

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

MARCH 2014

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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®

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

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MARCH 2014

From the Pastor's Study

As I look outside my office window I see the skies are overcast this morning and the temperature is chilly. In the last several days we have experienced a big snow and cold days only to be followed by a few days of unseasonably warm weather and now it is cold once again. I find myself thinking about spring time and a little more sunshine. I am looking forward to the coming change of seasons! But, I know that winter must come to an end before I can enjoy the opportunities of spring.

It will not be too many weeks before Christians and churches will once again have the opportunity to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Christ. But, before we enjoy that celebration we must first make the journey of preparation that we call Lent. This season always begins with Ash Wednesday which falls on March 5, this year. We will back up the time for our Wednesday evening meal that evening by fifteen minutes and eat at 5:45 PM so we can participate in a brief observance of Ash Wednesday worship at 6:45 in the Fellowship Hall before moving on to our regular mid-week programs at approximately 7:10 PM.

There is much more to Lenten preparation than the observance of Ash Wednesday though. In the days of the early Christians the Lenten season was a time when "penitents," went through intense instruction in the faith in preparation for Christian baptism on the eve of Easter. Things have changed considerably since those early days of the faith. Today people may go through some preparation for baptism at almost any time of the year instead of just the season of Lent.

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But, this season is still a time for us to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter.

Many churches and believers have thought of Lent as a time for giving up something as a way of focusing upon personal growth in faith. Is there something that we may want to forego during this season? Is there a habit or some personal pleasure that we can abandon for this season? Some Christian leaders have said that it is just as important that we consider adding something to our lives during Lent as it is for us to sacrifice something. Is there something that we can add to our daily or weekly routine that will enable us to focus more on spiritual growth? Some members of our congregation have responded to the invitation of our Council on Ministries to enter into A Covenant of Spiritual Disciplines. If you have not made a commitment to participate in this covenant then Lent would be a perfect time to decide to be more intentional about the practice of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, devotional reading and acts of service.

I hope that we will each view this Lenten season as a time when we may prepare ourselves for the celebration that is Easter. I plan to do some real thinking during the next few days to see if there is something that I need to give up during this time or if there is something new that I need to add to my life or, perhaps the answer for me will be both sacrificing one thing and adding another.

Blessings to each of you during this next month and during this holy season that we are entering,

Pastor Michael

March Birthdays

Lois Basham—2
 Kay Porter—3
 John Bowler—3
 Brenda Ross—4
 Margaret Ann Peyton—6
 Caroline Clark—7
 Scott Weaver—8
 Hayley Tucker—8
 Melissa Akers—8
 George East—11
 Dan Rhudy—12
 Robertine Jordan—13
 Sarah Fitch—13
 Joyce Bishop—15
 Sydney Duncan—16
 Kitty Byrd—18
 Betty Jones—18
 Kaylin Lane—19
 Wayne Elliott—21
 Perry Cox—22
 Connie Turner—23
 Reese Ann Altizer—23
 Dawn Marie Cornish—23
 Michele Klawitter—24
 Kellen Mitchell—24
 Cindy Koziol—25
 Kat Birchfield—25
 Taylor Newman—26
 Don Karnes—28
 Avery Harrison—29
 Chip Warren—31





A Description of Faith and Life

Faith in life is...
the handle by which I take God's promises
and apply them to my particular challenges,
struggles and situations.

Faith in life is...
thanking God when I am face with difficult
times, knowing good and well that God is
with me, by me and for me.

Faith in life is...
remembering that I am important to God and
not only will God not leave me, but that God
will give me strength, direction and purpose!



*“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and
lean not on thine own understanding. In
all thy ways acknowledge him, and God
shall direct thy paths.”* Proverbs 3:5,6

Pastor Doug

Adapted from Third Presbyterian Church
Norfolk, Virginia (1975)

*“Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be
happy, and it shall go well with you.”*

Psalm 128: 1-2

St. Paul UMC Youth

WOW, what wintery weather we have had in February. It was so beautiful to see the blanket of snow and how amazing it is that God created such a thing that we call “snow”.

