



THE STEEPLE

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

MARCH 2014



Ernest Kasemann, a Bible scholar, asserted that the writers of the gospels are interested in two questions: **Who Is Jesus?** and **Do You Know Jesus?** While the portrait of Jesus painted by each writer represents the interests and concerns of their community, all confess that Jesus is the Son of God. John is the most explicit in stating why he wrote his gospel: *“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”* The gospels fail if they do not give rise to faith or, at the very least, challenge us to seize the life offered to us in Jesus.

The movie, *SON OF GOD*, strives to answer the same question as the gospel writers: *Who Is Jesus?* For the next four Sundays, we will consider this same question: *Who Is Jesus?* Each sermon will be launched by a film clip from the movie. During the sermons, we will consider the second question as well: *Do You Know Jesus?* If we stop at knowing who Jesus is, it does us little good. Even the evil spirits recognize Jesus is the Holy One of God. (Mark 1:23-24) We need to move beyond knowing who Jesus is to knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. Until we make this leap of faith, the gospel writers’ mission remains unfulfilled. **We invite you to join us for the SON OF GOD sermon series beginning March 2 at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.**

Besides the sermon series, we offer a four week Bible study based on the *SON OF GOD* movie. The study uses a different film clip from the movie to spark discussion. **We invite you to join us in the Small Group Study on Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel/Prayer Room. Each session stands alone, so you may come for just one. Here is the schedule:**

- March 2: The Savior of the World**
- March 9: The Son of God**
- March 16: The Man of Sorrows**
- March 23: The Lamb of God**

My prayer is that at the end of this series, when we are asked: *Do You Know Jesus?* we all may answer a loud “Yes.” Pastor Daryl





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- We ask your **prayers for those attending the Radical Hospitality workshop on March 8** at St. John's UMC in Edwardsville. **Also, for the team assembled to begin the How to Reach Younger Adults process on March 14-15.** Out of this weekend, the team will develop a ministry plan that will guide us throughout the rest of the year. We need God's direction as we discern the path for our congregation.
- Please **pray for our custodian, Joe Hanfelder**, who is recovering from surgery. We are blessed by someone who is so diligent in providing a nice place to worship and do ministry. Until Joe returns, Phil Tite will fill in.
- Congratulations to Pete & Sarah Laufersweiler on the birth of their son, **William Eric Laufer-sweiler.** He was born on Feb. 15th weighing 7lbs. 7oz. His big brother is Logan, his grandmother is Debbie Stewart, and his great-grandparents are Jim & Anna Mae Stewart!
- Our prayers for comfort and peace are extended to these families: family of **Norma Sands**, mother/mother-in-law of Deanna (step-daughter of Vivian Sands-Franklin) & Mark Barnes; family of **Norma Bishop**, cousin of Phyllis Hill; family of **Juanita Huddleston**, mother/mother-in-law of Rick & Jeannie Huddleston; family of **Charlotte O'Hara** (a former member), sister/sister-in-law of Joan & Phill Ford; and family of **Christine Allsup**, friend of Laura White.
- We wish to thank the **Board of Trustees and everyone who worked on the renovation** of the Parsonage kitchen and the installation of a new basement shower. A special thanks to John Hendricks who make the new kitchen cabinets. Your volunteer labor enabled us to complete the project for \$17,060.

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)

TREASURE CHEST

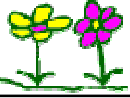
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



...that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- COLOSSIANS 2:2,3 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters



THANK YOU

→ Thank yous are saved throughout the month and included in the next month's newsletter.

THANK YOU: We would like to thank everyone involved in Steve's Celebration Service (including the yummy cookies and brownies). Thanks also for all the years of support as Steve battled his brain tumor.

We appreciate everyone's support!

The Stamper, Friedel, and Brueggeman Families

THANK YOU: Thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers, and dinners following my knee replacement surgery. Pastor Daryl's hospital visit was appreciated as were the great dinners from Mike & Kathy Link and Randy & Mindy McLain. *Anita Dawson*

THANK YOU: Thank you for your expressions of sympathy at the time of the death of Debra's Aunt Nee Nee and Daryl's mother. At times like this, it is so comforting to have a church family that surrounds you with love. *Pastor Daryl, Debra, and Meg*

THANK YOU: Thank you to our church family for all the prayers, cards, and support at the time of the death of Chuck Tite. What a tremendous help everyone has been to us in their own way and words do not adequately express our gratitude. God bless you!
Phil, Debbie, & Ryan Tite; Lindsey & Kevin Rader

Ash Wednesday

WORSHIP SERVICE
MARCH 5 @ 7 P.M.
WITH THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
HOLY COMMUNION
SPECIAL MUSIC

Psalm 51:17 (NIV)
My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.



