

St. Paul's News

November 2012



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's Community,

As we approach the month of November and especially the season of Thanksgiving I am reminded of the words of Psalm 107:1-3 which read, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south."

With so much fighting for our attention during the holiday season, it is important that we as people of faith take the time to remember and tell of our thankfulness for all that has done for us. I am especially struck by the words in the Psalm which say "Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story." As one of the redeemed of the Lord, I am thankful for all that God has done both in my own life and in the life of St. Paul's these past few months. God is clearly faithful to our community and we have much for which we can thank God: new ministries, continued service to the poor and forgotten in our community, and the love and support we all experience from one another.

What about you? What are you thankful for this November? How has God been working in your life? I would encourage you to take some time as we approach this busy holiday season and share these stories with others. Ask the children in your life what

they are thankful for. Ask your friends. Ask your family. Some of their answers may surprise you and give you even more reasons for which to praise God. So then brothers and sisters let us this month give special attention to how we can, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

Peace,
Pastor Hannah



Coupons for Military Personnel

Sandy Ritter will be collecting coupons to be sent to military families overseas and stateside. Manufacturer coupons that have expired up to three months are still accepted to be used at the PX or NEX. Coupons can be left in Sandy Ritter's mailbox in the fellowship Hall.

Hospice add-a-bow tree

If you are interested in helping Sandy Ritter and Krystal Lawrence volunteer for Hospice during the holiday season to accept donations and add bows to the tree, contact Sandy Ritter.

Special Birthdays November

4 – Wanda Meredith
21- Pauline Reuwee

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



Prayer Focus

As I write we're in the midst of beautiful trees with leaves falling like snowflakes. Soon Thanksgiving will be upon us, the leaves will be gone and snowflakes real. What a wonderful natural world we live in. Praise God!

But where humans are concerned all is not so wonderful. For several months we've been praying about Syria. Each day brings news of more violence. Now tensions are high between Syria and Turkey as well as between Lebanon and Syria. We need to pray the war does not escalate. Hundreds of thousands have fled Syria to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, living in tent camps. It was reported that on one day alone 28,000 people fled. That's more than live in the Tiffin area! Can you imagine all of us packing the things we could manage to transport and moving to Canada? Almost weekly the Christian Science Monitor has a picture of children trying to survive in a camp somewhere. Let us continue to pray for the children who lives are being forever altered. Remember we can contribute to their care by writing our checks to St. Paul's and marking "Syria" in the memo.

Pray too for the violence in Afghanistan where it is becoming increasingly difficult for our troops to know who is friend and who enemy. Pray that the factions in that country and neighboring Pakistan can learn to live together in peace.

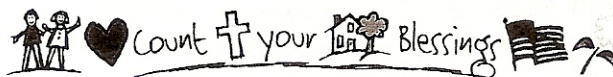
One Christian Science Monitor cover story focused on the poor in the United States. While governmental figures show 46 million in poverty many different conditions have developed. Some people are hungry, others have difficulty paying rent, still others forgo needed medical treatment. Some of the poor can't get food stamps, others are declared ineligible for Medicaid. And the problem won't go away as most jobs created since 2008 are low wage and

predictions are this will continue until at least 2020. So many need prayers.

Prayers too for our local youth, many of whom have undesirable issues. Poverty, psychological problems, abandonment. So pray for Youth Club, Connections, Youth Fellowship, The Landing and those adults who give of their time to work with those who so need Christian love.

In this season of Thanksgiving may we give praise for God's love and all the blessings we have.

Leanne Wolff
Church and Society



Lunch Bunch



(now includes women and men) November 27, 2012
at noon – TJ Willie's –
Sharon Rigby is the contact
person – (419-934-3525)

Table Favor Committee

November 13, 1:30 pm we will gather to prepare November table favors for the residents at Friedman Village and Seneca House. Newcomers are always welcome!

