

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 – 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 The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Administrative Assistant Terry Shaner
Interim Dir of Christian Ed/Youth Advisor Allyssa Boyer
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
Pastor Emeritus The Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold
Ministers The Entire Congregation of St. Paul's

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 Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@verizon.net
Web Address: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

FROM THE PASTOR

"Psychologists have a word which is probably used more frequently than any other word in modern psychology. It is the word "maladjusted." Now in a sense all of us must live the well adjusted life in order to avoid neurotic and schizophrenic personalities. But there are some things in our social system to which I am proud to be maladjusted and to which I suggest that you too ought to be maladjusted. I never intend to adjust myself to the viciousness of mob-rule. I never intend to adjust myself to the evils of segregation and the crippling effects of discrimination. I never intend to adjust myself to the tragic inequalities of an economic system, which take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few. I never intend to become adjusted to the madness of militarism and the self-defeating method of physical violence. I call upon you to be maladjusted. The challenge to you is to be maladjusted--as maladjusted as the prophet Amos, who in the midst of the injustices of his day, could cry out in words that echo across the centuries, "Let judgment run down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream;" as maladjusted as Lincoln, who had the vision to see that this nation could not survive half slave and half free; as maladjusted as Jefferson, who in the midst of an age amazingly adjusted to slavery could cry out, in words lifted to cosmic proportions, "All men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." As maladjusted as Jesus who dared to dream a dream of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men. The world is in desperate need of such maladjustment."

Any guesses who wrote this? It was not obvious at first to me, but because of what day I received it in a weekly email I get entitled "Sabbath Moments," it came clear. Part way through I also sensed the rhythm of a speaker and writer I greatly admire. Martin Luther King wrote these words in April of 1957. They are absolutely still applicable today. While Rev.

Dr. King worked with African-Americans in what came to be known as the Civil Rights Movement, his words then and now go beyond any one racial or cultural or particular group. Discrimination is discrimination no matter who is singled out.

Is it not amazing that 55 years after these words were written, we are still plagued by these ills? One of the big reasons they still exist is we do get "adjusted" to such inequalities and such behaviors. We shrug our shoulders and think: 'this is just the way things are. There is nothing I/we can do about that.' And then we are caught because we cannot or will not see a vision of a different world.

Our faith tradition should help us here. The story of how Jesus comes into the world, what he teaches and how he lives his life, dies and is resurrected is a story that pounds into our hearts and minds the idea that the world does not have to stay the way it has been. This story, the Hebrew/Christian story raises up the idea that God does not discriminate, does not want some to have an overabundance while others do not have enough, does not want people killing each other. Jesus spoke and lived out a different vision for this world. Indeed we need to become "maladjusted" to our current status quo and continue to work for a world in which all are accepted as we are, for whom we are; all have equal opportunities to succeed and flourish; all have enough instead of a few having too much; all have a realistic chance to know peace in their lifetimes. Jesus led the way against the status quo, the entrenched powers, and the selfish, self-centered greed that set the tone, set the pattern for how people were to be in relationship with one another. We need to embrace this different vision and do our part in bringing it about. We do that individually and communally as a congregation. May we indeed become even more "maladjusted," dissatisfied, and then become more passionate about a new vision for our world, for God's world.

Peace, John

HEALING SERVICE

On Sunday February 12 between our early and late Services, at 10:00 AM, we will offer a Healing Service in our Sanctuary to all who are interested. This is a time when we can gather together and ask for healing for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for the world. We can also ask God to help us be agents of God's healing whenever we can. In this brief Service, which lasts about 15 minutes, we will offer prayers out loud, in silence, hear Scripture and if we wish, be anointed with oil and have hands laid on us. Many people have found this time to be quite moving, quite helpful, quite healing.

All are invited.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Peace, John

Sound and Lights Volunteers

As many of you have noticed, we can now control the volume of our microphones and our lights (most of them anyway, we're still working on those last two) from the back of our Sanctuary. This will allow us to make changes during the Service if there is a need.

What we could really use now are a group of volunteers who would be willing to work the sound and lights at either the 8:15 or 10:30 AM Services. We would like to train a few folks so there would always be a person or two at each of the Services who could handle that task. The head usher could then concentrate on their other fifty responsibilities for the morning and we would not have to ask one or two people to be at every Service for the entire year.

