

# St. Paul's News

October 2013



## *From the Pastor's Pen:*

St. Paul's,

It's hard to believe that October is upon us already. During this time of year I often think of the words of one of my favorite passages of scripture from Isaiah 40 which states,

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they

shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."—Isaiah 40:3-8, 28-31

These verses always serve to remind me that in the midst of change whether it be changing seasons of the year or changing seasons of life that our God is everlasting. We are reminded that the word of our God will stand forever. That even if we grow weary or faint by what life is throwing at us that we worship a God who will never grow weary.

And so if you find yourself weary this month, remember that our God is the everlasting God, the God who loves us and promises to renew us in the midst of change, in the midst of tiredness, and in the midst of transition to lead us into a greater hope.

Peace,

*Pastor Hannah*



## Special Birthdays

*October*

20 – Kathryn White  
Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to her!

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



## Prayer Focus

It was about 2 years ago that I “substituted” for Leanne and attempted to write this column for her when she was ill. I felt my article was passable at best, but Leanne told me I did a great job and even hinted at turning the column over to me. After listening to her former students at her memorial service, I knew that I too was one of her “students”. Her encouragement and input when it came to the newsletter and my other work here at St. Paul’s was very valuable to me. She was very excited about the email format that was began in this past year and said, “It is about time St. Paul’s moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” I was working in the ER when she was brought in by squad for the last time. My job in the ER is a blessing and sometimes very difficult. This was one of those moments that it was both. It was hard to realize that this wonderful person who was very much a part of our family at St. Paul’s would no longer stand during joys and concerns and remind us that there is a whole world out there that needs our prayers. I was honored to tell Sister Irene and the other ER staff the little I knew about Leanne’s life; the work she did and her faith. Praying with Sister Irene for Leanne, for her family and for all of us who knew and loved her will be something I will always remember. I know that God does everything for a reason and in his time; the timing of events on September 7, 2013 was no accident or coincidence. So as I begin to put together the newsletter for October, there will be no email from Leanne with the attached Prayer Concerns and Sharing Kitchen articles in my inbox. There will be no apology for it being late, even though she was almost always the first person to send me her articles. I will attempt to look at the world around us and figure out what we need to pray for, but will be inadequate. I hope that someone at St. Paul’s will be able to fill this roll and write this column each month, not only for Leanne, but for all of us who have said, “I don’t know what is going on in the world unless Leanne tells me.”

The devastating flooding in Colorado has claimed many lives and destroyed homes, businesses and communities. Our prayers to those effected as they clean up and rebuild

their lives. UMCOR has responded to help in many ways including the flood buckets that are collected throughout the year. Prayers to the responders who are venturing in to assist these people affected by these floods. UMCOR’s United States Disaster Response donation number is 901670. You may specify that your donation go to the 2013 flood response. You may also donate items to be included in the flood buckets or health kits that St. Paul’s sends to conference each year to be used in UMCOR’s response to these disasters.

Prayers are still needed for the country of Syria and its people. Prayers for the politicians and leaders of the governments around the world to come to a peaceful response to the use of chemical weapons in the civil war that has impacted so many.

Prayers are needed for the first responders and emergency workers who deal with difficult situations daily in their work. Specifically those who responded to the fatal house fire in Tiffin on 9/15. May the Lord bring them peace and comfort as they try to understand and process all that happened that day. We also give thanks for their dedication and willingness to be the people who are there for all of us when we need them.

Mass shootings continue to be a problem here and abroad. We pray for those affected by the Navy Yard shooting and the shooting at the mall in Kenya that occurred this past month.

We also pray for our Youth Club program here at St. Paul’s. We thank God for all those who give their time and talents to work the children who attend. May God use the time spent at St. Paul’s to show his love to all of us.

Amy Ochier  
In Loving Memory Of

Leanne Wolff  
Church and Society





### Lunch Bunch

(includes women **and men**)  
October 22—at noon  
Bubby’s—New Riegel  
Sandy Ritter is the contact  
(419) 937-0328



### Table Favor Committee

Tuesday, October 8, 1:30pm



### ST. PAUL’S IN MISSION

Summer Sunday School children collected “Nickels for Net’s over the summer months. There was \$42.63 in their jar. \$30.00 worth of donations came in to add to their amount and the Missions Committee voted to bring the total to \$100.00. Each malaria net costs \$10.00. Thanks for the children for helping us purchase ten nets!

Thanks to all who were able to help with the funeral meal for Wanda Meredith on September 14. Donations of food, money, and time were greatly appreciated!

World Wide Communion Sunday will be October 6<sup>th</sup>. Special envelopes will be included in that Sunday’s bulletin. Your donations will support scholarships for racial and ethnic students in the United States and international students will have the opportunity to attend college. Thank you for your giving!

During October we will be working on Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Box Ministry. Red and green shoe boxes will be made available along with a list of items to pack. These gifts are given to needy children all around the world for Christmas.

Thanks again to the congregation for its support for our ongoing missions projects!

Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee



### Sharing Kitchen

August provided our biggest number of guests this year. We averaged 63 adults and 11 children, with 13 volunteers preparing and serving the food during the month. Several of the volunteers handed out fresh food, canned goods, and bread donations. Food donations for both serving and giving out to our guests are up this year over 2012.

