



THE STEEPLE

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

JANUARY 2014



Reality TV abounds with *makeover shows*. Whether it is our house, our restaurant, or ourselves getting a makeover we love to watch the process of transformation.

During the month of January, our worship services will focus upon *God's Extreme Makeover*. Galatians 5 provides a blueprint for the changes God desires to make in our lives. When our spirit is joined with God's Spirit, here is the fruit that is evident:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

As I have started thinking about this new sermon series, here are some ways God's makeover is like those reality TV makeover shows.

- It's hard to let go of the familiar. Even when something isn't really working, we hesitate to let go of the known for the unknown. Although the old menu isn't attracting customers, chefs are still reluctant to adopt Chef Ramsay's changes on *Kitchen Nightmares*. Too often, we would rather cling to our old life filled with failures and sins than embrace the new life offered by Jesus. The old life may not be working for us, but it is comfortable for us.
- It's almost impossible to effect change without help. Even positive change is difficult to accomplish without expert assistance. Change requires a group effort. When we strive to make spiritual changes, we need the help of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God does what we could not do. In Ephesians 2, Paul says: "*We were dead because of our failures, but he made us alive together with Christ. (It is God's kindness that saved you.) God has brought us back to life together with Christ Jesus and has given us a position in heaven with him.*" The positive changes in our lives are the result of the grace of God at work within us.
- The makeover doesn't always last. When shows return to see how the makeover is faring, sometimes the business or person has regressed to their old ways. Often this is frustrating for the show's host who has invested considerable time and energy into the makeover. God must be disappointed and hurt whenever we abandon our new life and return to our old way of living. God has gone beyond investing time and energy into our makeovers. He gave the Son so we might change. Still, God doesn't give up on us. God always gives us another chance at a makeover.

It's January. You may be striving for a makeover by enrolling in a gym, following a new diet, or changing your wardrobe. I encourage you to go deeper than this. Go extreme by turning to God for your makeover. Unlike other makeovers which move from the outside in, God's makeover moves from the inside out. Until the inner self is changed, any changes we make are merely cosmetic. In Galatians, Paul contends that "*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with its passions and its desires.*"

This month, I invite you to enroll in *God's Extreme Makeover*. It's free. It's available to everyone. And, best of all, it comes with an eternal guarantee.

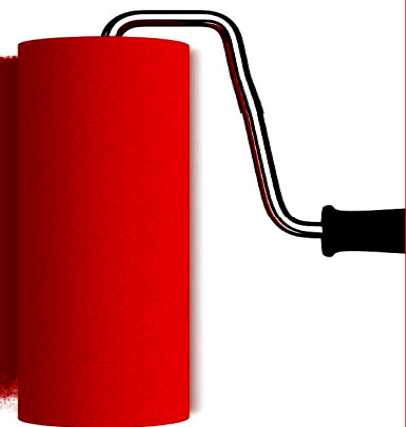
Pastor Daryl



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **Thank you** to those who helped make the Christmas Dinner and Program happen: **John Hendricks** for clearing the snow from the parking lot, **Mike Tappy** for clearing the sidewalks; **Maggie Funke, Dottye Aitken, Tana Yankovich, Elinor Blacklock** for overseeing the dinner; **Bob Brown** for providing wonderful food; **Noël Schiber and Jill Oertle** for organizing the Christmas program and the **children & youth** for providing the talent. A highlight was the dancing Wise Men who certainly captured the joy of that first Christmas. The leftover food was taken to Oasis Women's Center in Alton.
- **Thank you** to **Kids Praise, Worship Choir**, and all the **soloists** who provided great music during the Christmas season. You blessed us with a vast variety of music. A special thank you to **Harvey Chiles**, our Music Director, for recruiting this talent. Thanks also to the **Bell Choir** and Director **Marilyn Cisler** for the great Christmas music on Dec. 8th.
- Our Worship Choir offered another fine cantata to glorify our Lord. *The Rose* was a moving reminder that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise of a savior. **Thank you** to EVERYONE who made *The Rose* possible! From Director **Harvey Chiles**, to the **choir members**, to the **narrators**, to **Katie Murbarger**, to **everyone behind the scenes** - it was a wonderful and uplifting reminder of what Advent means. May you all be blessed as we were blessed by your ministry of music!
- Our prayers and sympathy is extended to all who have lost loved ones this season: the family of **Mabel Charlene Meisenheimer Gill**, beloved cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Charles Gill** (Mabel Gill's oldest son), also cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Betty Lacher**, mother of Rev. Larry Lacher, pastor of Roxana Church of the Nazarene; the family of **Betty Close**, good friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Ruth Valin**, good friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; and the family of **Harry "Tony" Heigert Jr.**, father of Shelley Gore and Stacey Moore who are also daughters to Harvey Birmingham. May you all know God's peace and comfort at this time