PRAYER CHAIN PARTNER

We are updating our list of prayer partners who pray for those that are added to the Prayer Chain. Are you a prayer warrior? We could use your help. Please call the church office (259-5210) or contact us by email (info@stpaulwired.org) to let us know if you are led to participate in any of these ways:

- I will continue on the list as a prayer partner.
- I want to be added to the list as a prayer partner.
- I volunteer to be lead caller for a team of 3-4 people.
- I want to participate by email.

Thank you so much for your help with this

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



FAITH THE SIZE OF A PAPER BAG

For the Lord did not give us a spirit of timidity (and hyperventilation), but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline. **2 Timothy 1:7**



Sundays at St. Paul in MARCH 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.

2 Last Sunday after Epiphany. The Son of God sermon series begins with *The Son of Man*.



9 First Sunday in Lent. Birthday Sunday. Communion celebrated. Daylight Savings time begins. The Son of God sermon series continues with *The Sinner’s Friend*.



16 Second Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated. The Son of God sermon series continues with *The Anointed One*.



23 Third Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated. The Son of God sermon series ends with *The Coming King*



30 Fourth Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated. New sermon series, *Crossroads*, begins. We walk with Jesus on the way to the cross; exploring what that journey meant for Him and means for 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. **Submissions accepted now through April 6th!** All forms of fine art will be considered including: sculpture, ceramic, oils, watercolor, photography, digital art, etc. Does not include the written word.

What is your specialty??? The competition is open to everyone!

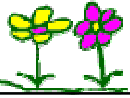
LENT, THE 40 DAYS BEFORE EASTER



(minus the Sundays), has always been a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. In times past, people often fasted from certain foods or pleasures during Lent. This was intended to remind everyone of the greater sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross. Rather than take something away from Lent, we have added something this year:

COMMUNION

We are celebrating communion every Sunday throughout Lent in the hope that it will draw us closer to Jesus. During this season, we will celebrate this holy meal in different ways and at different points in our worship service. In our church, communion is open to everyone. We ask only that you come seeking God’s help in casting aside the sin (disobedience, rebellion) that remains in your life and taking up with God’s help the challenge of living Jesus’ life. We desire to make communion the focus of our worship throughout this season of Lent because we trust in its power to connect us more tightly to the Christ. Our prayer is that communion will fill all the empty places in our lives.



Nurses Notes for MARCH 2014

Zzzz's- are you getting enough each night? **March is Sleep Awareness Month-** a time to encourage people to establish better sleep habits. Most adults need 7-8 hours of sleep each night to feel rested and be able to tackle the day. Yet research has shown that more than 1/3 of the people in the U.S. report sleeping less than seven hours a night. In today's fast pace, sleep has become a luxury- it is not high on our "to do" list. But sleep should be a priority. Sleep is important to our physical and mental well being. The National Sleep Foundation tells us that: *"Getting enough sleep also contributes to how we feel and perform the following day and impacts the overall quality of our lives."*



Why don't we get enough sleep? Causes of insufficient sleep include lifestyle and occupational factors, some medical conditions, financial concerns and other stresses, and certain medications. Physical factors can include pain, the need to use the bathroom, noise, and lighting. **Sleep disorder warning signs:**

- Consistently taking more than 30 minutes to fall asleep
- Frequent and long naps during the day
- Difficulty concentrating at work or school
- Waking up too early in the morning
- Loud snoring, breathing, or gasping noises while you sleep
- Requiring a stimulant like caffeine to keep yourself awake during the day
- An irresistible urge to move your legs, or a tingling or crawling feeling in the legs, particularly at bedtime
- Perpetual fatigue and irritability during the day, even after getting seven or eight hours of sleep a night
- Waking up several times in the middle of the night and remaining awake, sometimes for hours
- Falling asleep at inappropriate times, mostly when sitting still to watch television or read

The National Sleep Foundation believes that the bedroom should be a sanctuary for rest. They now have a website to help people to review and make changes to their bedrooms to promote a good night's sleep. Visit bedroom.sleepfoundation.org for more information. For some, sleep comes naturally and they fall asleep as soon as their head hits the pillow. For others, getting enough sleep is a major challenge that may need some interventions. The promotion of sleep is known as *sleep hygiene*. The National Sleep Foundation recommendations are listed below:

- **Go to bed at the same time each night and rise at the same time each morning.**
- **Make sure your bedroom is dark, quiet, and relaxing.** The bedroom is not the place to do projects from work, watching T.V., grading papers, etc.
- **All "gadgets" such as cell phones, computers, and TV's should not be in the bedroom.**
- **Avoid large meals before bedtime.**