Isaiah 55:10 ASV

“For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, and giveth seed to the sower and bread to the eater;”

We have continued with our “prayer fast”, and the youth have taken on some leadership in learning as much as possible about “Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus”. As a part of our journey we will be studying an inspiring book by Adam Hamilton. The book that we will be studying is *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus*. The first lesson on our journey was Baptism and Temptation on the Jordan River and the Wilderness. We gained an understanding of the geography of the Holy Land; and began to comprehend the several meanings of baptism, including why Jesus was baptized by John. We developed a concept of wilderness—not only geographical but personal and societal as well. With our acknowledgement of temptations in all life and recognition of the presence of God as a way of overcoming temptation, we begin to fill out a portrait of Jesus that includes the temptations and the forty days of suffering he endured.

We will also be participating in a “Mission Weekend Retreat” with the Roanoke district youth and the Virginia Tech Wesley Foundation. This mission weekend will be from March 28-30, 2014. We have a lot to prepare for with this mission project. The Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech is sponsoring this mission weekend for the youth groups of the Roanoke District of the United Methodist Churches. We will be working right here in the New River Valley, and will be in need of your prayers and support. I will also need some volunteers so that we can follow the UMC “Safe Sanctuary Policy”.

The youth and I want to ask you, our church family, to participate in our “Prayer Fast” with us. Please take this step of faith with us to obtain God’s presence in our lives. Glory to God!

Youth Coordinator,
Brady Holcomb



United Methodist ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing underwrite the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s “cost of doing business.” That means 100 percent of every dollar you give to designated UMCOR programs helps some of the world’s most vulnerable people.

Because of the support of United Methodists through this annual offering, UMCOR takes nothing from designated gifts to cover home-office administrative costs.

UMCOR is a good steward of God’s gifts. Offering gifts over and above those used for administrative costs go where they are most needed—to assist the most vulnerable people.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, you and your congregation join other United Methodists by participating in this special offering to support humanitarian aid through UMCOR.

When catastrophes cause suffering, our church—impelled by Jesus’ love and compassion—brings healing, hope and refuge. UMCOR’S ability to respond and remain until the job is done is in direct proportion to the generosity of United Methodists through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

We at St Paul will be taking this special offering on Sunday, March 30th.

Your Donation to One Great Hour of Sharing allows UMCOR to guarantee that 100% of all other funds raised will be used for a specific disaster.

Private Prayers for Public Worship

(Prayers for Lent)

As a way of beginning,

“Eternal God, I am but dust, and unto dust I shall return. Lead me in true repentance to acknowledge my sin, to trust the word of your forgiving love in Jesus Christ, and to follow him with firm faith and holy obedience. In Jesus’ name.” Amen.

As a way of reminding us of God’s presence and power,

“We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from your mouth, O God. By the comfort of your Holy Spirit, let that good Word speak to me, that I may hear and do your will in Jesus’ name. Amen”

Creative Communications, 1988 for the Parish

New Schedule for the Newsletter

Our Council on Ministries has discussed the frequency of publishing a printed newsletter and has agreed that we move towards a bi-monthly printed newsletter. We have already begun sending out some newsletters electronically and we will continue this practice. Moving towards a bi-monthly printed newsletter will enable us to be better stewards of God’s Creation as a printed newsletter consumes a lot of paper, toner and postage. This also makes sense for our financial stewardship. And, this will bring a little relief to our Administrative Assistant as she is often fighting a time crunch between getting out a newsletter and meeting other deadlines that come at the end of some months. There are times when Carol is left waiting for information from some of us, too and this makes her job even more difficult. We can send out special mailings as needed and make better use of email and the church’s web site. We will move towards a bi-monthly printed publication for April and May.



