St. Paul's Epistle An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 39, Issue 8

August, 2016



The dog days of summer are upon us. Please remind me this winter when I complain about the cold how I complained about the heat. Remember, stay hydrated, wear sunblock and think cool thoughts, for those of you who enjoy the heat, keep having fun. August, of course, is the month when most of Allen County thinks about the fair and heading back to school. The fair means Fair Chairs for everyone here at St Paul's, so bring a friend and help set up

(Aug. 26) or take down (Aug. 27) chairs. If you have a church shirt wear it and show how God's church works in the community.

Back to school means shopping for supplies, clothes and of course a new backpack. While you are shopping maybe you could pick up some supplies to build a school or health kit for UMCOR. These kits help children and families all over the world and even here in America who don't have the resources to get the simple necessities of life. You can find a list of supplies at church or go to www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Kits, click on school or health, and it will give you exactly what to buy. All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items – nothing more. I know that is hard but it helps these kits travel without interruption all over the world.

We are also having a blessing of the backpacks at church, so bring in your back pack, bag, or briefcase and we will have a special blessing for everyone. Teachers, students, professors, aides, and bus drivers come on down, preschool through college come on down. If you're headed back to school we want to be a blessing to you. If you have your school kits complete bring them as well and I look forward to seeing you on blessing of the back packs Sunday.

One last thing before I go back to the heat. When you go to the hospital they may ask you what church you attend, but that does not mean they will call us at church and let us know you are in the hospital. With all the changes in our laws concerning privacy, we, as the church, are no longer notified when you are in the hospital. So I am asking that you contact me directly or call the church office to let us know you are in the hospital. That way I can visit you and distract you from the wonderful heart health food they serve you. Also, without your call, we at church may never know you were in the hospital and we will not be able to send you cards, flowers, or ask you 100 times if you feel better.

Have a great August and remember, drink a lot of water and put on your sunscreen!

Yours in Christ,

Tastor Faul

Thought for the Month: "Pray, and let God worry." *—Martin Luther*

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St. Paul's United

Methodist Church

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Allen County Fair Chairs 2016!

Your help is needed for the annual fair chairs setup and takedown at the Allen County Fair. On Friday, August 26, starting at 8:00 AM. St. Paul's Church will be setting up chairs for the 2 concerts in the grandstands. We will take chairs down on Saturday, August 27th after the concert. Everyone's help is needed. If you can't lift chairs, there are stickers to place on the chairs and chairs to straighten. Or you can just come and give moral support to the Age isn't a factor. Contact Art workers. Holman for more information. Come and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of your friends at St. Paul's

See You At The Fair!





Back Packs Sunday, August 28 Students of all ages, teachers, administrators and professors, bring your back pack, book bag, or what ever you carry your supplies in, to the worship service on August 28th to be blessed.

Blessing of the



SCHOOL KITS

- One pair blunt scissors (Round Tip)
- Three **70 count** spiral notebooks
 (Wide Ruled)
 - One ruler (12" metric)
 - One hand-held pencil sharpener
 One large eraser (2 1/2")
 - Six new #2 pencils with erasers (unsharpened)
- One box <u>Crayola</u> crayons (24 ct.)
- Canvas Tote Bag (12"x14" to 14"x17") Can be purchased at Hobby Lobby
- **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits
 - Pack kit in a **2 gallon size ziplock bag** and place at the altar.



HEALTH KITS

- One <u>hand</u> towel (@15"x28" to 16"x32")
 One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb (remove from package)
 - One finger nail or toe nail clipper (remove from package)
- One bar of soap (**bath size in wrapper**)
 - One adult size toothbrush **(in original packaging)**
 - Ten standard size Band-aids
- **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits

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



 \sim St. Paul's UMC \sim An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples \sim

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Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing

St. Paul's Members Participate in 9th Annual Bradley Joseph Memorial Golf Outing

Some of the men and women of St. Paul's Church participated in the 9th Annual Brad Joseph Memorial Golf Outing on July 9th at the Colonial Golfers Club. A foursome of **Dennis Bowsher, Denny Thompson, Shirley Moser and Larry Moser** played golf, of which all proceeds go to the Bradley Joseph Memorial fund. **Shirley** had the *longest drive for women* on hole number 14 and the team took *First Place Honors for the second year in a row going 10 under par.* Congrats to our whole team for participating!

