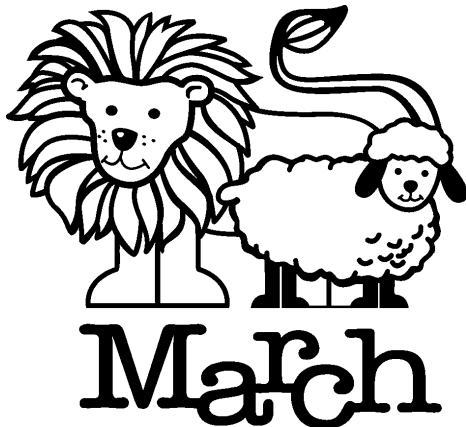


St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
Phone: 717/766-7931

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AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

The Epistle

is a monthly publication of St. Paul's UCC.

Comments, suggestions, and submissions are welcome!

Worship Schedule – Two services 8:15 & 10:30 am

Sunday School at 9:15 am Childcare available @ 10:30 am service.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STAFF

Pastor John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
Director of Christian Ed & Youth Advisor Holly Yeuell
Director of Music Eric R. Dundore
Choristers' Director Jonneke A. Dundore
Organist Sarah A. Myers
Assistant Organist Patrice G. Miller
Sexton Michael W. Hatz
Consistory President Kevin B. Allison

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:00 ♦ Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

Phone: 717/766-7931

John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

FAX: 717/766-7374

Holly's email: ce-holly@verizon.net

Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

The Epistle

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MARCH 2010

FROM THE PASTOR

Should I Go To Church Or Not?

Here is St. Paul's United Church of Christ's official policy, as recently revised by our Consistory, about cancelling Services due to severe or dangerous weather conditions.

The pastor and the consistory president have the flexibility to make the determination on Services to be held, based on the expected severity of conditions.

Our congregation has had a couple of different policies about how to best determine whether we should cancel our Services or not. A big part of what shaped previous policies was trying to take the pressure off the Pastor and Consistory President as to having to make "the call" about having Services when the weather is bad. Major snowfalls, icy conditions, high winds all are examples of severe weather conditions that would cause us to consider cancelling Services.

No one likes to cancel a Service, but there are times when, due to safety concerns, we will make that choice. Such cancelations will be posted on **TV on channel 21 CBS and their website; on our phone answering machine (766-7931 Select 1); and hopefully soon, on our website as well.** If you are not sure whether a Service is cancelled, you can give someone from the congregation a call as well.

There are also times that we will hold Services when the weather looks like it will break and the roads will be okay. Please read carefully the following words: **if coming to a Worship Service, or any other event at St. Paul's, puts you at risk while driving, walking or trying to get out of your house, you should not come to church.**

I hope everyone makes every effort to come to as many Services and events as

possible. And, I also hope everyone will use caution and common sense when deciding if the conditions outside make it too dangerous to come. Please understand, God understands. God will not be angry with you, no one else will be angry with you if you choose not to come to church because it was too risky going from your home to St. Paul's.

Remember everyone's situation is different. Age, physical condition, your local roads, your vehicle and many other factors need to be weighed. You should not feel guilty if you decide to stay home on "heavy weather" days. If you have a responsibility that Sunday but are concerned about getting here, call me or call another member of the congregation, and we will cover for you.

Coming to Worship or attending an event should never put you physically at risk (of course Worship can move you to decide to take risks in service to others on behalf of God, but that risk is different). There is no shame in "laying up" sometimes. Part of what makes the best golfers in the world the best, is knowing when not to risk going for it. It is okay, it is wise at times to say the risk is too great for me today and I will make it to church next Sunday.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at church, but only if you can get here safely.

Peace, John

WOMEN IN THE UCC – A previously released article was offered recently as a free download on the UCC Website. It is written by The Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund, a UCC historian. This is a good brief history or overview of Women in the UCC. If you would like a copy, please contact Terry in the Church office. She can either email you a PDF file or make you a hard copy (this is 24 pages long so copies will be made by request).