Happy New Year
2014





THANK YOU

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

Thank You: Debra, Meg, and I thank you for your cards, greetings and wishes for a Merry Christmas. A special thank you for your thoughtfulness for all our staff at St. Paul with the Christmas gifts at the Christmas Dinner. Our church is blessed with staff whose aim is always to glorify God through their ministry. We wish you a Happy New Year! God Bless.
Daryl Fansler

Thank You: For the generous Staff Christmas Gifts that we received, we offer our thank yous:

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. It is a joy making music here at St. Paul and getting to know you all.

Harvey Chiles

Thank you so very much for thinking of & blessing me with an unexpected gift this Christmas. Working here is a joy for me.

Joe Hanfelder

I cannot thank you enough in a written way that truly expresses how much my ministry with you means to me. The blessing of your generous Christmas gift and all the many cards & gifts I have received have been delightful and I thank you for them. May you always be the fragrance of God!

Lois Mitchell

Many thanks for your generous gift. I pray that God surprises us this year as we are faithful to what He would have us do.

Kevin Rader

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift to me. It is most helpful.

Joy Miller

I thank you for your Christmas gift. What a blessing you are to me!

Marilyn Cisler

TRIVIA Night

Alton Main St. United Methodist Church has challenged us to participate in a UM Trivia Night Fundraiser on Saturday, January 18 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person with a maximum of 8 per table. The funds raised support Team Liberia, a group of young adults who are planning a conference wide mission trip to Liberia in 2015. Check with Pastor Daryl for more information!



With a Song in My Heart

The Singing Telegram Is back for one day only! You got it. Valentine's Day. The troubadours of St. Paul will deliver a singing telegram to the loved one or loved ones of your choice for a mere \$25.00 donation to the church. Candy and or flowers may accompany the song but, of course, just like true love, it costs a bit more than a song. Orders will be taken beginning January 15th and must be paid for at the time of the order by check, cash, or money order made out to St. Paul UMC. In person, via phone, via SKYPE, let us be that Something Special on Valentine's Day for those you love! This is a church wide fundraising event to raise money to improve technology in the sanctuary.



Sundays at St. Paul in JANUARY 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services

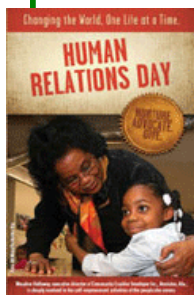
"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery are provided for the 10:30 a.m. Service.



5 Epiphany Sunday. Communion celebrated. Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series, "God's Extreme Makeover," based on Galatians 5. We've all seen reality TV shows that focus on home makeovers or personal makeovers. Usually some crisis compels such a radical move because most of us do not like change. While God takes the initiative to change us, the truth is that we are not happy living a life separated from God. God acts to bring us into a right relationship with Him.

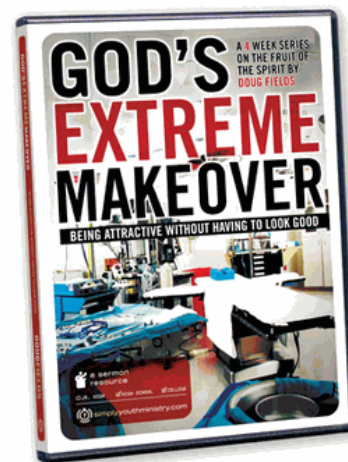


12 1st Sunday after Epiphany. Birthday Sunday. Pastor Daryl continues the new sermon series, "God's Extreme Makeover," based on Galatians 5. We've all seen reality TV shows that focus on home makeovers or personal makeovers. Last week, we discovered that a makeover was needed. Today we focus on the first step of that makeover. Accepting the peace that God offers us.



