



The Steeple

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

JUNE 2016



“Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” Matthew 9:35-38 NLT

These verses form the theme for our Annual Conference that meets June 8-11 in Peoria. The theme is *The Fields Are Ripe for the Harvest*. Two months ago, I preached a sermon based upon these verses. Let me share a summary for those who were not able to be present on that day.

As we approach the completion of Phase 1 of our *Mission Possible Campaign*, it is tempting to pause and rest or even to think we are done. We have a new heating and air conditioning system that should function more efficiently and save us money. The new dropped ceilings and lights have made our building a much nicer place in which to worship and work. Carpets have been cleaned. The kitchen has been painted. Let us always remember that while we are enjoying our building that this building isn't for us. It is God's House. It is for those who will soon join us. Let us take to heart the lessons in these verses.

1/ Like Christ, we need to see the crowds. They are confused and helpless; like sheep without a shepherd.

As I look through the forms filled out for our Helping Hand fund or for Vacation Bible School, increasingly the line that asks for their church home says: NONE. The rise of those with no church connection has been the greatest change during my ministry. During Confirmation Classes, I now include a section teaching our youth how to be a gentle witness to their non-Christian friends. I recognize that our youth are the minority who attend church. The fields are ripe for harvest!

Carl Boyle, a sales representative, was driving home when he saw a group of young children selling Kool-Aid from a stand. They had posted a hand drawn sign in front of their table that read: *“Kool-Aid, 50 cents.”* Carl pulled over and ordered a cup, handing the boy at the stand one dollar. The boy soon returned with the Kool-Aid and 50 cents change.

Carl noticed that the boy stood beside his car window watching him drink his Kool-Aid. After a few moments, the boy asked if Carl was done. *“Just about,”* said Carl. *“Why?”*

“That's the only cup we have,” answered the boy, *“and we need it to stay in business.”* It is difficult to operate a Kool-Aid stand with only one cup. And yet, Carl Boyle observed that this is the mistake that we make in the church. We tend to offer one cup!

Whether we intend to do this or not, we say to our neighborhood: here are the worship services, here are the programs; all of which are fine for us. This is our one cup!

We need to look at people through the eyes of Jesus, the great shepherd, and ask ourselves how we may better tend Jesus' sheep. How do we help these sheep experience the grace that sustains us? What do we need to do differently in offering Christ to them, so they are more likely to respond to Christ's call?

2/ Like Jesus, we must have compassion upon the crowds. We once were like them, chasing false gods.

We tend to dismiss those outside the church as being uninterested in God. Yet, the nonfiction book lists are filled with books offering spiritual nourishment. While Christian movies aren't blockbusters, they draw enough interest to encourage more productions. TV shows on biblical subjects draw huge ratings. People are looking for something more in life. A life filled with more value, more direction, and more love than the life they