Norm Grigsby, Dillon Staas, Dan Best, Jamie Wyant and Tim Piper volunteered to help with the outing selling raffle tickets and participating with various games at different holes on the course. The amount raised by the golf outing has not been totaled but John Fleming, Brad's Uncle who runs the outing, will let us know the total amount raised for missions in a few weeks. Thanks to all who volunteered for this worthwhile mission.

Brad Joseph was a member of our St. Paul's congregation until he was tragically killed in a car accident in the fall of 2007. Brad was St. Paul's Youth Director, sang in the Chancel Choir, took care of our church computers and participated in various mission trips. Perhaps his favorite mission was going six years in a row to the United Methodist Medical Mission in Progresso Nuevo, Mexico, where, as a pharmacist, he filled prescriptions for the disadvantaged people who were served on the mission. The golf outing is held annually by Brad's family to raise money to send medical interns on medical missions all over the world. Praise God for the life of Brad Joseph and for his family honoring him and God by the mission work being funded by his memorial fund!

Coins for Communion collected July 3, for the Brad Joseph Memorial fund was \$81.98



Golfers at the hole sponsored by St. Paul's UMC: Shirley and Larry Moser, Dennis Bowsher, and Denny Thompson.

Congratulation to this foursome for winning first place. The plaque will be returned to its spot on the wall in the church office.





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Operation Christmas Child

1. Hard Candy, gum	40. Teddy bear	
(Please remember to double bag all candy!)	41. Unopened Happy Meal	Ideas For Boxes
2. colored pencils	toy	Ideas for Either Gender
3. Erasers	42. Toy binoculars	& Most Ages
	43. Inflatable balls	
4. Pencils & Sharpener	44. Legos	
5. Crayons	45. Solar-powered flashlight	Ideas for Girls
6. Pens 7. Demonsel letter whete	46. Harmonica	1. Package of multi– colored sharpies
7. Personal letter, photo	47. Recorder	2. Travel sewing kit (age 10-14)
8. About me page	48. Tambourine	3. Fat Quarter material bundles (age 10-14)
9. Ruler	49. Jump rope	4. Hair ribbons
10. Glue Sticks	50. Paddle ball	
11.Safety scissors	51. Hand held Etch-a-Sketch	5. Ponytail holders
12.Coloring book	52. Yo Yo's	6. Barrettes
13. Markers	53. Small board books	7. Small pots/pans with spatula
14. Notepads	54. Slinky	8. Bangle bracelets
15. Stickers	55. Flash cards	9. Clip-on earrings
16. Self-inking stamp	56. Miniature checkerboard &	10. Doll
17. Tennis shoes	checkers	11. Pompoms (<i>like ones used for football games</i>)
18. Socks	57. T-Shirt	12. Purse
19. Water shoes	58. Plastic poncho in packet	13. Hand mirror (unbreakable)
20. Flip flops	59. Drawstring bag	
21. Hand held toys	60. Balloons	
22. Plush small animals	61. Crafting kit (beads, etc)	Ideas for Boys
23. Balls: Tennis, bouncy, wiffle	62. Toy tool kit set	1.0.11
23. Jigsaw puzzle	63. Plastic eating utensils	1. Ball cap
25. Finger puppets	64. Sippy cup/cup with lid	2. Soccer ball with pump
26. Silly Putty	65. Comb	3. Cars
27. Silly bands	66. Brush	4. Trucks
27. Sunglasses	67. Dental floss	5. Kazoo
29. Scarves	68. Mild soap (put in bag or travel container)	6. Compass
30. Bandanas	69. Toothpaste	7. Hammer (age10-14, must be in original
31. Gloves	(put in plastic bag)	packaging)
31. Gloves 32. Small flannel throw	70. Toothbrush	8. Nails (age10-14 must be in original
33. Necklace	71. Colorful bandages	packaging & zipper bag)
33. Necklace 34. Watch	72. Hand wipes	9. Screwdriver (age 10-14, must be in original
35. Hat	73. Small pack colorful	packaging)
35. Hat 36. Shoelaces	tissues	10. Screws (age 10-14, must be in original packaging & zipper bag)
	74. Lip balm	11. LED keychain (age 10-14)
37. Bean bag	75. Emery board/nail	Chir Chir
38. Hacky sac	clippers	12. Duct tape (age 10-14)
39. Small dry erase board & markers		13. Tape measure (age10-14)

