



THE STEEPLE

A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois



DECEMBER 2013

It's Christmastime! I'm getting in the spirit. I've been listening for three weeks to the two Christmas radio stations in St. Louis. Also, we're preparing for my family Christmas gift exchange on Thanksgiving evening. (It's the only time that we are all together during this season.)

Now it is finally time to begin the celebration at St. Paul. We are lining up families to light the Advent wreath, planning the decoration of the church, and entering the home stretch in preparations for the Christmas Cantata.

For Christians, Christmas is the beginning of the Christian year. For us, everything we relish—namely, the life we have through Jesus Christ—begins with the birth of the baby Jesus. God-in-the-flesh appearing to reveal His love for us and show us the way back into His presence. Christmas is the Christian New Year where a fresh start is made available to us.

At Christmas, we have a message our friends and neighbors are anxious to hear. There is something within us that responds to the message of hope that the angel announces to the shepherds when Jesus was born: *“Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city. This is how you will recognize him: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.”* The single angel is replaced by a whole gaggle of angels praising God by saying: *“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have his good will!”*

Charles Wesley captured this message of hope in his Christmas carol, *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”* Every day on those Christmas stations, people hear the hope that is proclaimed most prominently in the 3rd verse: *“Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

The greatest Christmas gift we may give our friends and neighbors is to invite them to come and see this for themselves. This Jesus born in Bethlehem. The One who gives us life. Pastor Daryl

P.S. We have postcards highlighting our Advent and Christmas services on the Welcome Station. These postcards may either be mailed or handed out. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear this message of hope and to hear of the new life that is ours in Jesus Christ.





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Our hearts go out to the Roxana School Community. **Samantha Owsley**, a 16 yr., died in a car accident on November 9th. Many from our church joined the Candlelight Service held in memory of Sami on Nov. 11th. We continue to pray for the healing of the other 4 teens injured in the accident; especially **Cindy Scroggins** who is a cousin of Chance Foss (and all the other Scroggins kin) and **Bailey McGuire** who is the girlfriend of Jordan Brown. Please offer up an extra prayer for the Roxana Administrators, staff, and teachers as they assist our youth during this time of grief.
- **Boy Scout Troop 777**, sponsored by our church, collected 7,159 items of food during the recent Council food drive. They also received \$100 in donations for the local food pantries. We are so very proud of them.
- Thanks to **John Hendricks** who is spearheading the remodeling of the parsonage kitchen. The project was motivated by a need to update the wiring in the parsonage. Those who have helped with the project are **Roland Pruetzel, Jim Herndon, Steve Schuerman, Joe Huff, Karen Challandes, Leona Hendricks, Randy Brueggeman, and George Tappy**. Your donated labor has saved us a lot of money. Thanks!
- Congratulations to Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon on the birth of **Ryleigh Georgia Spurgeon** on Nov. 22nd. She entered the world weighing 7lb. 15oz. She joins siblings Evan and Adelyn. Her extended family includes a set of very proud grandparents, Mark & Deb Mayer!
- Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Audrey Friedel**, friend of Marge Hall; the family of **Stuart Lesemann**, friend of Evelyn Paris; the family of **Charles Traitor**, uncle of Tiffany (Traitor) Nairn and Erika (Traitor) Ramirez; the family of **William "Ed" Noonan**, father of Patrick Noonan, Director of the United Methodist Village; the family of **Marilyn Bromaghim**, friend/family of Lois Mitchell; the family of **Jay Hill**, brother of Lori Kamp; the family of **June Meuth**, sister-in-law of Alice Burrows; and the family, friends, & patients of **Dr. Bill Marcuzzo**, local dentist & former Roxana School District Board member & president.
- We welcomed **Duane & Tamara "Tammy" Atchley** as the newest members of our church family on November 24. Tammy is playing with the Hand Bell Choir while Duane cooked up an entry for the Chili Cook-Off! Welcome!

THANK YOU

→ → *Thank yous will be saved throughout the month and included in the next month's newsletter.*

Thank You: Dear St. Paul UMC, SIUE NAfME and SIUE Steel Band would like to thank St. Paul UMC for their generous contribution of the Fellowship Hall and sound set-up for their recent Trivia Night. Thank you for letting us use your beautiful church and God bless all the good people within the congregation. Thank you! Trivia Night was a success!