Pastor's Corner - Continued on Page 3



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- **Susie Pruetzel** recently earned the Quarterly Star volunteer honor from volunteer coordinator Irene McLaughlin and AMH President Dave Braasch. Susie has accumulated almost 1,800 volunteer hours since 2009, and is also a very active White Cross Auxiliary member. "Susie is willing to do whatever is asked of her," McLaughlin said. "She does an awesome job advertising our gift shop and auxiliary sales, as well as Girls on Grapes, Boys on Brew. We are lucky to have her on board at AMH."
- Congratulations to **Kyle Norris** who was hired as the digital marketing director at WGBZ radio, Alton! In the fall, Kyle will also be broadcasting football and baseball games.
- Congratulations to these Silver Medallion winners from St. Paul: **Caleb Bentley** and **Lori Hickerson** at East Alton/Wood River High School, **Oliver Bacus** and **Katie Herndon** at Roxana High School, and **Joseph Babcock** at Metro East Lutheran High School. Silver Medallions are awarded to the top 8% students in area high schools. We are proud of your academic achievements.
- The **Sweet Sounds** held their season ending picnic on June 1. Starting in the fall, they will resume going to Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Sites, and Adult Day Care Centers with their entertaining music and comedy. If you would like to bring smiles to the faces of so many, we invite you to join them in September. Contact Dorothy Kasinger (259-7255) and she will see you get your red vest and become an official part of the group.
- Thanks to the **Women of Worship** for serving the Bowling Banquet at our church. The team from St. Paul finished a strong second in competition. Congratulations on a great season!
- **Sam Brown** was part of the crew for the Alton High School Musical, *Anything Goes*.
- We say thank you to **Lois Leady** who has donated to the church a beautiful Noah's Ark plus Animals that was originally made by our very own Jack Williams. Janet Williams was happy that it was coming here to be played with by the children!
- On Memorial Sunday, May 29th, we celebrated the lives of those from our church family who have joined the church triumphant since our last Memorial Sunday service. We miss you but rejoice that today you are in the presence of our Lord: **Mildred Ballard, Homer Balzaine, Shirley Crews, Kenneth Fox, Gordon Russell, and Lois Welch**. We also dedicated our completed memorials: 10 Round Tables, 72 Chairs, 1 Holding Rack—all for the Fellowship Hall — in Memory of **Leon Davis**; Music Folders and Hymnals — in Memory of **Doloros Taulbee**; Donation to the Gideons International — in Memory of **Ruby Walls**; Replaced 3 Tabletops in Deb Fansler's Classroom — in Memory of **Audie & Madelyn Bivens**; and All Money Transferred to the Capital Fund Campaign — in Memory of **Mildred Ballard**.
- Our prayers and deepest sympathy goes to those who have lost loved ones recently. To the family & friends of **Evelyn Paris**, former member of St. Paul UMC; the family of **Kim Martin**; the family of **Bob Wydra**, brother-in-law of Jim & Maggie Funke; the family of **Judy Harlan**, mother/mother-in-law of Jay & Sandy Harlan; the family of **Paul Scroggins**, son of Mike & Linda Scroggins; and the family of **Jayne Jurkanin**, former colleague & friend of Jim Herndon. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of grieving.
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you to Pastor Daryl and Doug Pascoe for the many visits and also to Doug for the prayer book. Thank you everyone for the cards, calls, and prayers. And thank you to the women for the wonderful funeral dinner. God bless you all, **Carleen Balzaine & Family**
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you so much for the cards, prayers, hugs and tears, and visits. Your love and support helped us through these difficult days. Blessings always, **The Family of Gordon Russell**



Pastor's Corner - Continued from Page 1

are living. People are yearning for a relationship with Jesus Christ. The crowds need the connection to Jesus that we offer! They need the grace that we possess!

3/ The harvest is great! We look around at our empty pews and become convinced like Elijah that we alone are worshiping God.

At one time, Elijah, the great prophet, became so discouraged in his ministry that he quit. Convinced that everyone had abandoned God and he was alone, Elijah fled to a cave. God hunted Elijah down and told him to quit this nonsense. There were 7,000 who were faithful. Go anoint Jehu as the new king and Elisha to train as his successor. God was still present and active in the world.

Here is the problem within our churches: we think that we are responsible for producing the harvest. We misread Scripture. It says that the harvest is great and Jesus is the Lord of the Harvest. As Christians, we trust this is true!

4/ We are to pray. Notice that we aren't to pray for the confused, helpless sheep, but for ourselves. For more workers to bring in the great harvest.

At St. Paul, we are our biggest problem. We are easily discouraged. We convince ourselves that we are the faithful remnant. We get sidetracked from our mission: to offer Christ.

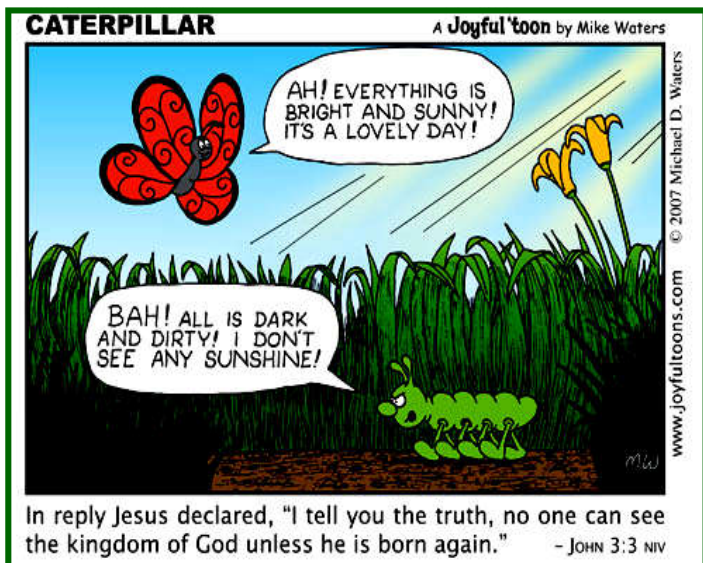
The world will always be the world whether it is the time of Elijah or today. The world will always be chasing after other gods than the one, true God. The world will encourage us to be selfish: putting our interest above that of others.