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Faith In Action

	Worship Atten	dance:
	June 26, 2016	102
	July 3, 2016	75
	July 10, 2016	97
	July 17, 2016	84
\frown	July 24, 2016	73
J		

	V	ancial Giving Veekly Need for ied Ministry Budge \$3,466.00	
U	nified Minis	stry Giving:	Other:
June 2	6, 2016	\$2,119.00	\$1,455.98
July 3,	2016	\$4,306.00	\$304.98
July 10), 2016	\$3,287.00	\$233.00
July 17	7, 2016	\$2,500.00	\$333.00
July 24	4, 2016	\$1,750.00	\$129.53

Children's Church Attendance		
June 26, 2016	6	
July 3, 2016	N/S	
July 10, 2016	4	
July 17, 2016	3	
July 24, 2016	N/S	

Greeters	
August 7, 2016	OPEN
August 14, 2016	OPEN
August 21, 2016	Jamie & Jan Wyant
August 28, 2016	Phyllis Hines & Dee Johnson

Flower Calendar		
August 7, 2016	Jamie & Jan Wyant	
August 14, 2016	Tony & Linda Matlock	
August 21, 2016	Susan Nartker	
August 28, 2016	Brooks & Jeannine May	

Hospitality Cart

August 7, 2016	Tracy & Tahler Sdao
August 14, 2016	Marty, Kathy & AJ White
August 21, 2016	OPEN
August 28, 2016	Choir

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 8/1 Psalm 56, 57, 64, 65 Joshua 24:16-33 Romans 16:1-16 Matthew 27:24-31

Tuesday 8/2 Psalm 61, 62, 68 Judges 2:1-5, 11-23 Romans 16:17-27 Matthew 27:32-44

Wednesday 8/3 Psalm 72, 119:73-96 Judges 3:12-30 Acts 1:1-14, Matthew 27:45-54

Thursday 8/4 Psalm 70, 71, 74, Judges 4:4-23 Acts 1:15-26, Matthew 27:55-66

Friday 8/5 Psalm 69, 73, Judges 5:1-18 Acts 21:1-21, Matthew 28:1-10

Saturday 8/6 Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76 Judges 5:19-31 Acts 2:22-36, Matthew 28:11-20

Sunday 8/7 Psalm 34, 93, 96, Judges 6:1-24 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Mark 3:20-30

Monday 8/8 Psalm 77, 79, 80 Judges 6:25-40 Acts 2:37-47, John 1:1-18

Tuesday 8/9 Psalm 78, Judges 7:1-18 Acts 3:1-11, John 1:19-28

Wednesday 8/10 Psalm 81, 82, 119:97-120 Judges 7:19-8:12 Acts 3:12-26, John 1:29-42

Thursday 8/11 Psalm 85, 86, Judges 8:22-35 Acts 4:1-12, John 1:43-51 Friday 8/12 Psalm 88, 91, 92 Judges 9:1-16, 19-21 Acts 4:13-31, John 2:2-12

Saturday 8/13 Psalm 87, 90, 136 Judges 9:22-25, 50-57 Acts 4:32-5:11, John 2:13-25

Sunday 8/14 Psalm 19, 46, 66, 67 Judges 11:1-11, 29-40 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31 Mark 4:35-41

Monday 8/15 Psalm 89, Judges 12:1-7 Acts 5:12-26, John 3:1-21

Tuesday 8/16 Psalm 94, 97, 99 Judges 13:1-15 Acts 5:27-42, John 3:22-36

Wednesday 8/17 Psalm 101, 109, 119:121-144 Judges13:15-24 Acts 6:1-15, John 4:1-26

