

St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 31, Issue 11

November, 2008

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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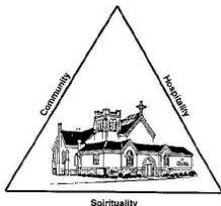
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Dear Friends,

While I look out at the fallen leaves, and smell the crisp cool air, I'm reminded of Thanksgiving. Even as I think of the days of going to Mom's house for the great feast in the past, I'm looking forward this year to going to our daughter's in St. Louis for the Thanksgiving feast in the present. One of my daughters got organized (I wonder where she got that???) and developed a schedule for our family holidays, and outlined where we could expect them to be held over the next three years. It takes the pressure off me, and helps us all to make our 'other family' plans.

But the thought of Thanksgiving also reminds me of what that word means. It's a day of being thankful to God for all of God's blessings: for our families of origin and our families we've created through life, our church families, and our friends with whom we share so much. We are also thankful to God for a country that has set aside a day to thank God, our Creator and Provider, where we are free to worship with whom we will, and speak the name of God in the language and tradition that allows God to touch us deeply. And, as Christians on Thanksgiving, we are thankful for the life which we've received in Christ.

The other side of Thanksgiving, though, is the giving. We (and I admit I'm guilty, too) so often think only of what we will eat, how much we will eat, and the great amount of time we spend deciding the day's menu and preparing the feast. But, what do we give? What do we give in return for all that God has given to us? We give a prayer before the feast. But what of ourselves do we give?

I invite each of you to join me to consider what you can give as a tangible thank offering to God for all that God has done for you. Will you give your time in an organization or ministry that helps the poor? Will you give an extra financial offering to the church? Will you give clothing you can no longer wear to an organization that distributes to the needy? Will you give some extra food to the food bank? What can we give that is even close to an expression of thanks for what God has given to us? Something to ponder in this season of giving and thanks.

See you in church.
Pastor Ruth Solo.



Thought for the Month:

Grace isn't a little prayer
you chant before receiving
a meal. It's a way to live.

— Jackie Windspear

Youth News

November Youth Calendar

November 2	Youth 5-7 PM
November 9	Bldg. 429 Concert Elida Field House
November 15-16	Retreat at Camp Roberts with Allentown UMC
November 16	Pastor Todd at Arlington
November 23	Youth Night
November 30	No Youth

Congratulations to

JASON HOLMES on the completion of his degree at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Jason finished his course of study in September, but the formal graduation ceremony will take place next Spring. He would like to find employment in the Pittsburgh area. Jason is the son of Jeff and Kim Holmes, 5047 Willow Drive, Elida, OH 45807.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

November 2008						
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						

- Advent Study to be held on Wed. Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 pm. Books will be \$7.65 each.
- Family Promise announcement that we need helpers. Call the office if interested in helping the week of Dec. 7-14.



St. Paul's Epistle

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Pianist:	Lois Cook
Youth Director:	Doug Fox
Custodian:	Dave Decker

Attention Ladies:

We are currently seeking volunteers to offer their homes for viewing during the 3rd annual St. Paul's Holiday Home Walk. This year's home walk will be held on Tuesday, December 9th from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. A light dinner will be offered in the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. to kick-off the event before touring the homes. If you are **interested in showcasing your home and/or willing to provide a food**

item for the dinner or a door prize, please contact Mindy Schulz, 419-339-9029 by **Friday, Nov. 14th**. We are hoping to enjoy six different homes and share the holiday spirit with one another. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to join us for this festive occasion!

Newsletter
deadline:
the 20th



Growing Disciple Makers

910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875
 Telephone: 419.523.9901 / 800.589.7828
 Fax: 419.523.3479
 Email nwplains@wocumc.org

New Website for Seniors

The Ohio Council on Aging periodically e-mails information concerning aging issues. Many issues dealing with the elderly are on the website, with the latest periodical dealing with prescription drugs and the importance of physical activity in keeping seniors healthy. Visit <http://www.goldenbuckeye.com/families/index.html>. Under —Featured Information, click —News & Information and you can sign up for free e-mails with the latest news and updates from the Ohio Department of Aging.

Northwest Plains District Older Committee Presents...
 La Comedia Dinner Theatre, Springboro, Ohio



Saturday, December 13, 2008
 Cost \$65.00 per person (same cost as 2007)
 (The cost includes transportation, noon meal at La Comedia, matinee show, all tips and taxes.)
Reservation deadline is November 10th. First 50 to register will go!
Full payment must accompany your reservation(s).

