

# St. Paul's News

April 2013



*From the Pastor's Pen:*

St. Paul's Community,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! As we approach the month of April this year, we also arrive at Easter, the celebration of resurrection of Jesus. While we may often think of Easter of a singular day celebrate in reality, Easter Sunday begins the season of Eastertide in our church which continues for 50 days. This gives us 50 days to celebrate the hope and promise of eternal life that we receive in the resurrection.

As we set forth at St. Paul's to celebrate the resurrection of Christ over the next 50 days, I thought I would share with you this portion of the Easter story from the gospel of Luke which recounts the women going to the tomb and there "They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest."

The women were reminded and began to understand what it meant for Christ to be risen from the dead. And having taken hold of that hope for their own lives and they went and shared the goods news with others. And so during this Easter season I invite you to join us at St. Paul's as we discern the hope and promises available to us all in the resurrection and discover ways that we can share this good news with each other, our community, and the world.

Peace,

*Pastor Hannah*



## **Bible Study Opportunity**

Are you interested in a Bible Study small group that meets during the week? Starting Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Hannah will lead a group study of The Story of Your Life which features Christian musician Matthew West. The study will include DVD sessions, study of scripture passages, and time for us all to discover the story that God is working on in our own lives. This group will meet in the church parlor for six weeks on Mondays from 7:00-8:30pm. More information about the book and study can be found at [www.storyofyourlife.com](http://www.storyofyourlife.com).

## **Special Birthdays**

*April*

16 – Barb Stallings

If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office.



## Prayer Focus

Spring's been a long time coming and most of us are weary of cold, dark days and illnesses. Disgruntled we may be but how fortunate we are, how good God has been to us. So much of the rest of the world is not so blessed.

Wars and violence continue. In Sudan/Darfur hostilities have raged for 10 years with 300,000 killed and more than 2 million forced from their homes. It's not finished; more people fled to refugee camps in the first 2 months of this year than in all of 2012. Survivors suffer from tuberculosis, malaria, scabies, typhoid and even leprosy. Malnutrition, even starvation, is widespread. Help is very limited as governments have given up and other groups have turned their attention to other areas. So let's put Darfur back in our prayer list.

Lebanon, a country of 4 million, has seen an influx of over 400,000 Syrian refugees. The Lebanese government has left them to fend for themselves. In Qaa, a small Christian church has been trying to help. The priest delivers blankets and his family runs a medical clinic. Real Christianity, but not enough help. Inside Syria, volunteer groups attempt assist with food, water and supplies. As that conflict drags on let us keep those people in our prayers.

Hunger is also a serious problem in the US. At least 49 million Americans, a high percentage of them children, do not know where their next meal is coming from. Many are obese or have Type 2 diabetes as a result of a diet of cheap carbohydrates. Organizations such as FISH and the Sharing Kitchen help folks deal with the situation but they're not enough. We should lobby Congress to not cut WIC, free school meals and food stamps for poor children. Someone has said that if another country was doing this to our kids, we'd be

at war. Let's pray and do what we can to help.

Another concern is the Post Traumatic Stress of our veterans. Women vets are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. They have difficulty finding family housing well-paying jobs and many suffer from substance abuse and mental illness. Sexual trauma while in the military is often a major factor. Keep women vets in your prayers as well as men.

Have a blessed Easter knowing the Resurrection is our hope that God is with us no matter how bleak the situation. May we be His agents to make life better for many.

Leanne Wolff  
Church and Society



## 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Lunch Bunch

(includes women & men)

April 23 – at noon  
Out of town – to be announced

Marilyn Hutchins is the contact 419-447-9720



## Table Favor Committee

We will not be meeting in April. April's project is very easy and will not require an assembly day. We have added a third facility to receive favors. We will be taking favors to Ruffing Family Care Center several times this year.



## Sharing Kitchen

One hundred and fifty five volunteers manned the Sharing Kitchen during the cold, nasty month of February. As many of our guests come on foot or bicycles, inclement weather creates a problem for

them. Thus, we served only 334 adults and 10 children during the nine days we were open. We pray they had other sources of food during this time.



THANK YOU! To Chris, Cheryl and Kaelyn Armstrong for coordinating the chili cook-off on March 3<sup>rd</sup>! Everyone enjoyed the soup tasting. Congratulations to Rob Hawk. He received the blue ribbon for his chili. Over \$180 was collected for FISH. A check will be delivered along with the many boxes of food items we have been collecting during Lent. Thanks for all of the donations!



### **UMCOR ACTIVITIES**

In March we celebrated One Great Hour of Sharing, a special offering to fund UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). That offering makes it possible for 100% of a gift to go to a specified problem. I have found Advance numbers for Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Sandy other troubled spots.

