



The Steeple

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

MAY 2016



Listen obediently, Israel. Do what you're told so that you'll have a good life, a life of abundance and bounty, just as GOD promised, in a land abounding in milk and honey. Attention, Israel! GOD, our God! GOD the one and only! Love GOD, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you, love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9 The Message

May is the time to compose the usual ode to our mothers. I'm not discounting all that I owe to my mother, but this year I want to direct our thoughts to those godly women besides our mothers whom God sent our way. Somehow, God knew it would take the influence of more than one good woman to keep our feet on the right path.

There is Elsie Harkness, my 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School teacher, who is rejoicing in heaven because her beloved White Sox are in first place in the Central Division of the American League as I write this. Elsie struck a deal with all the boys in her class that we could talk baseball for five minutes before we settled into our lesson. Until that class I wasn't really a baseball fan, but her passion for the White Sox converted me. I know its early but maybe, just maybe, this is our year to return to the World Series.

Elsie's only child died at 12 yrs. old. Rather than allow herself to be consumed by bitterness, she directed her energies towards teaching us about Jesus. Most importantly, Elsie loved us like Jesus loved us!

In high school, there was Mrs. Barash who waded through *Moby Dick*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Nichols Nickelby* and other great literature with us. Sometimes, we even paid attention and learned something. I thank God for Verda Kenney who showed me that history was not the dull recitation of facts but a dynamic movement of people and ideas that shape the present. Gretchen Gates who was such a talented math teacher that I proficiencied out of the math requirement when I entered college.

I could name dozens of other women who were my Sunday School teachers, Vacation Bible School teachers, Cub Scout Den leaders, or school teachers who quietly shaped and molded me into the man I have become. Some had children of their own, others never married.

I'm sure that every one of you could name a dozen godly women like this. Women who were not well known outside their churches, schools, or communities, but who still provided the knowledge, the encouragement, the guidance we needed during critical times in our life. Our great nation was built upon the quiet faith and gentle devotion of good, Christian women like these. The impact they had upon our lives was so subtle that it is only in adulthood we appreciate the imprint they have left.

On Mother's Day, let us give thanks not only for our Moms, but all the other women who mothered us. We owe to them a debt we may never repay, but only pay forward.

When the people of Israel enter the Promised Land, God is convinced that they will forget the God who led them there. And God was right. They did forget. To prompt their remembering, God has the people build altars at significant places along the way so when the children in years to come pass by these piles of stones, they will ask their parents: "**why is that there?**" Then, the parents will tell the story of what God did to help His people at that particular place.

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses has just come down from Mt. Sinai with the Ten Commandments. God doesn't want these laws forgotten. God says to Moses: "**You must surround your children with these commandments. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to**

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OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Jacob & Jessica Toner welcomed another daughter into their family, **Nora Elise Toner**, on April 14. She weighed 7 lbs.13 oz. Big sister Jocelyn is thrilled. Grandparents are Ted & Cathy Toner and the great-grandparents are Chuck & Rosalie Toner and Ron & Flo Nelson. A red rose on the altar on April 24th welcomed her birth.
- Congratulations to Brent & Jessie Springer on the birth of **Reese Ann Springer** on February 19, 2016! Her big sister Claire is delighted as are grandparents Greg & Kathy Crews. Late great-grandmother, Shirley Crews, was able to enjoy this new family member, as well.
- We welcome as our newest member, **Betty Burns**, who joined our congregation on Sun., April 10th. As you meet Betty, please extend to her the right hand of fellowship and make a new friend!
- *The Lion King, Jr.*, the Roxana Jr. High School play, was filled with people from St. Paul. **Sydney Palmer** played Nala; **Lana Cox** and **Piper Martin** were Lionesses; **Marlo Schiber** played a Wildebeest and a Tribal Drummer; **Oliver Bacus** was part of the Back Stage Crew; **Connie Martin** helped with props; **Spencer Bacus** produced the You Tube promotional video; **Mark Bacus** was the set designer; and **Debbie Bacus** was the Director. It was a magical production. The show was so popular that it was performed four times!
- **We thank everyone who helped in any way** to make our renewal weekend **with Matt Henson** from *Living the Adventure Ministries* such a great success. We thank Matt for being a blessing in our midst. We welcomed the opportunity to be challenged to turn our commitment to Jesus into action for the Kingdom.
- **Congratulations to Christina Johnson** who has been chosen as the Luminaria Chair for the Relay For Life Riverbend which is being held on Saturday, June 18th at the East Alton-Wood River Community High School. Relay For Life participants and donors remember loved ones lost to cancer & honor those battling the disease by dedicating luminaria. The event is from 11 a.m to 11 p.m.
- Congratulations to Dena Keller on the birth of her son, **Austin Keller**. His big sis is Andrea, grandmother is Sue Carr, and great-grandmother is Alice Burrows!
- Our sympathy is extended to **Ian & Tamera and the entire Martin family** whose Aunt Pam & Uncle Mike lost their son in a terrible car accident a few months ago. Now, their daughter, Kim Martin, has died as well leaving behind a 6 yr. old daughter.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to other families that have recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Robert “Bob” Myers**, brother of Barbara Blaine; the family of **Edith Batchelor**, life-time friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Vicky File**, mother of Kaitlyn who is engaged to Jason McAtee; the family of **Herb “Mike” Ohley**, lifetime friend of Ruth Bell & Lois Mitchell; and the family of **Mary Lou Griffin**, lifetime friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell.
- **THANK YOU:** We thank the **Rev. Bill Pyatt**, pastor, and **the congregation** of First United Methodist church in East Alton, IL for allowing us to host two funeral dinners in their building during our construction. Both the pastor and congregation are reminders of what it means to be connected as United Methodist churches.



