



# The Steeple

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

APRIL 2017



*"May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed! On account of his vast mercy, he has given us new birth. You have been born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish—an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time."*

*1 Peter 1:3-5 CEB*

All too often, we view the Resurrection like the get out of jail free card in Monopoly...only the Resurrection gets us out of death directly into heaven. Throughout life, we hang on to this Resurrection card and plan to play it when we breathe our last upon this earth.

While it is true that we believe that whenever we die we shall be raised to new life--just as God raised Jesus from the dead--the Resurrection is so much more than this.

Peter reminds us that the resurrection isn't merely a future hope, but a present help. Resurrection living is something we live every day. We are to exchange our old life for Jesus' new life. This is God's plan for us.

These words of encouragement and hope are needed for Peter's community because life has become difficult for the followers of Jesus. They are being kicked out of the Jewish synagogues and the Roman government is also persecuting them. Peter acknowledges the suffering of his friends. The Resurrection isn't a magic charm that will shield them from persecution. Know this Peter says: the faith that emerges from the fire of your suffering will be deep and pure and genuine. It will be a refined faith that will see you through anything this old world can throw at you!

Peter believed in the power of the Resurrection not only because he had seen an empty tomb and a Risen Jesus. He believed in the power of the Resurrection because he saw the followers of Jesus raised from the deadness of their old life into the newness of life with Jesus. This turn around was so radical that Resurrection was the only word he could use to describe the change.

**Peter believed in the Resurrection because of his own experience of its life-changing power. While Judas is singled out as the one who betrayed Jesus, Peter's betrayal was far worse.**

Think about it. Judas never denied being Jesus' disciple. Peter denied it three times. While Judas smartly negotiates a rich payday from the religious leaders for his betrayal, Peter betrays Jesus for free. When the rooster crows a third time, Peter realizes that Jesus' prediction of his betrayal has come true. Since Jesus is being held across the courtyard, Peter knows that Jesus has heard the rooster crow. The Master knows Peter has denied Him three times.

Both Peter and Judas are ashamed at what they have done. Judas tosses aside the 30 pieces of silver and goes out to hang himself. *"I can never rise again,"* Judas must have thought, *"I have gone too far, I have betrayed innocent blood."* Judas considers his situation as hopeless.

I'm not sure why Peter did not take the same path as Judas. Perhaps Peter remembered Jesus' prediction that he would be the **rock upon which Jesus would build His church**. Since Jesus had correctly predicted Peter's betrayal, maybe Peter stuck around to see how this other prediction panned out. Both Peter and Judas fail Jesus. The only difference between them seems to be this: Peter hung around long enough to participate in the Resurrection; Judas went out and hung himself.

When Peter looks into the empty tomb...and later when he sees the Risen Lord...he understands that not only is God able to raise Jesus...but maybe God is mighty enough to raise Peter as well.

Judas and Peter--both betray Jesus. Still, where Judas saw no way out, Peter saw Jesus as The Way, The Truth, the Life. While Judas said, *"I cannot,"* for he stared at his own misery; Peter said, *"I can,"* for he looked upon the risen Christ. This is why Peter tells the church: *"It's because of this sacrificed Messiah, whom God then raised from the dead and glorified, that you trust God, that you know you have a future in God."*

Here's the ironic thing about Peter's situation. Peter betrays Jesus because he is afraid that he might be arrested, tried and crucified alongside Jesus. And, once Peter begins to live in the power of the resurrection...once he starts preaching, teaching, healing and baptizing all that Peter feared came to pass. The religious leaders who hated Jesus now hate Peter. The religious leaders who had plotted to kill Jesus, now plot to kill Peter.

