



The Beacon of St. Paul United Methodist Church

June 1, 2011

Staff

Reach or leave a message for staff members at 866.4326)

Dr. Ron McIntire
Pastor

Carol Ann Chilton
Visitation Pastor

Nancy Phillips
Secretary

Gary Snider
Custodian

Rosemary Jackson
Music Ministry

Jim Tarrant
Organist

Mission:
to serve as the body of Christ in downtown Springfield and surrounding areas.

Prayer, Repentance and Healing Service Planned

You may recall that one of the HCI prescriptions called for our coach, Royal Speidel, to conduct a day of prayer, repentance and healing for the St. Paul congregation so our membership will be fully prepared for the Lord's vision for our church's future. Rev. Royal has scheduled **Sunday, June 5** as the date for the prayer, repentance and healing service. This service will occur **during the regular Sunday morning worship message**, which Royal will deliver. This service will not last any longer than a normal Sunday worship service. Please plan to attend.

HCI Day of Visioning Scheduled

Coach Royal Speidel and Pastor Ron have scheduled the visioning session called for in our prescriptions (prescription #1) to occur **Monday evening, June 20 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** This session is open to all who care to attend, with the Church Council specifically asked to be present. If you are a member of the Council and cannot attend, please let Pastor Ron or Chairperson Jo McDowell know. Please come and participate in this vital activity.

MAY MISSION HOURS

St. Paul served a total of 544 hours. Thank you to all who serve and turn in your hours.



If you would like a visit from the pastor, please contact the church office at 866-4326 or 866-4327.

Recent Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers this week. These are recent concerns of our church family.

Billy Gonser
Mary Zabek
Rita Hood
Carol Reece
Lonnie
Lilburn Smith
Simple Church
Bill Trotter
Roger Walker
Royal Speidel
Sarah Jo Radcliff
Jan Shryer
Nancy Berry
Ruthie Wyatt

John Horner
Tonya
Ben Grauer
Cathy Lindstrom
Keith Wilson
Alfreeda Albaugh
Tom Watson, Jr.
Mike Wright
Gerald Bonham
Michael Simpson
Shirley Griter
Tara Stafford
Faulkner Family
Mary Oheim

Joplin Tornado Victims
Jim & Norma Cooper
Bill Nelson & Family
Becca Fletcher & Family
Eric and family

These prayer concerns will be printed for two weeks. If there are prayer concerns, please contact Linda Mason at home number 886-4779.



Remember if you would like to ride the bus on Sunday mornings, call Alishia Norman at 368-3685 or Daniel Bush at 773-9337 on Saturday evening before 7:00 p.m.

Hurry Up and Wait

We all know that patience is a virtue. Sometimes it's one thing to know something and another thing to live it out. To me, patience is one of those challenges. We have all heard the line that is supposed to be a prayer uttered by the impatient man, "Lord, give me patience, and give it to me right now!" While this line is usually shared in jest and humor, there's a great deal of truth surrounding it for many of us.

We all are tested with situations that cause much frustration. One of those for me is having to wait for something or someone. I know it has to do with patience, and I'm working on it, but I still am challenged when and where waiting is involved. I have found that a couple of verses from Psalm 130 help me retain my perspective, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning (v. 5-6, NRSV).

These two verses help me to stay focused and content. I have found that when I am content, not anxious or worried, God gives me his light and insight, and lets me know all that I need to know. I thank God that I am not given more than is necessary for me to know to continue my walk of sanctification. Otherwise, my path could go awry. We can try and try to seek God's light, but we don't receive it until God chooses to send it our way. Neither do we know how it will come or how we will recognize it when it does. If we try to know more than we've been made to know, we will accomplish nothing and remain frustrated our entire life. Quite simply, we are to wait. We are to wait patiently for God.

I have learned over time to not weary myself with trying to find things beyond what God wants me to know. Instead, I abide in the peace and understanding God's already given to me. That's more than plenty to occupy my mind. What remains difficult for me and for others, I think, is for us to become blind to presumption. Presumption is the insidious desire for us to know more than we probably need to know. It is presumption that most frequently leads us into situations where we made assumption errors that hurt us and other people.

We must learn contentment. The more we pray and study God's word, the more likely we will feel contentment. Contentment basically means that our soul is at rest; our soul is comfortable with our relationship with God. When God finds a soul at rest in him and that soul is not easily moved by whims of the world, that's when God begins to operate in that soul, and God operates in his own way. As the Apostle Paul notes in Romans 11:34, we are incapable of knowing or understanding God's mind so it's an effort in frustration for us to spend time presuming or assuming.