The world will always be filled with sheep who are confused and helpless. Sheep who don't know what is best for them. Sheep who need the guidance and direction of a good shepherd. The world hasn't changed in its essential nature from the time of Jesus which is why Jesus' words still hold truth for us.

If you think our *Mission Possible* work is finished once the contractors have left, we've put everything back in place, and our building looks *maaarvelous* (as Billy Crystal would say), you are wrong, wrong, wrong. We have invested our lives in the *Mission Possible Campaign* for the world; not for us!

This building is meant to be used to proclaim the gospel. We are called to be a beacon of hope in a world of darkness. Our presence must proclaim the Easter message every day: Jesus is Alive. And, because Jesus lives you may live also.

We need to add multiple cups to our Jesus stand. Cups that say to the confused, helpless sheep: "Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus and live!" Pastor Daryl





Saturdays at St. Paul in JUNE 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 JUNE Speakers:

- 4th - Auriana Mayer, Roxana Nazarene intern
- 11th - Angela Valdes, Church on the Streets
- 18th - Glory Way Quartet (gospel music concert)
- 25th - Dan Nickel

Sundays at St. Paul in JUNE 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 held in the sanctuary. **“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided for the 10:30 a.m. service.**



5: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Begin 8:15 service outdoors! Graduate Sunday. Communion Celebrated. Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series called *Life Swap*. If you are dissatisfied with the life you are living, the good



news is that change is possible—with God’s help. We may become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Today, Pastor Daryl talks about *swapping a life of self for a life of serving*. During the 10:30 a.m. service, we honor our 8th grade, high school, college, graduate school, and trade school graduates.

12: 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday. Pastor Daryl continues a new sermon series called *Life Swap*. If you are dissatisfied with the life you are living, the good news is that change is possible—with God’s help. We may become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Today, Pastor Daryl talks about *swapping a ho-hum life for a super hero life*.



19: 5th Sunday after Pentecost. Father’s Day! Every father present will receive a gift in celebration of this special day. Pastor Daryl continues a new sermon series called *Life Swap*. If you are dissatisfied with the life you are living, the good news is that change is possible—with God’s help. We may become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Today, Pastor Daryl talks about *swapping living life in neutral for the turbo-charged life*.



26: 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Hickerson Scholarship. Pastor Daryl continues a new sermon series called *Life Swap*. If you are dissatisfied with the life you are living, the good news is that change is possible—with God’s help. We may become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Today, Pastor Daryl talks about *swapping a safe life for a life of adventure*. During the 8:15 a.m. service the first of two Hickerson Scholarship Awards is given.



3: 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Freedom Sunday. Our freedom flows—not from our government—but from our Creator. This was the belief of our Founding Fathers and a truth we still hold. Join us as we celebrate our country’s birthday.

**Nurse's Notes for June 2016 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.!**

“Never will I leave you or forsake you.”- Hebrews 13:5

It is always nice to have a reminder of God's faithfulness, especially when we are facing a great health battle, in which doctors just don't have all of the answers. **June is Myasthenia Gravis awareness month**, and this is one of the diseases in which not all of the answers are known. This can be very frightening and frustrating for people who suffer with this disease. **What is myasthenia gravis (MG)?** Myasthenia gravis is a chronic autoimmune neuromuscular disease characterized by varying degrees of weakness of the skeletal (voluntary) muscles of the body. The name myasthenia gravis, which is Latin and Greek in origin, literally means "grave muscle weakness." With current therapies, however, most cases of MG are not as "grave" as the name implies. In fact, most individuals with myasthenia gravis have a normal life expectancy.

