michael



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Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines

Last January some of us made a commitment to participate in a Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines for 2014. We will be encouraged to make a similar commitment when January of 2015 arrives. One of the last acts of our Council on Ministries was to put together some thoughts for this new covenant. During 2015 we are each challenged to make a commitment to one or more of the following: 1) a minimum of fifteen (15) minutes of daily prayer, 2) one hour daily for prayer and devotional reading, 3) fifteen (15) acts of service. Whatever commitments we are willing to make as a part of this covenant let us be sure to pray regularly for the renewal of our United Methodist Church and for a new sense of vitality in our own congregation.

If you are interested in some recommended devotional reading to finish out 2014 or to start 2015, Pastor Michael suggests for your consideration the following books:

A Diary of Private Prayer by John Baillie
Sabbath Time by Tilden Edwards
A Disciple's Path by James Harnish
The Jesus Way by Eugene Peterson
An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor
What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey

December Birthdays

Glenn Cochran—1
 Vickie Charlton—2
 Lee Buhyoff—3
 Judy Harkrader -4
 Betty Lambert—5
 Justin Griffith—6
 Penny Kanney—6
 Pat Simpson—6
 Nate Birchfield—9
 Elaine Clark—11
 Foster Williams—11
 Eddie Lester—14
 Peggy Chafin—16
 Ernie Akers—16
 Elena Linkous—17
 Debbie Williams—17
 John Byrd—19
 Wayne Bishop—22
 Phyllis Williams—24
 Susan Bishop Thomas-25
 Scottie Dickenson—26
 Lois Bersch—28
 Kim Newman—30



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the church this year on Sunday, December 21st. All orders will be placed through the church office and paid to the church. The cost is \$25.00 per 2 plant poinsettia. A form is provided below for your order and how you would like it to read in the special bulletin insert. Your order must be in to the church office by December 12th so the florist can insure delivery.

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

CELEBRATION SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - December 14

9:00 am—Covered Dish Breakfast and Blessing of the Nativity Sets

9:50 am—Sunday School

11:00 am - Worship with Choir's Cantata "*Touched by a Child, Touched by a King*"

SUNDAY SCHEDULE AND NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 7 (The Second Sunday of Advent and two service schedule)

8:45 AM Worship

9:50 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

Sunday, December 14 (The Third Sunday of Advent and Cantata Sunday)

9:00 AM Covered Dish Breakfast and Blessing of Nativity Sets – Please feel free to bring a Nativity Set from home for a blessing if you wish and bring a breakfast dish or two to share for a covered dish breakfast!

9:50 AM Sunday School

11:00 Worship featuring our choir and a Christmas cantata.

Sunday, December 21 (The Fourth Sunday of Advent and two service schedule)

We will enjoy the sounds of the St. Paul Bells in worship under the direction of Mrs. Jean Nelson!

8:45 AM Worship

9:50 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Service of Lessons, Carols and Communion)

7:30 PM Note that this time is one half hour later than the time we have had this service in recent years! The Christmas Eve Offering will be divided equally between United Methodist Family Services of Virginia and our own communion fund which helps local residents in need.

Sunday, December 28 (The new Sunday schedule goes into effect.)

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Worship

January Birthdays

Becky Pharis—5
 Dubby Charlton—6
 David Marshall Shrader —7
 Eric Burlingame—7
 Curtis Chrisman-8
 Charles DeHart-8
 Joe Draper-8
 Bowman Altizer-9
 Jim Mattox—10
 Nancy Moye-10
 Mary Clark-11
 Jay Newman-12

Blake Owen-12
 David Linkous-15
 Jose' Lugo-15
 Laurie Tucker-18
 John Peters—20
 Dennis Semones-20
 Todd Fitch —21
 Eliza Eaton—22
 Bruce Anderson-25
 Lindsey Peters-26
 Brenda Linkous-28
 Dewey Lusk —29

