



THE STEEPLE

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

JULY 2014



⁴¹⁻⁴² Then those who welcomed his message were baptized, and on that day alone about three thousand souls were added to the number of disciples. They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in their fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer. ⁴³⁻⁴⁷ Everyone felt a deep sense of awe, while many miracles and signs took place through the apostles. All the believers shared everything in common; they sold their possessions and goods and divided the proceeds among the fellowship according to individual need. Day after day they met by common consent in the Temple; they broke bread together in their homes, sharing meals with simple joy. They praised God continually and all the people respected them. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were finding salvation. **Acts 2:41-47 J.B. Phillips**

While we were playing in the church park during Vacation Bible School, the 3 yr. old boys discovered a 2 ft. black snake slithering through the grass. In their own words, "it was awesome." I have to admit it was "awesome" as we watched the snake from a safe distance.

Our youth and young adults, with the guidance and assistance of a few adults, have assembled another awesome Vacation Bible School. They have spent hundreds of hours preparing for this week.

On Sundays, I've started leading us through the sermons in the book of Acts. The sermons (actually Luke's summary of the sermons) aren't fancy. They tell the story of Jesus.

The sermons underline that Jesus of Nazareth was a human being; like me and you. During his ministry, Jesus did miracles, wonders, and signs that revealed the presence of God within him. He was betrayed and put to death by the Romans with the collaboration of the Jewish leaders. God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus ascended into heaven where he sits at God's right hand. Finally, Jesus makes available to all of us the life that he lived: the abundant life.

Life is a lot like the first day of Vacation Bible School: chaotic, busy, noisy and you never have enough people helping with the work. In the midst of all this, we do what Peter, Paul, Stephen, and the disciples who followed them have done: we tell the story of Jesus. Some are so moved by the story that they are added to the numbers who find salvation (wholeness and health and life) in Jesus.

During a morning meditation at Annual Conference, Jessica told how she came to the Wesley Foundation at ISU because of a boy. She didn't get the boy, but she found Jesus. Or more to the point, Jesus found her. The Lord added her to the numbers who were finding salvation. Now, Jessica is a student at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary preparing to be a minister.

Jessica said that her friends ask her why she is wasting her time; training to serve Jesus in a dying denomination. Her response is that it is never a waste to serve Jesus. It is a privilege. Besides, why do we always forget about the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit that fills the disciples and called the church into being. If God is in this, why would we ever despair? Jessica's message so inspired the Annual Conference that at its end there were cheers and a standing ovation. Not for Jessica as much as for Jesus and his church.

While we were outside at VBS, there was a mother playing in the back yard with her two young children. I don't know their story, but the odds are that they aren't part of any church. I thought: those children need to hear the story of Jesus with its miracles, wonders and signs. The story that never ceases to move us with its awesomeness. The story that adds us to the numbers who are being saved.

That is why we do Vacation Bible School. That is why God planted us on this corner.
Pastor Daryl



THANK YOU

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

THANK YOU: The family of Doloros Taulbee would like to say "thank you" to all the church friends who prayed, sent cards, visited, provided food, and gave us support during Mon's illness and passing. We are so appreciative of the many heartwarming expressions of love for her. Also much appreciated were the extra visits and attention from Pastor Daryl and Nurse Eileen. We are grateful to the ladies who worked on the funeral dinner - you have outdone yourselves again - the food was delicious (even the leftovers) and the fellowship it provided was uplifting and a perfect ending to the service. Again, thank you so much!

Tracy, Trudy, Dan, & Kim and their families

THANK YOU: The family of Mike Wood says thank you for the meal for our family and friends that you so lovingly prepared. God Bless you all. Again, thank you for everything!

Kimberly, Emma, & Tony Wood

THANK YOU: To our friends at St. Paul, I can't begin to thank you all for your many kindnesses during Mike's illness. Pastor Daryl came to visit him every time he was an inpatient over the last 11 years and myself as well. We are so grateful for the prayers and best wishes. St. Paul has many prayer "warriors" who are effective at praying. Also, thank you to the ladies for the wonderful meal after the funeral - enough there even to feed the Patriot Guard. We are so very appreciative. Thank you! **Lisa Bell and Family**

THANK YOU: The celebration of my 99th birthday was a highlight of my life. Joy filled my heart from the time I entered the room there at Villa Rose. It was one of the most enjoyable experiences, one that I will treasure for the rest of my life. I enjoyed talking with and reminiscing about events in my past, such as teaching and being involved in the Sweet Sounds Ministry. I want to thank the members of my Sunday School class, Sweet Sounds, and other members of the three United Methodist Churches of which I have been a member, for attending. Thank you so much for the numerous cards and gifts that I received. I truly appreciated the entertainment by the Sweet Sounds, including the newly added verse to "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". It is so nice to be remembered by so many at this stage of my life. **Sincerely, Lois Welch**



A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BETTY ROBERTS:

Wednesday, July 9th

10:30 a.m. at St. Paul UMC

At Betty's request, please, send **NO Flowers**
Memorial gifts may be made for St. Paul UMC.

Please join the family as we celebrate
Betty's life in the way she has requested.

Everyone is welcomed.



OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Congratulations to **Nealy Tappy & Josh Budde** who were joined in marriage at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alton on Saturday, June 28th. Our prayer is that Christ will always dwell in their home and make it a place of peace.
- **DID YOU KNOW?** In 2013, the Midwest Distribution Center (where we sent our 24 layette kits, donated cash, and extra items) distributed 12,821 health kits, 2,046 layette kits, 2,556 cleaning buckets, 3,236 school kits, 1,114 sewing kits, 1,823 birthing kits, 23,486 school bags, 475 teacher school bags, and 340 school desks, 316 bedding kits, and 22,234 personal dignity kits. People donated 36,035 volunteer hours at the Center!
- We offer up our prayers to these families who are mourning the loss of a loved one: the family of **Mitchell Meisenheimer**, cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Vivian Barnes**, mother/mother-in-law of Mark & Deanna Barnes; the family of **Windell Cash**, dear friend of Lois Mitchell; the family of **Rev. Earl Clagg**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Doris Lamparter**, mother/mother-in-law of Mike & Kathy Link; the family of **Sam Millitello**, husband of Kay Millitello; the family of **Roy Baumberger**, the father of Rev. Dr. Bruce Baumberger, Chaplain at Alton Memorial Hospital; the family of **Aaron Bonds**, significant other to Kara Martin, father of Hunter Bonds; the family of **Norris Garner**, friend of Diane Murbarger; and the family of **Nels Turnquist**, uncle of Dave Schiber. May God comfort all of these families.
- We lift up these pastors from our greater Church Family whose lives are changing: **Rev. Gerald Savage** from Wanda as he moves into retirement. **Rev. Linda Richard** is the new pastor beginning July 1. Rev. Linda Richard is also serving Granite City Good Shepherd and Dewey Ave. United Methodist Churches. **Rev. Jame Hahs** who moves from Alton Main Street to Havana UMC. **Rev. Nicole Cox** who moves from Alton Main Street to Springfield First UMC. **Rev. Tim Pate** from Granite City Nameoki is the new pastor beginning July 1. **Rev. Debra Hoertel**, the new associate pastor beginning July 1. **Rev. Mike Rayson** who moves from Bethalto to Granite City Nameoki UMC. **Rev. Joe Richard** is the new pastor beginning July 1.
- Congratulations to **Spencer Bacus** for having an article in The Telegraph about his life story and his opportunity to through out the first pitch at the Cardinal game on May 31st! It was Skin Cancer Awareness Day at the Ballpark. If you missed the article it is posted on the bulletin board in the Education Wing.
- Congratulations to **Jack Weller** who was featured in the BJC internet newsletter sharing his vivid D-Day memories. Article posted on the bulletin board in the Education Wing.
- **Thank you to those** who donated to the replacement of the Plexiglas on the front Church Sign. What a difference the new covering has made! Check it out! (see photo →)





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



The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your lawn chair. Tailgate At Eight Fellowship with coffee, juice, and snacks is at 8 p.m. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always held in the sanctuary. **“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.**

- 6** **4th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion celebrated.** The Sermons in Acts series continues as we look at Stephen’s sermon in Acts 7:1-60. The leaders responded to Stephen’s sermon by stoning him to death! Sometimes, there is a great cost when we simply tell the story of Jesus.



- 13** **5th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday.** The Sermons in Acts series turns its focus to what some call the *mission sermons of Paul*. Today we look at Acts 13 where the Gentiles in Antioch respond in large numbers to Paul’s message. The response is so favorable that the Jewish leaders seek to dampen Paul’s effectiveness at his other stops.

- 20** **6th Sunday after Pentecost.** In Athens, Paul sees an altar with the inscription: *To An Unknown God*. He proclaims that the unknown God is now known to all. God has revealed himself to the world through Jesus Christ. As always, Paul told the story of Jesus. When Paul came to the Resurrection, some mocked him but others were curious and asked to hear more about this. Some professed that they believed God did raise Jesus from the dead and became Jesus’ followers. Read Acts 17.

- 27** **7th Sunday after Pentecost.** Acts 20 is the last of Paul’s mission sermons. Paul’s stay in Ephesus has been filled with controversy. Those who made idols for worship had protested that Paul was bad for their business. Paul preaches a farewell sermon to the church leaders. He warns the leaders to be on guard against those who would lead them away from the faith and to remain steadfast in the face of persecution.

JULY - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

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



Youth meet at **StPUMC** on July 6 & 20 and at **BUMC** July 13; @6:30 p.m!
No youth meeting on July 27th!

PARENTS: Meeting after second service on July 20th!

Contact Kevin Rader at (618) 303-0044 for more info!

**Nurses Notes for JULY 2014 from Parish Nurse, Eileen!****By 2050, 1 of every 3 Americans could have diabetes.****In this generation, 95% of Americans will be overweight in 20 years.****Over the next few decades, life expectancy for the average American will be cut by 5 years.**

Those are the latest statistics from the CDC, the NIH (National Institute of Health), and Duke University. They are sobering statistics. We have been told since the 1980's that fat has been the culprit- and that eating low fat foods would make us healthier, slimmer, and happier people. The stores are loaded with aisles of fat free, low fat options. We have diet soda, low fat milk, margarine, cheese, numerous frozen diet meals, low fat ice cream, yogurt, and granola bars. Yet, Americans are not getting healthier. Obesity, heart disease, and diabetes are on the rise. So what is making us fatter? Many think that it is sugar.

