

# ST. PAUL'S PAGES

July/August 2016

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**JULY/AUGUST 2016**



*St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Christiansburg, Virginia*

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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
The people of The United Methodist Church®

## *From the Pastor's Study*

### **Played by the hand of God.**

A story from many years ago in England

One day lots of people enjoyed walking by the river of Thames in London. Near the bank of the river a poor old man begged for money by playing his aged, ragged violin. But his violin playing did not draw the attention of the people walking by, and no one put money in his hat. Then a man from another country stopped walking and stood looking at the beggar playing violin. He saw the old man in a worn out coat and ragged shoes, his hair uncombed, his face looking shaggy and unshaved, his countenance tired and sad.

The man came closer to the old man and told him compassionately, "Mr. I don't have money in my hand. But I can play violin too. Can I play your violin for you? " Being tired and needing to get some rest, the old man handed his violin to the man. No sooner had the man taken the old and worn out violin and started playing it, than a beautiful sound filled the air. And one by one, the people passing by stopped to listen to the violin played by this man from another country, and they were fascinated by the music. When he finished one piece they applauded him. When he played the second piece, they were so touched in their hearts that tears filled their eyes. A crowd of people had gathered, and when the old man passed his hat to them they started to put money in it, not just some coins but lots of bills that filled his hat. Some policemen came to see what was happening in the crowd; they were touched by the violin music too, and they also put money in the hat.

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The man finished playing the violin. Everybody gave him thunderous applause. And then one man in the crowd shouted out, “He is Paganini, that genius violinist Paganini!” The man who played the old, worn out violin was Niccolo Paganini, the world-famous Italian violinist. He had come to London to perform a concert and had seen the old man playing violin when he took a walk by the Thames River.

This is the story of an old, worn out violin that makes music quite differently depending on who plays it. And it tells of our life story in faith. In the sight of God, we are fragile, vulnerable, sinful, selfish, and weak, like an old, ragged violin. However, when God’s hand holds the bow, setting the strings of our life in motion, the melody is totally different. When we let go of control over our life and let God lead us, our life story in faith becomes God’s masterpiece. It all depends on whose hand holds the instrument, our life. Apostle Paul puts it this way,

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:7-11, 16 NIV)

*(continued on page3)*

## *July Birthdays*

Kevin Buhrdorf—4  
Jim Kirk—4  
Meaghan Wade—6  
Karen Cox—8  
Carol Gunter—8  
Anita Poff—9  
Layla Peters—9  
Betty Linkous— 11  
Sandra Chapin—12  
Ross Blount—13  
Kathy Davis—13  
Jeremy Williams—13  
Amanda Chrisley—15  
Carolyn Mills—16  
Flora Gutshall—17  
Ainsley Altizer—20  
Gwen Ward—21  
Paul Cassell—21  
David Rhudy—22  
Sherri Altizer—24  
Russell Williams—24  
Hunter Blount—25  
Lucy Draper—26  
Patsy Sparks—26  
Michael Duncan—27  
George Rust IV—29  
Nancy Mattox—30

One of the growing points spiritually in our faith journey is growing in commitment and submission to God. More of God and less of self. God can orchestrate all our feeble parts of life, situations and circumstances, and make them to be God's masterpiece. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." (Proverbs 16:3 NIV)

Growing in Grace,

Pastor Paul



**The St Paul United Methodist Men** helped sponsor two youth from our church to attend Camp Alta Mons this summer! Did you know that we give \$200 each to six local organizations every year? But enabling members of our own church family to participate in wonderful programs like Alta Mons is especially fulfilling. It is our pleasure to serve.

June 26th will be part 2 of our Bible presentation to the new class of confirmands. The St Paul Men sponsored a total of 12 Bibles for the confirmation class, and 9 were presented at a previous Sunday service. Congratulations to all of our new confirmands!

