



The Steeple

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

JANUARY 2017



*All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day
when God will reveal who his children really are.
(Romans 8:19, NLT)*

I'm not sure how the tradition began, but in my home church part of our Christmas celebration included during the Sunday School hour the reading of the story, *The Other Wise Man*, by Henry Van Dyke. In that story, a fourth Wise Man never makes it on time to Bethlehem because he stops along the way to help those in need. He is convinced that he has missed the opportunity to worship the Christ child, but at the end of his life discovers that as he helped the least of these he has helped Jesus. Henry Van Dyke loved Christmas and wrote often about it. I share these words of his from an essay on Christmas because they capture my prayer for all of us as we leave behind our celebrations of Christmas and enter the New Year. My hope is that we may celebrate the spirit of Christmas throughout the year. Happy New Year. Pastor Daryl

“It is a good thing to observe Christmas Day. The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work and make merry together, it is a wise and wholesome custom. . . .

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is keeping Christmas. Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness— are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas. . .

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.”

Henry Van Dyke

*Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may
share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wisemen.*

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. . . .

*Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. . . . Amen.*

Information for the holidays...

New Year's Day, Sun., Jan. 1: One worship service at 10:00 a.m.

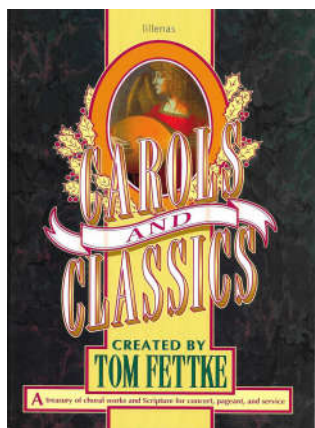




IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRAYER LIST! On **Sunday, January 8th** we will completely **empty** the PRAYER LIST and begin new for the New Year! If you want any of the names you currently have listed included on the list that day, please call the church office (259-5210) to let Lois know. Thank you so much!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- EAWR Senior, **Carly Campbell**, signed a national letter of intent to continue her education and play softball at Wash Valley Community College in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. On hand to witness the signing were fellow students; her parents, Steve & Sarah Campbell (and brother Luke); her "Black Widows" AAU coaches; Head EAWR Coach Dana Emerick and Asst. Coach Mike Beachum; WVCC Head Coach Paul Schnarre; and several administrators and teachers. AD Kevin Gockel emceed the event. Congratulations, Carly!
 - On Sunday, January 8th we will celebrate our **Cradle Roll for 2015-2016**: Logan James Thatcher, Reese Ann Springer, Clark Bennett Cranmer, Nora Elise Toner, Finnegan Brock Murtagh Plummer, Arik Kol Newingham, Ella Marie Clark, and Charlie Mae Sparling! Congratulations to our growing families!
 - Thank you to the **Nurture Ministry Team** for organizing the Christmas Dinner and thank you to **Chef Bob Brown** for the delicious food! **Thank you to the children & youth** who presented the Christmas play, "The Christmas Cupcake." Congratulations to the cast: Piper Martin, Payton Hartman, Marlo Schiber, Emily Ogle, Alex Lair, Rachel Schiber, Taylor Scroggins, Lucas Hartman, Connie Hickerson, Will Garrison, Eve Kasinger, Raegan Martin, Kate Garrison, Tori Newingham, Annabelle Chester, Ben Kadell, Gabriel Shaffer, Rilyn Wesley, Tabatha Barclay, Lilly Shaffer, and Eli Kasinger for a job well done! A special thank you to **Noël Schiber (Director), Debra Fansler, Dave Schiber, Katie Lair, Phil Tite, Tom Cunningham, Maggie Funke, Meg Fansler, Scott Gwaltney, parents, and grandparents** for all of your behind-the-scenes work on the play. Everyone who attended had a great time!
 - Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has lost a loved one recently. This includes the family of **Josh Tungett**, brother of Kim (Brad) Gwaltney, uncle of Jenna & Justin Gwaltney; the family of **Tammi Wold**, niece of Eldon Wold, Jr.; the family of **Bill Hatcher**, brother of Becky Chester; the family of **Steven Miller**, father of Joy & Grace Miller; the family of **Robert "Kip" Heth**, dear friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Rebecca Morgan**, friend of many at St. Paul UMC; the family of **Bill Vinyard**, brother of Aaron Vinyard (our 2016 Gideon speaker); and the family of **Wilma Inman**, mother of Priscilla (Mike) Bottorff (former members), Grandmother of Aaron & Patrick Bottorff. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.
-
- **THANK YOU:** On behalf of the family of Robert Sparks, thank you for your prayers and support during our time of grief. Thank you to everyone that provided food and served our families and friends at the funeral dinner. We felt so welcomed and cared for. It was a great comfort during this time of great loss. **Sally Sparks, Betsy & Bob Blacklock, Sharon Szegedy**
 - **THANK YOU:** Thank you so very much for thinking of & blessing me with your thoughtful gifts this Christmas. Working here is a true joy for me. **Joe Hanfelder**
 - **THANK YOU:** I cannot thank you enough in a written way that truly expresses how much my ministry with you means to me. The blessing of your generous Christmas gift and all the many cards & gifts received has been delightful. Thank you for each one of them. **Lois Mitchell**
 - **THANK YOU:** Debra, Meg and I thank the congregation for their generous gift at the Christmas Dinner. It was great to sit down at the table together! Our children & youth presented another outstanding Christmas program, *The Christmas Cupcake*, filled with great music and a gentle reminder of the reason for Christmas. Thank you as well for your cards and wishes of cheer during this blessed time. We are truly privileged to serve you throughout the year. **Pastor Daryl**



