



The Beacon of St. Paul United Methodist Church

Oct. 5, 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

Jim Tarrant
Organist

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

On Wednesday, October 12, the 9:30 a.m. session will be "A Trip to the Holy Land and Petra" by Jerry Bellier, followed at 10:45 a.m. with "City Utilities Overview" by CU Representative.

DINNER SLATED FOR OCTOBER 30th

The Commitment Sunday dinner is now scheduled for October 30th following morning worship service in lieu of the normally planned fellowship dinner. This special dinner culminates the 2012 financial commitment drive and is a time of celebration for the financial commitments (pledges) that have been made to St. Paul UMC.

The Commitment Sunday dinner is a fully catered event and you won't have to bring a thing other than a good appetite and a smile.

Plan now to attend!

CROSSLINES

St Paul served "Fish Day" at Crosslines on Friday, September 23rd. We supplied the food for 41 families in need (total 100 people). In addition to supplying the food distributed that day, we also supplied the workers to help families "shop" for the grocery items that would best meet their families' needs. This is always a fun and rewarding activity. Thanks to all who volunteered their time to work at this important mission activity for our church. Thanks also to all who contributed to help cover the \$500.00 we pay on the five months we serve each year. St. Paul will also be helping pack and distribute Christmas and Thanksgiving baskets for Crosslines so watch for more volunteer opportunities. Thanks St. Paul!

Donna Wiley



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
Tonya	Mark
Carol Reece	Pat Stringer
Cathy Lindstrom	Keith Wilson
Bill Trotter	Mike Wright
Royal Speidel	Michael Simpson
Shirley Griter	Jan Shryer
Jerry Walls	Darwin Robbins
Alex Redpath	Laura Rodgers
Jim & Norma Cooper	Pat Wyatt
Betty Dobyns	Don Stockton
Forest Bradley Family	Ginger Perkins
Mary Shanahan	LaDonna Beeler
Marilyn Moore	Angela Acree
Kevin Shultz	Rochelle
Harmon Wyett Family	Jester Family
Nancy Berry	Kendra
Faun Aleen Tranbarger	Bill Buxton

Betty & Elmer Snider
Karen Christopherson
Contemporary Service
Marine Marshall Blansett
Mashayla & Kaitlyn Hooker
More members in the choir

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.

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

Small Group Ministry

People are more disconnected today than ever before. We've gotten used to being disconnected the same way the frog got used to the ever increasing heat in the beaker of water until it cooked him! Family, community and neighborhoods—the core of life for “baby boomers”—is no more. People were safer then. We knew our neighbors. We were active members of a community. We were connected to many people and that connection made us feel better, feel safer.

We can literally live our disconnected lives while attending and serving in our church today. Too often, Christians show up at church each Sunday, chat with a few people, sing, hear a message, and then head-out to find Sunday lunch. They have been “at church,” but they have not become part of the church. They don't build Christ-centered relationships outside of the Sunday morning doors of the church.

As Christians, we can say “aw-shucks” and accept that feeling of disconnect and leave the status quo, or we can find a way to build community and solve that disconnectedness by coming together in smaller groups.

What are small groups and why have them?

Small groups are four to twelve people that meet at least monthly (more often is better) to share life together through a combination of fun, fellowship, scripture, and prayer. These groups meet at people's homes, at the church, or other easily accessible areas. Small groups change lives better than any other ministry in the church can hope to do. In these groups, relationships are built, fellowship happens, and these groups become the first line of personal care for the hurts, needs and challenges of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We get to know one another at a level deeper than can be done during greeting time on Sunday morning.

Don't we already have small groups in Sunday School classes?

No, Sunday School is specifically designed to learn about the Bible and what it says to us. So are the eight-week Bible Studies. Both of these are important intentional faith development activities. Small groups take a different tack. They are specifically designed for church members to see how God's Word can apply to us today through fellowship and discussion. When this happens, real relationships are built and people become connected in ways never experienced before. Relationships and connectedness are the main purposes of small groups. Different group topics evolve and new groups are spawned. Small groups have a life cycle of three to eight weeks, depending on the topic at hand. They aren't permanent groups.

