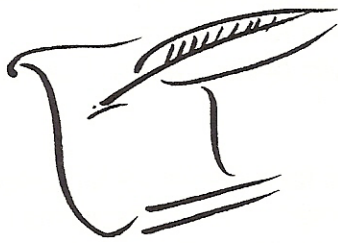


St. Paul's News

July 2012



From the Pastor's Pen.

Dear People of St. Paul's,

As I sit to write to you just a few short days before we meet I find myself filled with much anticipation. Anticipation about joining your community as pastor, meeting you all, and leading you, but also anticipation about what I can already tell God is doing at St. Paul's. Even in just my short time meeting with the SPRC, I could tell that God is working in you the people of St. Paul's and in the community of Tiffin as well. Under the leadership of Pastor Nathan before me you all have built some very exciting ministries in your community, and I feel privileged to be appointed to be your pastor at this time.

Yet I know that transitions can also be hard. We will all have some new things to experience. I know that this transition will not be flawless, there will be times when I forget your name, or we do not do things in the ways in which the other is used to it. It will take some time for us to get to know one another, but I trust that we will share a love of God, a love of this church, and a love of each other. I want to get to know you all, more than just your names, but who you are, what your gifts are, and what it is that makes St. Paul's home for you. So I ask that we as a congregation commit to praying for one another during this transition, and that we also commit to sharing with one another who we are including the history, values, and vision of St. Paul's that you hold dear.

And so brothers and sisters of St. Paul's let us follow the exhortation together of the writer of the letter to the Hebrews, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." (Hebrew 10:23-25) And through this time of transition, let us trust where God is leading us as we strive to love each other, the people of Tiffin, and the entire world.

Peace,
Pastor Hannah



Sharing Kitchen

May saw an increase in the number of people coming to the Kitchen. During the month we served 455 adults and 46 children. The latter figure reflects the end of the school year. Given the number of children on special food help in our local schools it is good we are here to serve the little ones.

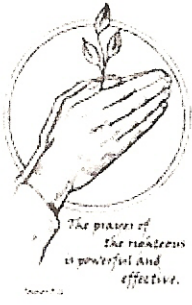
During the 8 serving days of the month 120 volunteers prepared and served the meals.

Special Birthdays

July

14 – Susan Slemmer
15 – Leanne Wolff
18 – Pat Curran

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



Prayer Focus

As I write the temperature outside feels like July is already upon us. It's a year of strange weather and that has given us cause for prayer again this month. The wildfires raging in the western US are terrible. Thousands of acres of parks and forests burned along with many homes. I can't imagine what it must be like to watch your home and all your belongings disappear in minutes. Fortunately there has been only one victim so far are but we need to keep in our prayers those who have lost their homes and those brave souls who are fighting the fires. Also we need to keep in mind those in the southeast US who have recently experienced flooding.

Abroad, the two earthquakes in Italy are also prayer concerns. Two large quakes have left at least 20 people dead and over 400 injured. Thousands were homeless as the second quake destroyed homes damaged the first time. Also destroyed were centuries old churches with their great art works. Afghanistan has also suffered an earthquake with 100 dead.

And still the world wars. Last month we prayed for the Syrians without knowing the causes of that civil war. We still don't but at least 10,000 have died since the start of the conflict. I cringe as the evening news brings pictures of entire blocks of residences destroyed, unfit for habitation. Elsewhere other wars still rage. Surely we humans should be able to settle our differences without killing each other. Keep praying for the fighters and the victims.

In the US human toll of our wars is great. I've been amazed to learn that more veterans have committed suicide than have been killed in Afghanistan this year. Pray our returnees may find peace and the nation will work to provide necessary help. Also pray for our troubled teenagers. The

AT reports that suicide is the third cause of death among them. We always seem to hurt the children first. In Afghanistan tribal regions polio is endemic. Still the Taliban is prohibiting polio vaccinations because it was a doctor who revealed the whereabouts of Bin Laden. Pray for those children.

