



The Beacon of St. Paul United Methodist Church

Jan. 4, 2012

Staff

Reach or leave a message for staff members at 866.4326

Dr. Ron McIntire
Pastor

Nancy Phillips
Secretary

Scott Rankin
Bookkeeper

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.



Our next quarterly fellowship dinner will be held on Sunday, January 15th, in the fellowship hall downstairs following worship service and this dinner will be truly a potluck meal. This event is not a catered meal but rather will be whatever participants bring.

The church will NOT be providing an entrée but will provide disposable table service items such as plates, napkins, cups, etc., as well as beverages. Since the meal will be provided totally by those participating, there will be no monetary donations basket set out.

Everyone is invited to attend, and our special guests will be those who have joined St. Paul as members since the last fellowship dinner.



SEEKERS CLASS HAS MOVED

Don't forget, Seekers Sunday School class members you have moved to the mural room downstairs in the lower level. Sunday School begins at 9:30, coffee and donuts available.

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

Recent Prayer Requests

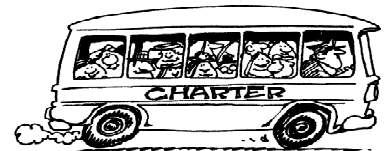
Please keep the following people in your prayers this week. These are recent concerns of our church family.

Billy Gonser	Mary Zabek
Mark	Carol Reece
Pat Stringer	Cathy Lindstrom
Keith Wilson	Mike Wright
Michael Simpson	Jan Shryer
Jerry Walls	Alex Redpath
Jim & Norma Cooper	Mary Shanahan
Leona Schrader	Pat Wyatt
Carla Evans	Nancy B.
Kristin Blankenship	Carolyn B.
Betty Dobyns	Mary Oheim
Becky Alberty	Mae Willson
Derek	Robert Bostic
Chandler Family	Emil Grant
Shay Pendergrass	John O'Roark

Contemporary Service
Imogene Walton
Lauderbaugh Family
Marine Marshall Blansett
Karen Christopherson
Members of the New Apostolic Church

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

DECEMBER MISSION HOURS



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.

Starting a New Tradition

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24 (NRSV)

Albeit a Saturday evening, this past Christmas Eve proved to be one of the most memorable worship experiences I have had the pleasure to enjoy. I sensed something special was occurring when we began to run short of worship bulletins and candles/holders for the candlelight communion service about 10 minutes before it was scheduled to begin. Several folks pitched-in to assemble more candles and holders while I quickly ran off more bulletin copies and people continued to arrive.

As I was waiting for the copies to finish, I recalled some four years ago, my first year as pastor at St. Paul, when we re-instituted the practice of having a Christmas Eve candlelight communion service. That evening, as memory serves, we had about 10 or 12 people in attendance. Since then our attendance on Christmas Eve has steadily grown. I believe we had about 40-45 people last year.

When I looked out at the congregation Christmas Eve as the service started, I noticed that we had quite a number of people. The actual count turned out to be 88, which was wonderful. I believe the Holy Spirit is working in our church. The Holy Spirit works through people and this night was no exception. I saw many St. Paul members who brought with them their entire family who had gathered for Christmas. One family group filled an entire pew, while another family occupied two pews, with everyone enjoying each other's company. Other families had fewer in their group, but they were equally pleased to be among their loved ones.

Interestingly, I have had several St. Paul folks tell me that their family started a new tradition this past Christmas. That tradition is for them to come to St. Paul in mass to enjoy together the candlelight service and partake in Holy Communion. I can honestly say that I can think of no better tradition for a family to start than that one.

I looked at parents sitting alongside their grown children and in some cases holding a grandchild. Such a picture is one of the true meanings of Christmas. Christmas is a family holiday. As we sang the familiar hymns, the sound was magnificently sweet to the ear as voices mixed. During the greeting time, it was clear that old friendships were renewed and new acquaintances were quickly made.

Once we came to the part where everyone took their candle and formed a circle in the front half of the sanctuary, it was interesting to watch the adults position themselves amongst the children so the children could participate in the candle lighting safely. As I took the light from the Christ Candle to begin lighting the candle next to me, the beautiful strands of "O Holy Night" were heard. I watched the faces of everyone as their candle was lit by their neighbor and they, in turn, lit their neighbor's candle.

Watching the light travel around the circle in the darkened sanctuary always reminds me of the way Jesus told us to spread the Good News he brought to earth. It always has been one person sharing the Light of the World with another person, who then shares it with someone else.

Once the light had traveled around the circle, to look upon everyone with their candles illuminating their face, was a picture of hope and peace and joy and love just as the Sundays of Advent signify. What a way to begin Christmas and what a tradition to start. If you missed this service, I urge you to make our Christmas Eve service a family tradition.

Blessed to serve,

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.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for their gifts this Christmas. May God be with you throughout the coming year.

*Pastor Ron, Nancy, Gary, Scott, Dody, Lauren, Amanda,
Jim Tarrant, Rosemary, and Contemporary Worship
Volunteers.*

*** WINTER REMINDER ***

If the Springfield Schools are closed due to inclement weather, we are too!

Not only will the office be closed that day but any scheduled church event/events that were to occur that day are cancelled.

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Sunday, January 8, 2012

Ushers: Alishia Norman, James Norman
Maridel Allinder, Martha Eddlemon

NEW ADDRESS FOR MILLIE JOHNSON

For those who correspond with Millie, she is now in assisted living at the following address.

5801 N. Oakwood Road #G225

Enid, OK 73701

Telephone: (580) 234-4922

E-mail: family@goldenoaks.com

NOTE: If you choose e-mail as your method of communication, be sure to put her name and apartment number on your e-mail and also know that she will not be able to respond back to your e-mail as her eyesight has declined.



Bible Study Resumes Jan. 22

Our Bible study for spring will begin Sunday, January 22, 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will be finishing the Kings of Israel. I will have the study guides available for participants to pick up on Sunday, January 15. They will be on the table outside the east entrance to the sanctuary. Please plan to bring a sack lunch or get a sandwich close by and join other study members for lunch prior to our study time together.

Our Bible study dates for the spring session are as follows: January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 4, and ending on March 11. Plan on joining us to learn about the kings of Israel and have a great time in fellowship.

Pastor Ron

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.

Dr. Ron McIntire, Pastor

Office: 866-4326

Home: 777-5742

Cell: 417-298-1793

Email: stpaulumcpastor@sbcglobal.net

Calendar of Events

Sunday, January 8

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Celebration of Worship
6:00 pm	Contemporary Worship
7:15 pm	BEAT Youth Group meets

Monday, January 9

5:30 pm	Trustees meet
6:30 pm	Finance Committee meets

Wednesday, January 11

6:30 pm	Choir Practice
8:30 pm	MSU Greenroom Contemp.orary

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