19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Human Relations Day. Pastor Daryl continues the new sermon series, "God's Extreme Makeover," based on Galatians 5. We've all seen reality TV shows that focus on home makeovers or personal makeovers. Our first priority we covered last week: getting our relationship with God in order. Today we focus on patience; patience with ourselves and others. Even the makeovers on TV take more time than the hour or two-hour time slot. The whole process is edited for purpose of broadcast. Our makeover takes longer than a day. We need to be persistent and patient if we are to effect lasting change in us. We take up a special offering for Human Relations Day.

26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Pastor Daryl continues the new sermon series, "God's Extreme Makeover," based on Galatians 5. We've all seen reality TV shows that focus on home makeovers or personal makeovers. One of the greatest gifts that the Spirit gives us is Self-Control. The Bible says that self-control fosters godliness and love. Radical makeovers are possible for us because of grace. Change happens not because of what we do, but what we allow God to do within us.



Sacred Fine Arts Competition Exhibition

We will hold a juried fine arts competition for sacred art work. First prize is \$300.00. Entry fee is \$20.00. Artists submit an image and a brief (250 max) description of their work via email or snail mail to the church c/o Arts Competition. The exhibition will open on Sat. April 12th, the Palm Sunday Weekend and remain in place for one month.



Nurses Notes for JANUARY 2014



HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The New Year, like a new born child, is placed in our hands as the old year passes away. The days and weeks to come are God's gift; they carry God's blessing. As a blessing we welcome them. Our hope for the year ending is that all that was good in it remain with us. It is now time to look forward to another year of life- a precious gift from our Lord.

As we ring in the New Year, we also prepare for the winter months. Many of us look forward to bundling up in our scarves, hats and gloves and playing in the snow, taking a brisk walk, or maybe cozying up in front of the fire with a cup of hot chocolate and family or friends. However, winter can also be dangerous because of weather conditions and the hazards that come with them.

As temperatures drop, the risk for heart attacks rises for people with heart conditions and those who are involved in physical activity. When the temperature drops outside our blood vessels narrow to prevent the body from losing heat. This can put people with heart conditions and those involved with strenuous exercise at greater risk for a heart attack. 15 minutes of shoveling snow counts as moderate exercise. To protect your heart this winter, **follow these safety tips:**

- Stretch and warm up your muscles with light activity before rigorous activity such as shoveling snow.
- Stay warm. Wear a scarf over your mouth and nose to warm the air you breathe.
- Dress in layers.
- Instead of lifting a shovel, push it to remove snow. Pace yourself and take breaks.
- If your body is telling you to stop, then listen and stop.
- Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. If they are over 10 years old, replace them. According to the CDC, most carbon monoxide poisonings happen in January.
- Have your chimney or fireplace cleaned annually.
- Check your furnace/heating system: Have your furnace inspected by a professional. A space heater can be the most dangerous appliance in your home.
- Prepare your vehicle: Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Check the tread and air pressure in the tires. Check the antifreeze, and wiper fluids.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Replace if necessary.
- Have supplies in your car in case of a winter emergency. Keep your tank full or near full in case of bad weather.
- Have a vehicle emergency kit in your car in case you become stranded.
- Focus on footwear to prevent winter falls: Wear shoes with plenty of tread. Try to keep at least one arm free to help you maintain your balance.
- Be careful when getting in and out of a car: Always make sure your footing is secure before entering or exiting the car. Beware of ice - stay on pathways that have been cleared and salted.
- Let someone know your destination and route and the time to expect you to arrive.
- If the power should go out do not use candles for lighting. Use flashlights instead.
- Get up early! If you stay in bed you will not experience enough daylight which can lead to feelings of depression.
- Get up and move to keep your mood elevated.

Winter can be an enjoyable time if you make safety a priority. Avoid rushing and give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely.