Join us on Saturday, December 13th as we journey by deluxe motor coach to Springboro, Ohio to catch the holiday spirit of "Miracle on 34th Street".
 The motor coach will depart from two locations:
 Lima Super Wal-Mart promptly at 9:15 a.m. (Please park within the white lines by the gas station.)
 Wapakoneta Wal-Mart at 9:35 AM
 Please arrive early at your pick up location.

There is an absolute limit of 50 spaces for this trip!

Questions? Please call Rev. Kenneth Baker at 419.584.0401.

**La Comedia "Miracle on 34th Street" Christmas Outing
 Reservation Form**

Names of persons attending: _____

 Name of church: _____
 Name of contact person registering for group: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 I/We will board the coach at: Lima Super Wal-Mart - 9:15 AM _____
 Wapakoneta Wal-Mart - 9:35 AM _____
 Please make check payable to: Northwest Plains District UMC.
 Mail check and reservation form to: Rev. Kenny Baker, 229 E. Livingston St., Celina, OH 45822.
NOTE: Check for full payment must accompany your reservation(s)!

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

November 9 Consecration Sunday
Catered meal after the service

November 23 Allentown-Elida-Gomer Ministerial Assoc.
Community Thanksgiving Service
6:30 PM at Salem Mennonite Church
Pastor Gary Rode of Immanuel UMC,
speaker

November 30 United Methodist Student Sunday

December 9 Holiday Home Walk



The Heart of Church

Greeters

November 2	Ron & Mary Steiner
November 9	Brian & Angie Nartker
November 16	Open
November 23	Open
November 30	College Students

Nursery Volunteers

November 2	Slone Nagy
November 9	Kathy White & Jacinda Fletcher
November 16	Corinne Piper
November 23	Nancy Gesler & Jacinda Fletcher
November 30	Open

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.
 – Chrissy, age 6



Due to the lack of experienced trumpeters, the end of the world has been postponed for three weeks.
 – Anonymous graffiti

Book of Timothy



Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world: it is not he who prays most or fasts most, it is not he who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity or justice; but it is he who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.
 – William Law

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

REFOCUS: A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

On October 6, the Administrative Council voted to approve St. Paul's UMC participation in a spiritual leadership process called ReFocus. You've read in some previous newsletters a little about this exciting possibility, but now it will become a reality as Pastor Ruth begins to participate in a Network with other pastors as they discover what God is doing in their lives, and then bring the process to the leadership of St. Paul's. Eventually, after about a year, there will be opportunities for the members of the congregation to participate in the spiritually renewing process for the whole congregation, and we will develop a strategic plan that will reflect where we believe God is leading us in the next step.

The Refocus Process is designed to help persons in leadership, and eventually congregations, to discover how God has been at work in their lives and the life of the church through the Holy Spirit. Through the process, the congregation will understand how God leads them and empowers them through the Holy Spirit.

By the end of the Process, the pastor, lay leaders, and congregation will have a God led, Christ centered, Spirit empowered strategic plan for the work of the church in the next 5 years. The process takes about 2 years to complete to get to the plan, because pastors, then church leaders, REFOCUS their leadership style from a more "business as usual" style to a God empowered style of thinking, planning, and acting.

THE PROCESS

1. The PASTOR only is in a NETWORK cluster of pastors that meets in a retreat for the group's development, the Focused Living Retreat.
2. The PASTOR meets with the NETWORK pastors monthly to study the self-learnings from the retreat. Study is done through review of particular parts of the retreat, setting goals, and holding one another accountable.
3. At about the 4th to the 6th month, or as determined by the NETWORK pastors' readiness, there will be a Focused Living Retreat for congregation leaders **Refocusing Teams**.
 - a. It will involve six to twelve leaders from the congregation, chosen by the pastors
 - b. The leaders may or may not be on the council at the time

The retreat lasts a day and a half, usually a Friday night and Saturday
4. The NETWORK pastors continue to meet monthly, and toward the end of the first year, there will be a Focused Living Retreat for all congregational leadership, THAT IS ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND ANY OTHERS THAT WISH TO BE A PART OF THE PROCESS.
5. There is a 2nd retreat for the congregation **Refocusing Team**, called a Focused Ministry Retreat, early in the second year of the process. The pastors continue to meet.
6. Then, there are THREE Summits.
 - a. The summits are for all of the congregational leadership and any others who wish to attend.
 - b. The summits are geared toward congregational renewal and development of a strategic plan
 - c. by the last summit, a 5 year strategic plan will be developed

Pastor's commitment is to the NETWORK, to lead the **Refocusing Team**, and lead the Congregational Leadership Focused Living Retreat, and help lead the Summits.