Franklin Lawson-29
 Leslie Badillo-30
 Jay Jones-31



Inclement Weather Policy

When there is snow (and/or ice) on Sunday morning, the Senior Pastor will consult with the Facilities Manager regarding the conditions of roads as well as the church's sidewalks and parking lot. The first decision to be made will be the possibility of canceling the 8:45 worship service. If one or all services are canceled the cancellations will be announced through local television stations; WDBJ Channel 7 and WSLS Channel 10. If any services are held you are urged to use your best judgment about getting out and trying and trying to attend Sunday School and/or worship. No one should take unnecessary risks to their physical well-being nor risk damaging their or someone else's property such as a car. Sometimes these decisions are easy to make (a foot of snow or an inch of ice is a no-brainer!) Sometimes these decisions are not so easy to make. The Senior Pastor will err on the side of caution when making decisions about cancellations due to inclement weather. Your safety and health are very important

Christmas Reflections

Out in the darkness one Winter night
When the world was cold and still,
As weary shepherds tended their flocks
On a windswept, rocky hill.
Suddenly then a sound was heard,
Waking the drowsy sheep.
Voices seemed to come from on high,
Arousing the flock from sleep.
“Fear not, I bring you tidings of joy,”
Were the angels’ echoing cries.
“Leave our flock and come to the place
Where a newborn Baby lies.
A star will show you the way tonight
As you travel to Bethlehem.
It will hover over the stable bed
With the glow of a diadem.”
The shepherds obeyed and hurried off
To view the King of Kings,
Well-guided by the light of that star
And the flutter of angels’ wings.
Would that we still might sense the joy,
The peace in our hearts today
That shepherds knew as they knelt beside
A lowly manger to pray!

Jean Conder Soule



Flowers for 2015

The cost is \$25 and checks can be made payable to St Paul and mark for flowers. We will order the flowers for you each week.

January 4_____	June 28_____	December 13_____
January 11_____	July 5_____	December 20 POINSETTIAS
January 18_____	July 12_____	December 27_____
January 25_____	July 19_____	
February 1_____	July 26_____	
February 8_____	August 2_____	
February 15_____	August 9_____	
February 22_____	August 16_____	
March 1_____	August 23_____	
March 8_____	August 30_____	
March 15_____	September 6_____	
March 22_____	September 13_____	
March 29_____	September 20_____	
April 5_____	September 27_____	
April 12_____	October 4_____	
April 19_____	October 11_____	
April 26_____	October 18_____	
May 3_____	October 25_____	
May 17_____	November 1_____	
May 24_____	November 8_____	
May 31_____	November 15_____	
June 7_____	November 22_____	
June 14_____	November 29_____	
June 21_____	December 6_____	

United Methodist Women Accomplishments and Planned Activities

The UNITED METHODIST WOMEN as a unit and the individual Circles have been active in September and October and into November. You can read the specific reports from the Circles in the Newsletter.

The first weekend in November some 20+ UMW ladies from St. Paul attended the District Prayer Breakfast which was hosted by ASBURY UMC. This is always a nice event with varying interesting programs. This year was an up and close encounter with Ferrum College Dean of Chapel and Religious Life and two student representatives from the College.

The Christmas Clearance Sale was successful last weekend. The proceeds earmarked for local charities amounted to more than \$400.

November 16 the UMW provided a nice Brunch between the services for the Wesley Foundation group in the Youth lounge on 3rd floor.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is progressing nicely and will be meeting monthly as a group in the Willing Workers classroom to knit and pray.

November 28 the "Wrapping for a Reason" (MCEAP) booth which is the UMW Christmas Project will open in the Mall. This endeavor is important to help the community. All of St. Paul church folks are invited and encouraged to sign up and help and be blessed by participating.

The UMW also encourages people to save Christmas envelopes with postage stamps. The entire envelope can be donated and the Circles can cut off the stamps. There is a collection box on top of the mail slots across from Carol's office.

You may not be aware of this thoughtful UMW service. Each Circle is responsible for Bereavement Luncheons 3 months of each year. Sometimes there are no deaths and other times like this month, there have already been two.

Circles do not meet in January; however the Executive Board will convene for planning and other business.

Circle 2

Circle 2 meets in the homes of members on the second Tuesday evening of the month. Through our programs we learn of mission abroad, national, and right here in our own community. We raise funds in various ways to support these missions. Members volunteer at various community missions as in the Christmas Store, MCEAP, Women's Resource Center, and our schools. We have helped in the preparation of meals for Wesley at Virginia Tech, and others who could use a meal at times of illness or death. As we learn of our missions and the needs of others we enjoy the fellowship of one another and invite anyone to join us.

