



# Saint Paul United Methodist Church

## December 2010 Messenger

**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"

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, December 18 | 11:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Party                            |
| Sunday, December 19   | 5:00 p.m. Moravian Love Feast<br>Christmas Service and Reception |
| Friday, December 24th | 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight Communion                 |
| Coming in January:    |  |
| Tuesday, January 11   | 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Meeting                                    |
| Tuesday, January 18   | Ad/Council Meeting   |
| Tuesday, January 25   | Adult Luncheon   |

November 2010 Financial Report

|                                  |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Budget Needed Through November   | \$ 128,385.12 |
| Budget Received Through November | \$ 107,117.12 |
| Expenditures Through November    | \$ 128,716.33 |

Special Offerings Received  
Through November 2010

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Capital Only          | \$ 180.00       |
| Honorariums           | \$ 165.00       |
| Stained Glass Windows | \$ 100.00       |
| AC/Heat Fund          | <u>\$ 10.00</u> |
|                       | \$ 455.00       |

Total YTD Special Offerings      \$ 18,176.29  
(A Total of \$3,852 has been donated to the Stained Glass Window Fund to date.)

**NOTE:** If you have not turned in your pledge forms for 2011, 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 19. 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 at least 15 people or 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.

The **Spiritual Formation Study Classes** on Advent, "Christmas Gifts That Won't Break" continue to meet on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 and from 6:00 to 7:00. All are welcome to join us.

#### December Ushers

Captains: Troy Gamble, Rebecca Howard  
Ushers: Young Adults

#### Counters

Calvin Bostic, Troy Gamble

**Please Note:** The Office will be closed from December 23rd - December 27th for Christmas. If possible, please provide any information for the bulletin for December 26th 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.

The **PRAYER GROUP** continues to meet in the Parlor at 10:00 am on Wednesday mornings. Anyone interested is invited to join.

### *From the Pastor*

Grace and peace to you and your households in the name of Jesus Christ. We trust each of you experienced a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship with the people of Saint Paul at the "Advent Dinner" on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Chrismon Service that followed was a blessing to all that attended. We want to say thank you to all that participated in one form or another. We hope the "Advent Meal" and Chrismon Service will become a tradition at Saint Paul. Along with our regular Worship Services, please plan to attend our special Worship Service on Sunday evening, December 19 for a Moravian Love Feast. Special music will be presented by the Chancel Choir. Also, on Christmas Eve, join us for a Candle Light Communion Service at 5:00 pm. Bring family and friends!

As I write this, Christmas seems to be on everyone's mind. This year, I want to invite each of us to hear anew the Christmas Story as told in the Gospel of Luke (2:1-36) and the Gospel of Matthew (1:18 - 2:12). As you read the Scriptural accounts of the birth of the Christ Child, ask yourself these questions: "At this point in my life, which character best represents me in the story?" Mary, Joseph, the inn keeper, a shepherd, those that heard the shepherd's witness, an angel, Simeon, Anna, King Herod, Magi (wise men), chief priest, or a scribe?

Mary and Joseph surely struggled with what God was doing in their lives. Yet, they were faithful. Their lives and the lives of billions of people are changed forever because they responded affirmatively to God's call on their lives. Innkeepers had no room for the expectant couple during the busy season. Are you a Mary, a Joseph, or an innkeeper?

The shepherds were the "least of these" in the narrative and yet they witnessed "the multitude of angels" praising God in worship at the birth of Jesus. The shepherds responded by seeking the Christ and by being the first human evangelists of the Christ by witnessing to others "what had been made know to them." Perhaps you are one that heard the shepherd's witness. How will you respond as the shepherds "glorify and praise God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them?"

Perhaps you are an angel. Angels are messengers form God. Evangelists are messengers because they share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have at least one Simeon in our congregation at Saint Paul, a righteous and devout person filled with the Holy Spirit. Are you another Simeon? A person guided by the Holy Spirit? Maybe you are a prophet like Anna worshipping God night and day. We have at least one Anna in our congregation. A person praising God and witnessing to others seeking redemption in Christ.

Perhaps some of us are like King Herod, a person threatened by a new King in their life. The Kingdom of God displaces all other claims on our life. There can only be one King and one Lord of our life. How do we respond to Christ's claim on our life?

