

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

April 2011 Messenger

The
United
Methodist
Church

Pastor
Director of Music
Sexton

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

Secretary

Jere Byington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April "Happenings At-A-Glance"

Sunday, April 17	Palm Sunday
	Stewardship Luncheon
Thursday, April 21	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 22	Good Friday
Sunday, April 24 6:30 am	Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 24	Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 16	Easter Egg Hunt
Tuesday, April 26 12:00 Noon	Adult Luncheon

Coming in May:

Sunday, May 1	3:00 p.m. Ad/Council Meeting
Sunday, May 8	Mother's Day - Annual Offering for Epworth Children's Home

March 2011 Financial Report

Budget Needed Through March	\$ 43,277.00
Budget Received Through March	\$ 30,740.00
We are Behind Year to Date:	\$ 12,537.00

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED THROUGH MARCH 2011

Capital Fund	\$ 180.00
Memorials	\$ 45.00
Young Adults	\$ 200.00
AC/Heat Fund	\$ 10.00
The Shepherd Fund	\$ 25.00
UMCOR	\$ 175.00
Pancake Supper/Fidelis Class	\$ 157.50
" Margaret Smith Class	\$ 157.50
	\$ 950.00

Total YTD Special Offerings \$ 5,868.00

STEWARDSHIP

"Encourage and foster a generous nature in your children. As toddlers, reward them when they share food and toys. Explain why we give gifts for birthdays and holidays and why we give to meet needs. As they grow, teach them to pray about giving and to listen to God's still, small voice inside them."

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring a "Palm Sunday Covered Dish Meal" on Sunday, April 17. We will provide the meats. Bring your favorite side dishes. Our focus that day will be on Stewardship with trustees, missions and finance. We hope you can attend.

MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

We are in the planning stages to establish a "Ministry of Hospitality" in April. This ministry would take place before Sunday School, Worship Service and after the Worship Service. We've noticed that many people linger after our Worship Service to enjoy the fellowship. Such a "Ministry of Hospitality" follows the model of Jesus' Table Ministry. It's a great way for our people to fellowship and learn more about each other. Considering that visitors almost always arrive either really early or really late for Worship Service, it would be great to have a place where visitors can be welcomed and feel at ease by drinking some coffee or juice and enjoying a donut or bagel with friendly hosts. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, We need you! Please contact MaryAnn Stephens at: maepool@hotmail.com or 864-202-8051.

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you and your households in the name of Jesus Christ. Spring is here and all around we see transformation taking place in flowers and trees. On a recent hike in the mountains, we saw wildflowers that we have never seen before. It is amazing to see these beautiful flowers sprouting from what appears to be dead ground. We saw Violets, Carolina Rhododendron, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Trillium, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, and many others.

Spring is a time of transformation, a time of renewal, a time to plant and a time to grow. As we approach Easter, we remember how God through Jesus Christ defeated sin and death. The Resurrection on that first Easter morning brought life out of death. Christians are "Easter People," people of the Resurrection, people that through Baptism, share in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because he lives, we too will live.

Transformation, Baptism, Resurrection, bring change in our lives, in the Church, and in our world today. Recently, I had the privilege to listen to Bishop Lovett Weems, Jr. (coauthor of the Discipleship Bible Study Series) speak about change. He said: "We cannot continue to be as we are if we are to become the person that God wants us to be. God has a "not yet" for each us as individuals and as a Church." God has a "not yet" for you, me, and for Saint Paul. For us to become the people God intends us to be involves change in our lives and in the life of the Church. Many of you are enjoying our current Bible Study, "24 Hours that Changed the World," by Adam Hamilton. On Wednesday, April 27 (3:30 – 5:00 pm & 6:00 – 7:00 pm), we will begin a new 5 week study by Adam Hamilton called "Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity". Below is an excerpt from Hamilton's book.

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many in America today. In recent months we have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, the largest Savings and Loan failure in banking history, and numerous bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

Recently the American Psychological Association released the findings of a survey they conducted of 7,000 American households. The study noted that 80 percent of Americans were stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about their ability to provide for their family's basic needs. Fifty-six percent were concerned about their own job stability. Sixty percent of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and fifty-two percent reported laying awake at night worried about this.

This book is an invitation for you, the reader, to rediscover truths previous generations knew – wisdom that was drawn from the pages of scripture. It is meant to be a guide and a source of encouragement and inspiration. In it I will suggest that joy and contentment are found in simplicity, and generosity, in faith and in pursuing your purpose in life. I'm not advocating that any of us live in poverty, but that we cultivate contentment and re-evaluate what constitutes the "good life." There is no sin in having wealth. Money itself is morally neutral. It can be used for good or evil. It is the love of money that the scripture says is a root of all kinds of evil. The problem arises when we make the acquisition of wealth and material possessions our focus in life.

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We extend Happy Birthday greetings this month to: Delores Gilstrap, Karsyn Miller and Wesley Miller - April 4th, Jane McCarthy and Woody Smith - April 7th, Taunja Pool and Helen Reynolds - April 8th, Marshall Bearden - April 9th, Margaret Smith - April 13, Robin Smith - April 14th, Gaby Edwards - April 16th, Stella Feaster - April 19, Annette Bostic - April 25th, Michael Matiz - April 25t, Hayes Edwards - April 26th and Mary Pool - April 30th.