Thursday 8/18 Psalm 105, Judges 14:1-19 Acts 6:15-7:16, John 4:27-42

Friday 8/19 Psalm 102, 107:1-32 Judges 14:20-15:20 Acts 7:17-29, John 4:43-54

Saturday 8/20 Psalm 33, 107:33-43, 108 Judges 16:1-14 Acts 7:30-43, John 5:1-18

Sunday 8/21 Psalm 118, 145, Judges 16:15-31 2 Corinthians 13:1-11 Mark 5:25-34

Monday 8/22 Psalm 106, Judges 17:1-13 Acts 7:44-8:1a, John 5:30-47 **Tuesday 8/23** Psalm 121, 122, 123, 124, 125,126 Judges 18:1-15 Acts 8:1-13, John 5:30-47

Wednesday 8/24 Psalm 119:145-176, 128, 129, 130 Judges 18:16-31 Acts 8:14-25, John 6:1-15

Thursday 8/25 Psalm 131, 132, 134, 135 Job 1:1-22 Acts 8:26-40, John 6:16-27

Friday 8/26 Psalm 140, 141, 142, 143 Job 2:1-13 Acts 9:1-9, John 6:27-40

Saturday 8/27 Psalm 104, 137, 144 Job 3:1-26 Acts 9:10-19a, John 6:41-51

Sunday 8/28 Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147 Job 4:1-6, 12-21 Revelations 4:1-11 Mark 6:1-6a

Monday 8/29 Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27 Acts 9:19b-31, John 6:52-59

Tuesday 8/30 Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11 Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21 Acts 9:32-43, John 6:60-71

Wednesday 8/31 Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24 Job 6:1, 7:1-21 Acts 10:1-16, John 7:1-13



Northwest

2016 Annual Conference (Part II)

Business and Activities

During each day of annual conference the business consists of many greetings, reports, discussions, recognitions, video clips and voting. Listed below are the five recommendations which passed.

- 1, Calendar Year 2017 and budgets.
- 2. Equitable Compensation (salaries)
- 3. Pension and Health Benefits
- 4. Sale of Camp Asbury to the Friends of Camp Asbury.
- 5. Requesting a Study Regarding the Benefits and Costs of the Missional Church Consultation Initiative. This basically addresses the need for District and Conference Staff and Boards to examine actions they can take to increase efficiencies and reduce expenses. Ideas include: Direct proceeds from closed churches to the New Church Start initiative; Assess relocating Annual Conference; Review and assess change to the apportioned connectional giving; Assess our capacity to support our three camping and retreat centers. A progress report will be presented at the June 2017 Annual Conference.

Other points of interest include the following:

General Advance Giving: Total advance giving from WOC (West Ohio Conf.) was \$2,655,192 which \$1,133,571 was for Imagine No Malaria. The people of West Ohio gave the most total dollars of any conference in the denomination. One hundred per cent of each gift given goes to the chosen mission.

Offering: The Annual Conference Special Offering this year was devoted to starting new churches and revitalizing existing congregations. The challenge was to raise \$200,000 and \$203,000 was collected in the offering.

Awards and Special Recognition:

Harry Denman Evangelism Awards for laity went to Rob and Sara Meriweather of Plain City and clergy to Rev. Miriam Ault pastor of Mechanicsburg UMC and Rev. Tom Roth, Cornerstone UMC. One Matters Award was given to First UMC in Bellefontaine.

Vital Church Award was given to Mount Tabor UMC in Wapakoneta.

5K Walk/Run: Over 460 participants took part Tuesday a.m. and raised \$750 for New Church Start Initiative.

Rock the Dock: Music, dancing and ice cream social in honor of Bishop Ntambo's retirement from the North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Fixing of Appointments is the last order of business.

Peppered throughout the business day, excellent, inspirational video clips are shown. One video clip featured Rev. Dillon Staas, (son of our own Dillon and Helen Staas) along with two other ministers who cooperatively worked together to merge three church congregations into one. A beautiful new church building was built and the people are united in working in mission in their community as well as being in worship and fellowship with another.

Linda Craft

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference



Our Church History

A baptismal font and offering plates were given as a memorial to Mrs. Goldie John by her children, Harold and Nelle in March, 1968. In June, 1968, Dr. Sumpter Riley, Jr. was appointed District Superintendent of the Lima District. He was the first black pastor to serve in that position.