- Kathy Daniel, Coordinator



Sharing Kitchen

The annual Christmas party has been set for Dec. 15 at 11-12 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served and Santa will greet guests with his bag of gifts for all. We pack 150 bags of gifts for adults and have games and toys for children. If you'd like to help here are some ideas.

If you wish to support this activity with gift items you might consider the following: cookies for refreshments, games and new toys that do not require batteries. Basketballs, footballs and soccer balls would also be helpful. While we usually have gifts for women, small inexpensive gifts for adult men are also needed.

Other needed items are bottles of dish detergent, bar hand soaps, dish towels and cloths, toothbrushes and other personal hygiene items. We have already received the paper products we'll need.

Many, many community persons usually come to help on the day of the party. But more workers on Friday Dec. 14 at 1 p.m. would be appreciated. That's when we set up the gifts. A person or two to work in the nursery during the party would also be helpful. While we try to ask people to care for their own children, we sometimes have problems. Talk to Rich Kinstler for details.

Gift items can be brought to the church office until Dec. 13.

ST. PAUL'S IN MISSION

Did you fill your Christmas Child shoebox? We hope your family filled several of them. This world wide project of Samaritan's Purse sends Christmas boxes of toys and goodies to children both here and abroad. \$7 is needed to ship the boxes so if you are not able to shop for items to put in the box maybe you could donate toward the cost of shipping. Some local churches fill over one hundred. Wouldn't it be great if St. Paul's could do that!

This year's Thanksgiving envelope offering will be given to Connections. This community group of youth and families is now meeting in our church and need our support. Many of those attending have no church home and we are happy to give them a place to meet on Tuesday evenings.

Donations, food and volunteers are always needed.

Our Christmas envelope offering is designated for the Emergency Heating Fund. This is used to help families who haven't enough income to pay for heat. This winter is expected to be colder than last year so many families will need this extra help. Be generous!

Upcoming special Sundays are United Methodist Student Day on November 25th and Human Relations Sunday on January 20th. Watch for information and an envelope in your bulletin on those Sundays.

Plans are being made for another Alternative Gift Fair. Remember all the clever animal displays last year?

Once again there will be an Angel Tree. Twenty-two names of needy children in the community will be on the tree with suggestions for items they would like for Christmas. These will be available on the first Sunday in December.

Mark your calendar for January 27th and bring your appetite to church. Plans are underway for a Soup and Sandwich lunch.

Store coupons are being collected for military families. So clip all those coupons you usually throw away and put them in Sandy Ritter's mailbox in the Fellowship Hall or drop them off in the church office.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2012 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Finance: Letters have been sent to members which resulted in extra donations to the church. Because of having a full time pastor our expenses have gone up by

\$12,000 to \$15,000. Committees were to submit requests for the 2013 budget. The final budget will be voted on during the October Administrative Council meeting. Our apportionments are paid to date. Income for August was \$8,609.28 and expenses were \$9,251.61.

Trustees: The lighted sign on the corner of Madison and Monroe Streets has been installed and many compliments have been received. The roof of PatchWorks House was replaced and St. Paul's made a loan to PatchWorks House to complete the project. Jeff Kuhn of Miller Steam Extraction donated his time and materials to clean the sanctuary and front hall carpet as well as the front restrooms. All custodial work is being done by volunteers.

Missions: St. Paul's members are scheduled to cook and serve the Sharing Kitchen meals on October 15th and 18th. The Christmas Child shoebox project will be held in October and November. Shoeboxes are to be ordered from Samaritan's Purse. Members are asked to take one or more boxes and fill them. 324 pencils, 69 erasers, 42 rulers and \$17.26 were donated by our members and the VBS children for the local school supply project. A table was set up at Heidelberg University for their Around the Town event on September 12th. Water, candy, bookmarks and information about St. Paul's were distributed to students and staff. Pastor Hannah gave a prayer for the Seneca Habitat for Humanity as part of the recent house dedications. Several people have provided lunches for Habitat volunteers. Upcoming events are World Wide Communion, United Methodist Student Sunday, Alternative Gift Fair and the Angel Tree.

