



# The Steeple

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



AUGUST 2015

**REPUTATION:** :overall quality or character as seen or judged by people in general  
:recognition by other people of some characteristic or ability  
:a place in public esteem or regard

Webster Online Dictionary

Lyle Schaller, a United Methodist pastor and church consultant, helped many churches understand what they needed to change in order to grow. Schaller began his consultation by going to the gas station or convenience store nearest to the church and asking for directions to the church by name. Often, the clerks working there had never heard of the church. If they had heard of the church and were able to offer directions, Schaller asked them what the church was “*known for*” in the community. In other words, *what was their reputation?* Then, when he met with the church leaders he shared with them what he had discovered. Often, the church leaders were shocked that most of the clerks had no idea where their church was located and, if they did, had a negative impression of the church.

I bring up the subject of reputation because I was buying gas and a soda last week, when the clerk at the BP station down the street said: “*I know your church helps people. Can you help a family who just lost their mother?*” She explained that there was a woman who lived across the street from the station who came in nearly every day and she had died suddenly. In fact, she had spoken to the woman the very morning before she died. The family was scrambling to cover the funeral expenses.

I told the clerk that “*Yes, we would make a donation to help.*” Long ago, you set up the *Helping Hands* fund to help our neighbors in need. Later that week, I stopped by the visitation to tell the family that we would be praying for them and offered our modest donation in their time of need. I wrote a note that expressed our belief in the Resurrection and signed it “*Your friends at St. Paul.*”

Many of the churches around us require that you be a member of the church before you may have your wedding in the church. We do not, which is why we end up performing many weddings for non-members. This has been a long-standing policy of St. Paul. Now, I’m doing weddings for the children of non-members who were themselves married at St. Paul.

We get requests for prayer from members of the community as well as our own members. People in our area are aware of the prayer chain that sends out requests instantaneously as well as the prayer list on Sunday mornings. In the prayer chapel, you will find prayer requests that are prayed over by our prayer coordinator, pastor, and others weekly. This summer we have already held two prayer walks where we go out two by two, praying for the homes and people in our neighborhood. If we meet people outside, we explain what we are doing and ask if they’d like us to pray for them. People know we are a praying church.

If you stopped people on the street in Rosewood Heights and asked them where St. Paul United Methodist Church was located, there are some who would have no clue. We are trying to change this by reaching out into our community more and more. However, there are others who know us by reputation. Rightly or wrongly, they have an opinion about our church and its ministry. More people than we realize expect us to be here on the corner of Airline Drive and Center St. and to be Christ to them in their time of need.

One of our small groups has been doing a hymn study this summer. I want to end by sharing an old hymn that was often sung on Sunday nights in my home church. It was never intended to be a hymn. Rather, it was a poem entitled, *My Creed*, that a young man, Howard Walter, sent from Japan where he was studying at Waseda University to his mother in Connecticut. His mother sent the poem to Harper’s Magazine where it was first published in 1906:

*Continued on Page 2*



*Continued from Page 1*

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

The poem captures for me the creed that we try to live at St. Paul. We strive to be a beacon of hope and a place of help in our neighborhood. To be the Body of Christ. Pastor Daryl

**Christian Family Day  
at Busch Stadium—  
July 19th!**

**Cards vs. Mets**

**18 innings and the  
Cards lose 1-3**

Here is a group photo of 18 of  
the 30 folks that went from  
St. Paul UMC!



This is a photo of the ticket coordinators for the 4 highest selling UMC congregations, and St. Paul was represented by Debbie Tite! Also pictured is the overall ticket coordinator, Tom Collenti, and his wife on the left. Fredbird is hugging the ticket coordinator who sold the most. Over 700 tickets were sold by UMC congregations in Illinois & Missouri and St. Paul UMC was the 4th highest with 30!



# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ◆ We rejoice with **Christine Stoner** who became a member of St. Paul UMC on Saturday, July 25th at AWAKENING and with **Maggie Funke & Sally Lay** who became members of St. Paul UMC on Sunday, July 26th at the 10:30 a.m. service! God bless you & welcome to the family!
- ◆ We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones recently. These include the family of **Angela Duncan**, who lived in our neighborhood and died unexpectedly; the family of **Edward Sholar, Sr.**, father of Amy Sholar who is a good friend of Debra Fansler; and the family of **Loretta Edwards**, long-time friend of Lois Mitchell and Ruth Bell from their home church. May God give you all the comfort you need in this grieving time.
- ◆ Thank you to **Shannah Wagner**, our summer intern from Edwardsville, for helping with Vacation Bible School, Awakening, and leading the Tween Scene group. We wish Shannah well as she enters the accelerated Nursing program at SIUE this fall.
- ◆ **Chance Foss** hit a walk-off grand slam in the bottom of the 7th inning against Teutopolis that guaranteed the American Legion Bears a victory in the Championship Game of the American Senior Legion Fifth Division Tournament. The Bears advance to the next level of state competition. (see bulletin board)
- ◆ **Jacob Giddings** finishes his studies at SIUE this summer with a degree in Psychology. Congratulations. Now, he is looking for a job!
- ◆ **Marie Brown** was hired by the Edwardsville District to work with the 4th & 5th grade music program in their four elementary schools. She was hired after the Helping Hands Sunday School Class prayed with her that she would get a job.

## THANK YOU

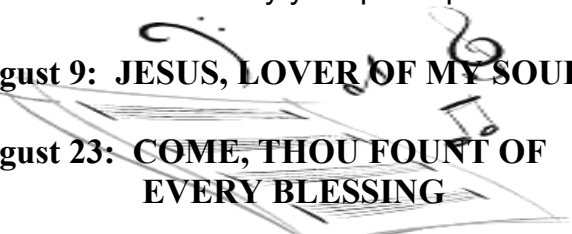
**THANK YOU:** Dear St. Paul United Methodist Church of Rosewood Heights, Thank you very much for honoring me with a 2015 Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship! It is truly a blessing to my family and me. Thank you again! With much appreciation, **Julie Bruns**

## SUMMER SMALL GROUP ON SUNDAYS AT 5 P.M.

We continue to meet every other Sunday during the summer at 5 p.m. Each time, we look at the story behind one of our most beloved hymns and how the words and music nurture our faith. The study is structured so you can drop in anytime during the summer and be blessed by your participation.

August 9: JESUS, LOVER OF MY SOUL

August 23: COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING



## IT'S WORSHIP ROAD TRIP TIME!

If you wish to join us for a worship road trip to Morning Star United Methodist Church in Dardienne Prairie, MO, please meet in the parking lot by the church van on Sun., Aug. 30th at 9:30 a.m. Please email the Church Office ([info@stpaulwired.org](mailto:info@stpaulwired.org)) if you are planning to attend. As many as want to may go, but there is only room in the church van for 14 passengers. Morning Star United Methodist Church has been successful in reaching out to youth and young adults.





## Saturdays at St. Paul in **AUGUST 5:00 P.M. Service**

Join us on **SATURDAYS** at 5 p.m. for **Awakening!** Awakening is St. Paul's newest worship service featuring a relaxed, contemporary theme with the Awakening Praise Band in a family friendly setting. The Holy Spirit has been at work, feeding us from the initial idea through the intensive planning phase. We hope you will join us (and bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!



### Our **AUGUST** Speakers:

1st - Paul Militzer	8th - Kevin Rader
15th - Jason McAtee	22nd - Kelsey Ross
29th - Christian Lacher	

## 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 a.m. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always in the sanctuary. "More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and a Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.*

**2** **10th Sunday after Pentecost.** Doug Pascoe, our Parish Visitor, is our special speaker.



**9** **11th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion celebrated. Birthday Sunday. Hickerson Scholarships Awarded (8:15 service).** Pastor Daryl continues the summer sermon series, *The Stories of Jesus*. Today is the story of ***The Ten Young Women Awaiting the Bridegroom*** found in Matthew 25:1-13. It asks the question whether we are ready for Jesus' return?



**16** **12th Sunday after Pentecost.** Pastor Daryl continues the summer sermon series, *The Stories of Jesus*. Today is the amazing story of ***The Friend at Midnight*** appearing in Luke 11:1-13. Where we would be polite in faith, Jesus pushes us to be bold!

**23** **13th Sunday after Pentecost.** Pastor Daryl continues the summer sermon series, *The Stories of Jesus*. The story of ***The Dishonest Steward*** in Luke 16:1-15 seems to call us to cut corners in our faith, but at its heart is a call for being wise and whole-hearted in our pursuit of the holiness of God.

**30** **14th Sunday after Pentecost.** Pastor Daryl continues the summer sermon series, *The Stories of Jesus*. During the 8:15 a.m. service, Pastor Daryl considers ***The Rich Person and Lazarus*** found in Luke 16:19-31. During the 10:30 a.m. service, we have a special speaker.