Worship Choir Presents The 2016 Christmas Cantata

“CAROLS AND CLASSICS”

A rich treasury of 27 traditional carols and well-loved Christmas classics in powerful and unique combinations. Selected

scriptures retell the Christmas story.

The Cantata has been rescheduled for Sunday, Jan. 8th at the 10:30 a.m. service.



Thank You to all of our Salvation Army Bell Ringers who rang on Friday, Dec. 9th between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and thank you to everyone who stopped by and put a donation in our kettle! It is great to be a part of this huge ministry to so many in need.



WOMEN OF WORSHIP 2016 REPORT

The St. Paul Women of Worship are happy to report a very successful year and were able to donate **\$9,150** to the various charities and missions. This, of course, was made possible by many busy hands helping with **ALL** of our projects. Fundraising and service projects this year included the Retired Teacher’s Luncheon, Rummage Sale, Easter Baskets for Hope Center and Operation Blessing, Happy Bears for children seen in AMH Emergency Room and knitted caps for new babies, Bowling Banquet, Saturday Craft Celebration, Fall Festival, Christmas Boutique, and Pecan sales. The following funds were dispersed at December’s meeting:

School Nurses: Roxana - \$1,000	UMCOR	\$ 500
Bethalto - 300*	UM Children’s Home	600
East Alton- 400*	St. Paul Help. Hands	1,000
Salvation Army	Lessie Bates	750
Oasis Women Ctr.	St. Paul Gen. Budget	2,000
Hope Center	Ethiopia Girls Project	100
Operation Blessing	Cub Scouts	150
Boy Scouts	Capital Campaign St P	<u>1,000</u>
Community Care Center		\$ 9,150
Eagle Scout Prayer Walk		50

* Bethalto and E. Alton have other sources of income for these expenditures that Roxana does not have, thus the varying amounts.

In addition to monetary donations, Beulah Moore and Elinor Blacklock assembled and delivered 54 coverlets to the OASIS Women’s Center.

NOTE: A planning meeting for 2017 will be held on January 24 – potluck at NOON followed by the meeting. Won’t you join us at our next meeting? Crafts will resume in February – we would really appreciate your ideas for items to make and directions “how to do them.” Again, **GOD BLESS EVERYONE** who helped to make 2016 a successful year.