Other interventions can include:

- **Stick to the same bedtime and wake up time, even on the weekends.** This helps regulate your body's clock; helps you fall and stay asleep.
- **Practice a relaxing bedtime ritual.** A relaxing, routine activity right before bedtime conducted away from bright lights helps separate your sleep time from activities that can cause stress or anxiety which can make it more difficult to fall asleep, get sound and deep sleep, or remain asleep.
- **Avoid napping, especially in the afternoon.** A power nap may help you get through the day, but if you find that you can't fall asleep at bedtime, eliminating even short catnaps may help.
- **Exercise daily.** Vigorous exercise is best; even light exercise is better than no activity. Exercise at any time of day, but not at the expense of sleep.
- **Evaluate your room.** Design your sleep environment to establish the conditions you need for sleep. Your bedroom should be cool – between 60 and 67 degrees. Your bedroom should also be free from any noise that can disturb your sleep. Finally, your bedroom should be free from any light. Check your room for noises or other distractions. This includes a bed partner's sleep disruptions such as snoring. Consider using blackout curtains, eye shades, ear plugs, "white noise" machines, humidifiers, fans, and other devices.
- **Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillows.** Make sure your mattress is comfortable and supportive. The one you have been using for years may have exceeded its life expectancy – about 9 or 10 years for most good quality mattresses. Have comfortable pillows and make the room inviting for sleep but also free of allergens that might affect you and objects that might cause you to slip or fall if you have to get up during the night.
- **Use bright light to help manage your "circadian rhythms.** Avoid bright light in the evening and expose yourself to sunlight in the morning.
- **Avoid alcohol, cigarettes, and heavy meals in the evening.** Alcohol, cigarettes and caffeine can disrupt sleep. Eating big or spicy meals can cause discomfort from indigestion that can make it hard to sleep. It is good to finish eating at least 2-3 hours before bedtime.
- **Wind down.** Your body needs time to shift into sleep mode, so spend the last hour before bed doing a calming activity such as reading. For some people, using an electronic device such as a laptop can make it hard to fall asleep, because the particular type of light emanating from the screens of these devices is activating to the brain. If you have trouble sleeping, avoid electronics before bed or in the middle of the night.
- **If you can't sleep, go into another room and do something relaxing until you feel tired.** It is best to take work materials, computers, and televisions out of the sleeping environment. Use your bed only for sleep and sex to strengthen the association between bed and sleep. If you associate a particular activity or item with anxiety about sleeping, omit it from your bedtime routine.

Sources: CDC, National Sleep Foundation

Don't forget to get your zzz's! Blessings to all of you!

Eileen

Psalm 62:5 "Yes, my soul, find rest in God: my hope comes from him."



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

- March 01 Betts, Lisa
- March 02 Brown, Robert
- March 02 Voorhees, Ricci
- March 02 Baker, Kristin
- March 03 Toner, Ted
- March 04 Ballard, Iola
- March 04 Hanley, Lee Jr.
- March 04 Napp, Allan
- March 04 Springer, Brent
- March 05 Toner, Chuck
- March 05 Plummer, Alexis
- March 07 Glassmeyer, Judy
- March 07 Mayer, Mark
- March 08 Hamm, Pat
- March 09 Herndon, Claudia
- March 09 Bell, Corey
- March 09 Scroggins, Brian
- March 09 Fansler, Meg
- March 09 Clark, Landon
- March 10 Hamilton, Donna
- March 10 Emerick, Micki
- March 11 Diveley, Kasey
- March 11 Oertle, Jill
- March 11 Laws, Ashley
- March 12 Toner, Brooke
- March 13 Huddleston, John
- March 13 Schroedter, Stephanie
- March 13 Terry, Codey

- March 13 Bonds, Hunter
- March 17 Upple, Carol
- March 17 Kainz, Jean
- March 17 Workman, Andy
- March 17 Foiles, Kelsey
- March 17 Henderson, Sophia
- March 17 Schiber, Rachel
- March 18 Birmingham, Harvey
- March 19 Ward, Gerry
- March 19 Huddleston, Rick
- March 19 Tillery, Joe
- March 19 Witthoft, Tim
- March 20 Michels, Mike
- March 20 Clark, Katie
- March 20 Gwaltney, Matt
- March 21 Hill, Phyllis
- March 21 Bishop, Krista
- March 22 Brueggeman, Randy
- March 22 Kamp, Lori
- March 22 Napp, Kyle
- March 22 Toner, Matt
- March 22 Gebhardt, Lucas
- March 23 Moon, Bob
- March 23 Sandbach, Justin
- March 24 Grizzle, Lucy

