

St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 32, Issue I

January, 2009

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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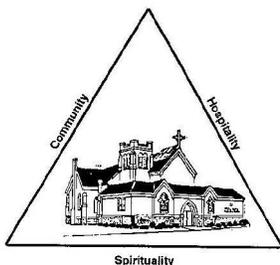
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Dear Friends,

It seems that the older I get, the colder I feel during the winter. As I listen to the Weather Channel programs though, I find that it has been colder this December than in many years on record. When I sit in the warm home you've provided Rich and I, I say a prayer of thanks to God that we have a warm, dry place out of the snow and ice.

As you know, many people aren't so fortunate. We come into these months complaining because we're inconvenienced, but many come into the winter wondering if they'll survive whatever Mother Nature throws our way this year.

While we are all watching our pennies a little more these days, let us not forget that the God whose incarnation we have just celebrated came to offer hope to a world that is cold and needy. And, Jesus was born in a stable where the night was likely chilly, and the family huddled together for warmth to protect the tiny baby.

Let us not forget that we not only have a moral obligation to our fellow human beings, but we have a spiritual obligation as disciples of Jesus Christ to offer hope to the hopeless. Remember, through the church's own Special Needs Fund, or through one of the many organizations who help the poor and needy, that we are called to care for the least of these.

Give thanks for your warm, safe home in these cold wintry days. And give something to help others have a warm, safe home, too. See you in church.

Blessings,

Pastor Ruth Solo



Thought for the Month:

Love is what makes
you smile when
you're tired.

~ Terri, age 4



January Youth Calendar

January 4, 2009	No Youth Happy New Year
January 11, 2009	Youth Group 5:00-7:00 PM
January 18, 2009	Youth Group 5:00-7:00 PM
January 25, 2009	Youth Group 5:00-6:15 PM

CONFIRMATION CLASS OFFERED

Pastor Ruth will be offering a confirmation class to any youth in the 8th grade and up. The class will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3:30-5:00 PM, before the youth group meetings, and will go from February 8 through March 22, with Confirmation Sunday being March 29. Orientation for youth and parents for this class will be Sunday, February 1, at 3:30 pm in the youth area of Fellowship Hall. Letters with more details will be sent to families of youth who have not yet been confirmed.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Lost & Found

Joanna Hurd's coat is missing. Please check your closets and see if you might have an extra jacket that belongs to her. Her jacket does not have a belt in back. She is getting colder by the moment!

**Watch for events
the Nurture
Committee is
planning.**

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Youth Director:	Doug Fox
Custodian:	Dave Decker

January 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Newsletter
deadline:
the **20th**



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INTERPRETER DEBUTS DIGITAL MAGAZINE IN JANUARY

The 2009 January/February issue of Interpreter, the ministry magazine of The United Methodist Church, will debut as a digital magazine in addition to the printed publication. "People are using media today in so many different ways and there are so many different forms of media. It's necessary to provide information in multiple channels," said the Rev. Larry Hollon, top executive of United Methodist Communications, which publishes the magazine. Nxt Book will publish the electronic version which will be sent by e-mail to sub-scribers. United Methodist local churches will receive five printed and five digital maga-zines—a change from the previous seven printed copies. The free subscriptions go to local church leaders as a benefit of congregations' support of the denomination's World Service Fund. Additional magazine subscriptions are also available. For questions, contact customer service at 888.346.3862.

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

Lima Area Community Gathering
Monday, January 26th
6:00 PM—Carry-in Dinner



UNITY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's will host the Allentown-Elida-Gomer Ministerial Association Unity Service on Sunday, January 25th at 6:30 pm. Rev. Sam Payne from New Creation Lutheran Church will preach, and so far we have commitments from our own praise team, our Chancel Choir, and the Allentown choir. Other musical groups from the related churches may also be participating. Please plan to join us for this meaningful service as we celebrate God's call to oneness in Christ

Allentown-Elida-Gomer Community
Service on Christian Unity
Sunday, January 25, 2009, 6:30 PM
at St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Rev. Sam Payne of New Creation
Lutheran Church will be preaching.