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



Join us on SATURDAYS at 5 p.m. for Awakening - St. Paul's contemporary worship service 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 JANUARY Speakers:

7th - Rev. Ed Weston—currently the Development Director for the Preacher's Aid Society & Benefit Fund, Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the UMC.

14th - Rev. Dr. Roger Grimmett—our District Superintendent, joins us for our two year celebration! Soup & Sandwich Celebration Meal follows the service!

21st - Rev. Phil Gardner—currently the interim pastor at Marissa UMC.

28th - Rev. Mark Myers—currently working with Twigs & the Trinity UMC in Granite City.

Sundays at St. Paul in JANUARY 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.

1: Epiphany Sunday. New Year's Day. Wesleyan Covenant Service. Communion Celebrated.

WE HAVE ONE WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY AT 10 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT 9:15 A.M. Either on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, John Wesley led a time where Methodists renewed their relationship with God. Rather than begin the New Year with resolutions, we begin the year with a renewed commitment to our God. With God's help, we will try to be better and to do better throughout this year!



8: 1st Sunday after Epiphany. Birthday Sunday. Rescheduled: Christmas Cantata (10:30 service), Cradle Roll Sunday, and March To The Manger.

As we enter the New Year, may we make good use of this time given to us. Every day is precious and should be used to praise God! Read Psalm 90 in preparation for today.



HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Your gift gives ordinary people an extraordinary voice.

15: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. Human Relations Day. As I drive throughout the area, I have seen signs that proclaim: *Black Lives Matter, Blue Lives Matter* and in predominately African-American neighborhoods: *We Must Stop Killing Each Other*. We remember that we are brothers and sisters because we share a common Father. This truth should govern the way that we treat each other.

22: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. During both services, we will enjoy mini-concerts by **Darla McFadden** from St. Louis. Those who have heard her previously recall how her music blesses us. A love offering will be taken to support her music ministry.

29: 4th Sunday after Epiphany. During both services, **Rev. Ed Hoke** will be preaching. He is a Minister of Ministry Expansion, dedicated to increasing the use of Little Grassy Camp by area churches. In addition to a sermon, Rev. Hoke will update us on the plans for the renovation and new building at Little Grassy Camp. Since Little Grassy Camp was started about the same time as St. Paul, we have had a long-standing relationship with this camp. We invite you to come hear the exciting plans for Little Grassy.



Nurse's Notes for JANUARY 2017 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.

Lose weight. Learn a new language. Remain calm with the kids. Go to the gym. Watch less television. Read the classics. Spend more time with family. Spend less time on Facebook. Exercise more. **Have you already made your resolution?** There is nothing wrong with resolutions. Most of our resolutions are aimed at changing certain things about ourselves. But shouldn't we be gospel centered in our approach to make changes? Why do our resolutions have to just be about weight, exercise and money? Why can't we focus on those that are spiritual? Before you make any new resolutions first read this passage from James. I know that when I read it, it sure changed how I think about resolutions - and every other waking moment of my life for this New Year!

Listen carefully, those of you who make your plans and say, "We are traveling to this city in the next few days. We'll stay there for one year while our business explodes and revenue is up." The reality is you have no idea where your life will take you tomorrow. You are like a mist that appears one moment and then vanishes another. It would be best to say, "If it is the Lord's will and we live long enough, we hope to do this project or pursue that dream." But your current speech indicates an arrogance that does not acknowledge the One who controls the universe, and this kind of big talking is the epitome of evil. So if you know the right way to live and ignore it, it is sin—plain and simple."
~ James 4:13-17

It seems that this passage is giving wise counsel; we are to do **NOTHING** without consulting the Lord first. That makes a lot of sense since we are like a mist- every breath we take is ordained by God, and He alone directs our steps. Should we not be humble enough to pause throughout the day and ask what He would have us to do?