- March 24 Oertle, Logan
- March 24 White, Audrey
- March 25 Dawson, Anita
- March 25 LaTempt, Tonya
- March 26 McCammon, Toby
- March 26 Bell, Jayden
- March 28 Sparling, Rick III
- March 28 Watt, Tyler
- March 29 Hamlin, Mark
- March 29 Bentley, Tracy
- March 30 Eyster, Chris
- March 30 Wells, Amy
- March 31 Gwaltney, Don Sr.
- March 31 Blacklock, Betsy



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- March 02 Dorsey, Norris & Mary Lou
- March 03 Buatte, David & Cherie
- March 07 Garrison, Andrew & Jennifer
- March 09 Ortegren, Al & Bobbi
- March 09 Springer, Brent & Jessie
- March 11 Roberts, Brian & Jennifer

- March 14 Basden, Bill & Gloria
- March 19 Herndon, Jim & Jane
- March 20 White, Jeff & Laura Mae
- March 21 Scroggins, Mike & Linda



Updates to the current church directory:

Changes/Additions: Mrs. Patsy Goss new phone number: 618-717-0036.

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!



FEBRUARY Stewardship

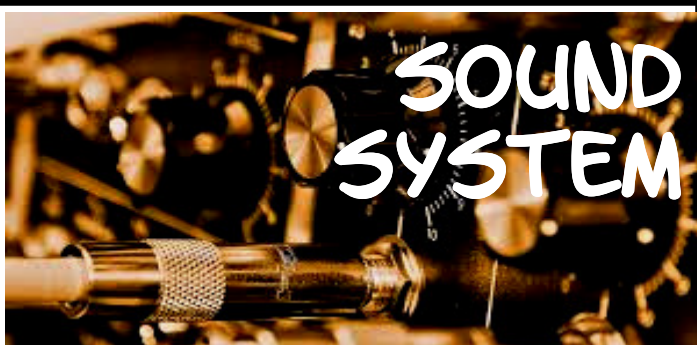
Budget Offering:	through 2/28/2014	18029.00
Designated Giving:	through 2/28/2014	2277.00
	Capital Improvements	305.00
	Loose Change	81.00
	Flowers	266.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	60.00
	Memorials	1325.00
	Gas & Electricity	200.00
	Offering Envelope	20.00
	Youth	20.00
Souper Bowl Offering		265.00
Steeple Postage for 2014		50.20
Reimbursements		611.21
Elevator Fund		100.00
Charles McKnelly		100.00
Total:		\$21432.41



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

March's Loose Change Project is McKendree University. This university was established as a private Methodist College. It currently has over 2,000 students and 150 staff. The university needs financial support for scholarships, building funds, and the many other needs always present in maintaining an ongoing educational institution.

**DEADLINE FOR
APRIL 2014
STEEPLE, Wed.,
MAR. 19th!**



Those who have been present in worship know that our sound system is failing fast. We have ordered a new system at a cost of just under \$10,000. While it may seem that it was just a few years ago that the current system was installed, it is 16 years old (well past a normal lifespan). With the new system, we will be able to adjust the board on an iPad or iPhone as well as in the choir loft. Also, we will eliminate the microphone cords strung across the carpet by the piano. Those two microphones by the piano will be replaced with wireless mikes.

The outdated lapel mikes and CD player will be replaced as well. Our intention is to pay for this new sound system with gifts from the Endowment Fund and Memorials. Output Unlimited from Alton is installing the new system.

MARCH Ushers (10:30):
Mar. 2nd: Tracy Franks, Doloros Taulbee, Tana Yankovich
Mar. 9th: Maggie Funke
Mar. 16th: 4 needed!
Mar. 23rd: 4 needed!
Mar. 30th: 4 needed!

➔ Call the Head Usher if you can help!

**MARCH Head Usher:
DOROTHY KASINGER**

Average Attendance for FEBRUARY 2014

Early Service	43
Late Service	95
Sunday School	55
Visitors	2



**Happy St.
Patrick's Day,
March 17th**



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 and the first Sunday in February as well as the information here. As in the past two years there will be 3 options for you to choose from:

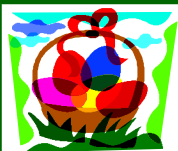
1. Pick-up The Steeple at church on Sundays or during the week
2. Have The Steeple e-mailed using an e-mail address
3. Pay \$8.40 for postage throughout the year for The Steeple to be mailed to your home.

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!

Flower Calendar for 2014 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. Fill it up! Thank you!



We have a non-member who has requested August 30th as her wedding date. It is important for any church member who might be thinking of using that date to let us know immediately. If we do not hear from anyone we will give the non-member the go ahead for the date. Thank you!



