

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015

From the Pastor's Study

How big is your God?

I experienced God is bigger than I thought in September while I preached series sermon, "Welcome Back to Church." Forming a prayer team was one of my goals from this sermon series, and I made a Prayer Commitment Card that says, "I will pray daily for St. Paul church, for pastor, and for pastor's family," along with Bible verse from Ephesians 6:18-20, with a blank line to write name on it.

I was wondering how many people would respond to it and I thought of some biblical numbers with symbolic meaning with them. May be seven I thought because it symbolized wholeness, complete as God finished creation in seven days. But seven people is too small a number, I thought, compared to the membership of St. Paul church. I increased the number to twelve, the number of disciples of Jesus, to twenty four, symbolic number of all nations, Jews and Gentiles, in the book of Revelation 4, and to seventy two, the number of people Jesus sent out to mission (Luke 10). I finally prayed God to send seventy people for prayer team.

I realized that God answered my prayer differently. On the first Sunday 61 people signed up prayer card during worship. It was overwhelming response to me on the first Sunday. On the second Sunday another 41 people signed up, making total 102! That number represents one tenth of total official membership of our church. I thought one tenth of our total membership is our tithe to God and it was a strong symbolic number. On the third Sunday, 17 people signed up, and on the fourth Sunday 6 more people

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signed up the prayer card, and it made total 125 people who committed to daily prayer! That number reminded me of 120 disciples gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem, “who all joined together constantly in prayers along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Acts 1:12-15). I thought that 125 was a powerful symbolic number to us. As God sent 120 disciples to prayer in the upper room and they became a new church by the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), God sent 125 people to prayer to begin a new life through St. Paul Church.

I prayed to God for 70 people but God answered my prayer by giving 125 people who were willing to pray daily. Prayer becomes a central part as we seek the will of God in the life of St. Paul Church.

It was a blessing to me on September with the sermon series, “Welcome Back to Church,” when I realized that God is bigger than I thought. God knows better than I do what St. Paul Church needed. I sensed God whispering to me,

“my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heaven are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9,NIV).

How big is your God?

As we are planning for the mission and ministry of St. Paul Church for the coming year, we ask this question to ourselves. God is bigger than we think. God is all knowing. God knows what we need, and God provides. Only thing we need is to be faithful to God.

God speed,

Moonsup “Paul” Song
Pastor

October Birthdays

Cathy Nester—1
Reba Ellen Worrell—2
Edi Bravo—3
Sally Ayres—3
Donna King—3
Doris Nixon—7
Brody Blount—7
Billie Jean Hill—8
Janet Shelburne—12
Mary Adkins—13
Ann Rhudy—14
Sandra Ridinger—15
George Rust 111—19
Randy Gardner—21
Terry Mitchell—22
Mindi Duncan—22
Randy Sherman—22
Carrie Cozart—23
Dawn Bowler—24
Dorothy Meredith—25
Mike Byrd—27
Patrick Cox—27
Ed Sherman—27
Carol Campbell—29
Peggy Streich—30



From the United Methodist Women

St. Paul UMW has reserved 35 seats at the Wolfhart Haus Dinner Theater for the Christmas Show. The date is December 6th (Sunday), dinner served at 1:00 and show starts at 2:00 pm, therefore the bus will leave at 12 noon.

Tickets price will be \$41.12 including tax and tip. Make your reservation with Ann Rhudy and pay her with check or cash.

Deadline for making reservations will be November 22.

Any questions, contact Ann Rhudy or Patsy Sparks

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 and mark for “hams”.



The Koinonia Sunday School class will begin its new study on October 11. *Breath, The Life of God in Us* is a study by Beth Moore reflecting on the person, the work and the power of the Holy Spirit. Its title is drawn from the words of John 20:22, which records that Jesus "breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" This study is delivered through a lecture format on dvd. If you currently do not attend a Sunday School class, we would love to have you join us for this study. If you have any questions, please let me know. ~Jane Collins



UPDATE

The St Paul United Methodist Men are tasking themselves to be more noticeable in the community. They will be looking for opportunities to hold their monthly meeting at local restaurants. The UMM also hope to grow in number by encouraging more St. Paul males to visit, to bring a friend and inviting men from nearby UMCs to join in a meal and great fellowship. Please mark these dates for our next meetings:

Thursday, October 15th – tentatively planned at Camp Alta Mons

Thursday, November 19th – at a local restaurant

In the meantime, the UMM is working on these projects:

- Preparing for wrapping booth season at NRV Mall
- Christmas meals for families that didn't quite qualify for the Christmas store, and visiting with the family when we deliver the meal
- Continued giving to support local mission and charities
- Closely following the new MCEAP thrift store moving into what was the Family Dollar store – we look forward to helping.
- Investigating a backpack and education program for free-lunch eligible families over summer break