**Nurses Notes for AUGUST 2015 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.!**

Greetings Friends,

**“Dear friend, I pray that you enjoy good health and all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.” - 3 John 1:2**

It is great to be back to work after a wonderful vacation spent with family in Colorado. Unfortunately, I did have some symptoms that I knew had to be followed up on, and made an appointment with an ENT or ear, nose, and throat specialist. That appointment has passed, and I now have a diagnosis to work with, and hopefully begin to heal.

My symptoms started with a very irritating cough, and hoarseness. I thought I had strained my voice and that it would go away with some rest and medication- and yes it did ease up a bit, but didn't leave completely. I then contacted my doctor and had a course of antibiotics for laryngitis. But my voice remained weak, and my singing range did not return. I could barely get through praise team practice without my voice being completely gone. I started having terrible post nasal drip, and thought I had sinus problems, so I started taking sinus medications. It seemed as if I was getting worse instead of better. So with feet dragging, and after 1 month of resting my voice, I ended up at the ENT.

It was there that I received the diagnosis of **laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) or “silent GERD.”** Silent GERD is now somewhat of an epidemic- it also occurs in children, and one article I found stated it use to effect only 10% of the public but is now as high as 40%- and one cause is diet. My son, Jonathan, was treated for this a year ago, so at least I was familiar with the disease. Let's review this disease, symptoms, and treatment. The following paragraphs on GERD and LPR come directly from an article found at the American Academy for Otolaryngology:

**What is GERD?** Gastroesophageal reflux disease, often referred to as GERD, occurs when acid from the stomach backs up into the esophagus. Normally, food travels from the mouth, down through the esophagus and into the stomach. A ring of muscle at the bottom of the esophagus, the lower esophageal sphincter (LES), contracts to keep the acidic contents of the stomach from refluxing or coming back up into the esophagus. In those who have GERD, the LES does not close properly, allowing acid and other contents of the digestive tract to move up to reflux in the esophagus.

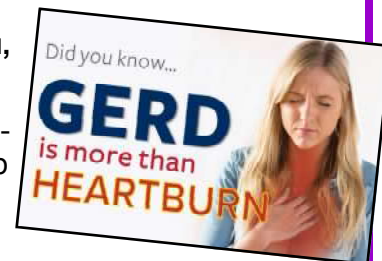
When stomach acid touches the sensitive tissue lining the esophagus and throat, it causes a reaction similar to squirting lemon juice in your eye. This is why GERD is often characterized by the burning sensation known as heartburn.

In some cases, reflux can be silent, with no heartburn or other symptoms until a problem arises. Almost all individuals have experienced reflux (GER), but the disease (GERD) occurs when reflux happens often over a long period of time.

**What is LPR?** During gastroesophageal reflux, the contents of the stomach and upper digestive tract may reflux all the way up the esophagus, beyond the upper esophageal sphincter (a ring of muscle at the top of the esophagus), and into the back of the throat and possibly the back of the nasal airway. This is known as laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR), which can affect anyone. Adults with LPR often complain that the back of their throat has a bitter taste, a sensation of burning, or something stuck. Some patients have hoarseness, difficulty swallowing, throat clearing, and difficulty with the sensation of drainage from the back of the nose (postnasal drip). Some may have difficulty breathing if the voice box is affected. Many patients with LPR do not experience heartburn, hence the term “Silent GERD.”

Complications from silent GERD can include a narrowing of the area below the vocal chords, contact ulcers, recurrent ear infections, a lasting buildup of fluid in the middle ear, scarring of the throat and voice box, and increase the risk of cancer to that area. There is also some evidence that it can irritate conditions such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. Many people who have sleep apnea have GERD and when treated for the GERD there seems to be an improvement in their sleep apnea.

My treatment will include a proton pump inhibitor, to decrease the acid in my stomach. We all have to have in our stomachs some acid, to help digest foods, but if too much acid is stimulated, then problems can occur. The proton pump inhibitor will decrease some of that acid. Other treatment includes the following:



**Continued on Page 10**



# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

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 11 Shaffer, Gabriel  
 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 14 Martin, Alicia  
 August 15 Redden, Chandra  
 August 16 Redden, 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