God would be honored if we made spiritual resolutions. Read the Bible, get involved in ministry at church or in your community, share your faith with friends, make a step of faith that is so big that only God can make it happen. Resolve to represent him no matter what the cost. **Here are a few possible resolutions we could all consider.**

1. **Seek** God's face, and **pray** each morning for guidance for the day. Each day, feed your soul with God's word.
2. Let's **resolve** to give our **attitudes** to the Lord. Commit to making a difference at home, in the workplace, the community in which we live, on the roads, (yes, at time we all get a bit of road rage), and at church.
3. **Resolve** to put on **love** for others. For when we do relationships are transformed.

We have all heard, "Whatever doesn't kill me will make me stronger." If you think about it, that can be seen as being very proud of our own strength. The truth is that while we go through many trials, we grow weaker- and we become more dependent on Him. Then God can do the work and He pours out His grace, and then we rely on Him for our strength. That is what we will need to make it through the race in the New Year. For some of us, it may be our final race- we could be called home. Let's finish the race with excellence- which comes with complete reliance on the Lord!

May we all have a new year full of opportunities to serve, and an abundance of loving friends and family among us, and a life of grace with God in our midst.

Serving Him, Following Him - Eileen

"Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake." - Jonathan Edwards



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

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

January 11 Eyster, Riley
 January 12 Rain, Nathan
 January 12 Mayer, Lindsey
 January 13 Napp, Aiden
 January 13 Ramirez, Mylie
 January 14 Aitken, Dottye
 January 14 Liedtke, Gregg
 January 14 Gwaltney, Scott
 January 17 Carlisle, Amanda
 January 18 Hale, Amy
 January 18 Oertle, McLain
 January 19 Cheatham, Eileen
 January 19 Redden, D.J. Jr.
 January 21 Aitken, Scott
 January 21 Wheat, Russell Jr.
 January 21 Chester, Annabelle
 January 22 Blaine, Barbara
 January 22 Bunt, Clayton
 January 22 Garrison, William
 January 23 Jimmy, Ken
 January 23 Martin, Tamera
 January 24 Groshong, Ryan
 January 25 Poore, Jan
 January 25 Cameron, Lindsey
 January 26 Moore, Sandy
 January 27 Hughes, Janet
 January 27 Sheppard, David
 January 27 Sheppard, James

January 28 Moore, Duane
 January 29 Hansard, Gail
 January 29 Voorhees, Mychal
 January 30 Weller, Londa
 January 30 Voorhees, Tom
 January 30 Shaffer, Raymond
 January 30 Sims, Logan
 January 31 Sullivan, William
 January 31 Hartman, Geno
 January 31 Barnes, Jessica
 January 31 Walters, Miranda
 January 31 Schiber, Marlo



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



Help us keep the church directory information current!

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

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

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - If bad weather requires the cancellation of worship services, we will:

- ✦ leave a message on the answering machine
- ✦ contact TV Channel 5
- ✦ post a notice on our website www.stpaulwired.org (if possible)
- ✦ contact those on the e-mail & phone prayer chain (if possible)

DECEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 12/31/2016	\$19706.00
Designated Giving:	through 12/31/2016	\$4536.30
	Capital Improvements	205.00
	Loose Change	87.50
	Flowers	346.30
	Hickerson Scholarship	545.00
	Memorials	25.00
	Upper Room Donations	0.00
	Reimbursements/Transfers	1460.00
	Brad Fester/Wycliffe	100.00
	Funeral Dinner	205.00
	2017 Steeple Postage	8.50
	Salvation Army	54.00
	UMCOR	500.00
	Helping Hands	1000.00
UM Student Offering		25.00
Christmas Offering		908.00
Capital Campaign		2680.00
Total:		\$27855.30

**Capital Campaign money as of 12-31-16:
\$192,567.38**

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

Jan. 1st: Joe & Sherry Huff
Jan. 8th: FOLKS NEEDED!
Jan. 15th: FOLKS NEEDED!
Jan. 22nd: FOLKS NEEDED!
Jan. 29th: FOLKS NEEDED!
 Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you will be a greeter or an usher!

