

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

DECEMBER 2015

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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®

From the Pastor's Study

Christmas Is For All

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 2:9, NIV)

About 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah had envisioned the coming of the messiah as the light to shine in the darkness. He prophesied the message of hope when his nation and people lived under the power of darkness. And his prophecy was fulfilled with the birth of Jesus who came as the light of life. “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness.” (John 1:4-5a, NIV). Even today, as in the time of Isaiah, the power of darkness is still in and around us. We struggle with it in us. We have seen days and nights overshadowed by the power of darkness around us nationally and internationally as well. Into this reality, Jesus shines his light to the world. Therefore, the birth of Jesus is the good news for all with joy. Christmas is for all!, Churched and unchurched. We are called to witness this Light to the world during this season of Advent and Christmas.

We worship during the season of Advent/ Christmas with missional focus. Reaching out to the community to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. On the first Sunday of Advent, we offer a special prayer after worship. Our “How to Reach New People” team has organized a special prayer call after morning worship service inviting people to gather at the

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outside of the entrance door and pray for the community, for those who do not know God. Our Christmas Cantata will be joined with Christiansburg Presbyterian church inviting people in the community to celebrate the birth of Jesus together. We offer two different styles of Christmas Eve services, one for families with children and youth at 5:00PM. All children attending, including visitors, are invited to participate in a special "no rehearse" nativity play with costumes for all. All music during this service will be played by children's Christmas music video, using our new A/V projection system. Our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party will be held following the service, in the fellowship hall. Our other Christmas Eve service is a traditional Communion and Candlelight service at 8:00PM. All are welcome to this service with traditional Christmas Eve liturgy, hymns, sermon, adult choir, special musical instruments, Communion by intinction, and candle lighting.

We invite you all to celebrate this blessed season, joining together to proclaim the good news of the birth of Jesus to your neighbors. Christmas is for all!

Merry Christmas to you.

The Church Office will be closed December 14th—December 27th in observance of Christmas; and December 31st—January 3 in observance of the New Year.

Merry Christmas

December Birthdays

Glenn Cochran—1
 Vickie Charlton—2
 Tara McCoy—3
 Judy Williamson -4
 Betty Lambert—5
 Justin Griffith—6
 Penny Kanney—6
 Pat Simpson—6
 Nate Birchfield—9
 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
 Kim Newman—30



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be placed in the church this year on Sunday, December 20th. 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 11th so the florist can insure delivery.

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

Thank you to church members and friends,

It has been a joy to know you and to work with you for the mission and ministry of St. Paul Church this year. God has blessed us as we have participated in ministry together with our presence, prayers, gifts and services. Especially I want to thank all our lay leadership of the church for the extra mile you went for the church, through your prayers and your time. Our church has been built up and I pray that God will continue to lead us to do His will throughout the coming year.

God bless you richly. I wish you well. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Moonsup "Paul" Song

Pastor

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

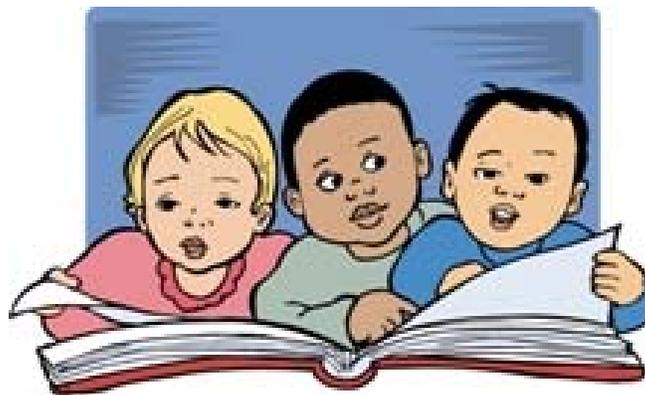
Parents of young children, this is your opportunity to have a night out during the busy, but beautiful, Christmas season.

St. Paul's Nurture Committee, along with faithful volunteers, will host a special evening of fun for the children, ages babies to 12 years,

Saturday, Dec. 12th 4-7 PM at the church

It will be important for us to have a count of children and ages prior to the event.

