



The Steeple

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



JANUARY 2015

Choices matter. The mother of one of Meg's friends always underlined this for her daughter. Every time Meg and her friend went somewhere, the mother's last words were: "**Make good choices.**" Pretty good parting words for our children.

As our children grow up, they are called upon to make more and more choices without the benefit of our input. We have all made stupid choices that caused our parents to ask: "*what were you thinking?*" The short answer is that we weren't thinking; at least not very clearly. It is so easy for bad choices to multiply quickly—one leading to another to another—until we find ourselves in a place where we never wanted to be. But there we are all the same.

We are weak. Easily misled by friends. Distracted by the siren call of the world. Yielding to the desire to fit in.

This is why all of us need to pay attention to the path we are on. Are we on the wrong path or the right path? Is it the road to destruction or the road to life? Our choices matter.

Of course, it helps to have a destination in mind. Before *mapquest.com*, road trips were planned with a road atlas or map in hand. There was great personal satisfaction in successfully plotting the course for our trip. Even with *mapquest.com*, you have choices. Usually, there are several routes presented from which to choose.

As we move into a New Year, we take stock of the road traveled this last year. If we are dissatisfied with where we are at, we try to plot how to get to where we want to be in 2015. So much of life is figuring out how we get from point A to B.

In the 3rd chapter of Philippians, Paul is clear about his destination. He wants to know Christ and the power of the resurrection. He goes on to note: "*I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I'm well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.*" (Philippians 3:13-15, *The Message*) This is a worthy goal for all of us this year.

If you aren't where you want to be this New Year, don't despair. No one makes good choices all the time. Notice that Paul doesn't claim to be an expert in the journey of life.

So much of life is a matter of two steps forward and one step back. We all mess up. This is why our faith offers the opportunity to begin again with God and with other people. This is why St. Paul is here: to offer encouragement, support and prayers for each other. Life is too hard to be lived on your own.

We invite you to join us for worship on Saturdays at 5 p.m. (beginning January 10th) and on Sundays at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. And, remember: **Make good choices.**

Pastor Daryl



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- On Cradle Roll Sunday, Dec. 21, 10 babies were blessed: **Mara Flynn, Una Faye Garland, Elaine Hart, Holden Herndon, William Laufersweiler, Reid Pruetzel, Patsy Scroggins, Giuliana Sims, Claire Springer, and Ava Toner.**
- What joy at the birth of **Kylie Renee Shaffer** born Dec. 11, 2014 weighing 7 lbs 3 oz. Her parents are Kyle & Aleccia Shaffer; sister Lilly Shaffer and brother Gabriel Shaffer. Her proud Grandparents are Norma & Raymond Shaffer! Congratulations to all!
- We rejoice because of the baptism of **Ryleigh Georgia Spurgeon** on Sunday, December 28, 2014. She is the daughter of Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon. Her big sister is Adelyn and big brother is Evan. Her very proud grandparents are Deb & Mark Mayer!
- Our prayers and deepest sympathy goes to those who have lost loved ones recently. To the family of **Cletus Sidwell**, brother/brother-in-law of Jane & Jim Herndon, and the family of **Judy Hoffman**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell. May God give you all comfort and peace in this time of grieving.
- **Thank you to Eldon Wold, Jr.**, all the members of the choir, and the support team for sharing with us the story of the Baby Jesus in song through the cantata, Bethlehem's Child. Every year the choir instills within us the wonder and awe of that first Christmas. **Thank you to everyone** who helped with or participated in our Christmas Dinner, Christmas Program, March To The Manger, Angel Tree distribution, and the Gingerbread House making. Your presence, your efforts, and your valuable time were all important to these events! God Bless you! **We also thank everyone** who purchased a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season! How very beautiful the flowers have been.
- **Thank you to all** who helped make the three Christmas Eve Services happen! Nothing like this hinges on the efforts of one person and we do so appreciate the folks who step forward offering their help often without even being asked. Your willingness to serve is grace!
- **Thank you to those helping with our Awakening Preview Services** as we move toward the Jan. 10th Launch Service. Many hours of planning and practice have gone into these services. We welcome your feedback as we craft services to better connect people with Jesus Christ.
- **Many thanks to everyone** who volunteered their time, donated cookies and decorations, and attended the Christmas Craft and Cookie Festival on Dec. 6th! Special thanks to Tammy Atchley for coordinating cookie sales and to Betsy Blacklock for coordinating vendors. Additional thanks to Jamie Gwaltney who bid on the beautiful painting created by the Passion Painter and generously donated it to St. Paul. Thanks to everyone for all of your support! **-Awakening Planning Team**
- **Thank You:** For the generous Staff Christmas Gifts that we received, we offer our thank yous:
 - Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Thank you for allowing me to participate in worship with you each Sunday. **Eldon Wold, Jr.**
 - Thank you so very much for thinking of & blessing me with an unexpected gift this Christmas. Working here is a real joy for me. **Joe Hanfelder**
 - I cannot thank you enough in a written way that truly expresses how much my ministry with you means to me. The blessing of your generous Christmas gift and all the many cards & gifts received have been delightful. Thank you for them. **Lois Mitchell**
 - Many thanks for your generous gift. **Kevin Rader**
 - Thank you for the generous Christmas gift to me. It is most helpful. **Joy Miller**
 - I would like to thank the St. Paul congregation for my generous Christmas gift. Your love & support is very much appreciated. **Marilyn Cisler**
 - Debra, Meg, and I have been blessed by being part of your family since July 2000. Thank you and have a Happy New Year! **Pastor Daryl**



