

# St. Paul's News

December 2012



*From the Pastor's Pen:*

St. Paul's,

We are approaching a very exciting time as a church family as the season of Advent begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Advent is a word that means "coming" and during this time we as Christians prepare both for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas as well as the second coming of Christ that we are looking towards in the future. While I know that it is difficult when it seems like Christmas is already among us in our stores and advertising we as a church are called to be in a time of waiting, a time of hope, and a time of expectation for Christmas.

And so this month I would encourage all of us to take some time away from the busyness that is often our Christmas season in order to spend some time considering the wonderful gift of the coming Christ in our lives. The gift of love, mercy, and grace that we witness in the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

You can celebrate Advent at your home in many different ways. From marking off the days until Christmas on a calendar to weekly or daily lighting of candles on an Advent wreath to a brief time of daily prayer and scripture reading.

Here at St. Paul's we will also be celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas in various ways. Look forward with us to some of these upcoming dates:

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: First Sunday of Advent and celebration of Holy Communion. We will also hold an alternative gift fair after worship where you will have the opportunity to give money to purchase gifts for those living in impoverished countries in honor of family or friends.

December 9<sup>th</sup>: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. There will be practice for the Children's Christmas Program following church and Sunday school.

December 16<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent and Children's Christmas Program.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 24<sup>th</sup>: We will celebrate Christmas Eve with a traditional evening service of song, scripture, and candle lighting.

December 30<sup>th</sup>: As we enter the Christmas season we will have opportunities for a hymn sing of some of our favorite Christmas carols.

Looking forward to celebrating the season with you all.

Peace,  
*Pastor Hannah*



## Special Birthdays

*December*

13 – Faye Eley  
16 – Carl Yager

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



## Prayer Focus

In Advent our thoughts focus on peace on earth. But like so many years, there is no peace.

Since the last newsletter went to print, Hurricane Sandy has devastated the East Coast. We've seen pictures, heard stories and probably know some of the victims. We need to keep all of those in prayer, especially those who may still remain without power and heat, food, water, sanitation and housing. Prayers of praise for the many who have worked throughout this time to help those in need. While we offer our prayers we can also help by supporting UMCOR with our donations. All of the money goes to help those in need. UMCOR has already issued \$10,000 emergency grants to the New York Conference, New York Disaster Interfaith Services, and the Greater New Jersey Conference as well as providing tens of thousands of flood buckets and health kits.

Last month we prayed for the conflict in Syria. That has accelerated with tens of thousands fleeing into neighboring countries where they live in tent cities. Again UMCOR is there. Pray that some resolution to this conflict may come quickly. And as I write, conflict between Israel and Hamas is increasing and that area is in danger of escalation also. Pray for wiser, saner heads to prevail.

The rest of the world also has problems. The two earthquakes that hit Guatemala left great destruction and at least 52 killed. The short supply of corn in North America as a result of last summer's drought is causing hunger in much of Central America where many are dependent on U.S. corn. The drought is predicted to continue. There are many in this country who are hungry also. Be with them and those everywhere who suffer from hunger as we eat our way through Christmas.

Pray too that civility might increase in our country. I am appalled by the strong dislikes some people have for others different than themselves. Certainly our election revealed some of that. The comment by one Big Ten

football player that he "respected but hated" the players of a rival team is indicative of real lack of Christian love in our culture. We have work to do to pass on the Christmas message!

Continue to pray for our local youth, for Youth Club, Connections, Youth Fellowship, The Landing and those adults who give of their time to work with them in need of Christian love.

May you have a blessed holiday focusing on Him who brought us love and peace.

Leanne Wolff  
Church and Society



## Lunch Bunch



(now includes women **and men**) We will not be meeting in December.

## Table Favor Committee

December 11, 2012 – 1:30 pm  
2-3 people will be needed to assemble the Christmas table favors for Seneca House and Friedman Village. If you can help, please contact Kathy. We will not meet in January 2013. Since most projects are quick to assemble we may begin a rotation of workers in 2013 and take turns as needed. It is a blessing to have such good help all year long. Happy Holidays!

- Kathy Daniel, Coordinator



## Hospice add-a-bow tree

If you are interested in helping Sandy Ritter and Krystal Lawrence volunteer for Hospice during the holiday season to accept donations and add bows to the tree, contact Sandy Ritter.

## Sharing Kitchen

Thanks to Ann Harry for organizing St. Paul's week in October. During the month 145 volunteers served 399 adults and 20 children. Count was down a bit during those warm, lovely days but the need continues.

The annual Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday December 15. Many, many community persons usually come to help on the day of the party. But more workers on Friday Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. would be appreciated. That's when we unpack and organize the gifts. A person or two to work in the nursery during the party would also be helpful. While we try to ask people to care for their own children, we sometimes have problems. Talk to Rich Kinstler for details.

If you wish to support this activity with gift items you might consider the following: cookies for refreshments, games and new toys that do not require batteries. Basketballs, footballs and soccer balls would also be helpful. While we usually have gifts for women, small inexpensive gifts for adult men are also needed.

Other needed items are bottles of dish detergent, bar hand soaps, dish towels and cloths, toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items. We have already received all the paper products we'll need.

Gift items can be brought to the church office until Dec. 13.



## ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION

The stacks of filled shoe boxes looked so festive with their many toys and other items for children across the world. We were able to send more boxes than in previous years by purchasing the empty boxes ahead of time and distributing them to members to fill. Thanks to all who took part in this

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child project.