Please see Julie Clark, Elaine Clark, or Joyce Stevens no later than Dec. 6th, if your children will be participating. You can also sign your children up through the church website (www.stpaulvaumc.org) by selecting the link for parents' night out sign-up sheet. As part of our "Reaching Others" focus, we encourage you to extend the invitation to a family who are friends to both you and your children. Be sure to include them when you "register" your children. The evening will include Christmas stories, crafts, music, and a light supper. Young parents, you are a very special part of our church family. We want you to enjoy a kid-free, worry-free evening as our gift to you this Christmas season!!



TWO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT ST. PAUL

**Family Service 5:00-6:00 P.M. Christmas Eve including a “Birthday Party for Jesus”
Family Service 5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve**

The most significant celebration of the Christmas season is our beautiful Christmas Eve service. This year we will be offering two services. The earlier family-oriented service will focus on the children and youth. **All our young-at-heart folks are invited as well.** Every child will have the opportunity to participate in the Christmas story, with no prior rehearsals or lines to learn. The children will join in as the Christmas story is told through narration and music. Invite other families that you know, and offer to bring them, so they feel the warmth of your invitation.

“Carols, Candles and Communion” Service 8:00 P.M. Christmas Eve

Many of you will be sharing in our beautiful “Carols, Candles and Communion” service.

We encourage you also to invite friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and co-workers. This is the time! It’s a hurting world. We can help, by sharing the love and hope we have found in Jesus. Will you offer a “candle of hope” to another household in Christiansburg? Will you invite? Will you bring?



CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Christ, the only begotten Son of God, looked upon the sinful world and realized its need for

Help. In council with the Father it was agreed that He would give up His high and exalted place and bring to sinful men

Redemption. He would go to earth in person and through the miracle of birth would become the

Incarnation of God in human flesh. He would be born of a virgin with God as His Father, and enter into the sinful world as its

Savior. His holiness, His exemplary life, His sinlessness, His plan of redemption, His death, and His resurrection would bring to earth the great

Transformation needed by all mankind. So He came as decided in the councils of eternity, and through His coming He brought the

Melody of heaven to earth. A Babe in swaddling clothes, divine whose birth was announced by the singing of angels on high, was to bring

Assurance to all mankind that God cared enough to send His only begotten Son that will who believe in Him might have

Salvation and eternal life. Only through personal acceptance of Him, God's great gift to man, can there be real Christmas in the human heart.

W. Hines Sims



Flowers for 2016

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 3_____	June 19_____	December 4_____
January 10_____	June 26_____	December 11_____
January 17_____	July 3_____	December 18_____
January 24_____	July 10_____	December 25_____
January 31_____	July 17_____	
February 7_____	July 24_____	
February 14_____	July 31_____	
February 21_____	August 7_____	
February 28_____	August 14_____	
March 6_____	August 21_____	
March 13_____	August 28_____	
March 20_____	September 4_____	
March 27 _Easter Flowers_	September 11_____	
April 3_____	September 18_____	
April 10_____	September 25_____	
April 17_____	October 2_____	
April 24_____	October 9_____	
May 1_____	October 16_____	
May 8_____	October 23_____	
May 15_____	October 30_____	
May 22_____	November 6_____	
May 29_____	November 13_____	
June 5_____	November 20_____	
June 12_____	November 27_____	

United Methodist Women

Big news from the UMW is that we are now re-organized into three Circles and have become Circles with Old Testament names: Esther - Circle 2, Naomi- Circle 4 and Ruth- Circle 5.

We would like very much to have new members join us. The UMW is certainly not “a closed” organization. Any woman who attends St. Paul whether a member of the church or not is invited to participate in a Circle/UMW.

Recently 17 UMW members plus 7 ladies from Asbury and Park rode together on our church bus to attend the Roanoke District Prayer Breakfast at Lawrence Memorial UMC at Bent Mountain. We joined a large group for a delicious home cooked breakfast followed by an informative program on starting a local prayer group. Certificates of recognition were awarded to those UMWs who had reached certain accomplishment criteria. St. Paul UMW was among the prestigious Gold recipients. We are very proud! (Ann Rhudy is an awesome bus driver.)

Sunday, November 15, 7 members who had been nominated by Circles in 2015 were recognized at the worship service and received gold UMW pins and certificates indicating that a donation to Missions in their honor had been sent to the National UMW Office. Those recipients were Peggy Anderson, Julie Clark, Heather McClaugherty, Jan Rexroad, Peggy Streich, Joyce Stevens, and Donna Copeland.