MORE OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

Thank You: to all of my friends at St. Paul, to Pastor Fansler, to Parish Nurse Eileen, to visitors to my home at Villa Rose, and to all who sent condolence cards and Christmas greetings; to the Sweet Sounds and to Carol Warner and her faithful team of workers for their gracious serving of delicious food to my family. I love you ALL! I miss seeing Jack at the nursing home, and we had already planned my next visit when I learned he had died in his sleep. What a comfort to know that he loved the Lord and had no real pain before leaving us. That had been his prayer and it was answered! God bless you all!

Londa Weller and Family

Thank You: to my church family for your many prayers, cards, calls, and expressions of love during this time of waiting. Greatly appreciated were the many visits of love by Pastor Daryl; Eileen Cheatham, Parish Nurse; and Doug Pascoe, Parish Visitor. It is difficult to share in words how much it meant to us for Eileen and the Sweet Sounds to sing during Lloyd's Celebration of Life Service. And many thanks to Carol Warner and her incredible crew for making a delicious meal for us. Everyone took such good care of us and we are so very grateful. May God Bless you all as you have blessed us!

Vi Potter and the whole Family

2015 NEWSLETTERS:

The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you at home will be **\$8.50**. We will still email the Newsletter, place it on the website, and have copies at the church for you to pick up, to have extras to give to friends you invite to church, and for visitors to take. Watch in the bulletin for a sheet to sign to request your Newsletter to be mailed to you. You can also go ahead and send your request to the Church Office and your check for **\$8.50**.

Any questions...please call 259-5210.

REPORT ON "God Owns the Cattle; We Manage the Range!" COMMITMENT SUNDAY

There is still time to return your **Estimate of Giving card**. If you misplaced your card, stop by the Church Office or the plastic pockets on the wall in the entryway for a replacement. Your estimate is important as we develop a budget for 2015.

- A total of **92** individuals, couples, and families have completed *Estimate of Giving Cards* to-date (12/28/2014).
- The total committed on these *Estimate of Giving Cards* to our ministry for 2015 to-date is **\$223,548.00**.

2014 CONFERENCE APPORTIONMENTS:

This week with your help we will make the 12th apportionment payment for 2014. These payments support not only the administrative costs of our ministry as an Annual Conference but also represent support for missions we believe in like the Children's UM Home in Mt. Vernon, the chaplaincy program at Alton Memorial Hospital, and the Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. We have accomplished this despite having to cancel worship services on 3 Sundays in 2014 due to weather.; an unprecedented event for us. It has been 3 years since we were able to do this. Well done, good and faithful servants.



JANUARY - Church of Rock (COR) Youth News

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

**Youth to meet on Sundays @6:30 p.m. at
SPUMC in the Youth Room!**

**Contact Kevin Rader at
(618) 303-0044 for other January info!**



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



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

4 Epiphany Sunday. Doug Pascoe, our Parish Visitor, leads us in worship today.



11 Baptism of our Lord. Birthday Sunday. Communion celebrated.

We remember the baptism of Jesus and offer everyone the opportunity to remember their own baptism. This is a time when we renew our commitment to Jesus and His Church. *Read Mark 1:4-11.*



18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Human Relations Day. This month a movie, *Selma*, depicts a slice in the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson that led to the signing of the Voting Rights Act. We have come so far since 1965, but the unrest in the St. Louis region reminds us that there is still farther to go. Within the church, we believe that a change of heart is required before we will have the relationships with our brother and sisters that God intends. We focus upon how our faith helps us change our heart.

