

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

Phone: 540-382-2410

E-mail: info@stpaulvaumc.org

Web: www.stpaulvaumc.org



*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

ST. PAUL'S PAGES

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014

From the Pastor's Study

Several weeks ago I called one of the local hospitals to verify that someone had been admitted and to get a room number before making a visit. The hospital personnel that I spoke with told me that they did not have anyone by that name. I was also told that the hospital could not confirm if they had any patients by the last name that I had given. It occurred to me that I had used the name that I was accustomed to using to address that person but the name that I used could have been a middle name or even a nickname. Thankfully, sometime later that same day I was able to get in touch with a relative of the person that I believed was hospitalized and they were able to provide the information that I was looking for. As it turned out, I had called the right hospital but I had used the individual's middle name rather than their first name! Privacy laws and hospital rules are much stricter now than they were when I first entered ministry.

It is very important to your Pastor, the Tuesday Morning Prayer Group and our Caring Teams to know when our members and friends who attend St. Paul are hospitalized. It would be very helpful to us all if a loved one could call the church office when you are hospitalized and provide the legal name that was used when admitted as well as the room number. Or, if you know in advance that you will be in the hospital for some reason please inform the church office a few days ahead of time and make sure that we know the name that will be used at admission.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Midweek Studies</i>	2
<i>August Birthdays</i>	2
<i>Sept. Birthdays</i>	3
<i>Joy Singers</i>	3
<i>Communion Off.</i>	3
<i>UMW News</i>	4
<i>UMM</i>	5
<i>VBS Thank You</i>	5
<i>Finance Committee</i>	6
<i>Annual Conference</i>	7
<i>Annual Conf. Cont.</i>	8
<i>Children's Choir</i>	9
<i>Adult Choir</i>	9
<i>Boy Scouts</i>	10
<i>Worship Schedule</i>	11
<i>Pre School</i>	11
<i>August Calendar</i>	12
<i>September Calendar</i>	12

Continued on page 2)

(from page 1)

This same request would also be helpful if you are going to be admitted to a nursing home or some other facility for additional treatment or therapy. We are all very interested in keeping our prayers and our care for one another as up to date as possible. This simple request will help us to better fulfill that desire.

Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Michael

Midweek Adult Studies –

On Wednesday, September 3, we will return to our mid-week studies for interested adults. We will kick-off the new season of studies by reading and discussing together *Why? (Making Sense of God's Will)* by the Rev. Adam Hamilton. This is a four session study and will take us through the month of September. The sessions include: "Why Do the Innocent Suffer?", "Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?", "Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?" and "Why God's Love Prevails." We will meet in the Resource Room at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings. Your hosts and leaders will be Pastor Michael and Peggy Streich. Copies of Adam Hamilton's book may be picked up in the church office for \$8.00 each. We hope you will consider participating in this opportunity for learning and sharing!

August Birthdays

Neal Eaton—1
Ryan Clark—1
Eric Bass—3
Shelby Roope—3
Sharon Barrett—5
Jeremy Wachob—6
David Campbell—11
Wes Birchfield—11
Tabitha Rust—12
Melodee Wade—14
Kathe Hanson—18
Betty Bamman—18
Rosa Griffith—18
Kevin Cox—19
Jamie Graybeal—19
Shirley Hodge—22
Ryan McCoy—25
Dickie Goss—29
Tom Bell—29





September Birthdays

Ruth Gregory—2	Allison Sherman—12
Jon Thomas—3	Faye Chrisman—15
Jack Poff—3	Bill Payne—15
Ellie Wade—3	Denise Warren—16
Julie Rhudy—3	Brandy McCoy—19
Erica Williams—6	Ron Barrett—21
Woody Nester—7	Butch Phillips—21
Diann Eaton—7	Michael Copeland—21
Evangeline Swain—7	Marjorie Vitale—22
Nancy Badillo—7	Sarah East—24
Gloria Faith Cornish—8	Jackie Buhrdorf—26
Gary Talkington—11	Sonny Speed—26
Janet Schleicher—11	Anna Lee Lawrence—29
Katherine Sherman—12	Linn Feggeler—29
	Norma Graham—30



Communion Offering

Where does your Communion Offering go?