The USDA estimates that the average person consumes 12 teaspoons of sugar a day- which is about 2 TONS of sugar in a lifetime! Sugar is making us overweight, leading us down a path of poor health with the end result a poor quality of life.

I am very passionate about this health issue, as for the past 4 months I have been on a journey to improve my own health. For those of you who don't know, I am on the Madison County Obesity Reduction Committee. I decided while sitting in those meetings that it seemed as if maybe before I go out into the community to promote health and obesity reduction, that maybe I should begin to follow those suggestions myself. I have started and failed at many diets- I have tried them all. Weight Watchers, Soup Diets, Paleo, Apple Cider Vinegar Diet, Diet Supplements that promise to "melt the fat right off of you"; I have attempted all of them. They did not work for me. Even Weight Watchers, which is considered to be the most successful weight loss program in the country, has its weaknesses: in that diet program you count "points" so in theory as long as you stay in the appropriate amount of points per day you could have candy bars, soda, white bread, etc and still be following the diet. I am the Queen of Diets and can tell you about each one. I have book shelves loaded with the most popular diet books. I kept telling myself that I needed to lose the 20 extra pounds that I put on after the birth of my youngest son Jonathan, and then realized that he is now 17 and I really could not continue to blame it on "baby" fat!

After much prayer, I was lead to one conclusion. I didn't want to lose weight to look good, or to fit into great clothes, or to look like the people on TV, or to feel better about myself- but to lose the extra weight because God loves me, has a plan for my life, and wants me to be healthy. That was the difference for me, and I am so thankful for a God who hears our prayers and answers us; all we need to do is wait and listen. In four months I have lost twenty pounds and twenty inches. Just think about it, what would it be like for me to carry two 10 pound dumbbells up a flight of stairs?

It may seem impossible to lose that extra weight but it is not. In the next few months I will discuss certain health concerns and ways that you may be able to decrease your risk through healthy choices. Maybe you are overweight, or perhaps your weight is okay and you just want to begin to have better nutrition and health. My prayer is that this newsletter will give you the incentive to try to change- to change just one bad eating habit, or to begin a new healthy one and begin to walk down the path of good nutrition to better health.

This month's article about changing one thing will begin with the culprit that is causing many of our health problems. **Sugar.** Of all the foods capable of inflicting damage to your body, sugar is the most damaging of all. Katie Couric recently directed a documentary titled *Fed Up*, which tells that sugar, not fat, is the culprit.

In the body you have approximately five liters of blood circulating. In those 5 liters of blood you need about 1 tsp of sugar to help the body perform routine activities. In order to keep this balance, the body will release insulin whenever you eat foods that result in extra sugar entering the body. Insulin works to stimulate the body to carry the sugar/glucose inside the cells. Once inside the cells, the sugar is used for energy with any excess being converted and stored as fat.

There are ten teaspoons of sugar in one regular can of diet soda. Most labels supply sugar in grams. **One teaspoon of sugar is equal to 4 grams.** According to the USDA nutrition guidelines a person on a 2,000 calorie a day diet should limit their sugar intake to **32 grams**, or 8 teaspoons per day.

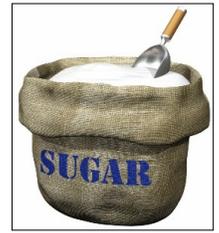
Let's look at soda:

12 ounce can of Coke: 39 grams of sugar, 140 calories

20 ounce Coke: 65 grams of sugar, 240 calories

32 ounce Bid Gulp: 91 grams of sugar, 364 calories

44 ounce Super Gulp: (with ice added) 128 grams of sugar, 512 calories





July 01 Poston, Terry
 July 01 Chester, Layne
 July 02 Bacus, Mark
 July 02 Campbell, Steve
 July 02 Rich, Taylor
 July 04 Sullivan, Pat
 July 04 Fincher, Terri
 July 04 Mormino, Brynleigh
 July 04 Mormino, Peyton
 July 05 Hart, Zoe
 July 05 Bourne, Colton
 July 06 Acton, Phil
 July 06 Hickerson, Jim
 July 06 Campbell, Luke
 July 07 Ford, Alex
 July 08 Russell, Carol
 July 08 Ford, Nate
 July 08 Sims, Stella
 July 09 Stamper, Carol
 July 09 Mayer, Deb
 July 10 Ballard, Mildred
 July 10 Standefer, Drew
 July 10 Toner, Ella
 July 10 Toner, Emma
 July 11 Bartony, Clayton
 July 12 Lewis, Herrell
 July 12 Hamlin, Matthew
 July 14 Pratt, Jane