It will not be hard and once we get the levels tweaked a little more and the lights moved around some, there should not be the need to do much adjusting, just turning on and off the lights, sound and recording.

Please let me know of your interest and we will let you know when we will be doing our "training" (don't worry, it won't last more than a half an hour I would guess).

Thank you. Peace, John

New Members' Meetings and Reception of New Members

We will have two meetings for those people interested in becoming members of our congregation. Both meetings will occur after our late Sunday Worship Service; the first on February 19 and the second on February 26. This is your chance to gather together and ask questions, receive materials, and learn more about St. Paul's and the United Church of Christ. You only need to attend one of these meetings. We will be receiving New Members during the 10:30 AM Worship Service on a Sunday in March that works best for those interested in joining. If you have any questions please see, or call 766-7931 and/or email revjohnwd@verizon.net. Thank you.

Peace, Rev. John



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Come join your St. Paul's sisters and brothers for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner in preparation for our Lenten Disciplines. On February 21, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM we will serve pancakes, breakfast meat(s), juice, coffee and/or tea.

Our Choir Members have volunteered to cook. They would appreciate any help that could be offered for serving, and/or cleaning up.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Common Area. Please let us know if you will be coming so we make sure we have enough food. The suggested donations are \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children 5 to 12, and free for children under 5.

Come on out for what might prove to be the start of a new tradition here. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact me via email or phone.

Thank you. Peace, Rev. John



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER:

Darlene & Mitch Adams; Kimberly Alleman (Anna Thompson); **Kevin Allison; Dee Bachman** (Murphy); **Mr. Beam** (Zach Davinroy's HR Teacher); **Peggy Baum; Nancy & Wes Bear** (Murphy); **Jim Beistline** (friend of Belva & Leo Garman); **Barbara Bell** (Patty Scott's mom);

Lisa Benoist (Dave Ritter relative); **Mary Bensel** (Dick's mother); **Betsy** (Friend of Dar Murphy); **Geoffrey Biringner** (friend of Velez's); **Diana Bitting** (friend MacKinnons); **Pamela Bower** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Jim Bowers** (Tina's dad); **Paula Boyer; John & Karen Bradshaw** (Gabriel); **Betty & Charles Breon** (Sue Miller); **Dave & Marie Briner** (Westhafer friend); **Bryan** (friend Sabrina Dixon); **Sandy Buhrman** (friend of Kathy Williams); **Michaela Bushey** (friend of Sara Weaver); **Joanne & Janine Campbell** (relative of Kevin Allison's co-worker); **Kathy & Cassidy Carlis** (friend of Jean & Willard Jones); **Ed Charles** (Rushong); **Ruth Chronister** (Ron's Mother); **Kevin Clancy** (neighbor of Chronister's); **Pat Cleland; Shannon Collins** (Donna and Ron Chronister's niece); **Kevin, Bill & Pauline Conwell & Family** (Rev. John); **Catherine Cotton** (Cheryl's grandmother); **Cleason Coulsen** (Joan Shearer); **Woody Cox** (Joy Perry's BIL); **Alice and Bill Crouse; Anne Davison** (Chris Bowers-Paris mom); **Bill Dietz** (friend of Chronisters); **Lou Donneway** (friend of Mike and Kathy Aumiller); **Jacque & Grace Drager; Duane** (Brian Medkeff-Rose); **Pat Dundore; Pat Eakin; Stewart Emery** (Sandi Ritter-Butz's father); **Kathy Eppley** (friend of Stone Family); **Merkel Fernbaugh** (Joan Shearer); **Dan Fitzgerald** (Gay's BIL); **Ferdinand Fromholz** (Allison Co-Worker); **Don and Roseanne Frymoyer** (Allison); **Debbie and Joe Gartland; Heather Geraghty** (Linda Alburger's niece); **Nancy Girard** (sister of Belva Garman); **Bob & Liane Gladwin; Lynn Goldstine** (Friend of Stones); **Shirley & Tom Grammer; Richard Gray; Dave Hall; Ron Hannon** (friend of Tom Stone); **Colin Hayes & Family** (MacKinnon Friends); **Paul Heaney, Sr.** (Dar Murphy's dad); **Bob Heisler; Bob Henry** (Carol Sizemore); **Clay Henry** (Mike Aumiller BIL); **Phyllis Hershey; Addison Holl** (Becky Thompson); **Mary Hunter** (Mary Louise Miller's cousin); **Sharon Hutton and the entire family of Cleason Cromer; Betty Hyde; Joanne Ingerson** (Anna Thompson); **Bill & Tammy Ingraham & Family; Scott Jackson** (Lee Jackson nephew); **Dan Jones** (Jean and Willard's son); **Jean and Willard Jones & daughter Sue Worley; Julia** (Rick Holtzapple's daughter); **Mobeen Kahn** (Runkle); **Connie & Bob Kayer** (Kris Amtower's parents); **Brian Keefer** (high-school classmate of Christy Aumiller); **Nancy Keith** (Martha and Gene's daughter); **Megan Kern; Mary Kilgore** (Murphy); **Dot Kinzer; Susan Kinzer** (Jim & Dot's niece); **Rev. George Klinefelter** (former pastor of St. Paul's); **Shirley Knisely; Emily Koontz** (great niece of Donna & Bud Sponsler); **Mateusz Kott & Family** (Moyer); **Carrie Kramer** (Rochelle Rhoads grandmother); **Zachary Lazarus** (Alburger); **Monica Lentvorsky, Rebecca &**