Easter Baskets for Needy Children

Once again our congregation has the opportunity to make Easter Baskets for needy children. We have delivered approximately 370 baskets over the last 8 years to the Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing. We deliver baskets before Easter.

Baskets can be homemade or bought. Traditional Easter candy, a small toy, a stuffed animal, or some personal items, or school supplies can go into them. We do ask that you cover the basket with cellophane or some kind of see through protection,

so the items do not fall out. Place these in the food collection area.

You can also bring individual items which will be made into baskets by the craft ladies. Put the items in the bins labeled for such in the same area. The craft ladies will then assemble baskets from these. We need "empty" baskets and we need lots of good things to fill them with.

Easter is on April 20th this year...
Individual items need to be in the collection area by Sunday, April 6th.
Completed Baskets need to be in the collection area by Wednesday, April 13th.
Delivery will take place on the week of April 13th.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

**RENEW A
STEADFAST
SPIRIT
WITHIN ME.**

PSALM 51:10, NIV



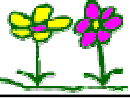
SPRING FORWARD



Beginning of Daylight Savings Time

**Sunday,
March
9th**

**Set your
clock ahead
one
hour!**



We say goodbye to our friend...

Charles "Chuck" Oral Tite, 87, passed away 10:50 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, 2014, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville.

Born on March 31, 1926 in Gallatin County, he was the son of Edward and Cynthia (Leavell) Tite.

A U.S. army veteran of World War II, he had been a shop foreman for Illinois Power Company. He loved being outdoors and most of all enjoyed being with his children and grandchildren. He was a much loved son, brother, husband, father and grandfather; his kindness and laughter brought joy to his family and friends.

He married the former Alice Lorraine McNabney, who preceded him in death on Oct. 23, 2010.

Surviving are a son, Phillip (Debbie) Tite of Bethalto; daughter, Cheryl (Tom) Snyder of Wood River; three grandchildren, Lindsey (Kevin) Rader, Ryan Tite, Nicole Burrus; three great-grandchildren, Jasmine Burrus, Levan and Janay Fipps; and a sister, Imogene Nicholson of Cottage Hills.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; seven brothers and five sisters.

Visitation will be from 9a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Marks Mortuary in Wood River. Pastor Daryl Fansler will officiate.

Burial will follow in Wanda Cemetery in South Roxana, with military honors presented by Alton V.F.W. Post 1308.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimers Disease Foundation or St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights.

Rev. Billy Graham once told Time magazine, *"If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the Resurrection, because that is the heart of Christianity."*

Paul understands that the resurrection is the heart of our faith. That is why he devotes this whole chapter of I Corinthians 15 to a defense of the resurrection. Paul believes in the resurrection because he saw the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus. Only a risen Jesus could transform Paul from a persecutor into a promoter of the faith. Paul tells the church that I would not have been risking my life telling the story of Jesus if I were not convinced that it is true!

Having once doubted the truth of the Resurrection, Paul understands how others might dismiss his vision of risen Lord as the delusion of an unstable person. That is why he lists all those who witnessed the risen Jesus....up to 500 followers.

He wants the church to know that he has based his life--not upon a delusion--but a fundamental reality. For the Resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. I love the way The Message puts it: **"IF ALL WE GET OUT OF CHRIST IS A LITTLE INSPIRATION FOR A FEW SHORT YEARS, WE'RE A PRETTY SORRY LOT. BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT CHRIST HAS BEEN RASIED UP, THE FIRST IN A LONG LEGACY OF THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE CEMETERIES."**

Chuck Tite saved an Easter bulletin from his time of service during WWII, not because he was a hoarder, but because they meant something very real and fundamental in his life. These are words he wanted to remember...words he wanted to guide his daily living.

Against the backdrop of WWII where so many young men lost their lives, Christianity as a philosophy for living has little appeal. What comfort could such an anemic faith provide for grieving families? Paul argues that if the resurrection is an illusion, then we should be pitied for clinging to empty promises. We should be out there eating, drinking, celebrating like there was no tomorrow...because there isn't. This world is all that there is.

Paul reaffirms that he stands upon the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. He says: **"IT'S RESURRECTION, RESURRECTION, ALWAYS RESURRECTION, THAT UNDERGIRDS WHAT I DO AND SAY, THE WAY I LIVE."**

The Resurrection is God's endorsement of Jesus and His Way. We should listen to Jesus, believe Jesus, and follow Jesus because His Way does not end in death, but life. The Resurrection makes Jesus' life the only life worth living.

The glorious truth is that Jesus' Resurrection is the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries. I think Chuck saved this bulletin because it was these assurances of Paul in I Corinthians 15 that provided hope in the midst of that terrible war. The only true hope.