Are there other advantages for starting small groups?

Yes, two advantages come to mind quickly. First, small groups become the best way of bringing new people in the church into connectedness. The group incubates and bathes them in love and caring and helps them blossom into membership.

Secondly, the small group ministry is a way for future church leaders to grow and become viewed as leaders. Through directing a small group session, a person can experience leadership success and become willing to try even more kinds of responsibility within the church.

How can we start one or more small groups?

Actually, we already have one going that we call “Game Night.” Game Night can be continued or a spin-off might even also occur.

We have another one in the works through Tim Piland's willingness to teach a “Facebook for Beginners” class here at St. Paul. That class would likely last 6-8 sessions and I hope that it will spin-off into one or more other small groups such as “The Internet for Those Who Don't Know Anything About It, But Want To,” or “I'd Like to Learn to E-Mail.”

Yet another small group that is in the works is a six-to eight-session small group on “Quilting: Hoop and Lap Style” that Sandie McIntire is willing to lead. That one could spin-off several different ways, as well.

What are some different kinds of small groups?

We will start with what's called affinity groups—people who are interested in the same things. Many possibilities exist here. Some examples might include (but are certainly not limited to):

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- College and young adult singles
- Scrapbooking
- Putting photography on the Internet
- Fifty and older singles
- Beading and jewelry making for beginners
- Couples of all ages
- Vegetable gardening (spring)
- Flower gardening (spring)
- Fall floral arrangements
- Ladies' afternoon coffee
- Holiday decorating ideas
- Gourmet cooking
- Holiday baking
- Easy to do crafts
- "Knit Wits"
- The Man Cave (aka watching sports together)

We want to begin several more of these small groups as quickly as possible. If there is a group that you would like to see start, please let me know and I will try to locate someone to serve as facilitator. If there is a small group that you would like to plan and facilitate, let me know that, as well. Many growing churches are using the small group concept to bring in people to the church and as a way to get guests involved early.

In Christ,

Pastor Ron



St. Paul United Methodist Church

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Ushers: Linda Maddux, Lynn Culton, Jim Owen.

Mary Alice Circle Meets To Determine Its Future

Five members of the Mary Alice Circle met on September 27th to discuss the future of the group. Those members were Myrtice Long, Jo McDowell, Virginia Gleason, Phyllis Phiffer, and Sandie McIntire.

After providing refreshments for the group, Virginia Gleason opened the meeting with prayer. No minutes of the previous meeting were available to be read. It was noted that the Circle has \$37.83 remaining in its treasury.

As vice president of the group, Virginia stated that she had called all the members of Mary Alice Circle and only two women felt they could attend meetings regularly. Transportation issues and advancing years were the main reasons cited for fewer and fewer attending members.

After discussion by the entire group, a motion was made by Myrtice Long to disband the Mary Alice Circle because of the dwindling number of active members. The motion was seconded by Jo McDowell, and passed unanimously.

Discussion was then held on what to do with the remaining balance in the group's treasury and on a motion by Jo McDowell and seconded by Phyllis Phiffer, it was proposed that the Circle's love offering funds be used as a gift to the entire church in honor of all past Circle members and further, the funds should be used for the Bigelow Fellowship Center specifically for some facet of the coffee bar. The vote was unanimous.

It was further determined that all UMW pledges that have already been paid by Circle members will remain in the UMW account.

Virginia Gleason gave a very interesting book review before the meeting was adjourned.

Sandie McIntire

**ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Sunday, October 9

9:30 am Sunday School
10:45 am Celebration of Worship
1:00 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Contemporary Worship

Monday, October 10

6:30 pm Finance Committee meeting

Tuesday, October 11

1:00 pm Mission, Hosp. & Outreach
2:00 pm Worship Committee

Wednesday, October 12

6:30 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Youth Group meets
8:30 pm MSU Green Room

Thursday, October 13

10:00 am Ragan House Task Force
7:00 pm Lovely Lane circle meets