And, just as these leaders succeeded in crucifying Jesus, church tradition says that they succeeded in crucifying Peter. What changed is that Peter is no longer afraid to die...because now he is living, really living. He is living the Resurrection

**Pastor's Corner - Continued on Page 8**



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- Congratulations to **Steven Davis**, son of Scott & Maria Davis, who achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on March 19th. His project was to repaint the walls of the dining room at the Community Hope Center in Cottage Hills. Steven is the newest Eagle Scout from Troop 777.
- On March 27th **David Ambrose Laufersweiler** was born weighing 7lbs. 14oz. He is the son of Peter & Sarah Laufersweiler. His two older brothers are Logan and William. His grandmother is Debbie Stewart and his great-grandparents are Jim & Anna Mae Stewart. Congratulations to all and God Bless this growing family!
- Thank you to the **Staff-Parish Committee, the choirs, and Iris Uzzell's Sunday School class** for hosting the reception for Eldon. As always there was an abundance of great food and I know that Eldon enjoyed the time of fellowship, as did we all. Eldon appreciated his time among us and we will miss him.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Mayme Ford**; the family of **Mary Cope**, friend of the Pruetzels; the family of **Michael Cathorall**, cousin of Michael Cathorall; the family of **Donald Kleemann**, father/father-in-law of Joanna & Ryan Scroggins; and the family of **Suzy (Kodros) Eagleton**, friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you to our St. Paul family and friends for your prayers, cards, visits, and kind words for Ben. Thank you ladies for the delicious meal – it was great as usual. God Bless – **The Ben Moore Family**
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you so much to the St. Paul family of believers for all of your prayers, calls, cards, and the wonderful Caring Casserole meal during my healing process these last several weeks. I was released to go back to work on Monday, March 13th! Praise God! **Lee Johnson**
- **THANK YOU!** We would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, calls, cards, and visits. We have especially appreciated the visits from Pastor Daryl, Doug Pascoe, and Parish Nurse Eileen. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. **Rosalie & Chuck Toner**
- **THANK YOU!** Thank you for the many, many months of prayers and cards. Thank you to the ladies for the delicious meal and to all who donated food. Thank you Pastor Daryl for your kindness and help. Thank you to the 1st United Methodist Church of East Alton for allowing us to use your facility. God bless you all. **The Family of Jerry Poore**

### CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING

Pick up *Renewed*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available on the tables and on the wall in the church entryway. Camps for all ages are available at Little Grassy near Carbon-dale, 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 *Renewed*.



CHURCH  
SPRING  
WORK DAY!

Saturday, April 29th  
8:00 a.m.-Noon

If you are willing & able to  
help, we would appreciate  
your help! Thank you!  
Questions? Call  
Jim Herndon, 466-6736.





Spring is here! As the trees begin to grow new blossoms, Awakening continues to be a service that is spiritually blossoming, as well! We are excited for the upcoming trivia night that will be held in the fellowship hall on April 1st. Tables are getting full, but there is probably still room for more. If Harry Potter is not your thing, we are still looking for raffle donations and those who are willing to help make this event happen. Many hands make light work!

Throughout March we heard from members of the Awakening team during our Saturday evening messages. We encourage all of our church family at St. Paul to actively seek breaking down barriers with others, to become neighborly and start the conversation, and to find ways that you can help serve within the church. Be on the lookout for the sign that offers areas where YOU can serve, too! Along with great messages, we also had a wonderful turn out for the Girl Scout Sabbath. Eight girls and their families attended Awakening and recited the Girl Scout Promise and Law for us. We thank them for their willingness to serve our surrounding communities!

On Saturday, May 6th at 5 p.m. we will be hosting our first community outreach service. You are invited to join us for a café-style worship service, where you can enjoy Pizza & Praise. We ask that you share this event with someone who could benefit from being fed- physically and spiritually.

Mark your calendars! During the summer months we will be engaging in a once-a-month, special Sunday evening service in place of Awakening. The first event of the summer will be a Bark in the Park (Popsicles, Pets, & Praise!). This will take place on Sunday, June 4th, with registration beginning at 4 p.m. All four-legged friends are invited to share in the fun of a pet parade, pet kissing booth, and a Blessing of the Pets. Local vendors have been invited to share their goods and services. If you are interested in hosting a booth, please contact Lauren Cranmer at (618) 660-7967.

Continue to lift the ministry of St. Paul up in your prayers. God is great- all of the time!