The hallmark sign of myasthenia gravis is muscle weakness that increases during periods of activity, and improves after periods of rest. Certain muscles, such as those that control eye and eyelid movement, facial expression, chewing, talking, and swallowing are often, but not always, involved in the disorder. The muscles that control breathing, neck, and limb movements may also be affected. MG is an autoimmune disease because the immune system—which normally protects the body from foreign organisms—mistakenly attacks itself. Other autoimmune diseases include: lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, scleroderma, and Meniere's disease. Although not fully understood, doctors believe the thymus gland likely plays a role in MG. This gland lies in the chest area beneath the breastbone, and plays an important role in the development of the immune system in early life. Its cells form a part of the body's normal immune system.

It is difficult to determine how many people actually have MG because the disease is often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. However, it's estimated that there are two to seven people in every 10,000 that have MG. MG occurs in all ethnic groups throughout the world, and in both genders. According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, it most commonly affects women under age 40, and men over age 60, but it can occur at any age.

With treatment, most individuals with MG can significantly improve their muscle weakness and lead normal or nearly normal lives. Some cases of myasthenia may go into remission – either temporarily or permanently – and muscle weakness may disappear completely so that medications can be discontinued in 10-15% of patients. Stable, long-lasting remissions and control of symptoms are the goals of treatment. The course of MG is often unpredictable, and in some cases, the rapid development of severe weakness results in a myasthenic crisis- which may include respiratory failure requiring emergency medical care.

Generally, those who are quickly diagnosed and receive effective treatment have the best outcomes. The first two or three years of illness are often when the full extent of MG symptoms emerge, and so can be the most difficult. Many different medications and therapies may have to be tried until one is found that the person can tolerate and is most effective. Finding the best treatment can be an extended process. MG generally doesn't worsen with aging, and for many, symptoms diminish over time.

There are two types of medications used to treat MG. One group—**anticholinesterases**—temporarily relieves the symptoms of MG. Another group—**immunosuppressants**, attack the disease at its source. By suppressing the body's immune system, (which is already attacking itself) these drugs stop the body from more damage. Immunosuppressant treatments can have serious side effects. The treatment of dysphagia (difficult swallowing) in MG is individualized and based on the underlying cause and severity of the problem. Besides medications there are other treatments/interventions that can be tried; smaller, more frequent meals, especially trying soft solids that don't require a lot of chewing, resting prior to eating- and while eating avoid talking which may assist to reduce fatigue. Some more strategies include: sit upright in a chair and tilt your head forward; avoid distractions while you eat; chop, mash or puree foods; moisten dry foods with sauces or gravy; consume only cold or warm foods and liquids, (not hot), alternate a small bite of solid food with a small sip of a liquid; drink thicker liquids rather than thin (commercial products are available to thicken thin liquids); avoid alcohol, spicy foods, lemons, and foods that aggravate swallowing. Try crushing medications or put them in applesauce or pudding. You could talk to your doctor or pharmacist about moving from pill to liquid form of medications. Ask about speech therapy and swallowing exercises.

And don't forget our "go to" recommendations for any of us who are trying to maintain health:

•**Eat healthy.** Everyone should eat a healthy diet and maintain a healthy weight, especially those who suffer with a chronic illness. This advice is critical for pts with myasthenia, because extra pounds make it even more fatiguing to get

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

June 01 Scroggins, Eric
 June 01 Helmkamp, Jansen
 June 02 Campbell, Sarah
 June 02 Wood, Eric
 June 03 Goss, Patsy
 June 03 Dawson, Sarah
 June 04 Roberts, Karen
 June 04 Birmingham, Jon
 June 04 Lair, Katie
 June 04 Scroggins, Jonathan
 June 05 Sandbach, Jennifer
 June 06 Champlin, Ruth
 June 06 Duryea, Myrna
 June 06 Franklin, Don
 June 06 Bailey, Donna
 June 06 Cruthis, Scott
 June 07 Brueggeman, Joyce
 June 08 Huebner, Vi
 June 09 Burt, J.J. Jr.
 June 09 Bourne, Jimmy
 June 09 Gwaltney, Jacob
 June 09 Standefer, Tori
 June 10 Sandbach, Aubrey
 June 10 Virgin, Olivia
 June 11 Jensen, Lindsey

