

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

October 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

October "Happenings At-A-Glance"

Sunday, October 2nd Communion
 Tuesday, October 4th 6:00 pm SPRC Meeting
 Sunday, October 16th 6:00 pm Hot Dog Supper and Gospel Sing
 Tuesday, October 25th 12:00 Noon Adult Luncheon
 Sunday, October 30th Pink Sunday
 Coming in November:
 All Saints Day, Communion November 6th
 Pledge Sunday will be in November on a date yet to be determined.

September 2011 Financial Report

Budget Needed through September \$ 129,849.00
 Budget Received through September \$ 97,406.71
 We are Behind Year to Date: \$ 32,442.29

SPECIAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED Through September 2011

Capitol Only	\$ 180.00
Memorials and Honorariums	\$ 70.00
Multi-Media Fund	\$ 550.00
Epworth	\$ 402.00
Race for the Cure	\$ 450.00
Landscaping	\$ 300.00
	<u>\$ 1,952.00</u>

Total YTD Special Offerings \$19,381.18

Christian Stewardship - Giving a Tithe

As Christians who live under the covenant, we know that we are not bound by the law of Moses. Rather, we look to it as a guide. What, then, does God expect of us today regarding the tithe? Most Christians agree that the tithe is still a good guideline for our lives, and one that is pleasing to God. We give our tithes to the church to accomplish the work of God's kingdom through the body of Christ, and the church is responsible for praying and discerning how God wants these resources to be used. (Taken from *Enough Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, by Adam Hamilton)

The **Finance Committee** will be meeting soon to prepare the Church Budget for 2012. The Chairperson of each Committee should call in your requests for funding for the coming year to the Office or give them to Jason Cheshire as soon as possible. There are copies of the September Financial Statement on top of the mail cabinet in the hall which show income and expenses through September if you need help in determining your request.

Lay Liturgist Invitation: Some of you are currently participating as a lay liturgist for our Sunday Worship and we thank you so much for your service! We would like to expand this list of Scripture readers and then create a quarterly schedule that will be distributed to each participant. If you are interested in participating, please notify Susan Snow or there's a sign-up sheet at each front entrance of the church. The deadline for signing-up is Sunday, October 2, 2011.

The **YAM (Young Appalachian Musicians) Evening Music Program** is expanding to Greenville! The weekly Evening Program is for Adults and Youth (3rd grade +) and will begin on Monday, October 24th at Saint Paul UMC. If you or someone you know is interested in learning to play: banjo, fiddle, guitar, or mandolin, please contact Nancy Knowland at pnknowland@att.net or 878-6641. Members and friends of Saint Paul as well as others in the Greenville community are welcome to participate. You can also check with Susan Ware/Snow (979-9188).

From the Pastor

Grace and peace to you and your households in the name of Jesus Christ. Where are you on your spiritual journey and where is this journey taking you? John Wesley understood salvation to be a journey, a process, by which we are restored to the natural image that God created in us. We read in Genesis 1:26-27, 31 that we are created in God's image and God saw that we were good. But we turned away from God and sin entered into the world and our image has been tarnished and corrupted. We look at our own lives and we can see the effects of sin in our world: broken relationships; addictions of every imaginable kind; violence, abuse, murder, and war; discrimination, poverty, and bullying; these are the biggies, the obvious brokenness we see in our world. Sin is anything that separates us from a right relationship with God. What is not obvious to many are subtle counterfeits that we substitute for a right relationship with God. Perhaps we ask ourselves that ageless question: "Did God really say that?" (Gen. 3:1) Soon we are eating "forbidden fruit" (Gen 3:6-7) and we are not producing "fruit of the Kingdom," because we have separated ourselves from the "Vine of Life." (John 15:1-17) A Christian is made known by the fruit one produces: *"Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control"* (Gal 5:22). Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not about having all the right answers and doing all the right things at the right time. Discipleship means that we journey with Christ and join with him in his Kingdom work.

We understand God's grace as preceding our responses and actions in the journey or process of salvation. Wesley called this prevenient grace, God's love for us before we ever recognized or knew of that love. Our journey continues with recognizing our own brokenness, our sin, our need for Divine Grace (God's work for us and in us) and responding by repenting from our sin and turning toward God. God's work in us and before us enables us and empowers us to recognize our sin and our need for a Savior (Jesus Christ) to reconcile us (to be made righteous) to a Holy God, for we stand convicted. God's grace continues to work for us as we receive forgiveness for our sin and are reconciled to God by what is called justifying grace through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. By grace we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (Eph. 2:8). By faith in Christ we are accounted as righteous in the presence of God (Rom. 3:21-25). We are made righteous to God through the person of Jesus Christ and receive assurance that we are children of God (Rom 8:16). John Wesley called this "Justifying Grace" (God's work for us), resulting in one's experience of new birth, the newness of life.

Reconciled with God, we experience this regeneration of life through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as God's grace continues to work for us. In this new birth we become a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17-18). Our new birth is also the beginning of sanctification, God's work in us. John Wesley referred to sanctifying grace as perfecting grace or going on toward perfection in this life, the goal of a life in Christ. Paul affirms this in 2 Corinthians 3:18 *"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a meeting of the **SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee)** on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Members of the SPRC are: Lori Evans (Chair), Janet Cook, David Pool Charlie Robertson, Randy Rogers, Jimmy Senn, Stephanie Gamble, Tommy Head, Jamie Robinson and Eugenia Vicars. Please make every effort to be present for this important meeting.

