



The Beacon of St. Paul United Methodist Church

Dec. 21, 2011

Staff

Reach or leave a message for staff members at 866.4326

Dr. Ron McIntire
Pastor

Nancy Phillips
Secretary

Gary Snider
Custodian

Rosemary Jackson
Music Ministry

Dr. Jim Tarrant
Organist

Dody Harmon
Contemporary Music

Lauren Wilson
Youth

Amanda Walton
Children

Mission:
The making of new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Greetings from the staff

May you...

... experience the tranquility and peace of the Shepherd's hillside;

... feel the comfort of the lowing animals in the stable of Christ's birth;

... know the love of God that surrounded the Christ Child that night;

and may the light of the Star of Bethlehem light your path throughout the year.

Merry Christmas



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
Mark
Pat Stringer
Keith Wilson
Michael Simpson
Jan Shryer
Alex Redpath
Cooper
Leona Schrader
Carla Evans
Kristin Blankenship
Peggy Thomas
Lilburn Smith
Becky Alberty

Mary Zabek
Carol Reece
Cathy Lindstrom
Mike Wright
Shirley Griter
Jerry Walls
Jim & Norma
Mary Shanahan
Pat Wyatt
Nancy B.
Carolyn B.
Nancy Woolford
Lee Family
Kendra

Contemporary Service
Marine Marshall Blansett
Karen Christopherson

Rickman Family
Safe Travel Mercies for Kim Hogsett
Children with cancer

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.

From the Pastor

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.
Revelation 3:15-16. [NIV] (Jesus' words to the church in Laodicea)

While it's tempting to want to focus this column on the upcoming Christmas morning, I feel compelled to share with you a concern I see with a lack of commitment for regular church attendance. I have been concerned about this for quite a while and the way it leads to bad worship habits.

I have been pondering over this topic for some time trying to decide how to approach it when a St. Paul member gave me a copy of a newsletter from her out-of-state home church. In it the pastor had a very poignant article that addressed this topic in an interesting and insightful way. While I have added a bit to make it fit with our church, the main idea remains intact, and I am indebted to that pastor for its use.

The article begins with the statement that as Americans, we cherish and are forever thankful for the right to vote. The pastor who authored this article said that 30 years ago he was part of a team of four pastors who were given the task of closing or keeping open a Methodist Church in that area's county seat town. The average attendance of that church had dropped to seven (7) people on Sundays. The pastor team decided the best thing they could do was let the church members decide what would happen with the church. The pastor said it was his job to go to the members and announce that the next Sunday a vote would be taken to close the church or keep it open. That next Sunday, 77 people showed up and now 30 years later the church is doing fine.

As a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, **every Sunday you vote to either close the doors of this church or keep them open for making new disciples for Jesus Christ to transform the world.**

YOU proclaim your vote not only to yourself, but to others ~ to your children, grandchildren, and to God. **YOU vote to keep the church open by your attendance---YOU vote to close the doors by your failure to attend.**

I assure you that you vote to close the doors by your failure to attend. Both worship and Sunday School are of eternal importance not only to you, but to others as well - especially the children and grandchildren.

Please know that the young people in our church read our attendance patterns as our sincerity toward our faith and our church. Our sincerity and commitment to attend every Sunday will determine their future mindset about our church and their sincerity and commitment. **YOU** are setting the pattern.

This coming Sunday and every Sunday, vote **YES** for God, vote **YES** for St. Paul! Stand strong with God on this issue—attend Sunday School and worship!

Each of us will soon be faced with the annual decision of New Year's resolutions. I pray that you think about this article and the point it makes regarding how your church depends on you, both now and in the future. Make regular church attendance and involvement your New Year's resolution for 2012.

May God grant you a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ron

Facebook Small Group Scheduled for January 14

Lay Leader Tim Piland has scheduled a Small Group Ministry teaching time for anyone wanting to learn how to access and use Facebook on the Internet. Tim will teach the class and it will **meet in the church library on Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 9:30 – Noon**. Persons who have access to a laptop computer that has a wireless modem should bring it, and the church will provide laptop computers for class members who do not have one.

In this class you will learn how to access St. Paul's Facebook page, other Facebook pages, how to communicate over Facebook, how to create your own Facebook page, how to post digital photos on Facebook and other nuances of the social network. At the conclusion of the Facebook class, the Small Group may opt to expand into other computer learning areas.

Space is limited so reserve your spot early by contacting the church office at 866-4326.

Don't Forget...

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion – 6:00 p.m.
No Christmas morning Sunday School classes.
Christmas morning worship – 10:45 a.m.
No contemporary worship on Christmas day evening.
No Wesley Sunday School class on January 1.
Seekers Sunday School class will meet on January 1.
Regular morning worship at 10:45 a.m. on January 1.
No contemporary worship on the evening of January 1.

A Heartfelt Thanks

To everyone who contributed in any way to the overwhelming success of our Hats & Mittens Tree mission project this year. We were able to donate almost 300 hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to Crosslines and to Well of Life to assist their clients in keeping warm this winter.

Thank you, St. Paul, for your generosity, your thoughtfulness, and most of all, for your caring spirit.

Sandie McIntire & Dottie Miller, Chairpersons

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Sunday, December 25, 2011

Ushers: Nancy Phillips, Mike Phillips,
Jim Owen.



***Candlelight Communion service will be
Saturday evening, December 24 at
6:00 p.m.***

What Goes Up Must Come Down

The law of gravity also applies to Christmas decorations, and the date for taking down the beautiful festive decorations throughout the building that we have enjoyed for the past month is **Tuesday, January 3rd**. We must have the decorations taken down and packed away that day because of an upcoming wedding in the sanctuary on January 7th.

We have two work sessions on that Tuesday, which are: **1-3 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. or until finished.**

Many hands are going to make light work of this project so please plan to come and lend yours. Even if you can't climb a ladder any more, you can help pack away the decorations. This way, everyone can go home as quickly as possible knowing they have done their part.

And thanks in advance for your help!

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

413 E. Walnut
Springfield, MO 65806

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OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 9-4 PM

Phone: 417-866-4326
Fax: 417-866-3442

Email addy: stpaulumcoffice@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.stpaulumcspringfield.org



See us on Facebook.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 25

10:45 am Celebration of Worship

Monday, December 26 Church Office Closed

Dr. Ron McIntire, Pastor

Office: 866-4326

Home: 777-5742

Cell: 417-298-1793

Email: stpaulumcpastor@sbcglobal.net

St. Paul UMC mission: *The making of new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*