Average Attendance for DECEMBER 2016

Early Service	37
Late Service	64
Sunday School	33
Visitors	1
1 Awakening Service	91



**Have you been away too long?
Start 2017 off in the right way; reconnect with God!**

**DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY 2017
STEEPLE, Thurs.,
JAN. 19th!**



Eagle Scout Project Memorial Brick Prayer Walk

Kaleb Smith of Boy Scout Troop #777 (chartered by St. Paul) is raising money in order to construct a memorial brick, prayer walkway connecting the parking lot to the pavilion at St. Paul UMC. Your personalized, permanent memorial brick could become a part of this special walkway if you purchase one.

4"x8" brick costs \$50

8"x8" brick costs \$100

12"x12" granite block costs \$300

Gray granite benches cost \$2000

To receive an order form contact the St. Paul UMC office, 259-5210, or email to request one, info@stpaulwired.org.

Resolution One: I will live for God.
Resolution Two: If no one else does, I still will.

~Jonathan Edwards~

2017 NEWSLETTERS:

It is time to start thinking about the 2017 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you at home will be **\$8.50**. Of course we will still email the Newsletter, place it on the website, and have copies at the church for you to pick up, to have extras to give to friends you invite to church, and for visitors to take. Watch in the bulletin for a sheet to sign and request your Newsletter to be mailed to you. Or you can go ahead and send your request to the Church Office and your check for **\$8.50**. Any questions...call 259-5210.



Estimate Of Giving Cards! Thank you to all who have submitted their *Estimate of Giving Cards* for 2017. To-date **80** individuals/couples/families have committed to give **\$195,798** in 2017 toward the General Budget.

There is **still time to send your card** if you have not done so. Your giving information is important as we set forth in ministry & mission for 2017! There are extra cards on the WELCOME table and in the church office. Thank you for your generosity as you give back out of all God has blessed you with!

PRAYER BLOCKERS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, ... Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. — Col. 4:3-4 NIV



Church outreach

for Christmas

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU GAVE TO HELP THE CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!





Poinsettias 2016

DUANE & TAMMY ATCHLEY in memory of Wanda Atchley
 DUANE & TAMMY ATCHLEY in memory of Cliff Shull
 BIBLE STUDY CLASS in honor of Joyce Tappy, their teacher
 CARLEEN BALZRINE in memory of her husband, Homer
 BARBARA BLAINE in honor of her Children
 GARY & CAROL BROWN in memory of Gary's sister, Carole Taylor
 BETTY BURNS in memory of her parents, Robert & Geneva Stein
 ALICE BURROWS in memory of her husband, Richard
 BECKY CHESTER in memory of her parents, Roy & Ann Hatcher
 BECKY CHESTER in memory of her daughter, Lynnann Chester
 BECKY CHESTER in memory of her brother, Bill Hatcher
 BARB & ART DECK in memory of mother, Geri Deck
 BARB & ART DECK in memory of grandmother, Lucille Woodward
 DOT ELLIOTT & FAMILY in memory of Keith Elliott
 DARYL & MEG FANSLER in honor of Debra Fansler
 DARYL, DEBRA, & MEG FANSLER in memory of Fred & Pauline Fansler
 DARYL, DEBRA, & MEG FANSLER in memory of Roy & Zelma Detmers
 DANILLIE & TIM FRANCIS, DEANNA KELLER, ERIN MAGARY, CHRISTOPHER FEYER-
 BEND, RILEY FRANCIS, AMANDA & JUSTIN KELLER, & KINSLEY FRANCIS in honor
 of their Grandmother/Great-Grandmother, Alice Burrows
 TRACY FRANKS in memory of her parents, Lute & Doloros Taulbee
 JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in honor of their Children
 JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in honor of their Grandchildren
 JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in honor of their Great-Grandchildren
 JUDY GLASSMEYER in loving memory of her husband, Leo
 MARJORIE HALL in memory of her son, Dennis Hall
 JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of the Herndon & Sidwell Families
 MARY HERNDON in memory of her brother, A. H. Chesser
 MARY HERNDON in honor of her Family
 RICH & VI HUEBNER in honor of their Children, Grandkids, & Great-Grandkids
 JOE & SHERRY HUFF in memory of Kenny & Wilma Brueggeman
 JOE & SHERRY HUFF in memory of William & Elma Huff
 LORI KAMP in memory of her parents, Jim & Marilyn Hill
 LORI KAMP in memory of Ed Kamp
 DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her parents, Victor & Beulah Strohbeck
 DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children, Grandchildren,
 and Great-Grandchildren
 TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory of George Tappy
 TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory of Jean Tappy
 JAYME SCROGGINS in memory of her parents, Jim & Eva Lee Nunn
 MIKE & LORI TAPPY in memory of George & Jean Tappy
 PHIL & DEBBIE TITE & FAMILY in memory of Charles & Alice Tite
 PHIL & DEBBIE TITE & FAMILY & JANET HUGHES in memory of Arthur & Viola Stock
 (Parents of Debbie Tite & Janet Hughes)
 TOM & RUTH VOORHEES in honor of their Children and Grandchildren
 CAROL WARNER in memory of her husband, Dean & her daughter, Terri Lynn