Refocusing Team commitment is to attend the Focused Living Retreat, Lead the Congregational Leadership Focused Living Retreat, and help lead the Summits.

Congregational Leadership commitment is to attend and participate in the Focused Living Retreat and the three Summits.

The cost of ReFocus has been underwritten by some members of the congregation, so there is no expense to create a strain on the church's budget. Be watching for further updates as the process begins and others are invited to join in.

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

September 28, 2008	112
October 5, 2008	101
October 12, 2008	135
October 19, 2008	118
October 26, 2008	95

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



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
Sept. 28, 2008	\$2,244.50	\$1,277.00
Oct. 5, 2008	\$3,473.95	\$759.68
Oct. 12, 2008	\$3,165.85	\$847.95
Oct. 19, 2008	\$3,216.00	\$536.00
Oct. 26, 2008	\$2,123.11	\$340.00

Table Grace
For food in a world
where many walk in hunger;
for faith in a world
where many walk in fear;
for friends in a world
where many walk alone,
we give you humble thanks,
O God. Amen.



According to Harper's Index, among Google®
searches beginning "who is," God ranked #1,
and Satan ranked #10.

Sunday School Attendance

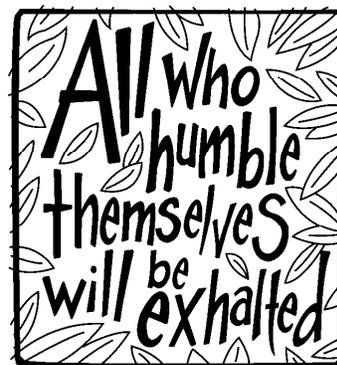
September 28, 2008	35
October 5, 2008	41
October 12, 2008	34
October 19, 2008	45
October 26, 2008	36

Flowers:

November 2, 2008	Dan & Margie Best
November 9, 2008	Dorothy Banks
November 16, 2008	Art & Linda Holman
November 23, 2008	Gary & Janet Grigg
November 30, 2008	Glenna Kohli

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

Consulting the Manual



Bible Readings for November

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

Week of November 2

All Saints Sunday

Color: Green or White

Old Testament:

Joshua 3:7-17

Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

New Testament:

I Thessalonians 2:9-13

Matthew 23:1-12

Week of November 9

Stewardship Day

Color: Green

Old Testament:

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78: 1-7

New Testament:

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Week of November 16

Bible Sunday

Color: Green

Old Testament:

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123 or Psalm 76

New Testament:

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

Week of November 23

Christ the King Sunday

Color: White

Old Testament:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

New Testament:

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

Week of November 30

First Sunday of Advent

United Methodist Student Day

Color: Purple or Blue

Old Testament:

Isaiah 64:1-9

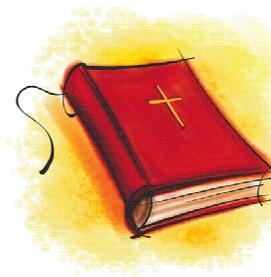
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

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



PRAYING FOR LIMA

Some of us may know that the tensions in the city of Lima have been on the prayer list since the first of the year in response to the shooting last January. What many may not know is that the tensions have been rising for several years. Every month, the church receives a calendar prayer list asking that members pray about the problem of gangs and the city's response to the problem. Since gangs were mentioned in a recent sermon, it is important that we be more aware of the need for prayer in this matter.

The calendared schedule of prayer lists names of gangs (i.e., Crips, Bloods, Latin Kings), initials of gang leaders, last names of police officers and fire fighters who are first responders in violent situations, city leaders, clergy, parents, schools, and others who are involved in the often times volatile situations created by gang wars.

Beginning with the most recent calendar, you are invited to join with many others in the greater Lima area in praying daily for an end to the violence in the city of Lima. We sometimes think that what happens in

Lima doesn't touch us. But did you know that the gangs are present in the north end of the city that is a part of American Township? And, did you know that the children in Elida schools are sometimes affected by the presence of gang members in the neighborhoods where they live?