It is our prayer that this hope will comfort Chuck's family; especially Phil & Debbie and Ryan Tite, Lindsey & Kevin Rader. Pastor Daryl



We say goodbye to our friend...

Stephen Michael Stamper, 60, lost his three-and-a-half-year battle with brain cancer on Friday, Jan. 31, 2014, surrounded by his loved ones.

He was born in Riverside, Calif., to William and Carol (Smith) Stamper.

He is survived by his parents; his best friend and wife, Cheryl; his children, Amy (Pat) Friedel, Chris (Houda) Stamper; his stepchildren, Luke (Jamie) Gaze, Bucky (Virginia) Gaze, Jeanne Gaze, Robynn (Lauren) Gaze and Levi Gaze. And we must not forget his best buddy, his spoiled dog, Abby.

Steve is also survived by his sister, Joyce (Randy) Brueggeman, and his brother, Kenny (Martha) Stamper. He was also a loved Papa to Patrick and Bryant Friedel, Elias Stamper, Bethani and Lukas Gaze, and Elizabeth and Isabella Vasquez.

Steve graduated from Roxana High School in 1971. He was an Eagle Scout. He worked for Venture stores for 28 years prior to their closing. He was also a Roxana Volunteer Firefighter for just about as many years. He was Fire Chief for the Village of Roxana and also a street department employee until the time of his brain cancer diagnosis. He loved the outdoors, camping, hunting, trout fishing at Bennett Springs, sturgeon and salmon fishing on the Columbia River. Some of his best times were white water rafting with the kids on the White Salmon River and zip lining at Glacier National Park with best friends Terry and Becky Close. Steve and Cheryl spent the past year and a half travelling and campground hosting on the Columbia River. During his year and a half hosting, he has met and touched many lives.

A Celebration of His Life will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 10 N. Center, Rosewood Heights, by Pastor Daryl Fansler. Professional services are entrusted to Paynic Home for Funerals, with online guestbook and information at www.paynicfh.com.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to St. Luke's Cancer Center or Head For The Cure.

The celebration of Steve Stamper's life centered around love; especially as it is defined by Paul in I Corinthians 13. The love that Steve Stamper poured into our lives—as son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. And, the love we returned to him.

Jesus makes it clear that **love marks us as His disciples**. *"We love,"* 1 John says, *"because Christ first loved us."* Sometimes love costs us mightily. This is how much God love us, He withheld nothing from us...not even His own son. **FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

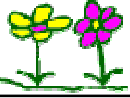
Sometimes, love hurts. Sometimes, there is a terrible cost connected with love. Jesus dies so we might live...that is the cost of God's love for us. It may have been the spikes of the Roman soldiers that lifted Jesus upon the cross, but it was God's great love for every one of us that kept Jesus there. Jesus is the embodiment of God's love for every one of us. He said that if we want to know the Father, we need only look at Him. As we gaze upon Jesus, we see the depth of God's love for us. Every one of us is His precious child. God's great desire is that none of us shall be separated from Him.

While death has separated us from Steve Stamper—for a little while—death has not separated him from God. Nothing can pry us loose from God's loving embrace. God's love is being showered upon Steve in ways we may only imagine.

Let me remind you that Paul tells us in I Corinthians 13 that **love never ends**. There are other gifts from God that cease, but not love. So the love we gave Steve, the love he returned to us...none of that is gone. It is part of the fabric of all our lives. It is part of our legacy that we share with our children and they in turn pass on to their children. That is why our Christlike love has such a powerful impact upon this world. It builds generation upon generation; transforming our world. Filling our world with a love that thinks of the other before self.

Because of Jesus' great love for us, our tears are not **forever tears**, but only **for a little while tears**. Soon, these tears of sorrow will turn into tears of joy. For we shall cry tears of joy whenever we reach heaven and see Steve once more. Until, then Jesus is pretty clear about what we are to do. We are to **love others as He first loved us**. For, it is our love that marks us as His disciples. As Paul says: **"And now we have these three: faith and hope and love, but the greatest of these is love."**

Steve fought a brave battle with his cancer. He made the most of these last three years. Please keep Steve Stamper's family in your prayers. Pray that God will comfort them. Pastor Daryl



We say goodbye to Sara Pauline Fansler - Mother of Pastor Daryl Fansler:

My mother's body was buried with a well worn Bible in one hand and a fork in her other. Although Sara Pauline Fansler was raised a strict Calvinist in a long line of Calvinists going back to Scotland, she was attracted in high school to the teachings of John Wesley. She lived her life in the conviction that it was possible to know more of God's grace during each year upon this earth and with the assurance of her salvation. She never wavered in her belief that the best was yet to come. This assurance was reflected in the two hymns, my mom had chosen for us to sing as a congregation on last Friday as we celebrated her life: *Blessed Assurance* and *How Great Thou Art* and the solo that our cousin Ed sang: *Hymn of Promise*.