From May 20th to July 24th, we gave assistance in the amount of \$3,334.00 to 99 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.

JOY SINGERS

Joy Singers will start rehearsals on September 2nd and 9th at 10:00 am in the choir room. Any questions please call Denise Warren at 382-4825.



UMW News

Sept 11 General Meeting for all Circles- 6:00pm-Pot Luck

Oct 14 Circle 2 meets 7pm & Circle 4 meets 2pm

Oct 9 Circle 3 meets 7pm & Circle 5 meets 10am

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

Please be sure to turn in your Reading Reports to Marjorie for all the books that you have completed prior to Sept 1. She is submitting her yearly report.

UMW has received some donations for our "Christmas Clearance Sale". If you have any more Christmas items to donate, please bring them to room 103 at St. Paul UMC.

August 26, 2014 the Executive Board will meet to discuss plans for the new year. We have some new officers joining the executive team. Watch for more information in your bulletin & newsletter.

September 11, Thursday, 6:00pm, United Methodist Women will gather for a Pot Luck Dinner in the Fellowship Hall to spend time getting to know each other better. Ladies that are interested in joining UMW are also invited to join us. All circles are invited to come, bring a dish or 2 to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

UMW is still 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 Richmond 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.

There has been an idea brought to my attention regarding a prayer shawl ministry, if you have an interest in being involved in this, please let me know. We would like to have more discussion with those interested, to know how to proceed.

United Methodist Women is just one of the many ministries in the church that you can be involved in and make a difference in your local community as well as other countries.

Thanks for all you do Ladies! Jackie Buhrdorf, UMW President for St. Paul UMC.



Sunday, August 17th will feature a picnic hosted by Patsy and Gary Sparks. UMM and their spouses/families are invited to attend at 6:30 PM. Please bring a drink and side dish to share. Directions to the Spark's House will be provided in the church bulletin and via email. Please RSVP to the church office, the Sparks or President Henry Bass by Wednesday, August 13th.

A second UMM event that includes spouses/families will be Thursday, August 21st at a Pulaski Mariners game at Calfee Park off I-81 Exit 94. The church bus will be available for transportation from St. Paul UMC leaving at 6:00 PM. An exact count for the bus and tickets is needed to the church office or Henry Bass by August 13th.

The UMM will resume their regularly scheduled 3rd-Thursday meetings on September 18th.

THANKS TO ALL FOR THE "JUNGLE SAFARI" VBS

Many thanks to each of you, who had a part in making our VBS Jungle Safari Adventure a huge success. We had five wonderful evenings of fun and learning with 30 fantastic children! The Thursday evening family time, with the children's music program and fellowship light supper, fittingly concluded this very special event. Thanks to all the children for being such happy faces and eager learners. Thanks to the parents who faithfully brought their children to share in this adventure each evening.

Thanks to those of you who donated decorations, to the men who moved chairs, tables, and the heavy TV, and to our St. Paul family for their support and encouragement.

A special thanks to the decorating team who worked creatively and tirelessly, and to ALL the workers who showed the greatness of God through their love and dedication. It is through opportunities such as this that St. Paul UMC reaches out to the community in the name and love of Jesus.

ST. PAUL UMC FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE
July 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 29, July 20). Our total Budget Offering after 20 weeks is 189,948.00 We are \$40,573.00 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 \$6,550.00. Unfortunately, this decline in our giving has been continuous since the start of 2014.

While we have several unfilled staff positions in our church, our Staff Parish Committee is currently working to get these positions filled. I would like to emphasize the importance of meeting our budget goals in order to fully fund these positions.

In the words of John Wesley, “Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, to all the people you can.”

Today, we United Methodists follow in the footsteps of the early Methodists, joining hands in service to support one another and to help God’s children whenever and wherever we can—through our apportioned funds, a connectional giving covenant that has become a strong and generous tradition and lifelong personal commitment of United Methodists everywhere.

I would like to say that, as Christians, we need to constantly know that all we have comes from God. When we recognize that in all we have, all we are, and all we do, giving becomes an act of faith.

Let’s all have faith as we work together to respond to the needs of our church.

