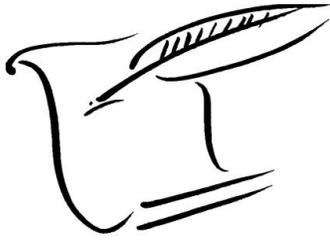


# St. Paul's News

January 2013



*From the Pastor's Pen:*

Dear St. Paul's,

It was an honor and a privilege to spend my first Advent and Christmas season with you. It was such a wonderful celebration of the birth of Christ-Child in so many ways. This month it continues to be an exciting time as we begin a new year together. A new year can be a time for new adventures, new learning, and new goals.

This new year consider making a new goal in your own faith life. Perhaps you will decide to read the bible regularly, take time to pray for those in need every day, or commit to a regular pattern of worship attendance.

Or consider putting aside some money for one of St. Paul's upcoming mission projects. In the next couple of months we will have the opportunity to support several mission causes both in our community and our greater world. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, we will take a special offering for the United Methodist Human Relations Sunday. Money from this offering will go to support community development programs for at-risk youth. Of course on January 20<sup>th</sup> we will have our normal third-Sunday community missions offering the money from which goes to help those in need in our community. Finally on February 10<sup>th</sup> we will again participate in the Blankets+ Sunday, support of which provides blankets

and other supplies to people in need of emergency assistance throughout the world. It doesn't take much for us to support these offerings, but even small support can make a huge difference in the lives of so many people.

Whatever you do during this new year, let us all strive to continue to be people living in the faith and love of God and people who share that faith and love with each other, our community, and our world.

Peace,  
*Pastor Hannah*



## Special Birthdays *January*

12 – Juanita West  
17 – Thelma Bush  
20 – Jan Rennels  
23 – Shirley Counselman  
24 – Helen Montz  
27 – Mina Huston

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



### Prayer Focus

As the New Year begins we could continue to pray for the peace that is the hope of Christmas. For so many here and around the world there is no peace. We can pray for those children and adults who were tragically killed in the school shooting in the Sandy Hook School in Connecticut. And for the survivors who must grieve and continue to live. How difficult will the new school term be, even in a new school building! Let us continue to pray for the many others who are killed each month in our nation including the three shot in a Pennsylvania church before Christmas. Pray too for all of those who are working to reduce the number of violent deaths.

Wars continue. In Syria the end does not appear near. The use of cluster booms to destroy homes and the civilian residents of small towns is a new tragedy. Hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes, many into neighboring Turkey. There are many fatalities in Afghanistan as that war continues. There are other wars including the one in Sudan. All of the leaders, warriors and innocents of the world need out prayer.

Elsewhere many are afflicted with diseases. A cholera epidemic envelops coastal slums in Sierra Leone and neighboring Guinea which lack toilets. The disease's often fatal symptoms—diarrhea, vomiting and severe dehydration—were experienced by 13,000 according to Doctors Without Borders. Some 300 have died. Similarly the war in the Sudans has led to outbreaks of severe malnutrition, malaria and diarrheal disease. In Haiti Hurricane Sandy destroyed or damaged 61 cholera centers leading to fears of fresh outbreaks of an epidemic that has killed more than 7,5000 since 2010. Prayers for those hungry and sickened by these horrible conditions.

Continue also to pray for those who continue to suffer after serving in our armed services. Those have been maimed; those who are emotionally disturbed either from the injury or from what they've experienced need our prayers. Finally as a nation we are beginning to notice these afflictions and more opportunities to help are being offered.

Let us continue to keep in prayer the many programs of St. Paul's. May our efforts to help those in need be pleasing to Him.

Leanne Wolff  
Church and Society



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

(includes women & men)

January 22 – at noon

Phat Cakes

Renee Sand is the contact

419-447-6144

### **Table Favor Committee**

**We will not meet this month.** Since most projects are quick to assemble we may begin a rotation of workers in February and take turns as needed.

- Kathy Daniel, Coordinator



### **Sharing Kitchen**

Thanksgiving was celebrated on November 19 with a dinner complete from turkey to pumpkin pie! During the eight serving days of the month 127 volunteers served 346 adults and 20 children.

The annual Christmas party was held on Dec. 15. It was the largest we've ever had. Gifts were given to 150 adults and 95

children. There were many gifts including children's gifts, gifts for men and women, a lovely jewelry table, toys for children and a very large number of hats and mittens. Each adult received a bag of taxable item including paper towels, dish and personal soaps, toothpaste and toilet tissue. Many worked on the Saturday set-up and many more on the day of the party. Thanks to all who contributed and worked to bring joy to so many.



### **ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION**

Thanks to all who so generously shared with those in need both here in the community and around the world during the holidays. Twenty-two local children received Christmas gifts of toys and clothing through the Angel Tree. \$617 was sent to World Vision for chickens, rabbits, fruit trees, soccer balls and a water well during the Alternative Gift Fair. The Thanksgiving envelope offering of \$170 or more helped Connections, which meets right here in our own church. And the Christmas envelope offering is to help those in our community who can't pay for heat through the winter months.

