

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 34, Issue 8

August, 2011

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807
419-339-3801

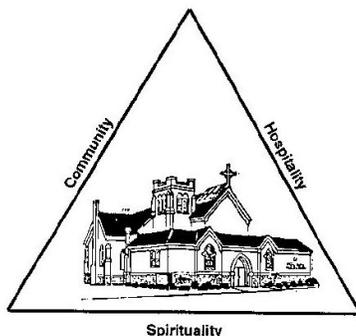
espcoffice@embarqmail.com

Rev. Ruth Solo

419/909-9102

Cell Phone: 419/812-3032

espcpastor@embarqmail.com



Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Upcoming Events | 2-3 |
| Missions | 4 |
| Business of Church | 5 |
| Faith in Action | 6 |
| Consulting the Manual | 7 |
| The Heart of Church | 8 |
| The Way of the Cross | 9 |
| Remember When | 10 |
| Connecting With... | 11 |
| The People of St. Paul's | 12 |
| August Calendar | 13 |
| Recipes | 14 |
| Kidz Korner | 15 |
| Living Our Faith | 16 |

Dear Friends,

I hope that your summer is going well, and that you are getting away for a little while. As you get away, take some time to reflect on how God has been with you these past months. It's always amazing to me when I look back how much I can see God's hand in the everyday events of life. Even in those times that seem God has abandoned us.

Hind-sight is said to be 20-20. We can see so much more when we look back and reflect. Yet, we can often forget the most painful times in our memories. Like when women give birth, when they look back on the event and share with friends what it was like, they talk about the feeling of overwhelming love they felt when they first held that new born. It isn't long before they forget just how painful it was to bring that little life into the world.

Any time we enter into new life situations, it can be painful, emotionally and spiritually. But, when we trust that God is with us, we can come out on the other side as new people. And when we look back on the situation, we can remember that God has been with us; we have not been left alone.

This summer, we have focused on the Old Testament scriptures of the patriarchs of the Hebrew faith, who were the forerunners of our Christian faith. Throughout those stories, God promised to be faithful and not leave them. Even when they were driven from their homes, sold into slavery, and wandered in the desert, God was with them.

In your time away from your ordinary routines, take some time to think about how God has been with you. And then, like the patriarchs, offer God worship and praise for revealing the divine self to you in the everyday events of your life.

See you in church.

Peace to you,

Pastor Ruth



Thought for the Month:

Heaven goes by favor; if it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

-Mark Twain



WORSHIP CHANGE FOR AUGUST 21

This year, the fair chairs have to be set up on **Sunday morning**. Because of the conflict with worship service, we will be changing our service the third weekend of August for **THIS ONE WEEKEND ONLY** from Sunday morning to **Saturday evening**. We will have worship service on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 20 AT 7:00 PM**, INSTEAD of Sunday at 10 AM. Please make the necessary changes in your schedules and expectations for that weekend.

We will resume worship on Sunday morning the following week.

Allen County Fair Chairs

**Sunday
August 21
Set up 8:00
AM
Take down
10:00 PM**



August dons a sultry vest,
Suffocating nature during dog days;
Beautiful sunsets in the west
Are a benefit of the sun's blaze.

- Poem by:
Jenessa Fletcher



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Prayer Concerns

If you have prayer concerns during the week or emergencies, please **phone** the pastor or the church office. **Do Not text** the pastor as she is having difficulties with sending and receiving texts, and do not e-mail the pastor as the e-mails take up to 2 days to get to the in box.



August 28th

Blessing of the Book Bags,
Totes, and Briefcases.

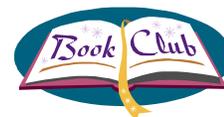
St. Paul's Book Club

will meet Saturday,
August 6th at 9 AM
in the Elementary Classroom
beside the main office.
They will be discussing
Hotel on the Corner of

Bitter and Sweet
by **Jamie Ford**.

Bring your breakfast if you wish
and join the group for some
interesting conversation.

All are welcome.



