

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

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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

This year the season of Advent and the beginning of December coincide. Sunday, December 1, marks the beginning of Advent this year and Advent always marks the start of a new Christian year or calendar. The primary gospel for this new liturgical year will be the Gospel of Matthew so there will be frequent readings from this book during the Sundays of this Christian calendar.

We are all very familiar with, and probably most familiar with, the Christmas story as it is told by Luke. I enjoy those stories in Luke just like everyone else, but I am always excited when the Christian calendar brings us to the year of Matthew. The story of Jesus' birth in Matthew is different from Luke. The latter draws our attention to the person of Mary and she does deserve our attention; however, Matthew invites us to think about Joseph. Here is the man who would take Mary as his wife. Here is the man who would be an earthly father to Jesus.

There are a number of details about Matthew's storytelling that I find interesting and one of those details is that Joseph had a dream that led him to make a profound decision. Joseph considered calling off his engagement and the plans to take Mary as his wife when he discovered that she was expecting a child. But, Matthew says that an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and informed him that God was at work in his life and his relationship with Mary. Joseph discovered that he had a part to play in a drama that God was writing!



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I don't know about you but I don't usually pay much attention to my dreams unless they are the ones that interrupt my sleep! Yet, Joseph took this God inspired dream that he was given and he made a life altering decision as a result of taking this dream seriously. The story speaks to me of the importance of placing our trust in God and responding to the initiatives of our Lord towards us.

As we make our way through this Advent Season and prepare to enter a new calendar year as well as a new liturgical year, I find myself wondering what kind of a dream God may want to share with us. I do believe that God wants to give us a dream concerning the kind of community of faith that we are called to be. What does such a dream look like for us? Will we be as receptive to God's dream for us as Joseph was to the dream that he was given? I pray that we will be so receptive to the Lord's initiatives.

It is a privilege to share this Advent Season with you. May there be many things that remind us that "God is with us." (Read Matthew 1:18-25)

Pastor Michael



December Birthdays

Glenn Cochran—1
 Vickie Charlton—2
 Tara McCoy—3
 Lee Buhyoff—3
 Judy Williamson -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
 Mike Randall—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 22nd.. All orders will be placed through the church office and paid to the church. The cost is \$18.00 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 13th so the florist can insure delivery.

NAME _____

PHONE NO. _____

NUMBER OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF _____

BY _____

CELEBRATION SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 15th at 8:45 am Blessing of the Nativity Sets followed by a covered dish breakfast. (Bring a dish or two)

10:00 am—Youth Play

11:00 am—Children's Choir and Choir's Christmas Cantata





Teachers, Mrs. Jennifer Carroll and Mrs. Theresa Pauli, along with their 20 3-years old and 19 4-years old, have been actively playing and learning at our St. Paul Preschool! September-November topics involved colors, numbers and letters for these young minds. With each day into school year, the St. Paul teachers will be providing activities that boost cognitive and motor development as well as enhance social skills. The Preschool Committee has verified through research that St. Paul Preschool helps build a solid foundation of learning and Christian love that follows children into the their school years.

Registration for the 2014-2015 Preschool Year opens on January 2nd. If you know of any families with children that turn 3 or 4 by September 30, 2014, please encourage parents to call the church office for an application and/or visit before the holiday break.

Currently, there is an immediate opening in the 4-year old program.



Cub Scout Pack 145 is having a grand time earning achievements that build character, teach citizenship and develops personal fitness!

December

Each Den will be enjoying a pizza party to celebrate the successful end of the Campmasters' Popcorn Fundraiser and dues collection.

December

The Pack will be participating in the Christiansburg Parade on December 13th with a float decorated with the theme of the "12 Days of Camping." Afterwards, we will be enjoying cookies and hot chocolate with the UMM.

January

The New Year starts off the Pinewood Derby building season towards the big race on March 2nd. Help with tools and handyman skills from St. Paul members would be appreciated on our Build-It night on either Tuesday, January 28th or Thursday, January 30th. Please contact Henry Bass for more details.

The Pack will be scheduling a Belt Loop night for its Pack meeting where Cub Scouts go on field trip to earn an award worn on a belt after learning 3 new skills.

Cubs Scouts will be providing a "camping" style (silver turtle, s'mores, etc.) meal to the UMM at their monthly meeting.

Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines

St. Paul UMC's 2014 Whole-Church Challenge!

