



Dear St. Paul's Friends,

Last week the State of New York and 12 United Methodist clergy in Wisconsin came to a crossroads and took the wrong turn. This is a sensitive issue, one that I rarely comment on in the public setting of worship. But I feel compelled to share with you a few thoughts today.

The State of New York voted to legalize same sex marriage. Twelve United Methodist clergy on a church jury in Wisconsin voted to give a *very* mild suspension to a lesbian pastor who performed a same sex union and who says she'll keep doing them. The jury refused to take away her ordination for violating United Methodist law by living in a lesbian relationship herself.

In both cases, the New York legislators and the Wisconsin clergy chose to align themselves with the rationale of secular humanism rather than with the revelation of God in the Bible. We can debate how much a secular government should be guided by the Bible in making its decisions. (I, for one, believe our government ignores Scripture to its own peril.)

But United Methodist pastors have all *vowed* to be guided by the Scriptures and our *Book of Discipline*. The Bible is consistent in forbidding homosexual relations. (See Leviticus 20:13 or Romans 1:18-32). Our *Book of Discipline* is equally clear that while all people are of inestimable worth to God, the Bible forbids homosexual practice, and no one who is a self-avowed, practicing homosexual is to be ordained or appointed as a pastor. Our *Discipline* also says that officiating at gay unions is forbidden. Both offenses can lead to losing one's ordination.

No follower of Jesus should bear any animosity to gay people. Christ died for all. We are all called to love everyone...and we do. Our St. Paul's *Lifestyle Statement* says that we want to be just as inclusive as God is. God wants everyone to be saved, and so do we. God welcomes everyone, and so do we. But our *Statement* also says that we don't want to be *more* inclusive than God is. God welcomes the sinner but does not welcome or condone the sin. Neither do we.

All of us have areas where we're tempted. All of us are born with tendencies to one kind of moral failure or another. And all of us need the grace, forgiveness, and healing of God. That healing cannot come if we deny we have a problem or if the church practices accommodation rather than offering transformation. St. Paul's has chosen truth and transformation.

So when you read the headlines, please don't give up on the United Methodist Church. God hasn't...at least, not yet. Pray for our leaders that they will make holy choices and that our church will continue its long heritage of offering the grace and holiness of Christ to all.

See you Sunday at St. Paul's where we'll be "*Offering Christ and Discovering LIFE!*"

Pastor Greg Cruech

The CIRCUIT RIDER

Inside this issue:

Children's Ministry	2-3
Youth Ministry	4-5
Building Up	6
Diving In	6-9
July Calendar	10

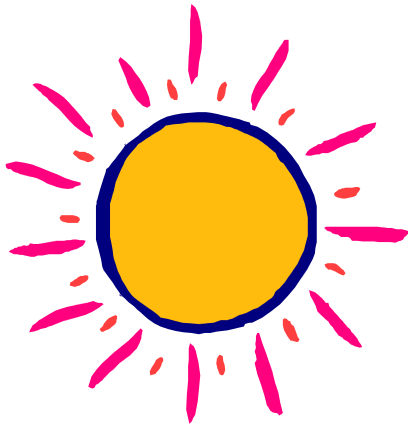
FOUND! SUMMER CAMP

AUGUST 7-10
FOR THOSE ENTERING 3RD-5TH GRADES

Cost and Registration

Registration received by July 10: \$175
Make checks payable to St. Paul's Church

A \$50 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration & the remaining balance is due by August 7, 2011. Questions? Contact Laurie Beaty at 419-422-4131 or laurie@stpaulsfindlay.org.



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kids age 3-4th grade are invited to join us for an exciting Summer Sunday School!

We will use a media-driven, interactive, age-appropriate DVD-based curriculum that will help the children learn God's word and hide it in their hearts!

-Preschoolers will meet in their classroom.

-K-4th Graders will meet in the Lion Room.

Workshop based Sunday School will return in September.

VBS Volunteer Training Party

Date: Monday, July 11

Time: 7-8 p.m.

Where: St. Paul's Church - Room A20

Please plan on attending. At the party you will become familiar with this year's VBS program & policies, learn a few VBS songs, pick up your t-shirt, and pray for VBS!