The prayer calendar for alleviating the problem of gang violence in the Lima area will be in the rack outside the pastor's office for you to pick up. Please consider adding those names listed to your daily prayers of intervention. Things happen when God's people pray. Lives can be changed, and whole communities can begin to know God's love.

You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

You're blessed when you've

worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

You're blessed when you care.

At the moment of being "care-full," you find yourselves cared for.

You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

Not only that – count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens – give a cheer even! – for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Celebrating...

MISSION VOTE RESULTS

Even before the national and state elections, Elida St. Paul's has voted and chosen who the missions committee will focus the efforts for mission support on for the coming year.

Our Coins for Communion on the first Sunday of each month will go to support the following six ministries/agencies:

1. Five Loaves Food Pantry
2. Partnership with United Methodist Children's Home
3. Samaritan House Shelter for Women and Children
4. Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen
5. Heartbeat of Lima-support for moms and babies only
6. Hope Center

Other ministries that received over 20 votes were Family Promise and Nothing But Nets. If there are Coins for Communion collection months where mission trips or local emergency requests were not needed, these may be considered for Coins support.

You also voted to support a missionary. St. Paul's has supported missionaries in the past, but it has been a number of years. Through missionary support, you expand the witness of Jesus Christ throughout the world. You have voted to make a

covenant commitment with the Gaston Ntambo family in the North Katanga Conference of the Congo in Africa.

Finally, you voted to support a ministry in one of West Ohio's sister Conferences. Because of the connection to the late Brad Joseph, and because several members of St. Paul's have traveled to that mission site, the votes for the Nuevo Progreso Clinic in Mexico were overwhelming.

Stay tuned. There will be opportunities for you to support these missions in the coming year. The missions committee will also seek volunteers to help with the next Family Promise week at Immanuel UMC the week of December 7. We will also be looking for people to sign up to help serve lunches at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen beginning October 31. Roll up your sleeves. There's work to be done.

The people who worked with Brad Joseph at the Nuevo Progreso clinic installed an air conditioner in the pharmacy—Brad used to refer to it as a closet. It was the size of a closet and very hot. Recently we received a picture of the plaque they placed at the clinic.

**Bradley Joseph
Memorial
Pharmacy
Dedicated To Our
Great Friend
The Much Loved
Brad Joseph, RPH,
Who Devoted So Much
of Himself
To the Clinica Buena Fe
And The People Of
Nuevo Progreso**



Giving Thanks . . . Every Day

For most people in the United States, the fourth Thursday of November means things like turkey and pumpkin pie, watching a parade or a big football game on television, and perhaps a special visit with family. This is Thanksgiving Day, and these are some of the traditional ways of celebrating this festive holiday.

Some families use this day as an opportunity to share with others. Some like to reflect back on the past year and thank God for all that has happened.

Rather than just celebrating Thanksgiving for one day, here is a way to give thanks to God each day, in a special way:

There are seven Thanksgiving Sentences, one for each day of the week. At some point during the day, perhaps during your evening meal, invite everyone to begin a line of a prayer with the line for the day:

Day 1: I thank you, God, for . . . (things)

List one or more things that you are thankful for.

Day 2: I give you thanks, even though . . .

Think of a time when things were tough, and yet you were able to thank God. An example might be "I give you thanks, even though I am sad that there is hunger in the world."

Day 3: I give you thanks, because . . .

Think of something special in the world or in your life that makes you want to thank God, such as "I give you thanks because the sun shone today."

Day 4: I give you thanks that . . .

What is something wonderful that has happened, or something that you enjoy? Maybe something like "I give you thanks that my sister shared her toys with me."

Day 5: I thank you, God, for . . . (people)

List some people that you appreciate.

Day 6: I thank you God, and . . .

Name something you want to do to show that you are grateful to God.

Day 7: I give you thanks when...

Think of a time when you have felt grateful, such as "I give you thanks when I hear music."

As well as saying your prayer each day, here are some ways to express your prayer visually:

- Make a centerpiece for your table with objects that represent the things you are giving thanks for each day. This may require some creative imagination. For example, how might you express thanks for the sun shining, or how might you express sadness, or other feelings?
- Create a graffiti sheet. Hang a large piece of paper on the wall and invite people to write one or two words on it, expressing their prayers. This could also work well if you find that not everyone can be present at the same time to join in the prayers. They can write theirs on the sheet at different times during the day, and others can read them when they have time. People might use different colors so you know who has written what.
- If someone in your family enjoys scrapbooking and you have supplies, you can make scrapbook pages for your prayers. Use your imagination. You could do a page for each day, including each person's prayers. Or people might want to do their own pages and you can compare them. Alternatively, you could do a page per week, so that there are a variety of prayers expressed on the various pages.