EVANGELISM EQUIPPING EVENT

**SATURDAY,
 JANUARY 28th
 1:30-5 P.M.
 St. John's UMC
 7372 Marine Road
 Edwardsville**

**Opportunity to attend
 2 of these workshops:**

- ▣ **Evangelism through
 Preaching**
- ▣ **Evangelism Through Faith
 Sharing by Laity**
- ▣ **Evangelism: Reaching
 Young Adults and
 Families**
- ▣ **Evangelism: Reaching
 Children**
- ▣ **Evangelism Through
 Missions**
- ▣ **Evangelism Through
 Trustees**
- ▣ **Effective Communications
 Online and Outloud**

**Afternoon ends with a
 Worship Celebration
 featuring
 Rev. Troy Benton
 preaching**

**If you wish to attend,
 please call or email the
 Church Office so we may
 reserve a place for you!**



PECANS:

The cost is:
\$11.00 for the 1lb.
bag of plain

The pecans being sold are a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship to add to the mission money raised so far this year!

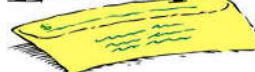
CAP 'N MITTEN TREE

Your efforts to cover the **Cap 'N Mitten Tree** brought these results: 47 pairs of gloves, 47 sock caps, 24 cap & glove sets, 1 scarf, 3 headbands, 27 pairs of socks, and 25 pieces of underwear for a total of **174 gifts** on the tree!



Your generosity will bring warmth and comfort to many people this winter. Thank you & God bless you for your gifts!

Offering Envelopes



The 2017 Offering Envelopes will be handled like last years. It is **IMPORTANT** that you read this information...

If you are someone who has regularly given on a **weekly** basis you will pick up your **2017 Offering Envelopes** in the church entryway, as we have done before.

If you are someone who normally gives on a **monthly** basis you will receive your **2017 Offering Envelopes** through the mail to your home. They will be sent bulk mail to you sometime in December. They will arrive at your home so watch for them. You will not receive a box but an envelope with your offering envelopes inside.

You may start using them now!

If you would like to trade weekly envelopes for monthly or vise versa, call the office as soon as possible. Thank you!!

Newsletter Note from Bishop Frank J. Beard

Bishop Frank J. Beard is asking that the Illinois Great Rivers Conference set aside the week of **Jan. 22-28, 2017**, as a **Week of Prayer for the Way Forward Commission** and its work.

The week selected is part of a church-wide call to prayer in 2017 and 2018 as the Commission moves forward its work. Bishops of the church have covenanted with one another to pray 15 minutes each day for the Commission. The second phase is involving each individual annual conference in prayer for a week.

