

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

APRIL/MAY 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®

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From the Pastor's Study

One of my favorite memories from my childhood was a family tradition on Sunday evenings. My family would go to the home of my maternal grandparents sometime on Sunday afternoons. My grandparents only lived a few minutes away so it was a short drive. For many years we gathered on Sundays at my grandparents for the evening meal. Typically, some of my aunts, uncles and cousins would be there, too. I can close my eyes today and see my grandmother supervising the activity in the kitchen which included cutting up the chicken that would be fried!

There are many things that I remember from those Sundays and the meals that we shared together. One of the things that I recall is that my grandfather always said a blessing. As I think back upon those countless Sunday memories I now understand that those Sunday meals became a part of my Christian formation. I don't remember a word that my grandfather said in those prayers but, for several years now, I have understood that from those prayers, those meals, stories and laughter I learned that there is a God who is loving and gracious. I learned that the God who revealed Himself in Jesus feeds us with real food and with spiritual nourishment as well.

Every time that we gather for the Lord's Supper I am reminded that our loving, gracious God does indeed feed us with the bread that is made from the grains that are grown in the field and He also feeds us with "the bread of life" which we discover in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Holy Week and Easter are filled with the stories that greatly

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inform and shape our understanding of Holy Communion. As we approach Holy Week and Easter once again I would invite each of you to spend some time thinking about how those stories of Jesus during that week inform your own understanding of the meal that Jesus calls us to share. The significance of this meal is greater than the name we give to it whether we call it the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion or the Eucharist.

Several years ago Bishop William Willimon wrote, "Most powerful and evocative of all the symbolic demonstrations of God's love is God's gift of the *sacraments*. Sacraments are signs in that they are actions, like feeding and washing, which are full of deep meaning. They are symbols in that they are objects like bread, wine, and water which are packed with significance." (Copied from Sunday Dinner, Copyright 1981 by The Upper Room.)

I look forward to celebrating these holy days with you again,

Pastor Michael

Maundy Thursday Service – April 17, 2014

Last year St. Paul UMC and Christiansburg Presbyterian Church shared Maundy Thursday services together. We are doing the same this year. Since St. Paul hosted the worship service last year, we will gather at Christiansburg Presbyterian Church this year to observe Holy Thursday in Holy Week. The service will be held at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall at CPC. A nursery will be available for those with young children. Please plan to attend this special time of worship and preparation for Easter.

April Birthdays

Ruth Boothe—1
 Betty Semones—1
 Tempest Reed—5
 Gary Sparks—6
 Mia Bravo—7
 Mark Bamman—8
 Polly McMillan—8
 Anna Burns—10
 Sarah Bravo—11
 Annell Winbery - 12
 Joyce Lester—13
 Carol Cornish—14
 Bernadine Lester—15
 Bryce Wade—15
 Tina Sheppard—16
 Todd Altizer—16
 Charlton McCoy—17
 Anne Lawson—17
 Emily Aubuhon—18
 Bob Chapin—19
 Justin Bowler—19
 Bob Cornish—22
 Matthew Jordan—26
 Daniel Warren—28
 Hamp Akers—30





May Birthdays

Gene Peyton—1	Erin Birchfield—13	Jim Moyer—31
Louise Quesenberry—2	Melissa Gunter—14	Jane Stafford—31
Nancy Endicott—2	Dave Duncan—16	Jean Woodyard—31
Sara Charlton—4	Jerome Long—17	Dolly Goss—31
Lee Griffith—4	Brooks Sherman—18	
Carmen Thompson—4	James Pharis—18	
Doug Kanney—6	Josephine Miles—20	
Ian Jordan—7	Fred Koziol—20	
Lucille Dobbins—8	Stuart Cochran—20	
Kris Buhrdorf—9	Julia Dickenson—21	
Rusty McCoy—9	Jace Thompson—24	
Rachel Feggeler—9	Sharon Davis—25	
Steven Feggeler—9	Tommy Myers—25	
Owen Tucker—12	John Eanes—30	
Jackie Sutphin—12	Marietta Hanks—31	



Registration is now open for kindergarten boys. These rising 1st-graders (and OLDER BOYS, too) are able to join Cub Scouting NOW! If join before June 1st, they can to take advantage of all this summer's camping opportunities and Pack activities then start a new Scout Year with their dens in August. For more information and see the activities, visit www.CubPack145.com OR our Facebook page!

Every morning you are handed 24 golden hours. They are one of the few things in this world that you get free of charge. If you had all the money in the world, you couldn't buy an extra hour. What will you do with this priceless treasure? Remember, you must use it, as it is given only once. Once wasted you cannot get it back.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

How To Become A Christian!

Have you ever thought about how it is that we (you and I) become a Christian? I mean, what do we do, and how does it work, and what is the final outcome? Let me suggest a couple of helpful ideas as we ponder and search for answers to these questions.