Carolyn & Families (friend of Anna Thompson); **Madison Lewis** (Runkle); **Rev. Fred Lewis** (Medkeff-Rose); **Cindy Long** (Sue Mullin); **Barbara Lumby** (Betsy Rushong); **Bob Madden** (Kern); **Kim Martin** (Leann Davinroy); **Jerry McCartney** (Jen Martek's dad); **Shawn McClintic** (friend of Brian Medkeff-Rose); **Jack Mellinger** (Gabriel); **Melodie** (colleague of Randy Murphy's); **Adrienne Miller** (Trout); **Patrice. Gregory & Ryan Miller; Sue Miller & Family; Treva Miller; Amy Mitchell** (Gabriel); **Steve Mitchell; Jean Mogel; Charles Mowery** (Betsy Rushong son-in-law); **Ally, Erin, Joan & Ernie Moyer; Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family** (Allison); **Tyler, Hayden & Stacy Mustico** (Layne Thompson's cousin); **Herb and the entire family & friends of Jean Myers; Patricia Nalepka** (Jon Nalepka); **Nancy** (Chronister); **Nancy** (Dave Ritter sister); **Raymond "Lee" Negley** (MLC); **Bob Neis** (Anna Thompson friend); **Virginia O'Connell** (Elizabeth Miller's aunt); **Josh Oxford** (friend of Sara Weaver); **Julia Paroda & Family** (Gates Family); **Ann Patch** (friend of Ruth Wrightstone); **Al Perreault & Family** (Murphy); **Donna Perry** (Friend of Lois Ritter); **Kristen Pike** (Pike-Nase); **Mel Pike** (Friend of Tom & Cindy Stone); **Rhoads Family; Kelly & Thomas Rice** (Eichman); **Emily Rieger & Bill & Judi Grove** (Patrice Miller); **Guy Romito** (friend of Craig Martek); **Candice Rush** (friend of Phyllis Hershey); **Rynne** (Seiler); **Samantha** (Elizabeth Miller's niece); **Sandy** (Kinzer); **Eli Schultz** (child of friend of Carol Rhoads); **John Scott; Joyce Sealover** (Connie Sutton SIL); **Peg Seiler; Grace Sennett** (Linda Alburger's Grandmother); **Pete & Linda Shea; Tom Shrawder** (friend of Kathy & Mike Aumiller); **Clara Sizemore** (Bill's mom); **James Sowell** (Sandy Kline); **Bud & Donna Sponsler; Sue Stada; Jack Steltzer** (Dundore); **Tom Stone; Clyde Stroock; Alex Szeles** (friend of Jean and Willard Jones); **Tamara** (friend of Rachele Rhoads); **Phoenix, Eric & Shannon Trout; Debra Urich** (friend of Dot and Jim Kinzer); **Rosalie Utley** (Paula Boyer's cousin); **Leah van Olden; Judy Ward** (Sue's mom); **Doris Washam** (Sandy Kline's sister); **Wayne & Sandy** (Friends of Kinzers); **John White; Brian Wickard** (brother of co-worker of Leann Davinroy); **Art, Kathy & Eric Williams and the entire family of Maury Williams; Ruth Wrightstone; Ruth Wunderly** (friend of Bonnie Plymette's daughter); **Angie Young & Family** (friend of co-worker of Becky Lingenfelter); **All in the military and their families, All affected by the bad weather and all affected by lost jobs & the economy.**

