

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

December 2011 Messenger

The
United
Methodist
Church

Pastor
Director of Music
Sexton

Rev. Murray Snow
William H. Searcy, Jr.
Gary Putnam

Secretary

Jere Byington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December "Happenings At-A-Glance"

Sunday, December 4 Communion

Saturday, December 17 2:30-4:00 Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18 5:00 p.m. Moravian Love Feast
Christmas Service and Reception

Saturday, December 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion

Coming in January:

Sunday, January 8 12:00 Noon Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, January 24 12:00 Noon Adult Luncheon

November 2011 Financial Report

Budget Needed Through November	\$ 159,806.00
Budget Received Through November	\$ 120,228.69

Special Offerings Received Through November 2011

Capital Only	\$ 210.00
Memorials	\$ 45.00
The Shepard Fund	\$ 200.00
	\$ 455.00
Total YTD Special Offerings	\$ 20,643.18

STEWARDSHIP

One key to overcoming fear and finding peace is to take your eyes off yourself and live a life of service and generosity to others. Paul told Timothy to command the people in Ephesus, particularly those with resources, "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share ... so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." 1 Timothy 6:18-19. The two sides of service and generosity are keys to overcoming fear and finding peace and joy.

(Taken from ENOUGH discovering Joy Through
Simplicity and Generosity)

NOTE: If you have not turned in your pledge forms for 2012, it is not too late to do so. They may be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the office or placed in Jere's mail slot. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support for Saint Paul and its' ministries and its' people.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This year we will continue the tradition of making a Christmas donation in memory of or in honor of someone special to you to be listed in the bulletin on December 18 and December 25. Although you may designate your gift for any special Fund or Organization, our Shepherd Fund at Saint Paul is especially in need of funds. Because of the generosity of Saint Paul UMC, this year we have provided help (through United Ministries) with rent, utilities, food, etc. to 14 families who needed aid due to problems in their lives. We have also been able to help several others outside United Ministries. Whatever you designate for your gift, it will be put to good use in our community. We will be sure that the gifts are directed to your choice.

From Lori Evans, Chairperson, SPRC: If you would like to make a donation for a Christmas bonus for the Staff of Saint Paul UMC, please place your gift in the offering plate, with a note on your check or envelope, before December 18th.

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you and your households in the name of Jesus Christ. We thank God for each of you and for God's work in your life. We thank God for your generosity and faithfulness as you seek to be Christ's representative in the world.

One of the most touching Christmas Stories that I have heard in my life came out of the Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry at Saint Paul. Eugenia Vicars resumed this ministry at Saint Paul this year. This story appeared in the December issue of the Advocate. The following is a witness that Tatyana Brannon shared with me. (Tatyana and her husband David have been visiting our congregation the past few weeks.) I asked Tatyana to share her witness with the congregation of Saint Paul and she did on Nov 6th, All Saints Sunday. The theme of the sermon was "Everyday Saints," this witness is about the actions of "Everyday Saints" that affect the lives of others. As you read this story, please be reminded that you can and are making a difference in someone's life.

"Tatyana Brannon

Last Sunday at church in our bulletins was a Program: a shoe box for kids. I was sitting there stunned, emotional, tears were in my eyes, I had to hold it, because the Sermon almost started and I didn't want attention drawn to me. You might ask why? What happened? Here is my Testimony:

My name is Tatyana Brannon and I was on the other end of the "Shoe box" chain. When I was a 14 y. o teenager my grandmother who at that time was going to Methodist Church in South Kazakhstan's small town called Ilichovka, brought home 2 shoe boxes for me and my 2 y.o. niece Lisa. Guys, you can't believe how important and wonderful that gift was for us! I'm 28 y. o., and 14 years later, I can tell you exactly what was in my box: school supplies: notebook, colored pens (which was wow factor!) a "TY" toy mini teddy bear, a tooth brush, white socks, I've never owned white socks in my life before that! A card and 3x4 picture of a girl, I don't remember her name, I think it was Becca, my English was very bad at that time, I hardly could read, and all I understand was: "Merry Christmas!"

I was calling that little box "Sokrovitsha! – which in Russian means "Treasures". Believe me, every kid who received that box, was as happy if not more as I was! That shoe box changed my life; I wanted to learn English to be able to read what that little girl Becca wrote me! And I did: I learned English – which later in life helped me to have better job, good salary, and lots of opportunities. And probably the best thing of my life to meet my wonderful husband David Brannon.

A little shoe box made a big difference in a little girl's life. And Christmas Spirit: Spirit of giving is all about that! And I'm a live Witness of that Miracle of help from the other end of Globe!

*Love In Christ,
Tatyana "*

Be an "Everyday Saint" in someone's life throughout the year.

Blessings in Christ,

Murray & Susan

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We extend Happy Birthday greetings this month to: Collins Cheshire - December 3rd, Charlie Stephens - December 4th, Chad Howard and Todd Howard - December 6th, Chandler Searcy - December 9th, Vickey Staton - December 12th, Betty Thompson and Terry Thompson - December 15th, Lauren Searcy - December 20th, MaryAnn Stephens - December 24th, **Terry Scott** - December 28th, Kay Welborn - December 29th and Ray Byington - December 30th.

We extend **Happy Anniversary** wishes this month to: John and Lori Evans - December 6th, Jon and Allison Miller - December 6th, David and Taunja Pool - December 17th, Steve and Jimmie Lou Vaughn - December 18th, Joe and Peggy Whitmire - December 25th and Tommy and Delores Gilstrap - December 31st.