One of the first things we discover is that our faith is a gift of God, to which we respond for our own personal needs and reasons. God does not force us, but may, through the consequences of life itself cause us to seek faith!

Another discovery we make is that God has provided Jesus Christ as “the way, the truth, and the life!” Jesus becomes for us a picture of who God is! And in this picture of God, we discover that God loves us and wants the best in life for us!

So, some guidelines for seeking and finding this faith may be expressed in these ways:

- Recognize God’s love for you (for you and me).
- Admit our need for God in life’s journey.
- Express our sins and failure to live as God desires.
- Place our faith in Jesus Christ as we invite him into our life.
- Ask God to forgive us and help us to “begin” anew.
- Put our faith into action as we seek to love God and each other!

Pastor Doug



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The UMM can be proud of their efforts with the successful Sweetheart and Spaghetti Dinners!

For April, the monthly meeting has been switched from Maundy Thursday to April 24th. Please RSVP your attendance to your phone-tree captain or Henry Bass to ensure that there is the right amount of food.

The usual third Thursday in May – the 15th – will be another fine occasion to discuss our pathway in the UMM mission, vision and goals.

A Morning Of Great Surprise, Easter Celebration!

After sunrise, a surprise!
fears relieved;
death overcome;
an empty tomb
to give life to
an empty cadre of disciples.
We tremble, bewildered
with the wonder of it.
Come, even now Lord,
to surprise us with the
invisible presence of Your
resurrected,
resurrecting
power. AMEN. (Pastor Doug)
“Resource 1981”

ST. PAUL UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE
MARCH 2014

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul,

Your Finance Committee wishes to update you on the state of our finances for 2014 (**as of Week 11, March 16**). Our total Budget Offering after 11 weeks is **\$79,238.00**. We are **\$8,201.00** behind on our Budget as of this date. We need **\$8,000 per week** to fully fund our Budget. To date, our weekly average is **\$7,203.00**.

We all realize that the weather conditions have affected attendance, which seems to impact our giving. I have faith that this is temporary and that our congregation will make it up.

God has made each of us a steward. Because we love God, we gladly dedicate our gifts to God's service and give a worthy portion for the care of people in need.

Part of God's plan in our lives is to help us budget our hours so that we are able to give of our time and gifts to fulfill God's plan.

Part of St. Paul's Mission Statement is to be of service to the world around us and in particular, to be sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of our own congregation and community.

In summary, thank you for your generous gifts and contributions to our church as we continue to strive to be good stewards of God's gifts.

Randy Gardner, Finance Chair

For Your Information

The last Wednesday evening Adult Bible Study and Wednesday supper will be on May 7th.



Caring Is Good For You! (and me!)

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together in unity, (in caring for each other), for there God has commanded the blessing of life forever more!” (Paraphased) Psalm 133

You may be surprised at the verse of scripture which begins this article for our April newsletter. I have taken the freedom to “paraphrase” this particular verse to highlight what I believe to be a very important and necessary part of the Christian experience, that of caring for each other!

For as we care for each other, we live out and make witness to God’s love and care for us, and our love and care for one another. And in some remarkable way, our care for others is good for us! For as we care for others, our own concern and cares seem to be still important and at the same time, we have a different perspective in life itself. We become aware that all of us (each one of us) has something and someone(s) in life for whom we care and which concerns us. And more often than not, as we share in the cares of others, we become aware that we find the strength and direction to deal with our own concerns.

It is as if in helping others, we help ourselves! We discover and learn ways of dealing with the issues and matters of life in such a way that not only are we able to help them, we are also able to help ourselves.

Sometimes it is a matter of “trial and error,” and yet it works.

So, give it a try! If there is someone for whom you care, and if they are in need of help, make the offer, extend the help, and learn from your efforts on their behalf. You will find that yes, you can help them, and in so doing, help yourself as well!

A noted psychologist has said that one of the ways for us to be happy is to shift our focus—off ourselves and onto other people. Not a bad idea and a wonderful way to fulfill God’s hope for all of humankind!

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

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE SUMMER

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, May 25th through Labor Day Weekend, August 31st we will be having Sunday School at 9:00 am followed by Worship at 10:00 am.

This will be effective during the summer months only.

ST. PAUL



Spring is here and time for more learning adventures!

We are developing language, motor, cognitive and social skills to prepare our youngsters for kindergarten. Whenever the weather cooperates, we are outside on the playground to get fresh air and exercise.

April will feature an Easter celebration. Then, May has scheduled graduation ceremonies for both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old programs.

Registration is open for the 2014-2015 year. There are still spaces available for the 3-year-old program. If you know of a young family, please proudly promote St. Paul UMCs Preschool!