June 11 Hart, Gary
 June 12 Murbarger, Diane
 June 12 Champa, Cheryl
 June 12 Fansler, Deb
 June 12 Bowman, Debbie
 June 12 Sullivan, Bill
 June 14 Schiber, Dave
 June 14 Herndon, Harper
 June 15 Sheppard, Ashley
 June 15 Betts, Autumn
 June 16 Liedtke, Trista
 June 17 Bourne, Brianne
 June 17 Spurgeon, Jenny
 June 18 Barnes, Nicole
 June 18 Foss, Samantha
 June 18 Suermann, August
 June 18 Vore, Xavier
 June 18 Vore, Zoe
 June 19 Caldwell, Dustin
 June 19 Yates, Sydnie
 June 20 Martin, Karen

June 20 Tillery, Amie
 June 20 Redden, Annie
 June 20 White, Abigail
 June 21 Bell, Lawson
 June 22 Virgin, Ethan
 June 23 Graves, Wanda
 June 23 White, John
 June 25 Voorhees, Steve
 June 25 Standefer, Summer
 June 25 Clark, Caden
 June 27 McLain, Jamie
 June 27 Sandbach, Kaden
 June 28 Link, Deb
 June 29 Cisler, Marilyn
 June 30 Szegedy, Sharon
 June 30 Williams, Jeri
 June 30 Lair, William



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



June 01 Redden, Darin Sr. & Chandra
 June 07 Myers, John & Laurie
 June 07 Burt, J.J. Jr. & Jackie Beth
 June 08 Huff, Joe & Sherry
 June 08 Eyster, Brian & Chris
 June 09 Inman, Terry & Sharon
 June 10 Huebner, Richard & Vi
 June 10 Boeshans, Cory & Jackie
 June 11 Huddleston, Rick & Jeannie
 June 11 Brueggeman, Randy & Joyce
 June 14 Natsch, Steve & Julie
 June 15 Cheatham, Douglas & Eileen

June 16 Gwaltney, Don Sr. & Kay
 June 17 Bentley, Jay III & Tracy
 June 20 Herndon, Neil & Jade
 June 22 Champa, Larry & Cheryl
 June 24 Ballard, Larry & Iola
 June 24 Lewis, Herrell & Bettie
 June 24 Hinkle, Bob Sr. & Evelyn
 June 26 Demond, Richard & Dell
 June 26 Toner, Mike & Teresa
 June 28 Toner, Matt & Kristen
 June 30 Hughes, Steve & Janet

Be sure to pick up a 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!



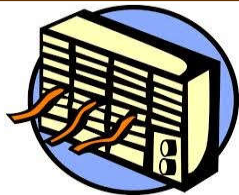
MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 5/31/2016	\$29050.00
Designated Giving:	through 5/31/2016	\$2788.39
	Capital Improvements	345.00
	Loose Change	87.45
	Flowers	189.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	90.00
	Memorials	810.00
	Vacation Bible School	25.00
	Upper Room Donations	41.00
	Reimbursements	127.64
	Helping Hands	400.00
	Awakening Reserve	448.30
	African Univ. Scholarship	200.00
	Fellowship Hall Use	25.00
Capital Campaign		1595.00
Catch Up Offering		3540.00
Catch Up Offering (Vanco)		200.00
Total:		\$37173.39



**Capital Campaign money received
as of 5-31-16: \$166,650.38**

**DEADLINE FOR
JULY 2016
STEEPLE, Mon.,
JUNE 20th!**



With our recent renovations at church, we will no longer need our 8 window AC units. If you would like one, please contact Jim Herndon, Chair of the Trustees. 6 have been requested so far.



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

June's Loose Change Project

is the Happy Bear Project for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then distributed to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

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

- June 5:** Tracy Franks, Diane Murbarger
- June 12:** Elinor Blacklock **and another needed**
- June 19:** Mindy McLain, Tracy Franks
- June 26:** Tracy Franks **and another needed**

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

Average Attendance for MAY 2016

Early Service	40
Late Service	70
Sunday School	38
Visitors	7
4 Awakening Services	30





WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH

AMPHITHEATER

at 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 5th-SEPTEMBER 4th

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

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

UPDATE:

Just an update on the MRD African University receipts received through May 31st. If you recall, I presented our District pledge of **\$61,961** at last year's annual conference. To date, we have received **\$74,645**. Thanks be to God! Thank you for your leadership in making this happen. Please pass on my words of appreciation and thanksgiving.