Pastor's Corner - Continued from Page 1

bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the door frames of your house.”

What we need to do is to surround our children with godly values so these values become a natural part of their life. The absorption of godly values from our child's environment should be as natural a process as osmosis.

Osmosis is where you have two different liquids separated by a membrane. These two elements pass through the membrane until there is an equal concentration on both sides.

Another way to say this is that a *godly life is caught more than it is taught. We don't live in a vacuum, but in relationship with each other. Whatever godly values we possess come—not from our own goodness—but from the persistent influence of these godly women (and the godly men) that God sends into our lives. From these many moms and dads, we have absorbed the importance of being connected to God, the difference between right and wrong, and the abiding assurance of God's love for us.*

As we consider the temptations that face our children, we become fearful. As we think about all the cultural influences that would lead our children down the wrong path, we become anxious. As we think about the difficulty of leading a godly life in an ungodly world, we are plunged into despair until we think about the many godly women who surround our children: at school, in our neighborhood, in St. Paul United Methodist Church.

Women who make this world a place where faith so permeates the air so that our children cannot help but absorb their faith through spiritual osmosis. The godly values these women embody infiltrates our children's lives and becomes their own. As long as our world is filled with these godly women, there is hope for our children. Indeed, there is hope for all of us.

For we are never too old not to need the influence of a good woman! Pastor Daryl



GIDEON SUNDAY, MAY 15TH

The Gideons International Around the World

- There are over 300,000 Gideons and Auxiliary members (wives of Gideons) in more than 11,900 local groups worldwide...and an untold number of supporters...in 200 countries, territories, and possessions across the globe.
- More than 2 billion Bibles & New Testaments have been distributed worldwide through The Gideons International since 1908...and counting!
- The distribution of our first billion Scriptures by Gideon members spanned 93 years (1908 to 2001). Distribution of our second billion was attained in less than 14 years.
- More than 88 million copies of God's Word were distributed last year.
- On average, more than two copies of God's Word are distributed per second.
- Over one million Bibles & New Testaments are distributed every 4 days.
- These dedicated individuals give their time and money to make it possible for others to learn about the love of God by giving them access to His Word.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sat., June 25 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Needed: Families and individuals who like to make and eat ice cream!

For anyone who enjoys making homemade ice cream, come share your favorite recipe as we raise money for the Capital Campaign Fund. The last winner was George Tappy; let's see who will capture the winning ice cream this time!

For those who enjoy eating ice cream but aren't as skilled at making it, no worries! We will be selling ice cream sundaes by the ounce for you to top with your favorite toppings! **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**



Saturdays at St. Paul in MAY 5:00 P.M. Service



Join us on **SATURDAYS** at 5 p.m. for **Awakening!** Awakening is St. Paul's worship service featuring the Awakening Praise Band in a family friendly setting. We hope you will join us (bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!

Our MAY Speakers:

7th - Lauren Cranmer 14th - Pastor Jim Wheeler
21st - Jim Herndon 28th - Harvey Birmingham (Navy Veteran)

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

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

1: 6th Sunday of Easter. Communion celebrated. Jesus' great promise to us is that we shall never be alone. Jesus sends His Spirit to be with us always. Read John 14:23-29.



8: Ascension Sunday. Mother's Day. Birthday Sunday.
CATCH UP SUNDAY. Every mother present in worship will receive a gift as we celebrate God's gift of mothers to us. More than any other, it is our mothers who teach us the true nature of love. Read John 15:9-17.
During the 10:30 a.m. service, the Children's Bell Choir will perform.