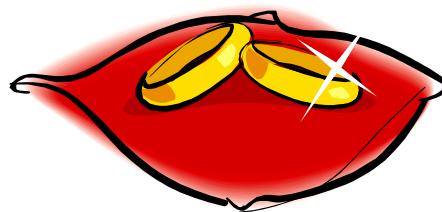
August 25 Hall, Emily  
 August 26 Sitze, Terry  
 August 27 Armon, Keith  
 August 27 Scroggins, Logan  
 August 28 Potter, Vi  
 August 28 Schiber, Noel  
 August 29 Clouatre, Doug  
 August 29 Seba, Lori  
 August 29 Scroggins, Joanna  
 August 29 Cameron, Kristin  
 August 29 Redden, Danny  
 August 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 14 Cisler, Stan & Marilyn  
 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



# Changes and Additions to the current Church Directory

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS:** Paul Bowman, Sarah Davis, & Ava Davis 215 N. Elm Street, Meadowbrook, IL 62010; Andrea Kasten 336 W. Rosedale Drive, East Alton, IL 62024.

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 and/or email address. Thank you!



### MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

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!

## HELP WANTED:

A Sunday School Teacher or Team of Teachers for Jr. or Sr. Highs. You get to pick which age group you would like to work with. (Joy Miller has agreed to continue working with either age group.) Your pay is that you stay current with "what's hot" and "what's not." You will be encouraged by the depth of faith in the next generation. If you are a willing servant of God, contact the Church Office or Joy Miller.

# DEADLINE FOR September 2015 STEEPLE, Fri., August 21st!

## JULY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 7/31/2015	\$18795.00
Designated Giving:	through 7/31/2015	\$1258.70
	Capital Improvements	270.00
	Loose Change	95.70
	Flowers	48.00
	2015 Steeple Postage	17.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	120.00
	Memorial	210.00
	Helping Hands	345.00
	Charles McKnelly	150.00
	Upper Room Donations	3.00
Transfer From Reserve		196.26
Reimbursements		1500.00
Intern Stipend from IGRC		1350.00
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$23099.96</b>

### AUGUST Ushers (10:30 a.m.):

Aug. 9th: Lydia, Layne, & Annabelle Chester  
Aug. 16th: Deb Fansler

Please Call the Head Usher if you will help!

### AUGUST Head Usher:

**TRACY FRANKS & DOROTHY KASINGER**

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

### Average Attendance for JULY 2015

Early Service	55
Late Service	39
Sunday School	34
Visitors	7
3 Awakening Services	39



The Schnucks eScrip program continues and is based on the amount of money people spend at any Schnucks. **All one needs to do is show the cashier**

**their key fob or plastic card during check-out to credit St. Paul.** THIS IS NOT A CREDIT CARD. Please remember, NO PURCHASE IS TOO SMALL to credit St. Paul. It all adds up!

Sign up for your very own card today! We currently have **83** participants and can add anyone who shops at Schnucks and wants to help with this ongoing fund raiser. Our **YTD** total for the program is **\$105.66**. All you have to do is shop at Schnucks. If you want more information or to sign-up and get your own card, contact **Susie Pruetzel, 660-7375** today!



We continue with TAILGATE AT EIGHT for the outdoor service! We invite you to come just a little early, at 8 a.m., and receive a free cup of coffee, tea, or juice and a snack at the serving center. And you will also have time to greet each other before the service begins! Rain brings it all inside... Volunteers are needed!

## Food and School Supply Collection---

Each year in the summer 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 began collecting the supplies and food earlier. **It started July 5th, with members of the Outreach Ministry Team distributing bags and information at the end of both services, and continues through August 9th.** 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 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 9th.**



**WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER at 8:15 a.m.**

Continues...

**JUNE 7th-SEPTEMBER 6th**  
**Pastor Daryl will be preaching a summer sermon series on**  
**The Stories of Jesus**

**"TAILGATE-AT-8" (T8) 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)



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

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

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

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





open hearts  
open minds  
open doors



**ST PAUL**  
united methodist church

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

**CRAVE Facilitator - Betsy Blacklock 618.259.3858**  
[betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com](mailto:betsy.healingimages@yahoo.com)

**CRAVE** - 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning:  
Currently meeting with Iris Uzzell's class  
Wednesday Small Group: 8 p.m.  
@WR McDonald's...All ages welcomed!

# twigs

The Awakening Service on Saturdays at 5 p.m. is collecting items for **TWIGS: Pack-a-Sack**.