SIUE NAfME and SIUE Steel Band

Thank You: We would like to thank Pastor Daryl and our St. Paul UMC family for their prayers and encouragement during Deb's hospitalization. The wonderful food was fantastic and a huge help in allowing us to maintain a consistent 24 hour bedside monitoring as required. Thank you all! **Mike & Kathy Link**





2013
Christmas
Cantata
"The Rose"



*a passionate look at Jesus and Mary
through contemporary song and dance...*



Sunday, December
22nd
10:30 a.m. &
3:00 p.m.



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Do you have a favorite Christmas carol, but are disappointed when we don't sing it during worship?

We invite you to e-mail us at info@stpaulwired.org or call 259-5210 with the name of your favorite carol. We can't promise we'll sing them all, but we are going to start singing carols about 10 minutes before every service during December if we hear you want to do so!



ADVENT SERMON SERIES
The Bright Star of Bethlehem
Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 1: Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be born a star—the **Star of Creation**, and the ruler over heaven and earth. His presence brings light to the world, which is His creation. We were created in His image to shine forth with His love into the dark streets of our community.

Dec. 8: Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be the **Star of Hope** to a people long forsaken. The fears of all the years are washed away by the sure hope of His salvation, which we are blessed to share with the lonely and the least among us.

Dec. 15: Jesus comes to Bethlehem to shine as the **Star of Unity**, bringing together a land and people long divided. Through His birth, walls of hostility can be torn down and people can live in harmony once more.

Dec. 22: At 8:15 a.m. only. Jesus comes to Bethlehem to enlighten the world as the **Star of Joy**. The great glad tidings He has to tell bring a smile to our faces as we radiate to others His good gifts of forgiveness, freedom from death and everlasting life.

*Coming in January,
the sermon series,
Extreme Makeover: Jesus Style.*



Nurses Notes for December 2013

“Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not all of the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate joy simply: with a smile, a kind word, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us! Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives.” ~Pope Benedict XVI~

Before the season of Christmas takes hold, sit down and reflect on what the holiday is truly about and how you can prepare yourself and your heart to truly enjoy the season.

- **Start** out by desiring to be the very best you can be- ways to keep yourself healthy and rested up for the activities. Spend some time outdoors in the sunlight or near a window on sunny days if you are unable to get out. It stimulates production of serotonin- a neurotransmitter responsible for mood stabilization.
- **Get** some citrus! Researchers studying depression found that certain citrus fragrances boost feelings of well being. Try dabbing on some lemon or orange essential oils.
- **Walk-** the rhythm and repetition of walking has a calming effect- it decreases anxiety and improves sleep.
- **Stick with** your routine and don't try to fit in more than you can handle: Is it really worth all of the running around if you are so tired or frazzled that you don't enjoy the activity?
- **Forget perfection-** you won't achieve it this side of heaven anyway! The world won't come to an end if your house is a bit cluttered, if dinner is a bit late to the table, or you don't get the front row seat at the Christmas program. Focus your energy on enjoying the people in your life.
- **Be a picky** volunteer: Take on one or two tasks and do them well.
- **Let go** of old customs: Have things changed in your life? The loss of a family member or friend, or maybe a new health concern prevents you from the old traditions? Then start a new tradition- one that can fit your life.
- **Plan ahead:** A six hour shopping trip may not be the best for you. Make sure that you know what the activity is before accepting to go along. Ask- maybe family/friends can adapt the activity to fit your needs.
- **Eat healthy!** Use common sense to avoid over indulgence. Yes, eating is a part of the holiday celebrations but reason needs to rule. Do you really need a piece of every kind of pie? Is it really best for you to take a “little bit” of every dish? Those “little bits” add calories quickly. There is nothing joyful about a stomach ache, indigestion, or an increase in blood pressure or blood sugar. Pretend like your doctor is sitting next to you at dinner- and leave the big belly to Santa!
- **Prepare!** Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the way- for the true peace that only Jesus can give! Take time each day to sit, reflect and quiet your heart to reflect and prepare for the Christmas. How can you prepare? Ask yourself:
 - Do I have any unforgiveness in my heart? Any feelings of resentment?
 - Do I look down on others of lesser social standing or education?
 - Do I constantly look for ways to be critical of others or their work? Do I enjoy gossip?
 - Am I generous with the gifts that God has given to me; do I see myself as a steward of those gifts? Am I aware of the needs of others?