Mr. Al Burcham of Brownsburg, Indiana, was the coordinator for a Lay Witness Mission in February, 1970. This gave the members of the church a new and personalized method of spreading the gospel through fourteen laymen and laywomen from churches near and far giving their individual Christian witness. There was also a youth mission which brought new vitality to the youth program of the church.

On June, 1970, the contractors completed the asphalt paving of the parking facilities. The total cost, including the purchase of the Gahman property, was \$17,000.

The year 1971 saw new changes in methods of worship. This was realized in the forms of such activities as Lenten Dramas, where various people were involved in presenting the Good News through one act plays. A summer outdoor film festival series was held on the new blacktop parking lot, using various gospel and contemporary films. A community senior citizens group was formed and met in the Trinity Lutheran Church. Home Bible studies were organized and an altar prayer time was introduced in our morning worship services. We also were becoming accustomed to using the <u>Good News for Modern Man</u> version of the New Testament in our morning services which were provided as a gift by one of our families.

A new Schulmerich Organ and Tower Chimes were donated by the George Sullivan family in September, 1971. The chimes were dedicated on November 14, 1971. Ladies of the church play the chimes each evening at 6:00 P. M. New green-patterned drapes were provided by the W. S. C. S. and installed in the fellowship hall in September, 1971.

The church youth singing group adopted a new name, "Good News and Co." in February, 1972. They were organized in June, 1970, by Mrs. Nancy Kuhn and Mrs. Ruth Hardy, using a new sound of music with a distinctly different beat. This proved to be a great interest and attraction to the young people. They presented contemporary music such as "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat", "Jesus Christ, Superstar", and "Tell It Like It Is" in our worship services as well as touring to many churches throughout the Lima District, Todd Ave. UMC in Warren, Ohio, Lapeer, Michigan, and Bethel, Ohio, near Cincinnati.

Good News & Co

Remember When...



August, 1997

Rev. Terry Heck and Mary Steiner helping with Fair Chair Set-up





Dan Best water skiing with St. Paul's Youth Group







August, 2006

Oliver and Scott Fessler, Jeff Reiff setting up fair chairs at the Allen County Fair



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Connecting With ...

To All Golfers, Hole Sponsors and Volunteers

We would like to extend a sincere and hardy thank you to all of you who attended or helped in any way the Ninth Annual Bradley W. Joseph Memorial Golf Outing. It was a wonderful day, beautiful golf course and good fellowship.

We want to congratulate the winning team of Larry Moser, Shirley Moser, Denny Thompson and Dennis Bowsher with a winning score of 62!!!! This is the second year in a row that the St Paul's United Methodist Church's team has won, it must be something in the Elida water!!!

We also want to thank Daryl and the rest of the staff at Colonial Golfers Club for doing such a great job at hosting our Event. And Mike for that wonderful chicken.

The financial results of the Outing show we will be contributing \$3,547 to the Memorial Fund which is held at the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation. That brings our eight year Outing total to over \$35,000, which will be used to fund future scholarships for Medical Mission Trips.

Please pass on this information on to other members of your team and give them a big thank you for being a part of this wonderful Event!

The pictures taken at the Outing are on our Facebook page as well as at <u>www.FlemingFinancialSvcs.com</u>.

If you have any comments concerning the Outing, please feel free to pass them along to any one of us.

Thank you again and see you next year at the Tenth Annual Bradley W. Joseph Memorial Golf Outing which will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2017, at the Colonial Golfers Club.

John Fleming – Ryan Kruse – Tim Burkart Becky Paskvan – Kenny Joseph – Greg Joseph





The People of St. Paul's



The Tip Top

The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning.

> —Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting

Christian Symbol

Sevenfold Flame

Tongues of fire are a common symbol of the Holy Spirit, based on the Pentecost events of Acts 2. However, when seven flames are depicted together, they also represent the seven gifts of the Spirit as named in Isaiah 11:2-3: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord and delight in the fear of the Lord (sometimes paraphrased "joy in the Lord's presence").



Oliver Fessler, a Marine Corps recruit who entered basic training at Parris Island, SC, in July, is allowed to receive letters of support and encouragement while at Parris Island. No musical cards or packages are allowed. Please do not use colored envelopes or stickers on the envelope. Deadline for sending letters is September 14th. Graduation Day is scheduled for Sept. 30, 2016.