Todd shared a wonderful YouTube video of this July's mission trip to Hancock County, Tennessee <https://youtu.be/snc-onX8QpI>

November Birthdays

Elizabeth Blount—1
 Charles Whitescarver—2
 Julie Clark—3
 Donna Chafin—4
 Mary Lee Bush—5
 Sue Speed—6
 Sonia Badillo—7
 Mike Gummer—7
 Matthew Feggeler—8
 Peggy Anderson—8
 Charles Shadel—8
 Norma Loudermilk—9
 Susan Hood—10

Joyce Kanode—10
 Karen Poff—11
 Ava Grace Tucker—12
 Karen Birchfield—13
 Alan Sherman—16
 Pat Paxton—20
 Terri Mitchell—21
 Jordan McCoy—22
 Matt Birchfield—23
 Bruce Schleicher—25
 Nora Tucker—25
 Sandy Cox—27
 Kady Cox—29

Bob Dickenson—29
 Peggy Long—29
 Bill Lyons—30



Help Needed

“We are seeking for a volunteer to work on our church website. If you have a gift, knowledge, skill, or experience of working on designing, updating of website, and willing to serve for the website ministry of St. Paul church, please contact pastor Paul, or Ryan Clark.”



145 Pack Meeting will be Tuesday, November 17th in the St. Paul UMC building and to feature a uniform inspection and awards ceremony.



Pack 145 continues to sell Campmaster's Popcorn to help raise funds for all its wonderful activities for young boys. If you would like to order some popcorn, please contact any one of our Cub Scouts or call 381-1077.



Sunday, October 25th beginning at 7:00PM. This is the 6th year of this cooperative effort with St. Paul UMC, Troop 42 Boy Scouts, and Venture Crew 42. Trunks are open to Cub Scouts, their siblings, as well as children from St. Paul and the surrounding community. Trunks will stay open until the candy and prizes are gone. All St. Paul Church members are challenged to open their trunks, decorate for this fall festival and join the fun this year to make this BIGGEST Trunk-or-Treat event ever as a community outreach!

Community Events (all FREE and open to the public)

October 7th – Fire Prevention Parade

October 8th – Christiansburg High School Homecoming Parade

October 17th – Virginia Tech Hokie Bug Fest and Geo Fest

October 17th – Christiansburg Fall Festival at the New River Valley Mall

November 7th – FIRST Lego League Robots Competition at Christiansburg Middle School

November 11th – Veterans' Day & Parade



This November and in theme with Thanksgiving, Pack 145 Cub Scouts will be saying “THANKS” to our local law enforcement for their dangerous duty to protect our citizens and stand up for the law. The below activities are still being planned but there is hope for support by St. Paul members and groups. Please stay tuned for announcements on how you can help.

1. **Gift Bags** – to contain donated gift cards, mints, pens, notepads, healthy snacks, and essential items
2. **Notes of Appreciation** - the sharing of a positive stories and supporting words
3. **An Appreciation Day** – an open house or “Coffee with a Cop”
4. **Wear Blue Day** – to show support by wearing or display the color blue, usually used to represent police and other law enforcement officials.



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.**
4. **Prayer is not so much talking to God as listening to God. Prayer is not so much telling God what we want Him to do as it is listening to see what He wants us to do.**

-William Barclay



UMW NEWS

September 1 was the beginning of the calendar year for the St. Paul Unit of UMW. As reported in each prior newsletter, the Unit and Circles have been active in the church, the community, Conference, and globally with emphasis on the Purpose of the UMC to serve others through expanding the concepts of mission.

We finished last year with a wonderful trip to Wolfhart Hous on August 16 and enjoyed the meal and Gospel singing show.

We started the new year with great anticipation of doing many activities and events for women and children in particular. 39 UMW members including Pastor Paul came together in the fellowship hall for the Annual Covered Dish Dinner and Program. Pastor Paul's presentation, using the UMW Purpose as his theme challenged the St. Paul UMW to pray for the future as noted mothers had prayed Birthing Prayers.

A shifting of members from **CIRCLE 3** to other Circles has become **necessary**. This change unfortunately is creating scheduling problems for those who already have commitments on Tuesday evening when the only other evening Circle meets. Although there is scheduling to work out, this is also an excellent time to visit another Circle or to join one for the very first time. We would love to have you.

Three CIRCLES comprise our UNIT of approximately 65 active members. All Circles meet in the WW/UMW room in the church.

Circle 2 meets at 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Donna Chafin is Chairperson and can be reached at 382-5408 or email at dichafin@aol.com.

Circle 4 meets at 2 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Marietta Hanks is Chairperson and can be reached at 382-3235 or email mehanks@verizon.net.

Circle 5 meets at 10 am on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Karen Poff is Chairperson and can be reached at 382-2887 or email kpoff57@gmail.com.