Please let Mandy or Laurie know if you are unable to come.

VBS Supplies Needed

Many supplies are needed for PandaMania VBS. Please check the list in the Welcome Center to see what you can donate or let us borrow.

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The Children's Ministry of St. Paul's exists to help children discover God so they are inspired to love God, themselves, and others.

PandaMania VBS

All children age 3 (and potty-trained) - entering 5th grade are invited to attend this summer's Vacation Bible School! The kids will learn that God is wild about them as they play games, eat snacks, watch video clips, make crafts, sing, and have fun with friends! Invite your friends and family to PandaMania VBS!

Pre-registration required by 7/3/2011 to guarantee t-shirt this year.

Children's Ministry

VB\$ Volunteer Opportunities

Is God calling you to be a part of this year's amazing VBS week?

You could be a:

Crew Leader: Lead 5-7 children as they (and you!) participate in fun activities throughout the week of VBS. It's an easy, but *very* important role. All you have to do is show up and love children!

Crew Assistant: Help with a small group of kids. You must be going into 6th grade or older to help.

Nursery Caregiver: If you have a special place in your heart for infants & toddlers you could help care for VBS volunteers' 0-2 yr. olds during VBS.

Station Assistant: Help in Crafts, Snack, Cinema, Games, Drama, etc.

Sub: Can't volunteer all 5 nights of VBS, but don't want to miss out on the fun? Let us know.

If God is calling you to help with VB\$ talk with Mandy or Laurie.

**July 17-21
6-8:30 p.m.**



One Form per Child Please

Child's Name _____

Last grade completed _____ Birthday _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell # _____

Parent's E-mail _____

In case of emergency, contact _____

Allergies or other medical conditions _____

PandaMania t-shirts are \$6 each. Please indicate t-shirt size and return this form & money to the church or Mandy Stevens.

Youth S (6-8) Youth M (10-12)
 Youth L (14-16) Adult S Adult M No T-Shirt

PandaMania music CDs are available for purchase for \$4 each. Please indicate below if you would like to purchase a CD & include the money with this form.

Yes, I would like a CD No, I would not

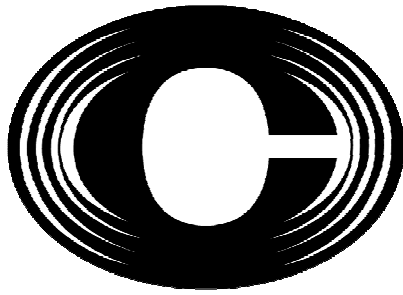
Checks should be made out to St. Paul's Church.

Turn in registration form no later than 7/03/11

Registrations forms turned in after that date cannot be guaranteed a t-shirt.

**You can also register online by visiting
www.stpaulsfindlay.org**

Youth Ministry



CONNECT

We are in the middle of our summer schedule and having a great time. The

high school students have been to Leadership Quest where they looked at what it means to be a leader, following the example of Christ. The middle school students have gone to Columbus

to help with the Special Olympics and had the opportunity to help run the state games and engage with the participants. In a couple of weeks,



more middle school students will be heading to Camp Glen for Middle school Church Camp. We will be looking at how to **STAND** our ground, using the armor of God, to defend against and attack the devil and his games of trickery. What an awesome summer! Be on the look out for upcoming fellowship events and fun opportunities.

CALENDAR

June

28 Middle School Bible Study 1PM

29 High School Bible Study 4 PM

July

5 Middle School Bible Study 1 PM

6 High School Bible Study 4 PM

10-15 Middle School Church Camp

19 Middle School Bible Study 1 PM

20 High School Bible Study 4 PM

26 Middle School Bible Study 1 PM

27 High School Bible Study 4 PM

Middle School Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 1:00pm (June 28, July 5, 19, 26)

We will meet 4 Tuesdays starting this Tuesday, June 28 at 1:00 p.m. The first Tuesday we will meet here at the church and decide where to meet after that. We will be discussing the book of 1 Samuel and focusing on healthy friendships. Please bring a Bible and a pen.