Randy Gardner

Finance Committee



Annual Conference 2014: Lay Member Report

The 2014 Virginia Annual Conference was held on June 20-22, a Friday through Sunday period, the same as last year. Bishop Young Jin Cho selected “Lord Renew Us with Your Spirit” as the theme of this year’s Annual Conference. You may recall that the theme of last year’s conference was “Lord, Teach Us To Pray,” so this year’s seems to be an outgrowth of that, as what we might pray for first. In his address during the opening session of the Conference, Bishop Cho first reflected on the four areas of focus he initially set for his ministry as Bishop: leading All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations; strengthening the spiritual foundation of our mission and ministries; developing new faith communities; and nurturing the culture of cooperation and coordination. After noting actions and accomplishments in these areas, the Bishop described the activities planned in each area for this year. This includes (1) adding the number of Discipleship Circles, (2) participating in “Imagine No Malaria” as a spiritual discipline, (3) give support to the three new faith communities and seek to identify where additional new ones might be established, (4) and engage in a conference-wide conversation on human sexuality issues. This last is in prayerful response to current events and needs and supplants some mission plans.

In keeping with the theme, our Conference Bible study was on the basis and dynamics of renewal. The Rev.Dr.Elmer Colyer’s three sessions described why and how God is the necessary source for the needed renewal in the Church. He discussed our need for relationship, first, with God and how the triune nature of God was important to that. This was a very worthwhile study and I hope to share it in several small group sessions, perhaps on some Sunday mornings in the near future.

Several traditional service projects occurred again at this Conference. These included the UMCOR Relief Kits, the St. Andrew’s Potato Drop, the ‘4 Cans 4 Conference,’ and the Conference offering. In kits this year a total of 41,218 were collected; made up of 1,666 layette, 5,325 birthing, 20,844 health, 11,306 school, 228 cleaning bucket, 394 bedding, and 1,455 other kits. During the potato drop, volunteers bagged 40,000 pounds of potatoes. The 4 Cans 4 Conference netted 8,500 pounds of canned and boxed food that will go to the Peninsula Food Bank and the Conference offering totaled \$169,741 by Sunday morning for the projects it will lend support to this year {update; \$174,553 by 7/26}. In other mission related matters, an official of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) presented the Virginia Conference with two awards. One is for having the highest giving to The Advance for Christ and His Church (\$2.5MM) in 2013 and a second for leading the Southeastern Jurisdiction in giving to missionary support.

(continued on page 8)

(from page 7)

The Bishop asked for affirmation by the Conference for participation by the Conference in the UMC program, Imagine No Malaria, striving to strike out this killer disease from the African continent. He received enthusiastic endorsement of that and so challenged all of us to take this on as a spiritual discipline; for each life to save a life. Bishop Cho and his wife made the immediate contribution of \$3,000 to save 300 lives. A video was presented to encourage thinking of ways to bring attention to the challenge. That video ended as shown at: <http://youtu.be/dfTRcCLKBxg> Watch for news about how our congregation will participate!

There was the usual business of hearing and accepting reports, voting on various recommendations from committees, and voting on resolutions brought before the Conference. The treasurer's report on statistics showed the Conference membership to be at 332,431 and average weekly worship attendance to be a total of 104,231. Both of these are less than the prior year, by 1,735 and 897 people, respectively. The Conference budget, totaling \$32,720,000 for 2015, is \$345,000 less than 2014 reducing needs by just over 1%. Total Conference cash receipts for 2013 were \$30,440,959, which is over 1% greater than in 2012! I also noted that the Conference Reserve Fund balance is more that 78% greater at the end of 2013 over 2012. These kind of data led our guest speaker, Dr. Colyer, to remark that the Virginia Conference is managing well financially and "bucking the trend and you ought to be proud of it."

Three of the six proposed resolutions were addressed. Resolution 1 was to petition the 2016 General Conference to "change the Book of Discipline reference to homosexuality." After some discussion and in light of the Bishop's proposal for coordinated discussions this year, this resolution was tabled. The second resolution, calling for the Conference to not invest any more in fossil fuel companies and to remove all investments within five years, was referred to two Conference boards for study and reporting back. The members passed the third resolution, supporting a phased increase in the minimum wage at the federal and state levels.

Throughout the conference and at the end, the Bishop invited and encouraged all of us to prayerfully seek God's guidance, realizing that we cannot sit and wait for people to come to us to learn about God. Rather, we must recognize we are in a mission field and we must discern God's will for how to reach out into our individual communities.