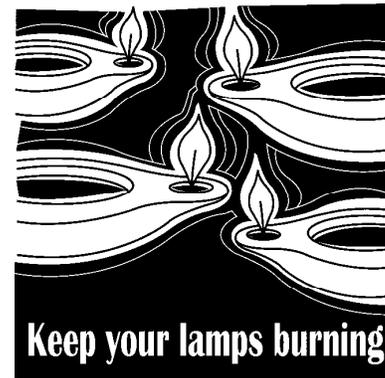
God Breaking Through

November 30 is the First Sunday of Advent, and the first reading, Isaiah 64:1-9, talks about God tearing open the heavens and coming into our world anew. As we begin to prepare for Christmas, we look for signs of new life, reminding us of God's presence in our world.

Sometimes it can be easy, and other times difficult, to find signs of new life. In hot and dry places or cold and snow-covered places, it may seem like life is hidden from us. The same might be true in a busy city, where pavement and tall buildings and busyness seem to keep us apart.

In these kinds of places we, like the prophet Isaiah, may also cry out "O God, tear open the heavens and come down again."

Go for a walk in your community and look for signs of new life. Be imaginative in your looking, celebrating and giving thanks to God for what you find. Let it surprise you as you prepare to celebrate God's gift of new life in Jesus.



State Issue 5 — Payday Lending

For years, payday lenders operating in Ohio have been permitted to charge 391 percent annual interest. This has added to the growing debt problem of many Ohio citizens. These lenders prey on some of our most vulnerable populations, including low-income families, the elderly, minorities, military personnel and others desperate for cash. This is morally wrong and inconsistent with our historic United Methodist prohibition against the "giving or taking of usury" (General Rules of the United Methodist Church).

Today's payday lending practices are not just financially irresponsible; they are morally reprehensible. It is imperative that persons of faith who seek the common good for all of God's people work together to preserve the new payday lending reform law and stop those who charge 391 percent interest, just as Jesus once chased the moneychangers out of the temple (Mark 11:15-17 and Matthew 21:12-13).

I respectfully encourage you to witness to your neighbors, families and friends regarding this issue and to vote "yes" on ballot Issue 5.

From: Bishop Bruce R. Ough (excerpts taken from a letter to West Ohio United Methodists, October, 2008)

New Beginnings – Part II

In the last newsletter, I talked about how St. Paul's Church has been involved with 'new beginnings' this past year. As I approach the end of my three-year term (has it really been that long?) as Chairperson of Administrative Council, I look back and wonder where we would be as a church, had we not taken on new beginnings. Had we not taken on our building renovation project while in the middle of a pastoral change, would we be as appealing to outsiders looking for a new church? Had we not taken on mission trips to New Orleans and to the United Methodist Children's Home, would we really understand the plight of the downtrodden? Had we not taken on the partnership to supply food to the Five-Loaves Food Pantry, would we really know what it means for someone to be hungry? Had we not been as fortunate to have someone like Pastor Ruth come to tutor us with Bible studies, leadership training and spiritual rejuvenation, would we be growing as Christians? We have challenges ahead of us that will probably take more 'new beginnings' for us to grow as a church. I am confident that we will overcome the obstacles that lay in our path because we have as our role model Christ Jesus who gives us new beginnings through His death and resurrection. His sacrifice and gift of the Holy Spirit to us has meant new beginnings and new birth to anyone that chooses a new life in Him.

Tim Piper

Vote NO on Casino Gambling-Issue 6

Vote NO Casino Gambling

Most of our pastors and church leaders have been hearing for years the negative impact gambling has on our communities. Increased addictions, increased crime rates, increase in small businesses closing which increases unemployment and increases bankruptcies, are some of the consequences of having casino gambling in your area according to national studies.

In November another amendment will be placed before voters to allow a casino in Clinto County Ohio. We ask that each congregation develop a plan on how they will educate their people about this amendment. Some of the language in this amendment makes it the worst of all the proposals.

The proposed amendment would write into the state's constitution a monopoly for commercial casinos in Ohio. No other business or enterprise is granted a monopoly by the state constitution.