May God richly bless you this year.
Eileen RN, Parish Nurse

Sources: CDC, National Safety Council, Perelman Heart Institute



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

January 01 Cloninger, Sue
 January 01 Elliott, Mark
 January 01 Gowan, Calvin
 January 03 Link, Mike
 January 03 Bishop, Ronald
 January 03 Hamlin, Kathy
 January 03 Groshong, Ashley
 January 04 Weller, Jack
 January 05 Potter, Lloyd
 January 05 Kissack, Bob Sr.
 January 05 Decker, Heather
 January 05 Martin, Piper
 January 06 Tappy, Joyce
 January 07 Bowman, Glenn
 January 07 Edmiston, Laura Jo
 January 07 Fincher, Chris
 January 07 Poore, Shay
 January 07 Cox, Lana
 January 08 Balzraine, Becky
 January 08 Scroggins, Jim
 January 08 Huddleston, Avery
 January 09 Moore, Beulah
 January 09 Williams, Janet
 January 09 Dorsey, Mary Lou
 January 09 Weston-Fiss, Marsha
 January 10 Voorhees, Emily
 January 11 Shaffer, Norma
 January 11 Hubbard, Paula
 January 11 Tuttle, Stacy
 January 11 Eyster, Riley

January 12 Rain, Nathan
 January 12 Mayer, Lindsey
 January 13 Napp, Aiden
 January 13 Ramirez, Mylie
 January 14 Aitken, Dottie
 January 14 Liedtke, Gregg
 January 14 Gwaltney, Scott
 January 17 Carlisle, Amanda
 January 18 Hale, Amy
 January 18 Oertle, McLain
 January 19 Cheatham, Eileen
 January 19 Redden, D.J. Jr.
 January 21 Aitken, Scott
 January 21 Wheat, Russell Jr.
 January 21 Chester, Annabelle
 January 22 Blaine, Barbara
 January 22 Bunt, Clayton
 January 22 Garrison, William
 January 23 Gimmy, Ken
 January 23 Martin, Tamera
 January 24 Bottorff, Priscilla
 January 24 Groshong, Ryan
 January 25 Poore, Jan
 January 25 Cameron, Lindsey
 January 26 Moore, Sandy
 January 27 Hughes, Janet

January 27 Sheppard, David
 January 27 Sheppard, James
 January 28 Moore, Duane
 January 29 Hansard, Gail
 January 29 Voorhees, Mychal
 January 30 Weller, Londa
 January 30 Voorhees, Tom
 January 30 Shaffer, Raymond
 January 30 Sims, Logan
 January 31 Sullivan, William
 January 31 Hartman, Geno
 January 31 Barnes, Jessica
 January 31 Walters, Miranda
 January 31 Schiber, Marlo



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 05 McPheters, Kelly & Rachel
 January 20 White, John & Rita
 January 27 Davis, Dan & Tammy



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;
Mrs. Betty Roberts 625 27½ Road, Apt. 111, Grand Junction, CO 81506, phone 970-773-2047;
Mr. Chris Fincher 600 Brewster Avenue, Apt 305, Redwood City, CA 94063.

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!



DECEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 12/31/2013	21841.00
Designated Giving:	through 12/31/2013	3570.00
	Capital Improvements	415.00
	Loose Change	109.00
	Flowers	211.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	.00
	Conference Apportionments	940.00
	Upper Room	.00
	Gas & Electricity	100.00
	UMCOR-Philippines/Illinois	640.00
	Helping Hands	900.00
	Elevator Fund	105.00
	Youth	100.00
	Brad Fester/Wycliffe	50.00
Steeple Postage for 2014		8.40
Salvation Army		50.00
Christmas Dinner		727.00
Thanksgiving		230.00
Christmas		3111.00
Parsonage Repair Fund		30.00
Red Bird Mission		25.00
Charles McKnelly		100.00
Sanctuary Monitor		75.00
UM Student Offering		25.00
Total:		\$29,792.40

THE BACK PEW - Jeff Larson



http://thebackpew.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES.. may God bless you in ways that are **BEYOND YOUR DREAMS!!**

Monthly Loose Change Project! (loose coins in offering plate)

January's Loose Change Project is the **United Methodist Children's Home** in Mt. Vernon, IL. Funds will go for youth programs on campus, independent living programs, transitional living, or community based programs. The Chaplain's ministry may also be a recipient of the funds. May God bless & multiply your gifts!

JANUARY Ushers (10:30):

Jan. 5th: Ushers needed!

Jan. 12th: Mindy McLain

Jan. 19th: Ushers needed!

Jan.. 26th: Ushers needed!

→ Call the Head Usher if you can help!

JANUARY Head Usher:

JOE HUFF

Average Attendance for DECEMBER 2013

Early Service	44
Late Service	115
Sunday School	38
Visitors	7



DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2014 STEEPLE, Mon., JAN. 20th!