RCT Fessler, Oliver B 3rd RTBN PLT 3074 Co K P.O. Box 16335 Parris Island, SC 29905-6335



Meetings	Α	UC	JU	S	Γ2	20	16
No PPR August 2, 2016 Trustees7:00 PM August 3, 2016 Worship6:00 PM August 8, 2016 Finance7:00 PM No Ad Council August 17, 2016	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Missions7:00 PM Sundays Prayer9:30 AM Fellowship9:30 AM Worship10:00 AM		1 Mary Grigsby Tim White	2	3	4 Joy Fletcher Cody Scannell	5	6 Anne Laman
Anniversaries Scott & Beth Warris August 1	7	8 Myrna Metzger	9 Ruth Hardy Sara House	10	11 Nancy Kizer Michele Luhn Emma Scannell	12	13
AJ L Tara Strauch August 2 **** Ron L Mary Steiner August 3; 47yrs. **** Brandon L Jaime	14	15 Ginny Doseck	16 Bev Nesbitt	17	18 Tracy Sdao	19 Jacquie Bice	20 Austin Lewis Dennis Metzger
Chambers August 4 **** Brady L Tiffany Emmons August 4 **** Steve L Tracy Sdao	21	22	23 Aric Thompson	24 Gail Fessler	25 Ira Slemmons	26 fair	27 CHAIRS
Steve & Tracy Saao August 4 **** Jamie L Jan Wyant August 6 **** Scott L Michelle Grapner August 11	28 BLESS BACK PACKS	29 Justin Wyant	30 Cole Lewis Esther McKinney	31			
 David & Susan Nartker August 16; 41yrs. Tony & Linda Matlock August 18; 43yrs. 					S		Par -

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Millionaire Pie

By Lois Cook

Ingredients	5	Instructions
2 cups	Powdered sugar	In mixer bowl, cream together the powdered sugar and
1 1/2 cups	Butter, softened	margarine. Add eggs, salt and vanilla Mix until light and fluffy.
1	Egg	Spoon mixture evenly in to baked pie crusts. Chill.
1/4 tsp.	Vanilla	Whip cream until stiff; fold in nuts and pineapple. Pour
1/4 tsp.	Salt	over the sugar mixture and chill thoroughly.
2-8 inch	Baked pie crusts	Makes 2 (8 inch) pies or 1 very thick pie. Pie is very rich and small servings are adequate.
1 cup	Whipping cream	May be made well in advance, as it is best after chilled
1/2 cup	Nuts, chopped	several hours in refrigerator.
1 cup	Crushed pineapple, drained	

Microwave Caramel Corn

By Maedene Holmes

Ingredient	ts	Instructions
3-5 qts. Popped corn		Melt margarine in 1 1/2 quart casserole. Add sugar, syrup,
1 cup	Brown sugar	and salt. Bring to boil.
1/4 cup	White Karo syrup	Cook in microwave on HIGH for 2 minutes. Remove from microwave; add soda and mix well.
1 stick	Butter or margarine	Pour over popped corn that has been put in a large brown paper bag. Shake and place in microwave on HIGH for
1/2 tsp.	Salt	1 1/2 minutes.
1/2 tsp.	Soda	Shake and microwave on HIGH 1 1/2 minutes. Shake and microwave on HIGH for 1 1/2 minutes. Pour on cookie sheet to cool.



Non-Profit

Organization

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Our Facebook page Elida St. Paul's Church

> Twitter Account @ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

A Month of Sundays

"August is like the Sunday of summer," an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week a chance to sleep in, do "nothing," relax and play — then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed "August is like the Sunday of summer." God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons. Grace In, Grace Out

The computer acronym GIGO — "garbage in, garbage out" — describes how putting wrong code into a machine will lead to faulty output. Jesus offers a similar lesson in Matthew 15: "What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person" (v. 18, ESV).

GIGO works the other way, too. If we put good things (including the good news of salvation) "in" our hearts, Jesus' goodness will shine "out" through our lives. And when God's grace enters and changes us, we'll also reach out and share that good news with others.

—Heidi Mann