MISSIONS

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT, JULY, 2011

The St. Paul's U.M.C. Missions Committee met June 21. Items discussed:

Project Leader Jamie Wyant presented the year's Mission Week activity. During July 11-15, along with other churches in the Elida-Gomer-Allentown Ministerial Assn., we will repair a roof and porch at 241 Harrison St. in east Lima. Funding and logistical issues will be presented to the congregation on Sunday mornings leading up to July 11. Planning sessions are scheduled for June 28 and July 10;

Pastor Ruth presented information on the prospective Youth Community Center. The community-based committee met with a lawyer to arrange non-profit status. Once such status is attained, property acquisition for the center can proceed;

Materials listings for this year's health and school kits will be prepared by Maedene Holmes and inserted in the Sunday bulletin beginning June 26;

Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing is July 23. St. Paul's has sponsored a hole for \$100 and will send one foursome and three volunteers to the Colonial Golfer's Club event. John Fleming, Brad's uncle, spoke to our congregation prior to the June 5 service;

Missions Sunday will be Sept. 25. We hope to have speakers present activities associated with our two main initiatives that resulted from this year's ReFocus effort;

St. Paul's is answering an appeal for flood buckets to replenish our Conference Disaster Response Team's supply which was hit hard this past spring. A sign-up sheet is being circulated during July's Sunday services;

Food Pantry Sunday is July 17; St. Paul's turn at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is July 29; \$5 on the 5th to benefit the United Methodist Children's Home is July 31.

SUMMER MISSION WORK WEEK

This year's summer mission work week project didn't occur in Worthington, OH at the United Methodist Children's Home as has been the case the past three summers. Instead, St. Paul's U.M.C. joined Immanuel U.M.C. and Rockford U.M.C. volunteers – 32 volunteers in all – for roof and porch work at 241 Harrison on the east side of Lima during the week of July 11-18, 2011.

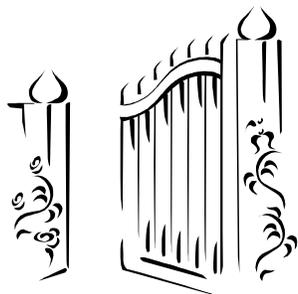
To avoid the oppressive heat, workers met at the job site by 7:30 a.m. each morning. Jan Wyant was the lunch coordinator. The "day" shift usually wrapped up by 5:00 p.m. and the "night" shift moved in by 5:30 p.m. and packed up for the day by 8:30 p.m. most nights. Some materials were provided by the homeowner but most were donated through financial contributions from said three churches. St. Paul's contributed \$1,311.00 to the cause. Thank you to all who donated some of the \$4,000 needed to shingle the main house roof, porch roof, and small house addition roof; concrete as replacement for the rotted porch decking; siding replacement; and miscellaneous materials and supplies necessary to refurbish the porch roof and supports. Jerry Stemen poured the concrete porch and donated his time to assist us in this manner.

The concrete porch was poured on Monday, July 18, along with gutter restorations and general site clean-up. During August, two handicap ramps will be constructed in this same neighborhood as a continuation of the mission week project. See Jamie Wyant if you are interested in assisting during this final phase of mission week.

Many thanks are due Jamie and Jan Wyant for leading this annual St. Paul's Mission Week in the field. Special Thanks to St. Rita's Medical Center for a contribution of \$500.00 for our mission week fund.



The Business of Church



Don't Fuss

The pastor began the meeting by reading from **Luke 12:25-26**: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

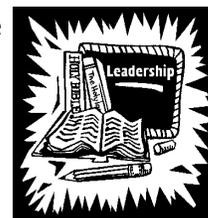
One of the women started to cry. "If only you knew," she said. "We're having trouble with our mortgage, and Fred's been laid off, and things are really tough. I was crying in my office not half an hour ago; now you remind me that, no matter what, God is somehow with me, caring for me."

How simple are those words and yet, at the same time, how difficult to live by. Often people will say "consider the lilies" but we can be too busy to do that. Yet when we do stop and open ourselves to God's presence, we can indeed be amazed at how close that presence really is, and the effect it can have in our lives.

Committees



The **Nominations Committee** is looking for people to serve the church in the following positions:



Chairpersons: Finance Committee, Pastor Parish Relations Committee, Nurture Committee, Administrative Council, Stewardship Committee.

Individual Positions: Representative to Annual Conference, Higher Education, Children's Ministry Coordinator, Youth Coordinator.

Committee Members: Christian Education, Mission Committee, PPRC, Trustees, Stewardship, Nurture.

Strategic Initiative Leaders: Caring for the Elderly Initiative, Elida Area Community Center Initiative.

Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve the church and community through any of these positions. If you are interested, call Pastor Ruth.

| Committee Chairs | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| PPR Chair | Linda Craft |
| Trustees Chair | Tim Theodore |
| Finance Chair | Art Holman |
| Physical Plant Chair | Ron Steiner |
| Treasurer | Gene Craft |
| Assistant Treasurer | Jenessa Fletcher |
| Education Chair | TBA |
| Administrative Council Chair | Scott Fessler |
| Worship | Ruth Solo |
| Nurture | Martha Vazquez |
| Stewardship | Tim Piper |
| Missions | Marty White, Maedene Holmes |

Faith In Action

| Worship Attendance: | |
|----------------------------|----|
| July 3, 2011 | 62 |
| July 10, 2011 | 74 |
| July 17, 2011 | 71 |
| July 24, 2011 | 67 |

Financial Giving
Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



| | Unified Ministry Giving: | Other: |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------|
| July 3, 2011 | \$3,790.00 | \$771.38 |
| July 10, 2011 | \$3,352.00 | \$1,199.00 |
| July 17, 2011 | \$1,525.00 | \$1,864.62 |
| July 24, 2011 | \$3,015.00 | \$665.00 |



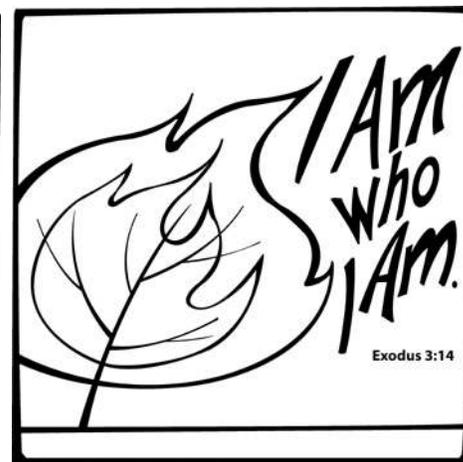
| Greeters | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| August 7, 2011 | Rudy & Lavonne Segovia |
| August 14, 2011 | Brad & Slone Whetstone |
| August 21, 2011 | Norm & Mary Grigsby |
| August 28, 2011 | Dan & Margie Best |



| Flowers: | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| August 7, 2011 | Jamie & Jan Wyant |
| August 14, 2011 | Susan Nartker |
| August 21, 2011 | Gary & Janet Grigg |
| August 28, 2011 | Marty & Kathy White |

**Visit The United
Methodist Website at:
www.umw.org**

Consulting the Manual



Bible Readings for Revised Common Lectionary Year A

Week of August 7 Friendship Sunday

Color: Green
Old Testament:
 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
New Testament:
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

Week of August 14

Color: Green
Old Testament:
 Genesis 45:1-15
 Psalm 133
New Testament:
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15:21-28

For more detailed information on the Revised Common Lectionary, please visit:
www.gbod.org

Week of August 21

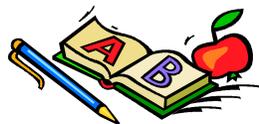
Color: Green
Old Testament:
 Exodus 1:8-2:10
 Psalm 124
New Testament:
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

Week of August 28

Color: Green
Old Testament:
 Exodus 3:1-15
 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
New Testament:
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28



The Heart of Church



Collecting thru September 25th "Missions Sunday"



SCHOOL KITS

- One pair blunt point scissors (**Round Tip**)
- Three **70 count** spiral notebooks (**Wide Ruled**)
 - One ruler (**12"** – **metric**)
 - One hand-held pencil sharpener
 - One large eraser
 - Six new #2 pencil with erasers
- One box **Cravola** crayons (**24 ct.**)
- **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits

Canvas Tote Bag – available at Hobby Lobby

Pack kit in a **gallon size ziplock bag** and place in the box at the altar.

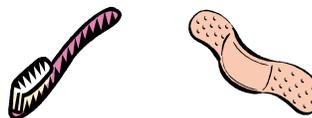


HEALTH KITS

- One hand towel (@16" x 28")
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb
 - One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (**bath size in wrapper**)
- One toothbrush (**in original packaging**)
 - Six Band-aids

\$2.00 for processing and shipping kits

Seal kit in a **gallon size ziplock bag** and place in the box at the altar.