These and other questions can be advent “lights” to search our hearts- the hearts that God already knows and desires to transform. Then we can ask God to change our hearts and use us during the Christmas season to spread His light- the light of the gospel! Then go out with great joy- and give away some special gifts!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A firm handshake or loving hug to a shaky soul • A kind word to a lonely person • A warm smile to the disheartened • A sincere concern for someone troubled • A feeling of compassion for the neglected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comforting thought for someone suffering • A respect for the dignity of others • A defense for the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves • A word of witness to a seeking soul • Do I look for ways that I can be on the “receiving” end and not the “giving” end. |
|---|--|

This week as I rang the bells for the Salvation Army a young man walked up and asked what we were doing. My friend Amy, another nurse explained and he told her that all he had was his debit card but that he would be back. A few hours later he returned with a large cylinder shaped container filled to the brim with change. We thanked him and he replied, “Oh it was just in my room doing nothing!” How profound- the gift that he had been given was now being used to be a gift to others! As he walked away I called out that I hoped that God would truly bless him, and he smiled. I then thought to myself, he has been blessed. God blessed him with a generous heart! I will never forget that young man, his smile or his words. Oh that all of us could see our “stuff” or our coins in a jar like this young man- just sitting around doing nothing.

This December may all of us sit down and reflect on our own “lights” and how they can lead us on a path this Advent to the Star- settling over a tiny manger in a tiny town of Bethlehem. Receive the gift with open arms, and amazing joy. Celebrate!

A very blessed, joyful Christmas season to you all!

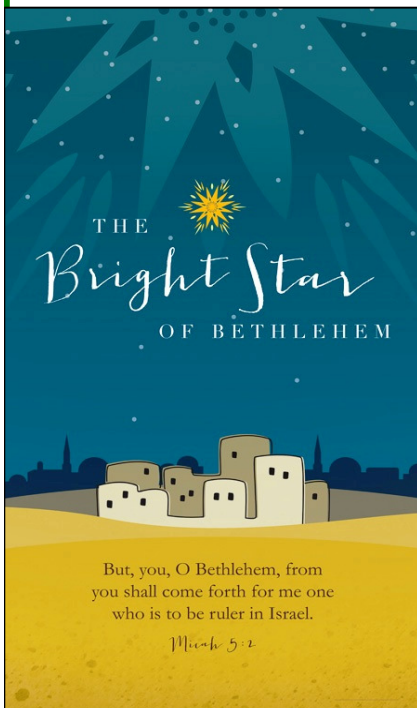
Eileen RN, Parish Nurse

Health Sources: Health Magazine, Mayo Clinic, Bass Eldercare
Quote: catholicresources.org



SUNDAYS AT ST. PAUL IN DECEMBER 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. SERVICES

"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery are provided for the 10:30 a.m. Service.



1 1st Sunday of Advent. Communion Celebrated. Pastor Daryl begins the sermon series, The Bright Star of Bethlehem. Read John 1:1-14.

8 2nd Sunday of Advent. Birthday Sunday. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, The Bright Star of Bethlehem. Read Matthew 12:15-21.

15 3rd Sunday of Advent. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, The Bright Star of Bethlehem. Read John 17:20-26.

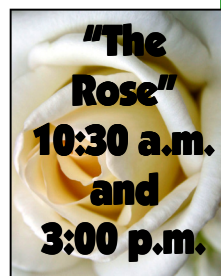
22 4th Sunday of Advent. March to the Manger.

8:15 a.m.: Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, The Bright Star of Bethlehem. Read Luke 1:39-56.

10:30 a.m.: Christmas Cantata, "The Rose," directed by Harvey Chiles. During both services, you have the opportunity during March to the Manger to lay your Christmas offering at the feet of the baby Jesus. The Holy Family is portrayed by one of our St. Paul families with a newborn. Your offering symbolizes the offering of your service to the Christ child throughout the coming year.

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29 1st Sunday after Christmas. Art Zehr, our Lay Servant, leads us in worship today.



GODSPEED AND WE WILL MISS YOU LUNCHEON for Betty Roberts

On Tuesday, Dec. 10th @NOON

at the Chinese Buffet (next to the Farm & Home Supply) Call the church office to reserve your space! Everyone pays for their own meal. See you there!