Just because the holidays are over we don't want to forget about those who are still in need. There will be opportunities to help by giving on Human Relations Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup>, donating to Blankets and Tools on February 10<sup>th</sup>, bringing food and other items for FISH during Lent, placing peanut butter for Haiti in a box in the narthex during February and March, placing money for the Sharing Kitchen in your Easter envelope and putting some coins or bills in the Third Sunday yellow buckets.

On January 27<sup>th</sup> you can help feed people in our own church by making a donation during the Soup and Sandwich lunch. That offering will go to the Ecumenical Sharing

Kitchen. So mark your calendar and bring your appetite on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Serving will start immediately following the worship service and continue until everyone has eaten. We don't want those who go to Sunday School to miss out so they may reserve their favorite soup or sandwich after church and eat it after Sunday School. We'll keep it warm for you!

For those of you who like to sew there are patterns to make school bags in the church office. These will go to UMCOR for children around the world.

Always remember how fortunate you are to have enough food, clothing, heat and the other necessities of life. And don't forget that Jesus told us to share what we have with the poor and needy.



### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2012 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

Education: The Children's Christmas Program is December 16<sup>th</sup> with rehearsal on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The children's bell choir will play for church three times in December.

Missions: The Alternative Gift Fair was successful with many items purchased for families in poverty around the world. Thanksgiving envelope giving provided \$170 for Connections. The Christmas envelope money is designated for the Emergency Heating Fund in the community. Thirty-one shoeboxes were filled and delivered to Samaritan's Purse. The Morrison House for homeless families on West Perry Street is now open. Several St. Paul's people toured the house before the residents moved in. The Angel Tree had twenty-two names of children in the community who will receive gifts from the members of St. Paul's. A Soup and

Sandwich lunch is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup>. The next special Sunday is Human Relations Sunday on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Members are urged to support these special Sundays.

Finance: Expenses have been cut because of the installation of insulation, lower gas prices and no custodian. Volunteers have been doing an excellent job taking over the cleaning. Although many members increased their giving as a result of the letter sent to members the overall giving is down. Apportionments are paid to date and should be lower in 2013.

Trustees: The elevator has been repaired. The chandelier was partially cleaned by volunteers and will be completed when scaffolding is set up to reach the higher portions. New halogen bulbs were installed. The trustees are getting the building prepared for winter.

Sharing Kitchen: Two freezers have been donated – one is in the garage and one is in the basement. Many donations of food have come in recently. The Christmas party is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Youth: Eighteen went to see the live nativity scene at St. Francis. A movie night is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Outreach: The website is up and running thanks to Kyle Paxson. Further updates will be coming soon. Brochures are being prepared and mugs to give to first time visitors will be ordered.

An advertisement of the church services will appear in the Advertiser-Tribune before Christmas. A picture directory may be prepared in the future. A family night will soon be planned. Having family nights is one of this year's goals. Some repairs of the sound system and possible new equipment to record the worship service on DVD will be explored. Bill Daniel was elected vice-chairman of the Administrative

Council. Hillary Chapman will fill in as secretary during the winter months.

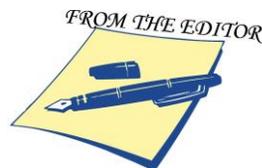


Pauline Reuwee would like to thank members of St. Paul's congregation for birthday cards she received in November. And, thank you for the card from the Children's Church Group.

St. Paul's

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift to me this season. Your support and kindness during these first six months has been amazing. It continues to be such a joy to be able to serve as your pastor.

Peace,  
Pastor Hannah



## **NEWSLETTER NEWS**

Have you seen St. Paul's new website? If you haven't, be sure to check it out at [tiffinstpauls.org](http://tiffinstpauls.org)

Kyle Paxson has spent a lot of time creating and updating this great tool for our congregation. (THANKS KYLE!!) He has scanned recent newsletters to post on the webpage and the December newsletter was posted before it was even copied and mailed.

In an effort to cut expenses, we would like as many people as possible to receive their newsletters electronically. We can email you a link to the PDF on the website. You may then print the newsletter yourself or

just view it on your computer or tablet. Not only will this cut down on paper and postage expenses, but you will receive the newsletter as soon as it is finished! The website also has a calendar that is kept updated by Kyle and Pastor Hannah.

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to the church office to let us know how you would like to receive your newsletter in the future.



The youth were all about Christmas during the month of December. Eighteen youth and adults traveled to St. Francis to experience their living nativity. After being reminded of the real reason for Christmas, we returned to the church for cups of whipped cream. Some of us even had hot chocolate with our whipped cream, others not so much! For our annual Christmas movie night, we watched an “old” Christmas movie from when Rob and Amy were youth themselves – *Home Alone*. (Some youth were surprised it wasn’t in black and white.) 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, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm – Following a short “business” meeting to plan our next few activities, we will have a game night. So bring all your new board and card games to play!

Sunday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm – Alive Festival 2013 planning meeting (see previous article).

**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)



### 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 will be having an informational and planning meeting in the parlor on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm (during our YF meeting). If you are at all interested in going, please try to be there as we will have a lot of information to cover. 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.