During More Jesus Time, the children will make a gift for their mothers. During both services, your special gifts help us catch up with our financial obligations.



THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

15: PENTECOST. GIDEON SUNDAY. Aaron Vinyard will tell the story of the Gideons who distribute the Bible throughout the world. You will have a chance to be part of this great ministry by participating in the special offering at the end of each service. St. Paul is a long-time supporter of the Gideons.

22: 1st Sunday after Pentecost. Aldersgate Sunday. John Wesley stumbled into a prayer on Aldersgate St. in London and it changed his life. He was searching for a closer relationship with God and God was searching for a closer relationship with him. They connected in a powerful way during that prayer service. What changed for John Wesley was the assurance that he felt that Jesus loved him, truly loved him. And it was for John Wesley that Jesus had come to bring salvation. What John Wesley knew in his head became fixed in his heart. Read John 3:16-17.



29: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. Memorial Sunday. Pastor Daryl talks about the importance of passing on this faith that has been entrusted to us. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2.
During both worship services, we remember those who have joined the church triumphant since last Memorial Day. We will honor their memories during both worship services. We also dedicate all memorial projects during this past year.



Nurses Notes for May 2016 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.!

“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.”

3 John 1:2

It is now spring and most people are excited about getting outside to enjoy the weather. I know that I enjoy seeing the flowers beginning to bloom and the smell of the fresh cut grass- and seeing the neighbors out working in their yards. There is lots of activity going on- or at least I hope so, as all of us need to be active and moving in some way!

The statistics on exercise are not good- less than 5% of adults participate in 30 minutes of physical activity each day; only one in three adults receive the recommended amount of physical activity each week. More than 80% of adults do not meet the guidelines for both aerobic & muscle-strengthening activities. More than 80% of adolescents do not do enough aerobic physical activity to meet the guidelines for youth. Only one in three children is physically active every day. Over 78 million U.S. adults and about 12.5 million (16.9%) children and adolescents are obese.

The good news is that regular physical activity helps improve your overall health and fitness, and reduces your risk for many chronic diseases- and the risk of obesity. Fitting regular exercise into your daily schedule may seem difficult at first, but it can be done! Start by doing what you can, and then look for ways to increase your activity. Start out slowly. Then, after several weeks or months you can build up your activities, by adding more time or picking up the pace.

Physical activity is anything that gets your body moving. According to the CDC Guidelines for Americans, you need to do two types of physical activity each week to improve your health— aerobic and muscle-strengthening. Adults need at least: 2 hours & 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity, such as brisk walking every week **and** muscle strengthening activity on 2 or more days a week that work all major muscle groups- legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, & arms.

So, are you out of breath just reading about all of this exercise? It's really not that much time- about the time it takes to watch a movie. The good news is that you can spread the activity out during the day or week, so you don't have to do it all at once. Break it up into small chunks- 10 minutes at a time gives you the benefits.

Strength training isn't just for men. Lifting weights has significant health benefits for women, including:

- Building** your strength and ability to handle everyday activities more easily (think carrying heavy grocery bags)
- Increasing** metabolism
- Helping** to reduce body fat and leave you more toned
- Strengthening** your core

Many of us equate core strength with a flat belly or six-pack abs; but there are so many more benefits that come from improving core strength than how your midsection looks- including improved posture, better balance, reduced back pain and easier breathing.

Core work is different from strength-training programs that isolate a single muscle group. Instead, they challenge as many muscles as possible in integrated, coordinated movements. Core moves should engage the entire body- head to toe.

Yoga and Pilates are great for working your core because the postures target those muscle groups. If you're new to these activities, don't be surprised if you wake up the day after a workout with aches in your lower belly, as well as your lower and upper back. I am still surprised at how my core muscles tell me “hey we are here” the next morning after spending some time strengthening them. I can get pretty sore- but it is temporary and worth it!

There are countless other activities to strengthen your core, from swimming to cycling to kick boxing. You can also try some specific exercises, whether that's classic sit-ups or plyometric moves...the list goes on. Talk to a trainer, physical therapist, or exercise physiologist about a routine that's right for you. It may be helpful to have an expert show you how to do some moves with proper form, so you can do them safely and effectively on your own.

We have been made in God's image. Whether you're a young, mid-aged, or older woman, regular exercise has undeniably positive effects on your mind and body. Being fit through exercise and diet lowers your risks for physical and cognitive decline and helps you achieve your personal best throughout your life. The younger you start exercising, the more likely you are to continue to be active in your later years!