The state actually receives no money from the casino. What about the money the 88 counties would be receiving? Experts say it would be a wash, as the state would lose sales dollars spent at the casino instead of on goods and services. Just a important is found in Section 6a subheading (B) which gives the casino the right , if the Eastern Shawnee are recognized and tribal casinos open in Ohio to reduce the tax rate for the casino from 28% to 2%. Funding to county governments would disappear and the owners would

receive 98% of profits. No other business in Ohio receives constitutional protection from paying taxes. (Does it surprise anyone that the funder of this casino is Lyle Berman of Lakes Entertainment in Minnesota? He has built five Native American casinos.)

Written into the amendment is authorization to obtain more than one liquor license not subject to local quotas or option requirements.

The proposed amendment specifies that the state can only charge \$15 million for a license fee. Most states are paid \$200 million for each casino establishment. The amendment also stipulates how that money can be used. Should casino owners tell the state how to use their money?

Casinos often make the case they will bring new jobs to a community . Pay attention that many of those jobs are in hotels. Read carefully "housekeeping." "Start practicing your miters corners,"

writes Mary Thomas Watts of Worthington and a freelance writer. She also writes that every slot machine siphons \$50,000 out of the economy annually. That represent the loss of one \$18-an-hour job with benefits. The 5,000 slots planned for in the casino would more than offset the jobs they're promising.

For more information, contact Dee Stickley-Miner at dstickley@wocumc.org.



... every moment of our lives is sacred, and ... we should make of each moment a sacrament. Were we to do this we would think of the entire world as diffused with holiness. Wherever we might be would be a holy place for us, and we would see the holy, even sainthood, in everyone we encounter.
 - M. Scott Peck

Committee Chairs

PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Jamie Wyant
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Education Chair	Corinne Piper
Administrative Council Chair	Tim Piper
Worship	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Gail Fessler
Stewardship	Wilbur Hurd
Missions	Ruth Solo

Connecting With ...

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Tim Piper
Administrative Council Chair



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Scott Fessler
Dorothy Foster
Cindy Guess
Art Holman
Don Irvin
Jone Lane
June Metzger
Jean Redd

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**

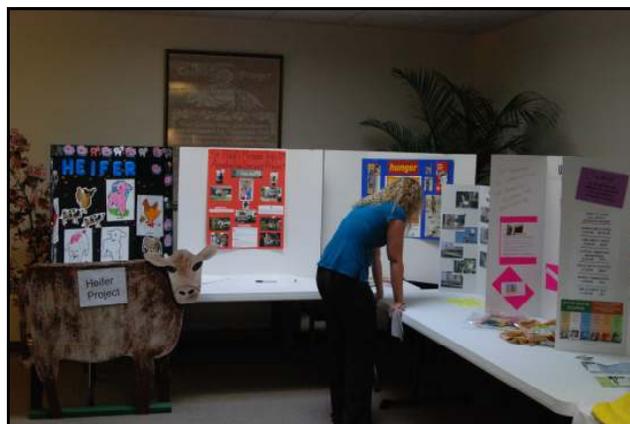
This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

Praise Team



Above: A newly formed Praise Team at St. Paul's will be singing once per month to bring a contemporary sound and feel to our worship service. Steve Moser, Mindy Schulz, and Angie Nartker sing, while Lois Cook accompanies on the piano and Brian Nartker accompanies on the guitar.

Below: Mission Sunday brought displays for congregation members to view to help them decide which mission projects each wanted to support.



Disciples



The People of St. Paul's

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for
the many cards, prayers,
well wishes, and the
potted mum. Thank you,
Pastor Ruth,
for your hospital visit. I
am very blessed to be
part of such a caring and
loving church family.
God Bless You,
Jone Lane*

Congratulations to

*Jennifer and Brian Kinney
on the birth of their son, Samuel David.
He was born October 14, 2008, in Columbus.
Samuel weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 20 in.
long. Proud grandparents are Tim and
Corinne Piper. Cards may reach Jennifer
and Brian at 219 N. Chillicothe St., Plain City,
OH 43064.*



Thank you to St. Paul's Roof and Ramp Crew,

*Thank you to all the dedicated workers who helped
with repairing and replacing our roof. You all do a
tremendous mission. Words can not express the
feeling of being on the receiving end of such a
blessing. Thank you all.*