Preparation for Easter's Celebration

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me shall live even if they die, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25-26



Pack 145 graduated 12 Webelos 2s to Boy Scouting in February. Now, the Cub Scouts are looking for more adventures and wanting to recruit more young boys to join the fun!

Dens of Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos 1s are working hard to earn their rank requirements for a May promotion ceremony and celebration on Tuesday, May 27th. However, there is much more events planned before the Scout Year ends!

April has scheduled an Engineering Night Pack Meeting with lots of help from VT Engineering students. Camping will be offered through the District's Gold Rush. The VFW has requested our loyal help for a Flag Retirement Ceremony on April 5th and to help with the posting of Memorial Day flags on May 24th. Pack 145 is currently organizing a Yard Sale and a Fish-o-ree and hope to advertise dates and times soon as an invitation to St. Paul UMC members.

Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

From February 26th to March 25th we gave assistance in the amount of \$911 to 23 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.

UMW News-What's happening at St. Paul UMC??

April 8/May 13 Circle 2 meets 7pm & Circle 4 meets 2pm
April 10/May 8 Circle 3 meets 7pm & Circle 5 meets 10am
April 22/May 27 Executive Board Meeting 7pm in The Resource Room

April 12 Roanoke District Spiritual Life Retreat at Alta Mons 9:00am-1:00pm:
Crockett Springs United Methodist Church-"A Calling for This Time: Mission"
With Rev. Chris McLain, Associate Pastor at Blacksburg UMC as the speaker.
Registration, refreshments & book sales begin at 9:00am & Program 9:30am.
Mission Giving Offering opportunity will go to help the District UMW meet their Pledge
to Mission. Also bring office supplies to help the Community Outreach Program (COP) of
Roanoke. There is also lunch at Alta Mons Dining Hall.

Plan to attend Conference Spiritual Life Retreat at Blackstone Conference & Retreat Cen-
ter on May 16-18. Be sure to register.

Circle 5 is responsible for bereavement, cleaning the kitchen and gathering items for the
Women's Resource center during the month of April & Circle 2 will take care of these
things in May. Thanks to Circle 3 for taking care of this in February and Circle 4 for taking
care of these items in March.

We are collecting stamps & labels (Box tops & Soup labels). You can make a difference!
We can all make a difference through this ministry of missions. The labels & box tops are
sent to Henry Fork for the Children there to get supplies. The stamps are sent to Rich-
mond and resold there to make money for missions of the UMW. If you have a question
about what is accepted, you can check on line at Labels for Education or you may email
Jackie Buhrdorf at buhrdorf@vt.edu. You can also call at 540-230-9556. If you do not
bring them with you, you can leave them at the church office with Carol & she can put
them in my box.

We are busy doing God's work. All ladies are welcome to join. Come visit a circle and see
where you would like to be involved. We all can make a difference!



April 2014 Calendar

Sundays , April 6, 20, 27

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

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—Adult Study
7:15 pm—Choir

Special Events

Senior Luncheon
Thursday, April 3, 11:45 am

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm
Joint service at Christiansburg Presbyterian

United Methodist Men

Thursday, April 24, 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 13

11:00 Worship only—Easter Cantata

Church Office Closed

Friday, April 18—Good Friday

UMW Schedule

Tuesday, April 8
Circle 4—2:00 pm
Circle 2—7:00 pm

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

UMW Executive Committee

April 22—7:00 pm

Council on Ministries

Monday, April 28, 7:00 pm

May 2014 Calendar

Sundays, May 4, 11, 18

Worship—8:45 & 11:00 am
Sunday School—9:45 am

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays, May 7—28

Children's Choir—6:30 pm
Adult Choir—7:15 pm

United Methodist Men

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 pm

Senior Fellowship

Thursday, May 1, 11:45 am

Special Meetings

Finance Committee—May 19, 6:00 pm
Administrative Board—May 19, 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 25

Sunday School—9:00 am
Worship—10:00 am
(Summer Schedule)

Wednesday, May 7

Last PM Bible Study and Dinner

UMW Schedule

Tuesday, May 13, Circle 4—2:00 pm
Circle 2—7:00 pm
Thursday, May 8, Circle 5—10:00 am
Circle 3—7:00 pm

UMW Executive Committee

Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 pm

Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, May 20, June/July issue

Church Office Closed, May 26

Observance of Memorial Day

Easter Cantata

This Palm Sunday, the St. Paul Choir will present the beautiful Easter cantata "***Come, Touch the Robe***" by Pepper Choplin. Some of you will remember this lovely and inspiring work from a few years back as comments have come in regarding when it can be again heard. There is still time to join in the presentation. The choir is always seeking new members – experience not necessary, we can teach you! The only things needed are a joyful spirit, a love for beautiful music and a desire to share God's inspired music and words.

So, come join the celebration of Holy Week and the glory of our risen Lord. **Come, Touch the Robe.**