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

July 14 Hendricks, Carter
 July 15 Harper, Emma
 July 15 Voorhees, Jaymie
 July 17 Redden, Donna
 July 18 Bailey, Alysia
 July 18 Griffin, Sarah
 July 19 Cameron, Cathy
 July 21 Uzzell, Robin
 July 22 Hinkle, Evelyn
 July 22 Demond, Dell
 July 22 Crandall, Cory
 July 22 Challandes, Chris
 July 22 Emerick, Daniel
 July 22 Spurgeon, Evan
 July 23 Ford, Diane
 July 23 Hale, Donovan
 July 23 Bunt, Kynlee
 July 24 Bunt, Kathy
 July 24 Cameron, Chris
 July 24 Wood, Tony
 July 24 McLain, Anna
 July 25 Schilling, Rhonda
 July 26 Crews, Kathy

July 27 Burrows, Alice
 July 27 Kissack, Joy
 July 27 Clark, Edith
 July 28 Toner, Kristen
 July 28 Brown, Marie
 July 28 Phelps, Adam
 July 28 Betts, Caleb
 July 28 Lusicic, Addison
 July 28 Birmingham, Ashlyn
 July 28 Parker, Maddox
 July 29 McLain, Randy
 July 30 Plummer, Tim
 July 31 Scott, Virginia
 July 31 Brueggeman, Kyle
 July 31 Williams, Lindsey



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 05 Franklin, Don & Vivian
 July 06 Hubbard, Glenn & Paula
 July 07 Voorhees, Tom & Ruth
 July 08 Williams, Randy & Jan
 July 08 Ward, Paul & Gerry
 July 09 Crews, Greg & Kathy
 July 09 Mormino, Paul & Brandy
 July 11 Scroggins, Ryan & Joanna
 July 13 Gowan, Josh & Amy

July 15 Spurgeon, Ryan & Jenny
 July 19 Weller, Jack & Londa
 July 22 Brown, Robert & Gina
 July 23 Helmkamp, Rick & Amy
 July 24 Herndon, Matt & Allison
 July 31 Link, Mike & Kathy



New Church Directories are available from the church office!

Changes/Additions: Tom & Shana Vore 366 Country Lane, Gallipolis, OH 45631,
 (419) 908-3961.

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!



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

July's Loose Change Project is the **Lessie Bates Neighborhood House** in East St. Louis. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatsians early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the new waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

JULY Ushers (10:30):

- July 6: Diane Murbarger, Deb & Meg Fansler
 - July 13: Tamera, Sydney, Piper Martin
 - July 20: Lindsey Rader, Debbie Tite
 - July 27: → **USHERS NEEDED!**
- Please Call the Head Usher if you will help!

JULY Head Usher:
DOROTHY KASINGER

Average Attendance for JUNE 2014

Early Service	64
Late Service	67
Sunday School	46
Visitors	7



EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Thursday, July 31st at 10:00 a.m.

The Nurture Ministry Team welcomes **Al Bertram, Dir. of Disaster Operations for the Southwestern Chapter of the American Red Cross, to St. Paul UMC!** We want to be ready if we need to be and look forward to his instruction.

THE UNITED METHODIST VILLAGE SPONSORS THEIR 1ST ANNUAL GOLF CHALLENGE!

Friday, July 18th Starts at Noon

Rolling Hills Golf Course

5801 Pierce Lane, Godfrey, IL

Sign-up information on bulletin board in the Education Wing hallway!

JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 6/30/2014	\$25103.25
Designated Giving:	through 6/30/2014	\$3485.00
	Capital Improvements	340.00
	Loose Change	179.00
	Flowers	82.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	40.00
	Memorials	1760.00
	Gas & Electricity	100.00
	Upper Room	28.00
	Front Sign Repair	445.00
	Funeral Dinner	150.00
	VBS	25.00
	Youth	40.00
	Steeple Postage	8.00
	Charles McKnelly	100.00
	UM Children's Home	125.00
	Old AC Sold for Scrap	13.00
	Elevator Fund	50.00
Imagine NO Malaria	(VBS Offering)	140.00
Catch Up Offering		7299.00
Total:		\$36027.25

DEADLINE FOR AUGUST 2014 STEEPLE, Fri., JULY 18th!



Pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65

Illinois recently enacted a concealed carry law for handguns. Unless churches specifically exempt themselves, concealed carry handguns are permitted on church property. Please be advised that the Church Council meeting on Thursday, May 15 declared that St. Paul United Methodist Church is a gun free zone. This motion was passed upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees. As in the past, our law enforcement personnel and other individuals who openly carry guns in the performance of their duties are welcomed at our worship services and other events.



Thank you for the 24 layette kits that we were able to take to Annual Conference. These kits are distributed to families caught in natural disasters throughout the world. Many of our supplies from the Midwest Distribution Center go to aid victims of floods and tornadoes in our own country. We also gave \$30 which helps with the shipping of these kits to where they are needed and we gave some extra items to help make other kits.

Continued from Page 5

There are others....

8.3 ounce can of Red Bull: 27 grams of sugar; Vitamin Water: 13 grams of sugar; Arizona Tea: 24 grams of sugar; Snapple Tea: 23 grams of sugar; 8 ounces of Minute Maid Orange Juice: 24 grams of sugar.