Crafty Creatures

One of St. Paul's small groups, the Crafty Creatures, has been busy for the past year knitting, crocheting, and quilting. They have made prayer shawls for those in our congregation who are facing illnesses, lap quilts and walker bags for people in various area nursing homes, and ambu bag totes for the young adults and children at the Sunshine Children's Home in Toledo. Their new project is stenciling and painting the **canvas tote bags** for the **school kits** we will be collecting. If you wish to donate any canvas tote bags, please bring them to the church **prior to the 3rd week in August**, so they can be decorated in time to send the school kits on their way.

Thanks you very much.



Book of Timothy



www.mrolifeatures.weebly.com

© 2011 Mr. Ollie Features

The Way of the Cross



Expectations sometimes have a way of backfiring on us. When I was 10 years old, a new grocery store was having its grand opening and I rode my bicycle over to the store to see what was happening. I noticed when I got there that the store had a bakery section. These were "new wave" back in the 1960s. They offered pieces of pie for only a quarter and I got mine out of my pocket. I pointed out the biggest piece to the attendant behind the counter - one I assumed was cherry. She gave the pie to me and I took a big bite. I quickly made a spectacle of myself by spitting it out in front of about 50 people. It turned out not to be the cherry pie I expected, but rhubarb pie instead.

When we expect one thing and then get another, it can be a rude experience. Something like this was going on in first-century Palestine. The people expected a militant Messiah who would conquer their opponents. What they got instead with Jesus was a Messiah that took the form of Isaiah's suffering servant.

In Matthew 16:21-28, Jesus fleshes out the idea of what it means to follow him. Self-denial is at the heart of his mission and therefore, becomes vital to those who chose to be his disciples. To follow Jesus is to allow God to remake us in God's image by divine grace. According to the New Testament, Jesus is as close to the image of God as any human being will ever see. He had the divine imprint stamped upon his person.

The Gospel of Matthew holds the Christology of Jesus and Jesus' demands for discipleship in close tether. Those who understand who Jesus is will then live a life that befits the gospel. In this way, disciples conform to Jesus' paradoxical understanding of discipleship. Jesus suggests that those who follow him in the way of suffering and death will in a curious way find their authentic selves. Likewise, those who seek their lives apart from his teachings will ultimately be gathering nothing but straw and chaff.

Soren Kierkegaard, as only Kierkegaard could, wrote a beautiful piece of irony in an essay titled "And I Looked Around and Nobody was Laughing." He wrote: "I went into church and sat on the velvet pew. I watched as the sun came shining through the stained glass windows. The minister dressed in a velvet robe opened the golden gilded Bible, marked it with a silk bookmark and said, 'If any man will be my disciple, said Jesus, let him deny himself, take up his cross, sell what he has, give it to the poor, and follow me.'"

Most of us are not bad people, but we are too often timid and afraid. We want to be followers of Jesus, but we are unsure and apprehensive. Perhaps if we could only understand what Jesus was trying to tell his disciples, then we would be a little clearer about what he is now telling us. In order to live fully, we are freed from all the restraints by which the world shackles us. If we could let go of our narrow understanding of what gives life meaning, then we would be free to pursue a life that cannot be taken away.

As Jesus said in Matthew 16:25, "Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

- David Neil Mosser, *reprinted with permission from The Clergy Journal*, © Logos Productions.



Remember When...



Fair Chair Workers
August, 2002

Right—Fair Chair Workers
August, 2003

Taking a Break: Michele
Theodore and Norm Grigsby



Below—Fair Chair Workers
August, 2004



You can have this much fun, too. Join us on Sunday morning, August 21, 2011, at 8:00 AM, at the Allen County Fair.

Take down will be that evening at 10:00 PM.

We need everyone's help with the fair chairs this year!



Connecting With ...



Summer Special Music
Above: **Judy Chaffins and Jerry Crates**, June 26
Below: **Alsbrooks Smith, Jr.**, July 10



Praying Together
O God, in the morning I start each day,
by taking a moment to bow and pray.
I start with thanks, and then give praise
For all your kind and loving ways.
Today if sunshine turns to rain,
if a dark cloud brings some pain,
I won't doubt or hide in fear
for you, my God, are always near.
Amen.



Remember in Prayer

- Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital
Jan Wyant
- Homebound Members
Hazel Dunn
Edna Osman
Jean Redd
Gladys Sherrick
- Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement
Mary Grigsby
Joanna Hurd
Rodney Lee
Rick Scholfield
- In the Military & Missions
Lesley Parker
Jason Stanley

Thank you to everyone who does summer special music. Your talents are greatly appreciated!