The Heart of Church

Greeters

January 4	Rudy and Lavonne Segovia
January 11	Don and Mary Irvin
January 18	Jone Lane and Margie Best
January 25	Bill and Joyce Nichols

Nursery Volunteers

January 4	Volunteers Needed
January 11	Volunteers Needed
January 18	Volunteers Needed
January 25	Volunteers Needed

This "Covenant Prayer" has been traditionally used by those in the Methodist tradition on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day:

I am no longer my own,
but yours, O God.
Tell me what you want me to do, and I will do it.
Tell me who you want me to work with,
and I will join with them gladly.
If you want me to work,
I will work.
If you want me to wait,
I will wait.

Let me be raised up or put down for you,
let me have many things or nothing,
I offer all that I have and all that I am to you, glorious and blessed God.
Help me to live each day to your glory.
And this covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

— John Wesley (adapted)

Youth look to the church to show them something, Someone, capable of turning their lives inside out and the world upside down. Most of the time we have offered them pizza.

— Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster, *The Godbearing Life*

Doing something for somebody is way better than just sending them a hundred bucks and forgetting all about them.

— Youth on a mission trip

Children's Worship

(Conducted During the Worship Hour)

1st Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Steve Moser—Story Slone Nagy—Children's Church
3rd Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story Angie & Brian Nartker—Children's Church
4th Sunday of Each Month	Corinne Piper—Story & Children's church

Book of Timothy



The Business of Church

CHARGE CONFERENCE MINUTES

Elida St. Paul's Church

October 13, 2008

The Charge Conference met with other Allen County UM churches at Immanuel UMC at 7 PM. Present were Pastor Ruth Solo, outgoing Ad Council Chair, Tim Piper; incoming Ad Council chair, Scott Fessler; Stewardship chair, Wilbur Hurd; Lay Leader, Dan Best; at large member, Norm Grigsby; Higher Education Coordinator, Lois Cook, incoming Missions Chair, Marty White; Christian Education Chair, Corinne Piper, and incoming Stewardship Chair, Bill McKinney and wife Esther. The St. Paul's Charge Conference packet was approved by a unanimous vote to take to the Charge Conference on Monday, October 6 at the Administrative Council meeting.

After a time of worship, and hearing the new District Superintendent, Steve Bennett, spoke about the NWP District goals for the coming year, we were directed by David Chivington to come forward as churches to lay our Charge Conference packets on the 'altar'. Tim Piper, outgoing Administrative Council Chair, took the St. Paul's packet forward.

Minutes submitted by Pastor Ruth Solo.



INVITATION TO JOHN

Pastor Ruth will begin the year with another Wednesday evening Bible Study, "Invitation to John," one of the Disciple Bible Study short term studies. The orientation will be Wednesday, January 14 when books will be distributed to those who have signed up. The study will begin on January 21 and run through winter and Lent, the last day being April 8. If you are interested in this study, please contact the office or indicate on the pew pad by January 4, so that books and the video can be ordered.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

Pastor Ruth will offer a new member's class beginning January 11 and running each Sunday through February 8. New member's will then be received into membership on February 15. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's UMC, please contact the church office or indicate on a pew pad by January 4, so that books can be ordered.

Committee Chairs	
PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Jamie Wyant
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Education Chair	Steve Moser
Ad. Council Chair	Scott Fessler
Worship Setting	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Martha Vazquez
Stewardship	Bill McKinney
Missions	Marty White & Maedene Holmes

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

December 7, 2008	99
December 14, 2008	139
December 21, 2008	104
December 28, 2008	101

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
Dec. 7, 2008	\$4,011.00	\$814.65
Dec. 14, 2008	\$4,331.27	\$350.00
Dec. 21, 2008	\$4,254.08	\$1,001.35
Dec. 24, 2008	\$480.00	\$381.28
Dec. 28, 2008	\$2,525.00	\$563.00



Table Grace

For food, for shelter,
For life, for opportunity,
For friendship and
fellowship,
We thank you, O God.
Amen.