Lauren Cranmer

Awakening Worship Coordinator



### St. Paul UMC History

With the assistance of several people we have been able to compile historical items dating back to the founding of St. Paul UMC. The 3 pictures, associated with this article, are related to that research including a picture collage of the growth of our physical church from Zike's Pharmacy basement to today, found hanging in the narthex. The main body of research and documents are located in the Adult Bible Study room and contains pictures (lots of pictures), articles, pamphlets, ceremonial bulletins and other related historical items from day one to the present and are divided into three chronological notebooks. Furthermore, three notebooks contain historical information regarding the establishment and growth



of the group currently called "Women of Worship;" a single notebook contains some of the directories from past years; while another notebook houses important church Christian symbols; finally, notebooks (including a pictorial notebook) are related to the Mission Possible project. The third picture shows the new file cabinet depository for a diverse number of materials that are too large to place in notebooks, and includes a number of scrapbooks containing news articles and other church information.

We encourage interested church members to peruse the materials at your leisure but we ask, so that others might have access to the materials, that the materials are returned to their respective areas. An important note or disclaimer (if you prefer) is that all materials, especially any narratives, are being provided from research by a number of people using the "best" information possible at the time of the research. If you find information you believe is in error or have additional materials that would enhance our collection we encourage you to contact Jim Herndon.

To all who participated, up to this point, thank you for your generosity and wisdom in sharing the history of a very important part of our lives. *Jim Herndon*





## Saturdays at St. Paul in APRIL 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 APRIL Speakers:

→ **PLEASE NOTE: There will not be an AWAKENING SERVICE on Saturday, April 1st due to the TRIVIA NIGHT!**

**8th** - Christian Lacher      **15th** - Pastor Daryl Fansler—"The Shack" Miniseries  
**22nd** - Pastor Daryl Fansler—"The Shack" Miniseries      **29th** - Rev. Keith Michaels

## Sundays at St. Paul in APRIL 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.*



**2:** **5th Sunday in Lent. Communion celebrated.** Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, At the Crossroads. Today he discusses what to do when we feel like we don't know God. How do we find the strength to persevere in the midst of our doubt? Read Philippians 3:1-11.



**9:** **PALM SUNDAY. Birthday Sunday.** Bell choir plays at both services. Children's Palm processional at the beginning of the 10:30 a.m. service. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, At the Crossroads. Today he discusses what to do when we are rejected. Read Luke 19:28-44.



**16:** **EASTER SUNDAY.** Pastor Daryl concludes the sermon series, At the Crossroads. Today he discusses the surprise in a graveyard. Jesus was alive! He lives today! Read John 20:1-9.



THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

**23:** **Gideons Sunday.** The Gideons bring us up-to-date on their great ministry of distributing Bibles throughout the world. After each service, we take a special offering supporting the work of the Gideons.

**30:** **Third Sunday of Easter.** Jesus appeared many times to the disciples and other followers. Today we recall how he surprised the disciples and later Thomas when he appears to them within a locked room. Read John 20:19-31.

**May 7:** **Fourth Sunday of Easter.** Jesus appeared many times to the disciples and other followers. Today we recall how he surprised two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Read Luke 24:13-35.



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

April is **National Distracted Awareness Month!** The National Safety Council (NSC), has issued traffic fatality estimates since 1921. For the first time in ten years, the NSC has released an estimate that as many as 40,000 people died in motor vehicle crashes. This is a 6% increase over 2015, and a 14% increase over 2014. The NSC is calling this increase the “most dramatic two-year escalation in 53 years.” That is a big deal. An estimated 4.6 million drivers/passengers were injured seriously enough to require medical attention which is a 7% increase. The estimated cost to society was 432 billion dollars.

The NSC released a survey February 15th that may provide some of the reasons for the increase. 83% of those surveyed believed that driving is a safety concern-but 64% of those said that they are comfortable with speeding, 47% are okay with texting while driving (either manually or hands free), 13% driving while impaired by marijuana, and 10% feel driving is okay after consuming alcohol.

The president of NSC stated that the U.S. is not as up to date with highway safety. “Our complacency is killing us. We know what needs to be done; we just haven’t done it.” NSC advocates for a total ban of cell phone use- hand held and hand free while driving.