And take note: Ephesians 2:10 helps us see that we are God's masterpiece, created to do the good things that He had planned a long time ago for us to do. We all know that the more fit and healthy we are the more energy we will have. The more energy that we have, the more we can put into whatever task He has called us to do. (Sources: CDC, healthierus.gov)

So let's get started on our way to being a healthy person, family, church and community!

To God be the glory! Eileen



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

- May 01 Scroggins, Kennedy
- May 03 Ayres, Bowen
- May 03 Fulks, Sharon
- May 03 Eyster, Brian
- May 03 Workman, Kristina
- May 04 Toner, Zack
- May 05 Whaley, Keri
- May 05 Martin, Sydney
- May 06 Tappy, Mike
- May 07 White, Jeff
- May 07 Barnes, Alex
- May 07 Napp, Ian
- May 08 Lehnen, Trudy
- May 08 Hatten, Bruce
- May 08 Skjerseth, Gina
- May 08 Virgin, Joy
- May 08 Rader, Kevin
- May 08 Decker, Brayden
- May 09 Burt, Jackie Beth
- May 10 Hinkle, Bob Sr.
- May 10 Bentley, Brandon
- May 10 Toner, Jake
- May 10 Ford, Katie
- May 11 Tindall, Minnie
- May 12 Goodman, Nelba
- May 12 Hickerson, Connie
- May 12 Hendricks, Heather
- May 12 Bottorff, Aaron

- May 12 White, Laura Mae
- May 12 Cincoski, Liam
- May 13 Yankovich, Tana
- May 13 Cameron, Troy
- May 13 Rich, Aaron
- May 13 Whaley, Shelby
- May 13 Martin, Ethan
- May 15 Giddings, Joshua
- May 15 Parker, Wyatt
- May 16 Bowman, Paul
- May 16 Spurgeon, Adelyn
- May 17 Uzzell, John
- May 17 Ortegren, Bobbi
- May 17 Bacus, Debbie
- May 17 Nairn, Jeremy
- May 19 Ford, Phill
- May 19 Winchester, Kylie
- May 20 Baggett, Barbara
- May 21 Babcock, Ray Jr.
- May 21 Toner, Jocelyn
- May 22 Babcock, Tyler
- May 22 Hubbard, Ridgely
- May 24 Hall, Marjorie

- May 24 Spurgeon, Ryan
- May 25 Nairn, Tiffany
- May 26 McPheters, Kelly
- May 26 Palmer, Brendan
- May 27 Campbell-Davis, Betty
- May 27 Mortland, Lana
- May 27 Lusivic, Brandy
- May 28 Lusivic, DJ Jr.
- May 29 Huebner, Richard
- May 29 Brown, Gina
- May 29 Griffin, Laurie
- May 30 Dawson, Steve
- May 30 Gebhardt, Sarah
- May 30 Griffin, Sam



MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- May 01 Scroggins, Mark & Sandy
- May 02 Hickerson, Jim & Connie
- May 05 Sparling, Rick III & Meghan
- May 07 Russell, Gordon & Carol
- May 12 Greer, Chris & Kellie
- May 15 Blacklock, Bob & Betsy
- May 17 Liedtke, Brian & Trista
- May 19 Cameron, Troy & Kristin

- May 21 Martin, Tom & Karen
- May 22 Bourne, Jimmy & Brianne
- May 25 Ford, Phill & Joan
- May 25 Hatten, Bruce & Karen
- May 26 Armon, Keith & Mandy
- May 27 Kainz, Steve & Jean
- May 31 Martin, Joe & Alicia

Be sure to pick up a **NEW** current church directory!

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!

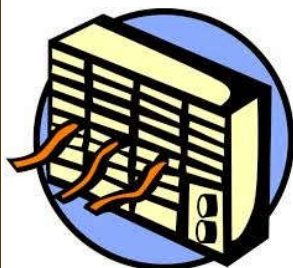


APRIL Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 4/30/2016	\$17699.00
Designated Giving:	through 4/30/2016	\$1824.26
	Capital Improvements	245.00
	Loose Change	80.25
	Flowers	100.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	25.00
	Memorials	875.00
	2016 Steeple Postage	10.00
	Upper Room Donations	6.00
	Reimbursement	113.01
	Funeral Dinners	350.00
	Matt Henson	20.00
Easter Offering		150.00
Capital Campaign		4470.00
Transfer From Reserve		103.75
Total:		\$24247.01

Capital Campaign money received as of 4-30-16: \$157,677.08

DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2016 STEEPLE, Fri., MAY 20th!



