



The Steeple



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

SEPTEMBER 2015

***Where cross the crowded ways of life,
Where sound the cries of race and clan
Above the noise of selfish strife,
We hear your voice, O Son of Man.***

Frank North was requested to write this hymn for inclusion in the 1905 *Methodist Hymnal*. Since North grew up in New York City, the words reflect the reality of ministry in an urban setting. Where cross the crowded ways of life. Isn't it interesting that we like so many United Methodist Churches are located on a corner? Intentional or not, we plant the cross of Christ at the crossroads of life.

Throughout the years, I have had so many people tell me that they attended Vacation Bible School or Sunday School at St. Paul as children. Or they were part of the Methodist Youth Fellowship or the choir. Their memories have always been fond ones of growing in their experience of God because of the love of Christ they felt here. That love did not float down from heaven, but rather was shared by this person or that person. You—the people—are the church!

For 62 years, we have planted the seeds of faith in the hearts of adults living from coast to coast. Our ministry has impacted the lives of these adults and the communities of faith to which they now belong. Would it be nice if they still lived in Rosewood Heights and were part of our church family? Yes, of course. In our mobile society, that is an unreasonable expectation.

So shouldn't we give thanks that we have lived out Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3: ⁶ *I planted, and Apollos watered, but God made it grow.* ⁷ *So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is important because only God makes it grow.* ⁸ *The one who plants and the one who waters have the same goal, and each will receive a reward for his own work.* ⁹ *We are God's coworkers. You are God's field. You are God's building. (God's Word)*

Over the years, our neighborhood has changed. Many union jobs with good wages have disappeared, so poverty has increased. Addiction to alcohol, prescription drugs, and heroin is more prevalent in our church community and our neighborhood. Rather than give up, we are convinced more than ever that Jesus Christ—the one who supplies the power to set us free from whatever binds us— is needed by all of us.

***In haunts of wretchedness and need,
On shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
From paths where hide the lures of greed,
We catch the vision of Your tears.***

North believed that Jesus leads us to minister in the midst of human need. Whatever breaks Jesus' heart should break our hearts. The church exists to show the world a God who wipes away the tears of suffering and pain from our eyes. The God who in the words of Jeremiah 29 says: ¹¹ *I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD. They are plans for peace and not disaster, plans to give you a future filled with hope. (God's Word)*

As Wesleyans, we believe in the presence and the power of God's grace. We believe that no one is beyond the reach of grace and that grace may transform any life. Believing this, we don't give up on people or neighborhoods.

***O Master, from the mountainside
Make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
Among these restless throngs abide;
O tread the city's streets again.***

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Continued from Page 1

**Till sons of men shall learn Your love
And follow where Your feet have trod,
Till, glorious from Your Heaven above,
Shall come the city of our God!**

We have all heard the saying “*It’s not over until it’s over.*” Before Jesus went to be with God the Father, He left these explicit instructions for the disciples in Matthew 28: “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*”¹⁹ *So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*”²⁰ *Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. “And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.” (God’s Word)*

We believe God isn’t finished with us yet! When the Young Adults approached me with the idea of starting the *Awakening* service on Saturdays, there was no *rational reason* given for doing this. They simply said: “*The Holy Spirit is leading us to do this.*” This isn’t to say that the Holy Spirit isn’t present in our other worship services, but only to affirm that the *Holy Spirit* is leading us in new directions so we might reach new people. During the *Awakening* services, we have been moved as speaker after speaker has testified how God’s grace has carried them through rough patches in their lives. We are not permitted to rest until all know this grace.

I realize that the church is not a building but a people. Our beginning in the basement of Zike’s Drug Store is proof of this. Our building is a resource for ministry for the church and a meeting place for the community. It was easy for us physically to start the *Awakening* service because we had the stage with its spotlights. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are able to host regional gatherings because we have the room for multiple small groups. The Food Coop provides low cost food because we offer a free space to meet. In recent years, we have been able to dedicate a room for use by the Craft Ladies. My point is that we possess a building that is adaptable to the needs of ministry in the 21st Century. A building that we could not afford today but is the legacy of the faithfulness of the generations who have gone before.