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:
Aggie from Michigan; Mayme Alfano (Paula Boyer's mother); **Kevin Allison; Alyssa Armstrong** (granddaughter of friend of Suttons); **Rev. Ken Arthur** (friend of Tom Stone); **Stacey Barnet and her infant;**

Lisa Benoist (Dave Ritter's nephew's wife); **Peggy Baum; Beverly** (Holly Yeuell's mom); **Kathy Boyer; Brenda** (friend of Dar Murphy); **Charles Breon** (step-father of Sue Miller); **Shar Briner** (sister of good friend of Susan Gabriel); **Larry Brown** (close friend of Cindy Bensel); **Sandy Buhrman** (friend of Kathy Williams); **Rev. Lila Butz; Joanne & Janine Campbell; Ruth Chronister**(Ron's Mother); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Cleason Cromer; Alice and Bill Crouse; Debbie** (friend of Velez's); **Ellie Deeble** (great-granddaughter of Jean Myers); **Tyler Derr** (grandson of a friend of Winnie Wentz); **Jackie Diorio** (Rev. John's mother); **Jacque & Grace Drager; Edna Dreibelbis** (Anna Burn's mother); **Pat Eakin; Ingrid Eberly; Scott Eichman** (Colleen's husband); **Stewart Emery** (Sandi Ritter-Butz's father); **Emily** (daughter of friend of Susan Gabriel); **Emily (Patrice Miller's niece); Abby Freeland** (daughter of Assistant Principal at MASH); **Debbie and Joe Gartland; Les Gerber & Elaine McCracken; Nancy Girard** (sister of Belva Garman); **Bob & Liane Gladwin; Chuck Goodhart** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Lucy Goodridge** (Betsy Rushong's sister); **Shirley & Tom Grammer; Ken Groff; Bethany Grubbs; Shirley Harmon** (friend of Melba & Herb Bomberger); **Paul Heaney, Sr.** (Dar Murphy's dad); **Sandy Heckman; Bob Heisler; Phyllis Hershey; Travis Hessom; Sue Higgins** (friend of Anna Thompson); **Dorothy Hildebeitel** (mother-in-law of friend of Anna Thompson); **Jim & Diane Hughes**(Jim is pastor of Grace UCC in Greencastle); **Greg Holley**(friend of Sue Miller); **Mary Kathryn Hunt** (mother of Kimberly Leonard); **Betty Hyde; Bill Ingraham** (friend of Anna Thompson/Eric Dundore); **Alberta Jamison** (Betty Olsen's mother); **Joe & Family**(friend of Susan Gabriel); **Minta Johnson**(colleague of Kevin Allison); **Dan Jones** (Jean and Willard's son); **Bob Kayer** (Kris Amtower's Dad); **Brian Keefer** (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); **Nancy Keith** (Martha and Gene's daughter); **Steven Keith** (Martha and Gene's son); **Megan Kern; Caleb Kilgore** (brother of a co-worker of Colleen Eichman's husband); **Rev. George Klinefelter** (former pastor of St. Paul's); **Shirley Knisely; Helena Leber; Barbara Lumby** (friend of Betsy

Rushong); **Melodie** (colleague of Randy Murphy's); **Clyde & Treva Miller; Sue & Dayne Miller; Steve Mitchell; Ally, Erin, Joan & Ernie Moyer; Tyler, Hayden & Stacy Mustico** (Layne Thompson's cousin); **Edna Myers** (Steve Mitchell's Grandmother); **Jean Myers; Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka's mother); **Nancy** (friend of the Chronister family); **Craig Parker** (Ruth Wrightstone's nephew); **Julia Paroda & Family** (friends of the Shaner/Gates Family); **Ann Patch** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Kristen Pike** (sister-in-law of Christal Pike-Nase & Jonathan Nase); **Doris Rhoads** (Jack Rhoads' mother); **Sandy Ritter-Butz; Lynn & Bea Row** (Sue Miller's parents); **Candice Rush** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Irv Sanders** (Brenda Kern's father); **John Scott; Don and Peggy Seiler; Shelly** (works with Randy Murphy); **Lisa Skinnell** (Eric Trout's step-mother); **Rena Smith; Susie Snyder**(friend of Skip and Sandy Kline); **Lester Starner; Clarence Steck; Tom Stone & his family** (son of Tom and Cindy Stone); **Kelly Strange** (friend of Kathy Aumiller); **Clyde Strock** (Becca Strock's grandfather); **Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Rev. Karin Stork-Whitson; Jim Sufrin** (Noel's Father); **Dave Thomas; Debra Urich** (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); **Kaylen Walker** (friend of Saige Sufrin); **John White; Art & Kathy Williams; Eric Williams** (Art & Kathy's son); **Frank Williams** (friend of Tom Stone's), **Ruth Wrightstone.**