25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. The movie, *Unbroken*, is a story of courage, perseverance and faith. The movie tells the story Louis Zamperini who led an extraordinary life as Olympian, soldier in WWII, and POW. Just as remarkable is what happened to Louis Zamperini when he returned home. Our hope is that we may all learn from Louis Zamperini's journey of faith.

LAUNCH

AWAKENING - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2015 // 5:00 PM

ST. PAUL UMC, ROSEWOOD HEIGHTS - 10 NORTH CENTER STREET - EAST ALTON, IL 62024

For more information: www.stpaulwired.org

AWAKENING

Join us on Sat., January 10th at 5 p.m. for the kickoff of Awakening! Awakening is St. Paul's newest service featuring a relaxed, contemporary theme with the Awakening Praise Band in a family friendly setting. CRAVE has been pondering and praying about this service for about a year and now it is becoming a reality. The Holy Spirit has been at work, feeding us from the initial ideas through the intensive planning phase and now as it is offered to the community. We hope you will join us (and bring your family, friends, and neighbors) as we praise God and celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done for all of us!

**Nurses Notes for JANUARY 2015 from Parish Nurse, Eileen!**

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways." Haggai 1:5

Most people will agree that the start of the new year seems to be the perfect time to "turn the page" or "start off with a clean slate", which is why so many people love to start the new year with a New Year's resolution. Of course we all know that our good intentions for those resolutions look oh so good in the first few weeks of the new year- but by the end of January less than 10% of us are still working on them or have settled back into our old familiar habits. According to the most articles that I read to research starting and keeping a healthy habit or breaking a bad one, it took an average of 66 days to make or break a habit. That is a much longer time frame than what has been usually reported as three weeks to break a bad habit. Let's look at a few things that we can all do to start and keep a few of our resolutions this 2015.



Choose a realistic, specific goal: Instead of making a goal to lose weight or to trying to eat healthy, focus on a very specific goal- such as losing 10 pounds over the next six months, exercising 3 times a week, or drinking 6-8 glasses of water each day. Choosing a specific goal allows you to be able to develop a plan on how to accomplish your goal.

Pick just one resolution: Pick just one new habit to form or bad habit to break and focus on just it. That way you do not spread yourself to thin and set yourself up for failure.

Don't wait until New Year's Eve: Planning is a huge part of being successful with any new goal. Make a plan, set up your strategies on how to achieve the goal, but also what barriers could block you achieving your goal.

Start with Baby Steps: Sometimes we can start off with the best of intentions, but make drastic changes that hurt us more than help us achieve success. If losing weight is your resolution, instead of drastically slashing calories and feeling terrible, why not try to cut out junk food- such as cookies and replacing with a healthy choice. If you have exercise in mind, instead of overdoing it at the gym, try to make a goal of 3 times a week for 30 minutes- and if not the gym, maybe a brisk walk outside.

Avoid Repeating Failures From The Past: If you have tried and failed repeatedly at the same goal, first begin by evaluating what went wrong. If you choose to try again to reach for the same goals you've tried for in the past, spend some time evaluating your previous results. Which strategies were the most effective? Which were the least effective? What has prevented you from keeping your resolution in past years? By changing your approach, you will be more likely to see real results this year.

Remember that change is a process: Those unhealthy habits that we have taken years to create, so how can you expect to change them in just a few days or months? It may take longer than you like to achieve your goals, but healthy habits are something you will need to continue to work on the rest of your life.

There will be setbacks: The biggest reason that people give up on their resolutions is setbacks. If the journey were straight and easy we wouldn't have any bad habits to lose! View the setbacks as opportunities to re-evaluate and fine tune your plan.

Don't forget your spiritual needs: Body, mind, and the intentional care of the spirit is heart of parish nursing, so I cannot forget the spirit! We occasionally all need to pause and take a look at the direction in our lives- to evaluate where we are going, and where we should be going. Ask yourself a few questions:

1. **What is one thing you could do to increase your enjoyment of God?**
2. **What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?**
3. **What's one thing you could do to improve your prayer life? Who could you pray for?**
4. **What is the single biggest time waster in your life, and what can you do about it?**
5. **What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter in 10 years? In eternity?**

My hope for all of you this year is that you will take the time to reflect on what is most important in your lives, what goals can you work on to reach your goals, and that you develop a plan to succeed. I will help in any way that I can.