Visit The United Methodist Communications website : www.umcom.org

This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

The People of St. Paul's

Thank you very much for the card and book I received for my graduation! Thank you also for all of the support and guidance from everyone!

Alex McAdams



Thank you, to my friends at St. Paul's for your prayers, concerns, and food during my recent knee surgery. Your kindness is very much appreciated.

Mary Grigsby

Congratulations to **Tony and Shirley Shoup** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Hana Rose Swartz**. Proud parents are Dustin and Mindy Swartz. Hana weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and measured 19.7 inches long.

Congratulations to **Todd and Jenny Chaffins** on the birth of their daughter, **Lucy Elise** arrived on July 1, 2011, weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 21 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by big sister, **Addison**, proud grandparents, **Don and Judy Chaffins**, and proud great-grandfather, **Jerry Crates**. Cards will reach Todd and Jenny at **6217 Summerwood Ct., Ft. Wayne, IN 46835**.

Lesley Parker's time as a **Peace Corps Volunteer** is coming to a close. She will return to the United States on July 29th. You can read **Lesley's** blog at: www.lesleyinecuador.blogspot.com Lesley will relocate to Nashville, TN. Hopefully she will visit Elida.



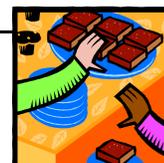
Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Good Cooks

Oatmeal Carmelitas

by Shirley Moser

| Ingredients | | Instructions |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 cup plus 3 Tbl. | All-purpose flour | Preheat oven to 350 degrees. |
| 1 cup | Quick-cooking oats | |
| 3/4 cup | Firmly packed brown sugar | In large mixing bowl, combine 1 cup flour, oats, brown sugar, salt, baking soda, and melted butter. Blend at low speed to form crumbs. |
| 1/4 tsp. | Salt | |
| 1/2 tsp. | Baking soda | Press half the crumbs into bottom of an 11 x 9 inch pan; bake for 10 minutes. |
| 3/4 cup | Butter or margarine, melted and cooled | |
| 1 cup | Chocolate chips | Remove from oven and sprinkle with chocolate chips and pecans. |
| 1/2 cup | Pecans (optional) | |
| 3/4 cup | Caramel ice cream topping | In a small bowl, blend caramel topping with remaining flour. Drizzle over the chips and pecans to cover. |
| | | Sprinkle remaining crumbs over caramel and bake for 15-20 min. or until golden brown. Allow to cool. Chill covered for 1-2 hours and cut into bars. |



Onion Rings

By Cindy Guess

| Ingredients | | Instructions |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 3/4 cup | Flour | Mix all ingredients together except onions. |
| 1/4 tsp. | Salt | |
| 1/4 cup | Evaporated milk | Add onions and stir until well coated. |
| 1/4 cup | Milk | |
| 3 1/2 Tbl. | Vegetable oil | Fry in hot oil until onions are golden brown. |
| 1 | Egg white | |
| | Large onion, sliced and separated | |



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

August 2011



Living Our Faith



One of the new testament readings for August is Romans 12:9-21. Paul gives us an interesting checklist of good behaviors. Read this passage in your Bible. Notice how many of Paul's words are verbs—action words: love, hate outdo, serve, rejoice, contribute, extend, bless, weep.

Look at Paul's checklist. Focus on the good things and let go of what isn't so good. Imagine how much better the world might be if we all tried to follow Pauls' advice.

- _____ Let love be genuine.
- _____ Hate what is evil.
- _____ Hold fast to what is good.
- _____ Love one another with mutual affection.
- _____ Outdo one another in showing honor.
- _____ Do not lag in zeal.
- _____ Be ardent in spirit.
- _____ Serve the Lord.
- _____ Rejoice in hope.
- _____ Be patient in suffering.
- _____ Persevere in prayer.
- _____ Contribute to the needs of the saints.
- _____ Extend hospitality to strangers.
- _____ Bless those who persecute you; do not curse them.
- _____ Rejoice with those who rejoice.

- _____ Weep with those who weep.
- _____ Live in harmony with one another.
- _____ Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly.
- _____ Do not claim to be wiser than you are.
- _____ Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
- _____ So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- _____ Never seek revenge against others.
- _____ If your enemies are hungry, feed them.
- _____ If they are thirsty, give them something to drink.
- _____ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.