NOTE we will not meet July 12, due to middle school church camp



Thank you for awarding me this \$275 scholarship. This will be a great help as I begin Graduate School this fall. I am very blessed by our church family and this financial help is no exception to the blessings!

Thank you, again!

God Bless,

Ashley Petersen

Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for the financial support. I greatly appreciate the church's willingness to give. I am currently studying at the Ohio State University and just recently have been accepted into the medical dietetics program.

Thanks again,

Amber Petersen

High School Bible Study

Wednesdays @ 4:00pm (June 29, July 6, 20, 27)

We will meet 4 Wednesdays starting this Wednesday, June 29 at 4PM at Coffee Amici. We will be studying the book "In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day" by Mark Batterson, and we will be focusing on the life of Benaiah and talking about defying odds and overcoming adversity. We will be referring to 2 Samuel as well, so please bring a Bible and pen.

NOTE we will not meet July 13, due to middle school church camp

Sanctus Real & Tenth Avenue North Concert

Bowling Green State University—August 13

Grammy nominated Sanctus Real and Dove Award Winner Tenth Avenue North will co-headline the August 13, 2011 concert in BGSU's new arena, the Stroh Center. We will be leaving mid-afternoon and going to Sonic for dinner, then head to BG for the concert that starts at 7:00 PM. Cost for the trip is \$12. If you want to go on this trip, be one of the first 10 people to buy a ticket, there are only 10 available. See Mark or Brandon with your money to secure your spot.

I am writing to thank the scholarship committee for the church scholarship I have been awarded. I am sure that the funds provided continue to be very helpful in financing my studies at Ohio University. I appreciate this token on the part of my St. Paul's Family.

Sincerely,
Colin Mercer

I was pleased to hear that I am once again a recipient of a St. Paul's Scholarship. I am writing to thank the scholarship committee for your continued support for my education. I am sure that the funds provided will be very helpful in financing my graduate studies at the Ohio State University. I appreciate this continued token of the regard and affection of my St. Paul's family.

Sincerely,
Jacob Mercer

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Bible, I really and truly appreciate it! It is the only thing in this world that will answer any question I may have. I have been very blessed that you all have excepted me into your family. Thank you for everything that you do for me! I really appreciate it all! Thank you so much for everything.

Love,
Emily Toupalik



Check us out on the web @ www.connectsm.com

The Youth Ministry of St. Paul's exists to inspire youth to become Christ-centered, alive in their faith, and equipped to make a difference.

Building Up

Each of us has been given spiritual gifts and God-given passions to serve with in the body of Christ.

Have you sensed God calling you to serve in the way of leading a study?

If so, please talk with Jay Sutherland, Karen Felton, John Livingston, or Laurie Beaty. If you are interested, the Building Up team will be providing training on "how to lead a discussion" in September.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, July 21
11:30 a.m.
Whistle Stop

On Thursday, July 21, at 11:30 a.m. we will meet at Whistle Stop. Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, July 17.

GRAB-N-GO
5:00 p.m.
July 14, 2011



*St. Paul's
Grab-n-Go
ministry is an
extension
of our
Community
Dinners.*

Hook & Needle Group will meet the first and third Tuesday of every month at Leona's Shop, 219 Liberty St.

Read and Pray Today

Read and pray today calendars are available at the Welcome Center and online at www.stpaulsfindlay.org.

Chopin Hall Mobile Food Pantry

**10,000 pounds
of food
to be distributed.
No income/eligibility
requirements.**

July 30

College First Church of God
1100 N. Main St., Findlay

A representative from each family will need to attend to receive food. One person will not be able to receive food for multiple families. Hancock County residents only.

(In case of inclement weather, listen to local radio for cancellation.)

Diving In

Community Dinner FREE Gift Schedule

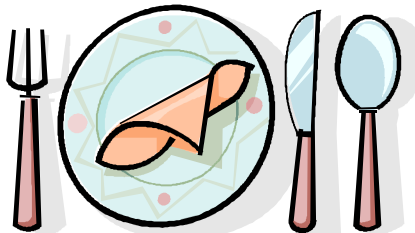
In addition to providing our guests with a delicious meal on the 4th Sunday of every month, we also send them home with a free gift. In 2011, we will give household and personal hygiene items. The guests have expressed their appreciation for receiving these items! If you choose to donate to this ministry at any time during the year, then please leave your donation behind the desk at the Welcome Center or place your donation on the wire shelves just inside the door to the basement.