As you can see our prayer list is quite long. We understand that sometimes we add people and then we forget to take them off. Please review the list and notify Rev. John or the Church Office about any additions or deletions. Thank You.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

GREETERS

- 2/05 8:15 Mary Louise Miller & Eleanor Witt
10:30 Boy Scouts
2/12 8:15 Cheryl & Ken Malick
10:30 Christal & Jonathan Nase
2/19 8:15 Becky Thompson & Family
10:30 Terry & Gene Shaner
2/26 8:15 Joan & Ernie Moyer
10:30 Bonnie & Dennis Plymette

LECTORS

- 2/05 8:15 Kathy Aumiller
10:30 Allyssa Boyer
2/12 8:15 Joanne Miller
10:30 Becky Drazba
2/19 8:15 Tom Stone
10:30 Betsy Rushong
2/26 8:15 Mary Runkle
10:30 Kathy Williams

ACOLYTES

- 2/05 10:30 Jeff Dundore
2/12 10:30 Becca Ward-Diorio
2/19 10:30 Lily Ward-Diorio
2/26 10:30 Amy MacKinnon

Head Usher: Scott Endy

WORD FOR THE YOUNG

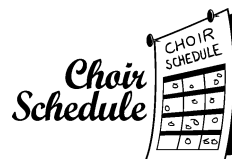
- 2/05 Mary Runkle
2/12 Choristers
2/19 Allyssa Boyer
2/26 Colleen Eichman

FLOWER DELIVERY

- 2/05 Dave & Lois Ritter
2/12 Karen & Kevin Allison
2/19 Bonnie & Dennis Plymette
2/26 Leo Belva Garman

COMMUNION

- 2/05 Pew
2/22 Intinction



- 05 – 8:15 Chancel Choir
10:30 Youth Choir
12 - 10:30 Choristers @ Children's
Message/Hand Chimes @ Offertory
19 - 10:30 Chancel Choir
22 - 7:30 pm Chancel Choir
29 - 8:15 Youth Choir
10:30 Chancel Choir



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Tom Stone | 19 Wyatt Paulus |
| 02 Katelyn Costello | Frances Wolford |
| Lauren Costello | 20 Zach Davinroy |
| 05 Christopher Royer | Karin Stork-Whitson |
| 06 Anna Thompson | 21 Cathy Thomas |
| 09 Beth Pirtle | 22 Jane Hall |
| 10 Doug Jacobsen | Jonathan Nase |
| Barbara Westhafer | 23 Scott Thompson |
| 13 Pat Eakin | 25 Christine Aumiller |
| Elizabeth Royer | Emily Klein |
| 14 Dave Ritter | 27 Allyssa Lingenfelter |
| Jason Till | Philip Nase |
| 16 Charles Miller | Michael Shea |
| 17 Molly Cowan | Cheryl Simpson |
| Rachel Drazba | 29 Allan MacKinnon Jr. |
| Elaine McCracken | |



- 01 Alice and Bill Crouse
05 Joan and Jim Quick
06 Elizabeth and Doug Baaney
08 Peggy and Fred Briggs

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY TEXTS

05 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Mark 1:29-39

12 6th Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Psalm 30 Mark 1:40-45

19 Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Psalm 50:1-6 Mark 9:2-9

26 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22
Psalm 25:1-10 Mark 1:9-15

“St. Paul’s UCC aims to be a fully accessible congregation. Folks having an issue related to accessibility in the church building or a church program should contact the church office or contact a head usher on Sunday mornings.”

In 2011 the total collected for the fourth of our annual Special Mission Offerings was:

The Christmas Fund \$ 846.00

Thank you again for your support of all the special mission offerings.

Consistory Highlights – December 13th –

Treasurer’s Report –YTD Income less expenses was \$11,170.96. The majority of the Benevolence expenses were paid on November 30th from the Bazaar proceeds. We still owe our 4th Qtr payment on Mercersburg Association Dues, Our Church’s Wider Mission and UCC Homes. We do anticipate meeting these obligations by the end of the year.