With our recent renovation at church, we no longer need our window AC units. If you would like one, please contact Jim Herndon, Chairperson of the Trustees.



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

May's Loose Change

Project goes to the **Liberian Mission** of the Methodist Church. After 20 years of civil war the church is re-building. This will help support pastors in the churches who only earn \$1 per month in salary. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

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

May 1st: Randy & Joyce Brueggeman

May 8th: Don Bunt & Dave Schiber family

May 15th: Dave Schiber (and another needed)

May 22nd: Deb Mayer, Mindy McLain

May 29th: Tom & Ruth Voorhees

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

Average Attendance for APRIL 2016

Early Service	40
Late Service	66
Sunday School	36
Visitors	5
3 Awakening Services	29





WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

at 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 5th-SEPTEMBER 4th

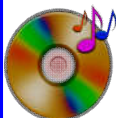
"TAILGATE AT 8" (T8) AT 8 a.m.

In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson MOMMY, MOMMY WAKE UP!



BREAKFAST IN BED FOR MOM... Nothing says 'Happy Mothers Day' better than Cold Cereal and Hot Coffee served with love.



CHOIR CD: If anyone would like a "St. Paul Choir Favorites" CD, please contact Tracy Franks or the church office. This music CD is a collection of music by the choir during the time that Marilyn Cisler was the director and the songs are from our services from 2006 - 2011. There is no cost, but you may give a donation to the Capital Campaign Fund, if you like.

MISSION PROJECT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Attendees to 2016 Annual Conference are urged to have their congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. A truck will be located at the Peoria Civic Center to accept those donations during the Annual Conference.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is seeking any OR all supplies for the following kits:

Table with 2 columns: Personal Dignity Kit and School Kit. Lists items like hand towel, wash cloth, comb, nail clippers, toothbrush, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, razor, toothpaste, spiral notebooks, pens, pencils, sharpener, eraser, ruler, protractor, crayons, and scissors.

Those wishing to help with the cost of shipping and/or the purchase of supplies in bulk can make their checks payable to MMDC and bring them with them or mail them to:

MMDC, PO Box 56, Chatham, IL 62629

You may start to bring your items any time and no later than Sunday, JUNE 5th.



THANK YOU! The Women of Worship would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this year's Rummage Sale such a success. First, our appreciation to all who donated those great items for the sale. I think the donations have surpassed all the previous years. Then, from day one – setting up the tables to several days of sorting, pricing, labeling, greeting people, bagging, cashiering, and - finally – helping customers to their cars with their purchases, our volunteers did a SUPER job. We always receive compliments about how neat and well organized we have our merchandise. In addition, all of our profits are donated to many church and community charities.

A profit report will be announced in the Bulletin and also next month's Steeple. Again, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS – THANK YOU – God Bless Everyone who participated in **any way**. We couldn't have done it without your help!

-Women of Worship-

SEEKING GRADUATION INFORMATION

If you have a son or daughter who is a **member** or an **active participant** at St. Paul graduating from 8th grade, high school, junior college, college, graduate school, etc. please turn their name and information into the Church Office immediately so we will be able to honor him or her on **Graduate Sunday, JUNE 5th** during the 10:30 a.m. service! Call 259-5210 or send to info@stpaulwired.org. Thank you for your assistance!

Saturday, May 7 & Sunday, May 8 is Catch Up Weekend!



We invite you to join the others at St. Paul in giving a special gift to help us catch up on our bills. We have special envelopes for this special offering or you may designate an amount labeled "Catch Up" on your regular offering envelope, you may stop by the Church Office with a gift or you may give online via credit card through our website.

Our income this year has fallen short of what we need to meet our necessary expenditures. Currently, we are \$11,864 behind in payment of our bills.

Ironically, this is happening at a time when many areas of our ministry are thriving. The addition of the Awakening Service in 2015 led to an increase in worship over the previous year. The *Mission Possible* work is modernizing our building and preparing us for worship in the 21st Century. There are new people attending all our worship services.

We understand that some of our families are struggling financially. We have prayed with those who are unemployed, those who are supporting children who are underemployed, those who are helping aging parents, and those living on fixed incomes. We know your situations and we care. Our intent isn't to make you feel guilty if you are unable to give financially on *Catch Up Sunday*, but only to be honest and transparent about our situation. You should expect nothing less from us.