- ◆ July - toilet paper (4 rolls)
- ◆ August - tissue (1 large box)
- ◆ September - 4 oz. bars of bath soap (4 bars)

Opportunities to Serve Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ August 3-October 6 - Financial Peace University (7-9 p.m.)
- ◆ 2nd Thursday of every month—Grab-n-Go
- ◆ 4th Sunday of every month—Community Dinner

St. Paul's will host a Financial Peace University (FPU) class this fall. This is a 13 week course that will meet from 7-9 p.m. from August 3 through October 26. Dan Wilson will be the facilitator. Please contact Dan if you would like to purchase a membership kit for \$95. Registration will occur closer to August and you will be able to register for the class online or at the Welcome Center.



COMMUNITY DINNER
11:30 a.m.
June 26, 2011

Dining In

KATRINA MISSION 2011

November 5

You can be a part of this mission with your gifts.
Make your checks to St. Paul's Church. Note "Katrina"
on the memo line.

The Katrina portion of the church website has been updated. Check it out at www.stpaulsfindlay.org.



Annual Conference Report

The 42nd session of the West Ohio Annual Conference met from June 5-9, 2011, at Lakeside, Ohio. This annual gathering of United Methodist clergy and laypeople in our part of the state is a combination of revival meeting, church family reunion, and business meeting. Thank you for paying for my expenses to be the lay member from St. Paul's.

The theme of the conference was Unleashing New Life and the revival meeting element of the gathering was much in evidence. A contemporary band called The Marty Ford Experience and the Ginghamburg United Methodist Praise Band led the morning worship services. Inspired and powerful preaching was led by Vance Ross, Martha Grace Reese, and Terry Teykl. Communion for the many people gathered was enjoyed on Monday morning. It was both efficiently served and a moving experience.

Family reunions are always fun because we get to see people we haven't seen in a while. I saw Darryl Fourman, a former associate pastor here. I noted that Marcia Rummel, another former associate at St. Paul's, was in the retirement class. On Wednesday afternoon I loved sitting with Dave Vance and Dick Dreisbach who had driven up from Findlay so that we could be together for the Celebration of Life service. In that service pastors and spouses who have died in the past year are honored in a beautiful way. We stood up when Joe Pilate's name was read and remembered him in our hearts. The service also honors those who are retiring (including Marcia Rummel this year) and includes ordination of some who are completing the requirements for ordination. We were not the only ones standing up for Joe Pilate. Some from the church he served in Dayton stood up as well.

The business meeting portion of the meeting included approving the conference budget, electing lay and clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2012, and acting on 11 resolutions that had been submitted for consideration by the conference. Many conservative delegates (both lay and clergy) were elected to the delegation from West Ohio. Chris Steiner who grew up in St. Mark's church in Findlay and is married to someone who grew up here at St. Paul's was elected to the lay delegation for General Conference. He is now a lawyer practicing in Toledo, Ohio, and is very active in his local church and in the evangelical fellowship caucus of the conference. Perhaps some of you would recognize his name.

A gift of \$400 was budgeted from St. Paul's to contribute to the Miracle Offering on Tuesday morning. I dropped the check into the offering plate and was proud to do so because the uses of the offering are some wonderful evangelistic projects that St. Paul's can gladly endorse. When we left conference the total collected stood at \$150,000 with the hope to collect more in coming days and weeks. Half the offering will go to our partnership areas in four places around the world. The other half of the offering will stay in West Ohio to support projects close to home. The four global partnerships of the conference are in the North Katanga Conference of the Republic of Congo, the Volga District in Russia, the QuengRai UMC in Vietnam, and The Lord is my Shepherd Methodist Church in the Oriental Conference in Mexico. The projects supported within the conference include one in Findlay. St. Andrew's UMC hosts a new congregation called New Life UMC. It is an effort to evangelize and disciple the Korean and Asian community at the University of Findlay. The other two projects of the conference are called Church in the Mall in Heath, Ohio, and Liberty UMC in Delaware County, Ohio.