Please also keep: All the people affected by the earthquake in Haiti; All the people in the Middle East struggling for peace; All the people in the military and their families and All the people who have lost jobs and their families in your prayers.

Please keep the office informed if there is anyone who should be added to or removed from the prayer list.

MARCH LECTIONARY TEXTS

7 Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Psalm 63:1-8 Luke 13:1-9

14 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 11 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Psalm 32 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

21 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14
 Psalm 126 John 12:1-8

28 Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Luke 19:28-40

MARCH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTES

07 10:30 Slater Ward-Diorio
14 10:30 Slater Ward-Diorio
21 10:30 Mike Brown
28 8:15 Jeff Dundore
10:30 Kevin MacKinnon

GREETERS

07 8:15 Cindy and Tom Stone
10:30 Leann and Tim Davinroy
14 8:15 Patty and Dave Scott
10:30 Jane and Dave Hall
21 8:15 Shannon and Eric Trout
10:30 Bonnie and Dennis Plymette
28 8:15 Joanne Miller and Mary Louise Miller
10:30 Terry and Gene Shaner

LECTORS

07 8:15 Mike Gray
10:30 Craig Martek
14 8:15 Ron Chronister
10:30 Amy Paulus
21 8:15 Kathy Williams
10:30 Colleen Eichman
28 8:15 Joanne Miller
10:30 Victoria Velez

Head Usher: Dennis Plymette

USHERS

07 8:15 & 10:30 Consistory
14 8:15 Merikay and Don Wood
10:30 Cindy and Dick Bense
Christal Pike-Nase and Jonathan Nase
21 8:15 Carolyn and Jere Rutherford
10:30 Chris and David Grice
Lois and Dave Ritter
28 8:15 Donna and Donald Sponsler
10:30 Susan and Ron Gabriel
Patty and Dave Scott

FLOWER DELIVERY

07 Pat Cleland
14 Dot and Jim Kinzer
21 Cindy and Tom Stone
28 Pat Cleland

COMMUNION PREP

07 Donna Sterner, Terry and Gene Shaner



07 - 8:15 am Youth Choir
10:30 am Chancel Choir
14 - 10:30 am Handchimes/Choristers during
Children's Message
21 - 8:15 am Chancel Choir
10:30 am Youth Choir
28 - 8:15 am Youth Choir
10:30 am Chancel Choir



01 Payten Kern	18 Luke McCorkel
Patty Scott	Kyle Miller
Jennifer Sheaffer	Jason Rhoads
02 Josette Grice	20 Jeff Dundore
03 Jill Morell	Donna Sterner
04 Jaiden Baaney	22 Bill Mullin
Cheryl Cotton	Atle Walter
05 Jim Quick	24 Glenn Schultz
07 Jessica Obrock	25 Julie Scott
08 Kevin Allison	26 Chris Bowers-Paris
Jennifer Martek	Tim Davinroy
Jack Rhoads	Richard Hoffman
09 Jeffrey Nye	Lois Ritter
11 Gerald Stada	Arlene Sealover
Susan Thorn	27 Matthew Graham
Darryl Wentz	28 Mike Brown
12 Slater Ward-Diorio	Benjamin Eichman
14 Douglas Haas	29 Sue Ward-Diorio
15 Beth Mihmet	30 Deborah Gartland
Gail Siemons	Elizabeth Miller
Nancy Steck	31 Aaron Miller
18 Carol Baughman	Tom Olsen