As we continue to consider how best to address the physical needs of our building, we are going to immerse ourselves in a time of prayer. Using Mark Batterson’s book, *The Circle Maker*, as our guide we are delving into a month long period of prayer. Through the worship services and the Sunday afternoon small groups, we are going to draw a prayer circle around our church’s needs and our personal needs. We are convinced that God has great plans for us that may be accomplished only with His help.

Later, you will have an opportunity to consider the nuts and bolts of a possible Capital Campaign. Right now, I want us to join in prayer about our mission. It is important for us to bathe everything we do in prayer.

As we do this, I challenge you to ask these questions: Do we believe that it is important to have the cross standing at the crossroads of Airline Drive and Center Street? Do we believe that God is still working through us to accomplish His plans? Are there people in our neighborhood who need to experience God’s amazing grace and are we willing to share that message with them? Are we prepared to make the sacrifice that ensures St. Paul is here until Jesus returns?

**The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes
to view the sweet compassion of your face.**

Pastor Daryl

**WELCOME TO AUTUMN!
SEPTEMBER 23rd**





OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- ◆ We rejoice on the birth of **Thayer Wayne Nairn!** Thayer was born on August 14th and weighed 5lb. 4oz. He is the son of Jeremy & Tiffany Nairn. Congratulations to you on your growing family!
- ◆ We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to all those who have lost loved ones recently. These include the family of **Lonnie "Lon" Weaver**, former member of St. Paul UMC; and the family of **Susan Bishop**, friend of the Pruetzels. May God give you all the comfort you need in this grieving time.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Erica Preston & Derek Landolt** who were married here on August 1st! Our prayer is that their home will always be a place of blessing and peace where Christ is at the center.

THANK YOU

From the Family of Mildred Ballard... We wanted to send thanks to you all for being such wonderful friends to Mom. She enjoyed all the times she spend with you all in Church, Sunday School, crafts, playing cards on Tuesdays and singing with the Sweet Sounds. You were all such a big part of her life and like a second family to her. Thanks to Pastor Daryl for the wonderful service and all the visits with Mom and Pastor Doug and Nurse Eileen for all their visits. Mom also enjoyed the visits from so many of the church family and the Sweet Sounds coming by to sing for her. Thanks to the ladies of the church who provided us with such a lovely dinner after the service. Mom was the greatest and we will miss her, but know that she is happy and at peace now. God Bless you all

THANK YOU: Dear St. Paul UMC, the Hickerson family, and the scholarship committee... I am Lauren Ratliff and I will be starting at SIUE this fall to pursue a pharmacy degree. The Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship is truly a blessing for me and my family. It is such an honor to be chosen to represent her legacy. This scholarship will allow me to pursue my academic goals with confidence. I am truly grateful to be one of your 2015 scholarship recipients. Sincerely, **Lauren Ratliff**

THANK YOU: Thank you to all who donated and participated in the Trivia Night for Alzheimer's. With your help we were able to raise about \$2,700! **Kevin Rader**

THANK YOU: From Central Elementary — Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies! They will be put to good use. Thank you for making this investment in our children! **Jim Milly and Cary Anderson**



THANK YOU: We had a great group of volunteers from St. Paul who delivered meals in the Wood River/Roxana area during the month of August. This marks the **30th year** that St. Paul has been involved in the Meals On Wheels program. Through this important community outreach effort, meals are provided for individuals who need a little extra help. We extend a great big thank you to our volunteer: *Sherry & Joe Huff, John & Leona Hendricks, Larry Bryan, Terry Sitze, Harvey Birmingham, John & Iris Uzzell, Phill & Joan Ford, Rod & Virginia Croxford, Norma Shaffer, Maggie Funke, Dean Sweet, and Randy & Joyce Brueggeman.* Thank you also to our willing and ready extra: *Tracy Franks.* If anyone is interested in delivering meals **ANYTIME** during the year, there is always a need for volunteers. Contact Harvey Birmingham (377-7957) or Larry Bryan (210-7548) for more information.

THANK YOU: To all the folks who have been helping to fulfill our Caring Casserole needs, we thank you! Your willingness to serve those who need food assistance when they are unable to do it for themselves provides a great ministry to the people at St. Paul UMC. May God bless you as your service blesses others! **From The Caring Casserole Coordinators**



Saturdays at St. Paul in SEPTEMBER 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. We hope you will join us (and bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!