Our June dinner meeting was at the nearby El Bronco restaurant. We do not meet in July because of the church picnic on the 17th - we hope to see you there! Coming up July 27th, we invite church members, including our neighboring UMC's, to join us for an evening at the Pulaski Yankees! Tickets are \$9, or \$8 for seniors, to be ordered by July 1st through Arthur Poff, [apoff57@gmail.com](mailto:apoff57@gmail.com). We will be using the church bus. Finally, we would like to find members interested in softball! A team of either co-ed or men would be an exciting activity through the town recreation league, and Russ Williams would love to hear from you. Drop him a line at [russ\\_wms@verizon.net](mailto:russ_wms@verizon.net) and we'll put something together.

July/August 2016

## **Cub Scout Pack 145 (charted by St. Paul UMM) Events**

Members of St. Paul along with any interested youth (grades 1-5) are invited to these summer activities!

### **Baseball Game w/UMM @ Pulaski Yankees – Wednesday, July 27th - 5:30 PM**

Leave by bus from St. Paul for the 7:00 PM game.



### **Campfire @ St. Paul - Friday, July 29th - 7:00 PM**

Meet at St. Paul UMC for a game time around the campfire. S'mores will be served.

### **PACK PLANNING - Sunday, July 31st - 7:00-8:00 PM**

Getting ready for another 2016—2017 Scout Year! Leaders and Parents are ready

### **Pack Welcome Back Party - Sunday, August 7th - 3:00 PM**

Meet at St. Paul UMC for welcome back to School and Scout Year event! Bring a friend to enjoy the fun of Cub Scouting.



### **Recruitment Nights**

Pack 145 is working now with the New River district to start the Fall Cub Scout Recruitment a little early this year at all the C'burg 1st-5th grade schools. BUT, no boy has to wait! He can join anytime over the summer at any Summer Event!

**FIRST PACK MEETING -Tuesday, August 23rd - 7:00 PM** to kick off great Cub Scout adventures and then **DEN MEETINGS** start in September.

**Cub Scout Orientation Meeting – Sunday, September 11th – 3:00 PM** to help Tiger or any new Cub Scout learn the terminology and right steps toward enjoying Scouting from day one!

**Welcome our New Members to St. Paul UMC—Coming by Profession of Faith**

**Erin Marie Birchfield  
Dawn Marie Cornish  
Rachel Anneliese Feggeler  
George Foster Williams  
Oakley Ganes Budwieser Williams  
Rally Reynolds Wilson Williams**

**Nathaniel Dale Birchfield  
Gloria Faith Cornish**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

**Oakley Ganes Budwieser Williams  
Rally Reynolds Wilson Williams  
George Foster Williams**



“Joshua Leadership Formation,” is a pastor-led spiritual leadership formation small group, based on Exodus story in the book of Number chapter 13-14. The purpose of this small group to grow in spiritual transformation in church leadership through prayer, reading and sharing leadership books and practical/ implement stories in the areas of Individual Spiritual Development, Ministry Development, and Church Leadership Development. If you feel that you are called to join this small group, contact pastor Paul at [pastor@stpaulvaumc.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulvaumc.org), or 540382-5900.



**St. Paul UMC Preschool**

Registration is still open for the 2016-2017 school year which begins September 6th. There are still open slots in the 3-year program. Please help spread the word of our successful St. Paul mission as it starts its 46th year in Christiansburg community.

Be on the lookout for a new preschool sign that will be constructed on the church's front lawn to advertise our wonderful preschool program and its established date of 1971.

July/August 2016

## August Birthdays

Ryan Clark—1

Neal Eaton—1

Eric Bass—3

Shelby Roope—3

Jacob Klawitter—3

Sharon Barrett—5

Jeremy Wachob—6

Brooks Arthur—7

Kevin Lawson—10

David Campbell—11

Tabitha Rust—12

Melodee Wade—14

Betty Bamman—18

Kathe Hansen—18

Rosa Griffith—18

Kevin Cox—19

Darby Mitchell—19

Jamie Graybeal—19

Shirley Hodge—22

Ryan McCoy—25

Dickie Goss—29

Tom Bell—29

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*



**St. Paul Adult Choir...Thank you for volunteering and sharing your gift of music with St. Paul United Methodist Church. Thank you to those who contributed to the summer services! It is almost time to once again join together and make a joyful noise! St. Paul Adult Choir**