Rudy and Lavonne Segovia

**Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia**

Meetings

PPR meeting cancelled
for November

November 4, 2008

Trustees...7:00 PM

November 10, 2008

Finance...7:00 PM

November 10, 2008

Ad Council...8:00 PM

November 18, 2008

Missions...7:00 PM

November 25, 2008

Christian Ed...7:00 PM

Sundays

Prayer...9:00 AM

Sunday School...9:15AM

Worship Hour..10:30 AM

Thursdays

Chancel Choir...7:30 PM

November 1, 2008

Book Club...9:00 AM

November 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Margie Best Cody Warris Book Club
2 Janice Flick Prayer	3 Jacinda Fletcher Matt Ross	4 Trustees	5 Chancel Choir	6 Chancel Choir	7 Jone Lane Kris Wade	8
9 Jon Cook Joshua Guess Prayer	10 Kylee Loose Cameron Murphy Finance Ad Council	11 Virginia Hollar Jenson Nagy	12 Logan House	13 Chancel Choir	14 Angela Ross	15 John Holmes 88 yrs.
16 James Fox Chancel Choir	17	18 Rebekah Baxter 92 yrs. Dennis Bowsher	19 Gary Grigg Justin Kruse	20 Rudy Segovia 82 yrs. Marty White Chancel Choir	21	22 Christie Lewis Tony Lozano
23 Jennifer Loose Prayer	24	25 Christian Ed	26	27 Ruth Solo Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Prayer						

Anniversaries

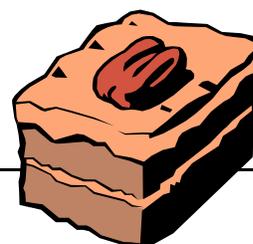


Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

Praline Peach Spice Cake

by Judy Strayer

Ingredients		Instructions
1	spice cake mix	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Prepare cake mix according to directions and add next four ingredients. Pour into 9x13 inch pan and bake according to box directions. Praline: Bring sugar and butter to a boil; add honey and simmer. Add spices and milk. Simmer for 5 minutes. Add pecans. Serve over warm cake and garnish with shipped topping.
1 can	peach pie filling; cut peaches smaller	
2-3 tsp.	ground cloves	
1/8 tsp.	pepper	
1 cup	pecan pieces	
1 cup	brown sugar	
3/4 cup	butter	
2 Tbl.	honey	
1 tsp.	cinnamon	
1 tsp.	nutmeg	
2/3 cup	evaporated milk	
1 cup	pecans	
	whipped topping	



Caramel Layer Squares

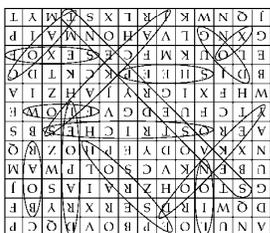
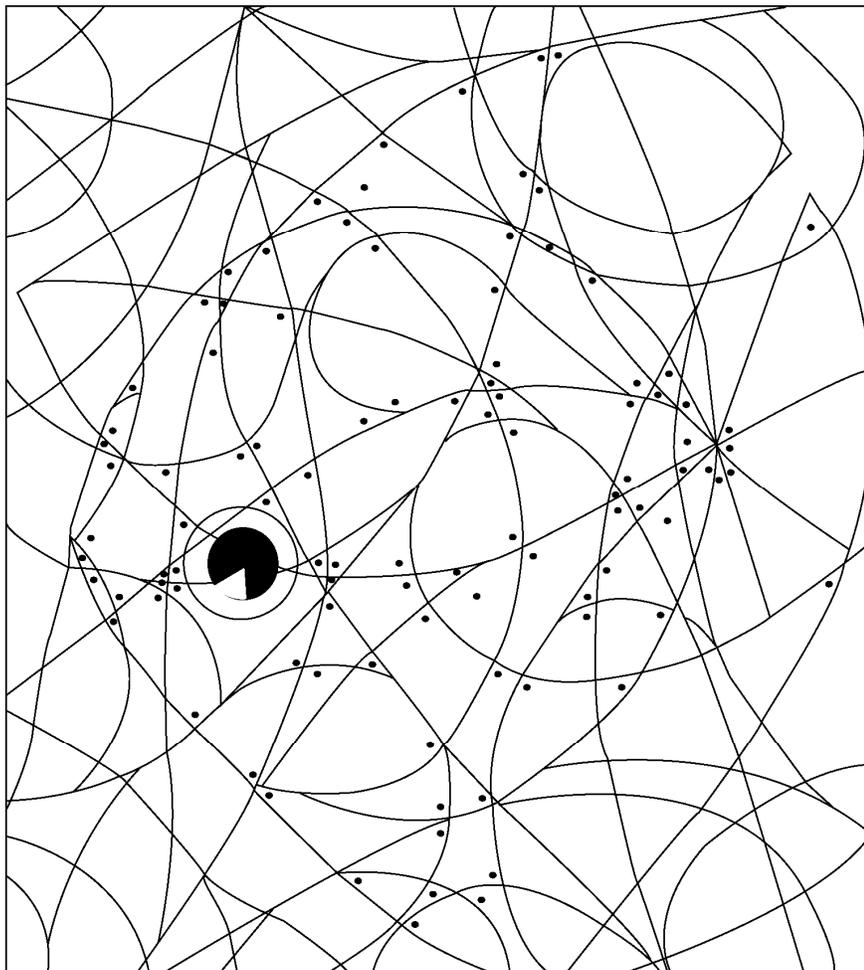
by Shirley Moser