Attending conference reminds one that the banding together of churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ is a mighty endeavor and worth the effort and support required.

Miriam Vance, Lay Member from St. Paul's

Thanks to Laurie and all those who prayed for me while in the hospital. I was having chest pains and my cardiologist decided a heart cath was in order. The heart cath was normal. I'm grateful for every prayer. Praise the Lord for answered prayer.

Ginny Mills

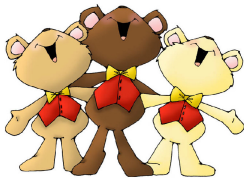
Love & Praise Concert a Success!

The fifth annual Love & Praise concert to benefit HYCO was held on May 1, at the Hoytville United Methodist Church. Over \$800 was raised which will go toward the operating expenses of HYCO. The audience enjoyed a full evening of fun and uplifting entertainment by performers of all ages from the local and surrounding communities. The HYCO board would like to thank all the entertainers for putting on such a great show and everyone who came out to enjoy it. We would also like to thank Edd Van Horn for being our Master of Ceremonies once again. A big "Thank You" goes to all who gave so generously. We couldn't keep HYCO running without prayers, support and gifts. Anyone wishing to donate to HYCO may do so anytime through a board member or through the Hoytville United Methodist Church, earmarked HYCO.

Julie Buckland, HYCO Treasurer

A special thanks to Betty Cramer, the St. Paul's Quartet (Betty Cramer, Paula Rosencrans, Dave Tharp and Ron Cook), Dr. Hugh Bowland, and Edd and Courtney Van Horn for sharing their talents.

Paula Rosencrans, HYCO Board Vice-President



Divining In

Pastor Greg's Summer Series

He asked for your help and you gave it!! Here are topics you suggested for Pastor Greg to try this summer:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| JUNE 26 | How Free Am I Really? <i>If God is in complete control, what can I truly choose?</i> |
| JULY 3 | TBA |
| JULY 10 | When My Life Crashes Down |
| JULY 17 | If "Love Wins," Does That Mean There Is No Hell? |
| JULY 24 | TBA |
| JULY 31 | Forgiving Others - 4-Simple Challenging Steps |
| AUG 7 | How Do Lifelong Church Members Feel/Recognize the Christianity within Them? |
| AUG 14 | Creation: The Impact of an Idea |
| AUG 21 | Christianity: The Impact of a Movement |

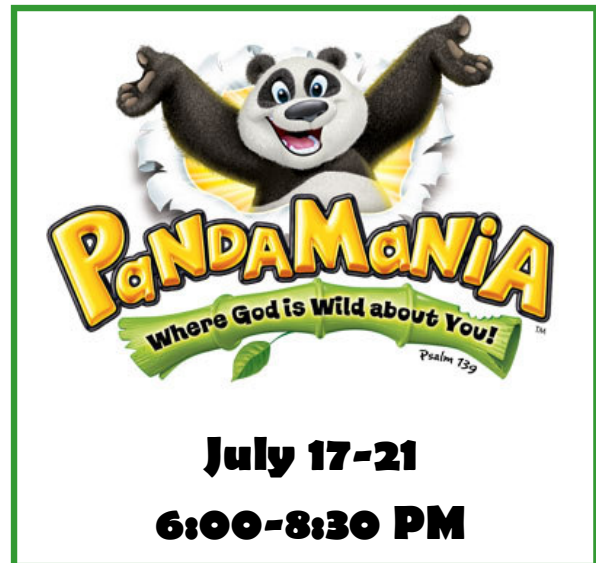


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RETURN SERVICE
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CIRCUIT RIDER

Published by
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Senior Pastor: Greg Creech
Director of Youth Ministry: Mark Lichtle
Directors of Children's Ministry:
Mandy Stevens and Laurie Beaty
Director of Adult Ministry: Laurie Beaty
Office Manager: Kelly Donat



www.stpaulsfindlay.org

Schedule of Services

Sundays

Contemporary Celebration—8:00 a.m.

Sunday School—9:15 a.m.

Traditional Worship—10:15 a.m.