Cap 'N Mitten Tree 2013



The Women of Worship thank you for helping with our Cap 'N Mitten Tree.

We collected 183 items:

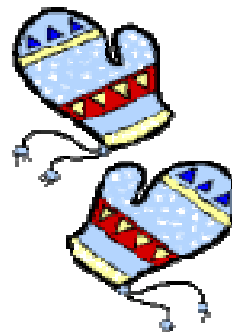
34 pairs of socks

52 sock caps

41 pairs of gloves

3 scarves

53 pieces of underwear!



Thank you so very much for your generosity as you willingly gave to those in need. They were all divided among our school nurses. We also made and gave 45 blankets to the Oasis Women's Center at this time. God Bless you!



Flower Calendar for 2014 is posted on the long

FLOWER CALENDAR

bulletin board in the Education Wing.

Fill it up! Thank you!

2014 Newsletter Information

It is once again time to decide concerning how you would like to receive your copy of The Steeple each month. We will be including an insert in the bulletins on Sundays in January as well as the information here. As in the past two years there will be 3 options for you to choose from:

1. Pick-up The Steeple at church on Sundays or during the week
2. Have The Steeple e-mailed using an e-mail address
3. Pay \$8.40 for postage throughout the year for The Steeple to be mailed to your home.

We do hope that The Steeple is something you look forward to receiving and reading. If you have suggestions for new features we can include in The Steeple, please be sure to let the Church Office know! Happy Reading!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - If bad weather requires the cancellation of worship services, we will:

- ✦ leave a message on the answering machine
- ✦ contact TV Channel 5 and WBGZ-radio
- ✦ post a notice on our website (if possible), www.stpaulwired.org
- ✦ contact those on the e-mail prayer chain (if possible)





PECANS : There are still a few bags of regular pecans...
\$9.50 for the 1lb. bag of plain
 You may come by the church office and purchase your pecans throughout the week or buy them on Sundays!



HELPING HANDS



The Helping Hands for Christ Class went shopping for an East Alton family whose father is incarcerated and who are living with their grandmother. They wanted to help the 5 yr. old and 1 yr. old have a Merry Christmas.

The class received the name from Angel Tree Ministries, a program of Prison Fellowship. (Prison Fellowship was founded by Chuck Colson following his release from prison. Chuck Colson was imprisoned for his role in the Watergate Scandal.)

Caring for families whose parents are in prison goes back to our Methodist beginnings. Jesus also told us to do this as well. Did you know that Angel Tree had the names of 17 families in East Alton where at least one parent was incarcerated?



The Roxana Jr. & Sr. High School student councils want to thank St. Paul UMC for their generous donations of Christmas gifts for some of the at-risk students in our school district. The sponsor commented that their donations were down this year; therefore, they really appreciated St. Paul's giving spirit.

Although many things may change, God will make a way for the church to be the church in this present day. The church can go along with God's plan or she can fight that plan with her last breath.

~Dottie Escobedo-Frank~



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!
Contact Betsy Blacklock (259-3858) for more information!

THE WOMEN OF WORSHIP THANK YOU!

The Women of Worship held their Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 8 after the second service. The party was postponed from Thursday the 5th due to bad weather. During the year the following FUND RAISING PROJECTS were held beginning in March: Retired Teachers Luncheon, Annual Rummage Sale, Bowling Banquet, Craft Sale, and Fall Festival. Of course, we would not be able to do these events without help from all of the wonderful volunteers in the church and we truly appreciate everything you do when called upon to help.

In addition, over 150 Coverlets were made by Beulah Moore and Elinor Blacklock for Oasis Women's Center, we assembled 41 Easter Baskets, and made and delivered 20 Happy Bears each month for Alton Memorial Hospital. Donations of caps, mittens, socks, and underwear were distributed to the local schools. The Craft Group worked on crafts all year until the Craft Sale and Fall Festival with other individuals contributing many hours crocheting scrubbies (Sally Lay over 350, Phyllis Hill, and Gerry Ward). Ruth Harris has been making baby caps for newborns for several years. Connie Martin has been making them off and on, too.