When you’re behind the wheel of a car – whether alone or with others – driving safely should always be your top concern. We’re more distracted than ever, so it’s crucial to know the basics of safe driving and practice them every time you’re on the road. Here are some safe driving tips:

- **Focus on driving:** Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times – no multi-tasking. Don’t take the risk and talk/text on your phone. Don’t mess with the radio or CD player while driving. Slow down. Speeding gives you less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.
- **Drive “defensively”:** Be aware of what other drivers around you are doing, and expect the unexpected. Assume other motorists will do something crazy, and always be prepared to avoid it. Keep a 2-second cushion between you and the car in front of you, 4 seconds in bad weather.
- **Plan ahead:** Build time into your trip schedule to stop for food, rest breaks, phone calls or other business. Adjust your seat, mirrors and climate controls before putting the car in gear. Pull over to eat or drink. It takes only a few minutes. Be safe out there!

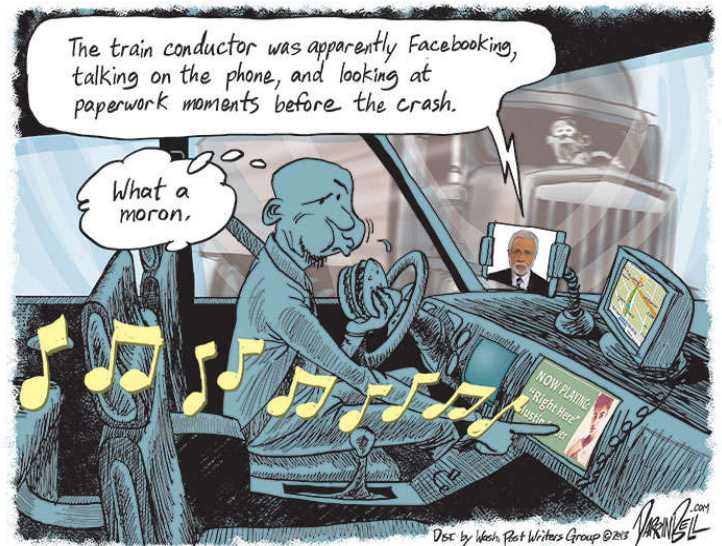
I am passionate about many things: family, friends, and my parish nurse ministry. But nothing compares to the passion I have that comes from my hope in Christ. I love the Easter season, and my hope is that it will be powerful for you. I hope that you are giving thanks for your body and caring for your soul. I hope that you are beyond thankful for your life in Christ. I hope that you know He has given you a purpose that goes beyond you and reaches out to others. I hope that God is calling you, leading you to accomplish things for His glory that go beyond the ordinary!

Sources: National Safety Council, Bible

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Romans 15:13

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Eileen



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

April 01 Hartman, Amy  
 April 02 Williams, Randy  
 April 02 Foiles, Jarod  
 April 03 Voorhees, Mike  
 April 03 Voorhees, Mitch  
 April 03 Challandes, Karen  
 April 04 Bunt, Evelyn  
 April 04 Martin, Tom  
 April 04 Ford, Donald Jr.  
 April 04 Hartman, Payton  
 April 05 Pruetzel, Rohland  
 April 05 Moore, Kelly  
 April 05 Mayer, Jason  
 April 06 Sitze, Barb  
 April 06 Winchester, Jessica  
 April 07 Acton, Vicki  
 April 07 Bunt, Ashley  
 April 07 McBride, Jaxson  
 April 08 Nelson, Florence  
 April 08 Bottorff, Patrick  
 April 09 Skjerseth, Abbygail  
 April 10 Croxford, Virginia  
 April 10 Clark, Bryan  
 April 10 Dawson, Lizzie  
 April 11 Roberts, Jennifer  
 April 11 Tite, Alyssa  
 April 14 Inman, Terry  
 April 14 McLain, Mindy

April 14 Wesley, Rilyn  
 April 15 Lair, Alexander  
 April 16 Bishop, Nathan  
 April 16 Laufersweiler, Peter  
 April 16 Davis, Lauren  
 April 17 Sands-Franklin, Vivian  
 April 17 Toner, Cathy  
 April 17 Tillery, Scott  
 April 17 Harlan, Brittney  
 April 17 Harlan, Brooke  
 April 17 Decker, Lauryn  
 April 18 Bunt, Michael  
 April 18 Plummer, Brandon  
 April 18 Dawson, Luke  
 April 19 Natsch, Ilona  
 April 19 Scroggins, Madison  
 April 19 Scroggins, Patsy  
 April 20 Gwaltney, Kay  
 April 20 Hovan, Rosalind  
 April 21 Parker, Ryan  
 April 21 Mayer, Edith  
 April 24 Hendricks, Leona  
 April 24 Plummer, Mike  
 April 25 Williams, Madison