That's a lot of sugar traveling in the body causing insulin release, with the leftover calories being stored as fat. And we haven't even discussed that the soda is also loaded with artificial food colors and sulfites, and high-fructose modified corn syrup. In 2005 white bread was dethroned as the number one source of calories in the diet replaced with soda.

If you would like to **change one thing** about your diet, to promote your own and your family's health, why not try giving up soda, or at least limiting to one regular sized soda per day? This would be a huge change for your body. I have known people who were able to lose over 10 pounds in a couple of weeks by just eliminating soda from their diet each day. Clearly, over consumption of soda and other sugar laden drinks is one of the leading causes of the obesity epidemic. Drink water, sparkling mineral water, or water with added lemon or lime.

Typically, when people try to make healthy changes, they overwhelm themselves trying to change every bad diet habit at once. This is a mistake, as it usually leads to failure and frustration, and then giving up. Why not figure out the one thing that would have the most impact on your health or weight loss? Maybe for you it will be sugar (and we will continue to discuss sugar in the news articles ahead) or maybe it is fried foods, or fast food, or desserts after each meal. Whatever will have the most impact for you, try to change that **one thing**. It takes 6 weeks to form a new habit or break a bad habit. That is about 8 healthy changes you could possibly make in a year- habits that will stick! Check out the bulletin boards for more information. Let's get started and change one thing. With God's help, the possibilities are endless.

Following Him only- Eileen

Sources: CDC, NIH, Mercola, Dept of Nutrition Harvard, Duke University.



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

8:15 a.m.

Through **SEPTEMBER 14th** Pastor Daryl will be preaching a series on the sermons in the **Book of Acts**



TAILGATE FELLOWSHIP AT 8 A.M.

(In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary! 10:30 a.m. service is held, as usual, in the sanctuary)



CAMPING...CAMPING... CAMPING

Illinois Great Rivers Conference Church Camps offer activities like caving, rock-climbing, horseback riding, canoeing, rappelling, hiking, swimming, rock wall climbing, sailing, archery, fishing, mountain bike riding, for a wide variety of interests from music to theater to missions to worship leadership at six different sites. Some camps are held in air conditioned dorm style rooms while others feature tree houses and tents. At some camps you go to camp with your grandparents while at others you stay up late every night! Camps are available for all ages. Information flyers are available on top of the mailboxes in the educational wing hallway. See Kevin Rader or Pastor Daryl for more information.

Financial help is available for those who need it through the Herman Camping Fund!

CATCH UP OFFERING

Extravagant Generosity!

The Finance Committee extends a big thank you to all who have given so generously during the **June Catch Up Campaign**. For the five Sundays in June the regular envelope offering has totaled a wonderful **\$25,103**. In addition, the amount received as **Catch Up Offering** was **\$7,299**. That was a great response to our financial needs!



If you have not yet sent in your **Catch Up Offering**, you **still can!** Please help us get and keep our finances in order.
The Finance Committee

OBEDIENT CANARY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety. — LEVITICUS 25:18-19 NIV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2009 Michael D. Waters



open hearts
open minds
open doors



ST PAUL
united methodist church

<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 yrs old to 30s.

CRAVE ACTIVITIES SUMMER SCHEDULE - JUNE 9 - SEPT 7

CRAVE McBible Study

Mondays - 7 p.m. at Wood River McDonald's

CRAVE Connections

Sundays - 9:15 a.m. upstairs in CRAVE Room

Service -

Water At the Ballparks (TBA)

Cleaning Deb's Classroom (TBA)

Special Events -

Michael's Going Away Bash: July 3rd, 7 p.m.

Blacklock Cabin Party: July 5th, All day event!

CRAVE Sunset Service: (TBA) 7:45 p.m.

Christian Family Day @Six Flags: Aug. 9th

**"Mercy Me" in concert. Min. group of 15
Group price \$39.99 includes it all! MUST
Purchase tickets by July 21st.**

**CRAVE Facilitator - Betsy Blacklock 618.250.3858
betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com**

2014 Annual Conference Wrap-Up

Ministry of the Laity celebrated at the 2014 Annual Conference
By Paul Black, IGRC Director of Communication Ministries

PEORIA – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference was held in Peoria, June 4-7, under the theme of Ministry of the Laity. The 2014 session is the first of a three-year celebration focused on ministry.

The theme was apparent throughout the conference as the conference opened with a nearly \$40,000 offering for Imagine NO Malaria that pushed the conference's campaign past its \$2.5 million goal. Rev. Larry Hollon, general secretary for United Methodist Communications and a visionary leader in the denomination's global health initiative, was present to receive a 2 ½ by 5 foot replica check for the \$2.5 million raised.

"Because of **Imagine NO Malaria**, the United Methodist Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Fund, The United Methodist Church is the only faith-based organization sitting around the table with governments of the world working on this problem of malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis," Hollon said. "(Because of your efforts), there are children, pregnant mothers, and seniors who are alive this night because you cared. Lives have been saved and given health and hope for the future."

During the conference, special offerings were held for a variety of causes. Laity of the conference collected \$7,314 for the Conference Disaster Relief Fund which will assist early response efforts within the IGRC. The conference, in addition to \$39,413 for Imagine NO Malaria, collected \$7,705 for a \$1 million campaign to endow eight Africa University scholarships; \$4,710 to assist in funding a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the conference's newly-ordained pastors; and \$6,025 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College, one of the denomination's 11 historical Black Colleges.

Speakers for the Conference were Barbara Boigegrain, executive for the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits Fund and Dr. Colleen Hester, president of MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL. Both spoke of their faith journeys and how as laity they have found their respective callings in a general church agency and in church-related higher education. Devotional speakers each morning were IGRC clergy member Chaplain Col. John Read of the U.S. Army; Jessica Davenport, a seminary student who was influenced through campus ministry; and Dr. Roberta Robbins, a certified lay minister.

The conference was also recognized for its 100 percent payment of general church apportionments for the 11th consecutive years. The IGRC was one of 20 of the 59 U.S. annual conferences to pay 100 percent in general church apportionments.

Legislatively, the body approved changes to the clergy health insurance program, whereby the current self-fund insurance plan will end Dec. 31, with clergy purchasing their insurance through government exchanges under the Affordable Care Act. The plan calls for local congregations to pay an additional \$12,000 as a health allowance to assist the pastor with the purchase of health insurance. Currently, local congregations served by full-time pastors pay \$17,520 as the employer's share for insurance, meaning a savings of more than \$5,000 for the churches.

The conference also approved the formation of a streamlined, 21-member Connectional Table which will replace the current organizational structure that has been in place for the past six years. The new model provides better clarity of purpose and objectives, aligns with The Book of Discipline, and is more understandable in that it resembles a local church Administrative Board. Proponents also pointed out that the new formation places mission, ministry, and finances at the same table.

Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton ordained three elders and commissioned five provisional elders. A total of 30 pastors, celebrating 788.75 years, retired.

Attendance stands at 61,007, down 4.25 percent from 2012. Membership is at 132,023, down 1.29 percent. Sunday School attendance stands at 20,008, a decrease of 7.33 percent from 2012.



We say goodbye to our dear friend...

Doloros Taulbee, 86, formerly of Wood River, passed away at 6:44 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at Relais Bonne Eau in Edwardsville. She was born on July 8, 1927, Wood River, the daughter of the late Harry & Clara (Deardeuff) Meiser. She married Luther L. "Lute" Taulbee on July 16, 1946, in Roxana and he preceded her in death on April 4, 2013. Survivors include two daughters and a son in law: Tracy Franks of Rosewood Heights, Trudy & Tom Lehnen of Bethalto, two sons and daughters in law: Dan & Jeanne Taulbee of Dorsey, Kim & Nancy Taulbee of Mechanicsville, Va., 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren.

She was formerly employed as a secretary at Roxana Community Unit School District No. 1 for 20 years. She was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights where she was very involved with the choir and the Sweet Sounds Group. She loved being with family and friends. She loved working in her yard, gardening, and planting flowers. She loved writing and picture projects, scrapbooking, and reading.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by one sister: Loretta Miles.

As the text for my sermon, I used Doloros' favorite Bible verse. In fact, on the back of the bulletin were her own notes on these verses. The text is: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV) "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Here is part of my sermon:

When the family shared what Doloros had written about these verses, I knew that I could find no better words to reflect upon Doloros life and our faith. However, here's the problem for me. The pray part: I could talk about that. When it came to the rejoice and thanking portion, I wasn't so sure I could do that. I knew I should do that, but the simple truth is that I miss Doloros so much already. I could not picture myself rejoicing today.

I think the key to this verse is the last phrase: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. I cannot attempt these three things unless I first align my will with God's will. Jesus struggled with the challenge of the cross; praying in the Garden that this cup of suffering would pass Him by. The resolution came when prayer brought Jesus to the place of saying: Your will--not mine--be done O God. You and I may never attempt the tough parts of faith without leaning upon the Lord. Alone, we will always fall short. We may only practice these spiritual disciplines by living in God's will!

So, with God's Help, I Will Rejoice always Doloros says "To me, this means to think positive and choose to be joyful." C. S. Lewis used to talk about the difference between joy and pleasure. Joy comes from within. It is steady and abiding. Pleasure, on the other hand, comes and goes with whatever is happening in our environment. It is extrinsic because it arises from the outside. When the circumstances change in one direction, pleasure comes. When fortune reverses, pleasure leaves.

Our joy arises from this unchanging truth: We are the Lord's. We have given our life to Jesus and we are His today, tomorrow and always. There is nothing to fear. If we believe this, then we will live it. Joy comes as the free gift of a gracious God. We will rejoice always because our joy is a witness to the world that Jesus is alive. Alive in our world and alive in us.

Then, with God's Help, I Will Pray Without Ceasing I am tempted to say: God, I've Got This. I Know My Need of Prayer. I Do Pray All The Time.

To be honest, when I pray without being in sync with God's Spirit, my prayers tend to be about me and my needs. My prayers tend to be a laundry list of requests for me and those around me. When Paul tells me to pray without ceasing, he wants me to get to the heart of prayer where I am listening more than I am talking. Where I cherish simply to be in the presence of God. Where my prayers begin with recognition of the awesome presence of God.