**practice will be every Wednesday night at 7:15 pm in the choir room starting on Wednesday, August 31. Our first Sunday anthem will be on Sunday, September 11. New members are welcome—no experience required! Come join us for fun, fellowship, and singing for the Lord! See you on Wednesday, August 31! More information contact Heather McClaugherty at: [heathermclaugherty@gmail.com](mailto:heathermclaugherty@gmail.com).**

## A Prayer For Our Country

Lord God of heaven, who hath so lavishly blessed this land, make us, thy people, to be humble, Keep us ever aware that the good things we enjoy have come from thee, that thou didst lend them to us.



Impress upon our smugness the knowledge that we are not owners, but stewards. Remind us, lest we become filled with conceit, that one day a reckoning will be required of us.

Sanctify our love of country, that our boasting may be turned into humility and our pride into a ministry to people everywhere. Help us to make this God's own country, by living like God's own people. Amen

*-Peter Marshall*

## Bible Study



Are you looking for the Bible study that helps you growing deep knowing God by your experience?

Have you read the Bible piece by piece, book by book, or studied the Bible by theme or seasonal, and want to grasp the whole picture of the Bible so that you can continue to read the Bible from a new holistic perspective?

Do you how many books are there in the Bible?

Are you so busy in life that you can't attend the Bible study even though you want to?

If your answer is yes to any of these question, "Disciple, Fast Track: Bible Study for busy lives," is for you.

Beginning September St. Paul offers Disciple, Fast Track, for 24 weeks ( 12 for Old Testament, 12 in the New Testament), meeting weekly 70 minutes.

Keep in touch with worship bulletin, Website and church newsletter for time and schedule, and registration.



## **The Highlights of Annual Conference 2016**

The theme of this year's conference was; "Thy will be done." This seems to be very fitting, following upon the themes of the past three years which emphasized prayer, spiritual renewal, and discipleship. I doubt that this was accidental, as this is Bishop Cho's last conference. He must retire this summer and we will have a new Bishop in September. Anticipating a new Bishop is very exciting, as each Bishop does a lot in guiding our church and setting emphases. As indicated by the yearly themes, Bishop Cho challenged us to spiritual growth and the incorporation of spiritual disciplines in our lives, as the yearly themes evidence. He also brought us together in mission work by setting the Conference goal of saving over 100,000 lives from malaria through our Conference's participation in the Imagine No Malaria campaign. That goal was met and exceeded, which was acknowledged during the conference and led to a surprise reprise of the 'happy dance' with youth delegates joining the Bishop on stage.

Of course, the usual business of the Church was carried out. There were committee and commission reports, with and without recommendations. The latter were received, discussed, amended and voted upon. Persons who are no longer in active church service were acknowledged and those beginning new roles were officially welcomed. Nine churches were closed and five new faith communities established. A total of 52,016 disaster relief kits were received for UMCOR, about 10,000 more than last year. Included were 29,676 health kits, 17,637 school kits, 2,634 birthing kits, 1,352 layette kits, 303 cleaning kits, 55 bedding kits, and 359 sewing kits. As of June 29th, \$142,727.95 has been received towards the Conference offering goal of \$150,000. A third of the goal is to go towards helping with recovery in Virginia from the tornados early this year. The request for volunteer groups to help in rebuilding from the tornado damage was given emphasis. With regard to finances, cash receipts of \$29.9M in 2015 were about 2.6% less than 2014 and the budget adopted for 2017 is about 1% less than 2016.

There were only three resolutions published for consideration this year. The first was in support of legislatively banning questions about criminal history from initial job applications. That was passed. The second resolution called for encouraging all congregations to be in specific ministry to 'at risk' youth, and it also passed. The third resolution was to address means towards peace in the Middle East but it was withdrawn as what it called for is being addressed by action taken in General Conference. Speaking of General Conference, there was a planned report and a couple of extra presentations. These were all informational in nature.