Roger Grimmett
Mississippi River DS

**ST. PAUL UMC
DONATED
\$1,363.00!**



THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

The love offering which was given in the amount of **\$701.25** is tangible evidence of the love this congregation has for making the Word of God available to those who otherwise would not have a copy. This gift will enable **140** Bibles or **561** New Testaments to be purchased and placed by Gideons and Auxiliary members. We pray that many souls will come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of these Scriptures being distributed. Thank you!



"GLORY WAY QUARTET" SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH 5:00 P.M. ST. PAUL FELLOWSHIP HALL



Nurse's Notes - Continued from Page 5

around and aggravate a host of other diseases.

•**Exercise.** It boosts mood as well as the health of your heart, brain and cardiovascular system. Naturally you have to tailor your activity to your illness. For example, when your disease is not well controlled, walking with assistance may be something to aim for. Exhaustion or shortness of breath means the exercise is too strenuous. As your symptoms improve, gradually add activity such as yoga, chair exercise, isometrics, or more walking. Small progress is better than no progress!

•**Manage stress.** Don't sweat the small stuff! Ask your doctor if other options may be worth exploring- such as biofeedback, meditation, or massage therapy.

•**Get outdoors.** Researchers have found that people can improve their mood with a short time of outdoor exercise like walking or gardening.

•**Talk to others.** Combat isolation by calling friends and family. Find a support group.

•**Trust your spiritual side.** For many, dealing with illness can be a conversation-starter with God. Go ahead and talk. He is always there, just waiting to hear from you!

Blessings my friends! Eileen



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!
CONTACT JAMIE GWALTNEY (692-0898)
FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



THANK YOU! The Women of Worship would again like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make this year's Rummage Sale a success. **DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS –THANK YOU –** God Bless

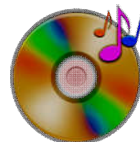
Everyone who participated in **any way**. We couldn't have done it without your help!

-Women of Worship-

The results of the sale are:

Crafts sold = **\$145**

All other sales = **\$2133.25!**



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.



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!



Vacation Bible School

July 18-22 9:30 a.m.-Noon

For Vacation Bible School we have much of our leadership in place, but workers are still needed!

We will have **Classes** for children ages 3 (and potty-trained) to 6th grade. The **Stations** are: Recreation, Crafts, Movie, Story, Snacks, Praise Songs, Science Lab, Puppets & Play.

Class Leaders, Class Assistants, Station Assistants, and extra Helpers - openings in each area are available.

If you are in 7th grade or older and are interested in helping with VBS in any of these areas or in any way, please talk to Jamie Gwaltney or give her a call ASAP at 692-0898.

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, BE SURE TO PICK UP A POLICY PACKET WITH A BACKGROUND CHECK FORM AND FILL IT OUT (IF YOU DID NOT DO THIS LAST YEAR)!

DROP IT OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE! A REQUIREMENT!

- CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD!**
- SUPPLIES ARE STILL NEEDED!**

We pray that it will be another fun and inspiring year!

**Register your child or to volunteer for VBS online at:
<http://cokesburyvbs.com/rhstpaul>**



2016 Annual Conference June 8-11 Peoria Civic Center

Please remember to keep Pastor Daryl, JoAnn Hill, and Ryan Tite in your prayers as they participate in this year's Annual Conference as our representatives.

CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING



Pick up *Quest*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps—it's 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*.





We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



Gordon G. Russell, 79, passed away at 5:20 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2016, at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born on November 14, 1936, in Roxana, IL, the son of the late Wayne and A. Hazel (Anderson) Russell. He married the former Carol A. Leady on May 7, 1966, in Rosewood Heights, and she survives. Other survivors include two daughters and a son-in-law: Kimberly and Tom Anderson of Bloomington, IL, Kristine and Greg Brown of Troy, IL, six grandchildren: Caleb Estrada, Claudia Brown, Ridge Brown, Adelena Estrada, Jaden Brown, Sage Brown, one brother and sister-in-law, Philip and Frances Russell of Edwardsville, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other extended family and friends.