April 25 Laufersweiler, Logan  
 April 26 Garrison, Andrew  
 April 26 Eyster, Logan  
 April 27 Kissack, Bob Jr.  
 April 27 Sheppard, Keith  
 April 27 Henderson, Jaden  
 April 28 Bailey, John  
 April 28 Scroggins, Taylor  
 April 28 Barclay, Tabatha  
 April 29 Bottorff, Mike  
 April 29 White, Rita  
 April 29 Redden, Darin Sr.  
 April 29 Kathriner, Stacey  
 April 29 Giddings, Jacob  
 April 30 Cameron, Chase

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

April 05 Pruetzel, Rohland & Susie  
 April 08 Crain, Bill Jr. & Ronda  
 April 10 Schroedter, Adam & Stephanie  
 April 11 Tillery, Joe & Linda  
 April 11 Acton, Phil & Vicki  
 April 14 Toner, Joshua & Brooke  
 April 16 Toner, Chuck & Rosalie

April 20 Brueggeman, Kyle & Emily  
 April 20 Toner, Jake & Jessica  
 April 21 Decker, Eric & Heather  
 April 21 Laufersweiler, Peter & Sarah  
 April 24 Yankovich, Frank Jr. & Tana  
 April 24 Sandbach, Justin & Jennifer

**Be Sure To Pick Up A copy of the Church Directory for 2017!**

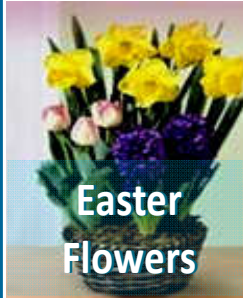
**Please be sure to contact the church office if you have a change of address, phone number, or email address! Thank you!**



**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT****April's Loose Change**

**Project** is the **Community Hope Center** in Cottage Hills. Not only do they run a food pantry which our church uses as a referral source, but they

offer free clothing and other programs to help people in need. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

**Easter Flowers**

It is time to order your Easter Flowers for 2017. The order forms are in the worship bulletins. Remember to pay for your flowers when you order

them. The flowers cost **\$7.00** each this year. If you have any questions, call the church office @ **259-5210**. **Deadline to order: Sunday, April 9th!**

**Capital Campaign money as of 3-31-17:**  
**\$220,708.95**



**Happy Administrative Professionals Day - April 26th!**

**MARCH Stewardship**

Budget Offering:	through 03/31/2017	<b>\$20125.25</b>
Designated Giving:	through 03/31/2017	<b>\$3084.50</b>
	Capital Improvements	195.00
	Loose Change	95.00
	Flowers	128.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	135.00
	Upper Room Donations	13.00
	Offering Envelopes	10.00
	Memorials	2250.00
	2017 Steeple Postage	8.50
	Funeral Dinners	250.00
One Great Hour Sharing		<b>203.00</b>
Capital Campaign		<b>1320.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$24732.75</b>

**APRIL Ushers (10:30 a.m.):**

**Apr. 2nd:** Katie Lair, Alex Lair

**Apr. 9th:** Tom & Ruth Voorhees

**Apr. 16th:** Dave & Noel Schiber

**Apr. 23rd:** Maggie Funke

**Apr. 30th: FOLKS NEEDED!**

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

**Average Attendance for MARCH 2017**

Early Service	33
Late Service	62
Sunday School	38
Visitors	6
4 Awakening Service	40



**DEADLINE FOR**  
**MAY 2017**  
**STEEPLE, Fri.,**  
**APR. 21st!**



### **Eagle Scout Project Memorial Brick Prayer Walk UPDATE!**

Kaleb Smith of Boy Scout Troop #777 organized the brick, memorial, prayer walkway connecting the parking lot to the pavilion at St. Paul UMC. He is so pleased with the response and the engraved bricks have been ordered. The process of creating the walkway will begin and if the engraved bricks arrive in time it could be done for Easter. Thank you for allowing him the opportunity to tackle this task.