Please also remember that I keep office hours at all three locations that I serve. If you have questions concerning medications, would like to start keeping a record on blood pressures for the physician, or have some other concern, please do not hesitate to come in and see me. You can also leave a message on my office phone at the hospital, 618-463-7785. You can also contact the church secretary to contact me or for those at United Methodist Village, you can contact the receptionist to contact me. My office hours at each location are as follows:

Roxana Church: Monday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

United Methodist Village: Thursday 10 a.m.- 12 noon

St. Paul United Methodist: Tuesday 9 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Hospital Office Hours: Wednesdays

I look forward to seeing all of you, and will close with a prayer for the New Year. *I ask Lord, for your continued blessings on those around me. I ask that this year be one of peace and joy for my family and friends. I ask that you continue to be a presence in all of our lives. I ask that you give each of us a heart for you and a desire to serve to make the world a better place. I also ask for peace and blessings on those far from home, for those who suffer, and for those who need you a little more each day.*

Following Him- Eileen



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

January 01 Cloninger, Sue
 January 01 Gowan, Kalvin
 January 03 Link, Mike
 January 03 Bishop, Ronald
 January 03 Hamlin, Kathy
 January 03 Groshong, Ashley
 January 05 Kissack, Bob Sr.
 January 05 Decker, Heather
 January 05 Martin, Piper
 January 06 Tappy, Joyce
 January 07 Bowman, Glenn
 January 07 White, Laura Jo
 January 07 Fincher, Chris
 January 07 Poore, Shay
 January 07 Cox, Lana
 January 08 Balzraine, Becky
 January 08 Scroggins, Jim
 January 08 Huddleston, Avery
 January 09 Moore, Beulah
 January 09 Williams, Janet
 January 09 Dorsey, Mary Lou
 January 09 Weston-Fiss, Marsha
 January 10 Voorhees, Emily
 January 11 Shaffer, Norma
 January 11 Hubbard, Paula
 January 11 Lyons, Stacy
 January 11 Eyster, Riley
 January 12 Rain, Nathan
 January 12 Mayer, Lindsey

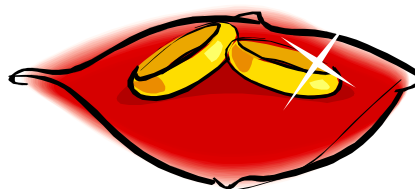
January 13 Napp, Aiden
 January 13 Ramirez, Mylie
 January 14 Aitken, Dottye
 January 14 Liedtke, Gregg
 January 14 Gwaltney, Scott
 January 17 Carlisle, Amanda
 January 18 Hale, Amy
 January 18 Oertle, McLain
 January 19 Cheatham, Eileen
 January 19 Redden, D.J. Jr.
 January 21 Aitken, Scott
 January 21 Wheat, Russell Jr.
 January 21 Chester, Annabelle
 January 22 Blaine, Barbara
 January 22 Bunt, Clayton
 January 22 Garrison, William
 January 23 Gimmy, Ken
 January 23 Martin, Tamera
 January 24 Groshong, Ryan
 January 25 Poore, Jan
 January 25 Cameron, Lindsey
 January 26 Moore, Sandy
 January 27 Hughes, Janet
 January 27 Sheppard, David
 January 27 Sheppard, James
 January 28 Moore, Duane

January 29 Hansard, Gail
 January 29 Voorhees, Mychal
 January 30 Weller, Londa
 January 30 Voorhees, Tom
 January 30 Shaffer, Raymond
 January 30 Sims, Logan
 January 31 Sullivan, William
 January 31 Hartman, Geno
 January 31 Barnes, Jessica
 January 31 Walters, Miranda
 January 31 Schiber, Marlo



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



Church Directory changes and additions to keep you up-to-date!

Changes/Additions: Rohland & Susie Pruetzel 3417 Sharon Lane, Alton, IL 62002;
Tony & Nikki Garland 424 East Pearl Street, Jerseyville, IL 62052; Kevin & Lindsey Rader 21 Halleck
 Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62052; Mr. & Mrs. Rick Sparling P.O. Box 536, Bunker Hill, IL 62014;
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Whaley 307 Whispering Oaks Drive, Bethalto, IL 62010.