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

" Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work! "

December 01 Chiles, Harvey
 December 01 Gowan, Amy
 December 01 Schlemmer, Bobbie Jean
 December 02 Ortegren, Al
 December 04 Harlan, Sandy
 December 05 Sparling, Meghan
 December 05 Voorhees, Laura
 December 06 Poore, Jerry
 December 06 Rader, Lindsey
 December 08 Davis, Tammy
 December 08 Blacklock, Will
 December 10 Michels, Earline
 December 10 Ramirez, Erika
 December 10 Adams, Reid
 December 11 Harris, Ruth
 December 11 Wood, Mike
 December 11 Fennewald, Claire
 December 12 Kasinger, Dorothy
 December 13 Gwaltney, Jamie
 December 13 Cameron, Jon
 December 13 Myers, Elise
 December 14 Liedtke, Mike
 December 15 Duryea, Dan
 December 15 Sullivan, Becky

December 15 Giddings, Jessica
 December 15 Eyster, Devin
 December 16 Helmkamp, Rick
 December 16 Palmer, Stephanie
 December 16 Wells, Emily
 December 18 Ford, Joan
 December 19 Brown, Gary
 December 19 Adams, Heather
 December 19 Parker, Megan
 December 19 Cruthis, Kailynne
 December 20 Cloninger, Wayne
 December 20 Champa, Jenn
 December 20 Hendricks, Brody
 December 22 Clark, John
 December 24 Kainz, Steve
 December 24 Brown, Ben
 December 24 Harlan, Kaydence
 December 24 Harlan, Kristina
 December 26 Ford, Don Sr.
 December 28 Babcock, Orisa

December 29 Basden, Bill
 December 29 Pascoe, Doug
 December 29 Hubbard, Glenn
 December 29 Laws, Billy
 December 29 Brueggeman, Ada
 December 30 Voorhees, Ruth
 December 30 Caldwell, Jack
 December 30 Caldwell, Devin
 December 31 Uzzell, Iris
 December 31 Herndon, Jim
 December 31 Phelps, Susan
 December 31 Maxwell, Lillian



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 06 Hamilton, George Sr. & Donna
 December 14 Vore, Tom & Shana
 December 16 Ramirez, Anthony & Erika
 December 19 Oertle, Steve & Jill
 December 20 Badman, David & Donna
 December 22 Brown, Gary & Jill
 December 24 Sullivan, William & Jill
 December 26 Roberts, Randy & Karen

December 28 Dawson, Steve & Sarah
 December 29 Bunt, Don Sr. & Evelyn
 December 29 Mortland, Greg & Lana



Updates to the current church directory:

Changes/Additions: Mrs. Lois Welch c/o 2 Brandon Court, Iowa Park, TX 76367;
Mrs. Ruth Harris 2002 Boardwalk Place Drive, Apt. 431, O'Fallon, MO 63368;
Mr. Joe Stark 502 Parc Forest Trail, St. Charles, MO 63303; Mrs. Minnie Tindall 229 Aspen Point,
 Glen Carbon, IL 62034; Mr. Eric Wood 547 Hamilton Avenue, Wood River, IL 62095;
Mr. Brandon Bentley 5340 Waterton Lakes Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46237.

If you are going to move soon, give the church office advance notice of your new address.
 Also, remember to update us on your new phone number. Thank you!



NOVEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 11/30/2013	18250.00
Designated Giving:	through 11/30/2013	3666.30
	Capital Improvements	295.00
	Loose Change	134.30
	Flowers	176.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	280.00
	Conference Apportionments	940.00
	Upper Room	22.00
	Gas & Electricity	100.00
	UMCOR-Philippines	209.00
	Memorials	910.00
	Elevator Fund	200.00
	Youth	400.00
Steeple Postage 2014		10.00
Pledge for 2014 - paid		200.00
Thanksgiving		382.00
Christmas		20.00
Parsonage Repair Fund		30.00
Transfer from Reserve		349.00
Reimb.-6th grade Bibles		74.98
Mid-West Mission Cntr.		50.00
UM Student Offering		31.00
Total:		\$23,063.28

DINNER BELL

A Joyful Toon by Mike Waters



At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

- LUKE 14:17 NIV



Monthly Loose Change Project!