Our SEPTEMBER Speakers:

5th - Christian Lacher 12th - Christian Lacher
19th - Neighborhood Block Party! No Speaker!
26th - TBD

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

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



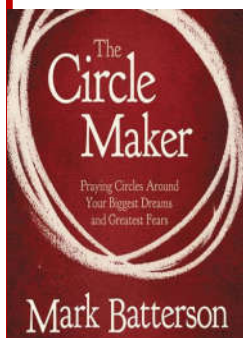
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost. Labor Sunday. Communion Celebrated.

Last outdoor service at 8:15 a.m. We give thanks for the talents God has given us to provide for our families. Our labor makes a difference in their lives.



13 16th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday. Blessing of Children and Youth during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series today, The Circle Maker. Rodney "Gypsy" Smith, an evangelist in the 19th Century was asked by his listeners how God could use them as God was using him. Gypsy Smith said: "Go home. Lock yourself in your room. Kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk draw a circle around yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and brokenly that God would start a revival within that chalk circle." Revival of the church begins with us! Join us as we tackle: *Becoming a Circle Maker.*



20 17th Sunday after Pentecost. Back-to-Church Sunday. We continue our sermon series on prayer, The Circle Maker, by reminding ourselves that God honors bold prayers which may be accomplished only with God's help. Join us for *Little People, Big Risks, and Huge Circles.*

27 18th Sunday after Pentecost. One Service today at 10 a.m. Church Conference follows. We continue our sermon series on prayer, The Circle Maker, by recognizing the need to prayer through the obstacles Satan throws into our path. Join us for *Praying Hard and Praying Through.*

OCTOBER 4: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY. We conclude our sermon series on prayer, The Circle Maker, by remembering that prayer is like planting. We need to patiently wait for our prayers to bear fruit. Often God's timetable differs from ours. Join us for *Praying is Like Planting.* We join Christians around the globe at the table of the Lord. A special offering is taken that supports World Communion scholarships, the Ethnic Scholarship Program, and Ethnic In-Service Training Program. Use your World Communion Special Offering Envelope or mark your designated gift on your regular offering envelope.

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

“I am certain that I never did grow in grace one-half so much anywhere as I have upon the bed of pain.” -Charles Spurgeon

I am so ready to welcome God's season of **autumn**- how about you? I think that we are very blessed to live in an area of the country where we can experience all of the seasons, although sometimes our weather can get a bit extreme. Yesterday I mentioned to someone that fall was my favorite time of the year, and she replied, “Not mine. Everything is dying.” I had to ponder that for a while. The season of fall is a dying process. The trees, flowers and grass prepare for the cold of winter. The leaves change to beautiful, striking colors- but then turn brown and brittle and fall from the trees. But God, in the middle of this process does demonstrate His creativeness by giving us a brilliant explosion of color in the process; and not only color, but the crisp air and even fall smells, such as burning leaves and bonfires, and fresh baked goods. Like nature, we also have those “fall” seasons of life. One of them is something that I have recently seen people struggle with, and that is chronic pain.

Chronic pain refers to pain that does not improve with time. It can affect any part of the body, or involve many regions of the body at the same time. Pain is the body's alarm system. Pain can come in many ways- and can be described as burning, stabbing, dull, sharp, or even throbbing. One thing we must remember about pain is that it cannot be measured. No test or device can measure how much anyone hurts. That is why many doctors agree that “pain is what the patient says.” Because of chronic pain, many people develop difficulty functioning in their day to day activities, to the point of having a diminished quality of life.

There are many ways that the doctor and patient can work together to relieve chronic pain, or to make it more manageable:

Medication Management: When used properly, some medications can reduce pain with limited side effects. Analgesics are the mainstay for pain management. Aspirin, Tylenol, and a group of drugs called NSAID's are the initial medications attempted. NSAID's include ibuprofen (Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), and celecoxib (Celebrex). Opioid medications are used to treat moderate to severe pain and can include codeine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and morphine to name a few. Opioids can have side effects such as insomnia, stomach upset, or constipation. Other medications used to treat chronic pain can include antidepressants, and anxiolytics- to improve mood and decrease the anxiety associated with chronic pain.

Alternative Methods: Sometimes called “complementary therapies”, alternative methods have been successful in helping manage chronic pain. They include acupuncture, deep tissue massage, hypnosis, meditation (don't forget the power of prayer!), and biofeedback. These therapies can often help the person to relax and decrease tension, which can lead to a decrease in pain.

Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy: Physical therapy can assist with proper body mechanics, posture and strengthening and stretching. P.T. will focus on increasing stamina and functioning to help with daily activities. Occupational therapy will focus on what occupies your “time” during the day. The goal of O.T. will focus on creating balance between work, self-care and leisure activities.

Self Help Tips: There are many things that you can do to assist with the process of pain management. Exercise regularly- but start slow and easy and with your doctor's permission. Stay flexible- Yoga can be a great way to become more flexible and decrease tension. Lose weight- extra weight strains joints, muscles, and your back. Learn how to lift, sit and stand correctly-posture is important! Work with your doctor- always be honest about your pain! Some people are afraid to tell the doctor for fear of looking as if they are weak or “drug seeking.” This can block progress towards relieving the pain. Work with a Pain Specialist- a pain specialist attempts to restore patients to their normal day-to-day activities, and is trained to treat the whole person, not just the pain.

The key is to be educated and responsible. It may take some time to find the best balance between what your goals are and the treatment to reach them. Remember that in today's world of modern medicine, you have a right to adequate and effective pain relief. Work closely with your doctor, the healthcare team and a pain specialist if needed. Also include your family and friends, and pastoral care for support.

We in this life journey have our “fall” seasons. God knew we would experience these. But I have witnessed many “fall” journeys, and one thing I have noticed is that God's magnificence can be seen in the midst of them. His love, grace and mercy shine through others that He has placed on our path- at just the right time. God is our healer, our hope, and life giver- but most important, our season changer! Rest in that knowledge during your season changes in life!

Sources: Mayo Clinic, American College of Physicians

Blessings- Eileen

“I am not a theologian or a scholar, but I am very aware of the fact that pain is necessary to all of us. In my own life, I think I can honestly say that out of the deepest pain has come the strongest conviction of the presence of God and the love of God”.

~ Elizabeth Elliot



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

September 01 Bentley, Jay III
 September 01 Baggett, Christi
 September 02 Nelson, Ron
 September 02 Ortegren, Jenni
 September 03 Poston, Al
 September 04 Croxford, Rod
 September 04 Hamilton, George Sr.
 September 04 Buatte, Cherie
 September 04 Hendricks, John
 September 05 Newingham, Damian
 September 06 Henderson, Jason
 September 06 Gowan, Josh
 September 06 Tite, Ryan
 September 07 Dawson, Jim
 September 07 Bell, Kamryn
 September 08 Bottorff, Justin
 September 09 Hansard, Angie
 September 09 Poston, Matthew
 September 09 Oertle, Liam
 September 10 Scroggins, Christy
 September 10 Birmingham, Jake
 September 10 Plummer, Zelda
 September 11 Bunt, Don Sr.
 September 11 Ortegren, Marc
 September 12 Badman, David
 September 13 Link, Kathy

September 13 Atchley, Tamara
 September 13 Cameron, Susan
 September 13 Georgeoff, Chelsea
 September 14 Bunt, Dan
 September 14 Herndon, Kiley
 September 16 Cameron, Jerry
 September 16 Redden, Dick
 September 16 Skjerseth, Jeff
 September 17 Greer, Jeff
 September 17 Weigler, Nic
 September 18 Scroggins, Linda
 September 18 Greer, Christian
 September 19 Lewis, Bettie
 September 19 Skjerseth, Paul
 September 20 Buatte, David
 September 20 Boeshans, Blake
 September 21 Gimmy, Marcella
 September 21 Wilson, Dani
 September 22 Warner, Carol
 September 22 Herndon, Neil
 September 23 Gowan, Harvey

September 23 Shewmake, Nathan
 September 23 Allshouse, Baylee
 September 24 Bunt, Tim
 September 24 Greer, Kellie
 September 24 Betts, Tanner
 September 25 Fox, Kenneth
 September 25 Tite, Phil
 September 25 Schlemer, Hayley
 September 26 Williams, Jan
 September 26 Tite, Debbie
 September 26 Blacklock, Bob
 September 26 Poore, Ashley
 September 26 Laufersweiler, Sarah
 September 26 Roberts, Lily
 September 27 Hutchens, Joyce
 September 27 Inman, Sharon
 September 27 Chester, Becky
 September 27 Betts, David
 September 27 Ewing, Donna
 September 29 Martin, Kara
 September 29 Tite, Steven
 September 29 Brown, Jordan