Bishop Beard said the selection of the week of Jan. 22 was strategic in that events inside and outside the church have called for people to be united.

"The week will be the first week in which a new president will be leading the country following a very contentious campaign," he said. "And the week overlaps the Week of Prayer and Christian Unity, a worldwide ecumenical focusing on unity within the Christian faith."

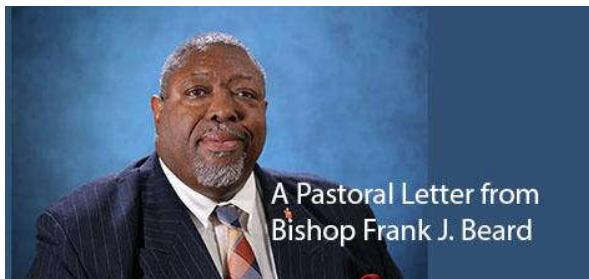
Prayer coordinators have been recruited and will be assisting Bishop Beard during the week. Additional resources will be provided in the weeks prior to Jan. 22 to assist congregations and pastors in this endeavor.

The Upper Room has developed a website called UMCprays.org. The website features many tools and resources to help you to plan for the week of prayer and additional information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.



Pastor Daryl will be on vacation January 17-31

Doug Pascoe and Eileen Cheatham will be available to make calls during this time. If you need pastoral assistance while we are away, please call the **Church Office**, 259-5210, or **Dave Schiber**, 258-0831. During this time, the floors in the parsonage will be refinished and the TV room renovated as part of the Mission Possible Capital Campaign.



A Pastoral Letter from
Bishop Frank J. Beard

Happy New Year!

Most of you are now aware that it does not take a lot to get me excited. In fact, I live on the edge of easy excitability. All it takes to get my motor running are two probable twins of promise -- potential and possibility. Those two typically send me into elation mode. So now that I have confessed my impending slant toward being positive you will not be surprised that I am overly optimistic about the New Year.

The year 2017 holds the possibility of becoming one of the greatest years in the history of the IGRC. I believe we are poised for a great REVIVAL. Yes, I said "REVIVAL!"

The problem with using words that have been around the theological block is that they often have connotations that carry a multitude of baggage that may not be intended or descriptive of the user's objective.

Here is what I mean by revival. A Revival is an awakening and a return to the primary call and commission of Christ by those professing to be committed Disciples. It is a return and a recovery of our first love (Revelation 2:4-5).

A revival becomes necessary when we realize that we are in a state of relapse. The prodigal son had an "ah-ha" moment and the Bible says in Luke 15:17, "He came to his senses." It was his realization that his prior blessings had disappeared, because of his own negligence and that he was now in need of recovery and restoration. The situation was so far beyond the prodigal son's ability to repair and restore that he knew he had to count on the goodness and mercy that his father displayed. His father, he reasoned, provided sufficiently even for the hired hands. This boy was so bent and broken that his capacity to seek full recovery was limited.

The good news is that God, our loving parent, is waiting patiently for each of us to reach the point where revival becomes a possibility. For me, the turning point in the story of the prodigal child occurs in Luke 15:20a. Most translations read, "And he started out." Revival cannot begin until we actually "start out." You can never get where you need to go until you get started!

A "New Year" is often greeted with a desire to make a variety of resolutions. Some folks resolve to lose weight, quit smoking, stop drinking, go to church, be nicer, or to "become a better person." All of those are worthy pledges and noteworthy intentions. Resolve, however well-intended, never meets revival until there is a turn-a-round (revival) in behavior.

"And he started out" means that the wheels towards restoration actually moved in harmony with the planned resolution. God seeing both desire and discipline was able to now become a full partner in the act of recovery. God simply being God was able to be extravagant and radical in pouring out forgiveness and love.

The year 2017 has great potential for a revival of epic magnitude within the IGRC. I believe we are on the brink of a major move of God. This new move will be triggered as individuals and congregations put Jesus back into first place. As Jesus is elevated to his rightful place and we experience personal and corporate rebirth, renewal and recovery will happen.