On that afternoon, MS. Bobbi Rust who is District Coordinator for Social Action, spoke to a gathering of UMW members from St. Paul and Calvary UMCs. We were made aware of Human Traffic and Slavery right here in our own community that we might not recognize as such. We need to become active in promoting Social Action.

Circles collected Blessing Bag offerings in November and will decide at their December meetings to whom to disperse their mission offerings.

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The UMW calendar includes a bus trip to Wolfhart Haus Dinner Theater in Wytheville for the Christmas program on December 6. There will be no Circle meetings in January. A money making meal for Missions is being planned for February 9 at the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Remember **Circle Esther** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the UMW room at 7:00pm.

Circle Naomi meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month at 2:00pm

Circle Ruth meets the 2nd Thursday morning of the month at 10:00am.

Baby Shop Store

On December 2nd we will be opening the "Baby Shop Store" which will be housed in a room in the lower part of the activities building. The shop is part of St Paul's Outreach program. The project is a part of the New River Community Action program of southwest Virginia. The purpose of the shops are to serve approved families of Montgomery county in need of clothing for children up to 5 years of age. Similar "shops" are presently located in Giles, Pulaski and Floyd counties.

The Outreach committee submitted the proposal to the St Paul Council which was unanimously approved.

Operating hours will be Mondays 10am-12pm, Wednesdays 2pm-4pm and Fridays 10am-12pm.

On January 11 at 9 am we will offer an hour long training session for all volunteers interested in helping out at the store. Topics will include and overview of Family Outreach Connections and the mission of our Baby Shops. We will also discuss confidentiality, taking in donations and daily shop operations.



Christmas Cantata...

The Christiansburg Presbyterian Church has invited the St. Paul Adult choir to participate in a joint Christmas Cantata this year. The cantata will be on Sunday, December 20 at 10am at St. Paul and 7pm at CPC. The cantata will be "*Tapestry of Light*" by Joseph Martin and we will have a small orchestra playing with us. We have been so blessed to have our choir grow but would love to have more! If you would like to join the choir or just join for the holiday season we would love to have you! We meet downstairs in the choir rooms on Wednesday nights starting at 7:15. Thank you for your continued support and we can't wait to share in the holiday season with all our Methodist and Presbyterian friends! God bless!



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United Methodist Family Services

December is United Methodist Family Services Month. Through your support of UMFS December offering, you can help touch a life and create a future for children and families whose lives have been full of despair.

Checks may be made payable to St. Paul and marked for "UMFS".

Christmas Reminders

*May the Christmas presents remind you
of God's greatest—His only begotten Son.
May the Christmas candles remind you
of Him who is the light of the world.
May the Christmas tree remind you
of another tree on which He died for you.
May the Christmas cheer remind you
of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
May the Christmas feast remind you
of Him who is the bread of life.
May the Christmas snow remind you
of the cleansing power of Christ.
May the Christmas bells remind you
of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
May the Christmas carols remind you
of His glad tidings which we are to
proclaim to all mankind.
May the Christmas season remind you
in every way of Jesus Christ your King.*



December 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		19:00 am— Prayer Group 10:00am Joy Singers	26 pm Dinner 6:30pm Hand- bells & Chil- dren's choir 7pm Adult Study 7:15 Choir	3 11:45 am Senior Fel- lowship	4	5
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Morning wor- ship	7	8 9:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am Joy Singers 2pm Circle 4 7pm Circle 2	9 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Hand- bells & Chil- dren's choir 7pm Adult Study 7:15pm Choir	10 7:00pm Staff Parish Com- mittee	11 10 am Circle 5	12 4pm Parents Night Out
13 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Morning Wor- ship	14	15 9:00am Prayer Group 10:00am Joy Singers	16 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Hand- bells & Chil- dren's choir 7pm Adult Study 7:15pm Choir	17	18	19
20 9am Sunday School 10am Cantata 7pm Cantata at Presbyterian	21	22 9:00 am Prayer Group	23 No Wednes- day Programs	24 5pm Fami- ly Service & Happy Birthday Jesus Party 8pm Christmas Eve Ser-	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:00 am Morning Wor- ship	28	29	30	31		