

## **Beacon Article Deadline Dates for 2012**

Monday, January 2, 2012 for Beacon of January 4, 2012

Monday, January 16, 2012 for Beacon of January 18, 2012

Monday, January 30, 2012 for Beacon of February 1, 2012

Monday, February 13, 2012 for Beacon of February 15, 2012

Monday, March 5, 2012 for Beacon of March 7, 2012

Monday, March 19, 2012 for Beacon of March 21, 2012

Monday, April 2, 2012 for Beacon of April 4, 2012

Monday, April 16, 2012 for Beacon of April 18, 2012

Monday, April 30, 2012 for Beacon of May 2, 2012

Monday, May 14, 2012 for Beacon of May 16, 2012

Monday June 4, 2012 for Beacon of June 6, 2012

Monday, June 18, 2012 for Beacon of June 20, 2012

Monday, July 2, 2012 for Beacon of July 4, 2012

Monday, July 16, 2012 for Beacon of July 18, 2012

Monday, July 30, 2012 for Beacon of August 1, 2012

Monday, August 13, 2012 for Beacon of August 15, 2012

Monday, September 3, 2012 for Beacon of September 5, 2012

Monday, September 17, 2012 for Beacon of September 19, 2012

Monday, October 1, 2012 for Beacon of October 3, 2012

Monday, October 15, 2012 for Beacon of October 17, 2012

Monday, November 5, 2012 for Beacon of November 7, 2012

Monday, November 19, 2012 for Beacon of November 21, 2012

Monday, December 3, 2012 for Beacon of December 5, 2012

Monday, December 17, 2012 for Beacon of December 19, 2012

## **Work on East Wing to Start Soon**

The excitement is mounting!

Remodeling work on the east hallway, Bigelow Fellowship Center, and main floor rest rooms will commence on or about January 10, 2012. It is expected that it will take approximately three months to complete the work. If you haven't already seen them, architect renderings of the new fellowship center are posted on the hallway bulletin board close to the east door.

During construction time, the east entrance door will be closed so the work can be done and also so no one coming in the church could accidentally be injured by construction debris. Access to the church will be through the middle set of doors behind the Ragan House with a handicap accessible entrance open on the Jefferson Street side of the building. These doors will remain open during business hours.

We are hoping to be able to use the church offices during most of the construction time; however, if we need to relocate for a day or so to aid the workmen, we will relocate to the upstairs offices during that time. We will keep parishioners informed of known changes and will post signs on the east and south doors throughout the project.

**Please know that the workmen will have the east hall open each Sunday so we can park in the east lot and come and go through the east door and hallway for worship services. That door will again be locked and off limits Monday morning.**

If any parishioner has questions concerning access to the building, please call the church office at 866-4326. Also, if you would like to see the full set of drawings, please stop by the church office during business hours and we would be happy to make them available to you.

## **Children's Church to Start Jan. 8**

In an effort to attract more children to St. Paul UMC, we will begin a children's church program on Sunday, January 8. Children's church will occur simultaneously with our 10:45 a.m. worship service so both parents and children can worship at the same time. Sunday School will be limited to youth and adults and will still occur from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Children less than eight years of age are invited to attend children's church where they will learn Bible stories, sing songs, and hear a message especially designed for them. The children's church room will be on the second floor across from the adult Wesley classroom.

A number of churches are moving to this arrangement so parents who do not plan to attend Sunday School can still bring their children and both of them have a worship experience during the same hour. With children's church, there will be no Young Disciples message in the 10:45 a.m. service.

Amanda Walton, our children's director, is in charge of children's church and the number of classes needed will be dictated by the numbers of children attending.

## In Honor of Giving

### To the Christmas Offering Fund

In Honor of Shep Woolford & Jo McDowell

By: The Wesley Sunday School Class

### To the Ragan House Fund

In honor of Linda Mason &  
Marti Robinette

By: Donna Wiley & Nick Wiley

## HOSPITAL UPDATE

Hi Church Family!