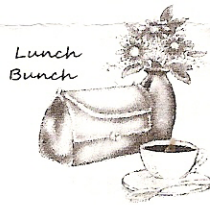
This is time for prayers for Vacation Bible School. Pray for the participants and bless those leaders who give so generously of their time and love.

Finally let us keep the pastors in our prayers. Nathan and Megan as they begin their new work in Niles. And Pastor Hannah as she arrives to work with us.

Leanne Wolff
Church and Society



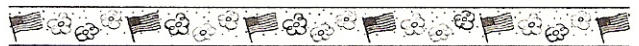
Lunch Bunch



(now includes women **and men**) July 24, 2012 at noon – Restaurant to be announced – Cheryl Armstrong is the contact person – (419-443-0792)

Table Favor Committee

No session for July or August. Enjoy your summer!



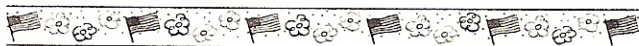
ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION

Thanks to everyone who provided items for the five flood buckets which were taken to Annual Conference in June. And a special thanks to the youth who coordinated the health kit project as well as to all who brought items for them. Eighteen kits were delivered to Lakeside.

The outdoor worship on June 3rd was a wonderful experience on a beautiful day for both St. Paul's and First Presbyterian members. The ice cream social following worship was a great success. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and donated food for the lunch. About \$370 was collected for PatchWorks House.

This year we will again collect school supply items for children in community schools. Watch for information about what items are needed and when to have them at church.

The new human trafficking law is in the process of being enacted at the state level. The House passed it unanimously and it was sent to the Senate. The Governor has promised to sign the bill. Learn all you can about this issue which has recently become so much more visible. For instance, do you know that there are 100,000 domestic minors being trafficked in the U. S. at any given time, in addition to the 14,500 to 17,500 who are being trafficked into the U. S. from other countries?



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 26, 2012 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Our apportionments are paid to date. Income for April was \$9,523.64 and expenses \$8,923.42. Treasurer Rich Kinstler revised the 2012 budget to reflect the change in salary and other expenses created by changing from half time to full time pastoral leadership.

The slate of officers and committee members was approved for July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. There are still several offices to be filled.

Because our budget will be so tight for next year it was agreed that custodial work will be done by volunteers in the future.

"Connections" will use our church three times during the summer to provide activities and Bible study for middle school youth.

The new sign on the corner of Monroe and Madison Streets should be installed in June. The chair lift needs to be inspected. There is a possibility that it will no longer be in use. The parsonage lawn mower was repaired.

The East Ohio Conference requires that the parsonage be inspected before a new pastor moves in. This will be done by representatives of the Staff/Parish committee and the Trustees. St. Paul's pays for the incoming pastor's moving expenses. Since our apportionments are paid to date we expect to receive half the moving cost from the East Ohio Conference. Pastor Nathan and Megan will move out on June 26th and Pastor Hannah will move in on June 27th.

Work should begin soon on replacing the roof of the PatchWorks House. St. Paul's will be responsible for replacing the gutters and downspouts.

Jacob Payne is the only high school graduate this year and there are no college graduates. One Room Sunday School is underway at the same time as the worship hour. Vacation Bible School is to be July 15th to 19th.

Worship will be on the lawn on June 3rd followed by an ice cream social in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are to go to PatchWorks House. Flood buckets and health kits will be taken to East Ohio Annual Conference. We plan to participate in the community School Supply program again this year. Several St. Paul's and Faith UMC people went to Wadsworth for a human trafficking workshop on May 19th.

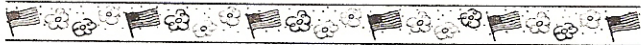
Letters were sent to 115 inactive and/or out-of-town members inviting them to reactivate

their membership or to indicate their future intentions. The names of those who do not respond will be read at Charge Conference in the fall.