This program provides food for children of the Granite City School District who are at risk of having nothing to eat over a weekend. Each child in the program discreetly receives a sack of non-perishable food items each Friday. You can participate by placing these food items in the **TWIGS blue garbage can** at the front of the stage: Pudding Cups, Jello Cups, Applesauce Cups, Fruit Cups, Individual Cereal Cups, Granola Bars, Ramen Noodles, Soup: Chicken Noodle or Vegetable Beef, Mac n Cheese, Cheese n Crackers, Fruit Chews, Hot Cocoa Mix Pouches, Beef Jerky Sticks (Small, individually wrapped). PLEASE, NOTHING WITH PEANUTS. **TWIGS** was started by Rev. Lisa Guilliams, pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Granite City. For more information, check out the website:

[www.twigsforkids.org](http://www.twigsforkids.org).

Anyone can give up, it's the easiest thing in the world to do. But to hold it together when everyone else would understand if you fell apart, that's true strength.



Parish Nurse article -- Continued from Page 5

- Avoid eating and drinking within two to three hours prior to bedtime
- Do not drink alcohol
- Eat small meals- and slowly
- Limit problem foods
- No caffeine, or decaf coffee, tea
- Carbonated drinks- no soda!
- Limit chocolate- it also has caffeine!
- No peppermint- peppermint relaxes the sphincter at the top of the esophagus, causing it to open & reflux to occur
- No tomatoes, or tomato based sauces
- No citrus fruits- too acidic
- Fatty and fried foods
- Lose weight- obesity is one of the leading causes of GERD, as excess fat around the stomach places pressure on the abdomen, pushing gastric juices into the esophagus
- Quit smoking- it also relaxes the LES sphincter
- Wear loose clothing- too tight of clothing places extra pressure on the stomach
- Elevate the head of the bed at least 6 inches to allow gravity to help minimize the reflux by limiting the acid flowing back into the esophagus.

**G**astro  
**E**sophageal  
**R**eflux  
**D**isease

\*\*Propping up on pillows only increases pressure on the stomach.

If you are having any of the above mentioned symptoms, think about seeing your physician to have it checked out. I guess the next few months will tell if I can get mine under control- and hopefully get my singing voice back!

Sources: University of Michigan Health Care Systems, Web MD, American Academy of Otolaryngology

Blessings to all-  
Eileen



**CAMPING...CAMPING...  
CAMPING**

There are a variety of camping opportunities for all ages (beginning with 1st grade) at any or our 6 campsites.

There are horse camps, tree-house camps, night owl camps, Bible camps, archery camp, sailing camp, just girls camp, and more. **Dani Wilson** will be a counselor all summer at Little Grassy. She would love to have you join her at camp. Information on all our camps is available in the Church Office. We have funds available to assist you to go to camp through the Herman Camping Fund!



**Lois Marie (Williams)**

**Welch**, 99, passed away June 19, 2015. She was born in Piggott, AR, on June 21, 1915, to Leslie Carl & Amy Clemintine (Mann) Williams. Her family moved to Illinois when she was a child. She graduated from Bunker Hill High School, received an associate's degree from McMurray College in

Jacksonville, IL, and completed her bachelor's degree in education from Shurtleff College in Alton, IL. She taught two years in a one-room rural school in Illinois.

Lois married James Richard Welch on Sept. 5, 1938. After the tornado that struck and destroyed their home in Bunker Hill in 1948, they moved to East Alton, IL. There, Lois returned to teaching in East Alton and South Roxana, a nearby community. She completed her master's degree in education and retired from South Roxana as an elementary school principal in 1980. Her career in education spanned 36 years.

After retirement, Lois became very active in the Sweet Sounds group of St. Paul United Methodist Church, which visited nursing homes on a regular basis. She created her own characters, wrote her own scripts, made her own costumes, and performed at each nursing home that group visited. She remained active in that ministry until she was 97. She was also active in the Christian Women's Club, Delta Kappa Gamma educational sorority, Bible Coffee Fellowships, and the Kairos Prison Ministry. At the age of 97, she moved to Iowa Park, TX, to live with her daughter & son-in-law. She loved living with her family in Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Richard, of 63 years, and her sister, Carmen Lueking.

She is survived by her daughter, Carole Venhaus & husband, Tom; her granddaughter, Amanda Galliton and husband, Justin; and her great-granddaughter, Kayleigh Galliton, all of Iowa Park, TX; a sister, Londa Weller of Bethalto, IL; and numerous nieces and nephews.

During the celebration of Lois Welch's life, I said in part:

I will not speak long because Lois Welch preached with her life a greater sermon than I ever will. I am tempted to just say "Amen" and sit down.

Let me share with you what Lois taught me about faith. Lois said that when she retired, she prayed the prayer for God to use her as He willed. She cautioned that you should never pray that prayer unless you mean it...because God will lead you in unexpected directions.