## **Hickerson Scholarship 2017**



Graduating seniors from the three area high schools (East Alton-Wood River, Roxana, and Civic Memorial) or any who are a member of St. Paul UMC may apply for the \$500.00 scholarship.

We encourage members to notify any student that may qualify and have them complete the application process. Application materials will be available through the counselors at the above mentioned schools or directly from the church office.

**DEADLINE for completed application  
materials is: Monday, April 3, 2017**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at **259-5210**.

### ***Pastor's Corner - Continued from Page 1***

Life. The only life worth living. These religious leaders might destroy his body, but they would never destroy the life he had with Jesus. No matter what, Peter had a future with God. He enjoyed a living hope!

If I went around the sanctuary on Easter morning and asked why we are here, I might get a dozen different answers. Whatever our response, I believe that people show up in worship on Easter because we need a resurrection and in the church is where we expect to find it.

*We need a resurrection which is not merely a future hope but also a present help.*

Some come here from the graveside of a loved one and we need the comfort that comes only from a Risen Lord. Others struggle daily with addiction and we need the power to resist temptation supplied only by a Risen Lord. We need His help to make it through this day.

Some are weary from their role as caretakers for those who are sick and we need the strength that comes only from a Risen Lord. Others like Judas feel that we have sunk so low in our behavior that we may never rise again. We need to receive the forgiveness that comes only from a Risen Lord.

Many enjoy a relationship with God but we realize that this relationship isn't all it should be. We need the grace that flows only from a Risen Lord so we may draw closer to God. Your situation may be far different, but hear this: **on Easter you and I are invited to be—not merely spectators of the Easter drama but participants in the Easter triumph. We are invited to set our minds—not upon the depths to which we may have fallen but rather upon the heights to which the Risen Lord may lift us.** We show up on Easter to be reminded that we are destined to be **born anew into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

I believe in the Resurrection because it was not confined to Christ alone, but was duplicated again and again in the lives of his disciples. I believe in the Resurrection because I see its power revealed in the lives of all those around me at St. Paul. We are no longer living the dead-end, empty-headed life we grew up in. We have a future with God.

Once we live in the power of the Resurrection, nothing will shake us loose from God's loving arms.  
Pastor Daryl

**P.S.** Join us in the celebration of Jesus' and our glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 16 at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.





## **PALM WAVERS NEEDED FOR PALM SUNDAY!**

On Palm Sunday, April, 9, the children open our 10:30 a.m. worship service with a Palm Processional.

We remember how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of "Hosanna" which means "God save us." Our children remind us that Jesus has come to save us all, big and small. All children who wish to participate should meet in the Parlor, the room off the entryway, at 10:15 a.m. to receive their palm and instructions.



**Thursday, April 13th  
7:00 p.m.**

Following in Jesus' Footsteps!

Special music  
provided by our Worship Choir.

## **Easter Egg Hunt**



**Palm Sunday, April 9th in the church park after the 10:30 a.m. Service!**

It is a St. Paul tradition to hold an Easter Egg Hunt for our children after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday. Children leave from "More Jesus Time" in the Fellowship Hall for the church park where the hunt is held. If it rains, the Easter egg hunt is held in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate candy or empty, plastic eggs for this event there is a box set-up in the entryway. Place your donations there. We will collect them thru April 5th.  
Thank you in advance!



## **COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

**April 14 @ 7 p.m.  
First United Methodist  
Church - Wood River**

This year's service will be a  
**TENEBRAE Service**

**Special offering taken...  
plan now to attend!**

Sponsored by Wood River  
Township Ministerial  
Alliance



## ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 21st, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and  
Saturday, April 22nd, 8:30 a.m. to noon;  
\$2 admission charged for the Pre-sale only on Thursday  
night, April 20th, 6-8 p.m. **Please** - bring **NO** rummage  
before **MONDAY**, April 3rd & place items where designated  
to keep the Fellowship Hall useable for Awakening and it can  
be brought through **MONDAY**, April 17th. Get your rum-  
mage ready to bring! Mark your calendars now!



## VBS 2017

June 12 - 16

9:30 a.m. - Noon

For VBS we have much of our leadership in place, but  
volunteers are always needed and welcomed! We will  
have classes for children age 3 (who are potty trained)  
through 6th grade. The stations are: Recreation,  
Crafts, Movie, Story, Snacks, Praise Songs, Science Lab,  
and Puppets & Play.