Lilburn is holding his own and is still in ICU. They are taking real good care of him, but he is not out of the woods. I'm feeling pretty good about what little improvement he shows. Just keep the prayers going-I'm sure they help a great deal.

My love to all,

*Joan Smith*

**Thank You** – (St. Paul received the following letter from the Morrisville UMC)  
(Seekers Sunday School Class participated in this project)

Dear Friend of MUMY,

Thank you for your contribution to the success of Sole Food, the recent service project of the Morrisville United Methodist Youth (MUMY). As you may recall, we collected shoes of all sizes, types, and conditions. In turn, we gave these shoes to the Springfield service organization, Friends Against Hunger.

Friends Against Hunger then sold these shoes to an individual in St. Louis for further distribution to remote areas in Africa. Shoes sent there enabled children to attend school and provided protection from foot cuts which often led to painful infections. Unusable shoes were sold to provide money for the drilling of wells. Fresh, clean water is the number one need of remote villages.

Locally, revenue earned from the sale of shoes will be used by Friends Against Hunger for the purchase of ingredients for food packets. Each packet serves four people a nutritionally balanced meal. More than 3 million such packets have been shipped all over the world over the past 3 years. As a part of this project, we volunteered to help fill and package these meals.

Our efforts, along with our sister church in Aldrich, collected more than 6,000 pairs of shoes. The result is the ability to make and distribute 12,000 food packets that will feed 48,000 people. We praise God for your generosity and help in making this a very successful endeavor. It takes all of us to make this type of project successful, and to make a difference to a world in need. Thank you. May God bless you as you have blessed others.

On behalf of the youth group,

*Larry Summers, Pastor and Cheryl Hinkle, Volunteer Youth Leader*

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members in attendance for the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were: Linda Mason, Marti Robinette, Sandie McIntire and Pastor Ron McIntire.

Chairperson Linda Mason opened the meeting and asked Pastor McIntire for prayer. Minutes from the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed and approved.

Business that came before the committee:

- It was decided that regular communion with the individual element cups and the wafers would be used on Christmas Eve for candlelight communion service beginning at 6 p.m.
- It was noted that there would be **no Sunday School classes on Christmas Day** but the regular worship service will be held at 10:45 a.m.
- Seekers adult Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Wesley adult Sunday School class will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup>. However, there will be no Children's Sunday School beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>, as St. Paul will be moving to a Children's Worship Service in an effort to attract more participants. The Children's Worship Service will be held at the same time as regular worship service. Amanda Walton will be the coordinator/teacher in the upstairs children's classroom beginning Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Seekers Sunday School class will move to the Mural Room or Fellowship Hall downstairs beginning on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be **NO Contemporary Worship services on Christmas Day or New Year's Day** due to the number of college student praise band members who are at home for the holidays.
- The red poinsettias on the altar area need to be removed after worship service on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>. However, the large white poinsettias will remain on the altar area until January and the end of the Advent Season.
- The removal of the Christmas decorations, particularly in the sanctuary because of a wedding on January 7<sup>th</sup>, will be accomplished on **Tuesday, January 3, from 1 - 3 p.m. and from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Everyone's help is needed!! Those who are unable to climb ladders are still needed to pack away the decorations.**
- Linda Mason asked if it is possible to add small notepads to the visitor gift bags along with the imprinted pens once the supply of mugs has been depleted. The imprinted pens have already been ordered. The mugs will not be used in the future because of a sharp increase in prices. The cost of the notepads will be investigated.

The meeting was closed with prayer before being adjourned.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, beginning at 2 p.m. in the church library. Minutes of this meeting will be made ready for distribution to committee members on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The church office will mail the minutes to any member not present during worship service on that date.