We invite and encourage **ALL** of our St. Paul United Methodist women to join and participate in a Circle. Our Circles form the **UNIT** that is very much an important part of St. Paul UMC. For further information please call Margaret Woolwine, President at 382-7346 or email margaretwoolwine00@gmail.com.



2016 Church Budget

On Sunday, September 27th, our Church Council approved our 2016 Church Budget for St. Paul United Methodist Church. The month of October has been designated as Stewardship Month for St. Paul. Your Finance Committee wishes to review the major expenditures to the congregation as contained in our new budget. We will be reviewing the staff structure, personnel expenses as contained in the budget to include obtaining a new staff member. The following Sunday, we will review Outreach, Witness, and Mission expenditures to include the Virginia Council Apportionments assigned to St. Paul. The final Sunday, we will visit the Special Programs, Education expenses involved with our current ministries here at the Church. Pastor Paul will ask that morning for members to place their gift card into the collection plate as we conclude our Stewardship activities for the month.

2016 Church Budget Totals

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Salaries & Staff Benefits | \$214,232.00 |
| Administrative Costs | 19,010.00 |
| Transportation/Property | 10,260.00 |
| Building Maintenance/Utilities | 55,100.00 |
| Music Department | 4,600.00 |
| Fellowship | 1,200.00 |
| Worship | 4,350.00 |
| Education | 9,680.00 |
| Outreach/Witness/Missions | 850.00 |
| Conference Apportionments | 62,295.00 |
| District Fund | 14,328.00 |
| Total | \$395,905.00 |
| Contingency Fund | <u>1,980.00</u> |
| Total Proposed Budget | \$397,885.00 |

(2015 Budget was \$406,209.00—Decrease of \$8,324.00)

GRATITUDE

I thank You for these gifts, dear God,
Upon Thanksgiving Day—
For love and laughter and the faith
That makes me kneel to pray.
For life that lends me happiness,
And sleep that gives me rest,
These are the gifts that keep my heart
Serene within my breast.
Love, laughter, faith and life and sleep,
We own them, every one—
They carry us along the road
That leads from sun to sun.

-Margaret E. Sangster

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

The St. Paul Preschoolers will be spending October with awesome autumn celebrations. There will be a field trip to a pumpkin patch and plans for a Halloween parade followed by a party. There are still openings in the 3-year -old program and there is hope that word-of-mouth from church members will promote this wonderful mission of St. Paul UMC.

October 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---|----|----|
| | | | | 1 First Thurs Fellowship 11:45 am | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9am Sunday school 10 am Worship 3pm Lay Leaders | 5 | 6 9am Prayer Group 10am Joy sing- ers | 7 10am study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm children 7pm Bible study 7:15pm Choir | 8 10am Circle 5 7pm Greeters meeting | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9am Sunday School 10am Worship | 12 | 13 9am Prayer group 10am Joy Singers 2pm Circle 4 7pm Circle 2 | 14 10am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30 Children 7pm Bible Study | 15 6:30pm UMM | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9am Sunday School 10 am Worship | 19 7pm Church Council | 20 9am Prayer group 10am Joy Sing- ers | 21 10am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30 Children 7pm Bible study | 22 7 pm Witness Committee | 23 | 24 |
| 25 9am Sun- day School 10am Worship 3pm Nurture Committee | 26 | 27 9am Prayer Group 10am Joy Sing- ers 7pm UMW Exe | 28 10am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Children 7pm Bible Study | 29 | 30 | 31 |



November 2015

| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|--|-----------|
| 7:25pm | | | | | | |
| <i>1</i> 9am Sun- day School 10 am Wor- ship | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> 9am Prayer Group 10am Joy Sing- ers | <i>4</i> 10am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Children 7pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | <i>5</i> 11:30am First Thursday Luncheon | <i>6</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>8</i> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 3:30pm Charge Conference | <i>9</i> | <i>10</i> 9am Pray- er Group 10am Joy Singers 2pm Circle 4 7pm Circle 2 | <i>11</i> 9am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Children 7pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | <i>12</i> 10am Circle 5 | <i>13</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>15</i> 9am Sun- day School 10am Worship | <i>16</i> | <i>17</i> 9am Prayer Group 10am Joy Sing- ers | <i>18</i> 9am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Children 7pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | <i>19</i> 6:30pm UMM | <i>20</i> | <i>21</i> |
| <i>22</i> 9am Sun- day School 10am Worship | <i>23</i> | <i>24</i> 9am Pray- er Group 10am Joy Singers 7pm UMW Exec- utive | <i>25</i> 9am Study 6pm Dinner 6:30pm Children 7pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir | <i>26</i> Thanksgiving Church Office Closed | <i>27</i> Church Office Closed | <i>28</i> |
| <i>29</i> 9am Sun- day School 10am Worship | <i>30</i> | | | | | |