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 02 Henderson, Jason & Gretchen
 September 04 Fansler, Daryl & Deb
 September 06 Mayer, Jason & Lindsey
 September 13 Tite, Phil & Debbie
 September 14 Cloninger, Wayne & Sue
 September 15 Rader, Kevin & Lindsey
 September 17 Cameron, Chris & Susan
 September 18 Cameron, Jerry & Cathy
 September 18 Dona, Ben & Jamie
 September 19 Crandall, Caroline



September 20 Clark, Bryan & Katie
 September 20 Eggebrecht, Ross & Debbie
 September 26 Ford, Don Sr. & Diane
 September 26 Cincoski, Ryan & Savannah
 September 27 Parker, Ryan & Megan
 September 28 Moore, Ben & Beulah
 September 29 Clark, Gary & Shirley

Changes and Additions to the current Church Directory

CHANGES/ADDITIONS: Jim & Anita Dawson 475 Sullivan Avenue, East Alton, IL 62024;
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
September's Loose Change Project is Trinity United Methodist Church in East St.

Louis/Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the growing Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There is a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

SEPTEMBER Ushers (10:30 a.m.):

- Sep. 6th: Diane Murbarger
- Sep. 13th: The Martin Family
- Sep. 20th: The Schiber Family
- Sep. 27th: Norma Shaffer, Maggie Funke

SEPTEMBER Head Usher:

TRACY FRANKS

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

Average Attendance for AUGUST 2015

Early Service	63
Late Service	40
Sunday School	40
Visitors	11
5 Awakening Services	33



**DEADLINE FOR
 October 2015
 STEEPLE, Mon.,
 Sept. 21st!**

AUGUST Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 8/31/2015	\$20797.20
Designated Giving:	through 8/31/2015	\$2155.75
	Capital Improvements	465.00
	Loose Change	110.75
	Flowers	.00
	Funeral Dinners	200.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	110.00
	Memorial	830.00
	Helping Hands	300.00
	Elevator	100.00
	Upper Room Donations	20.00
	Youth	20.00
Wedding		225.00
Gideons		100.00
Total:		\$23277.95

Eden Theological Seminary

Presents

The 4th Annual Festival of Psalms

Sun., Sept. 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

“What Our Bones Long To Sing: Psalms Of Justice And Hope”

This year’s theme calls for both honest lament and rejoicing faith. All are welcome and admission is free. The festival will take place in the Wehrli Chapel in the Press Building at Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves.

Make Music a Part of Your Life



Join the Choir!

PRACTICE BEGINS 9/9/15 AT 7:30 P.M.



IT IS TIME TO BEGIN HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE!

PRACTICE WILL BEGIN ON WED., SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 6:30 P.M.



One Service: Sunday, September 27
 We gather as one Body for worship at 10 a.m.
[Note: Sunday School will run from 9:15-9:50 a.m. on this Sunday!]

After worship, Rev. Dr. Roger Grimmett will lead us in a special Church Conference for the purpose of voting on the Capital Funds Campaign. We look forward to having everyone together in one service!

 **SEPTEMBER - 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 SEPTEMBER 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

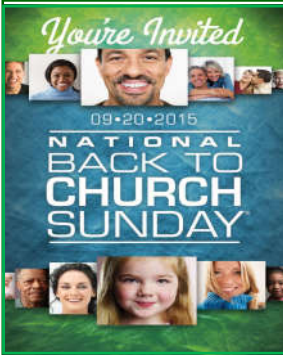
CRAVE - 9:15 a.m. Sunday morning:
 Currently meeting with Iris Uzzell's class
Every Other Wednesday Small Group: 8 p.m.
 @WR McDonald's...All ages welcomed!

 **Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center**
BLOOD DRIVE

St. Paul UM Church
September 24th 3-6 p.m.

Look for the van, go inside, and donate to help others! Plan now to give!

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board!



Who Will You Invite to Church?

Think of a name. Any name. A friend, a relative, or a co-worker. When was the last time that person visited a church? Maybe they haven't been to church in a long time. Maybe they've never gone to church.