September will be a difficult month for the Sharing Kitchen. We lost our “founding mother” Leanne Wolff and five of the cutest guests we have. The five children died in a fire on September 15<sup>th</sup>.



**THANK YOU!!** Schools are back in session and we have returned to our fall schedule on Sunday mornings. This is a good time to thank all our Sunday School teachers, children’s church leaders, youth fellowship directors, youth club directors, etc. To all of those volunteers, we give much thanks.

Dear St. Paul’s United Methodist,

Thank you for inviting me to come and share about my experience in Ghana! I love sharing my stories and am glad you all wanted to listen. Although not necessary thank you for the check! It will go entirely to

donations for the orphanage. Again, thank you so much.

—Megan Briggs



### Our Beautiful Church!

A lot has been happening to make our church even more beautiful. Our volunteers are wonderful. The landscaping, building upkeep, and general maintenance items are being performed by our volunteers. This work has been performed, not only at St. Paul's but at the parsonage, Patchworks house, the garage roof, and the corner lot with the sign. There are several projects that were contracted out. Did you notice the huge lift out front as the windows were secured with new glazing, scraping of old paint and the repainted? This is an expensive undertaking and donations are still being taken to cover this expense. The sign on the corner lot has been landscaped with shrubs and flowers. Donations are also being taken to cover this project. One area that we need more volunteers is for the cleaning of the church. St. Paul's has three floors with MANY rooms. Our workers are doing a great job, however, if you could just donate an hour or two a week, it would be appreciated. GOD BLESS ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS.

-Marilou Hill, Trustee's Secretary



### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Financial: Giving for August is lower because several of our members are no longer with us. Heating expenses should be less this winter because we are to be part of the East Ohio Conference's program to receive a lower gas rate. Because Pastor Hannah is now commissioned her salary will automatically increase. Donations for Nathan Armstrong's

college costs at Taylor University were \$367. The stewardship campaign will begin in October.

Education: Rally Day went well. VBS was successful with fifty children led by excellent youth and adults. Youth Club registration is October 2<sup>nd</sup> with sessions to begin October 9<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school classes are going well. The adult class is discussing videos by Max Lucado about "Grace". The youth made apple dumplings and sold them following the Heritage Festival parade. They are taking orders and plan to make more frozen ones. Proceeds are to be used for the youth to go to "Alive!".

Missions: 66 notebooks, 20 boxes of tissues and other items were collected for First Call for Help's school supply project. VBS and Youth Club received \$172 donated at the potluck on July 14<sup>th</sup>. \$100 was collected from the children (\$42.63), individual donors (\$30) and the church (\$27.37) for the children's summer "Nickels for Nets" project. World Communion Sunday is October 6<sup>th</sup>. "Operation Christmas Child" shoe boxes will be available in October and are due back in early November. St. Paul's will provide Sharing Kitchen workers November 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be on the kitchen door. We will do the Angel Tree again this year. The Thanksgiving envelope offering will be for F.A.C.T. The Christmas envelope offering is to go to the First Call for Help Heating Fund.

Trustees: The painting of the outside front and west side of the church was completed by Breidenbach painters. Donations are appreciated and more can still be given. Mohawk Nursery did the landscaping around the lighted sign. Money was taken from the Kalnow fund for this. The Conference has offered a building insurance program to save costs for member churches. The Trustees will discuss this further. A quote from Sound Solutions to update our sound system was accepted. The PatchWorks House fund will be paying into the church's operating fund regularly and retroactively according to their contract. Volunteers are doing a good job

cleaning the church. The chandelier in the sanctuary will be cleaned and repaired. The pastor's medical coverage costs should decline next year.

Worship: The children plan to participate in worship services monthly by providing music. A new choir director, Nick Saxton, was hired. He is a vocal major from Heidelberg University.

Pastor Hannah: It has been decided that we will not participate in "Helping Congregations Live up to Their Potential" because of extra travel and expense. The pictorial directory is underway with pictures taken in September.

The 2014 goals were approved. They include:

1. To increase a stewardship mentality of the congregation that allows for increased care of our mission and facilities.
  2. To reach beyond our church walls.
  3. To increase ministry among our church family.
  4. To communicate more obviously with the community.
  5. To enrich our music program.
- Various strategies under each goal were developed at the August 25<sup>th</sup> planning retreat.



### YOUTH CLUB

Program for all area children - Preschool – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Drop-In Registration  
Wednesday, October 2, 6:00-7:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
46 Madison St. 419-447-1743

Youth Club meets Wednesdays Oct. 9 – Feb. 26 from 5:30-7:30.

Complete schedule available at registration.  
Activities include:

Bible Study, Crafts, Gym, Games and Dinner. There is no charge and friends are welcome.



### Newsletter deadline for October Newsletter is September 19th

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



The first meeting of the new school year was held on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in the Richard Spencer Youth Room at 6:30pm. During this meeting, we planned the activities for the next three months. They are listed below. It's going to be an awesome year!! Meetings are 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 Events:

Sunday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - 3:15pm – 6?? Trip to Reihm Farm. We will carpool from the church parking lot and leave around 3:15pm. If there are any parents that are willing to help drive, please let us know. The cost is \$7.

Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm – 8 pm Board Game night and planning for the lock-in. Bring your favorite board game.

Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:30pm – 8pm Fall Costume Party. Just like last year!

Saturday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm. – Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11am – Annual Lock-in!!!!

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

Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Movie