(loose coins in offering plate)

December's Loose Change Project is the Salvation Army in Alton. The Salvation Army helps individuals and families facing special hardships with food, transportation, rent, and utility assistance, as well as providing meals and shelter for the homeless. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY 2014 STEEPLE, Wed., DEC. 18th!

Prayer gathering



Watch for the "Prayer Focus" displayed on the bulletin board inside the door off the back parking lot and the one alongside of the Pastor's Office.

DECEMBER Ushers (10:30):

- Dec. 1st:** Dorothy Kasinger, Schiber Family
- Dec. 8th:** Ushers needed!
- Dec. 15th:** Ushers needed!
- Dec. 22nd:** Meg & Deb Fansler
- Dec. 29th:** Tamera & Sydney Martin

➔ Call the Head Usher if you can help!

DECEMBER Head Usher:

JOE HUFF

Average Attendance for NOVEMBER 2013

Early Service	66
Late Service	95
Sunday School	51
Visitors	4





Celebrate the birth of Christ at the Christmas Eve Services



5 p.m. Family Service.

A 45-minute service featuring the Christmas story, carols, and participation by the children. Theme: *Good News, Great Joy!* Service ends with candlelighting.

7 p.m. Traditional Service.

Communion and Candlelight Service featuring accompaniment upon our beautiful pipe organ. Our theme is: *The Bright Star of Bethlehem is Born!* This service is one hour.

11 p.m. ILLUMINATE Service.

CRAVE, our Young Adult group, and the Sr. High Youth lead us in a unique Christmas Eve Service. We celebrate Communion and end at Midnight with a candlelighting service.

Christmas Dinner & Program



It is a St. Paul tradition for the church to gather for a Christmas Dinner. During November you will have an opportunity to make your reservation for this year's **Christmas Dinner on Sat., Dec. 14th at 6 p.m.** There is no set charge for the dinner. Instead, **we all make a donation for the meal.** Reservation forms will be in the Sunday bulletins 3 times in the month of November and the first Sunday in December. Please fill one out for your family. If you cannot be here to do this, **please call the church office (259-5210)** during the week or email to info@stpaulwired.org and leave your information with the church secretary. *Dinner will be followed by a variety show featuring talent from the St. Paul family.* Noël Schiber and Jill Oertle are organizing the variety show.

Cap 'N Mitten Tree 2013



We will be collecting caps, mittens, gloves, and scarves for all ages, plus children's underwear and socks through December 8th!



Women of Worship

Christmas Party & Business Meeting

Thursday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m.

"All St. Paul women are invited!"

Tea & coffee will be provided. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert. Also, bring new children's underwear or socks which will be donated along with the items on our annual Cap 'N Mitten Tree. After we enjoy our fellowship around the table, we will have a brief business meeting to disburse the money raised from our yearly projects. Please, we would love to have a grand group of ladies in attendance! See you there!



PECANS : The pecans are here and ready to be bought!
The costs are:

\$9.50 for the 1lb. bag of plain or **\$8.00** for a bag of the chocolate covered pecans or a bag of cinnamon glazed pecans.

You can come by the church office and purchase your pecans throughout the week or buy them on Sundays!



FALL EXHIBIT



We are happy that Joy Miller currently has the first public, solo exhibit of her work. Joy, a long time member of the St. Paul family, is pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts degree at SIUE. Stop by the Parlor to see her artwork.

Lora Faye Wright, 63, of Wood River, IL, died on Sat., Nov. 16 at Anderson Hospital in Maryville. She was born August 9, 1950 in Wood River to George and Leta (Tennis) Harshbarger.

She worked for many years at Kane Mechanical and then at GRP where she retired. She & Gary Lynn Wright were married in 1987 in Rosewood Heights, IL. He preceded her in death September 15, 2013.

She and her husband were active motorcyclists and members of the Dream Weavers Motorcycle Club.

She is survived by: 2 sons, Jeff & Jenifer Benner and Billy & Tanya Wright all of Wood River, a daughter, Shelly & Bryan Allman of Piggott, AR, mother, Leta Harshbarger of East Alton, 6 grandchildren, Connor, Duncan & Aiden Benner and Alicia, Kelsey & Logan Allman, sister, Mickie and Jay Garrison of Great Falls, MT and dear family friends who were like her own children, Doug Rensing of Wood River, Andy Blair of Wood River and Brian Kopp of Godfrey.

Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her father.

Since the motorcycle accident, Lora has been through so much as you know so very well....because you have been there to support her every step of the way with your presence and your prayers. At each hospital: Barnes, Kindred, and Anderson Lora always expressed the same desire: to go home. Home was where she wanted to be! Like many of you, I am sad today because Lora never got to go to her home in Wood River.

While Lora didn't reach her earthly home, God has received her into our heavenly home. Jesus shows us in John 14 that our ultimate home isn't here upon this earth, but with our Father in heaven. And, just so we don't get lost Jesus himself has gone before us to show us the way home.

If we keep our eyes always fixed upon Jesus and follow in His footsteps, we will never get lost. For Jesus will always lead us home!

As an early Christian wrote: **"Christ has turned our sunsets into sunrises."** The assurance Christians have is available for everyone who leaves their self-centeredness behind and trusts in Christ and lives for him. Christ alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

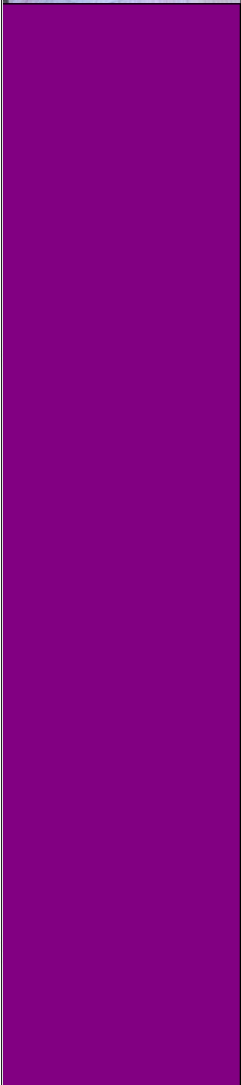
As we mourn today, we mourn more for ourselves than for Lora. Lora is home in her Father's house. When she arrived Gary and all those who have gone before were there to greet her.

To those of us who are left behind, may these words of Jesus in John 14:27 comfort us: **"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."**

Please pray for Lora's family. They have lost so much in a short period of time.

Pastor Daryl

We say goodbye to our friend...





CRAVE CHRIST

Do you feel like something is missing from your life? We invite you to join us as we feed the craving to learn more and build a stronger relationship with Christ! Young adults – 20's to 30's

Better Late Than Never Bible Study Group – Feed your need for Christ's Word each Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. in the 2nd floor classroom!

Wed. Dec. 11: CRAVE Small Group @ Jr Parsonage 8:30 p.m.

Fri. Dec. 20: CRAVE Sponsors at trip to the **ZOO WILD LIGHTS** for all who would like to go along. Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m.! **Contact Betsy Blacklock (259-3858) for more information!**

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, WE INVITE YOU TO STOP
BY THE WALMART IN WOOD RIVER
BETWEEN 10 A.M. - 8 P.M. WE'LL BE RINGING THE BELLS
FOR THE SALVATION ARMY. SUPPORT THIS GREAT
WORK FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!



**Jesus is the Reason
For the Season!**

**Merry Christmas
Everyone!**





REPORT ON "Generations of Generosity" COMMITMENT SUNDAY

There is still time to return your Estimate of Giving card. If you misplaced your card, stop by the Church Office or the table in the entryway in front of the sanctuary for a replacement. Your estimate is important as we develop a budget for 2014.

- A total of **81** individuals, couples, and families have completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* to-date (11/26/2013).
- The total committed on these *Estimate of Giving Cards* to our ministry for 2014 to-date is **\$175,114.00**.

Christmas Offering



The Finance Committee and Church Council have decided that the **undesignated amount** of the Christmas Offering will be used for the general budget. The general budget provides the funds for the ministry and operating expenses of the church.

As always, you are encouraged to designate your Christmas Offering for missionaries, ministries, or projects supported by St. Paul. There is a Christmas Offering envelope included in your box of envelopes. You may also use any pew envelope to make the Christmas Offering. Simply mark the envelope as your "Christmas Offering."

Although your Christmas Offering may be placed in the offering plate on any Sunday or mailed to the Church Office, many people like to lay their offering at the feet of the baby Jesus during the **March to the Manger**. **March to the Manger occurs during both worship services on Dec. 22nd**. Some people choose to wrap their offering as a gift for the baby Jesus.

