



Saint Paul United Methodist Church

January 2012 Messenger

Pastor
Director of Music
Sexton

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

Secretary

Jere Byington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January "Happenings At-A-Glance"

Sunday, January 1 Communion
 Sunday, January 8 Trustees Meeting immediately following Worship Service
 Tuesday, January 24 12:00 Noon Adult Luncheon
 Coming in February:
 Saturday, February 4 9-12 Noon VBS Workshop Simpsonville UMC
 Sunday, February 12 3:00 pm Ad/Council Meeting

December 2011 Financial Report

Budget Needed Through December \$ 173,099
 Budget Received Through December \$ 130,306.70

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED THROUGH DECEMBER, 2011

Capital Fund	\$ 180.00
The Shepherd Fund	\$ 900.00
Memorials	\$ 1570.00
Young Adults	\$ 60.00
	<u>\$ 2,710.00</u>

Total YTD Special Offerings \$ 23,353.18

Financial Information: We should have Financial Statements for 2011 ready and on the back ledge in the Narthex by the middle of January. These statements will include your giving information for the entire year. Please review the statements and call the office as soon as possible if you have any question or if you find anything that does not agree with your records.

Stewardship: A Call to Action

As we begin the new year, we continue to live in uncertain economic times. The key to finding peace in the midst of these times is trusting God. We are not alone. We will survive these uncertain times and see that goodwill comes through them. We must act upon our trust in God by giving thanks in all circumstances, choosing to serve others, and practicing generosity. As we begin to do these things, we will find our fear giving way to faith.

(Taken from ENOUGH by Adam Hamilton)

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

The tradition of giving a Christmas donation in memory of or in honor of someone special to you was very successful this year. Due to your generosity, as noted above, \$ 900 was donated for the Shepherd Fund to help those in need in our community. This year those funds are especially needed and will be put to good use as we help those through United Ministries and others.

THANK YOU!

All of us on the Staff want to express our deep appreciation to the members and friends of Saint Paul for the Christmas gifts given to us this year. It is certainly our privilege to serve on the Staff of Saint Paul United Methodist Church and we are truly blessed to be part of such a loving Christian Family and Community.

Murray, Bill, Jere and Gary

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you and your households in the name of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your households. Susan and I wish to thank you for the cards, gifts, and your kind generosity extended to us during this special time of year. We thank God for you and the work God continues to do in each of our lives.

As we begin a New Year as a congregation, what things do we need to discard, to leave behind and what things do we need to bring with us as we continue our journey as Christ's representatives in the world? Between Christmas and New Year, I spent some time going through my accumulation of "stuff" in our home office. Somehow, it didn't make sense to hold onto the 3.5" floppy disk and the Windows 95 CD. At some point during my journey, many of the items had meaning and purpose for a specific time and place. One can only imagine how much "stuff" was keeping me from working efficiently in the present. This "stuff" was holding me prisoner of the past and preventing me from moving into the future. As I held each item in my hand, I had to ask myself some questions: "What use will this be for me in the future as I continue on my journey?" Is this item displacing anything in my life?

As we journey as a congregation into 2012, we are like the Magi found in Matthew 2:1-12. We don't know what the end of 2012 looks like, only the beginning. The Magi had a clear vision as they sought to fulfill their mission of finding the "Newborn King." Their journey took them from the expected place (a palace) in search of the "Newborn King" to an unexpected place (a peasant's house). Along the way, they kept their eye on the "Light," re-adjusting their route. They asked questions, they dreamed, they brought gifts, and they worshiped the "New-born King."

Likewise, as a congregation, we seek to clarify our vision and mission in 2012 as a "Light" in the West End of Greenville. We will need to examine and discard what keeps us prisoners of the past and hold onto what will be useful for the future. We will need to ask questions and be in an ongoing discussion with God and one another, readjusting our path accordingly. We will need to listen to the "angels," our "dreams," and keep our vision set on Christ in order for us to be a place of vibrant "Light" in our community as we make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Are you willing to take part to help us articulate a clear vision and mission statement for Saint Paul? What is your vision for Saint Paul UMC for 2012? 2015? 2017? Please send me an email at: murray.snow@gmail.com or send me a note or a Facebook message.