To help our Church Body (that's us!) move deliberately forward in our Faith Journey, St. Paul United Methodist Church will share in a number of goals for 2014. In preparation we introduce an exciting concept – the *Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines*.

Afraid of being disciplined? Don't be! This Church-wide Challenge is simply a group effort to prayerfully enter a Covenant dedicating our time to **two or more of these...**

Spiritual Disciplines:

1. Daily - at least 14 minutes in prayer
2. Daily - at least one hour in continued prayer and / or devotional reading
3. Throughout 2014 - at least 14 Acts of Service

Like our Stewardship Commitment we will ask all members to submit a Covenant Card as a token of your dedication to these goals on Sunday January 12th, 2014. Wake up your soul with a new year's resolution that furthers the Kingdom of God.

“Wait – I have Questions.”

What is a Covenant?

What is an Act of Service?

Will this cost me money?

If I skip a day will I get smacked with a ruler?

Do not be afraid, little flock. (Luke 12:32)

There is nothing hidden that won't be revealed. (Luke 8:17)

- Examples of each type of Spiritual Discipline will be provided.
- Privacy. The covenant represents a personal agreement between yourself and God. Though we encourage celebrating and sharing them, doing so is your choice.
- Creativity is encouraged! Hopefully we will learn from each other new ways to serve Christ.

January Birthdays

Mary Clark-11	Brenda Linkous-28	
Becky Pharis—5	Jay Newman-12	Jay Jones—31
Kathryn White –5	Blake Owen-12	Andy Caudle-31
Dubby Charlton-6	Brianna White-17	Dewey Lusk—29
Eric Burlingame-7	Laurie Tucker-18	David Linkous-15
Franklin Lawson-29	Dennis Semones-20	Jose' Lugo-15
Curtis Chrisman-8	John Peters-20	Leslie Badillo-30
Charles DeHart-8	Todd Fitch –21	
Joe Draper-8	Eliza Eaton-22	
Bowman Altizer-9	Bruce Anderson-25	
Nancy Moye-10	Lindsey Peters-26	
Jim Mattox-10	David Marshall Shrader-7	

United Methodist Men



UMM would like to thank George Rust for this tenure as UMM president and everyone appreciated his contributions to a UMM missions.

The UMM is looking forward to working together to shop for meals to needy families before Christmas. The UMM will not be meeting in December but have been invited by the Cub Scouts of Pack 145 to cookies and hot chocolate after the Christiansburg Holi-

day Parade.

Plans for 2014 are already being discussed. The Cub Scouts will be providing our meal for January's meeting. The Sweetheart Dinner will return in February. The UMM will be cooking up a Spaghetti Dinner prior to the March Pinewood Derby race. UMM will continue the goals that support spiritual growth.

An invitation to join UMM is extended to all men of St. Paul UMC on the third Thursday of every month.

Peace, love and joy this holiday season!

Henry Bass, UMM President

henry@aciwebs.com

381-1077

Flowers for 2014

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 5_____	June 29_____	December 21 Poinsettias
January 12_____	July 6_____	December 28_____
January 19_____	July 13_____	
January 26_____	July 20_____	
February 2_____	July 27_____	
February 9_____	August 3_____	
February 16_____	August 10_____	
February 23_____	August 17_____	
March 2_____	August 24_____	
March 9_____	August 31_____	
March 16_____	September 7_____	
March 23_____	September 14_____	
March 30_____	September 21_____	
April 6_____	September 28_____	
April 13_____	October 5_____	
April 20 No Flowers	October 12_____	
April 27_____	October 19_____	
May 4_____	October 26_____	
May 11_____	November 2_____	
May 18_____	November 9_____	
May 25_____	November 16_____	
June 1_____	November 23_____	
June 8_____	November 30_____	
June 15_____	December 7_____	
June 22_____	December 14_____	

Our Church Finances

Greetings to my fellow parishioners of St. Paul.

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on our finances as of November 24, 2013. With five Sundays remaining in the year, I believe we are on track to fully fund our budget.

Here is a summary of where we are:

Total Budget for 2013	\$384,878
Needed Weekly	\$ 7 , 4 0 2
Offerings Through 11/24/13	\$348,695
Ahead	\$801

Now for a word on our 2014 Budget (\$413,329). In order to fully fund our budget for next year, we will need to increase our weekly giving to \$7,949.

Each of us has an “Estimate of Giving” card for our commitment for the coming year. As we consider our plans for giving for 2014, please keep in mind that a 10% increase would greatly help our funding all of the programs that are so vital to the mission of our church and outreach to our community. We are confident that we can meet this challenge for the life of St. Paul UMC.