Our Thanksgiving envelope giving is designated for Connections, the Tuesday evening group that now meets in our church. The local Emergency Heating Fund will receive money from the Christmas envelopes.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> you will have an opportunity to purchase items as Christmas gifts in the name of your relatives or friends at the Alternative Gift Fair. The Fellowship Hall will have five tables set up with information about possible items you can purchase to be sent to needy people around the world in honor of your friend or family member. This year we are ordering through World Vision. The five items are: two chickens (\$25), 1 rabbit (\$16), 2 soccer balls (\$16), 5 fruit trees (\$30) and a share in a well (\$100).

Also on December 2<sup>nd</sup> you may select a name from the Angel Tree. Each angel will have the name of a child, his or her age and ideas for a gift. The gifts should cost no more than \$20 and not be gift wrapped.

Watch for more details about a Soup and Sandwich lunch on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now to reserve this date.

Human Relations Sunday is on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Information and special envelopes will be in your Sunday bulletin.



*From heart to heart the  
warmth and joy of  
Christmas makes family  
feel near, even when they  
are apart.*

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 25,  
2012 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
MEETING**

Finance: Many members increased their giving during the past few months. Apportionments are paid to date. A stewardship letter has gone out. The 2013 budget of \$130,000 was approved.

Missions: St. Paul's members worked at the Sharing Kitchen in October. The Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project is underway with boxes distributed for members to fill and return. An Alternative Gift Fair is to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with items to be selected through World Vision. The Education Committee is helping to coordinate this project. A Soup and Salad lunch is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Thanksgiving envelope offering will be for Connections and the Christmas envelope offering will be for the Emergency Heating Fund through United Way.

Education: Hillary Chapman is a substitute for the youth Sunday School class. Teen helpers for Children's Church will be listed in the Sunday bulletins. Carolyn Gittinger and Sandy Ritter are cooking meals for Youth Club. The Children's Christmas program is December 16<sup>th</sup> with rehearsal on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Youth: A dehumidifier is to be installed in the youth room. Seven youth participated in a costume party. A lock-in is scheduled for the November 10<sup>th</sup> weekend with receipts from a recent bake sale to help pay for food.

Trustees: The stair chairlift has been inspected. Some storm windows have been installed. The sign on the corner of Madison and Monroe Streets is working well after several small problems were corrected. A TV and DVD player was purchased for the nursery. Volunteers can sign up for cleaning the church since we no longer have a custodian. There is a

problem with the intercom between the two offices. Pianos will be tuned soon.

Sharing Kitchen: Income has been down this year and costs continue to rise.

Pastor's Report: The Church Conference is Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> in Willard. Funds from the Third Sunday Collection will be put in a special fund through First Call for Help. Most requests from the community already go through First Call for Help rather than being handled directly by the pastor or church.

Other: The 2013 goals were approved. The Thanksgiving Dinner is to be held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. The next Administrative Council meeting is December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.



Once again the Missions Committee will be getting the Angels for our Christmas tree from the Salvation Army. We will be getting twenty-two Angels and they will all be children. I will put

them on the tree near the elevator for Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. If anyone would like an Angel before that date I will have them with me the Sunday before.

It will be just like last year. The age, gender and a few suggestions will be on the front. On the back I'll put some guidelines, such as gifts should cost \$20 or less, and a deadline as to when the gift is to be turned in.

Thank you so much for helping to bring joy to our local children. If you have any questions, or would like me to do the shopping for you just let me know.

Thanks, Sandra Arnold 419-447-6145





And we thought the youth were busy in October! November was a very involved month for the youth. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, sixteen youth and adults traveled to Fremont to hear Mark Cahill speak. Our annual lock-in on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> was a success with 19 youth spending the night at St. Paul's! For our Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we spent some time planning the next few activities and watched a video about being bold for God in our everyday lives. Meetings this year are going to be 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!!



Trip to see Mark Cahill in Fremont

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30pm – 8:00pm - Live Nativity at St. Francis - St. Francis celebrated a live Nativity in Greccio on the edge of an Italian mountain in the year 1223. Join us as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. – We will meet at St. Paul's and carpool to St. Francis so we can go through the nativity as a group. \*\*\*Note from Rob and Amy – we know this is not

what you planned (bowling), but we thought this would be something to enjoy as a group and we can go bowling in January.

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Movie @ 6:00pm – 8:00 pm Bring a snack to share and your own drink.



Bible Study in the Parlor during the Lock-in



**Newsletter deadline for the January Newsletter is December 19th**

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



*Sharing the Holiday with family is one of the greatest blessings. ~ God Bless*





## Poinsettia Order Form

Plants will be placed on the altar for Sunday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and the Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service. They may be picked up after either service. The cost is \$7.75. This year there are two alternate options. You may choose to give a gift to the Sharing Kitchen or "The Landing" (a Community Teen Program held at Faith UMC) rather than purchasing a plant. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Dec. 9th or place it in the offering plate with your check. Checks may be payable to the church and marked for "Poinsettia" in lower corner and on your envelope. Thank you!

Poinsettia/Gift given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: (Your name as you want it listed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check:**

I prefer Red \_\_\_\_\_ or White \_\_\_\_\_

Please give plant to a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_ I will take plant \_\_\_\_\_ OR

Use money for Sharing Kitchen \_\_\_\_\_ or "The Landing" Teen Program \_\_\_\_\_