First, there was Sweet Sounds with her comedy routines; often in tandem with Don Bunt. If there was a Saturday Night Live for Older Adults, Lois would have been the star writer. I don't think I will ever again think of Christmas without remembering her poem about Santa getting all the applause while Mrs. Claus does all the work.

And, I think one of the funniest stories I have ever heard is when she fell getting on the van and they decided to take her to the Emergency Room to make sure nothing was broken (which happily was the case). That day, Lois was dressed like Dr. Quack to the amusement of the doctors and nurses attending her!

Second, there was Kairos, the prison ministry which for Lois continued long after the spiritual renewal weekends. Because it wasn't a good idea for prisoners to have your home address, Lois used the church's address for the letters she wrote to men in prison. By the volume of mail we received from prisoners and passed on to Lois, I know that the men looked forward to her letters of Christian encouragement, hope, and faith.

Usually, when I preach at a celebration of someone's life, I try to pick a few verses that capture the essence of that person's life. With Lois, I found these verses from Ephesians 3 speaking to me. Paul says: <sup>20-21</sup> **God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. (The Message)**

I have learned this from Lois: If the Spirit is tugging at your heart, let go and let God lead you where He will. Like Lois, you will be go to places you never expected and be extraordinarily blessed. For God knows us better than we know ourselves!

Paul says in vs. 14-19: **I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. (The Message)**

Anyone who spent much time around Lois said to themselves, **I want what she has...I want that fullness...that grace upon grace...the experience of the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.** What made Lois so effective in prison ministry is what endeared her

*Continued on page 12*



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Your Capital Campaign Steering Committee is hard at work preparing a detailed set of information and designing a final proposal regarding a Capital Fund Campaign. Our goal will be to send this information out to everyone prior to the Church Conference. As you may recall, the Church Conference (date yet to be set but sometime early fall) will be the time for the membership to officially decide whether or not to move forward with the campaign. In the meantime, we have established a structured process to design a campaign, produced a "Case Statement," developed a campaign theme, a spiritual support piece, and are actively designing and re-designing a detailed time line for the campaign. The key piece of information will be the cost of the project. We have been quite active in pursuing vendors and contractors in order to provide an accurate cost factor.

Our intention is to accomplish this by mid-August and will be part of the information shared with all members prior to the Church Conference. Representatives from St. Paul recently met with the Mississippi River District Building Committee to begin the process of achieving their approval of our project. We can report that while the meeting was very positive we were given some additional items to explain or include in our final proposal to the district committee. The work by your steering committee has been nothing short of phenomenal as we continue to discover the variety of valuable expertise in our church members. Finally, we encourage everyone to play an active part so if you are interested contact Pastor Daryl or Trustee chair Jim Herndon and above all pray for the work of the committee and God's guidance in this very essential process for St. Paul UMC.

Remember...if mail comes to your mailbox that has a UMC cross and the words MISSION POSSIBLE printed on it, be sure to open the envelope! The information inside will be very important.

**Capital Campaign Steering Committee**

## *Lois Welch Continued from page 11*

to all of us: she loved us as Christ loves us. Most of us are aware of how many times we have failed Jesus...how far off we are from the glory of God. We focus on the depths to which we have fallen. Lois' gift was to lift our eyes to heights...the heights to which the Risen Lord could raise us. For she believed that all of us are sinners saved by grace and none of us is beyond the reach of that amazing grace.

As Methodists we believe this. Listen to these verses that are rarely sung of *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, the mother hymn of Methodism:

*See all your sins on Jesus laid;  
The Lamb of God was slain,  
His soul was once an offering made  
For every soul of man.*

*Harlots and publicans and thieves,  
In holy triumph join!  
Saved is the sinner that believes  
From crimes as great as mine.*

*With me, your chief, you then shall know,  
Shall feel your sins forgiven;  
Anticipate your heaven below  
And own that love is heaven.*

The heaven that Lois enjoys is only a grander version of the heaven she lived upon this earth. For Lois was one of those whose faith was fuller than mine. One who challenges me to **Rise to the heights! To dare to live full in the fullness of God.** You see I want what Lois had.

Finally, I leave you with these words of Paul from Ephesians 3: <sup>14-19</sup> **My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. (The Message)**

May we all look upon the crucified Lord and be raised to new life in Him. May we all find in Jesus the fullness of God. Amen. Pastor Daryl



**Vacation Bible School 2015**



**...until next year,  
God bless you all!**