02 Anita and Lloyd Miller
03 Janet and Charles Wotring
05 Connie and Herb Sutton
08 Donna and Donald Sponsler
11 Chris and Tina Bowers-Paris
12 Jane and Claude Frymark
21 Theresa and Raymond Krouch
21 Gail and Jim Siemons
31 Becky and Tim Drazba

CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS – February 16,

2010 Treasurer's Report – Dave anticipates that church finances for the year will be quite tight. Need for members to keep up on pledges. **Christian Education Council** – Randy Murphy- Meeting was held on Jan 31. The VBS curriculum, with a “galactic blast” theme was approved. The council brainstormed about what they and congregation members like about the current Christian Ed program, what things they would like to change and other ideas for the future. Holly will compile all of the comments and the current Christian Ed vision/mission statement will be updated based on the comments collected. **Extended Ministries Council** – Shirley Keith Knox – Details have been worked out on the New Hope Ministries request for contributions to provide bread and milk to the community through their food bank. Information will be coming on this program. Twenty five Haiti personal care kits were delivered to the Mission Central program in Lancaster. In the process of putting together the balance of the kits with items and money donated by the congregation. **Youth Ministries Council** – Dick Bense – recent activities included a trip to a Hershey Bears game, the money that the Youth collected on Souper bowl Sunday will go toward the Haitian Earthquake relief effort, Youth Sunday was held on 2/14 and was well done and well received. The annual Thirty hours of Famine event is upcoming. **Property Committee** – Bill Cashman – Over the past month, some minor electrical repairs were done by Dayne Miller. Ed Thorn is monitoring the heating system, which has not needed any service calls over the past month. Through the Central PA Energy Consortium, we are paying a bit higher amount than the market rate for heating oil right now. A decision will be made later in the year if we will stay with the Energy Consortium. February snow removal costs are up as a result of the two large snowfalls. A plumber was called into repair a toilet. **Called to Care** – Michael Gray – On Feb 28, there will be a commissioning of all new CTC members at the second service. **Finance Committee** – Kevin Allison – The Finance committee met on Feb. 2 and discussed the need to get information out to the congregation about

financial goals for future years. They plan to meet regularly to review finances and make decisions and recommendations on asset management. **Daycare committee** – Dennis Plymette – Daycare Committee made a recommendation that we charge \$21,312 for our day care contract with the Mechanicsburg Learning Center. This represents a 2.51% increase. Motion was made and approved to accept this recommendation. **Pastor's Report** – Rev. John reports that he is thankfully healthy now! Monthly activity and updates include a couple of pre-wedding meetings, the announcement of a request from Les and Elaine Gerber, who have asked for limited contact with members of the congregation due to Les's weakened immune state. Rev. John performed a wedding the weekend of the first big snowfall, not at St. Paul's. Updates from Mercersburg Ministerium included announcement of the restructuring of the conference ministers' positions and responsibilities as the positions have been reduced to two rather than three. The Mechanicsburg Ministerium met to discuss practices and rituals around death. This discussion included some Hospice folks. On Feb 13th, Rev. John, Shirley Keith Knox, Martha and Gene Keith attended a marriage equality session. On Feb. 25th, Rev. John, Bruce Perry and Donna Chronister will meet with New Hope to get updates on the work that they are doing. A Lenten Reading Group starts on Feb. 25th. Rev. John encourages the congregation to support Eric Dundore and all youth who will be performing in the upcoming musical. On March 13, at “Growing Stronger Churches’ program will be held in Harrisburg. **Old Business** – The property committee meets Feb 18th and will review the computer proposal along with prioritizing the other capital needs. New Picture Directory – Shirley has talked with one directory company and is still planning to talk to two other companies. She anticipates that we can start schedule for pictures sometime in the Spring. **New Business** – Cancellation Policy – Council has been asked to review weather cancellation policy to come up with solid procedures that can be communicated to the congregation. After some discussion, Rev. John indicated

that he prefers the flexibility to make the determination on whether to hold services on Saturday night or Sunday morning rather than have a fixed policy. Motion was made and passed to allow the Pastor and the Consistory president to have the flexibility to make the determination.