Although we buried my mom's body on Friday, her life had always belonged to God. On Monday, February 17th, she went home. She had asked us a few months before if it was O.K. with us if she went home and we all said, "Yes."

My mom had rheumatic fever as a child and was told by a doctor that it was best for her not to have children. So, of course she had five Ds: 2 boys and 3 girls. She named all of us with names beginning with the letter D. Another example of her quirky humor. Having children was another example of a life lived dependent upon God's overflowing grace.

Her father was a tenant farmer, so they moved frequently during her childhood. My mom was smart and kept getting bumped up a grade with each move. This is why she ended up graduating from high school at 16 and then beginning a career as a secretary/bookkeeper.

The family moved during her senior year of high school. Polly stayed behind rooming with a woman in Altona. On Thursdays, the landlady was busy so my mom received 15 cents to eat supper at the local cafe. That is where my mom met my dad. The family lore is that he had to ask her out many, many times before she said "Yes." They married a few years after when both were working in Galesburg.

When we moved from a rental home on Brooks St. to the first and only home they ever owned on First St., my mom had one stipulation. Any house they bought had to be within walking distance of the Evangelical United Brethren Church they attended. My mom did not drive and my dad worked on Sundays as a baker. There my mom continued her journey with the Wesleys. I wish I had a quarter for every time we walked the block and half to church. Although our mom did not leave us a monetary fortune, she imparted to all of us a great, spiritual treasure.

Our Clergy Covenant Group is reading Don Thorsen's book, *Calvin vs. Wesley: Bringing Believe in Line with Practice*. The thesis is that even those who profess to be Calvinists live like Wesleyans. Thorsen summarizes beliefs of Wesleyanism with the acronym: ACURA: 1.All are sinful, 2.Conditional election, 3.Unlimited atonement, 4.Resistable grace, and 5.Assurance of salvation. This is not the place to expand upon the finer points of Wesleyan belief. In Thorsen's book is quoted a Charles Wesley hymn that captures my mother's spirit so well:

We need no reprobates to prove
That grace, free-grace is free,
Who cannot see that God is love,
Open your eyes, and look on me.

On us, whom Jesus hath call'd forth,
T' assert that all his grace may have,
To vindicate his passion's worth
Enough ten thousand worlds to save.

He made it possible for all
His gift of righteousness t'embrace,
We all may answer to his call,

May all be freely sav'd by grace.
He promis'd all mankind to draw;
We feel him draw us from above;
And preach with him the gracious law,
And publish the decree of love.

At our supper table and in our home there was always room for one more. One more to be the recipient of God's ever flowing grace. Whether it was handing out cookies to the neighborhood children who gathered in our yard playing or inviting the woman whose husband was in service to Thanksgiving, my mom showed that we are to love because Christ first loved us. It is our calling to share God's abundant life with others.

My mom loved to laugh. On Mother's Day and her birthday, it was a competition among us to see who could find the card that would garner the biggest laugh. If we had sent a syrupy, sentimental card, mom would wonder what was wrong with us. My cousins could always count upon receiving a funny card from Aunt Polly on their birthday. Which is how my mom came to be buried with a Bible in one hand and a fork in the other.

My mom had read the following story:

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**Continued from Page 11**

A woman was diagnosed with a terminal illness and given three months to live. She asked her Pastor to come to her home to discuss her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at her funeral, and what scriptures she wanted read, and which outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Then she said, "One more thing... I want to be buried with a fork in my hand."

The pastor was surprised.

The woman explained, "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably say to everyone, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite time of the dinner, because I knew something better was coming, like velvety chocolate cake or deep dish apple pie - something wonderful. So, I want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and wonder, 'What's with the fork?' Then, I want you to tell them, 'Keep your fork, because the best is yet to come.'"

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he bid the woman goodbye. He realized she had a better grasp of heaven than he did, and knew something better was coming.

At the funeral, when people asked him why she was holding a fork, the pastor told them of the conversation he had with the woman before she died. He said he could not stop thinking about the fork, and knew they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

"Keep your fork. The best is yet to come."

My mom was noted for her desserts, especially her pies. So, I see how this story would appeal to her sense of humor. How she would decide to be buried with a Bible in one hand and a fork in the other. How she would see this decision as an affirmation of all that she believed and lived.