Finance – Kevin Allison – The budget was passed at the meeting on December 11th. **New**

Business – Old Church for Sale – St. Paul’s former home on Frederick St in Mechanicsburg is again for sale (asking price \$174,000.) Question had come up about the fate of the stained glass Shepherd’s Window (it would need to be determined if it was salvageable.) Tina will contact the realtor. Question for Finance Committee – Should we look into transferring some of the money in the money management account into a CD. Kevin responded that after the final bill for the A/V system is paid, the finance committee does plan on investing the remaining money into a CD. The Pollyanna’s raised \$675.00 from the Cookie Walk. Tjeu [;am tp gove the cjircj a gift of \$1,000. They would like \$500 to be used to purchase white plastic tables to replace some of the old wooden tables and \$500 to be used for additional handicapped parking spaces. Consistory thanks the Pollyanna’s for their gift. There is a need for five new consistory members to replace those whose terms are expiring. The next regular meeting of Consistory will be held on Tuesday, January 17th at 7 PM. Meeting was adjointed at 7:50pm.

From the Stewardship Council:

Be on the lookout for the St. Paul's Spare Change Campaign jar to return to the Commons. Many people have asked if it would come back and we just wanted to wait until after the holidays. So keep (or start) saving those pennies and bring them into church whenever you can. We raised over \$200 the last time the jar was out - all proceeds go back to the church general fund for any/all kinds of expenses.



ALTAR FLOWERS are a special way of remembering an important anniversary or birthday, honoring a loved one and at the same time beautifying the sanctuary for our Sunday worship. In addition, these flowers continue their silent reminder of God's love as they are taken (by volunteers) to the ill, shut-in's or others. Please see the SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2012 ALTAR FLOWERS on the bulletin board in the Common area. Please fill in the information as you want it printed in the Worship Bulletin, or call Terry in the church office with this information. The cost to sponsor altar flowers is \$32.00, payment should be made no later than the Sunday you are sponsoring the Altar Flowers. Please make your check out to St. Paul’s UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and altar flowers on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. Thank you in advance for providing flowers for the Altar of St. Paul’s.

If you have hugs to spare, consider sponsoring a child through the Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program, a global children's ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). **THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2012 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS** and the pictures of the children we currently sponsor are on the bulletin board outside of the youth room in the commons. The cost to sponsor a child in 2012 is \$30.00 child per month. Payment should be made no later than the month you are sponsoring the child. Please make your check out to St. Paul's UCC or place the cash in an envelope with your name and child sponsorship on it and place in offering plate or drop off in the Church office. The children like to receive letters. If you would like to write to the child you sponsor, ask Terry for their address. Thank you in advance for sponsoring a child who has so little.

HARTMAN CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Shed those bleak midwinter blues and start thinking about the cloudless skies, that fresh mountain air, leafy green forest trails, camp fires, and the Knob. That's right; **it's time to register for Summer Camp at Hartman Center!** Hartman Center offers a variety of camping adventures and is open to all people who want to experience what it means to enjoy Christian community in the midst of God's creation. Whether it be through casual conversations, singing, playing, Bible study or worship, Hartman Center reminds us of the richness and diversity of God's creation, the call to praise and thank God, and the charge to care for our world. Register before April 30th and you get the Early Bird price, as much as 10-15% off and lower for the year 2012! Your kids will love Pioneer Adventure Camp, MAD (Music and Drama) Camp, and CSI Camp. There are camps for the whole family! For more information please pick up a Hartman Center brochure in the Commons. To see the complete list of camp dates and descriptions go to www.hartmancenter.com. We can't wait to see you at camp!

St. Paul's Yoga Club: Snow Cancellation Policy - Evening yoga classes will be cancelled if Mechanicsburg Schools have cancelled operations for the day. In the event that schools have not been cancelled, but accumulating afternoon snow looks like it may cause travel problems later that evening, students will be contacted by e-mail, phone, and Facebook post. If ever in doubt, call Becky Thompson @ 761-3127.