Christian Sympathy and Prayers are extended to Beth and Randy Rogers and their family on the death of Beth's grandmother, Syble Byars, on November 21st. The Funeral Service was held at Roper Mountain Baptist Church on Friday, November 25th.

Christian Sympathy and Prayers are extended to Nancy Smith and her friends on the death of her former student, Michael Rice, on November 19th.

In Your Prayers, Please Remember: Friends serving in the Armed Services: Michael Abowd, John Broom, and Dylan O'Neal, and , Michael Gravley, Travis Scott and Paul. (all deployed to Afghanistan), Carroll Anthony, Cliff Belcher, Kiele Binsted, Calvin Bostic, Zonelle Boykin, Bill and Joe-Ellen Brockman, Ann Brown, Randy and Linda Burchet, Connie Cox, Lilli Curry, Virginia Dowis, Beverly Everett, Don Everett, Blaine Frazier, Eva Gillespie, Luke Gilliam, Louise Gilstrap, Rev. Enrique Gordon, Courtney Dobson Grass, Walt Hawkins, Jimmy Head, Martha Jameson, Kristina Kimbrell, Pat Larson, Al Lupo, Dot and "Mac" MacMillan, Buddy Miller, Karsyn Miller, Roy Patterson, Rhonda Pearson, Jimmy Senn, Nancy Sizemore, David and Madeline Snow, Jane Snyder, Linda Terminato, Eric Thrasher, Belvin and Georgia Ware, Hazel Welborn, the victims of the earthquakes in Japan, those affected by the recent storms, floods and tornados, the people in all countries experiencing disasters and the United States of America and our leaders. Names are kept on the Prayer List for 4 weeks. If you wish to keep a name on the list after 4 weeks or to add a new name, please notify the office. **Bold** = New Addition, *Italics* = Currently in Hospital.

Nursing Home and/or Special Care Residents and Friends Who are Homebound: Virginia Dowis, Don Everett, Eva Gillespie, Dot and Mac MacMillan, Dot Thompson and Belvin Ware.

Moravian Love Feast

On Sunday, December 18th, at 5:00 p.m., we will celebrate Christmas at Saint Paul with a Moravian Love Feast. The Moravian Love Feast Service comes from the tradition of the Moravian Church to gather and break bread to celebrate and affirm the Unity of Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. During the Love Feast, a small meal of a bun and a mug of coffee is served. Christmas Carols and Anthems are sung by the Congregation, Special Choirs and Soloists. The Christmas Love Feast is the most special with the addition of candles which are lit at the end of the Service as a reminder of the Light of Christ's Love. A Dessert Reception will follow the Service in the Fellowship Hall.

The Methodists have ties with the Moravians. John Wesley made an Atlantic Ocean Crossing with the Moravians and was very impressed by the strong faith they displayed when their ship almost sank in a particularly bad storm. It was Peter Bohler, a Leader of that Moravian group, who told Wesley he must preach faith until he got faith. Wesley took part in a Moravian Love Feast in 1783 and introduced it to his fellow Methodists the following year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **ADULT LUNCHEON** will not be held in December due to the Christmas Holidays. We will resume the luncheons on January 24th.

News From the Children's Department

The Children's Christmas Party will be Saturday, Dec. 17, 2:30-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a hat, gloves or other winter clothing item for the Place of Hope. Please RSVP to Eugenia Vicars at 297-8201 or eugeniavicars@aol.com.

Children's Sunday School Teachers/Elementary

December 4 - Annette Bostic, Edna Patterson
 December 11 - Annette Bostic
 December 18 - Annette Bostic

Children's Sunday School Teachers/ K3/K4

December 4 - Mary Pool, David Pool
 December 11 - Elise Patterson, Logan Kanipe
 December 18 - Mary Pool, Edna Patterson

Nursery Workers for December

December 4 - Taunja Pool SSH/WH, Edna Patterson, WH
 December 11 - Lori Cheshire SSH, WH, Volunteers needed, SSH/WH
 December 18 - Lori Cheshire, WH, Volunteers needed, SSH/WH
 December 25 - Marcus Stephens, WH, Volunteers needed, SSH/WH

Children's Worship Leaders

December 4 - MaryAnn Stephens
 December 11 - Lori Cheshire
 December 18 - Peggy Whitmire

Toddler Class Workers for December

December 4 - Peggy Whitmire
 December 11 - Peggy Whitmire, Edna Patterson
 December 18 - Peggy Whitmire, Elise Patterson

Please note: There will be no Children's Sunday School or Children's Worship on Christmas Day, December 25th.

United Ministries Needs: Learning Center: loose-leaf notebook paper, pencils and 3-prong pocket folders.

Emergency Assistance: canned meats, beef stew, Treet, tuna and mackerel as well as individual pkg. of powdered milk, canned soup and dry beans.

Place of Hope: foot powder, spray deodorant, Q-tips, hats, gloves and winter clothing items.

December Ushers

Captains: Troy Gamble, Rebecca Roper

Ushers: Young Adults

Counters

Calvin Bostic, Troy Gamble

Please Note: The Office will be closed from December 22nd - December 27th for Christmas. Please provide any information for the bulletin for December 25th by December 20th and information for the January Newsletter by December 28th. Thanks! Also, do not hesitate to call Rev. Snow at 414-8864 if you should need anything.