The Source of All Our Caring

*“The Lord has promised good to me, his (God’s)
word my hope secures; he will my shield and
portion be, as long as life endures!”*

Amazing Grace, verse 4

John Newton, 1779

I don’t know about you, but every time I sing the hymn “Amazing Grace,” I am reminded time and time again of God’s continuing care for me, and for you! These words of the hymn are a constant source of hope for life, help for the circumstances and situations of life, and give strength for daily living, in that we believe that God is with us in all things!

When John Newton wrote this hymn he had been through a great deal in his life, and he wondered how in the world he had “weathered” it all. As he considered his life, he came to realize that it was the “amazing grace” of God which had helped him to prevail!

And from that experience, of knowing of God’s care for him, John Newton put into words this hymn, which now gives us strength for living, and a reminder from where “all our caring” is found! It is in the “Amazing Grace” of God!

And do you know something, the caring and concern now expressed by our Caring Teams is a direct result of God’s caring for us! We in turn, put into action the very caring nature and love of God in all that we do in our outreach, care, concern and love for others!

So, be well assured, that we, together, are doing some “amazing” things ourselves as we make God’s love and care and concern known to those to whom we reach out!

As a Church Family, we are proud of and grateful for those of you who make up the Teams; Matthew, Mark, Luke and John! You are doing a marvelous and wonderful thing!

Ole Doug, pie, cake, ice cream and fried chicken

Mission Weekend

Mission Weekend March 28-30, hosted by the Wesley Foundation at Virginia Tech. This will be a Retreat Weekend for the Roanoke District Youth including Worship, Fellowship, and Service Projects. We need Service Projects in the New River Valley for Saturday, March 29!! Wesley is looking for potential sites with simple projects such as painting, drywall, cleaning, yard-work etc. Please contact Nancy Stevenson at Nancy1@vt.edu with questions or if you are interested.

Summer Worship Schedule

The Administrative Board at the February 17th meeting, approved a new Sunday morning schedule for the summer months. The new schedule will be Sunday School at 9:00 am and Worship at 10:00 am beginning with Memorial Day weekend and continuing through Labor Day weekend.

NEW ADULT STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

A Disciples Path (Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church). The study was authored by Dr. James Harnish, a respected United Methodist pastor and writer. This six week study offers a Wesleyan understanding of love, grace and the practice of the spiritual disciplines. A Disciples Path will help us to explore such questions as "How do I follow Jesus in a real and tangible way?", "What spiritual practices enable me to experience a more vibrant relationship with God?" and "Where do I find the practical steps that will lead me along my own pathway of discipleship?" Barring any further delays from bad weather we should be starting this study on Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00 PM in the Resource Room. Co-leaders will be Pastor Michael and Mrs. Peggy Streich. A suggested contribution of \$10 will cover the cost of reading material for participants. Please call or email the church office if you are interested in joining us for this study.



United Methodist Women's News

March 4, 2014 St. Paul United Methodist Women in Christiansburg are Sponsoring a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday. 5:30pm at the church fellowship hall. The address for the church is 220 West Main St. Christiansburg. Dinner begins at 5:30pm. Pancakes, syrup, biscuits, sausage gravy, bacon, fruit and milk, juice & coffee. The donations accepted will benefit local missions in Montgomery County. Thanks to all who come out & support your local community! The ladies at St. Paul United Methodist Church appreciate you! Come join us in the celebration of the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Any questions, call Jackie Buhrdorf, President of the UMW at St. Paul UMC 540-230-9556

A Prayer for Lent

“Lord Jesus Christ, send your Holy Spirit upon your people this Lenten Season that we might faithfully take up our cross each day and follow you. Help us to die to all that is false in our lives, all that is worthless, all that is sinful.

Confident in your abundant mercy, may we face the truth about ourselves without fear. Freed from all that keeps us from joyfully living our baptismal promises, may we join with all Christians in the Easter Celebration of your Resurrection! Amen.”