Were you married in St. Paul's? Baptized? Confirmed? Would you be willing to share your photographs with us? **St. Paul's 150th Anniversary Committee is putting together a program to celebrate our sesquicentennial and we'd love to use your photographs as part of our commemoration.** Wedding photos, pictures of church picnics, Sunday School programs, pot pie dinners, the possibilities are as countless as the memories we've shared. Please label your photos and drop them off in the church office care of the 150th Anniversary Committee. Your photographs will be handled with the utmost care, scanned or photocopied, and returned shortly afterwards. If you have any questions please contact Dennis Plymette.



If Bad Weather should occur on a day of Worship, please check out: CBS 21, CW 15 or www.cbs21.com for closing information.



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Shove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: Tuesday February 21, 2012 6:00-7:00 PM Choir cooking

Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday February 22, 7:30 PM Imposition of Ashes and Communion via Intinction

Lenten Reading Group: Thursdays March 1-29 at 7:00 PM in the Parlor. Continuing the study of Handel's Messiah, looking at the texts and music related to Lent and Easter

Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday April 5 at 6:30 PM. The entire Service will be in Fellowship Hall focusing on the Last Supper

Good Friday Service: Friday April 6 at 7:00 PM This will be similar to the Tenebrae we have done before on Maundy Thursday; light and shadow, readings, prayer and reflection

Easter Services: Sunday April 8 at Sunrise, 8:15 AM and 10:30 AM. A Congregational Breakfast will be served between the 8:15 and 10:30 Services

Gene Keith shared this chuckle:

A little girl climbed onto the lap of her grandfather and studied his white and balding head. She ran her fingers along the deep wrinkles on his face and neck. "Did God make you?" she asked. "Yes." "Did God make me, too?" she wondered. "Yes," he replied. "Well," she shrugged, "don't you think he's doing a better job now than he used to?"

From the Farm Show magazine "Just For Kicks"



Sunday February 5th

MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$81 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, bring food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Our Youth will be collecting after both worship services. This year, every dollar collected goes to the **Central Pennsylvania Food Bank** - Our 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.



St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be held in the Parlor on Tuesday February 14th at 1 PM. The Shawls will be blessed at both services on Sunday, February 19th.

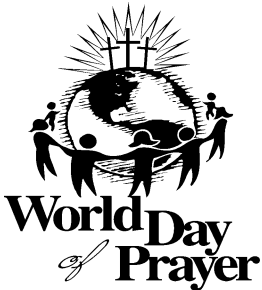


Property Committee Meeting

you would like to see done at the church. Any questions, please see Don Wood.

Calling all Property Committee Members and anyone interested in joining the Property Committee to a Meeting - Tuesday Feb 7th at 7 PM in the Youth Room. Hope you can attend and bring idea's or projects

Pollyanna's will be having a "Pay your own Way" Winter Lunch at Snappers on Tuesday February 28th, 11:30 am. Please bring your "Jared Boxes." RSVP to Mary Louise Miller at 766-6615.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER VIGIL will be held in St. Paul's sanctuary on Friday, March 2nd 2012 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in this prayer vigil, please reserve your

time(s) on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Common Area. If you are unable to make it to the church, you can sign up for a time and note that you will be doing it at home – this way we will know that the time slot has been filled. Let us join with churches around the world in prayer on this day.

March 1, 2, 3 & 4, 2012 – Mechanicsburg Area Senior High Musical. This year's musical is Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*.

Allow yourself to become entranced as our students perform this timeless tale about a poor girl, the prince, the ugly stepsisters, a ride in a pumpkin carriage, and the elegant palace ball.

MAY WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE... United Church of Christ Homes is pleased to inform your congregation that our 2011 Helping Hands Dinner & Auction raised over **\$25,860 for the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund.**

Thanks to your support of UCC Homes, residents of UCC Homes who are unable to pay for the cost of their care and who do not have access to governmental assistance programs will be able to receive financial aid for years and years to come.

