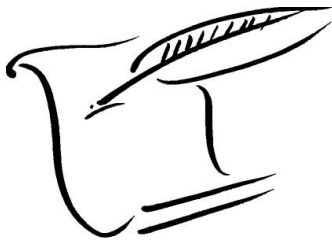


St. Paul's News

February 2013



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's Community,

I know that it may seem that we just had the Christmas season but with the early date of Easter this year we are quickly approaching the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter. The tradition of Lent in our Christian faith goes back to the early church which would celebrate baptisms of new converts on Easter. Lent then was the last 40 days for converts to prepare to become a part of the church. It became a time of focusing on personal faith and confession of sins.

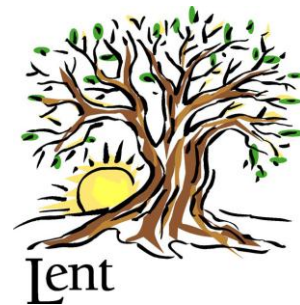
Today in our church there are many ways that we can still observe Lent. You may consider the practice of giving something up for Lent. This could be anything you feel might be distracting you from your relationship with God or others. This could range from going without a form of technology to working on stopping complaining to going without a certain activity in order to spend more time with God or others.

Instead of giving something up for Lent you may want to consider this Lenten season taking something up. Lent could be a time when you strive to pray or read the Bible regularly for 40 days. You may decide to take up giving a compliment everyday to doing one small act of kindness.

There will also be opportunities to worship and serve during Lent here at St. Paul's. On February 13 which is Ash Wednesday, we will be joining with Faith UMC for a worship service at 7:30pm. We will again be joining with Faith UMC, this time here at St. Paul's on Maundy Thursday which is March 28 for a service at 7:00pm. I hope that you will consider joining with us for these special worship times. St. Paul's will also be hosting one of the community Lenten Lunches on Friday March 8th. This time will include lunch and a brief service of worship.

As we already look forward to preparing for the Lent and Easter seasons, I pray that this will be a time for us all to grow closer to God and welcome the Risen Christ into our hearts and lives.

Peace,
Pastor Hannah



Special Birthdays *February*

11 – Margaret Thomas
21 – Eleanor Arnold
26 – Lois Payne

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



Prayer Focus

As I think about prayer needs I am reminded of the title of one of our hymns “In the bleak mid-winter.” The world does indeed seem bleak!

All of Africa and the mid-East seem to be in need to prayers as fighting is rampant. In Syria reports indicate that 60,000 have been killed since the civil unrest began and 500,000 have fled to neighboring countries. The United Nations has asked for \$2.5 billion in additional aid to help those in need. Armed violence continues in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. And we can add Mali and Somalia as well as hostages in Tunisia to our prayer list.

All of the misery that war brings is increased by the number of refugees and the cold weather. In Afghanistan the United Nations has facilitated supply distribution in a camp near Kabul where a child has died of the cold. The UN doesn't have enough resources to do more. Syrian refugees are facing similar threats as the temperatures fall. Imagine living in Ohio in a tent just now with no heat source and you have an idea of what those areas are like. Prayers for all involved in war and its effects.

In Haiti two years after the earthquake 358,000 people languish in 500 tent camps. The rain of Hurricane Sandy was a major problem. Again supplies are in short supply and disease a danger. In the US, hundreds of persons evacuated from nursing homes and assisted living facilities after Sandy remain displaced often living in very primitive conditions. Pray for them also.

As always we need to pray for our children. The A-T reports that while the situation is a little better, Ohio is still a center of sex trafficking. The Ohio legislature heard that girls as young as 11 are being bought and sold here. Pray for them. Ask your

legislators to increase the penalty for those who use these children.

Another concern is for our service members who experience PTSD. This past year a record 349 have committed suicide, more than died in combat in Afghanistan. Most occur as military return home where transitioning back to their families, their communities and a sense of purpose for themselves is difficult. Pray for those suffering and for those trying to find ways of help for those in trouble.

As always, pray for St. Paul's, our many programs, our pastor and members. May our work be pleasing in His sight.