Offering Envelopes



The 2014 Offering Envelopes will be handled like last years. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you read this information...

If you are someone who has regularly given on a **weekly** basis you will pick up your 2014 Offering Envelopes in the church entryway in December, as we have done in the past.

If you are someone who normally gives on a **monthly** basis you will receive your 2014 Offering Envelopes through the mail to your house. They will be sent bulk mail to you sometime in December. They will arrive at your house so watch for them. You will not receive a box but an envelope with your offering envelopes inside. **PLEASE, do not use them until January 2014.**

Feel free to offer your feedback.
If you would like to trade weekly envelopes for monthly or vice versa, call the office as soon as possible.
Thank you!!



It is time to order your poinsettias. The cost is **\$8.50** per poinsettia. **The order deadline will be Sunday, December 8th.**

The poinsettias may be taken home following the services on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. Please indicate when you order to whom it is "in memory" or "in honor" of and it is **important** to include your payment when you order. Questions? Call **259-5210**.



We say goodbye to our dear friend...



Patricia Jane Traitor, 64, went to sing in Heaven at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, November 20 at her home. Born Feb. 23, 1949 she was the daughter of C. Wayne and Louise (Lewey) Thayer of Greenfield, IL. She worked as a risk manager at Wood River Township Hospital and Alton Memorial Hospital. Later she was a liability analyst for the Illinois State Medical Society.

She loved music and singing, and her beloved grandchildren. She was a dedicated member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, and served as Parish Visitor.

Surviving are two daughters, Erika (Tony) Ramirez of Piasa and Tiffany (Jeremy) Nairn of Shipman; a stepson, Patrick (Carmen) Traitor of Jacksonville, NC; 3 grandchildren, Madelaine, Morgann and Mylie Ramirez; and a brother, Robert (Karen) Thayer of Bertram, TX.

Pat Traitor was not only a fellow worshiper, choir member, and friend, but also a colleague for those on staff at St. Paul. As a Parish Visitor, she made close connections with our older adults and those in the hospital. She told others that God had called her into this ministry. Week after week, I saw the enjoyment and fulfillment this ministry provided her.

Pat put a lot of thought into the themes for our 70+ Senior Luncheons. This year, she brought in a swing band, *Miss Jubilee & The Humdingers*, to perform. The Fellowship Hall was decorated like a jazz club and we served a supper club meal to all who attended. Miss Jubilee enjoyed the setting so much that she sang for an hour and a half. Pat knew how to throw a great party!

In her reflections on Pat's life, Marilyn Cisler, retired organist & choir director, said: *"The song she and I most liked doing as soloist and accompanist was "Sweet Little Jesus Boy." She put so much feeling into this piece of music and I will have her beautiful voice and this song in my heart for the rest of my life."* The Holy Spirit must have been at work because in my reflections on Pat's life, I said: *"When Pat sang "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" on Christmas Eve the congregation grew quiet and no one applauded at the end. She so succeeded in conveying the awe, the wonder, and magnificence of that night that we all simply sat in stunned silence before the Christ child. That song—one of her favorites—showed me the depth of her faith. When she sang it you knew that Sweet Little Jesus Boy was her Lord and Savior."*

A testimony to the impact of Pat's life is shown by the return of two former pastors, Rev. Ed Weston and Rev. Phil Gardner, to assist in the service. During the service, Rev. Gardner reminded us all of the assurance of eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ. Rev. Weston lifted up the consolation offered to us in the Scriptures and his personal reflections on Pat's life.

We will miss Pat in our weekly staff prayer sessions. Prayer with Pat was always interlaced with laughter. Her last act of service at St. Paul was preparing the hotdogs for the Youth Chili Cook-off. Meanwhile, Harvey Chiles, our Music Director, is rewriting the Christmas Cantata because there is no one else to do those soaring soprano solos. Pat Traitor's death leaves a big hole in our ministry, but an even bigger hole in our hearts.

I leave you with a quote from Martin Luther that I shared during the celebration of Pat's life: **"You have as much laughter as you have faith."** Pat had bushel baskets of faith because she was filled with laughter. Her great gift was to make all of us laugh.

Please continue to be in prayer for her many friends, & colleagues, and for her family: Erika, Tony, Madelaine, Morgann, and Mylie; Tiffany & Jeremy; Patrick & Carmen; and Robert & Karen.