As always, the Conference concluded with the setting of appointments. We have Pastor Michael Copeland with us as we all engage in a year of beginning renewal. God bless you Pastor Michael!

Respectfully,
Tom Bell, Lay Member of Virginia Annual Conference



Children's Choir at St. Paul



**All children of the church and from the community,
Beginning Kindergartners through 5th graders, are invited
to sing, move, and play instruments in St Paul Children's Choir
Wednesday Nights 6:30 – 7:00 starting on September 3rd
In the Sunday School Room near
the Front Doors of the Sanctuary**

Choir at St. Paul



St Paul Adult Choir will begin weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, August 27th, 2014 from 7:15p.m. to 8:15p.m. in the choir room. We welcome anyone who enjoys singing, having fun, or just being a smiling face in the choir! See you there!

145**BOY SCOUTS**

Pack 145 had a successful Day Camp experience the week of July 15th. Thanks to St. Paul UMC for the use of the Activity Building and the Church Bus along with the UMM for paying for the fuel. 4 days, 32 hours, with 15 Cub Scouts, 9 Boy Scouts, 2 siblings, 8 adult volunteers, driving 110 miles, earning 5 belt loops, tons of rank requirements, swam in 3 pools, was sprayed with 2500 gallons of water from a fire truck, ate 4 different types of snacks, completed 8 different crafts, cooked 60 burgers, and more fun than we could have ever imagined!

Pack 145 Events:



- 3rd - (Sunday) Webelos Resident Camp
- 10th - (Sunday) Pack Planning Meeting 6:30 PM
- 12th – Montgomery County Schools Open
- 14th – TBA Cub Scout Recruitment Event
- 17th - (Sunday) New Cub Scout Orientation 3:00 PM
- 26th - (Tuesday) 1st Pack Meeting 7:00 PM
- TBD (Friday) Pack Drive-In Movie 7:00 PM

September

- 2nd - Start Den Meetings
- 16th – (Tuesday) Pack Meeting 7:00 PM
- 19th – (Friday) Start Popcorn Sale



Registration is now open for kindergarten boys. These rising 1st-graders (and OLDER BOYS, too) are able to join Cub Scouting NOW! For more information and see the activities, visit www.CubPack145.com OR our Facebook page!



OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our Summer Schedule will end on Sunday, August 31st,
Sunday School at 9:00 am followed by Worship at 10:00 am.

**WE WILL RETURN TO OUR TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH**

8:45 & 11:00—Worship

9:45—Sunday School



The St. Paul Preschool is gearing up for the 2014-2015 School Year that begins Tuesday, September 2nd. Health and fire inspections along with deep cleaning and purchasing of supplies are underway by our Preschool Teachers. Jennifer Carroll is Director who teaches alongside with Theresa Pauli. This will be their 12th year and 11th year providing a high-quality early education program.

There is one opening remaining in our 3 year old class. Please help us advertise this preschool opportunity and our program to young families in the community.

Soon, a Boy Scout will begin his Eagle Project to improve the playground entrance. In the meantime, the preschool is seeking donations of sturdy wagons for the preschoolers to play with on the playground. If anyone would like to assist the Eagle Project or has a wagon, please contact the Carol in the office.

August 2014 Calendar

Sundays

9:00 am—Sunday School
10:00 am—Worship

Tuesdays

Prayer Group-9:00 am

Council on Ministries

Monday, August 4, 7:00 pm

UMW Executive Committee

Tuesday, August 26, 7:00 pm

Adult Choir

Wednesday, August 27, 7:15 pm

September 2014 Calendar

Sundays

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

Tuesdays

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

Wednesday Programs

Dinner—6:00 pm
Children's Choir—6:30 pm
Children's Program—7:00 pm
Adult Study—7:00 pm
Adult Choir—7:15 pm

Newsletter Deadline

October/November issue, September 19

Senior Fellowship/Luncheon

Thursday, September 4, 11:45 am

UMM Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 6:30 pm

Church Office Closed

September 1

UMW Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 5:30 pm

Finance Committee

Monday, September 15, 6:00 pm

Administrative Board

Monday, September 15, 7:00 pm