Leanne Wolff
Church and Society



4th Tuesday Lunch Bunch

(includes women & men)

February 26 – at noon
Asian Grill

Cheryl Armstrong is the
contact 419-443-0792

Table Favor Committee

February 5, 1:30 pm

Welcome to winter! I hope you are all staying healthy. We have Valentine cards and candy cups to prepare for this month. If you are able to help, please contact Kathy Daniel, Coordinator.



Sharing Kitchen

The special Christmas activities were discussed in last month's article. For the entire month 423 adults and 103 children were served. During the seven days the

Kitchen was open 143 volunteers prepared and served the meals.

Position Available

For several years I have been a self-appointed “meet and greet” volunteer. Bev Kline is also there one day a week. Our goal is to make those attending feel like guests, not just bodies. The guests seem to appreciate the contact and friendly conversation. Now because of health issues and the need for oxygen 24/7 I find it very difficult to continue. So here’s an offer:

Position A person to talk with the guests each day the Kitchen is open. Two people could probably share this. Time required: 11-12:30 Mondays and Thursdays.

Duties Talk with guests and develop a friendly relationship with them. Get to know about their lives, their joys, their problems. This is not evangelism or inviting them to attend one particular church (that’s prohibited) but an opportunity to say “I hear you. God loves you.”

Pay While no one at the Kitchen is paid money, one is rewarded with the warm feeling of friendship. And sometimes the realization that one’s own problems aren’t so bad.

How to start Show up! Tell Rich Kinstler you’d like to help.

On the job training available on request
Leanne Wolff



THANK YOU! As this article is being written we are in preparation for the soup and sandwich luncheon on January 27. The Missions committee is very appreciative of the support from the whole congregation to prepare for and serve this meal! All proceeds will be used for the youth and adult leader who will participate in the Alive Christian Music Festival in June of this year.

Confirmation Class



St. Paul’s will be forming a Confirmation Class this spring. This class will be open to youth in 5th grade and older. If you have a child who is interested in going through the process of confirmation please let Pastor Hannah know. The youth and at least one adult family member should attend a brief meeting at noon on Sunday February 17th in order to determine a class meeting time and details.

FROM THE EDITOR



NEWSLETTER NEWS

Thank you to everyone who has returned their preferences for receiving their newsletters. Please remember that you can always change back to a paper newsletter or request to receive the newsletter electronically at any time by either contacting the office or Amy Ochier.

Our newsletter averages between 4-5 pieces of paper. By offering an email delivery option for this newsletter, we are

saving 64 - 80 pieces of paper and the toner to print on those papers! Thank you!



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. We met in January and have planned several fundraisers. 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 For more information, contact Rob Ochier.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:

February 10th – Bake Sale during Fellowship Hour

March 31st – Breakfast after Sunrise Service

April 21st – Spaghetti Dinner

June ??? – Car Wash



Is it summer yet? The youth got back into the routine of school and youth meetings in January by planning the next few months and having a game night. There are some fun activities planned!!!! Meetings are the

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!!

Upcoming Schedule:

Sunday, Feb. 3rd – 12:30 pm-2:00 pm (time changed for Super Bowl) we are going BOWLING at Heritage Lanes in Tiffin. Bring a friend, plus \$10 for bowling (2 games), shoes, lunch (pizza) and drinks.

Sunday, Feb. 17th – 6:30 pm-8:00pm, Valentines Day Party – Elementary School style – Wear red or pink – Bring your Valentines to pass out and a snack to share – we will provide the drinks and provide games/activities to make you feel like a little kid again!

Sunday, March 3rd – 6:30 pm-8:00pm, We will begin to brainstorm and plan for the youth service.

Sunday, March 17th – 6:30 pm-8:00pm, St. Patricks Day Party – Think **GREEN** – Bring something green to eat – we will provide the drinks (wonder what color it will be) and we will learn who St. Patrick was and why he gets his own day.

Dates to keep in mind:

May 12th – Youth Led Worship Service

June 19th-23rd – Alive!



Newsletter deadline for the March Newsletter is February 19th

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