As you might know or expect, there was a focus on the issue of human sexuality in relationships. Pastor Tom Berlin, leader of the clerical members of our GC delegation, suggested that the church faces two questions arising from this: (1) will we support conducting same-sex marriages within the church and (2) will we approve ordination of people who are homosexual. Pastor Berlin pointed out that many of our members, regardless of their position on these questions, are willing to be in church with those who differ in their position. However, some members, on either side, feel the opposing position to be inappropriate and unacceptable. While changing the minds of people in these positions (described in an explanatory presentation as "non-compatibilists") seems unlikely, the conclusion at General Conference effectively was that this is not just a matter for a majority vote but rather that we need to keep talking about this, in 'holy conversation,' to find God's leading. Let us all keep this as a part of our prayer concerns.

The final action at conference each year is the 'fixing' of appointments for the coming year. St Paul is blessed to have Pastor Song returning to us for this coming year! -Tom Bell, Lay Leader



## Experience the Thrill of Visiting Egypt!

### **“SPREAD THE WORD”**

St Paul United Methodist Church wants ALL our church family to spread the word to friends., neighbors, and acquaintances. All kids ages 4 to 12 are invited to Journey to Egypt with VBS, July 18th thru 21st, 6 to 9 pm. The kids won't come unless they are personally invited, so if we each invite one family, VBS will be a success in sharing the good news with children, that in good times and bad, God is always with them. He promises “I have a plan for you...a plan for hope and a future. Please invite your family and 2 or 3 more!!

From Opening to Closing and everything in between, kids are transported to ancient Egypt where they'll meet Bible-times heroes, visit the Egyptian marketplace and spend time exploring firsthand the unique culture of Joseph's world.

Please register by completing the registration form found in the VBS brochure in the "Forms for Download" section of the St. Paul UMC website at <http://www.stpaulvaumc.org/vbs2016> and returning the form to the St. Paul UMC office. Pre-registration is encouraged. VBS registration brochures can also be found in the church office and in the church narthex.

Call 540-382-2410 for additional information.

July/August 2016

# **ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Hello All! My name is Michelle West and I am the new Director of Children, Youth, and Family ministries. It has been a pleasure to work with you all so far and I look forward to growing in ministry with all of you. As we journey this path to revitalization together, I hope to get to know each one of you personally. If you ever have any joys, concerns, musings, or passions you wish to share, know my ears are always open to new suggestions. Because of my hearing impairment, the best way to contact me is via email ([michelle@stpaulvaumc.org](mailto:michelle@stpaulvaumc.org)), text (757-350-5370), or in person. My office hours are as follows: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays: 1-3:30. I will do my best to keep these office hours and my door open and I may be in my office outside of these hours, just not as consistently.. If it is closed, simply knock. If you need me outside these hours, just contact me and I will do my best to arrange to be there.**

**Agape,**

**Michelle**

# July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am- Sunday School 10:00 am— Worship	4 Church office closed Independence Day	5 9:00 am— Prayer Group	6	7	8	9
10 9:00am- Sunday School 10:00am— Worship	11	12 9:00 am- Prayer Group	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 am- Sunday School 10:00 am- Worship	18 Vacation Bible School begins 6-8pm 9am 9:	19 9:00am - Prayer Group VBS—6-8 pm	20 VBS—6-9 pm	21 VBS—6-9 pm	22	23
24 9:00am - Sunday School 10:00am— Worship	25 Church Council - 7:00 pm	26 9:00 am— Prayer Group	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 am- Sunday School 10:00 am— Worship						

# August 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9:00 am— Prayer Group	3	4	5	6
7:00 am— Sunday School 10:00 am— Worship	8	9 9:00 am— Prayer Group	10	11	12	13
14:00am— Sunday School 10:00am— Worship	15	16 9:00 am— Prayer Group	17	18	19	20
21:00am— Sunday School 10:00am— Worship	22	23:00 am— Prayer Group 7:00 pm – UMW Execu- tive	24	25	26	27
28:00am— Sunday School 10:00am— Worship	29	30 9:00 am— Prayer Group	31			