

St. Paul's News

March 2013



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's Community,

As we continue in the season of Lent for the month of March, we continue to prepare our hearts and our minds for our celebration of Easter Sunday. During this Lenten season I have found myself drawn to some of the words that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

Lent is a time when we can focus on redemption and confession. We praise God for the forgiveness we have received and know that when Easter comes the old has passed away and that we are new creations in Christ. We can then take that hope with us as we spread this good news of forgiveness and relationship to others. And so I pray that we may all use this next month before Easter to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the new life that we have received through the death and resurrection of Christ. We will continue to use our worship time together to discover ways in which the death and resurrection of Christ has made us into new creations.



In addition, there will also be several special worship opportunities as we approach Easter. We will celebrate Palm Sunday in our regular worship service on March 24th. For Maundy Thursday on March 28th, we will be hosting worship at St. Paul's for our congregation and the congregation of Faith UMC. This service will be at 7:00pm and will include song, scripture, reflection, and Holy Communion. Finally, on Easter Sunday, March 31st, we will worship at a sunrise service at 7:00am followed by a light breakfast in the fellowship hall. We will then have a second worship service at our normal 10:00am time. I hope that you will be able to join us for many of these worship opportunities as we celebrate together the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Hannah

Special Birthdays *March*

25 – Renee Hook

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



Prayer Focus

The snowflakes are coming down as I write, reminding me of last month's prayer concern for refugees in cold climates living in tents. Keep them on your prayer list. Also continue to remember those who are harmed by the ravages of wars in the Mid-east and Africa. War is continuing in the two Sudan nations. Also remember those who are killed or wounded on a daily basis by terrorists. Last month we also prayed for those veterans suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The number of those attempting or committing suicide remains high. And we have many wounded warriors who need our prayers as they live with the horrible injuries modern warfare produces.

Health issues mount in Syria as hepatitis A and other diseases spread by poor hygiene increase. A breakdown in the delivery of safe water, the closing of 1/3 of public hospitals, an exodus of doctors and an acute shortage of ambulances increase the problem. The World Food Program is attempting to deliver food to 2.5 million but the fighting makes that increasingly difficult. UMCOR partnering with local relief agencies is working with all the refugees. If you would like to help with more than prayer you can do so by writing a check to St. Paul's and writing Syria #982450 in the memo line. The church will get it to UMCOR. But do pray.

Other health issues also require our prayers. Afghanistan, Pakistan and now Niger (in Africa) are the only three nations where polio is endemic. In the past month medical technicians, mostly women, have been killed while providing vaccine to school children. The false claim is offered that the US is doing this for political reasons as the vaccine will make girls sterile. Pray for the children who need the vaccine, for the workers and for the ignorance that leads to these acts.

Pray also those women around the world who suffer violence. Some of this is religion inspired but much just happens. The rape cases in India are not alone. News accounts have been focusing on many, many similar cases in our armed forces. In both women are often considered the abusers while the rapists go free. Violence is also prevalent in our total society. It needs to go.

Pray too for those in Tiffin who need to know of God's love even as they experience great difficulties in their lives. May St. Paul's help in some way. One writer said that Christians must not "ignore the least, last or lost."

Leanne Wolff
Church and Society



4th Tuesday Lunch Bunch
(includes women & men)
March 26 – at noon
T.J. Willie's
Renee Hook is the contact
419-448-8868

Table Favor Committee

March 12, 1:30 pm

Now we can look forward to spring! We will have two projects to work on again this month. If you are able to help, please contact Kathy Daniel, Coordinator.



Sharing Kitchen

Praise the Lord! And thanks to Marilou Hill who has volunteered to be the Thursday greeter at the Sharing Kitchen! She joins Bev Kline who is there on Mondays. We

still need backups for these wonderful women. So if you'd like to come some of the time, be on call when Bev or Marilou can't be there, talk to Rich Kinstler. Our guests always enjoy talking with the greeters.

In the 10 days the Kitchen was open in January, 143 volunteers served 468 adults and 30 children. More help, either full time or on-call for cooking and serving, is always welcome. Again talk to Rich to get your name on the list.



THANK YOU! Have you seen the new look in the front entrance and on the landing as you go up the stairs to the sanctuary? The Worship Committee has replaced both floral arrangements. All costs were covered by donations from special St. Paul's angels. The flowers are beautiful!

And, if you haven't been by the first floor nursery recently, you should check it out. The addition of curtains at the windows has made it feel so welcoming. We are blessed with many caring people!

A special thanks to our "cleaning" angel who come quietly every week and go about their work. They are doing a VERY GOOD job!

YOUTH CLUB

Thanks to all who supported the Youth Club Program. We just completed our 33rd year! Thanks to the church for continuing to sponsor this program. Also thanks for donations from the United Methodist Women and some anonymous donors.