Blessings in Christ,

Murray & Susan

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We extend Happy Birthday greetings this month

to: Betty Wood - 6th, Edna Patterson, David Pool and Fredna Scott - 11th, Murray Snow - 12th, Amber Brown - 13th, Elizabeth Abowd - 14th, Tommy Thompson - 21st, Andy Bolen, Audra Edwards and Jennifer Wham - 22nd, Jeffrey Shetterly - 24th, Peggy Brunson and Catherine Gilstrap - 25th, Ty Childs - 27th, Glenda Anthony and Hadley Edwards - 29th, Isabel Jenkinson -30th and Camille Pool - 31st.

Christian Sympathy and Prayers are extended to the family of John Mitchell who died on December 15, 2011. A Graveside Service was held at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Congratulations to Jon Miller who graduated Magna Cum Laude from Ashford University with a BA degree in Business Administration.

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, Travel Mercies for Galina and Nikolai, Eva Gillespie, Luke Gilliam, Louise Gilstrap, Rev. Enrique Gordon, Courtney Dobson Grass, Walt Hawkins, Jimmy Head, Martha Jameson, **Joyce Kefalas**, 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, Susan Snow, Jane Snyder, Linda Terminato, Eric Thrasher, Belvin and Georgia Ware, Hazel Welborn, Jennifer Wham, the victims of recent earthquakes, 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 Thompson, Dot and "Mac" MacMillan and Belvin Ware.

UNITED MINISTRIES NEEDS: The Learning Center needs loose-leaf notebook paper and new pocket folders. **Emergency Assistance** needs food pantry items, including canned meats, powdered/evaporated milk, peanut butter and cereal. **The Place of Hope** needs new socks, hats & gloves for the winter months. Thank you to all who contributed items for the United Ministries Holiday Warmth Party and the Goodie Party.

What is the **Place of Hope and United Ministries**? It's a new life for people from Greenville and beyond to get back on your feet after falling down, when you need help. The Place of Hope is a Stellar Foundation for doing just that. The process is easy and the employees are great people. You'll never be looked down upon no matter your situation. There's a positive attitude that helps you forget your woes and get the ball rolling to a better life. Clean clothes, clean body, clean mind are all offered for you @ the Place of Hope. You have a strong mind and heart, regardless of what anyone or anything has said or happened. The Place of Hope is exactly what it's titled. A place to recover, regroup, and get back on your feet. If you feel down or have just hit a huge bump in your road of life, the great people @ the Place of Hope are there for you.

(written in his own words by a regular visitor at Place of Hope)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Prayer Group** meets every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor at Saint Paul. All are welcome to join us at this special time.

There will be a meeting of the **Trustees** immediately following the Worship Service on Sunday, January 8.

The **Greenville District Lay Leadership Orientation** will be at Buncombe Street UMC on January 22, 2012 at 3:00 pm. All church leaders, especially new church officers, are encouraged to attend.

The **Adult Luncheon** will be Tuesday, January 24th. For entertainment after lunch we will play Bible Trivia.

There will be a **VBS Workshop** on Saturday, February 4 at Simpsonville UMC from 9:00 - 12:00. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Eugenia Vicars as soon as possible to be registered.

Children's Department Workers for January

Sunday School Teachers (Elem)

January 1 - Annette Bostic, Edna Patterson
January 8 - Annette Bostic
January 15 - Annette Bostic
January 22 - Annette Bostic
January 29 - Annette Bostic

Sunday School Teachers (K3/K4)

January 1 - Mary Pool, David Pool
January 8 - Elise Patterson, Logan Kanipe
January 15 - Mary Pool, Edna Patterson
January 22 - Mary Pool, Lori Cheshire
January 29 - Mary Pool

Nursery Workers

January 1 - Taunja Pool, SSH & WH, Edna Patterson WH
January 8 - Lori Cheshire, SSH, Volunteers Needed, WH
January 15 - Volunteers Needed, SSH, Lori Cheshire, WH
January 22 - Marcus Stephens, SSH & WH
January 29 - Volunteers Needed (SSH & WH)

Toddlers Class

January 1 - Stephanie and Troy Gamble
January 8 - Stephanie Gamble, Lauren Evans
January 15 - Stephanie Gamble, Whitney Feaster
January 22 - Stephanie Gamble, MaryAnn Stephens
January 29 - Check with Stephanie

Children's Worship Leaders

January 1 - MaryAnn Stephens
January 8 - Lori Cheshire
January 15 - Peggy Whitmire
January 22 - Peggy Whitmire
January 29 - Volunteer Needed

January Ushers

Captain - Tommy Head

Charlie Robertson, Diane Robertson
David Pool, Taunja Pool

Counters: Charlie Robertson, Tommy Head