Matt Redman's church went through a time where the minister felt that the praise band had become the focal point of worship to the detriment of the whole experience. So he led them through a series of worship services to refocus on the center of worship. It was a difficult time for those used to using music to express their praise of God. Out of this difficult time, Redman wrote this song:

When the music fades	I'll bring You more than a song	I'm coming back to the heart of worship
All is stripped away, and I simply come	For a song in itself	And it's all about You
Longing just to bring	Is not what You have required	It's all about You, Jesus
Something that's of worth	You search much deeper within	I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
That will bless Your heart	Through the way things appear	When it's all about You
	You're looking into my heart	It's all about You, Jesus

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We say goodbye to our dear friend...

Juanita M. "Nita" Caldwell, 90, formerly of Sun City West, AZ, passed away at 2:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 24, 2014, at Delmar Gardens Skilled Nursing Home in O'Fallon, MO.

She was born on Oct. 19, 1923, DeSoto, MO the daughter of the late Arthur & Minnie Ellis. She married Thomas Caldwell on May 14, 1983, and he survives. Other survivors include four step – children and their spouses: Melody Caldwell of Florissant, MO, Vicki & Bill Schrimpf of Edwardsville, IL, Mark & Mary Ann Caldwell of St. Charles, MO, Lou Ann & Steve Gremaud of High Ridge, MO, nine grandchildren: Sean Toolen, Andrew Toolen, Bryan Tuttle, Stacy Lyons, Marlo Scholle, Justin Caldwell,

Dru Collins, Kala Koerper, Jacob Sieberg, 13 great – grandchildren, a niece: Donna Copeland and her husband: Clifford, one nephew: Steve Cook of DeSoto, MO, several great nieces and great nephews.

She was formerly employed as a contract administrator for the civil service in St. Louis. She was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one sister: Ann Cook and two brothers: Bill Ellis and Richard Ellis.

I based my sermon on 2 Corinthians 5: *"We are convinced of the fact that one man has died for all people. Therefore, all people have died. ¹⁵ He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the man who died and was brought back to life for them. ¹⁶ So from now on we don't think of anyone from a human point of view. If we did think of Christ from a human point of view, we don't anymore. ¹⁷ Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence. ¹⁸ God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. ¹⁹ In other words, God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. ²⁰ Therefore, we are Christ's representatives, and through us God is calling you. We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God. ²¹ God had Christ, who was sinless, take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him."* 2 Corinthians 5 (God's Word translation)

Here is a portion of my comments: Tom Caldwell was the Chairman of the Building Committee that built this Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall as well as remodeling the first unit into Sunday School classrooms. We have been blessed by the sacrificial efforts of all who were involved. As new families come to worship with us, they remark not only upon the beauty of this place but also that God seems so near. Young or old, they all remark: *"This feels like a church."* You have succeeded in bringing up there down here.

Nita was a builder in her own right; only she didn't build buildings but rather relationships. The memories that Sean offered on behalf of the family reveals her success in this effort. Absent Nita's presence, your lives would not be half as rich. Until we gather for worship services like this, we forget that even in our high tech age we need the low tech touch and love of a Nonnie in our life! Our hearts ache today as we realize how much we already miss Nita and our relationships with her. These broken relationships will not be restored until we join her in heaven and we hear her singing praises with all the other saints to the Lamb who sits upon the throne.

Throughout his letters, Paul underlines that Jesus' mission is to restore our relationship with God. The Law had become so complex and the time needed to keep it so demanding that many people had abandoned the effort. God had little place in their lives. Our life wasn't what God intended. For God created us to be in relationship with Him.

The great church father, Augustine, observed about God: *"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."* In The Shorter Catechism, the Presbyterians asked *"What is the chief End of Man?"* and they answered: *"Man's chief End is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."* In his writings, especially in his sermon on *New Birth*, John Wesley focused upon the truth that we are made in God's image. He says: *in this image of God was man made. "God is love:" Accordingly, man at his creation was full of love; which was the sole principle of all his tempers, thoughts, words, and actions. God is full of justice, mercy, and truth; so was man as he came from the hands of his Creator. God is spotless purity; and so man was in the beginning pure from every sinful blot; otherwise God could not have pronounced him, as well as all the other work of his hands, "very good" (Gen. 1:31.)*

We believe that the foundation of our faith can't be reduced to a set of moral principles or the recitation of a specific creed, but rather is discovered in living in a dynamic relationship with our God. Our sin destroyed our relationship with God to the point where our actions alone could not restore it. God sends Jesus to do what we could not. *"God was using Christ to restore his relationship with humanity. He didn't hold people's faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. ²⁰ Therefore, we are Christ's representatives, and through us God is calling you. We beg you on*

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The Gideons International

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Thank you for the generous gift of **\$719.27**. This will provide 576 NTs or 144 Bibles with the possibility of 331,200 people reading from God's Word. **100%** of this Love Gift goes to print and ship scriptures around the world, while some may be placed in the Rosewood Heights area as well.

**Your Brother In Christ -
Gene Walls**

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My prayers need to be all about Jesus. I need to let God's Spirit fill me and direct me in all my living. When I focus on Jesus and not on me....

Then, With God's Help, I Will Give Thanks In All Circumstances Today poses the biggest challenge to this spiritual practice. What is there in this day for which to be thankful? What I want most has not been granted: the restoration of Doloros Taulbee to health so she might continue spreading her cheer & encouragement among us.

In her notes on this verse, Doloros asserts that giving thanks in all circumstances is a choice. It isn't our default setting as human beings. It would be easy for me to complain that life isn't fair...that Doloros didn't get time to truly enjoy her new home...that death has robbed us of what we want most: more time with Doloros. Paul knows how tough life can be. He's endured shipwrecks, beatings, fought wild beasts and been tossed into prison. Indeed, he writes these words from a prison cell. Nevertheless, Paul chooses to be thankful.

Today, I choose to be thankful for the blessing of knowing Doloros. The more we have been blessed, the more her death grieves us. In a sense, her death is a blessing meter: revealing how deeply her love impacted us, how intertwined her life was with ours, how special she was to us all.

Above all, I am thankful that death is not the end of those who trust in the Lord. Without the Resurrection these spiritual practices and our entire faith make no sense. Our faith makes sense only if God has raised Jesus from the dead; the first in a long line of those who will leave the cemeteries. Our faith makes sense only if Jesus has defeated the dark forces of Evil upon the cross and won the Final victory.

Please keep Doloros' family in our prayers. Already we at St. Paul miss her cheerful presence. How much more deeply this loss must be felt by her family. Pastor Daryl

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behalf of Christ to become reunited with God. ²¹ God had Christ, who was sinless; take our sin so that we might receive God's approval through him."

For Paul, this is the gospel in a nutshell. What remains for each of us is to accept what Jesus has done and enter into a restored relationship with God. Once we have entered into this relationship, Jesus' mission becomes our mission. Like Nita we are to engage in the ministry of restoring relationships. Not as well as she did but as well as we are able!

The God whose love filled Nita's life upon this earth. The God who made her a new creation. The God who gave her the ministry of restoring relationships. That God has not forsaken her. Their relationship goes on and on and on.

For a little while, death has altered our relationship with Nita. This is the sting of death. However, the Christlike love with which cemented our relationships with her. That love is not weakened by her death. That love abides. It abides because its ultimate source is Jesus, the Risen One, who has conquered death. The One who has made it possible for every one of us to be reunited with our God!

Please keep Tom and all whose relationships with Nita have been broken by death in your prayers. Give all of us the promise that what is broken on earth will be restored in heaven. Pastor Daryl



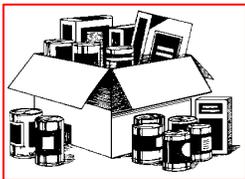
Food and School Supply Collection---

Each year in August the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of school supplies and a food drive. Due to a suggestion from one of the school nurses who help disburse the school supplies, we are collecting the supplies and food earlier. **It starts July 6th, with members of the Outreach Ministry Team distributing bags and information at the end of both services, and continues through August 3rd.** This is so school supplies can be distributed to the children before school starts.

The school supplies go to schools in the districts of Bethalto, Roxana, and Wood River/East Alton. These are then distributed to children who need supplies which families cannot provide. Paper, crayons, scissors, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed. Stores which sell the supplies have school lists for reference. Place the supplies in the coat area/hallway where we traditionally gather items for various collections.



We will distribute food collected to the two area food pantries: Operation Blessing in Wood River and Community Hope Center in Cottage. These are the two food pantries to which our church refers people for food. There is always a heavy demand for food from the pantries. Their help often makes it possible to feed a family until the next income arrives or food stamps are available. This past year the pantries are facing increasing numbers of requests due to the rise in prices and difficulties in our economy. Any amount we give is always appreciated.



The school supplies and food will be distributed the week of August 3rd.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WRAPUP

Dear Church,

We wish to extend a big **“thank you!”** to you for sharing your children with us for VBS. We had a wonderful time at our VBS Workshop Of Wonders: Imagine And Build With God!

This year your children experienced the wonders of God as they became visioneers and explored how the ordinary become extraordinary with God.

After a high-energy opening of praise songs, the visioneers made their way to the sanctuary for a great Bible Story. Interactive Bible lessons revealed 5 wonder words for following God’s blueprint for our lives (Imagine, Build, Grow, Work, and Walk!); and your visioneers discovered Bible Verses with sign language that will boast their faith long after VBS is over.

We expanded our learning by participating in a variety of activities including crafts at the craft lab, exploring science at the science station, participating in recreational fun at the Game Garages both indoors and outdoors, enjoying new tasty snacks at the snack stop, watching a Lego type movie, and even nailing together our own collaborative cross at the building station.

We were blessed with an average of **70 children per day (a total of 85)**, **25** youth/college students to help lead each group or station, and **15** adult workers. Throughout our week we were able to raise approximately **\$140** for our mission project, “Imagine NO Malaria!”

I want to thank everyone who donated their time, money, food, craft items, talents, ideas, or children to our special week. And thank those who in **any way** made our VBS a great week for the children. Our program works because our church is such a great family! I am already looking forward to next year! Thank you again for this opportunity to serve and God bless you all!

Jamie Gwaltney
(VBS Photos in the next Steeple!)