When God finds that soul at rest, that soul allows God to do great thing within it. God gives such a soul the key to all the treasures that he has prepared for it so that it might enjoy them. And to that same contented soul, God gives the joy of his love and presence, which that soul absorbs much like a blotter absorbs water.

Indeed, in our fast-paced lives of 2011, I'm sure many of us struggle with being patient. Let each of us remember that we must be diligent and wait upon the Lord and we too can experience the peace that surpasses all understanding when God finds our soul at rest and decides to pay us a visit. I welcome those visits and I hope you do, too.

In Christ,

Pastor Ron

Our Burr Oak Tree

I want to share some information I have received about our Liberty Tree, the 230+-year-old burr oak tree, to the east of Ragan House. I wanted to get the best opinions from the best authorities. After talking with professors at MO State, I was urged to contact our urban forester with the MO Dept. of Conservation, Cindy Garner. Cindy examined our tree and then called me with her report. Although she had some positive things to say about the tree, she cautioned that there are some symptoms that lead her to think it might ought to come down. She encouraged me to contact the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture)-certified arborist she uses to have him examine the tree and give his opinion. He inspected the tree last Friday morning. He first determined how strong the root system is and if it is able to hold the tree in place. He says that 50% of the base indicates decay, from the north around toward the east and then toward the south. At the base of the tree there we see conks, or fungi which indicate decay taking place. At the crown of the tree, where the tree goes out in two different directions, rot can be seen and is also the likely entrance to the tree for squirrels. The tree has a target-rich environment, i.e., if it fell it would likely fall northwest to northeast and hit Ragan House, the garage, the east church wing, the bridge, or the parking lot or a combination of those. If our insurance does not cover the resulting damage from the tree's fall, we must consider taking down the tree soon. We all hate to take out a tree, particularly one which has witnessed so much history. The Trustees will discuss this matter at our meeting on the first Monday of June. However, let us remember something profound about an old tree like this one.

Why is an old tree so beautiful? It fights gravity constantly. As new limbs grow, it must constantly shift and twist to stay balanced; it must drive hard and deep into the ground with roots and grow and grip the earth with buttresses to stay erect in high winds. A 40 ft tree, in order to get a molecule of water to the highest most leaf cell, must exert 3000 lbs. of suction force from the root tips. The inner workings of the tree are a constant fight against the elements that it needs to survive. As it grows, it twists, becomes gnarled, and, above all, beautiful.

Marti Robinette,
Secretary, Trustees

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Ushers: June Snyder, Martha Eddlemon
Linda Maddox, Patrick Walker

L.I.F.T. (Learning is Fun Together)

On Wednesday, June 8 the Spring schedule of L. I. F. T. will conclude with the 9:30 a.m. session "Get the Scoop" by Beth Domain followed at 11:00 a.m. with "Theatre Excerpts" by Lori Ann Dunn.

Update Information

Carol Ann Chilton has requested that we not hold a reception for her to celebrate her years of service to St. Paul as was originally offered. We will honor her request. The Love Offering for her will still be held and will take place on Sunday, June 26.

She also asked that everyone be aware that United Methodist Discipline protocol requires that any pastor no longer under appointment at a church have no pastoral or personal contact, including phone calls, with former parishioners, and not physically be at or in that church for a period of one year. This protocol applies to all United Methodist pastors world-wide.

Funeral Dinners

At the May 2011 meeting, the St. Paul Church Council approved a policy that outlines the procedure for how funeral dinners at the church will be handled. The policy is not a great departure from what we have always done; however, it does call for the pastor to annually appoint someone to serve as Funeral Dinner Coordinator. That person, in turn, will select persons who will organize callers, pre-dinner organizers, servers and clean-up persons. This policy is intended to simplify the organization of funeral dinners, which are a wonderful outreach for families who have lost a loved one.

Anyone interested in serving as the Funeral Dinner Coordinator for the remainder of 2011, please let Pastor Ron know.

**ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

MAILING ADDRESS

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 417-866-4326
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OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 9-4 PM

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Pastors' Contact Information

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***Rev. Carol Ann Chilton,
Visitation Pastor***

Office: 866-4326
Home: 862-3417

Sunday, June 5

9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Prayer, Repentance and
Healing Service
Noon Pastors Luncheon

Monday, June 6

5:30 pm Trustee meeting

Wednesday, June 8

6:30 pm Choir practice
7:15 pm Art Guild meets
7:30 pm New Fire Youth Group

Thursday, June 9

10:00 am Ragan House Task Force

Friday, June 10

5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, June 11

5:00 pm Wedding