God does expect all of us to worship Him. Jesus makes it clear that His goal is that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that "He is Lord." Whether or not you are able to make a special *Catch Up* gift, we expect the gift of your presence in worship on Mother's Day weekend. Lauren Cranmer has a special message during Awakening on Saturday, May 7, at 5 p.m. and Pastor Daryl reminds us how mothers model Christian love for us during the Sunday services at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. on May 8. All mothers present at our worship services receive a special gift as well!

We leave you with this thought from Billy Graham: "GOD HAS GIVEN US TWO HANDS-- ONE TO RECEIVE WITH AND OTHER TO GIVE WITH. WE ARE NOT WELLS MADE FOR HOARDING; WE ARE CHANNELS MADE FOR SHARING." Your *Catch Up Sunday Offering* will enable us to be a wide channel for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our world. The Finance Committee



FLOWER CALENDAR

Flower Calendar for 2016 is posted on the big bulletin board in the Education Wing. There are still THREE openings! Please, fill it up! Thank you!



to help set up for the summer outdoor worship service! If you can help, please call Randy McLain at 580-5522 ASAP! Thank you!



NAVIGATING CHANGE

CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

2016 Navigating Change Church Leadership Conference held on *May 5 & 6* at Christ Church in Fairview Heights.



**2016 Annual Conference
June 8-11
Peoria Civic Center**

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Daryl will be on vacation May 9-18. During this time, Doug Pascoe, our Parish Visitor, will make pastoral calls. Rev. Ed Weston, pastor at Belleville Union United Methodist Church, is available in case of any pastoral emergency. Please call the Church Office if you need any assistance.



SMALL STUDY GROUP

Our Sunday evening Small Study Group is taking a break during May because it is a busy month with graduations. We thank Rev. Ron Wenzel for leading the study based upon his book *Angels, Demons, and the Unseen World*. Iris Uzzell will invite us to join her on her spacious deck for a potluck when it is time to choose our next study.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be!



CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING

Pick up *Quest*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps—is available on top of the mailboxes across from the Church Office and on the wall in the church entryway. Camps for all ages are available at Little Grassy near Carbondale, East Bay near Bloomington, Beulah in Eldorado, and Epworth near Greenville. College students and adults might consider serving as counselors in our camps. Everything you need to know about being a camper or counselor is found in *Quest*.



PENTECOST
IGNITE YOUR FAITH
IGNITE YOUR PASSION
IGNITE YOUR LIFE



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Homer L. Balzraine (89) lost his courageous battle with squamous cell cancer on April 19, 2016. Born in Wilsonville, Illinois, in 1927, he was the second son of John Napoleon Balzraine and Jennie (Peradotti) (Balzraine) (Brown) Kochinski. He attended Benld Illinois City Schools graduating on a Friday night, leaving on a troop train the next morning to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago, Illinois to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was stationed in the South Pacific aboard the USS Puget Sound Naval Aircraft Carrier, which was positioned for the invasion of Japan. He always praised President Truman for saving his life by ending the war with Japan. After the war, he graduated from Rankin Trade School with a Tool and Dye trade and immediately went to work at Owens-Illinois Glass as a mold maker in the neck ring department for 43 years. He was elected and served eight times as the president of the Flint Glass Workers Union 43. He also served five years as the on-loan executive from Owens-Illinois Glass for United Way. Upon retirement, he worked as a ranger at the Woodlands Golf Course and wrote frequent "letters to the editor" to The Telegraph. He loved sports, especially the St. Louis Cardinals, the Chicago Bears, and the University of Illinois Fighting Illini football team. He excelled in football and baseball in high school. He played golf, took his wife dancing at the VFW, enjoyed watching his granddaughter play soccer and watching his grandson play baseball. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post # 1308 in Alton, Illinois.

He is survived by his wife Carleen (Fiscor) Balzraine, of 61 years; a daughter, Becky Balzraine of Creve Coeur, Missouri, and a son John (Beth) Balzraine of Glencoe, Missouri, two grandchildren Elise (Brett) Renfro of North Carolina, and Brett Balzraine. He was preceded in death by his parents, along with his brother, Arthur Napoleon Balzraine, Edwina (Brown) Kolkovich, and Richard Dale Brown. He was also preceded in death by an adored stepfather Ed Brown. He will be deeply missed by all those close to him including his immediate family, sisters-in-law, Irmaline Balzraine and Beverly (Fiscor) Buras, and numerous nieces and nephews.

"As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing." **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

For some reason, the thought occurred to me that while Homer didn't win many prizes with his golfing—despite his love for the sport—we remember that he has won a great prize today. These words of Paul are written from a Roman prison to Timothy, the person who will continue Paul's ministry. Aware that the end of his life is near, Paul fills his letters with words of advice. Then his thoughts turn to his own life and reviewing all that he has sacrificed and endured, Paul has no regrets. He has done his best. He has been faithful. He has finished the race.