Have you ever thought about asking that person to come with you to church? Here's your chance. Our church is planning a special **Back to Church Sunday service on September 20 at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. that's dedicated to welcoming friends and family to worship with us.**

By participating in this special event, we'll join thousands of other churches across America to invite guests to hear about God's love. Last year, over 26,100 churches participated and together gave out more than 7.5 million invitations to church! It's exciting to be part of such a huge outreach.

So have you thought of someone you can invite? Don't worry about feeling nervous. We all do. But remember that God has placed that person in your life for a reason; He can give you the courage and the opportunity to ask.

It's not as hard as it may seem. Did you know that most people who have dropped out of church haven't lost their faith in God—they simply fell out of the habit of going to church? Some moved, had a change in life circumstances, or had a falling out with their former church and simply drifted away. Most often, life just became too busy. This means many of them are open to returning to church.

Will you commit to praying for our church as we prepare for Back to Church Sunday? And will you pray for that person God has placed on your heart? Let's see what He can do!

Here's the information you need to know: Our Back to Church Sunday event is Sunday, September 20. The 8:15 a.m. service is traditional. During the 10:30 a.m. Praise & Worship service we have a Nursery and More Jesus Time for children.

I'm praying with you as we prepare for this special day that will introduce many people to our Savior. Pastor Daryl



THERE ARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN SWEET SOUNDS

Qualifications:

Must be male or female; young, middle age, old, older. Must be able to walk and step into the van. **NO EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED!** If you like to sing that is a **BIG PLUS.** You don't have to be trained in opera or even country music. Can't read music? That is **OKAY;** we only use the words. Must be able to shake hands and spread some sunshine! You need no computer savvy, bookkeeping skills, or accounting degree. **Must be available every Friday (at 12:45 p.m.) of the month and some Mondays (at 1:30 p.m.). APPLY IN PERSON AND BE PREPARED TO STAY.** *Excellent benefits to your mind, body, and soul. God and Sweet Sounds need you in this outreach ministry today!* **Music IS a powerful memory!** *(We are also looking for a Monday piano player!)*

Our members come from several churches and communities. For more information call Dorothy Kasinger at 259-7255 or email to her at dorothydlk@charter.net. Give us a try this fall!



We invite all our Students, Teachers, and Staff to receive a blessing for the new school year on Sunday, Sept. 13 during the 10:30 a.m. service.



NEIGHBORHOOD



Block Party

**Saturday, September 19th
5-7 p.m.**

**Join us for the fun, the food, the fellowship!
We encourage your participation in this
neighborhood event. We hope you will
attend and, if possible, help with a part of
the event. Help is needed with set-up,
serving, food items, games, & clean-up.
Call today (259-5210) to sign-up!**



IT'S ALMOST HERE...the ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th from 9 a.m. TO 7 p.m. Get ready for those great Chicken & Noodles or the Vegetable Soup, etc., etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to pick up those gifts for the “special people” you want to remember especially at Christmas or any special time. Don't forget to stop at the Country Kitchen (baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, etc.). Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you can't “eat in” we'll be glad to fix a “Take-Home-A-Box.”

In addition – our **CELEBRATION CRAFT SALE** will precede the Fall Festival on **Saturday, Oct. 3rd from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Be the first in line to choose a handmade item for your home or a gift for someone special. Special this year—Cardinal aprons and wreaths!

Of course in order to make these events a success we will need a lot of help. Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. **If you have not already signed up to donate or work, OR have not been asked, please call the church office at 259-5210 or Maggie Funke at 259-9490.** Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at our December Christmas Party/Meeting. See you at our Celebration Craft Sale AND the Fall Festival!



TO: Seniors (70 & over in 2015) of St. Paul UMC
WHAT: A Luncheon and a Celebration of You!
WHERE: St. Paul UMC, Fellowship Hall
WHEN: September 23rd, Wednesday
TIME: 12:00 p.m. (NOON)

5th SENIOR LUNCHEON

Won't you plan to join us for the **5th annual senior luncheon** catered by Chef Bob and served in your honor! Included will be time for fellowship & fun. The fun will be a return performance by Rich Cullen, a one-man band providing easy listening music, Big Band tunes, Broadway tunes, etc. Bring your spouse, a family member, or a friend; an appetite; and a smile to have a great time! We would love to know that you will be coming and who you might bring. Please call Lois at the **church office, 259-5210**, or **Debbie Tite, 377-8504**, by *Monday, Sept. 21st* to make a reservation. Arrangements for **door-to-door service or valet parking** are just a phone call away because we want you to be here! Let us, with God's help, bless you with food, fellowship, & friendship on September 23rd!