One of the great things about a God-sized revival is that it has an effect on communities, States, and Nations. The words God spoke to me shortly after I was assigned to the IGRC were, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people" (Proverbs 14:34 NIV).

I believe God is waiting for us, like the prodigal, to come to our senses and express our repentance and our need to be restored. My hope is that we will not wait until we are ankle deep in the pig pen before we come to our senses.

Our communities and our nation are filled with folks that are crying out for relief and hope. We cannot give what we do not have. It is only when we trust Jesus to forgive, cleanse, and renew us that revival becomes more than an unbridled resolution. Once we have experienced personal and corporate resuscitation we can share the life giving wind of God's Spirit with those around us. As the flight attendants remind us, "put your own oxygen mask on before trying to assist others."

Let me remind you of my constant prayer, "Lord, send the gentle wind of your Holy Spirit to blow upon the embers of my heart and fan me into flames for Jesus?" Will 2017 be the year?

God Bless — Bishop Frank J. Beard



Two-Year Anniversary of the Awakening Service

WOW, can you believe we are in the midst of a new year already?! In 2016 we encountered much change, experienced many happy & joyful moments, and confronted our fair share of sadness. As we enter a new year, I am reminded that the most promising aspect is that God's love is ever faithful, ever present, and always unchanging.

During the month of January, Awakening will be celebrating its two-year anniversary. It's hard to believe that two years have come and gone by so quickly! We are having a **Soup & Sandwich Saturday Celebration Meal on January 14th**. Rev. Dr. Roger Grimmett (our District Superintendent) will be our speaker for that evening. Soup & crackers plus sandwiches will be served immediately following the Awakening service. Come to the service and plan to stay afterwards to help us with the celebration!

For those of you who have not attended Awakening, it is St. Paul's contemporary Saturday evening worship service. Each Saturday at 5 p.m. our praise band blesses us with their melodious music and we let the words of God's people speak to our hearts. The goal of this service, along with other services at St. Paul, is to connect others to Christ. If you know of someone who needs a Saturday alternative for worship, please invite them to the Awakening service.

It's a new year, so let's start new traditions- join us sometime for Awakening; you'll be glad that you did!

May God bless each and every family in the New Year.

-Lauren Cranmer
Awakening Worship Coordinator



A Few Notes From The "Mission Possible Fundraising Committee":

Please mark your calendars for some fun activities coming up in 2017!



We will be hosting a "Souper" Bowl Party the week before the Super Bowl. This will be a soup and chili contest as well as an opportunity to serve a Soup Luncheon after church on **JANUARY 29, 2017**. We will be asking for baked items and for folks to enter their best soups or chilis in the contest!



Singing
Valentines

In February we will be selling **singing telegrams for Valentines Day**. These will be delivered to school, work, homes, etc. Wherever that special friend or sweetheart happens to be. Delivery will be the **Saturday before Valentines Day (Feb. 11th) as well as on Valentines Day, Feb. 14th**.



In April we will be gathering up items for another fun **Trivia Night!** Don't be a fool and miss out on some great fun on **April 1st!** No joking!
➔ **Start working on your donations even now!!**

Thank you in advance for all of your support!



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 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 your check memo line and 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 **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 NEWS:

At this point our original indoor church projects are complete with the exception of our technology work in the sanctuary which is still in the research stage. This month work will be done in the senior parsonage which is part of Priority 2. Additionally, we have run across some potential add-on work to our project as some needs have jumped to the forefront recently including looking at the need to provide heat in our downstairs rest rooms, we are also trying to finalize the plans for A/C in choir loft, replacing the choir practice room windows, and are investigating the possibility of replacing the windows in the fellowship hall which are in bad shape and extremely inefficient.

Please keep up your prayers and financial support so that we can maintain this beautiful and essential part of the St. Paul UMC ministry.

Best Wishes and God Bless You!
from your Trustees



Happy
NEW YEAR

Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.