

St. Paul's News

December 2013



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's,

I'm sure by now many of you are well in the midst of preparing for Christmas. You may have started buying presents, putting up lights outside your home, decorating the Christmas Tree, or baking Christmas cookies. Here at church we are also preparing for Christmas as we observe the season of Advent. The season of Advent occurs for the four weeks preceding Christmas and is a time where we as a church focus on preparing our lives for the coming of Christ. During Advent we will center on our need for the redeeming work of Jesus Christ in the midst of our frantic and broken world. I encourage you all to take some time with us this Advent to prepare and experience the peace and love of the promised coming of the baby Jesus. Please be aware of these special opportunities in the next month

December 1st—First Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate communion at the altar rail and the children and youth will rehearse for the Christmas program following Sunday School.

December 8th—Second Sunday of Advent. The children and youth will present the story of Christmas and will include special music, the children's bell choir, and a special anthem with both the children and adult choir. You will also have the

opportunity to participate in the Alternative Gift Fair on this day.

December 15th—Third Sunday of Advent. You will have the opportunity to participate in the Alternative Gift Fair on this day.

December 22nd—Fourth Sunday of Advent.

December 24th—Christmas Eve. We will worship together at 7:00pm. Our worship will include the children's bell choir, the adult choir, special music, and the traditional candle lighting.

December 29th—Join us this week following Christmas as we take your requests to sing some of your favorite Christmas hymns.

Please join us this Advent for these worship services as we celebrate the promised coming and birth of Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Lord of Lords, and Our Savior.

Peace,

Pastor Hannah



Special Birthdays

November

- 13 – Faye Eley
- 14 – Pastor Hannah (not even close to 80)
- 16 – Carl Yager
- 21 – Shirley Counselman

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



Lunch Bunch

(includes women **and men**)
December 3rd—at noon
At GW's Carol Graham is
the contact (419) 447-4865



Table Favor Committee

We will meet Tuesday, December 10th,
1:30pm to assemble candy cups for the
three facilities we support. If you can help,
please contact Kathy Daniel. Thank you!



ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION

Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child": Thanks for shopping and packing **40** shoe boxes for needy children around the world! This may be a record number for St. Paul's. Postage donations were a big help! Thanks to Carol & Tom Graham for making the delivery to the collection site! Sandy Arnold is preparing angels for our annual **angel tree** gifts to support the Salvation Army project for children in our local community. Again, we thank you for your support!

In December you will have the opportunity to purchase "**alternative**" gifts for needy countries around the world in honor or in memory of loved ones. We will post information on a bulletin insert and the display will be up on Sunday December 8th and December 15th. Please check out this opportunity to give to others!

Alternative Christmas Poinsettias will be for Sharing Kitchen and the Henderson Mission Trip in June.

Our special **Christmas Offering Envelope** donations will be given to First Call for Help

to benefit their **Emergency Heating Fund**. As you can see, December offers us many opportunities for giving!

Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee



THANK YOU!! From the Worship Committee to those who have helped with the "hanging of the greens." And don't forget help will be needed in January to tuck all these things back into the third floor "Christmas Room."

Amy Ochier deserves a big THANK YOU for the many hours spent editing our newsletter. We appreciate all the work she does compiling articles from committees and individuals, adding graphics, and making it look great! It is a big help to the office staff and members of St. Paul's!



SHARING KITCHEN

SHARING KITCHEN CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 14, 2013

In October the Sharing Kitchen served 539 adults and 28 kids using 149 helpers. Donations were very great in October, but are slowing down in November. We got our first turkey of the holiday season. This year was unusual because most of our turkeys from Kroger came after Easter. Remember new and good used items for the Christmas party. We hope to have 150+ adults and 91+ kids again this year.



The Christmas Program will be presented on Sun., Dec. 8, 2013, at 10 A.M., during the worship service. There will be special music in addition to a presentation of the Nativity.

Dress rehearsal for the Children's Christmas Program is Sun., Dec. 1, after Sun. school. A light lunch will be provided from 12-12:30. Rehearsal will be from 12:30-1:30 P.M. Parents/grandparents are especially encouraged to accompany pre-school children to the lunch and rehearsal. Children will practice bells and the combined choir number during Children's Church and immediately after church in the choir loft on Dec. 1. Arrival time for most program participants will be 9:00 A.M. on Dec. 8. Questions- call the church office 419-447-1743. Thanks for all your help.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER 24TH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Financial: September receipts were good. Expenses were \$10,828.88 and receipts were \$11,816.77. Apportionments are paid to date. Gaylen Kline will become a substitute money counter. No one should enter the church office on Sunday mornings while the volunteers are counting money. A new safe was donated for use in the office. The 2014 budget of \$123,500 was approved. Savings are to be realized next year because of our participation in Programs offering lower rates on natural

gas and insurance available through the Conference.

Education: Signs are needed in classrooms to indicate the location of severe weather assembly areas which are located in the youth room, areas off the gym and the closet off the fellowship hall. Youth Club is under way and going well. The children's Christmas program is planned for December 8th with rehearsal on December 1st. The ice cream left from serving apple dumpling is to be given to the youth lock-in, Youth Club or Sharing Kitchen. A new copier for church use is in the small room off the Helen Bean room. Kendullin Fortney and Sandy Ritter are new substitute Sunday school teachers.

Missions: The Christmas Child Shoebox ministry is underway with boxes to be returned by November 10th. United Methodist Student Day is November 24th. Donations of \$105 were received for the October 20th third Sunday ingathering for community needs.

Trustees: Sound system upgrades are ordered and will be installed soon. Rich Kinstler has been painting window frames on the sides and rear of the church. He has painted 62 to date with more to be done. Eaves and window painting work needs to be done at PatchWorks House. The trustees are looking into security cameras for both inside and outside the church. Our insurance will be secured through the Conference at a saving of \$800 a year.

Pastor Hannah: An anonymous donor has made it possible for St. Paul's to receive tee shirts for STAND at Columbian high school. Charge conference is to be at St. Paul's on November 21st with Faith UMC joining us. Inactive members have received a second letter. A third letter will be sent in 2014. Those who do not respond to it will be removed from the membership rolls.



In November, the youth had a great time at our costume party. We also had a great turn out for our annual Lock-in. There were 19 middle school and high school youth that spent the night at the church.



Best, Funniest, and Scariest Costumes

Meetings are 1st and 3rd 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!!



Singing "Itsy Bitsy Spider" to receive their next clue in the St. Paul's Amazing Race as part of the 2013 Youth Lock-In.

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Dec. 1st - 6:30pm – 8pm
Christmas Baking Party

Sunday, Dec. 15th – Christmas Movie – We will start at 6pm so that we can watch the movie and be done at 8pm. We have some drinks and snacks left from the lock-in, but you can still bring something to share.



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

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





Poinsettia Order Form

Plants will be placed on the altar for Sunday, Dec.22nd and the Dec. 24th 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 Henderson Mission Trip 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 Henderson Mission Trip _____



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