The Board of Directors along with the Special Events Committee of UCC Homes and Honorary Chairperson Valerie Pritchett from ABC27 encourage your congregation to mark your calendars for our **17th Helping Hands Dinner & Auction to be held on MAY 5, 2012** at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East in one or more of the following ways:

- Gather items relating to a specific theme and make a gift basket to be auctioned at the 2012 event. Auction items are due at the Corporate Office of UCC Homes by April 13th. If you would like to drop your item off at the closest UCC Homes community, please feel free to do so. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Commons by April 2nd so they have an idea of how many baskets to expect.
- Serve on the Special Events Committee (contact Victoria at (717) 303-1502 if you're interested)
- Attend the May 5, 2012 Helping Hands Dinner & Auction to be held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East and meet **Valerie Pritchett from ABC27.**

Thanks again for your interest and support of UCC Homes. ***For further information on the 2012 Helping Hand Dinner & Auction or to inquire about making a contribution, please contact the Development Office at (717) 303-1502***



CHRISTMAS CAROLING 12/23/11

Every December the youth and young adults (and their dauntless adult drivers and chaperones) from St. Paul's take an evening out of their busy Christmas preparation and travel around town caroling for seniors and shut-ins from our church community. There is nothing quite like seeing the joy on a senior's face when they hear Christmas carols, a beautiful mix of childhood memories and holiday magic. It is a moment filled with many smiles and sometimes a few tears too. Although they don't necessarily know the people whose homes they visit, the youth are always willing to share an extra Christmas greeting or a warm hug. Many of the young adults who join in the caroling have expressed that this is one of their most treasured Christmastime traditions; an opportunity to spread Christmas cheer and share in fellowship with the youth, perhaps bringing back some childhood memories of their own. Oftentimes the young carolers are invited in for a warm drink or a Christmas cookie. The youths' only regret is that they can't visit everyone's home. Afterward, the chilled and chapped carolers are invited to Gene and Martha Keith's home where they can warm up and un-wind around an open fire, grilling hot dogs, toasting marshmallows, and sharing in laughter and fun. Christmas caroling is a St. Paul's Youth tradition that we hope will continue for many years to come – Allyssa Boyer.



To Pastor John & our Friends at St. Paul's – Thank you very much for the Altar flowers, winter arrangement, well-wishes and prayers. Thanks also to Jonne and all the Carolers who came to our home at Christmas time and sang for us. It truly picked our spirits up. Bud & Donna Sponsler.

Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas center piece. It is special to know others are thinking of us. Merry Christmas – Suzanne Worley, Jean & Willard Jones.

To the Congregation of St. Paul's: - I would like to thank you for the prayers, cards and flowers that my dad, Cleason, received. I know he felt these to be a source of comfort. Sharon Hutton.

Dear Friends at St. Paul's – Art, Eric, the rest of the family and I want to thank everyone at St. Paul's for your many kindnesses and support you showed following the passing of Art's dad, Maury. We feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, all the food for the reception, for the restored heat in the Sanctuary, and all the kind words, hugs and cards. Gratefully, Kathy & Art Williams.



Our thanks go out to **Betsy Rushong** and **Sue Mullin** for making the winter arrangements that were delivered to some of our shut ins this Christmas Season. Thanks also to **Bill Mullin** who assisted with the delivery.

Thanks go out to **Don Wood** and **Ed Thorn** for watching over our Sanctuary and working with the heating company when our heat went out in Fellowship Hall and then in our Sanctuary late December and early January.



Thanks go out to **Jonne and Jeff Dundore** for taking care of all the last minute special touches in the decorating of our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Thanks also to the crew who came in on Saturday January 7th and took down all of the decorations and cleaned up afterwards to get our Sanctuary ready in time for Maury William's Memorial Service: **Deb Cashman, Jonne Dundore, Greg Dundore, Tim Kern, Jen Martek, Merikay & Don Wood and Dave Scott.**

Thanks go out to **Jim Boyer & Dave Scott** for coordinating the burning of the greens on Sunday January 8th.



Annual Congregational Dinner:

On January 8th, we were treated to a delicious Pork & Sauerkraut dinner prepared by Brenda Kern and her crew of helpers.

Thank you to everyone who helped set-up, prepare food, serve and clean up the Annual Congregational Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner. Thank you also to everyone for the dessert donations. The delicious meal was enjoyed by over 90 of our members, highlighting our 50 year+ members.

Our 50 year+ members:

Grace Cocklin, Phyllis K. Hershey, Al Huebner, Betty Hyde, John Knisely, Shirley Knisely, Raymond Krouch, Mary Louise Miller, Ned Rupp, Rhoda Rupp, Carolyn Rutherford, Peggy Seiler, Linda Shea, Susan Thorn, & Don Wood.

As you can see from the pictures of some of our many wonderful helpers, a good time was had by all in the Kitchen – Brenda Kern.