Following is a list of the donations that were disbursed at the meeting:

**Nurses = Roxana - \$1400, Bethalto - \$400, East Alton - \$600;
Salvation Army - \$500, OASIS Women's Center - \$300, Community Hope Center - \$150,
Operation Blessing - \$150, Boy Scouts - \$200, Cub Scouts - \$200, UMCOR - \$600,
UM Children's Home - \$600, St. Paul Helping Hand - \$900, Lessie Bates - \$750,
St. Paul Happy Bears - \$200, St. Paul Budget - \$1800
for a total of \$8,750.**

Again, THANK YOU to all who helped in any way to make our projects successful. We couldn't have done it without you. God has richly blessed us and it is such a pleasure to be able to support so many worthwhile groups. We are a busy group - you are invited to join us any time. The fellowship is always great!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 7th with a potluck starting at noon – yearly planning meeting to follow. We welcome any ideas for crafts and would love to have you join us any Tuesday morning beginning at 9 a.m. – starting date to be announced after Jan. meeting.



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 wall in the entryway in front of the sanctuary for a replacement. Your estimate is important as we approve a budget for 2014.

- A total of **93** individuals, couples, and families have completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* to-date (1/1/2014).
- The total committed on these *Estimate of Giving Cards* to our ministry for 2014 to-date is **\$203,032.00**.



Hospice...
Hospital...
Nursing/Care Center...

PLEASE
HELP US
HELP YOU!

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, care/nursing center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office. None of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws. We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call will be the only way for us to know of the situation. Thank you for your help!

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, 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 were sent bulk mail to you in December. They should have arrived at your house by now. You will not receive a box but an envelope with your offering envelopes inside. **You may start using these envelopes now!**

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!!



Have you been away too long?
Start 2014 off in the right way;
reconnect with God!



JANUARY - Church of Rock (COR)

Youth News

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

Sunday, January 5 - COR Youth MOVIE NIGHT at the BUMC youth house @ 6:30 P.M.! There will be pizza and soda! Jr. High bring a 2 liter of soda and Sr. High bring a bag of chips!

Sunday, January 12 - Youth praise band practice at BUMC @ 6:00 P.M. COR (Youth group) at BUMC @ 6:30 P.M.

Sunday, January 19 - WINTER JAM!! Meet at St. Paul UMC at 5:00 P.M. to load up and head out for an awesome night of music and fun! \$10 for a ticket + bring extra \$ for food/souvenirs! Returning about 11 P.M.

Sunday, January 26 - PARENT - TEEN GAME NIGHT! This is a game night for parents and their kids, and kids and their parents! Meet at St. Paul UMC @ 6:30 P.M. for a fun night of competition!! (Sample games: Minute To Win It, Mystery Food, and Dizzy Dean.)

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

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your GIFT GIVES HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

"That's mine," says Monte Payne, pointing to a pretty brick bungalow. "Twenty years ago, I was homeless, on the streets, on drugs. I bought that home this year. God is good."

Monte traces much of his success to the Hoover Treatment Center at Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church. As the only licensed, faith-based provider of its kind in Arkansas, the center provides a structured, 24-hour, intensive residential and outpatient program for adults.

BRINGING PEOPLE OUT OF DARKNESS

Thanks to the program, Monte realized he had to change. "I was dying spiritually."

Today, Monte works full-time as a counselor at Will's House — supportive housing for recovering addicts — and leads recovery meetings at the church.

"I lived in the dark," he said. "Now I live in the light."

YOUR GIFT MATTERS. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

Your financial gift encourages the weary and empowers the afflicted like Monte, who are just trying to survive. The United Methodist Human Relations Day offering empowers people to change their lives. Thank you for your gift.

Human Relations Day, January 19. Use any offering envelope and designate a gift for Human Relations Day.



the Selfish Giant

What do you get when you mix a garden, a giant, children, and music? You'll have to wait and hear "The Selfish Giant."

Open to all children in 3rd through 6th grades, this special musical is a joint effort between the church and the Arts Academy of Illinois. Auditions are:

Mon., January 27 - Maryville, 3-5 p.m.

Tues., January 28 - St. Paul UMC, 3-6 p.m.

Two (2) performances will be held the weekend of April 26th. See Harvey Chiles to sign up for an audition time or email him at hchiles@artsacademyil.com.

This is an outreach event so invite friends, neighbors, and non-church members, too.





The children of More Jesus time wished the folks at St. Paul a very Merry Christmas in their own way! And have a Happy New Year!