Sunday School Attendance

December 7, 2008	36
December 14, 2008	23
December 21, 2008	31
December 28, 2008	21

Flowers:

January 4, 2009	Open
January 11, 2009	Open
January 18, 2009	Open
January 25, 2009	Ruth Hardy

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

Consulting the Manual



Bible Readings for January

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

Week of January 4

Epiphany Sunday

Color: White or Gold

Old Testament:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

New Testament:

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:10-18

Week of January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Color: White

Old Testament:

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

New Testament:

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11



Week of January 18

Wk. of Prayer for Christian Unity

Human Relations Day

Color: Green

Old Testament:

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

Week of January 25

Ecumenical Sunday

Color: Green

Old Testament:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

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

St. Paul's is a "Pluggers" Church

One of my favorite comic strips in the newspaper is the "Pluggers" strip. It is a one-frame comic that touches my heart every time I read it. The ideas for the strip are sent in by people across the country that have a positive view on life. They are the people that when life gives them lemons, they make lemonade! I believe that the people at St. Paul's Church are all "pluggers" too. When things don't exactly go as planned, we roll up our sleeves and find another way of doing things. The fellowship hall renovation project is a good example. We overcame flooding, picking colors for the walls, a decision on the stage, asbestos, and what to do with the kitchen. And we ended up with a multi-purpose room with handicap access that is used for Sunday-school classes, carry-in dinners, wedding dinners, funeral dinners, youth activities and large meetings. We pulled together and got the job done!

I think Jesus was probably a plugger too. He was born in a STABLE, for crying-out-loud! His earthly parents were not rich but they raised several children and taught them a trade so they would be successful

adults. Jesus learned how to be a carpenter as his trade. Now, after having hit my thumb with a hammer while working on roofs and ramps, I can definitely say that carpenters are pluggers! Then as a teacher he endured endless questions and complaining by his disciples. They couldn't even stay awake while Jesus was talking to God on our behalf. And Peter, Jesus' most gung-ho follower and student, denied Jesus three times in his time of need. But Jesus rolled up his sleeves and carried the cross, our cross, and went to his death to get the job done. It was a job, a sacrifice that had to be done and only Jesus could do it. He knew what was coming but he did it willingly because of his love for us. The next time you are having a bad day or week, do what I do, give it all to Jesus and let him come into your heart and grant you His Peace. May the "Plugger of the World" grant you peace as you celebrate the holidays with your families.

*With Christ's Love,
Tim Piper*



REFOCUS UPDATE

Well, we're on our way to ReFocusing. On November 10, 11, and 12, Pastor Ruth attended and co-facilitated the Focused Living Retreat for the pastors of churches who have decided to ReFocus their ministries for God's harvest

The other churches that are a part of the newly created ReFocus Network, along with their pastors, are: Wapakoneta First UMC, RJ Davis (co-facilitator); Mt. Cory/Pleasant View UMCs, Jerry Lewis; Celina Bethany UMC, Jim Richter; Mt. Blanchard UMC, Joe Chrisman; Hicksville Grace UMC, Greg Wack; Findlay Christ/Howard UMCs, Ruth Ann Scoby; and Unity Christian Ministry (non-denominational), Kristopher Johnson.

Continued on Page 12

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information before Leaving Earth.'"

Family Promise Program

St. Paul' Church Partners with Immanuel

Tim and I had the privilege of helping at the Family Promise Program one night this past week and we'd like to let others know of this program and its needs.

The Family Promise Program is a short-term program for families with housing problems. The families spend a week at a time (Sunday afternoon through the following Sunday morning) at various area churches. During this week those members of the families with jobs or school go there during the day. The other members of the family go to a center where they spend time with other families and have extra programs and support. In the afternoon they return to the church and their own rooms. During the evening hours there are TVs and DVD players, books, gathering spaces and rest times. Supper and breakfast are provided by the church. Some families stay in the program for about six months, others for a few weeks. One of the families there the night we visited were excitedly talking about moving into their own home the next week.

Immanuel UMC on Sunnydale Street hosts the program four times a year. During that week they need help with several jobs. One is with food for the meals. Those providing this need can offer the entire meal or parts of the meal and may stay and be with the families during dinner. There is someone at the church all the time the families are actually at the church so help with the staffing is always needed. Our job was just to be at the church after supper until 8:30 PM and play with the kids, chat with the families or whatever they were interested in doing—not too taxing a job. As with any mission trip, getting to know others from Immanuel and the families involved was a gift to us as much as to those we were serving.