Development of brochure – Shirley Keith Knox, Rick Ayers and Brenda Kern are developing a brochure suitable for attracting new members. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

This short recap presents the financial status of the congregation through January 31, 2010. We had receipts of \$ 22,417.85 and expenses of \$ 22,098.74 for the month creating a small plus balance of \$ 319.11. This coupled with a small carryover from 2009 leaves a balance of \$ 655.90 in the general fund checking account. Whew you may say, we made it through that month. Unfortunately we have been faced with expenses of \$ 8,400 through the first 10 days of February which has placed a strain on our finances. I am sure it will surprise no one that considerable expenditures have been made or must be made for snow removal and heating oil. Electricity, although a considerable increase was budgeted for 2010, has also become quite expensive. The congregation should also note that from October 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010, \$ 12,100 has been borrowed from the money management account to meet ongoing commitments. We have an obligation to repay this amount even though we are borrowing from ourselves. As we are all aware the budget adopted for 2010 presents a considerable challenge for us, and only through continual committed giving will this challenge be met.

LENTEN ENVELOPES

By now you have probably noticed the Lenten Envelope included in your Epistle. We have included such envelopes during the Advent and Lenten seasons in the past. The intent is to offer the opportunity (spur our thinking; pull our heartstrings; push our

buttons) for us to make additional gifts to our congregation during this season. This offering will be used to meet some of our current expenses. These envelopes, or the pew envelopes can be used, but please note on your check or the envelope that it is for the Lenten Offering.

As you know, in our 2010 budget our projected expenses exceeded our projected income. We are doing everything in our power to cut costs where we can, be frugal and wise, and look for other ways to raise funds. Sometimes there are circumstances beyond our control that add to our costs, i.e. the two big snow storms we have received. Our hope is that as part of our Lenten practices and disciplines, we might consider making additional contributions to St. Paul's, above what we have pledged.

The members and friends of St. Paul's have always been generous in contributing to special offerings, both the regular ones like One Greater Hour of Sharing and Neighbors In Need, and special ones like donations to the Hartman Center Scholarship Fund, and the money and various donations for the people in Haiti following the devastating earthquake there. We will most certainly continue the practice of asking for, receiving and passing on those donations. And we hope that as you make contributions to any and all of those offerings, you will try and stay current with your pledge to this congregation.

It can be hard at times to stay on top of our pledges. When we cannot make it to church because of the weather, when we want to make contributions to the special offerings, when other needs crop up, we have to make some tough choices. While it is hard, it is crucial that we all make every effort to stay current and fulfill our pledges to the best of our abilities. We spoke recently in Worship of the Hebrew people gathering the first fruits of the harvest and bringing them as an offering to God at the Temple. Our pledges should be our first fruits, what gets taken care of first. And if we can add to that pledge by making an additional Lenten offering, by contributing to other special offerings, that would be very helpful. Thank you in advance for your consideration and contributions. Peace, John

**DEADLINE FOR
EPISTLE ARTICLES
MARCH 22ND**

Please turn in your articles (email stpaulstaff@verizon.net or drop off in the Church Office) for the April Epistle no later than March 22nd. Articles received after the deadline may not make it into the April Epistle. Early submissions of articles are always appreciated. Thank you in advance for your help by meeting the deadline.



Currently we have a special giving opportunity to enable members of our congregation to attend Hartman Center summer camp programs. Hartman Center is our UCC Penn Central Conference Outdoor Ministries and Retreat Center located 20 miles below State College in Milroy, PA. Throughout the summer, programs are offered for all ages, including Family, Grandparent/Child, and Adult camps, in addition to those geared to Youth. There is something for everyone!