Unlike the Roman contests where only one prize awaited the winner at the finish line—a wreath of olive branches—a great prize awaits all of us who finish the race: a crown of righteousness.

Homer wrote numerous letters to the editors expressing his opinion on the issues of our day. I found it rather amusing that so often Tracy Franks of our congregation wrote letters upon the same subject expressing an opposite point of view. Both loved Jesus and both loved their church. And, I know that they prayed for each other and their families in times of need.

Homer lived out what scholars call the true "Lord's Prayer," because it is the prayer that Jesus prays for us: his disciples. The prayer is that we might be One with Jesus as He is One with the Father. And, One with each other because we are united by the love of Jesus Christ.

Jesus prays in **John 17:**

²⁰ "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. ²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. ²² "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. ²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. ²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! (God's Word)

While I am certain that Homer and Tracy probably cancelled each other's vote on election day, they were united in their devotion to Jesus. Jesus draws those of every race, nation, and language into the Church—His body upon this earth.

There was unity in creation until our disobedience introduced envy, strife, and disorder. The Book of Revelation depicts the restoration of unity. At the end of time, we will gather around the throne of our great God singing His praises forever. Indeed, in that time every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Meanwhile, we are called to be the Church—God's Holy people upon this earth. holy—not because of our internal goodness—but because a holy God died upon the cross to redeem us. He died so we might live. Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

Whenever I prayed with Homer, he would always cross himself after I said "Amen." I joked with him that this action "sealed the deal." God has sealed the deal with Homer. The crown of righteousness that has awaited him is now his.

God has set aside a crown for you and me as well. There is more than one winner in this race of faith. For the crown goes to all who finish. To all who persevere to the end.

In these past few days, Psalm 23 has served to comfort all of us who gathered around Homer's bedside. It reminded us that everything which introduces disunity into the creation will be no more. And, that certainly includes death which separates us from one another. That is why the promise from Psalm 23 is so important to us: *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* Pastor Daryl



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Shirley Ann Crews (82) passed away peacefully at 2:30 p.m Thursday, March 31, 2016, at home with her family by her side. Born in Wood River on February 27, 1934, she was the daughter of Earl & Helen (Fisher) Calvin. Raised in Wood River, she was crowned, "Queen of the City" in 1951, attended and graduated from East Alton-Wood River High School in 1952, having been head majorette for the band. Following high school, she worked for Union Electric, Hartman's Jewelers, Midwest Carpet, and Rose Lawn Memory Gardens. She then went to work for Pepsi-Cola from which she retired. After her retirement, she was the church secretary of St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights.

Her family was always the most important thing to her. She loved being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, cousin, aunt and friend.

On April 10, 1954, in Wood River, she married Billy V. Crews. He died August 29, 2014. Surviving are a son, Greg (Kathy) Crews; daughter, Tracy (Tom) Scoggins; four grandchildren, Miranda and Leland Scoggins, Jessie (Brent) Springer, Jake Crews; three great-grandchildren, Kansas Scoggins, Claire and Reese Springer; sister, Audrey (Nick) Nischwitz; special friend, Charlene Holmes; several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband; grandson, Zachary C. Crews; and brother, Dean Calvin. Shirley will be sadly missed by all that knew her and loved her.

"Thank God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that in his great mercy we men have been born again into a life full of hope, through Christ's rising again from the dead! You can now hope for a perfect inheritance beyond the reach of change and decay, "reserved" in Heaven for you. And in the meantime you are guarded by the power of God operating through your faith, till you enter fully into the salvation which is all ready for the denouement of the last day." I Peter 1:3-5

We were passing through New Bern, NC on vacation when we saw these signs proclaiming it as the birthplace of Pepsi. We stopped at the pharmacy where in 1898 Caleb Bradham had invented Pepsi as a cure for indigestion. His small pharmacy had been turned into a mini-museum and Pepsi store. Later, Pepsi was marketed as a soft drink rather than as medicine.

The biggest surprise to me was how old Pepsi was because when I was growing up Pepsi was marketed as the drink for the hip, new generation. On the commercials you heard the tagline: **Come Alive, You're in the Pepsi Generation.** The campaign worked in our family because while my sister and I drank Coke, our twin sisters who were 13 years younger had to have their Pepsi.

Those who spent any time around Shirley knew she was part of the Pepsi Generation. When we were between secretaries, Shirley filled in at the Church Office. She always arrived with a Pepsi in her hand. She was definitely part of the new generation. Indeed, I always thought of Shirley as younger than she was. I think that is why she had such a close relationship with her grandchildren.