Ingredients		Instructions
1 (14 oz.) pkg.	light caramels	Melt together 1 pkg. light Kraft caramels and 1/2 cup Carnation evaporated milk. In large mixing bowl, combine 1 pkg. German chocolate cake mix with 1 1/2 sticks of margarine, 1/2 cup evaporated milk, and chopped nuts if desired. Stir by hand until mixture holds together. Press 1/2 of mixture in bottom of greased and floured 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 6 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle 6 ounce pkg. chocolate chips over top. Spread caramel mixture on top. Next, drop rest of cake mixture on this. Bake 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool and cut into squares. Good cold or heated in microwave.
1 cup	Carnation evaporated milk	
1 pkg.	German chocolate cake mix	
1 1/2 sticks	margarine	
1 cup	chopped nuts (optional)	
6 oz.	chocolate chips	

KIDZ KORNER

Color

Color the spaces with dots to find one of God's creations.



Word Find Answers:

Word Find

Find what animals are in the Bible verses.

Isaiah 31:4 _____

Jeremiah 9:11 _____

Ezekiel 34:20 _____

Numbers 22:28 _____

Daniel 8:5 _____

Jeremiah 5:6 lion, _____

Deuteronomy 25:4 _____

Judges 15:4 _____

Job 39:19 _____

Amos 9:3 _____

Psalms 80:13 _____

Lamentations 4:3

jackals, _____

Ecclesiastes 9:4 _____, lion

A	N	U	L	O	E	P	B	O	V	D	Q	C	P
D	Q	W	I	R	D	S	E	R	X	R	Y	B	F
G	S	T	O	O	H	Z	R	A	I	A	S	O	J
U	B	E	N	K	V	C	S	O	L	P	W	A	M
N	X	K	A	O	D	Y	E	P	H	O	Z	R	Q
A	E	R	O	S	T	R	I	C	H	E	S	B	S
Y	T	C	F	U	E	D	G	V	F	L	O	W	E
W	H	F	X	I	G	R	Y	J	A	H	Z	I	A
B	D	J	S	H	E	E	P	K	C	K	T	D	G
E	L	O	U	K	M	F	C	E	S	E	X	O	F
G	X	N	G	L	V	A	H	O	N	M	A	I	P
J	Q	N	W	K	J	R	L	X	S	T	M	Y	T

Answers: lion, jackals, sheep, donkeys, goat, wolf, leopard, ox, foxes, horse, sea serpent, boat, ostriches, dog.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807



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Living Our Faith

November 2008

An Attitude of Gratitude

In 1988 Polish railway worker Jan Grezbski fell into a coma as a result of an accident. He was 65 when the accident occurred, and he remained in the coma for 19 years, waking up at the age of 84.

During this time, Mr. Grezbski's wife Gertruda cared for him, faithfully believing that some day he would wake up. Every few hours, each day, she turned him to avoid bed sores.

Much changed in the time that Jan Grezbski was asleep. His four children grew up and

got married. Eleven grandchildren were born.

The world changed, too. Poland changed from a communist country to a democracy. Computers became commonplace. The Berlin wall came down.

"When I went into a coma there was only tea and vinegar in the shops, meat was rationed and huge gasoline lineups were everywhere," Mr. Grezbski said.

One of the biggest changes that Mr. Grezbski noticed was the invention of the mobile phone, and how everyone seemed to have one. Most of all,

he noticed that whenever people talk on their mobile phones, they seem to be moaning and complaining.

"I've got nothing to complain about," Mr. Grezbski said shortly after coming out of his coma. What might it take to make people more appreciative, and less prone to complain?