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)

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

JANUARY Ushers (10:30):

Jan. 4: Mindy McLain, Joe & Sherry Huff

Jan. 11: Tom & Ruth Voorhees, Deb Mayer

Jan. 18: Mike & Ricci Voorhees, Anita Dawson

Jan. 25: Debbie & Ryan Tite

GREETERS NEEDED FOR SOME SERVICES

Please Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you will help be an usher or greeter!

Average Attendance for DECEMBER 2014

Early Service	55
Late Service	107
Sunday School	44
Visitors	6
Christmas Eve Total	186



DECEMBER Stewardship

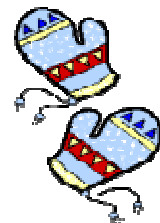
Budget Offering:	through 12/31/2014	\$21277.00
Designated Giving:	through 12/31/2014	\$4861.57
	Capital Improvements	320.00
	Loose Change	130.30
	Flowers	296.50
	Red Bird Mission	75.00
	UMCOR	600.00
	Awakening Service	1891.27
	Brad Fester	100.00
	Helping Hands	900.00
	Funeral Dinners	150.00
	Upper Rooms	25.00
	Sweet Sounds	50.00
	Memorials	295.00
	2015 Steeple Postage	17.00
	2015 Offering Envelopes	11.50
Christmas Dinner		622.00
Student Offering		30.00
Christmas Offering		3325.00
Refund-Staff Gifts		565.00
Total:		\$30680.57

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY 2015 STEEPLE, Mon., JANUARY 19th!



Cap 'N Mitten Tree 2014

Your efforts to cover this year's Cap 'N Mitten Tree brought these results: 40 pairs of gloves, 44 sock caps, 3 scarves, 41 pairs of socks, and 47 pieces of underwear for a total of **175 gifts** on the tree! Your generosity will bring warmth to many people this winter. God bless you for your gifts!





THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



http://thebackpew.com

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



Flower Calendar for 2015 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. Fill it up! Thank you!



HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY TOO LONG? START 2015 OFF IN THE RIGHT WAY; RECONNECT WITH GOD!



*open hearts
open minds
open doors*  **ST PAUL**
united methodist church

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

Our mission is to share our love of Christ to open hearts for a life filled with amazing possibilities!

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

CRAVE IHOP Sunday: 1st Sunday of the month @8a.m. - IHOP Wood River

Awakening Service Kick-Off: Sat., Jan. 10, 2015 5p.m. - Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall
<https://www.facebook.com/AwakeningWorshipSTPUMC>

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

~Dottie Escobedo-Frank



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Lloyd Wilson Potter, age 90, of Rosewood Heights, IL, died at 12:35 p.m. on Fri. Dec. 19, 2014, with his wife of 68 years and other family members by his side. Lloyd peacefully passed away at the Eunice Smith Nursing Home in Alton, IL. Born Jan. 5, 1924 in Baylis, IL, he was the son of John E. Potter & Nellie (Walmsley) Potter. Lloyd was a longtime, active member at St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights.

Lloyd graduated from Pittsfield Community High School in Pittsfield, IL in 1941, and attended Shurtleff College. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1946. He retired as a Shift Foreman from Clark Refinery in Hartford, IL in 1986. On May 18, 1946 he married the former Violet Bryant, who survives him. Together they raised three children: Ronald L. Potter (Virginia) of Montgomery, IL, J. Michael Potter (Deanne) of Newton, IL and Donna (Potter) Maurer of Tecumseh, MO.

“Papa Lloyd” will be remembered by his family as a kind man with a sense of humor for all occasions.

Surviving is his sister, Leah M. Hull (Marvin) of Barry, IL. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Elizabeth (Ver Vynck) Tomkowiak, Michael Ver Vynck, John Ver Vynck (Joanne), Joshua Potter (Briana), and Shane Maurer. Ten Great Grandchildren: Jennifer McCoy (Jason), James Guzzo, Kylie Guzzo, Michael Tomkowiak, Cassandra Ver Vynck, Tyler Ver Vynck, Nicholas Ver Vynck, Avery Ver Vynck, Aaron Ver Vynck, and Evan Ver Vynck. One Great Great Grandchild: Kailani Schmaer.