The next week Immanuel will be involved in Family Promise is in March. If you would like to do mission work but don't like being on a roof or are not good building ramps, this program is a way to be involved right in our own community. I hope you will consider this as a time to become involved. Contact us or Pastor Ruth if you are interested in helping.

~ Corinne Piper



Could You Afford It?

Suppose God charged us
for the rain,
Or put a price on a
song-bird's strain,
Or music—the dawn
– mist on the plain.

How much would Autumn
landscapes cost,
Or a window etched with
a winter's frost,
And the rainbow's glory,
so quickly lost?

Suppose that people had to pay
To see the sunset's crimson play
And the magic stars of
the Milky Way.

Suppose it was fifty cents a night
To watch the pale moon's
silvery light,
Or to watch the gull in
graceful flight.

How much, I wonder,
would it be worth
To smell the good, brown,
fragrant earth

In Spring; the miracle of birth?

How much, do you think,
would people pay
For a baby's laugh at the
close of day?

Suppose God charged us
for them, I say!

Suppose we paid to look
at the hills,
For the rippling mountain rills,
Or the mating song of the
whippoorwills;

Or curving breakers of the sea,
For grace, and beauty, and majesty.
But all these things
He gives us Free!

Author Unknown

The Magi...The Magic



January is named after the Roman God Janus, which means “door” in Latin. Janus had two faces that allowed him to look backward into the old year and forward into the new.

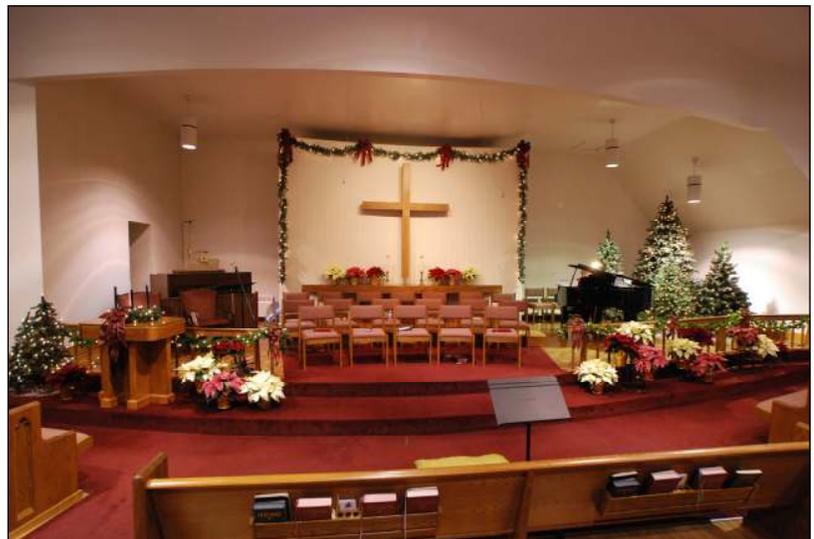
The magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Here is a list of gifts that we might offer to Christ, by sharing them with others:

- **a firm handshake**
to a shaky soul
- **a kind word**
to a lonely person
- **a warm smile**
to the disheartened
- **a sincere concern**
for someone troubled
- **a feeling of compassion**
for the neglected
- **a comforting thought**
for the bereaved
- **a respect**
for the dignity of others
- **a defense**
of the rights of individuals
- **a word of witness**
to help a seeking soul

– Source unknown

You are loved!

Photos Courtesy of
Ron Steiner



Above: St. Paul's always looks so serene and peaceful through the magic of Christmas and the dedication of the Metzger family who decorate it so beautifully every year. Thank you, Metzgers and to others who care so much to make our church look extra special during this extra special season.

Below: Our Chancel Choir performed the cantata, “*The Journey of Hope*,” on December 14th.



A Message from Bishop Ough

Dear Harbingers of Hope Called
West Ohio United Methodists:

Things fall apart;
the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed
upon the world.
The blood dimmed tide is
loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence
is drowned;
The best lack all conviction,
while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation
is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming
is at hand.