Again, thank you for your consistency in supporting the church’s mission and ministry in the world.

Randy Gardner

Communion Offering
Where does your Communion Offering go?
From October 30 to November 22, we gave assistance in the amount of 1,349.00 to 40 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.

St. Paul UMC Youth

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.”

George Washington

For a follower of Jesus, a future of being in heaven and living with God is good news. Christians can view death as a move up or a victory. Paul expressed this thought by describing the tension between living in pain on earth while spreading the gospel, and his desire to be with God. (Philippians 1:21) “For me, living is Christ and dying is gain.”

On your worst day, there is still hope for you! What God has planned for His children cannot be matched by your greatest day on earth; but while you are on this earth, it works best to live with celebration in your heart and a joyful eye toward your future in God’s presence. All that we need to do is DIG DEEPER!

In the month of November we had a “tail gate party” at the high school. The event went well and we were able to hand out a form of the New Testament to many people. The youth have and will continue to prepare for the Christmas play that we will be performing in December. We will also work on a few other missions during the month of December. The youth will also be having their Christmas Party and possibly a lock-in.

I was able to attend the District Youth council meeting with the John Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. There are some exciting missions that are going to be appearing in the Spring of 2014 in this part of the New River Valley. As always, please keep the youth in your prayers in all that they do.

Youth Coordinator,
Brady Holcomb

Cantata

On Sunday, December 15th at 11:00 am the Chancel Choir will Present their Christmas Cantata, “The Winter Rose” by Joseph M. Martin.

It is our sincerest prayer that as Christ the Rose of Sharon, opens before you this Christmas, your spirit will be encouraged by the beauty of God’s greatest gift. Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and live. . . children of the garden.



Our Caring Teams Are Fantastic!

How proud we are of our Caring Teams, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! They do us up proud! And from their expressions of concern and care for all of us, we are drawn closer together and feel the love and concern we share with each other.

There are three observations I would like to make about our Caring Teams. They are all three of great importance.

First, the Caring Teams are expressing in a very visible and tangible way the love and concern and care that we have been sharing for so many years. They are just making it more visible and direct to us.

Secondly, the response of those for whom we are expressing concern is a joy to behold! They are being touched and are touched by the expressions of concern shown to them.

And thirdly, it is giving us an opportunity to express the concern we have felt and may not have known how, or in what ways to express that concern. It has helped us to create relationships among the members of our Teams and also helped us to create relationships among members of the church that are new and enjoyable.

Each of these is well worth the effort we are putting into our Caring adventures and we are all the better for it!

Pastor Doug, Minister of Discipleship Care

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 pm

Candles, Carols and Communion



The Christmas Eve Offering will go to United Methodist Family Services.

December 2013 Calendar

Sunday, December 1, 8, 22

8:45 & 11:00 -Worship
9:50 am—Sunday School
4:00 pm—Youth

Sunday, December 29

9:50 am—Sunday School
11:00 am Worship

Tuesday, December 3, 10, 17

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

Wednesday, December 4, 11, 18

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

Church Office Closed

December 24, 25, 26 & 31

Sunday, December 15

8:45 am—Breakfast & Blessing of
Nativity Sets
10:00 am—Youth Play
11:00 am-Children’s Choir & Choir’s
Cantata

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 pm—Lessons, Carols &
Communion

Meetings

Monday December 2 –7:00 pm– Music/
Worship Committee
Tuesday—December 17-7:00 pm—Tech
Committee

UMW Schedule

Tuesday, December 10
Circle 4—2:00 pm
Circle 2—7:00 pm

Thursday, December 12
Circle 5—10:00 am
Circle 3—7:00 pm

January 2014 Calendar

Sundays, January 1, 8, 15, & 22

Worship—8:45 & 11:00 am

Sunday School—9:50 am

Youth—4:00 pm

Each Tuesday

Prayer Group—9:00 am

Joy Singers—10:00 am

Circle Meetings—January 7

Circle 4—2:00 pm

Circle 2—7:00 pm

Circle Meetings-January 9

Circle 5-10:00 am

Circle 3-7:00 pm

January 1

Church Office Closed

Special Meetings TBA

United Methodist Men

Thursday, January 16—6:30 pm

Each Wednesday

10:00 am—Ladies Bible Study (Begins Jan 8th)

6:00 pm—Dinner

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

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