Pastor Daryl Fansler





DECEMBER - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

Psalm 136:26 - "Give thanks to the God of heaven, for His steadfast love endures forever."

Sunday, December 1 - Youth praise band practice at St. Paul UMC @ 5:30 P.M. COR (Youth group) in St. Paul's Youth Room @ 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, December 8 - No praise band practice! Going to see the Christmas lights at the Our Lady of the Snow Shrine in Belleville! Meet at Bethalto UMC @ 5:30 P.M. to load up the van and head out!

Friday, December 13 - We ring bells for the Salvation Army outside of the Wood River Walmart this evening. Our shift runs from 6 - 8 P.M. and there are two kettles to cover. We need everyone's help. Meet by one kettle or the other by 5:45 P.M. so we will be ready to go at 6 P.M. See you there!

Sunday, December 15 - No COR (Youth group)!

Friday, December 20 - CRAVE is sponsoring a trip to the ZOO WILD LIGHTS. They meet to leave at St. Paul UMC @ 5:30 P.M. Call for more information! All are welcomed!

Sunday, December 22 - No praise band practice! COR (Youth group) progressive dinner! Meet at Bethalto UMC @ 5:30 P.M. to head off to the first home! Bring a small gift (\$10 cost limit) for a white elephant gift exchange at the last home! If you have never gone on a progressive dinner it is a lot of fun and you are in for a holiday treat!

Sunday, December 29 - No COR (Youth group)!

UPCOMING - We will be taking meals to the shut-ins during December sometime, but I need to check with each church to see when the usual people who do it are planning to do it. So, more later!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Kevin Rader at (618)303-0044.

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COAT AND SHOE COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN



A big thank you to everyone who contributed shoes, coats, and jackets for Riverbend Head Start children! This is the 4th year the Outreach Ministry Team has sponsored this drive. This year we had 23 coats in addition to several lightweight jackets and about a dozen shoes. Kristen Gosling, who is the Public Relations Director for the organization, said they had requests for over 100 coats already this year. Our contribution helped them get a big start. We were the first church to call them with our donations. All items were to be taken into the homes in our community by caseworkers from Head Start the day after they picked them up. This organization has really appreciated the contributions. God bless you for the way you give to those in need.

CHURCH OUTREACH FOR CHRISTMAS



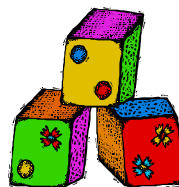
The last three years our church has supplied unwrapped gifts for the Roxana Jr. & Sr. High School student councils' annual party for at-risk children. Approximately 150 children are identified by school nurses and teachers from all the area schools. These are children from very low income families. They are invited to a Christmas party at the Roxana School. **The date for the party this year is Saturday, December 14th.** The children get a picture with Santa, a meal, and gifts. Our gifts supplement those purchased through funds raised at the school. Details follow:



What: Unwrapped toys for children aged infant to 14 years, wrapping paper, and tape

Due Date: Collected now through Sun., Dec. 8

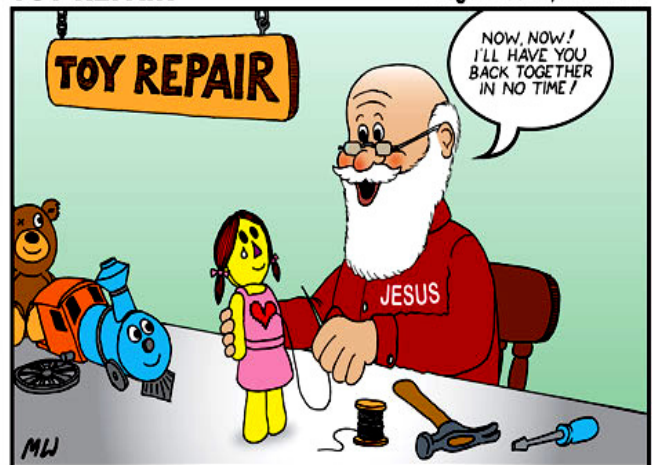
Where: Place in the big Christmas box in the entryway



The gifts will be delivered and then wrapped by students. **Adult volunteers are needed.** If anyone would like to help out for the party on December 14th, call **Jane Herndon for details.**

TOY REPAIR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

- PSALM 147:3 NIV



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