Gordon was a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and Ranken Technical College. He was employed at Granite City Steel as the supervisor of maintenance for 40 years prior to his retirement. He then was the assistant floor manager for 10 years at Ace Hardware in Bethalto. He was an active member of Wanda United Methodist Church and also attended St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights. He was currently serving as President of the Wood River Kiwanis and was recently awarded the Hixon Award. He was a volunteer at the Hope Center. He was a veteran of the United States Army and was a member of the Bethalto American Legion. He and his wife Carol were volunteers for Servants On Wheels Ever Ready (SOWERS).

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one sister, P. Elaine Wood.

Gordon & Carol Russell were active participants in both Wanda and St. Paul United Methodist Churches. At Wanda, Gordon was in charge of their sign where often the sayings were a source of encouragement and hope in the lives of those who drove by it. He loved the enthusiastic singing and the long-time friends he had within the Wanda Church.

Gordon & Carol loved the music, speakers, and communion at the Awakening Service. They appreciated the prayers lifted up for Gordon during the prayer time this past year. We looked forward to their presence every Saturday night and missed them whenever Gordon's illness prevented them from attending.

We weep as those with hope. We weep for our loss, but we take comfort in knowing that Gordon is with Jesus, his Lord and Savior. Gordon loved worshipping Jesus and now he is worshipping Jesus for all eternity. We know the eternal life enjoyed by Gordon is ours as well. This is our hope.

Please keep Carol and their family in your prayers. We all miss Gordon so very much. Pastor Daryl

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!

CRAFT ON FATHER'S DAY!

On Father's Day, Sunday June 19, during our "More Jesus Time" held at the same time as the 10:30 a.m. service, the children will be making a special Father's Day craft item. We invite your children and grandchildren to join us in the fun!



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Paul Michael Scroggins, 45, passed away Monday, May 23, 2016. Born Nov. 5, 1970, in Alton, he was a son of Michael & Linda (Bryan) Scroggins. He worked as an instrument technician at ConocoPhillips in Roxana. Paul married Theresa Goode on Sept. 30, 1995, in East Alton. She survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Cynthia "Cindy" and Lindsey Scroggins, both of Wood River; two sisters, Kasey (Kurt) Davis of Nakomis, IL, and Kathy Beloit of Sorento, IL; two brothers, Kenneth (Jaclyn) Scroggins and Will Scroggins, all of St. Louis; several nieces and nephews; and his parents of Troy, IL.

As the foundation text for the sermon, I used these words of Jesus:

Matthew 11: 28 "Come to me, all who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29 Place my yoke over your shoulders, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble. Then you will find rest for yourselves 30 because my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

So many of us gather here tonight physically, spiritually and emotionally exhausted. We are tired and overwhelmed. Jesus tells us what to do in situations like this: Come to Him.

The word *yoke* may not be familiar to most of us. Jesus is referring to a wooden frame that would be placed over the neck of two animals—connecting them—so they might work together in planting, cultivating, or harvesting crops or in pulling heavy wagons. One ox working alone can pull 7 times its weight. Two oxen yoked together can pull 17 times their weight. There was an obvious advantage to yoking oxen together.

Now, Jesus isn't calling us to be yoked or connected to him so we might pull more weight together. No, Jesus is coming along side of us so he can lift the heavy load off our shoulders and place it on His. In exchange, we get Jesus' load which is so much lighter.

Jesus says this because He understands how difficult life is sometimes. As God-in-the-flesh, he has walked in our shoes. After all, He stood at the grave of his friend Lazarus and he wept. He experienced firsthand the sting of death and the pain of loss. Jesus knows that we get weary...to the point where we simply cannot go on relying upon our own strength. We need help.

Karl Barth was a theologian who wrote book after book during the 20th century about the nature of our God. Most consider him to be among the greatest theologians in the history of the church. He was asked near the end of his life to summarize his work. Barth replied: **Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves, the Bible tells me so.** A great scholar chose a children's song to express the truth at the heart of all his writings: Jesus loves me, even me.

Jesus loves each of us gathered here. He is prepared to come along side every one of us, take the heavy load from us and give us His rest. His peace.