Lloyd was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and enjoyed golf, hunting, fishing, and gardening. After retiring, Lloyd & Vi made many new friends at their winter home in Apache Junction, AZ. Lloyd started wood carving and painting at a late age.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Maurine Bennett and two brothers, John R. Potter and Gerald W. Potter.

¹ My child, don't forget what I teach you. Always remember what I tell you to do. ² My teaching will give you a long and prosperous life. ³ Never let go of loyalty and faithfulness. Tie them around your neck; write them on your heart. ⁴ If you do this, both God and people will be pleased with you.

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. ⁶ Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way. ⁷ Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the LORD and refuse to do wrong. ⁸ If you do, it will be like good medicine, healing your wounds and easing your pains. ⁹ Honor the LORD by making him an offering from the best of all that your land produces. ¹⁰ If you do, your barns will be filled with grain, and you will have too much wine to store it all.

*¹¹ My child, when the LORD corrects you, pay close attention and take it as a warning. ¹² The LORD corrects those he loves, as parents correct a child of whom they are proud. **Proverbs 3 NLT***

Lloyd chose this passage from Proverbs to be read during the Celebration of his Life. Solomon offers these words of wisdom to a young child. Follow these teachings, he says and you will live a long and prosperous life. I believe that Lloyd wanted us to know that these teachings formed the core principles in his life. The beginning of wisdom is reverence for the Lord. The acknowledgment that God is the Creator and we are the creature. God knows and always seeks what is best for us. So as verse 5 counsels us, we need to **trust in the Lord with all our heart.**

I believe that Lloyd chose these verses as well to benefit us--those who continue to run the race of faith. He wanted these verses read so his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-grandchild would remember what he valued. What he deemed important. Your legacy is not merely warm, fuzzy

Continued on page 11



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Melvin Leroy "Jack" Weller, 98, formerly of East Alton, IL, died at 11 p.m. Wed. Dec. 10, 2014 at the Eunice C. Smith Nursing Home in Alton, IL.

He was born Jan. 4, 1916 in Kane, IL to the late Christopher & Cora (Burch) Weller.

Jack served in the U.S. Army and was wounded in the Normandy Invasion during WWII, receiving the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He was a 50+ year member of the VFW.

He began Troop #59 of the Boy Scouts of America in Jerseyville, IL. During his years at Shell Oil Co, he also did auctioneering in the area, retiring in 1978.

Jack was a member of the Wood River First United Methodist Church and later the St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights where he be-

longed to the singing group, "Sweet Sounds," which ministers to the elderly. Jack had been an avid fisherman and amateur photographer.

Following the death of his beloved wife Katherine (Robinson) Weller, he met and married Londa (Williams) Cook. She survives in Bethalto.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by: a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Gordon & Carla Weller of Rochester, MN, 3 step-sons and a daughter-in-law, Rev. Charles L. McKnelly of Hong Kong, Lance McKnelly of Kimberling City, MO and Darryl & Vicki McKnelly of O'Fallon, MO, 2 grandchildren, Shaun Weller & his fiancée, Cheryl Ott, and Nicole & her husband Jacob Moreland, 4 grandchildren, Brendan & Brooklyn Weller and Tyler & Talon Moreland and a sister, Kathryn Shoemaker of LaVerne, CA.

Besides his first wife and parents, he was preceded in death by: 4 brothers, Louis, Robert, Ronald & Dale Weller and 2 sisters, Rozella Wainwright and Hazel Liles.

Rev. Ron Philips from Indianapolis offered the Eulogy and the Sermon during the funeral service for Jack Weller. He reminded us that faith formed the foundation of Jack's life and we all need a faith like his. Jack always pointed beyond himself to Jesus the Christ.

Jack was an integral part of Sweet Sounds, our music ministry to Nursing Homes and Sr. Citizens' centers. I will remember the jigs that Jack danced for the entertainment of the people. I worried that he was going to fall down and break something. But, he never did.

In the Nursing Home, we often thumbed through Jack's classic car calendar. Jack was a wellspring of information about every classic car pictured there. He told me of his experience on D-Day on the beach at Normandy. He like so many others didn't get far up the beach before he was injured.

He was proud of being an Eagle Scout and we believe he was the oldest living Eagle Scout in our Council. I will miss Jack and the good conversations we enjoyed.