Some of us could be a scribe or priest - concerned more with the letter of the Law than with the Spirit of the Law. We may know Scripture but sometimes we don't know how to live it. Preachers have to be reminded of this often :-)

Are you one of the magi (wise men / women) seeking Christ in order to pay him homage? Are you the one seeking the Christ to offer him a gift, an offering, a sacrifice? The Apostle Paul writes these words in Romans 12:1-2 concerning gifts, offerings, and sacrifices:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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**We extend Happy Birthday greetings this month to:** Collins Cheshire - December 1st, 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, Everett and Betty Worrell - December 10th, 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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Amanda and Dylan O'Neal on the birth of Nora Arlene O'Neal at Greer Memorial Hospital on November 17th. Nora is the granddaughter of Heather and Daniel Boone, the great-granddaughter of Peggy and Joe Whitmire and the great-great-granddaughter of Marie Whitmire.

On November 21st we celebrated the Baptism of Stella Jordan Feaster, the daughter of Whitney and Jason Feaster.

**In Your Prayers, In Your Prayers, Please Remember:** Michael Abowd, Paul Baker and Dylan O'Neal (all deployed to Afghanistan), Carroll Anthony, Joe Anthony, Phillip Baskins, Kiele Binsted, Calvin Bostic, T. O. Boykin, Wade Byers, the Callahan Family, Crissa Cichon, **Evelyn Childs**, Eleanor Cunningham, Don Everett, Eva Gillespie, Catherine Gilstrap, Luke Gilliam, Jeremy Graham, Helen Gunther, **Bill Hembree**, Martha Jameson, Frank "Cotton" Jones, Dot MacMillan, **H. W. "Mac" MacMillan**, Buddy Miller, Al Ostien, Roy Patterson, Jimmy Senn, Jane Snyder, Linda Terminato, Belvin and Georgia Ware, Hazel Welborn, Marie 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.

**Moravian Love Feast**

On Sunday, December 13th, 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 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 Boehler, 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.

From the Pastor (continued)

May the Christ be born anew in each of us this Christmas and may we be "transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Merry Christmas,  
Love,  
  
Murray & Susan

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **ADULT LUNCHEON** will not be held in December due to the Christmas Holidays. We will resume the luncheons on January 25th.

**News From the Children's Department**

There will be a Meeting of the Children's Dept. Workers in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service on December 12 to sign up for the first of 2011.

The Children's Christmas Party will be Saturday, Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will have lunch, make a craft and have games. Those attending are asked to bring a cap and/or gloves for the Place of Hope. Please contact Eugenia Vicars at 297-8201 if attending.

**Children's Sunday School Teachers for December**

December 5 - Annette Bostic, Edna Patterson  
 December 12 - Mary and Ed Pool  
 December 19 - Eugenia Vicars  
 December 26 - Eugenia Vicars, Eleanor Cunningham

**Children's Worship Leaders for December**

December 5 - Annette Bostic  
 December 12 - Peggy Whitmire  
 December 19 - Lori Cheshire  
 December 26 - Peggy Whitmire

**Nursery Workers for December**

December 5 - Taunja Pool (SSH), Lori Cheshire and Edna Patterson (WH)  
 December 12 - Lori Cheshire (SSH), Stephanie and Troy Gamble (WH)  
 December 19 - Volunteer Needed (SSH), Allison and Jon Miller (WH)  
 December 26 - MaryAnn and Marcus Stephens SSH,WH)

**Toddler Class Workers for December**

December 5 - David Pool (SSH & WH)  
 December 12 - Elise Patterson, Logan Kanipe (SSH, WH)  
 December 19 - Edna Patterson (SSH & WH)  
 December 26 - Lori Cheshire(SSH) Audra Edwards (WH)

**YOUNG ADULTS NEWS**

The Young Adult Christmas Party will be December 4th at the home of Lori and Jason Cheshire. We will be wrapping our hats and gloves for the United Ministries Holiday Warmth Party.

The Sabrina House gifts are due by December 9th for those who have picked one from the tree in the Social Hall. There are still a few items left on the tree for anyone who would like to get one next Sunday.

On December 12th the Young Adults will meet after the Worship Service to wrap individual servings for the Place of Hope Goodie Party. All who would like to participate are asked to bring in some dessert goodies.

**UNITED MINISTRIES NEWS:** The Goodie Party will be Mon., Dec. 13. All dessert goodies need to be packaged for individual servings. You may begin dropping off goodies at Place of Hope the week of Dec. 6. The Holiday Warmth Party will be Mon., Dec. 20. Sweatshirts, hats and gloves, wrapped and size and gender of the gift on the outside of the package. Other United Ministries Needs:  
**Learning Center:** Upright vacuum in good working condition, notebook paper and pencils. **Emergency Assistance:** peanut butter, canned meats and dry beans. **Place of Hope:** A microwave oven, Bibles for recovering addicts in rehab, travel-size soap, spray deodorant, lotion, scarves and knit caps, and men's and women's new underwear.