A special offering to go towards offsetting the costs of camp will be accepted through March 28th. Specially marked envelopes are available in the pews or simply write Hartman Camp Scholarship in the memo portion of your check made payable to St. Paul's UCC.



ATTENTION SUMMER CAMPERS! If you are planning on going to Hartman Center for summer church camp, please register and pay the full amount and send directly to Hartman

Center. If you want to take advantage of a campership that will pay for 1/2 the cost of camp, send the following information to the

church office: Name of Camper attending, name of the camp, dates attending, and the total cost. 1/2 the cost will be reimbursed to you after you supply the office with this information. Questions? Contact Jonne Dundore 766-2601 or jonnekev@aol.com. Reminder -- check out the "Early Bird Discount" on the Hartman center website, www.hartmancenter.com.



Don't forget to set your clock ahead Sunday March 14th



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY - The March

meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held the 2nd Sunday, March 14 at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall. Prayer Shawls will be blessed at both services on March 21st.

The Pollyanna's will meet at 1 pm on Tuesday March 23rd at Mary Louise Miller's home. Please remember your donations for Eric Williams care package and your monetary donation for the soupless soup sale. Any questions call Mary Louise at 766-8425

Cancellation - The March 28th concert of the combined Chancel Choir's of St. Paul's and Mechanicsburg Presbyterian that was listed in last month's Epistle has been cancelled. Unfortunately with all the bad weather the choirs were unable to schedule enough practices to hold the program.



Beginning with Palm Sunday there will be a great deal going on at St. Paul's. If you have any questions, please give me (Rev. John) a call 766-7931 or email me revjohnwd@verizon.net. Thanks.

PALM SUNDAY, March 28: We will have Services at both **8:15 and 10:30 AM**. We will be distributing palms and palm crosses. The teens will be rehearsing for Easter Sunrise Service during the Sunday School time.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 1: We will begin by gathering in the Fellowship Hall at **6:30 PM**. We will share some time together as well as food: fruit and nuts. We will also celebrate The Sacrament of Holy Communion there. We will then move to the Sanctuary for the Order of Tenebrae which is Latin for *shadows*. Lessons involving Jesus' betrayal, trial and desertion of the disciples are read and candles extinguished. I know this is later in the evening, but children and young people are welcome at both parts of this Worship Service. Some people find this Service one of the most meaningful of the year.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 2: We will not be having a Service here this year. I urge you to find a Service near where you work or at another church if you would like to spend specific time in prayer and meditation on this holy day.

HOLY SATURDAY, April 3: We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** here at the church or on the church grounds at **10:00 AM**. All young people of any age are invited to either search (12 or under) or help with the hunt (13 and up). It will be held rain or shine. Bring a Friend! If you have any questions, please call Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or email joanmoyer@msn.com.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, April 4: This year the Service will again be held at **Simpson Park Pavilion**. We will begin at **6:30 AM**. Our youth will be taking a major part in the leadership of this Service, along with a few others of us. The park is in Upper Allen Township, 4.5 miles from St. Paul's where the Yellow Breeches meets South York Rd. From Mechanicsburg, take South Market St. (Route 114) to where it intersects with Lisburn Road, at the bottom of the steep hill in Bowmansdale, continue straight through intersection (do not turn left onto RT 114 Lisburn Rd), you are now on South York Rd. Go under the railroad overpass and immediately make a left into

Simpson Park's parking lot. The Pavilion is up the path on your right.

EASTER SERVICES, April 4: We will have Services at both **8:15 and 10:30 AM**. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both Services.

We hope to see you during one or more of these times of worship. It is important that we gather together during this Holy Season and remember, and look forward to the promise of new life, in this life and in the life to come.

Peace, John



REBUILDING TOGETHER
ST. PAUL'S TEAM

REBUILDING TOGETHER WORK DAY - St. Paul's will again be participating in the Rebuilding Together national work day on **Saturday, April 24, 2010**. Please reserve that

date if you are interested in being part of our team. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in March. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Ron Flory.