Circle 3

Circle 3 had a special speaker at our October meeting. Our speaker was Debbie Christian, CEO of Pregnancy Resource Center of NRV as well as the Valley Women's Clinic in Blacksburg and Radford. She talked about the ministry, updates, offered stories and some of the needs. Jackie spoke at the November meeting sharing information from the November Response Magazine and about Thanksgiving and being thankful. Circle 3 plans to meet at O'Charley's restaurant in Christiansburg on December 11 for our monthly meeting. We do not meet in January but we do plan to meet in February and also plan to help out with the Shove Tuesday Pancake Dinner that is normally held on Fat Tues. prior to Ash Wednesday.

Circle 4

Circle 4 is concentrating on increasing membership. Recruiting new members is difficult when so many women are employed and unable to attend afternoon Circle meetings. Several new ladies have visited and that is a positive thing.

Circle 4 has hosted 2 bereavement luncheons already in November. A menu with volunteers to bring specific foods is in place and the entre is purchased separately. This time of caring is very rewarding to those who prepare for the luncheon.

The Circle will enjoy light refreshments and a social time after a short business meeting in December.

Our next meeting will be scheduled for February.

Circle 5

Ladies of Circle 5 participated in the September UMW potluck dinner kickoff event. Monetary donations have been made to several groups: RSVP to support their Walk-a-Thon; St. Paul prayer shawl ministry; Montgomery County Christmas Store; and St. Paul UMW to buy books for the reading program. During November, Circle 5 donated to the blessing bag which goes to benefit the Karen Poff Humanitarian Fund at Christiansburg Middle School. Several Circle 5 ladies attended the District Prayer Breakfast at Asbury UMC. We have been or will be out about, touring the MCEAP Thrift Store, participating in the UMW Holiday Mission Project by volunteering at the wrapping booth located in the NRV Mall, and having our annual holiday lunch at Preston's at the Inn at VT where we will enjoy a good meal, Christian fellowship and a chance to see all the beautifully decorated Christmas trees. NO meeting will be held in January.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

During the Months of October and November we gave assistance in the amount of \$2,158.00 to 62 individuals/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. The needs seem to be greater at this time. Your special Communion offering makes this possible. Thank you.

New Worship Service Schedule

The Administrative Board has approved the recommendation of the Council on Ministries that we adopt a one worship service schedule year round beginning on Sunday, December 28. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 AM and worship will be at 10:00 AM. This is the same as the schedule we tried during the summer months.

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th at 7:30 pm

Candles, Carols and Communion

The Christmas Eve Offering will go 50% to United Methodist Family Services and 50% to the Communion Fund.



December 2014 Calendar

Sunday, December 7, 21

8:45 & 11:00 -Worship
9:50 am—Sunday School

Sunday, December 14

9:00 am—Covered dish Breakfast
9:50 am—Sunday School
11:00 am—Worship

Wednesday, December 3, 17

6:00 pm—Covered dish dinner

Wednesday, December 3, 10, 17

6:30 pm—Handbells
6:30 pm—Children’s Choir
7:00 pm—Children’s Program
7:00 pm—Youth
7:00 pm—Adult Study
7:15 pm—Choir

Thursday, December 4

7:00 pm—Church Council Orientation

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 pm—Staff Parish Committee

Church Office Closed

December 24, 25, 26 & 31

Sunday, December 28

9:00am—Sunday School
10:00 am - Worship Only

Wednesday, December 24

7:30 pm—Lessons, Carols & Communion

Tuesday, December 2, 9, 16

9:00 am—Prayer Group
10:00 am—Joy Singers

United Methodist Women—December 9

2:00 pm—Circle 4
7:00 pm—Circle 2
December 11
11:00 am—Circle 5
7:00 pm—Circle 3



January 2015 Calendar

Sundays, January

Worship—10:00 am

Sunday School—9:00 am

Each Tuesday

Prayer Group—9:00 am

Joy Singers—10:00 am

Special Committee Meetings TBA

Each Wednesday

10:00 am—Ladies Bible Study

6:00 pm—Dinner (1st & 3rd Wednesday)

6:30 pm—Children's Choir

7:00 pm—Youth

7:00 pm Children's Program

7:00 pm—Adult Study

7:15 pm—Choir

January 1

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 10

Senior Fellowship Luncheon—11:45 am

United Methodist Men

Thursday, January 15—6:30 pm

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR