



# THE STEEPLE

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

**AUGUST 2014**



*"Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime; therefore, we must be saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore, we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore, we are saved by love."*

**Reinhold Niebuhr from *The Irony of American History***

*"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (or Comforter, Encourager, or Counselor), who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."*

**John 14:15-17**

Peter, Paul, and Stephen may be the most celebrated names in the early church, but a thorough reading of the book of Acts reveals that the key person is the Holy Spirit. Everything happens through the leading, guiding and empowering action of the Spirit.

Indeed, Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes to them. He says that *"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:7-8**

The Holy Spirit is the game changer. In the Spirit, sermons are preached. The hearts of listeners are opened to receive the message. People are convinced of their sin and need of repentance by the Spirit. Others are healed. Most importantly for us, people are emboldened to step out of the crowd and form the Church: the Body of Christ.

The summer series on the sermons in the book of Acts has reminds us that while the Church is flawed because it is filled with people like us, the Church isn't a human institution. The Church is God's gift to us. We were not created to be alone. Why would we ever think that we could do ministry alone? John Wesley said: *"There is no such thing as a solitary Christian."*

The Holy Spirit draws us together into the Body of Christ. We are those who have experienced the grace of Jesus and are united by Jesus' love. We are called to be witnesses to Jesus, the Light of the World, in this dark world. We come together to equip, encourage and help each other in this work.

In recent years, some observers have predicted the imminent death of the church. It is true that participation in the church has fallen from the heights of the 1950s and 1960s. Walmart and the restaurants are more crowded on Sunday mornings than many of our churches. However, the question I ask myself is this: *"How do we kill something that isn't ours?"* Since we did not call the church into being, its ultimate fate isn't ours to decide.

Reinhold Niebuhr's quote that began this essay reminds us that we in the Church are part of something that is far larger than ourselves and lasts far longer than our lifetimes. We are Jesus' witnesses. And, we get to witness—not in the 1950s or 60s but now! As Charles Wesley so eloquently says:

*A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,  
A never dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.*

*To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!*

When I hear people argue that it is harder to be the Church in our time than in years past, I consider it irrelevant. The book of Acts reveals that it has never been easy to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The Way—as Luke calls it—is a way filled with trials and tribulations. It is a Way that we would not walk, except it is the only way that leads to eternal life!

*Continued on Page 2*



### *Continued from Page 1*

In the introduction to the book of Acts found in the *Life Application Study Bible* are these words of wisdom: *“As you read Acts, put yourself in the place of the disciples: Identify with them as they are filled with the Holy Spirit, and experience the thrill of seeing thousands respond to the gospel message. Sense their commitment as they give every ounce of talent and treasure to Christ. And as you read, watch the Spirit-led boldness of these first-century believers, who through suffering and in the face of death take every opportunity to tell of their crucified and risen Lord. Then decide to be a twenty-first century version of those men and women of God.”*

I hope the summer sermon series has helped dispel the gloom and doom that has settled upon the Church in our day. The challenges we confront are great and the obstacles very real, but too often we act as though we were powerless. We have the Holy Spirit. There is no greater power standing against us! Let us be witnesses to Jesus; acting with holy boldness. Let us be the Church! God expects nothing more and nothing less than this. Pastor Daryl

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- **Michael Cathorall** has returned to Florida to pursue a better job opportunity. We sent him off with a Farewell Party on July 3rd. We wish him well.
- **Kyle Norris** has been working as an intern for the Gateway Grizzlies this summer. His primary duties were to help with the Frontier League All-Star Game hosted by the Grizzlies. The stadium was packed for the big game!
- **CRAVE, the How to Reach Younger Adults team, and other interested people** were given permission by the Church Council to launch a new worship service on Saturday evenings. We will begin by offering a series of “preview” services.
- Our prayers go out to the families and friends who have had to bear the loss of a loved one recently. We lift up: the family of **Barbara (Stocker) Dillon Faulkner**, former & a charter member of St. Paul UMC, mother of Rev. Chip Faulkner, pastor of FBC-Bethalto; the family of **Sandra Ruyle**, mother of Betsy Arnold, both friends of Lois Mitchell; and the family and friends of **Sandra Farris**, who was known by so many in our community.
- We rejoice with **Caleb Betts** and his family (parents, David & Lisa Betts, siblings, Tanner and Autumn, and grandparents, Larry & Iola Ballard) upon his return from Minnesota, and we praise God for the success of the work of the medical team. May he truly now have a more “normal” life!
- Congratulations to **Spencer Bacus** who was nominated the “August Shining Star” at the United Methodist Village where he works as a server! He was selected by residents and UMV employees. Check out his photo on the bulletin board.

## THANK YOU

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

**THANK YOU:** The family of Doris Lamparter (mother of Mike Link) would like to thank the church family for all of your prayers, cards, calls, and support during this time. We are stronger because of it. May God bless you as you have blessed us. ***The Mike Link family***



Fountain View Manor Memory Care Presents:

# A TRIVIA NIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER'S!

Benefiting the Alzheimer's Association

August 9, 2014 @ 7:00 PM  
Granite City Polish Hall

**\$15/per person**  
**Silent Auction and 50/50**  
**Complimentary beer\*, soda, & popcorn!**

**RSVP:**  
**fountainviewad@frontiermgmt.com**  
**Or call 618.931.3999**

**\*(For pre-registered tables)**



**A FEW VACATION DAYS BEFORE THE SUMMER ENDS...**

Please notice that the secretary will be taking 4 Mondays off during the month of August to enjoy some of her unused vacation time. The church office will be closed on Aug. 4, 11, 18, & 25. Thank you!



Harvey Chiles shares that the transition to the Philippines took more energy out of him than he anticipated. The place is quiet right now until school starts and the students and teachers return. There are some UM churches nearby he hopes to visit soon. Here are photos of Harvey during Graduation in June, on TV, and training he led at the school. God Bless you Harvey!







# Sundays at St. Paul in AUGUST 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.**

**3** **8th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion Celebrated.** The Sermons in Acts series continues with Paul contending that he does not seek the destruction of Judaism with his preaching. No, Jesus is the Messiah promised by God; the fulfillment of the Law. Today Paul defends his actions before the crowd in the Temple. Read Acts 22:1-21.



**10** **9th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday.** The Sermons in Acts series continues with Paul appearing before the Roman governor, Felix, defending his proclamation of the gospel. As always the sticking point for both Jewish and Gentile listeners is the Resurrection. Read Acts 24:10-21.



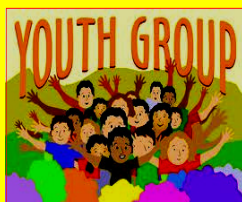
**17** **10th Sunday after Pentecost.** The Sermons in Acts series continues with Paul appearing before the Jewish King Agrippa II. For the third time, Paul tells the story of his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Paul repeats himself because his life changed dramatically after this encounter. Cynical Agrippa interrupts Paul with the question: *“Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?”* Paul replies: *“Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.”* Our goal is that everyone would know the grace, joy and peace of Jesus as we do. Read Acts 26.

**24** **11th Sunday after Pentecost.** We end the summer with a few famous stories from the book of Acts. The first story is that of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. This story reminds us that good news of Jesus is good news for everyone. Read Acts 8:26-40.

**31** **12th Sunday after Pentecost.** During a time of persecution, James is killed and Peter is imprisoned. Acts 12 tells the story of Peter’s miraculous escape from prison.

## AUGUST - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

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



The Youth meet at **StPUMC** every Sunday in August @6:30 p.m.!

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



### Nurses Notes for AUGUST 2014 from Parish Nurse, Eileen!

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice – the kind he will find acceptable. - Romans 12:1-2

Recently I had a church member want to know more about healthy habits but added, "But not just about sugar- I don't think I can completely give it up!" I know from experience that it is very hard to change habits- especially those that we have had for a very long time, but it is possible. As I have researched health, which includes good nutrition and physical activity, I came across something that may work for those who want to begin to work towards health improvement, but for whatever reason (including physical restrictions) may not be able to be as physically active. I found it on the Mayo Clinic website and it is called **NEAT**. **NEAT** stands for **non-exercise activity thermogenesis**.

"It takes energy -- calories -- to move even the smallest muscle," says Polly de Mille, R.N., an exercise physiologist with the Women's Sports Medicine Center at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City. "For example, you burn about 1.5 calories per minute just lying still while your body performs its most basic functions." Go from lying down to sitting in a chair and answering e-mail and you'll burn 25 percent more calories. Now start fidgeting in your chair and you'll burn even more. Standing burns 50 more calories an hour than sitting. Can you stand for some of your day at work, even if it is just for a few minutes?

**NEAT** is something all of us can do- even those who are wheelchair bound. Here are some activities for all of us:

**1. Be deliberate about moving:** Sitting for extended periods of time has been found to be another risk factor for heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Getting up hourly and walking to the restroom, getting a refill of water, or standing up to stretch can decrease stiffness, boost energy and burn calories. Also, when watching TV, during every commercial break get up and move. Do a few stretches, or walk around the house. If you can't physically get up from the chair- do some bicep curls while sitting or move your feet. Just move in some way! If you have a desk job, get up every hour and at least stretch.

**2. Get a pedometer:** To gauge how much moving you currently do and then motivate yourself to do more, buy a pedometer. Wear it all the time to track both at-work and at-home exercises. Then you will have your baseline.

**3. Add in steps- or any kind of movement:** Now find ways to increase your steps each day. You can easily add movement to almost every daily activity. Park just a bit further away,

Now that you have your pedometer, one of the best **NEAT** exercises for beginners is to find creative ways to increase steps every day, de Mille says. You can easily add movement to almost every daily activity. "Park at the far end of the parking lot or get off the subway or bus a stop early," she says. "Extra steps add up to significant calories over time." And that makes them easy exercises for weight loss. For those at home, extra steps could be going the long way in your home to get to a specific location.

**4. Dance:** music has a positive effect on stress. When you reduce stress, you can reduce the need to over eat. Even in a chair you can move to the beat of the music- your head, shoulders, arms and can tap your toes. You can burn 100 extra calories in 20 minutes.

**5. Fidget:** Remember when your mom would scold you for fidgeting? Not anymore. Pacing or fidgeting burns more calories. So tap that foot, bounce that leg up and down while sitting, wiggle in your chair, open and close your hands- you are burning calories. Even hair twirling or tapping a pen burns extra calories- maybe as much as 300 calories per day. Step side to side while waiting in line at the store.

**6. Sit on a stability ball:** This will force you to balance yourself so you continually use your core muscles. Try it while watching TV, playing video games, or reading. I guess you could try it while eating, but I would probably make a huge mess!

**7. Laugh!** ½ hour of laughing can burn 100 calories an hour. I wouldn't attempt to do it for an hour straight- that would really be difficult, but you can laugh throughout the day.

**8. Stay hydrated:** Proper hydration allows all of the body's functions to work at optimal levels. You can tell if you are properly hydrated by taking a look at your urine. If you are drinking enough water, your urine will be clear or pale yellow. A dark yellow means you are not drinking enough water. (unless you take medication that can change the color of your urine).

Regular physical activity, no matter what it is, can have long term benefits on your health. Physical activity, along with good nutrition can only help you have overall health benefits, including living longer, getting around easier, improved sleep habits, feel better about yourself, and even losing a bit of weight. As we age, our metabolism slows down, so to maintain a proper energy balance we need to move more and eat less.

So as you consider whether to become physically active, remember, it is quite evident that the reasons for exercising are clear: a spiritual admonition, the physical benefit, as well as emotional and social. For body, mind and spiritual benefit it is wise to remember, your body belongs to the Lord!

I look forward to seeing you after returning from my vacation. I leave Friday, July 25, for Indianapolis and return to work on August 4th. Please pray it will be a time of rest and relaxation for my family.

**Following Him-Eileen**



August 01 Yankovich, Wanda  
 August 01 Cincoski, Savannah  
 August 02 Brown, Josh  
 August 03 Tillery, Linda  
 August 03 Tappy, Nealy  
 August 05 Scroggins, Ryan  
 August 06 Dorsey, Norris  
 August 07 Roberts, Jessica  
 August 09 Franks, Tracy  
 August 09 Hale, Nic  
 August 10 Mitchell, Lois  
 August 11 Meyer, Mary  
 August 11 Davis, Alex  
 August 11 Skinner, Tyler  
 August 11 Hall, Erin  
 August 12 Hall, David  
 August 12 Helmkamp, Jaxson  
 August 13 Blacklock, Elinor  
 August 13 Garrison, Jennifer  
 August 13 Brown, Brandie  
 August 13 Herndon, Katie  
 August 14 Stewart, Jim  
 August 14 Clark, Shirley

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

August 14 Martin, Alicia  
 August 15 Redden, Chandra  
 August 16 Squier, Stephanie  
 August 16 Emerick, Ryne  
 August 17 Scoggins, Tracy  
 August 17 Kasten, Andrea  
 August 19 Uzzell, Alan  
 August 19 Foss, Chance  
 August 20 Harshbarger, Leta  
 August 20 Hill, Jo Ann  
 August 20 Mortland, Gracie  
 August 22 Standefer, Brooke  
 August 23 Carn, Carol  
 August 23 Herndon, Dave  
 August 25 Rain, Bethany  
 August 25 Hall, Emily  
 August 26 Sitze, Terry  
 August 27 Armon, Keith

August 27 Scroggins, Logan  
 August 28 Potter, Vi  
 August 28 Schiber, Noel  
 August 29 Clouatre, Doug  
 August 29 Seba, Lori  
 August 29 Scroggins, Joanna  
 August 29 Cameron, Kristin  
 August 29 Redden, Danny  
 August 30 Phelps, Karah  
 August 31 Scroggins, Mike  
 August 31 Sullivan, Juliana



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 04 Sullivan, Pat & Becky  
 August 06 Moore, Duane & Sandy  
 August 10 Croxford, Rod & Virginia  
 August 12 Kissack, Bob Sr. & Joy  
 August 12 McLain, Randy & Mindy  
 August 13 Hendricks, John & Leona  
 August 15 Atchley, Duane & Tamara  
 August 17 Campbell, Steve & Sarah  
 August 18 Hale, Bill & Amy  
 August 19 Yunker, John & Barbara

August 20 Chester, Nathan & Lydia  
 August 22 Bunt, Tim & Joni  
 August 22 Sheppard, Keith & Ashley  
 August 23 Sitze, Terry & Betty  
 August 24 Gwaltney, Scott & Jamie  
 August 26 Funke, Jim & Maggie  
 August 29 Michels, Mike & Earline  
 August 30 Betts, David & Lisa



**Church Directories are available from the Church Office!**

**Changes/Additions:** Tom & Shana Vore 366 Country Lane, Gallipolis, OH 45631, (419) 908-3961; Steve & Judy Schuerman 9694 Hampton Circle N., Indianapolis, IN 46256; Gary & Julie Brown 1803 W. Delmar Avenue, Godfrey, IL 62035, (618) 466-9698; Nelba Goodman 2815 Wordsworth Drive, Springfield, IL 62711, (217) 787-6532

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!



**August's Loose Change Project** is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This ministry assists in disasters in our country and throughout the world. Help is given for flood, tornado, hurricanes, and fire. In addition this agency supports ongoing programs in parts of the world that have nutrition and food supply problems. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

**DEADLINE FOR  
SEPTEMBER  
2014  
STEEPLE, Tues.,  
AUGUST 19th!**

**AUGUST Ushers (10:30):**

- Aug. 3: Diane Murbarger, Deb & Meg Fansler
- Aug. 10: Tamera, Sydney, Piper Martin
- Aug. 17: Steve & Jill Oertle
- Aug. 24: Sarah & Steve Campbell
- Aug. 31: → **USHERS NEEDED!**

Please Call the Head Usher if you will help!

**AUGUST Head Usher:  
DOROTHY KASINGER**

**Average Attendance for JULY 2014**

Early Service	75
Late Service	56
Sunday School	45
Visitors	6



**JULY Stewardship**

<b>Budget Offering:</b>	through 7/31/2014	<b>\$20842.25</b>
<b>Designated Giving:</b>	through 7/31/2014	<b>\$2711.50</b>
	Capital Improvements	290.00
	Loose Change	130.50
	Flowers	72.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	60.00
	Memorials	875.00
	Reimbursements	1000.00
	Upper Room	9.00
	Front Sign Repair	25.00
	S.S. Room Curtains & Bins	100.00
	Defibrillator Items	150.00
<b>Catch Up Offering</b>		<b>150.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$23703.75</b>

**SHE NEEDS TO RETIRE... Joyce Tappy needs to retire from the task of decorating the bulletin boards. Is this something you would like to do? Joyce will help you get started and show you where all the bulletin board supplies and cut-outs are kept. Please, pray about this and call the office if you are interested!**

**INSTALLATION:**

The new District Superintendent, Rev. Roger Grimmett, will be officially installed on Sunday, Sept. 7th at 3:00 p.m. at Union UMC in Belleville. Bishop Keaton will be present at the installation.





## Mississippi River District Ice Cream Social

**When:** Aug. 17th, 2-4 p.m.

**Where:** St. John's UMC,  
Edwardsville, IL

**Why:** To meet our new Pastors & their families, have a time of fellowship, and eat ice cream!

**Who:** Current Pastors & families, retired Pastors & families, any church member!

**R.S.V.P. to 618.622.3072 so we get enough ice cream for everyone!**

On **August 16th** Patches & Badges for Kids will be hosting a Motorcycle Ride, the First Annual **"Handlebars & Guitars Benefit Ride."**

The ride benefits Patches & Badges for Kids, NFP, which is a local charity comprised of First Responders, Motorcycle Enthusiasts, and Volunteers. The charity assists children in need with The Annual Christmas Shop Program and emergency assistance throughout the year.

The ride will be approximately one hour long and will be a scenic ride through the Riverbend area, assisted by local law enforcement officers. It ends at Music Fest at Alton-Wood River Sportsman's Club in Godfrey IL. The event fee goes to the charity and you get free entry to Music Fest. Motorcycle parking is free for us.

**The Music Fest will feature ten hours of music, including Jana Kramer and Big & Rich!**

If one does not ride a motorcycle they can still register with us and get into the music festival at our cost; vehicles will have to pay for parking.

Riders and Passengers can pre-register at [www.patchesbadgesforkids.com](http://www.patchesbadgesforkids.com)

**Registrations will be at Ted's Motorcycle World from 9 a.m. till Noon, and we will leave at 12:30 Sharp from Ted's.**

Visit our website for details or Facebook page.





# 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 in the sanctuary.)

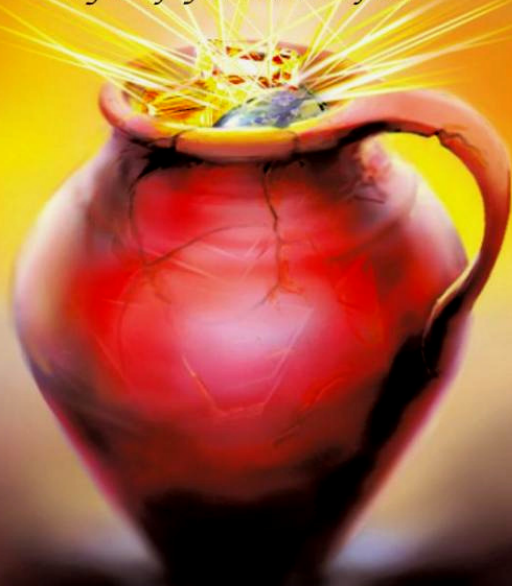
# HYMN SING

Nameoki UMC has a brand new organ. Come and help them dedicate it to the Glory of God on *Sunday, August 24 at 2 p.m.*

They will be singing up a storm! Rev. Dr. Beverly Wilkes-Null will be the guest preacher.

A free-will offering will go towards the Family Treehouse (TWIGS) in Granite City. For more information call 618-877-1936. The address is 1900 Pontoon Road, Granite City.

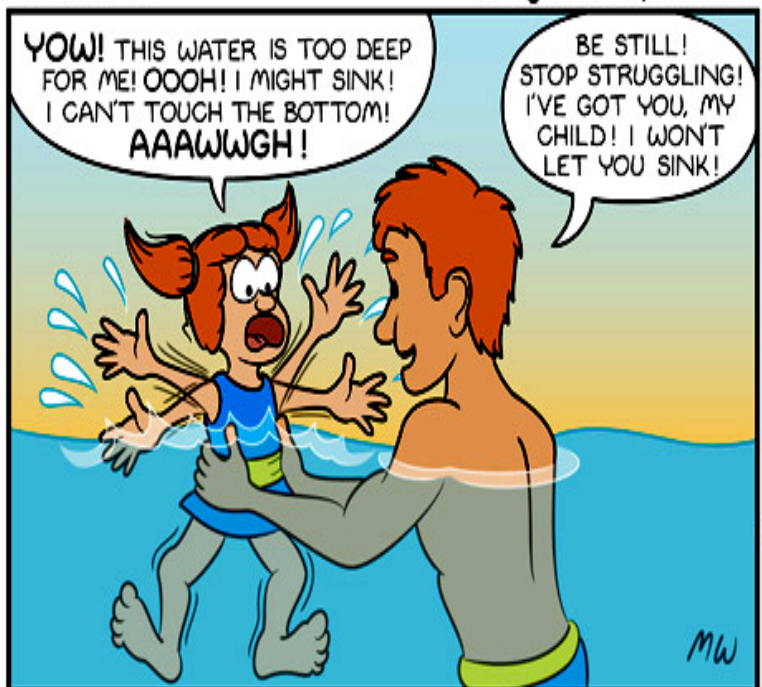
*"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."*



2 Corinthians 4:7

# BE STILL

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." — PSALM 46:10 NIV

© 2010 Michael D. Waters www.joyfultoons.com



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**

**Cleaning Deb's Classroom**

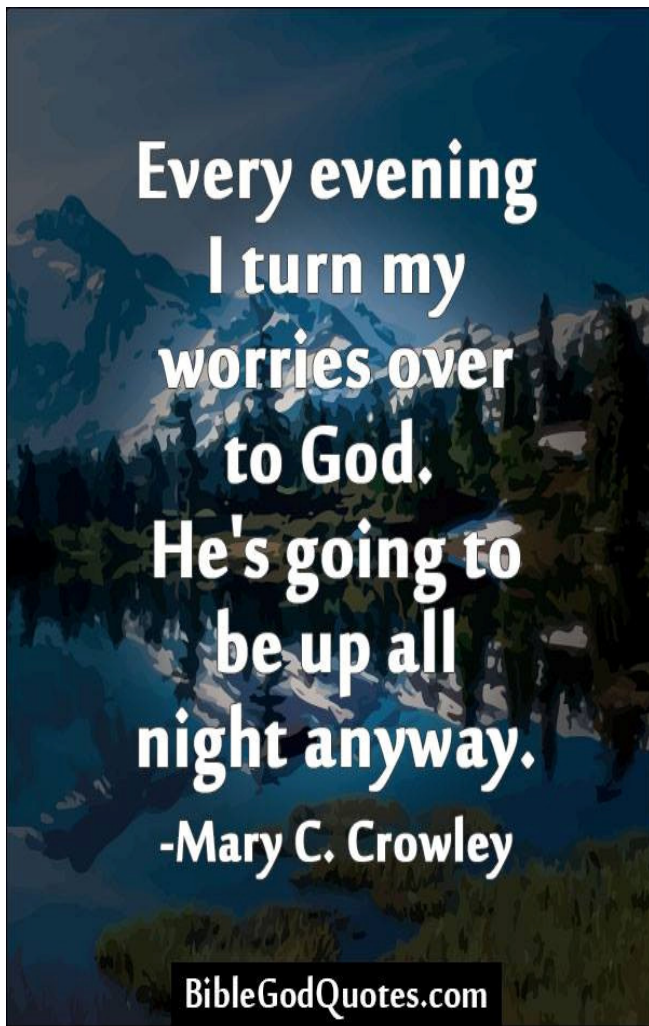
**Special Events -**

**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!**

**CRAVE Facilitator - Betsy Blacklock 618.250.3858  
[betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com](mailto:betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com)**







We say  
goodbye to  
our dear  
friend...



**Katherine (Betty) Naef Roberts**, "Betty Roberts", died on June 25, 2014, at Mantey Heights Nursing Home in Grand Junction, CO.

Betty was born June 13, 1922, to Violet and Donald Naef in Alton, IL. She married Walton Roberts on March 19, 1948. Walt died on July 7, 1992. Betty lived in the Wood River/East Alton area until the final months of her life.

Betty was a homemaker. Her family, friends and church were her greatest joys. She especially doted on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved supporting her friends through cards and phone calls. For most of her life, she was an active member of St Paul's United Methodist Church in East Alton. She could always be counted on to assist with church dinners and activities. She was also a life-long fan of the St Louis Cardinals, and enjoyed listening to their games on the radio.

She is survived by her two children, Mary (Nic) Korte of Grand Junction, CO., and Don Roberts of Grayslake, Ill. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Ann (Ryan) Leonard and Adam (Cara) Korte of Grand Junction, CO., and Jessica Roberts of Brooklyn, NY. Her two great-grandchildren are Zia and Koen Leonard of Grand Junction.

*"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit."*

**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**

Although some knew Betty because they grew up in Wood River, most of us met Betty here at St. Paul. Although the church is flawed—filled as it is with imperfect people like us—it is called into being by God. Again and again in the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit falls upon people as they hear the story of Jesus and they step forward to join the Church.

Indeed, Luke and others used the Greek word *ecclesia* for church. It means "*called out of the crowd.*" It is rather amazing that the people here at St. Paul aren't here because we have chosen them or because they have passed a membership test. No, they are here because God called them.

When Peter, Paul, Lydia, and others mentioned in the New Testament responded to the call of God to join the *ecclesia*, they often had to leave their family behind. This is still true today in many countries where becoming a Christian results in being shunned by your biological family. For these people, the church becomes their new family. While we do not face the persecution that many in the world do, still the church does become family for us.

Betty can tell us that she wanted no eulogy, but that does not lessen the grief we feel or eliminate the empty place in our hearts today because she is family. A strange thing happens in the church. When you spend so much time praying, worshiping, working, crying, and laughing together, you grow to love each other as Christ first loved us.

We gather together to surround Mary, Don, the grandchildren, great-grandchildren with love today, because their loss is great. However, we also gather to comfort one another because we have lost a dear sister. The comfort all of us find is in the proclamation that Jesus is Resurrection and Life.

God raised Jesus from the dead, the first of many who will be raised. The Resurrection is a signal that we may follow Jesus without fear because His way does not end in death but in Life, life everlasting.

The promise God makes is that we shall see each other again. Our parting is painful and accompanied by tears, but it is not forever. We shall see our brothers and sisters again in a place where there is no more pain, no more suffering, no more tears because God himself has wiped all these away.

Betty Roberts was family and we will miss her so very much! Pastor Daryl