Please pray for Londa, his wife, and his son Gordon and family. Pastor Daryl

CHANGES TO FACILITY USE

Please note these changes in the use of the church on **Saturdays** beginning December of 2014. **Anyone using the Fellowship Hall** must complete their event by 4 p.m. and have everything cleaned up by 4:30 p.m. Afternoon weddings must begin by 3:30 p.m. at the latest. Evening weddings may be held beginning after 6:30 p.m. Thank you.



WOMEN OF WORSHIP 2014 REPORT

The St. Paul Women of Worship are happy to report a very successful year and we were able to donate **\$9,250** to the various charities and missions. This was all made possible by the many busy hands helping with ALL of our projects. Fundraising and service projects this year included the Retired Teacher's Luncheon, Rummage Sale, Easter Baskets for Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing, Happy Bears for children seen in AMH Emergency Room and knitted caps for new babies, Bowling Banquet, Saturday Craft Celebration, Fall Festival, Christmas Boutique, and tables at CRAVE Christmas Craft & Cookie Festival. The following funds were dispersed at the December meeting:

School Nurses: Roxana - \$1,400 Bethalto - \$400* East Alton - \$600* (*Bethalto and East Alton have other sources of income for these expenditures that Roxana doesn't have, thus the varying amounts.)
Salvation Army - \$500 UMCOR - \$600 Lessie Bates - \$750 UM Children's Home - \$600
Oasis Women Center - \$300 St. Paul General Budget - \$2,000 Community Hope Center - \$150
St. Paul Helping Hands - \$900 Awakening Service - \$500 Operation Blessing - \$150
Boy Scouts - \$200 Cub Scouts - \$200 = \$ 9,250

In addition to monetary donations, Phyllis Hill donated, assembled, and labeled (with Larry's help) metal shelving and storage boxes. What a BIG addition to keeping supplies organized! Also, Beulah Moore and Elinor Blacklock assembled and delivered 44 coverlets to the OASIS Women's Center. Several ladies made dish cloths and scrubbies but Sally Lay takes the prize for making 400 scrubbies during the past year.

NOTE: A **planning meeting** for 2015 will be held on **Thursday, January 15 – at 11 a.m. followed by a potluck luncheon.** Won't you join us at our next meeting? **Crafts will resume the Tuesday** after our planning meeting – we would really appreciate your ideas for items to make and directions "how to do them." Again, GOD BLESS EVERYONE who helped to make this a successful year.

Lloyd Potter Continued from page 9

memories of a beloved grandpa but also an appreciation for these core principles that informed and shaped his life. Lloyd's desire is that these same principles which enabled him to live a long and prosperous life will enable you to do the same. The values expressed in these verses are eternal values that lead to eternal life.

If any of you should happen to live to age 90--like your grandfather--let me ask you: **WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE AT 90?** My guess is that most of you would like to be like your grandfather. What Lloyd wants you to remember is that **what we are like at 90 is the result of the choices we make today.** So make good choices! Choices that honor God!

A journalist once asked George Bernard Shaw, the great playwright, "*Mr. Shaw, you have dined and dined with all the greats of our generation. They all aspire to your friendship, and you know them well. If you could be reincarnated and come back as some other famous person of our time, who would it be?*"

This was Shaw's response: "*If I could relive my life in the role of any person I desired, I would want to be the man George Bernard Shaw could have been, but wasn't.*"

All of us fall short of being all that we might be. Certainly Lloyd was not perfect. The good news is that God forgives our failings. When we fall down, God picks us up and gives us a new start. What we have been does not necessarily determine what we shall be. We may change the course of our life by making different choices today.

And it begins by heeding the advice of this verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know.* ⁶ *Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way.*

Please keep Vi and her family in your prayers. Pastor Daryl



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Thomas D. Caldwell, 88, formerly of Sun City West, AZ, passed away at 10:22 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, MO. He was born on May 23, 1926, in O'Fallon, MO the son of the late Delbert & Maime (Blankenship) Caldwell.

He married the former Mary Lou Miller on September 11, 1947, in Alton and she preceded him in death in 1982. He then married the former Juanita "Nita" Ellis on May 14, 1983, and she preceded him in death on May 24, 2014. Survivors include four children and their spouses: Melody Caldwell of Florissant, MO, Vicki & Bill Schrimpf of Sarasota, FL, 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; thirteen great – grandchildren; one sister and brother in law: Patricia & Ed Pickett of Houston, Texas; and several nieces, neph-

ews, and other extended family.