Invitations will be mailed in the next week. We look forward to seeing you!



See You at the Pole™ was inspired by the initiative of students in one youth group in Burleson, TX, early in 1990. The teenagers felt led to go & pray at night at several area schools during a weekend youth group retreat. They had a profound time of prayer, and their experience was shared with thousands of other youth from across Texas in the form of a challenge in June 1990 at a large conference. More than 56,000 students on 1,200 campuses in Texas and three other states were documented at the first See You at the Pole™ in September of that year. Since 1991, See You at the Pole™ has grown to God-sized proportions. Within the first few years, the movement began to spread to other nations through missionaries from the U.S. Now each year, more than 3 million students from all over the world participate in See You at the Pole™. Students in more than 20 countries take part. In places like Canada, Korea, Japan, Turkey, and the Ivory Coast, students are responding to God and taking seriously the challenge to pray. **For 2015 the date is Wed., September 23rd! Pray with our youth!**



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

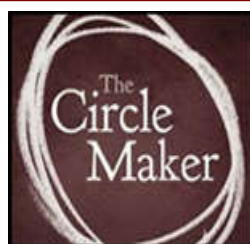
PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Mission Possible

"THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE" MATTHEW 19:26

"Mission Possible" that's the theme and a guiding principle for the development of a St. Paul UMC Capital Fund Campaign. Your steering committee has been hard at work researching, discussing, and developing a campaign. To-date representatives from St. Paul are due to return to O'Fallon, Sept. 10, for a meeting with the District Church Location & Building Committee to provide additional information requested by that committee. As part of the development stage of the campaign, the Trustees have struggled with finding qualified contractors willing to take a "Design/Build" approach to our project. "Design/Build" refers to contractors handling all elements of a project from the design to the actual work that is needed to be done. As of August we had 3 quality contractors willing to give us cost quotes for the Capital Fund project with those quotes coming into the Trustees late in August.

Providing the District Church Location & Building Committee approves our request, you will begin to receive important facts and information related to the Capital Fund Campaign prior to a Sept. 27th Church Conference for the purpose of voting yes or no on the request to seek the funding for the project. The information you will be receiving will be labeled "Mission Possible" so be sure to take some time to review the information and prepare your questions. Thank you! ST. PAUL UMC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



The Sunday Evening Small Group

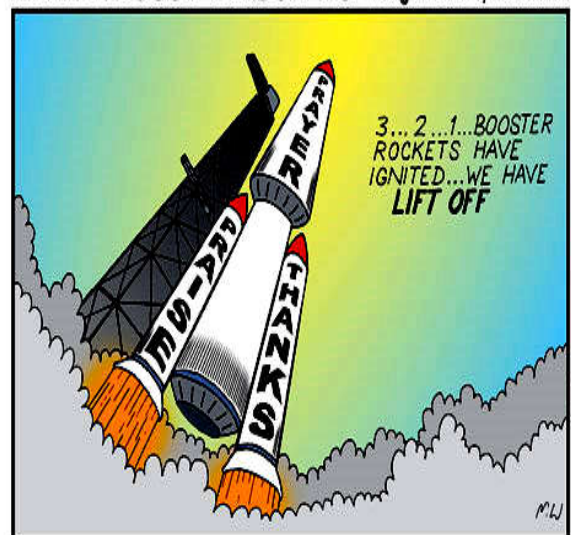
We will continue to meet at 5 p.m. every other week. We will be following the Mark Batterson study on **THE CIRCLE MAKER**. The dates and topics are:

- Sept. 13: Becoming A Circle Maker
- Sept. 27: Little People, Big Risks, and Huge Circles
- Oct. 11: Praying Hard and Praying Through
- Oct. 25: Praying is Like Planting

We hope that you will join us!

PRAYER BOOSTER ROCKETS

A Joyful Toon by Mike Waters



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. - PSALM 100:4 NIV



Mildred Ballard was very specific about what was to be included in the celebration of her life. For those who knew Mildred, this is not shocking. Mildred was a person of great faith who was willing to accept that with our limited vision on earth, we don't understand all of God's ways. But we praise God anyway. Indeed, Mildred could be counted upon to remark in her Sunday School class, "**we will understand it better by and by.**" She trusted that **God guides us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die, For we'll understand it better by and by.** That is why I used this hymn as the basis of the sermon for Mildred.