Carolyn Gittinger and Sandy Ritter prepared and served delicious meals every week with assistance from Gary Bigley, Jennifer Fox, Kathy Daniel, Tish Caudill, Liz and Sarah Runion, Cheyenne Heyman, Gabi Roszman and some youth club members who arrived early and volunteered their help.

Diana Patterson kept track of attendance each week. Our average attendance was 21 children.

Bible classes were taught by Kyle Paxson, Brian Arnold, Pastor Hannah Tucker, Diana Patterson, and Karen Kinstler.

Gym time was led by Jeremy Faeth, Gabe Parrish, Tyler Hawk, Sarah and Liz Runion.

Crafts were led by Sandy Arnold, Leslie Parrish and Melody Woessner with assistance from Hillary Chapman, Amy Ochier and several Heidelberg students.

Thanks to Rob Ochier for showing the movie at our "Happy Birthday Jesus" Party.

Thanks to all the parents who donated desserts and for faithfully bringing the children to participate in the program. Thanks to all for their time and dedication to keep this program going!



Chili Cook-Off

St. Paul's will be having a Chili Cook-Off on Sunday March 3rd during fellowship hour following worship. Bring a crock-pot of your favorite chili or soup recipe and a donation to compete for the title of St. Paul's Chili Champion. Everybody is welcome to taste and vote for their favorite recipes.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SUNDAY MARCH 10

St. Paul's will participate in the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering for UMCOR on March 10. UMCOR is the church agency that provides disaster relief here and around the world. UMCOR receives no funding from the general church but operates only with the proceeds from the One Great Hour of Sharing offerings.

There are two results of the cost of administering the program being kept at 10% (very good for charitable funds of any kind). The first is that any monies from the One Great Hour not needed for running the agency may be used to work on the many projects in which UMCOR is involved. In 81 countries the church is alleviating suffering. Included are the victims of Katrina in our south (yes there is still need for help there), in Sudan where families continue to suffer from war and displacement, in Sierra Leone where malaria spreads and in Eastern Europe where a cold winter tests endurance.

This also means that when we give to a specific disaster, such as Sandy or Syria, 100% goes to alleviate the suffering. "In as much as you have done it to the least of these my brethren....."

There will be envelopes in the church bulletin on March 3 to be returned on March 10. If you happen to miss church those days send your contribution to St. Paul's and mark the memo line "One Great Hour of Sharing."



Sunday, March 10th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

St. Paul's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30th 10:00-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
For children in Preschool – 6th Grade (Preschoolers need to be accompanied by an adult).

Activities include: The Easter Story, Crafts, Egg Hunt, and Games.

Donations of wrapped candy needed by Friday, March 29. Please leave in parlor kitchen. We have been recycling plastic eggs, so we have plenty of those.

Adult and teen helpers are needed. Contact Melody Woessner 419-447-7837 or melodywoessner@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. 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:

March 31st – Breakfast after Sunrise Service

April 21st – Spaghetti Dinner

June??? – Car Wash

St. Paul's In Mission

Ann Harry has been enjoying her winter in sunny Florida! I will try to keep you up-to-date during her absence. Missions committee has been busy this winter! Our January 27 soup and sandwich luncheon went well. We were pleased with the donations of food for our meal and the willingness of the church members for their help. The Youth Fellowship members helped with set up and clean-up. Over \$400.00 was collected for them to use for expenses for the Alive Festival in June.

Money from the Christmas offering envelopes was sent to First Call for Help to be used for the Emergency Heating Fund. \$472.00 was collected. A St. Paul's Fund has been set up at First Call for Help to be used for people in need from the Tiffin community. Each month the money from the Third Sunday Ingathering will be added to this fund. The staff at First Call will decide where this money should be used.

A FISH table will be set up in the sanctuary during the season of Lent. We will be collecting nonperishable food, soap, and paper products.

We collected \$105.00 in January for Human Relations Sunday. Thanks to all who supported the Blanket & Tool Sunday on February 10th. March 10th we will have special envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing. And, we will collect 18 oz. jars of peanut butter in March to go to Haiti. Please tape a quarter to the top of each jar to help with shipping costs.

On March 8th the Community Lenten Lunch will be held at St. Paul's Church at noon. The Missions Committee will be providing a light lunch.

Our special Easter envelope offering will be given to Sharing Kitchen. Many activities continue to keep us busy even during the

winter months! Thanks again to the congregation for all of their support!

Kathy Daniel



HELPERS NEEDED to count money after church on Sundays, (or Monday mornings). Please contact Gary Bigley (419)448-4680, Carolyn Gittinger (419)387-2517 or Carol Graham (419)447-4865.



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 26th. 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)





The youth are busy, busy, busy!!! 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, 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. Patrick's 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.

Sunday, April 7th – 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, We will be working to get ready for the youth service.

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

Dates to keep in mind:

May 12th – Youth Led Worship Service
June 19th-23rd – Alive!

Newsletter deadline for the April Newsletter is March 19th

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