SAVE THE DATE – Bazaar Planning Meeting on Thursday, May 20th at 7:00 pm in the Youth Room. Please mark on your calendars and plan now to attend.

Out of the mouths of God's kids

A mother was getting irritated with her five-year-old daughter, who wouldn't clean up her toys in the den.

"Mommy, I can't clean up the den," the little girl said after her mother fussed at her for the third time.

"Why not?" the mother asked.

"Because I gave up cleaning for Lent," she replied.

Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate
The Joyful Noiseletter

Join St. Paul's Tour de Cure cycling team to help fight diabetes! - Looking for a great way to start your New Year's resolution to get in shape, and help a worthy cause at the same time? St Paul's is forming a team to participate in the 2010 Tour de Cure for the American Diabetes Association, which will be held on Saturday, May 22 in Boiling Springs. Whether you are a beginner or avid cyclist, there is a route for you. Road routes from a 25K (15.6 miles) to a 100K (62.5 miles) will be supported with rest stops, support vehicles and communications. There will also be a 9K (5.6 mile) family ride for the young ones to participate. Join our team, then contact family and friends and invite them to join in on the fun or to sponsor you.

If you don't have a bicycle, there will also be a spin-a-thon in the Boiling Springs High School gymnasium with 25 spin bikes and motivated instructors to lead 1 hour classes.

If you're more of the adventurous mountain biking crowd, there will also be a 16 mile mountain bike challenge on Sunday, June 6th at Michaux State Forest.

Last year was our first year participating as a team, and we were the third top new team. Congratulations to all of the 2009 team members. Let's see if we can get a larger team together this year and have even more fun!

To join St Paul's team or make a contribution you can go to the following link: <http://main.diabetes.org/goto/StPaulsUCC>

• **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP SENATORS BASEBALL OUTING** - Join the Youth Group on **Saturday, August 7th, 2010** for an afternoon at City Island! We will meet at Water Golf at 3:30 PM to play a round of miniature golf, followed by dinner at 6 PM and the Senators vs. the Altoona Curve at 7 PM! Sign up on the Youth bulletin board in the Common, or contact Martha Brown at vbrown5325@aol.com for more information! Everyone is invited to attend!



Church Directory Update:
 Betty Hyde
 Loyalton of Harrisburg
 3560 N Progress Ave Rm 239
 Harrisburg PA 17110

Jean Myers
 22 S. York Rd
 Dillsburg PA 17019

Do you shop at Giant? If so, please consider buying **Giant Gift Cards from the Youth Group**. The Youth Group earns \$25.00 for every \$500.00 in gift cards they sell. What do you get? If you purchase a \$50.00 gift card, it costs you \$50.00 and you can use it for \$50.00 in Giant. You do earn bonus points when you shop with a gift card. See Mary Runkle if you would like to purchase.



"Well, that about wraps up the announcements—
 whoa, wait a minute, I'm getting a fax
 from the head usher right now."



Thank you so much for the beautiful spring arrangement of the Alter Flowers. They sure added a nice touch of spring to our home. We hope things are starting to look up for Glenn. He is doing fine. Thanks for all of the cards and prayers. Best Wishes Glenn and Esther Kline.

Dear Friends: What a nice surprise to receive the beautiful altar flowers on Sunday. I am making a speedy recovery from my accident and expect to be back in church soon. Thank you for thinking of me. Sincerely Dot Miller



Megan Kern had been in remission from Lupus for over 5 years. Unfortunately, in the late

Fall 2009 she came out of remission. She has struggled to stay in school, but has had to take a medical leave of absence. She was to graduate from The Cleveland Institute of Art this May. Her goal is to go back in the Spring of 2011 and get her degree. But right now she is weak from the Lupus and from the medications and her doctors need her to rest. Her recovery could take up to a year or so. Tim and I would like her St. Paul's family to send her cards of encouragement. Her address is: 4395 W. 139th Street, Cleveland, OH 44135. And thank you everyone, for your continued prayers. Brenda and Tim Kern.