I Corinthians 13

¹² We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

¹³ But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

**We are tossed and driv'n on the restless sea of time;
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.**

**We are often destitute of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands;
We are trusting in the Lord, and according to God's Word,
We will understand it better by and by.**

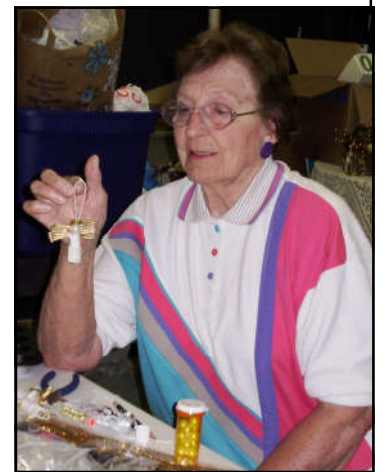
**Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God could lead us to that blessed promised land;
But He guides us with His eye, and we'll follow till we die,
For we'll understand it better by and by.**

**Temptations, hidden snares often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed for a thoughtless word or deed;
And we wonder why the test when we try to do our best,
But we'll understand it better by and by.**

Refrain
**By and by, when the morning comes,
When the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome,
For we'll understand it better by and by.**

For Mildred, the fog now has lifted, the mist has disappeared and in the bright morning sun of heaven she sees her Lord and Savior Jesus whom she has faithfully worshiped so many years...revealed in all his glory. The purpose of those trials and temptations along her journey through life have been made clear. Unlike us, she understands.

How I wish that Mildred could return to us—if only for a few brief hours—and share with us what she now understands. Instead, we rely upon the promise of Paul that the sufferings we undergo today are nothing compared with the glory to come. We depend upon the vision of heaven granted to John that here is a place where there is no more pain, no more death and, in fact, God himself wipes away that tears from our eyes that have accumulated during life upon this earth.



Continued on Page 14



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It is significant that Charles Tindley who wrote this glorious hymn knew his share of pain. An African American who was born to a father who was a slave while his mother was a free woman, his aunt raised him after his mother died at the age of 4. His father gave up custody because he wanted his son to grow up as a free man; not a slave.

Tindley taught himself to read and write and at 17 married his wife Daisy. They ended up in Philadelphia where Charles worked as a custodian of the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church. Called into the ministry, he continued working as a custodian while taking correspondence courses at Boston School of Theology. After his ordination as a Methodist minister, he served several churches in the Philadelphia area until 25 years after serving as custodian of the John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church he was appointed its pastor. Noted for his powerful preaching interspersed with

the many hymns he wrote, the church rapidly grew to a membership of 10,000 people.

I mention this—not to impart a history lesson—but to remind us that so many of our hymns of faith emerge out of lives filled with hardship, pain, and questioning of God’s purpose. As Christians, we say that we don’t have all the answers. Instead, we know Jesus who is the answer. Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

When Mildred insisting upon removing the pump that was dispensing the heart medicine supposedly keeping her going, the ER doctor said Mildred would not live long. As the weeks and later the months went by, Mildred often said “**I don’t know why I’m still here.**” I know that I, along with others here, would say: “**Only God knows the length of our life. There is reason why you are still here.**”

In my office, there is a little plaque that says: **Each day is a gift from God. That is why it is called “The Present.”** Maybe these extra days weren’t a gift for Mildred as much as they were God’s gift to all of us. Chloe and Baylee had a weekend sleepover, Mildred and her older brother had a great visit. She was able to celebrate one more birthday with her family.

Maybe God extended Mildred’s time for us! To be a witness of God’s faithfulness with **trials dark on every hand. To be trusting in the Lord even when We are often destitute of the things that life demands, Want of food and want of shelter, thirsty hills and barren lands.**

As Charles Tindley wrote and Mildred understood:

**We are tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time;
Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine;
In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.**

Until that time when we reach heaven’s shore and what is hidden is revealed, Mildred has reminded me throughout these last three months to: **trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, and love extravagantly.** I along with the rest of our community will miss Mildred so very much. But I know that I will see her again: by and by.

Pastor Daryl