

St. Paul's News

January 2014



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's,

Happy New Year! It is exciting to start 2014 with you. The New Year is often a time when we start fresh and look to the future. As we begin a new year together I want to share with you this prayer by Maren Tirabassi that is found in our United Methodist Book of Worship,

“Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.”

This is my prayer for us all as we begin the New Year. And so I challenge us all in this upcoming year to look for places of hope, places where you might be see God calling you or leading you to the future. I challenge us to look for opportunities to love, situations in which we can show love and receive love, show grace and receive grace, show forgiveness and receive forgiveness. And I challenge us to grow in faith. We serve and worship a Great God, a

God is whom we are called to put our faith and trust. And we grow in that trust and faith through grace as we praise, thank, and serve our God.

So then, Happy New Year, St Paul's and may 2014 be a year where we as a church and individuals can grow in hope, love, and faith!

Peace,

Pastor Hannah



Special Birthdays

January

20 – Jan Rennels

27 – Mina Huston

If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office.



Lunch Bunch

(includes women **and men**)
January 28—at noon
Xcaret (Mexican)
Renee Sand is the contact
(419) 447-6144



THANK YOU! To Sandy Arnold for her volunteer hours working on Finance Committee as our check writer and bill payer. We appreciate all that she does in the many areas she serves at St. Paul's!

Thank You everyone who took an Angel this year. We filled 24 Christmas wishes for local children. I'm sure the gifts brought many smiles and much joy to those who received them. Thank You, The Missions Committee

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for the generous love offering that you gave to me during December. Your generosity is such a blessing. It continues to be an honor and a joy to serve as your pastor.

Peace,
Pastor Hannah

Table Favor Committee

We will meet Tuesday, January 14, 1:30pm to assemble candy cups for the three facilities we support. If you can help, please contact Kathy Daniel. Thank you!

ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION

Thank you or the many ways that St. Paul's members responded to mission projects through the month of December. We will post amounts given for Sharing Kitchen, Henderson Mission Trip (our alternate poinsettias) and Emergency Heating Fund when our December records are complete.

We appreciated the support at the Alternative Gift Fair for donations to World Vision. To date we have purchased seed for two families, 4 chickens, and 4 solar lanterns.

Coming up in 2014 we will have special giving envelopes for Human Relations Day in January and our Blanket Sunday will be in February. Additional information will be listed in our Sunday bulletins.

Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Church Directories have arrived! If you were photographed for the directory you may pick yours up in your mailbox in the fellowship hall or in the church office if you don't have a mailbox.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER 5TH ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Financial: November expenses of \$12,600.06 were higher than income of \$10,647.10. Giving is down for the year. One third of the "Alive!" concert tickets were paid from the apple dumpling project. Donations for the Thanksgiving dinner did not meet expenses so the remainder was taken from the general fund. St. Paul's will receive some funds from Leanne Wolff's estate.

Education: The children's Christmas program is to be held during worship on December 8th. Youth Club and Connections will not meet during the holidays.

Missions: Forty boxes for the Christmas Child Shoebox ministry were filled and delivered. A few names remained on the Angel Tree with gifts to be turned in by December 11th. The Alternative Gift Fair is to be held December 8th and 15th. Five items are available this year: seeds, solar lanterns, chickens, ducks and goats. The Christmas offering envelope giving is for the local emergency heating fund.

Trustees: Sound system upgrades are complete. The church insurance has been changed to United Methodist Insurance. The YMCA has asked to use our church for karate classes three nights a week beginning in January. They will make a donation of two to four thousand dollars annually. This was approved by the Administrative Council.

Worship: Individuals and families selected areas of the church to decorate at a time of their own choosing for the Hanging of the Greens. Families are lined up to do the Advent wreath service during worship. The Christmas Eve service is at 7:00 p.m.

Other business: St. Paul's attendance was good at the Church Conference. The new picture directories are due in next week.

We will receive 75 to 85 copies. Each family who had a picture taken will receive one and others may be available for purchase at \$6.00 each. An ad for the Christmas Eve service will appear in the Advertiser-Tribune on December 19th and 22nd.



ALIVE FESTIVAL 2014

The Youth Fellowship is planning a trip to the Christian Music Festival, Alive. The festival is to be held June 18-21 at Atwood Lake Park. We are inviting anyone who is interested in attending to join us. We will be having an informational and planning meeting in the parlor on Sunday, January 19th at 6:30pm (during our YF meeting). If you are at all interested in going, please try to be there as we will have a lot of information to cover. To view the artists and speakers scheduled, as well as the other activities available at Alive, visit www.alive.org For more information, contact Rob Ochier.





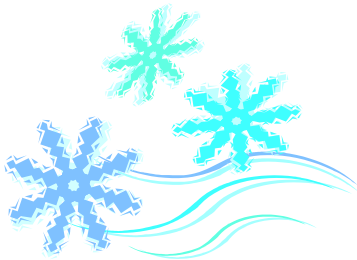
In December, the youth had a great time baking and decorating cookies to enjoy during our movie night. We gathered in pajamas a couple of weeks later in the sanctuary to board the Polar Express and travel to the North Pole

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month unless we have a special activity taking place. Youth Fellowship is open to anyone in grades 6-12. Contact Rob or Amy Ochier for more information. Bring a friend or two!!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Jan. 5th @ 6:30pm – Following a short “business” meeting to plan our next few activities, we will have a game night. So bring all your new board and card games to play!

Sunday, Jan. 19th @ 6:30pm – Alive Festival 2013 planning meeting (see previous article).



**Newsletter deadline for
February Newsletter is
January 19th**

Please ***email or place on disk*** in MS Word format (.doc) to amynuala@yahoo.com