ST. PAUL'S ON A MISSION WINTER SOUP SALE. Thank you to everyone who donated money towards the soup ingredients, helped make the soup and to all who purchased the soup. We made a 100% profit of \$735.00. Woo Hoo!!!

Thanks go out to those who donated to the **OGHS- Haitian Relief**. We were able to send \$850.00 to the Wider Church Ministries to go to help out the victims of the Haiti Earthquake.

Our Thanks go out to Gene Keith for fixing the door knob on our storage closet in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all of those on our property committee that keeps our building and outside in shape all year long.

Our Thanks go out to the Youth, Holly Yeuell and Jonne Dundore for a wonderful program both during Church and during the Sunday School Hour on Youth Sunday. Super Job!

Rev. John read the below poem as part of his sermon on February 21. Some people had asked for copies of it, so here it is.

THE SUMMER DAY
By Mary Oliver

Found in her book of poems: House of Light

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper; I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead
of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and
complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats
away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall
down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll
through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

RED PRAYER BOWL

Just before you enter the Sanctuary, in the Narthex on a table, there will be a large red prayer bowl. Beginning on Sunday February 28, 2010, and continuing until who-knows-when, each of us will be invited to place prayer requests in the bowl. They can be written on small scraps of paper or on note cards. You may place the prayers in the bowl on your way in or on your way out from Worship, or any time during the week. You may include your name with the prayer or not. You may ask for prayers for yourself, for people within our congregation or outside it. You may ask for prayers for whole groups of people, or a country, or our world. You may ask for prayers for your dog, cat or fish. You may ask for prayers for our environment, peace, healthcare reform and people who are homeless. You may ask that your prayer be listed in the weekly bulletin or our monthly Epistle or passed along to our prayer chain. You may ask for prayers for anything.

We are hoping to put together a “prayer team,” a group of people who will be willing to commit themselves to approximately 15 minutes of prayer a week. It has been suggested that the team be comprised of 3 to 5 people, though it can be larger or smaller. Our “prayer team” would then go through the prayer requests in the bowl each week and offer up those prayers. This could be done in the Sanctuary, in the Parlor or even outside (once it is a little warmer, I would guess). Suggestions have been made that the prayers could be offered prior to Worship, in between our two Worship Services or after the last Service (notice how they did *not* suggest offering the prayers up during Worship or the sermon time—I appreciated that). Ideally the “prayer team” would offer these prayers up together, though there may be times in which not everyone could be there at the same time, and an alternative process used. All these details can be worked out and organized by the “prayer team.”

The hope has also been expressed that the “prayer teams” from various congregations in our Association would get together on some regular basis to share prayers they have been offering and their experiences.

If you are interested in serving on the “prayer team” please contact me. I will put you in contact with others who are interested and you can decide together how best you want to organize your

prayer offerings. This is something new, so we will be learning together how to best do this, trailblazing in a way. The great thing is, we cannot go wrong. As is true with all prayer, God understands what we are trying to get across even if we cannot get the words out, or find the right words or any words for that matter. I look forward to working with our “prayer team” as we expand our offering of prayers to God. Thank you.

Peace, John

Which Of These Descriptions Of Prayer Resonates With You?

Prayer is like a journey which we can never cease making.

Prayer is a relationship; it is not an entity in itself. It is a relationship with God.

Prayer is essentially a mystery.

Prayer is a work, a discipline. It cannot rest upon mere spontaneity.

Prayer means entering into timelessness.

Prayer is a becoming—our uncompleted task, our uncompleted journey.

Prayer is a waiting, a hunger.

Prayer is love.

Prayer is a relatedness to God, to myself, and to others.

Prayer is a stillness, learning to listen and to receive.

Prayer is a decision. Every day, prayer has to be begun again.

Prayer is a risk. If we really pray, we never know what is going to be asked of us.

Prayer is a growing, a discovery.

Prayer is a communion most of all, with God in whom all things are.