(Submitted by Sandie McIntire)

## HOSPITALITY, MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Members present for the December 13, 2011, meeting were: Dottie Miller, Linda Mason, Marti Robinette, Pastor Ron McIntire, Jean Graham, Mary Ellen Collins and Sandie McIntire.

Chairperson Dottie Miller called the meeting to order, asked Pastor McIntire to open with prayer; the minutes of the previous meeting on October 11, 2011, were accepted.

Business before the committee under Hospitality included:

- The date of the next quarterly fellowship dinner will be January 15, 2012 with a winter theme. This fellowship dinner will be strictly a potluck meal, meaning that whatever is brought that day by participants is what will be served. The church will **not** furnish a meat entrée but beverages and disposable table service will be provided. The next fellowship dinner thereafter will be March 18th. Linda Mason will see if Tim Piland is available for catering that meal.

Under Mission Items discussed:

- Dottie Miller gave a final report on the SPS 37 (Springfield Public Schools 37 elementary buildings) back-to-school project. She provided an itemized listing of all school supplies donated to Crosslines for this all-church mission, and will be talking to Crosslines as to whether they will be holding this drive again next year.
- Sandie McIntire and Dottie Miller gave a final report on the annual Hat & Mittens Tree mission project. Almost 300 hats, mittens, gloves and scarves were collected this year. Dottie Miller took 50 of the adult hats to Well of Life for their clients and the hats were gone almost immediately. More will be provided for Well of Life as soon as they are made. The remaining hats, mittens, gloves and scarves were taken to Crosslines for distribution to area needy families before Christmas. McIntire also noted that, as of next year, the tree and receiving baskets for accepting these items will be moved to where the round table is next to the pew in the common hallway before entering the sanctuary through the east door. She noted that the move would give greater visibility to the mission and also help decorate that area with a Christmas theme.
- Progress on Amanda's Coat Closet was discussed with Sandie McIntire explaining that a two-day free coat offering would be held later that week in an effort to "get the word out" that St. Paul UMC has coats free of charge for anyone who needs them. The coat racks would be moved upstairs and the outside sign would be used to advertise. It was noted that it might take several such events to catch the attention of those needing coats for this winter. Additionally, a notice would be put on the church website online.

- A discussion was held on the feasibility of sending care packages to soldier's serving in harm's way as St. Paul has in the past. The incredible cost of mailing the boxes and the fact that there was now no active war site in which U.S. troops are engaged led the committee to discuss other mission projects. After some discussion concerning the dire need for new underwear and socks for homeless men in the Springfield area, many of whom are veterans, the motion was made by Linda Mason and seconded by Marti Robinette to transition from the Any Soldier program to providing underwear and warm socks for adult men to be given to The Kitchen for distribution. This will be the all-church May mission project. The motion was passed. An article explaining fully this mission program will be printed in the April Beacon.
- Sandie McIntire gave a report to the committee on the Soulfood Project undertaken by the Seekers Sunday School class. The thank-you letter from the Morrisville United Methodist Church youth group to St. Paul was read and will be printed in an upcoming Beacon. A copy of that letter is included with these minutes.
- Linda and Marti took the Ozarks Methodist Manor Christmas gifts for residents to Switzer UMC, which was the collection point, and both commented upon the huge outpouring of gifts for this mission from St. Paul.

Under Outreach items discussed:

- Pastor McIntire noted that the church website and Facebook page both continue to be an active presence for St. Paul. He quoted a current statistic that 95% of all first-time guests will have looked at a church's website before deciding to attend.
- It was noted that since the price of the beverage mugs has gotten so high, once the current supply of mugs is exhausted, they will be replaced in the visitor gift bags with a ballpoint pen that has information about St. Paul on it. Each member of the committee was given one of the new pens.

The next meeting of this committee will be Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the church library. Minutes of this meeting will be made ready for distribution to committee members on Sunday, February 5th. The church office will mail the minutes to any member not present in worship on that date.

The meeting was adjourned.

(Submitted by Sandie McIntire)