He was employed for over 30 years by the Defense Mapping Aerospace Agency in St. Louis as a cartographer. While employed, he assisted with the mapping of the moon and witnessed several space shuttle launches. He was a founding member of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights and continued his involvement in various church committees throughout his life.

During the service, I observed in part that depending upon whom you asked, this was the house that either Jack or Tom built. We do know that Jack Adams as the Pastor and Tom Caldwell as the Chairman of the Building Committee spent a lot of hours together planning and overseeing the construction of this sanctuary. While they weren't alone in this work, I do know that both Jack and Tom count this building as one of their most significant achievements.

Since I have been at St. Paul, I have met so many people who have fond memories of this building. Usually the building is connected with significant transitions in their lives. There are memories of Vacation Bible School, Christmas pageants, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Youth Group, and choirs. People talk about weddings, baptisms, confirmation, and, yes, funeral services. As they grew up in Rosewood Heights, this building was a familiar friend. A presence they could count upon.

Now, I know it is bad theology to say the church is a building. We know the church is the people of God. Still, the people need a place to gather in worship. A place to glorify God.

Heinrich Heine, German poet and essayist who lived in the 1800s was asked why we no longer built Gothic cathedrals. You might imagine him responding that the money spent upon the construction of Gothic cathedrals would be better spent upon feeding the hungry or other works of charity. Instead, Heine said: *"People in those old times had convictions; we moderns only have opinions. And it needs more than a mere opinion to erect a Gothic cathedral."*

This neo-Gothic building stands as testimony to the conviction of Tom Caldwell and all the others involved in its construction that Jesus Christ is Lord. He is the Lord over death and the Lord of life. He is Lord today, tomorrow and always. For He shall stand fast against the forces of Evil.

The soaring ceilings lead our eyes upward toward the grandeur of God and the presence of eternity. The stained glass windows tell the stories of our faith played out in the lives of Moses, Paul, the Wesleys and Luther and assure us that God is present in our story as well. The pulpit like the bow of a ship cuts through the rough waters of life toward the calm shores of heaven.

The eternal light is a constant reminder that wherever two or three are gathered, Jesus is in the midst of us. Jesus is the Light of the World that can never be extinguished. The people in the pews beside

Continued on page 13



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**
- ✦ **post a notice on our website (if possible), www.stpaulwired.org**
- ✦ **contact those on the e-mail prayer chain (if possible)**



Tom Caldwell Continued from page 12

are a reminder of the truth of John Wesley's words: "There is no such thing as a solitary Christian." We are here to bear each other's burdens and celebrate our joys together and to realize that we are never alone.

And the aisle and side rooms form a cross which along with the cross at the front of the church and on the outside of the building tell the world that we worship a crucified savior. There is the shadow of a cross over the manger. For the baby grows into an adult who embraces the cross; taking upon Himself our sin and offering us in exchange His life.

If you want to know what Tom believed look around you. Look at this building. Look at all of us: his family and friends. Tom did not have mere opinions; he had convictions. He shared with the apostle Paul this conviction expressed in Ephesians 2:

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Christ brought us together through his death on the cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility. Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father. ¹⁹⁻²² That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Whether someone comes into this sanctuary for the first time or the thousandth time, they feel at home. The presence of God envelops them. It is revealed to them that they are a brick in God's building. They belong.

Not all of us have the privilege of erecting a church building, but all of us are building our lives of faith brick by brick, stone by stone. Fred Craddock says that when we commit our life to Jesus we have this vision that God will call us to do some great, grand gesture on his behalf. Instead, God gives us a \$100 bill and sends us to the bank and has us trade it in for rolls of quarters. We spend our lives a quarter at a time. A kind word here. A mission trip there. Sitting with friend while their spouse is in surgery. Encouragement to a grandchild.

This building, we who are gathered here today represent the bricks that form the whole of Tom Caldwell's life. We are the quarters he spent. The result of a life well spent.

We give thanks this day that Tom was a man of great conviction; not one of mere opinion. And the result is a holy temple built by God; a temple in which God is quite at home. Pastor Daryl



your GIFT GIVES HOPE TO THE HOPELESS

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

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

BRINGING PEOPLE OUT OF DARKNESS

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

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

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

YOUR GIFT MATTERS. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

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

Human Relations Day, January 18. Use any offering envelope and designate a gift for Human Relations Day.