There is to be a Children's Discovery Series again this summer. On July 23rd the children will tour the Advertiser-Tribune, on July 30th the Ritz Theatre and on August 6th the Mazza Museum at the University of Findlay.

The council voted to charge \$1 per person for church tours. If Sally McDonald plays a concert the cost is to be \$25 and if a catered meal is eaten in the church the cost is \$50.

The Planning Retreat is scheduled for August 19th. This will include a potluck meal.



Sisters and Brothers at St. Paul's UMC,

Thank you so much for the generous love offering. Our time with you was far too short but certainly filled with a multitude of blessings. You will all continue in our thoughts and prayers.

Peace,
Pastor Nathan and Megan

Address Change:
Pastor Nathan and Megan Howe
422 North Crandon Ave.
Niles, OH 44446



Softball

s c h e d u l e

Coed Just for Fun - Church Softball League

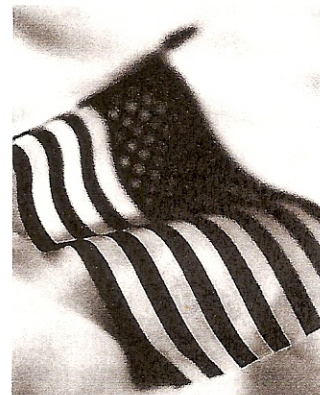
Anyone interested in playing church softball this summer, please contact Rob Ochier (567-220-6117). The league is open to anyone, Jr. High aged and up. Games are played on Friday nights across from the Tiffin YMCA. Feel free to come and play or come and root on St. Paul's. Wear your St. Paul's shirts to show your team spirit!

7/6 – 7:30 pm – Back Field vs Faith UMC
7/13 – 6 pm – Front Field vs Bascom UMC
7/20 – 9 pm – Front vs New Beginnings
7/27 – no games
8/3 – 7:30 pm – Front vs Christ's Church
8/10 – 6 pm – Back vs St. John's UCC
8/17 – 6 pm – Front vs Harmony UMC



VBS Work Nights

The work nights for this year's VBS will be held on July 5, 9, 10, 11, & 12 from 7 – 9 pm. Please contact Kyle Paxson for more information. 567-220-6115





Vacation Bible School 2012

July 15 - 19
from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
at St. Paul's UMC

At Promise Island kids will participate in the excitement of Seaside Celebration, experience Bible stories about God's promises at Lifeguard Lagoon, create craft projects at Project Pointe, enjoy snacks and learn more about God's promises at the Coconut Cafe, and play great games at Fun Time Falls! And, through it all, they'll discover God's promises and His lifesaving love!



If you would like to help with VBS but are unable to, there are donation boxes in the back of the sanctuary to help with VBS expenses.

Contact Kyle Paxson at (567) 220-6115 for more information or if you'd like to help!

Don't miss our closing program on July 19 at 8:00 at St. Paul's!



If you'd like to donate cookies or have items we could borrow for decorations, please let us know.

THE 25th ANNUAL
ALIVE FESTIVAL

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!
JUNE 20-23, 2012
ATWOOD LAKE PARK | MINERAL CITY, OH

Alive Festival 2012

A group of twenty youth and adults from St. Paul's UMC attended the Alive Music Festival at Atwood Lake Park this year. For four days we listened to music and speakers

that were inspiring. It was a great way to get closer to God and to grow in our faith.

The youth will be sharing our experiences with the congregation at some point in the future. We want to thank all of you for your support to make this experience possible. We hope to make this trip an annual event and take an even larger group next year. If you would like to join us, mark your calendars for June 19 – 22, 2013!

Personally, we would like to thank the other adults who took 4 days of their summer to attend the festival with us. Without them it would have been impossible to give the youth the experience that they had.

-Rob and Amy



Alive 2012 Group Picture



Summer is here, so the youth will not be meeting regularly during the summer. In the fall, we will be changing our meetings to the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Many of the youth will be assisting in VBS again this year. VBS is July 15th – 19th this summer.



Newsletter deadline for August Newsletter is July 19th

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