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

From January 17th to February 25th we gave assistance in the amount of \$1,107 to 34 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 United Methodist Men

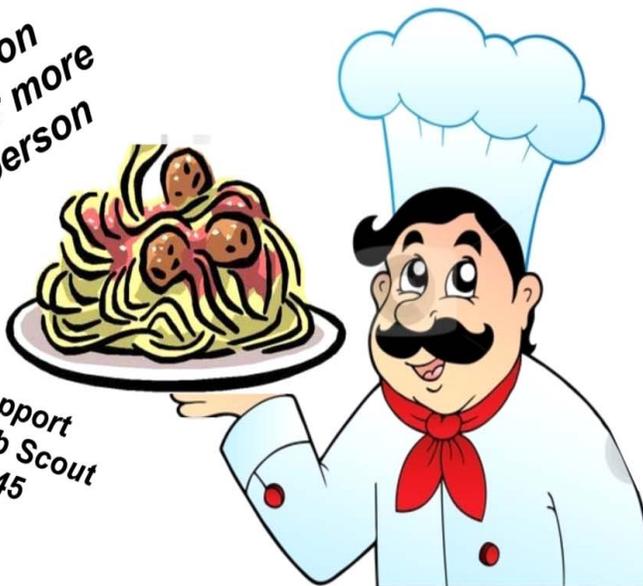


Spaghetti Dinner

Serving noodles,
sauces, salad, garlic
bread, drink & dessert.

Saturday, March 8, 2014
St. Paul Fellowship Hall
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

**Donation
\$6.00 or more
per person**



**Help support
UMM & Cub Scout
Pack 145**

St. Paul UMC
220 West Main Street
Christiansburg, VA
(540)382-2410



March 2014 Calendar

Sundays , March 2—23

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

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
7:15 pm—Choir

Special Events

Senior Luncheon
Thursday, March 6th, 11:45 am

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5, 6:45 pm

United Methodist Men

Thursday, March 20, 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 30

11:00 Worship only followed by a pot luck luncheon

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Thursday, March 20th
(April & May Issue)

UMW Schedule

Tuesday, March 11
Circle 4—2:00 pm
Circle 2—7:00 pm

Thursday, March 13
Circle 5—10:00 am
Circle 3—7:00 pm

UMW Executive Committee

March 25—7:00 pm

Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 3, 7:00 pm

Staff Parish Committee

Monday, March 10, 7:00 pm

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 222

2 Peter 2:1-10

False Prophets

S	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	Y	M	O	O	L	G	L
O	T	R	U	T	H	S	J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T
E	S	L	A	F	Y	A	H	S	W	I	F	T	I	D
A	E	N	O	A	H	T	N	A	G	O	D	L	Y	E
N	I	C	L	R	T	E	R	G	M	D	G	R	N	E
G	S	O	U	E	L	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	E	D
E	E	R	F	S	I	C	A	S	N	N	F	T	D	S
L	R	R	N	C	F	H	U	B	E	R	G	U	E	S
S	E	U	I	U	P	E	U	S	E	I	S	C	L	T
D	H	P	S	E	X	R	A	H	S	O	R	S	I	D
E	S	T	T	A	N	S	C	E	D	E	L	O	O	U
E	C	E	M	I	H	A	R	O	T	A	L	O	T	C
R	R	P	N	E	E	A	M	L	I	P	L	W	R	S
G	L	G	S	R	P	E	Y	R	X	F	S	S	A	D
E	S	I	P	S	E	D	T	E	R	I	S	E	D	L

ASHES	ANCIENT
DEEDS	ANGELS
FALSE	BURNING
FILTHY	CORRUPT
FLOOD	DENYING
GLOOMY	DESIRE
GODLY	DESPISE
GREED	EXAMPLE
LORD	EXPLOIT
NOAH	HANGING
PETER	HERESIES
RESCUE	JUDGMENT
SINFUL	LAWLESS
SODOM	PREACHER
SPARE	PROPHETS
SWIFT	SECRETLY
TRIALS	SHAMEFUL
TRUTH	STORIES

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

TEACHERS