Education: Rally Day was August 26th. An adult Sunday School class is being led by Pastor Hannah. Youth Fellowship will meet on the first and third Sundays. Children's church will continue. Youth helpers will be listed in the bulletin. Thirty four children

attended VBS with Kyle Paxson and Jani Yanni as leaders. Youth Club registration is October 3rd with the first session on October 10th. The Christmas program is scheduled for December 16th. There may be a new confirmation class. Three CD/tape players and one CD player have been purchased

Staff Parish: A Compass Group Pastor Parish Relations Convocation with the District Superintendent was held at Willard First UMC on September 25th with five St. Paul's people attending. The Charge/Church Conference is to be at 7:00 p.m. Monday, October 29th at Willard.

Outreach: A letter was sent to inactive members. Responses were received from twelve who wished to have their names removed from the roles or transferred to other churches. Eleven chose to continue their membership at St. Paul's. There were no responses from some and it was impossible to find addresses for others. A website is being set up by Kyle Paxson.

Connections: The community wide youth and family sessions, will be held at St. Paul's on Tuesdays. Workers, food and donations are welcome.



ANNUAL CHURCH THANKSGIVING DINNER

November 18, Noon

FELLOWSHIP HALL

Provided: Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie, bread and tables service

Please bring a salad or vegetable to share.

RESERVATIONS: Can be made on Sundays November 4 and 11 or by calling the church office at 447-1743.

A freewill offering will be taken to cover expenses.

Join us for this annual event.



Once again the Missions Committee will be getting the Angels for our Christmas tree from the Salvation Army. We will be getting twenty-two Angels and they will all be children. I will put them on the tree near the elevator for Dec. 2nd. If anyone would like an Angel before that date I will have them with me the Sunday before.

It will be just like last year. The age, gender and a few suggestions will be on the front. On the back I'll put some guidelines, such as gifts should cost \$20 or less, and a deadline as to when the gift is to be turned in.

Thank you so much for helping to bring joy to our local children. If you have any questions, or would like me to do the shopping for you just let me know.

Thanks, Sandra Arnold 419-447-6145



In October the youth were very busy! We decorated cookies and then sold them during our bake sale. Thanks to all of you who purchased our baked goods! We also

had a fun time at our Fall Costume Party. Meetings this year are going to be the 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!!

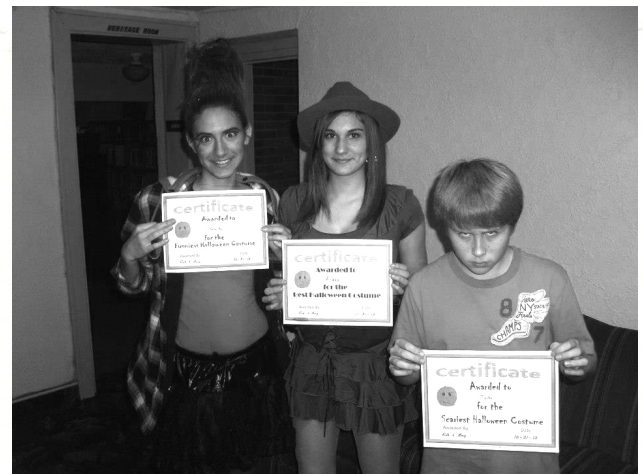
November 3rd (Saturday) - leave the church at 5:00pm – We are going to go to listen to Mark Cahill speak at Fremont Alliance Church in Fremont. Depending on how many will be going we may need a parent or two to drive.

November 10th (Saturday) – Annual Lock-In starting at 6pm

November 18th – TBD

December 2nd – TBD

December 16th – Christmas Movie @ 6:00pm – 8:00 pm Bring a snack to share and your own drink.



The winners of the Funniest, Best and Scariest Costume Awards at the Youth Fellowship's Fall Costume Party



Newsletter deadline for the December Newsletter is November 19th

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