Class Leaders, Class Assistants, Station Leaders, Station  
Assistants & all extra helpers—

Please come join us as a student or a volunteer. It's a  
fun and rewarding week of learning more about God!

If you are in 7th grade or older and are interested in  
helping with VBS, please talk to Jamie Gwaltney or call  
692-0898. If you are 18 years old or older, please pick  
up a policy packet with a background check form in it to  
fill out and drop off at the church office, if you have not  
done so before. **CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD SOON  
FOR SUPPLIES NEEDED!** We pray this is another fun  
and inspiring year!

## HELP WANTED

Are you bored from the winter weather —  
eager to have something to do? The Women  
of Worship have solved your problem!  
**MANAGERS** are needed to make decisions  
about sorting clothes, kitchen items, seasonal  
décor, etc. on **Monday, Tuesday, and  
Wednesday, April 17-19.** **ACCOUNT-  
ANTS** and **BAGGERS** are needed on  
Thursday night, April 20, from 6 – 8 p.m.,  
Friday, April 21, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and  
Saturday, April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.  
**MAINTENANCE CREW** will take over at  
noon on Saturday to pack up unsold items to  
deliver to Community Hope Center and  
Goodwill. **Also needed:** pickup trucks are  
needed to help gather items from folks who  
have no way to get their things to the church  
AND pickup trucks are needed to deliver  
items not picked up by the Community Hope  
Center Truck.

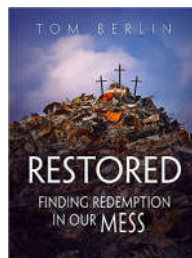
**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR  
VOLUNTEERING.**



**FLOWER  
CALENDAR**

The Flower Calendar for  
2017 is posted on the  
long bulletin board in  
the Education Wing.

Please, fill it in!  
Thank you!



## LENTEN SMALL GROUP STUDY!

Lenten Small Group  
Study at 5 p.m. in the  
Parlor. We are study-  
ing Rev. Tom Berlin's  
book, "Restored." This study con-  
cludes on Palm Sunday, April 9th.



(Ad for Music Position)

**WORSHIP LEADER/  
MUSIC COORDINATOR:**

Part time – varied music background, Traditional/ Contemporary music including ability to play pipe organ and piano. Experience in leading choirs a plus. May be split into 2 positions. Job description and application available at

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

Send resume and application to:

**Staff-Parish Committee, St. Paul  
UMC, 10 N. Center St., East Alton IL  
62024 by MAY 17, 2017**

**This year the Outreach Ministry Team**

has decided to hold a month-long Food Drive during April instead of doing Easter baskets. Please go all out and bring your food items to the food collection table/area all month long. We will not be able to provide paper sacks (they are no longer available) so fill up any plastic/ paper bag that you have and bring them in.

Thank you so much!



# Beautiful U Girls Conference

April 22 | Troy, IL | Speaker: Sue Busler

[BeautifulUConference.org](http://BeautifulUConference.org)



## Beautiful U Girls Conference

**April 22 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.**

Beautiful lives don't come from the measure of your clothes, your success, and your looks - it comes from a deep character, a vibrant spring, a heart in love with God. Living life, the way God intended, is freeing and bright.

Young girls need to hear this message today and Beautiful U is a conference designed to experience it. Girls in 6-12 grades and their female ministry leaders and/or moms are invited to register today! **Contact Pastor Daryl or the Church Office!**

A day at Beautiful U will include inspiring music, authentic worship, real life speakers, seminars for students and adults, and stations for a fun experience. Great refreshments, a delightful lunch, and an opportunity to get away will make this day memorable and BEAUTIFUL!

Don't miss the Beautiful U Conference in Troy, IL on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Troy UMC.

- ♦ Experience Stations - such as 5 Min. Guitar Lesson, Card Making, Hair Style Tips, Bible Journaling/Art...and more
- ♦ Inspiring Music and Worship!
- ♦ Great refreshments
- ♦ Seminars for girls and adults.