How do we do this? We begin by yielding Paul to Jesus. We are able to do this because we trust Jesus. I do not believe that God will judge Paul solely by his last act upon this earth any more than he will judge any of us by one solitary moment of our lives. God sees the whole of our lives in greater focus than any of us. We yield Paul to Jesus who first loved him.

Next, know that Jesus is our companion through the tough times. It wasn't the nails that kept Jesus upon the cross but only the great love He has for us. We who worship a crucified Savior are given a gritty love that sees us through the dark nights. Jesus died so we might live the good life on this earth and eternally in the life to come. There is no greater love than His. John 3:16-17 says:

God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.

Jesus died—not for a few—but for all. Accept the love that is yours in Jesus Christ. Once you are living in this love, no circumstance, no person, nothing can pry you loose from the loving arms of Jesus.

Finally, we yoke or connect ourselves with Jesus. When we try to live out of our own strength, we confront situation after situation where we are overwhelmed. From the beginning of Jesus' ministry, people were plotting to kill Jesus. They persisted in their plots until they were successful. Life doesn't get much tougher than this. What did Jesus do to cope? He spent time with God the Father in prayer.

When we talk to God in prayer, the circumstances of our life may not change but God changes us to better meet the challenges. He reminds us that while we are weak, our Jesus is strong. We don't have some Teflon shield that causes the tough times to slide off us, but we are given Jesus who comes along side us and walks with us through the muck and mire of life.

When our strength is lacking, Jesus will let us lean upon Him. He will help us through this day and then the next and the next after that. He will not abandon us, but be our ever present companion and friend. When we falter and fall in the days ahead, Jesus will be there to pick us up and put us back on our feet.

We have not only prayer to sustain us and Jesus to walk with us, but also the gift of the church. We have this community of flawed people who will pray with us and for us. This community filled with people who have gone through tough times like we are experiencing and have survived. This community that surrounds us with love during our times of trouble. We weren't meant to live life alone and thanks to Jesus we don't have to.

Please keep Paul's family & friends in your prayers. Lift up especially Mike & Linda Scroggins and Theresa, Cindy and Lindsey Scroggins. 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!



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 Becoming a Reality....

Our Mission Possible campaign is very quickly becoming a reality in the form of a visual product. By now you will have noticed the improved ceilings throughout, new lighting, the portion of the sanctuary with "cool air," or perhaps you have noticed the fresh paint in the kitchen. No matter where you look our Priority One items are quickly being accomplished. We should have full air throughout the building by mid-June (maybe before).

We are already working on the remainder of our Priority One items and have a jump start on Priority Two items. New bell tower windows are on the way, the electrician is approximately 90% complete, the "squirrel windows" are on schedule to be repaired or replaced, and the sanctuary monitor is under discussion for type and style. We are negotiating with local vendors for an enhanced security system for the church including cameras, electronic door access for weekdays, and "panic buttons" connected with law enforcement agencies. We are looking for carpet to replace our current main floor & cloak rooms and working on painting other areas of the church with volunteers.

It was necessary to jump into Priority Two because our May "Work Day" discovered holes in the senior parsonage roof and it became necessary to replace the roof ahead of schedule with completion of that project on May 24th. Several Priority Two items will take place in the senior parsonage this summer.

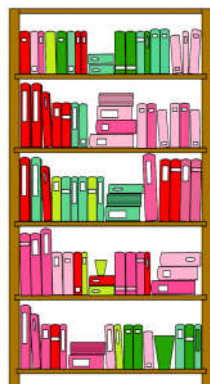
At this point we have been able to pay the majority of our cost from the funds raised in our campaign and contributed thus far. We will not have to dip into our construction loan until our third payment to our Heating & Air Conditioning contractor at the completion of the work.

Thank you again for all your support and encouragement during this exciting time.

St. Paul UMC Board of Trustees

BOOKCASE NEEDED!

We have outgrown the storage space for our small group materials and are in need of a very large bookcase or steel shelving with adjustable shelves. If you have these items that you no longer want and wish to donate them to the church, please call the Church Office at 259-5210 or email us at info@stpaulwired.org. Thank you very much!

**Thank You!**

We would like to thank everyone who was able to give of their finances and of their prayers during our **CATCH UP WEEKEND** in May.

A total of **\$3,740.00** was given to help us meet our financial obligations.