*(The Second Coming by
William Butler Yeats)*

The Irish poet Yeats wrote those lines in 1921. Or, was it yesterday he wrote them? In this season of global economic recession and fear, violent wars and terrorist assaults, do we not feel that mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, and that the center cannot hold?

Many of our West Ohio congregations are struggling with shrinking financial resources in the face of growing unemployment, foreclosures and poverty in their communities. Others are paralyzed by fear and entombed within their buildings, hoping for a by-gone era to return. Do we not feel that the ceremony of innocence is drowned, and that the center does not hold?

But there is another word. A word that talks back to Yeats and to us and to our fear. There is an Advent word. A word that speaks to our deep longing and hunger. There is a

word that incarnates hope. It is the word stated, among many other places in our Scriptures, in the magnificent Christology of the Epistle to the Colossians:

He is the image of
the invisible God,
The firstborn of all creation;
for in him all things in heaven
and on earth were created...
He himself is before all things,
**and in him all things
hold together.**

He is the head of the body,
the church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that he might come to
have first place in everything.
For in him all the fullness of God
was pleased to dwell.
(Colossians 1:15-19)

Christ is the center that holds; the spiritual center of gravity of the universe and of our own lives. In Christ all things hold together.

And, in this order that Christ provides, this universal structure of grace – this center that holds – we are called to remember our baptism and take leadership in the church and the world. It is in times such as these, when it appears all is falling apart and mere anarchy has been let loose, that we are to live counter cultural lives. It is in times such as these that we are to step forward and give “an accounting of the hope that is in us” (I Peter 3:15). It is in times such as these that we are to practice faith rather than fear. It is in times such as these that we are to give all we have and all we are over to God’s disposal. It is in

times such as these that we are to maintain focus and engage mission. It is in times such as these that we are called to live the United Methodist way, doing no harm, doing good and staying in love with God. This is the hope that is in us. This is the hope we offer the world.

So, I invite you to join me in a season of prayer, as we together pray:

Most Holy and Gracious God,
come and reveal, once again,
your fullness in Christ Jesus
and in our lives and witness.

In these desperate
and fearful times,
remind us that in Christ
all things hold together –
the center holds.

Let us be your
harbingers of hope,
to those who live in peril
and those who are
yet lost in darkness.

Clothe us in your own Spirit,
that persons will recognize
you in us

and receive your great
gifts of love and peace.

In the name of Jesus,
who lives with you and with us,
now and forever. Amen.

May God bless you, your
families and congregations, this
Christmas, with the joy and
confidence that in Christ the
center holds.



John's Nativity

John's Nativity Story

In Sunday school most of us learned that only Matthew and Luke give an account of the birth of Jesus. But let's not overlook John's version. It's just a little different.

Matthew begins with a long genealogy, assuring us that Jesus is part of God's story. He then goes on to tell of Joseph's anxiety and uncertainty, of divine reassurance, of a child named "Jesus" (Savior) and "Emmanuel" (God-is-with-us). Lastly, the story of the visit of foreign sages affirms that this Jewish Messiah has come for all humankind.

Luke sets the story of Jesus in history by giving background, telling of the birth of John the Baptist and quite down-to-earth stories about Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Mary. Prophetic utterances from these folk, along with Anna and Simeon in the Temple, frame a story of Jesus. He was born as an outcast in a brutal world – the opposite of power and wealth – and yet from a stable and a hill and a cross and an empty tomb, Jesus' love would prove greater than the might of any empire.

John, on the other hand, tells us nothing of a child's birth, but a rather philosophical tale of God's word becoming flesh.

God's creative energy, the divine spark that began the cosmic journey, somehow merged with a human being in a unique and mystical way.