Should the Lord move you to contribute to relief efforts in one of those areas, write your check to St. Paul's and mark the cause (ex. Lebanon) in the memo line. Or put your cash in an envelope and mark it UMCOR – your chosen cause.

I urge you to spend some time to check out the UMCOR websites to see all of the work we Methodists do around the world. I was amazed at the range of efforts UMCOR maintains. Reminds us again of how many needs exist.

### **TRUSTEES NEED YOUR HELP**

The Trustees have big plans to improve St Paul's. We have three very important projects which will require around \$30,000. First the Trustees are getting a quote to modernize the Church sound system. Hopefully in the next couple of months new up to date sound equipment will be installed.

Secondly the whited painted outside of the church needs to be scraped, primed and repainted. The Trustees will be seeking quotes soon.

Lastly, Trustees are exploring the need to replace the heat pump at the parsonage.

Donations of all amounts are needed to cover most of the cost. The Sharing Kitchen and Administrative council will be requested to help with funds.

Richard Kinstler Treasurer



### **ALIVE FESTIVAL 2013**

The Youth Fellowship is planning a trip to the Christian Music Festival, Alive. The festival is to be held June 19-22 at Atwood Lake Park. We are inviting anyone who is interested in attending to join us. If you are at all interested in going, please let Rob Ochier know so he can give you the information you need. To view the artists and speakers scheduled, as well as the other activities available at Alive, visit [www.alive.org](http://www.alive.org) For more information, contact Rob Ochier.

### **Upcoming Dates to Remember:**

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Spaghetti Dinner

June??? – Car Wash

## St. Paul's In Mission

Ann Harry will be returning in April. We have missed her and hope she has had a great winter in a warmer climate.

We collected a total of \$186 for the months of February and March for our Third Sunday Ingathering Offering. These donations will go to First Call for Help and be added to their St. Paul's Fund to assist families in the Tiffin Community.

Many items have been brought in for the FISH table. We appreciate all the donations from St. Paul's members. In addition to these items over \$180 was collected for FISH the day of the chili cook-off.

February 10<sup>th</sup> was Blanket and Tool Sunday, \$261 was collected to be sent to Church World Service.

We were pleased to serve nearly 50 guests on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> when we hosted the Community Lenten Lunch at St. Paul's. The Missions Committee was grateful for donations of food and workers for that day.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering was collected on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Again, we received generous donations totaling \$210. We will be collecting money for Native American Ministries on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Our special Easter envelope offering will be given to Sharing Kitchen. Thanks again to the congregation for all of their support!

Kathy Daniel



## Health Kits

The Youth are once again collecting items to send Health Kits for UMCOR to Annual Conference. The following items are needed for each health kit and are to be placed in Ziploc bags. You may donate a complete health kit or any individual items and we will assemble them for you. Last year St. Paul's sent 18 health kits! Boxes will be located at the back of the sanctuary until May 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!!

- 1 hand towel (15" X 25" up to 17" X 27", no kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-sized brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1 included to pay for toothpaste (which UMCOR purchases)



Want some fun in your **Life**? Feeling a bit **Sorry** and have the winter blues? Well we might just have the **Scatagories** for you! Old-fashioned Family Game Night!! For all ages, 1-101 years young! We want you to blow off your **Chutes and Ladders**, count your **Yahtzee** dice and bring in your **Kerplunk**!! Bring in your favorite board and card games and a friend and get to yell **Rummy**!! You don't want to be the **Old Maid** that missed out on this **Hands Down** event!!

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring in your family's favorite meal/casserole and any snacks you'd like to share!



The youth are busy, busy, busy!!! Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of every month unless we have a special activity taking place. Youth Fellowship is open to anyone in grades 6-12. Contact Rob or Amy Ochier for more information. Bring a friend or two!!

**Upcoming Schedule:**

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm,  
Bowling at Heritage Lanes in Tiffin. Bring a friend, plus \$10 for bowling (2 games), shoes, lunch (pizza) and drinks.

Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, We will finalize plans for the youth service.

Dates to keep in mind:

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Youth Led Worship Service  
June 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> – Alive!



On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Alive Group will be holding a spaghetti fundraiser dinner after Sunday School. The menu will include spaghetti with sauce, garlic bread, salad, dessert and drink. Cost – donation. We will also be taking donations of food to use to prepare the dinner. For more information, please contact Amy or Rob Ochier or any other member of the Alive Group.

**Newsletter deadline for the May Newsletter is April 19th**

Please **email or place on disk** in MS Word format (.doc) to [amynuala@yahoo.com](mailto:amynuala@yahoo.com)