After Thanksgiving, my sister, Doris, and I had to laugh. Mom had settled in a chair in Doris' living room for the family event while my sister brought her all her favorite foods: turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, and the dressing with raisins from grandma's recipe. Afterwards as we were comparing notes, we discovered that mom had sent at least three different people to the dessert table for a piece of pie. On the way back to the nursing home, mom lamented to Doris that she had not had a sample of everything on the table. The next day, my sister brought her a taste of everything she had missed the day before.

My mom always kept her fork because she taught us that in life: *the best is yet to come*. Pastor Daryl

**ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE**

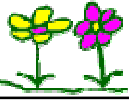
Friday, April 4th, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, April 5th, 8:30 a.m. until noon; \$2 admission charged for the Pre-sale only on Thursday night, April 3rd, 6-8 p.m.

Please - bring NO rummage before SATURDAY, March

15th... place items on the stage to keep the Fellowship Hall neat and useable... can be brought through MONDAY, March 31st. Start looking for your rummage while you are stuck inside!

HELP WANTED

Are you bored from the winter weather – eager to have something to do? The Women of Worship have solved your problem! **MANAGERS** are needed to make decisions about sorting clothes, kitchen items, Christmas décor, etc. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 31-April 2. **ACCOUNTANTS** and **BAGGERS** are needed on Thursday night, April 3, from 6 – 8 p.m., Friday, April 4, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, April 5, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. **MAINTENANCE CREW** will take over at noon on Saturday to pack up unsold items to deliver to Hope Center and Goodwill. **Also needed:** pickup trucks to deliver items not picked up by Hope Center Truck. Minimum wage will "sort of" prevail – per church volunteer status, all time accrued will be donated. **THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR VOLUNTEERING.**



MARCH - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

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

If you have want to attend either of these events, contact Kevin Rader at (618)303-0044.



Sunday, March 16th: GRANT NORSWORTHY Concert! Meet at StPUMC at 5:45 p.m. to attend!

Friday, March 28th: AUDIO ADRENALINE Concert! Meet at StPUMC at 5:45 p.m. to attend!



*open hearts
open minds
open doors*



ST PAUL
united methodist church

10 North Center St, East Alton, IL 62024
(618) 259-5210

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171020936311281/>

Who are we?

We are young adults with a passion for living, a passion for learning, and a passion for loving Christ! We CRAVE knowledge that helps us live more like Christ, we CRAVE a life filled with Christ's love, and we CRAVE fellowship with others that CRAVE the same. **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 – 18 years old to 30s.

CRAVE – Bible Study

Sundays – 9:15 a.m.
upstairs CRAVE Room

CRAVE – Activities

1st Sunday of each month –
Breakfast 9:15 a.m.
3rd Sunday of each month –
Lunch 11:30 a.m.

Mar 2nd Breakfast at 9:15

Mar 16th Lunch at 11:30

Apr 6th Breakfast at 9:15

Special Events –

CRAVE Dinner Party - Sun., March 30th
AGAPE Fest - Sat., April 26th



Service Projects –

Lunch Fundraiser - Sun., March 16th??
Raising Money for the Homeless - Sat.,
April 5th

ATTENTION 2014 High School Graduates!!

We want you to join us at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday for fellowship (and sometimes food)! For additional information on any and all activities or to learn more about CRAVE, please contact Betsy Blacklock at 618-259-3858 or e mail betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com



SON OF GOD

SON OF GOD SERMON SERIES AND SMALL GROUP STUDY March 2-23



- March 2: The Savior of the World**
- March 9: The Son of God**
- March 16: Man of Sorrows**
- March 23: Lamb of God**



The Small Group Studies are on Sundays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Chapel



Study is based upon the new motion picture, SON OF GOD, in theaters beginning February 28th. This motion picture is produced by Mark Barnett & Roma Downey who produced The Bible miniseries on the History Channel.

Hickerson Scholarship 2014



The tragic skiing accident of January 15, 1995, that claimed the life of Meghan Hickerson of Hartford, IL, will never be forgotten.

God has a way of healing hurt and turning tragedy into triumph. Meghan's death immediately gave life to several people, known collectively as "organ donor recipients." Her legacy of faith and service lives on through the "Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship" that is made available through St. Paul UMC.

Meghan was a student leader who set a standard of excellence within the public school system. She also set an example of faith and dedication by spreading God's love through her church and her academic life, to all she encountered. Our goal each year is to reward one or two deserving college-bound graduating seniors who sets for

him or herself the same standards of outstanding scholastic achievement and faith reflected in their everyday life.

Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the \$500.00 scholarship.

We encourage members to notify any student that may qualify and have them complete the application process. Application materials will be available through the counselors at the above mentioned schools or directly from the church office.

DEADLINE for completed application materials is: Tuesday, April 1, 2014

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 259-5210.