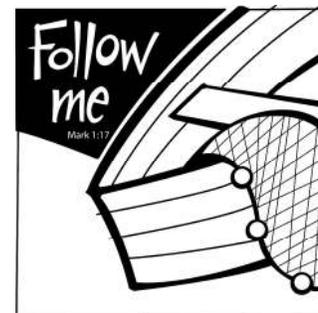
It's as if John, so overwhelmed at learning the story of Jesus, cannot keep it in. Like someone rushing into a room with good news, John just has to blurt it out: "It's so amazing; all of the power and glory of God that was there from the beginning is completely here now, right here in the midst of our world, and nothing can overwhelm it no matter how evil. Even when we try to reject Jesus, still that light shines and brings God ever closer. And . . . And . . ."

All out of breath, John has to proclaim a message that, while using very different language, still is akin to the other Gospels: Jesus was born as one of us, yet mysteriously bears the unique divinity of God. As part of God's dream for the universe, Jesus challenged – and challenges still – the powers of evil, and nothing in all creation will ever stop that.

Such a simple message. So many ways to say it!

Continued from Page 8...Refocus Update

We then began our monthly meetings at St. Paul's in the fellowship hall on December 16th. The work began as the retreat was reviewed, and new concepts and discoveries were



pastors as we shared in worship, discussion, and new learnings. The group decided to continue to meet at St. Paul's as the most central to the network of participating churches. We will take over the fellowship hall every fourth Tuesday of each month as we continue to discover God's call upon our lives as ordained and licensed leaders in our ministry settings, and then we will begin to invite you into the process to learn and discover what God has in mind for your lives.

Pastor Ruth is now making a list of persons to invite to learn the ReFocus Focused Living Retreat process so that they can become table facilitators when we come together to learn and discover what God has been doing through St. Paul's, and what God may have in mind in the future.

Be watching for updates, and listening for your call to God's work in the harvest.

Connecting With ...



Every Sunday, adults take turns leading Children's Worship during the morning service. Steve Moser is shown giving the message on Sunday, December 14th. Corinne Piper and Pastor Ruth also take turns giving this powerful piece of education. Slone Nagy and Angie and Brian Nartker participate by escorting the children downstairs to do "Children's Church" after the initial message is provided. We thank these dedicated individuals for this vital ministry!

Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Don't let worry kill you— Let the church help.
- Thursday night — potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
- This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
- The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.



To the Carolers Who Came By,
 May the blessings of heaven rest upon you and give you peace and joy. You sang joyful songs unto the Lord. Bless you all. I was surprised and I truly enjoyed it. It was a blessing to me!

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

- Dorothy Foster
- Cindy Guess
- Wilbur Hurd
- Bob Pease

Homebound Members

- Rebekah Baxter
- Hazel Dunn
- Ruth Hurley
- Marie Lee
- Edna Osman
- Jean Redd
- Gladys Sherrick
- Ray & Helen Waldron

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

- Sara House
- June Metzger
- Rick Scholfield

Those in the Military

- Jason Stanley

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
We would like to thank everyone for your beautiful cards and notes, and the lovely and sometimes delicious Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness helped us to experience the joy and warmth of Christmas, and encourages us for a productive new year. May God bless St. Paul's church in the New Year with the generosity of the Holy Spirit as we continue to reach out and serve in the name of Christ. Peace to all of you,
Pastor Ruth and Rich Solo

Dear St. Paul's UMC,

Just an update on the "Five Loaves" Food Pantry. Saturday, December 20th, was another busy one with over 50 families served. The doors will open again on Dec. 27th, 9 AM-12 Noon.

What a blessing that, through your help and the leading of the Holy Spirit, this has been possible. Thank you all so very much for seeing the vision and the need and hopping on board. Isn't it awesome what loving Christians can do when they work together? That kind of sounds like something we've heard somewhere before!

For January, we will be replenishing the shelves with soups and cereals. Thank you again for being a major partner in this outreach mission! God bless you all!



*A very **special thank you** to the ramp building crew who braved cold, snow, and wind to build our ramp. Words cannot express how much we appreciate what you did for us. Even under terrible weather conditions, you were smiling and happy doing the job. We sign for our home this week, so we will be moving soon. Thank you again for all your hard work! God Bless You.*

Jim and Jenny Polutnik

The Holiday Home Tour was a great success! Thanks to Jan Wyant, Sandra Parker, Phyllis Hines, and Tracy Sdao for graciously opening their homes that evening. Every house was beautifully decorated and delicious snacks were served. Thanks also to Margie Best, Linda Craft, Lois Cook, and Shirley Moser for the soup for our meal before the tour. How wonderful the hot soup tasted on a dreary night! Many people donated door prizes, for which we are grateful. Lastly, special thanks to Mindy Schulz for planning this annual event. A good time was had by all!



Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia

Meetings

January 2009

January 5, 2009
PPR...7:15 PM

January 6, 2009
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 12, 2009
Finance...7:00 PM

January 12, 2009
Ad Council...8:00 PM

January 20, 2009
Missions...7:00 PM

January 27, 2009
Christian Ed...7:00 PM

Sundays
Prayer...9:00 AM

Thursdays
Chancel Choir...7:30 PM

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



				1 Tim Piper Ron Stewart	2	3 Kaitlin Craig Becky Ellinger
4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6 	7	8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Fletcher	10
11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13 Carolyn Michael Brian Nartker Eileen Slade	14	15	16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby
18 Rudy & Lavonne Segovia January 1 53 years	19 	20	21	22	23 Joanne Bragg Roger Matlock	24 Nick White
25 Gerald & Wanda Strayer January 13 55 years	26 Ginger Fox Jeff Reiff Virginia Yarger	27	28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Helen Waldron Zack White	31 Judy Strayer

Anniversaries



Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
January 1
53 years

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
January 13
55 years

Gary & Sue Broshes
January 25

Don & Maedene Holmes
January 25
50 Years

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

Mini Kisses Praline Bars (from the cookie exchange)

by Carole Grapner

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cups	all-purpose flour	Heat oven to 350 degrees. In large bowl, stir together flour and only 1 cup brown sugar; cut in 3/4 cup butter with pastry blender until fine crumbs form. Press mixture in 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Sprinkle with pecans. In small saucepan, place remaining 2/3 cup butter and remaining 1/3 cup brown sugar; cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Continue boiling, stirring constantly for another 30 seconds, until the sugar dissolves; drizzle evenly over pecans and crust. Bake 18-22 minutes until topping is bubbly all over and turns golden; remove from oven. Immediately sprinkle the milk chocolate morsels evenly over the top. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. When cool, cut into bars. Makes 24-36 bars (depending on desired bar size). If chocolate remains too soft to cut, place in refrigerator for a while to set your chocolate and then cut into bars.
1 1/3 cups	packed light brown sugar, divided	
3/4 cup plus 2/3 cup	butter, divided	
1 cup	coarsely chopped pecans	
1 3/4 cups (10 oz. pkg.)	Nestle's Toll House milk chocolate morsels	

White Chili

by Myrna Metzger

Ingredients		Instructions
1 (48 oz.)	northern beans (don't drain)	Add all ingredients and cook until thick. For creamy chili, add 1 cup sour cream. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>
	cooked and cut-up white chicken	
	chopped onion	
1 small can	chicken broth	
1 can	chopped green chilies	
1 1/2 tsp.	garlic powder	
1 tsp.	salt	
1/2 tsp.	pepper	
1 tsp.	cumin	
1/4 tsp.	cayenne pepper	
1 tsp.	oregano	

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
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January 2009

Happy New Year

Living Our Faith

A New Year

Before you toss all the 2008 calendars in the recycling bin, flip through the pages of one. Recall some of the events in the world and in your own life that happened on those days, weeks, and months. Give thanks to God, and let them be.

Next, take a 2009 calendar or date book and flip through the pages. Dare to dream a little about what the possibilities can be. Stop at a significant date and wonder what it will be like, or pause at a special anniversary. Remember that, just as in all the

days of the old calendar, God will be there in the new year, too.



The twelve days of Christmas come to an end on January 6, and the season of the Epiphany begins. But Epiphany not only ends Christmas, it also fulfills it by celebrating the revelation of the Christ to the whole world.

The coming of Incarnate God to all people, especially to those of us who are Gentiles, is the bridge from birth into life, the event that makes Easter possible for most of us. The light of the Epiphany illuminates the church's year as it illuminates the human race from whom the kings came.

~ Phyllis A. Tickle,
"What the Heart Already Knows."