These words I read from I Peter are written at a time when Christians are suffering—being thrown out of the synagogues, persecuted by the Romans. Peter's message is: we are going through a time of testing when we must remain faithful to what we know to be true. That Jesus Christ is The Way, the Truth, the Life.

Hang on. Persevere. Be faithful in the midst of a time of trials. Because the pain and suffering we endure today is small potatoes compared to the glories of heaven. Jesus' resurrection is not a one-time phenomenon. Jesus is the first of many who will be raised by God from the dead.

Shirley's treasure was never measured by the things she owned upon this earth. Her real inheritance was the eternal life that is ours in Jesus Christ. As Jesus promised, this treasure would never rust, be lost or stolen from us. Upon this treasure there was a placard saying *reserved for Shirley Crews.* And, until Shirley arrived to claim this treasure it was guarded by the power of God. As long as she was a faithful follower of Jesus, Satan could not snatch it from her.

During her last days upon this earth, Shirley asked **when she had died.** Frustrated by being told she had not died yet and thinking the family was withholding this vital information from her, Shirley said: **I guess I'll have to read about it in the paper.**

As I thought about this story, I thought back to my mother who individually asked each of us about two months before she died if it was O.K. if she died. She was tired of battling her illnesses and wanted to be at peace. She knew Jesus would be waiting to welcome her home. We all told her that we'd miss her, but we understood.

About a month before she died, my mom vented her frustration at still being alive to my sister, Doris, who said: *"Well, Mom there's not much I can do about this. I'm not in charge, God is."*

I miss my mom. I know you miss Shirley already. It is natural for us to have wanted another day, another conversation, another opportunity to say: **I love you.** My mom did not abandon me any more than Shirley abandoned you. They were simply tired and wanted to go home: to our true home.

These were two strong women who believed that **through the Resurrection, we have been born again into a life full of hope.** They weren't afraid because they knew that Jesus and all those loved ones who had died in the Lord and gone on before them awaited them on the other side. And, my mom and Shirley were confident that one day we will rejoin them and be together again forever.

God is our God and we are His sons and daughters. There is nothing for us to fear—this day or any day. Please keep Shirley's family in your prayers—that God may comfort them. Pastor Daryl



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

UNDERSTANDING & GIVING TO MISSION POSSIBLE

The following information is provided to clarify any misconceptions about our Mission Possible campaign and to further clarify how one might give to the cause. **Mission Possible** is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address some much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The primary target of the campaign is the replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning system (HVAC) as well as other much needed items for our church building and senior parsonage. We do this in large part as we consider the future of the ministry of St. Paul UMC and the over 50 diverse ministries that radiate from our church home, and as we consider the role our church building will play in future ministry.

The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. So if you were absent or did not give to the campaign during that time, but now feel led to participate with your financial gifts, there is still plenty of time to participate. **In order that we can know where we stand with pledges, we ask that you fill out a commitment card (which is available in the church narthex or by calling the church office) if you plan to give to the Mission Possible Campaign.**

Providing your gift(s):

- If you are interested in a one-time gift, send the donation to the church or place it in the Sunday offering, **but please be sure to note Mission Possible (or CFC for Capital Fund Campaign) on the check memo line/ offering envelope.**
- You can also give online through our website.
- You can give using your credit card when you provide that information to the church office.
- You can give by cash or check.
- You can also provide financial contributions via securities, real estate, personal properties, or an estate gift by contacting the church office or Bob Blacklock.

Beginning in **January 2016**, you will place the designated amount for “Mission Possible” gifts on the **Capital Campaign** line on your offering envelopes. Donations toward the expenses of our Church Operations (i.e. the General Budget) would go on the **Undesignated** line as always. What was Capital Improvements, funds meant for unexpected major expenses, is now labeled **Building & Grounds Improvements** on the 2016 envelopes.

If you have any questions, please call the Church Office for clarification.

IMPORTANT

Please, look for the MISSION POSSIBLE in red on the outside of any envelopes from St. Paul UMC for timely information regarding our Capital Fund Campaign!



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CHURCH SPRING WORK DAY!

Saturday, May 7th
8:00 a.m.-Noon

Given our recent construction work, which should be nearing completion by this time, the church will need a thorough dusting. We need as many “dusters” as possible to hit the various areas of the building that have been transformed as we seek to put ourselves back in order! If you are willing & able to help, we would appreciate your help! Thank you! Questions? Call Jim Herndon, 466-6736.