Fall Hotdog Supper and Gospel Sing. Sunday, October 16th, 6:00 p.m. Hotdog meal provided, please bring beverage and/or dessert to share.

The **Adult Luncheon** will meet on Tuesday, October 25th for our Fall Outing. We will be having lunch at the Hunting Camp Bar BQ & Grill at 2221 Hwy 25 North in Travelers Rest. We will meet at 11:15 at Hamrick's on White Horse Rd. if you want to car pool or just plan to be at the Hunting Camp by 12:00 Noon. Be sure to sign up if you plan to attend so we can let them know how many to expect.

On Sunday, October 30 we will observe Pink Sunday, to raise awareness about breast cancer. Wear "pink" that Sunday to honor those who have lost their battle with breast cancer, to celebrate survivors and their courage and to support the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. (We will have pink ribbons for those who are unable to wear pink!)

Children's Sunday School Teachers/Elementary

October 2 - Annette Bostic, Edna Patterson
 October 9, 16, 23, 30 - Annette Bostic

Children's Sunday School Teachers/K3/K4

October 2 - Mary Pool, David Pool
 October 9 - Elise Patterson, Logan Kanipe
 October 16 - Mary Pool, Edna Patterson
 October 23 - Mary Pool, Lori Cheshire
 October 30 - Mary Pool

Children's Worship Leaders

October 2 - MaryAnn Stephens
 October 9 - Lori Cheshire
 October 16 - Peggy Whitmire
 October 23 - Peggy Whitmire
 October 30 - Volunteer Needed

Nursery Workers

October 2 - Taunja Pool (SSH, WH), Edna Patterson, WH
 October 9 - Lori Cheshire (SSH), Volunteers Needed, WH
 October 16 - Volunteers Needed, SSH, WH.
 October 23 - Marcus Stephens (SSH, WH)
 October 30 - Volunteers needed, SSH & WH

Toddler Class Workers

October 2 - Peggy Whitmire, SSH, David Pool, Stephanie Gamble, WH
 October 9 - Peggy Whitmire, Edna Patterson, SSH, Stephanie Gamble, Elise Patterson, WH
 October 16 - Peggy Whitmire, Elise Patterson, SSH Stephanie Gamble, Edna Patterson, WH
 October 23 - Peggy Whitmire, MaryAnn Stephens, SSH, Stephanie Gamble, MaryAnn Stephens, WH
 October 30 - Peggy Whitmire, Taunja Pool, SSH Stephanie Gamble, WH

October Ushers

Captain - Calvin Bostic
 Lori Evans, John Evans
 Rebecca Roper, Elise Patterson
 Counters
 Calvin Bostic, John Evans

We extend **Happy Birthday** greetings this month to: Bert Curry and Al Lupo, Jr. - October 1st, Lori Evans - October 2nd, Jason Feaster and Jan Johnson - October 4th, Olivia Phillips - October 9th, Matthew Pool and MerriElizabeth Cable - October 10th, Davis Lupo and Kathy Weathers - October 16th, Andrew Worrell - October 19th, Heather Boone - October 21st, Eunice Hill - October 23rd, Charlie Robertson - October 27th, Gary Putman - October 29th and Lori Cheshire - October 30th

We extend **Happy Anniversary** wishes this month to Charlie and Diane Robertson - October 9th and David and Amie Lee - October 16th.

Christian Sympathy and Prayers are extended to Betty Thompson and her family on the death of her great-grand son, Lucas Nicholos, on September 2nd in Dacula, Georgia.

Christian Sympathy and Prayers are extended to the family and friends of Frank "Cotton" Jones who died on Sunday, September 25th. Funeral Services were held on Friday, September 30, at Thomas McAfee Funeral Home with burial in Springwood Cemetery.

In Your Prayers, Please Remember: Friends serving in the Armed Services: Michael Abowd, John Broom, and Dylan O'Neal, and Jeremy Graham, Michael Gravley, Travis Scott and Paul. (all deployed to Afghanistan), Carroll Anthony, Phillip Baskins, Cliff Belcher, Kiele Binsted, Calvin Bostic, Zonelle Boykin, Edith Branham, Bill and Joe-Ellen Brockman, Ann Brown, Randy and Linda Burchet, Connie Cox, Lilli Curry, **Bill Davis**, David Dolge, Virginia Dowis, Don Everett, Blaine Frazier, Eva Gillespie, Luke Gilliam, **Louise Gilstrap**, *Courtney Dobson Grass*, Walt Hawkins, Jimmy Head, Martha Jameson, Kristina Kimbrell, Pat Larson, Al Lupo, Dot and "Mac" MacMillan, Buddy Miller, Roy Patterson, Rhonda Pearson, Jimmy Senn, Nancy Sizemore, Nancy Smith, David and Madeline Snow, **Susan 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, Helen Reynolds, Dot Thompson and Belvin Ware.

From the Pastor (continued)

Sanctification is ongoing transformation into the image of Christ. Through our new birth, we are enabled by grace to live a life free of sin. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to continuously grow in love of God and neighbor as we continue our journey in Christ toward perfection. John Wesley described Christian perfection as "one with a heart habitually filled with love of God and love of neighbor" and as "having the mind of Christ and walking as he walked." For some this journey might occur in an instant, but for most of us it involves a lifetime of growing in love with God and neighbor. As the congregation of Saint Paul UMC, we continue our journey together producing Kingdom fruit. *"For we are what [God] has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life"* (Eph. 2:10). Enjoy the journey.

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