We extend **Happy Anniversary** wishes this month to Denise and Glenn Stockstill - April 30th.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS are extended to John and Lori Evans and their family on the death of John's mother, Betty Evans, on March 28. The Funeral Service was conducted on March 31st by Rev. Murray Snow at the Remembrance Mausoleum Chapel at Woodlawn Memorial Park. The burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Park on Thursday.

CONGRATULATIONS to Bob and Ashley Cooper and big sister, Crosby, on the birth of Leighton Elizabeth Cooper on March 22 at Greenville Memorial Hospital. Leighton weighed 7' 15" and was 20" long. The proud grandparents are Kathy and Bob Weathers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Peggy and Joe Whitmire on the birth of their grandson, Joseph Ray Whitmire on March 21. Joseph weighed 8' 11" and was 20" long. The proud parents are Patrick and Crystal Whitmire.

Please note the following changes of address: Rev. Don McKinnery, 418 Lakeside Circle, Greenville SC 29615, cell phone: 864-553-6923, Home Phone: 864-234-6865. Katie Head, 205 S. Autumn Crest Pl., Taylors SC 29687.

In Your Prayers, Please Remember: Michael Abowd, Jeremy Graham and Dylan O'Neal (all deployed to Afghanistan), Carroll Anthony, Robert Arnold, Phillip Baskins, Kiele Binsted, Calvin Bostic, T. O. Boykin, Ray Byington, *Wade Byers*, the Callahan Family, John Childers, Kathryn Cole, Janet Cook, Connie Cox, the Family of Betty Evans, Don Everett, Eva Gillespie, Luke Gilliam, Bill Hembree, Ron Howard, Martha Jameson, Frank "Cotton" Jones, Pat Larson, the Family of Jay Laughridge, Dot MacMillan, H. W. "Mac" MacMillan, Robin Meade, Buddy Miller, Roy Patterson, Diane Robertson, Jimmy Senn, Nancy Sizemore, Jane Snyder, Linda Terminato, Betty Thompson, Belvin and Georgia Ware, Hazel Welborn, Joseph Ray Whitmire, the people in all countries experiencing disasters and the United States of America and our leaders. If you wish to keep a name on the list after 4 weeks or to add a new name, please call the office.

Nursing Home and/or Special Care Residents and Friends Who Are Homebound: Virginia Dowis, Don Everett, Eva Gillespie, Frank "Cotton" Jones, Dot and Mac MacMillan, Helen Reynolds and Belvin Ware.

From the Pastor (continued)

Here Jesus was right to warn us that we cannot serve both God and wealth – only one can be most important in our life.

I invite you to join with us in this study as we learn together to live the abundant life in Christ.

*Blessings in Christ,
With Love,
Murray and Susan.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **ADULT LUNCHEON** will be Tuesday, April 26th, at 12:00 Noon. Be sure to check your weekly bulletin for information on the Program.

The **Young Adults** will be collecting items in April in their classroom for a Yard Sale to be held on May 7th. They will be glad to pick up any large items and also will help with taking them up to the classroom. Just contact one of the Young Adults if you need help.

The **AD/COUNCIL** will meet on Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Children's Department Workers for April

Nursery Workers

April 3 - Taunja Pool (SSH, WH), Edna Patterson, WH
April 10 - Lori Cheshire (SSH) Volunteers needed WH
April 17 - Volunteers Needed (SSH & WH)
April 24 - MaryAnn and Marcus Stephens (SSH, WH)

Toddlers Class

April 3 - David Pool (SSH, WH)
April 10 - Elise Patterson, Logan Kanipe (SSH, WH)
April 17 - Edna Patterson (SSH, WH)
April 24 - Lori Cheshire (SSH), Volunteer Needed for WH

Sunday School Teachers

April 3 - Annette Bostic, Edna Patterson
April 10 - Mary and Ed Pool
April 17 - Eugenia Vicars
April 24 - Eugenia Vicars

Children's Worship Leaders

April 3 - Annette Bostic
April 10 - Lori Cheshire
April 17 - Peggy Whitmire
April 24 - Peggy Whitmire

The Children are practicing singing with Bill Searcy every Sunday during the first 10-15 minutes of Sunday School. He has chosen a song for the children to learn so they can sing during the Worship Service on Palm Sunday. Please have children upstairs in the Elementary Sunday School Room at 10:00 a.m. so Bill can start on time. Please remember if you child is going to sing on Palm Sunday, they need to attend as many practices as possible. We are looking forward to having the children sing during Worship.

The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 16, 2:30 - 4:00 pm, at the home of Taunja and David Pool. All children are invited to join us for games, crafts, snacks and lots of Easter Eggs. Please RSVP to Eugenia Vicars at 297-8021.

United Ministries Needs: Place of Hope: travel-size soap, spray deodorant, lotion, petroleum jelly, cotton swabs, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, socks, new men's & women's underwear and belts. Emergency Assistance: canned meats, beef stew, Treet, tuna and mackerel, dry beans and individual packages of powdered milk.

APRIL USHERS

Captains: Troy Gamble, Rebecca Howard

Ushers: Young Adults

Counters: Calvin Bostic, Troy Gamble