## We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...



**Mary Barbara "Barb" Blaine**, 87, passed away, 11:27 a.m., Saturday, March 11, 2017 at her residence.

Born in Wood River on January 22, 1930, she was the daughter of Charles Walter and Tina Pauline "Polly" (Maxey) Myers.

She is survived by a son, Roger (Susan) Blaine of Ooltewah, TN, daughters, Gail Blaine Hansard of Jacksonville, FL, Carol (John) Bloss of Wildwood, MO; four grandchildren, Angela Hansard, Stephanie Blaine, Lauren and Lindsay Bloss.

Proceeding her in death were her parents; brother, Robert "Bob" Myers; and a sister, Phyllis Moore.

Memorials may be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, where she had been a member.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. I Corinthians 13, NLT

The world teaches us that love is illusionary, it disappoints, it is fleeting, it is selfish, and it dies with us. Paul is no Polyanna, but rather a realist about the world. He's been beaten, chased out of town, and jailed for preaching that Jesus Christ the Crucified is Risen from the Dead. Paul ends the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter with this bold proclamation: *"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Death is the destroyer of all that is beautiful and good; in particular, the relationships we forge with each other. We gather today still shocked at the suddenness of Barbara's passing from this world to the next. More than anything what we want most is another conversation, another day with her, another chance to say: "I love you." Death is as Paul observes the last enemy that rips from us what we love the most upon this earth—our relationships with each other. The Jewish people of his time believed that death meant even the end of our relationship with God.

What I appreciate about Paul is that he doesn't overpromise. Paul admits that there is a lot about life beyond this one that he doesn't know because he isn't God. Our sight is limited. I love the way *The Message* version puts it in the "love chapter" *"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly as he knows us."*

Paul sticks to what he knows. Faith, hope, and love endure. But the greatest is love. I know a lot of things that Barbara Blaine loved: she loved to play golf, loved the Cardinals, loved to play cards, loved her children and grandchildren, and she loved Jesus. She showed Sunday after Sunday to sing songs of praise and to worship Him. She knew that Jesus loved her. And, she loved Him in return. As a Christian, she tried her best to love others as Jesus loved her. Because that is what Jesus commanded all of us to do. Without love, we are nothing. We are certainly not Christians.

What helps me today is this: to know that this love Paul talks about isn't foolish or illusionary or futile, but real. As Barbara's pastor, I tried to care for her as well as I could upon this earth but my role is ended. I yield Barbara to the care of Jesus who will love her even more than I ever could. For Jesus has been her faithful companion throughout her life on this earth and he continues to be her faithful companion now.

You know Barbara continues to sing her beloved hymns of praise to God. It is just that she sings them in a grander setting than even our beautiful sanctuary at St. Paul. She sings them in heaven forever and ever.

Barbara's sudden death was a shock to her family and to us at St. Paul. I still expect to see her walk through the double red doors on Sunday morning wearing a jaunty hat decorated with pins and supporting herself with her decorated cane. In her apartment, Barbara's family found the Easter ribbon that would soon decorate her cane. Please prayer that God might comfort us all. Pastor Daryl



## We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

**Jerry Thomas Poore**, 73 died at 10:50 a.m. Friday, March 10, 2017 at Alton Memorial Hospital. He was born, son of the late Thomas P. and Synthia (Gray) Poore on Dec. 6, 1943, in Kampsville, IL. He married Janice Lynn (Voorhees) Poore on Feb. 2, 1980, in East Alton, IL. She survives.

Jerry Poore was known for his willingness to help his family, friends and neighbors. He was honest, even at the risk of offending feelings. He was stubborn, insisting on doing life his way. He was faithful, standing by his friends no matter what. Those who filled the pews at First United Methodist Church in East Alton were testimony to the many lives touched by Jerry. Those who knew him were truly blessed.

This is an excerpt of my sermon:

*After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.*

*The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.*

*"Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."*

*The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there." Matthew 28:1-10 (God's Word)*

When our nephew Kyle was 4 yrs. old, he went with his father and grandparents for a summer vacation at a fishing camp somewhere in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. When he returned, I asked how his vacation was. Kyle's eyes grew large and he became visibly excited as he blurted out: *Uncle Daryl, we saw bears unlocked!"*

One night the bears came into their camp foraging for food. They made a lot of noise as they unsuccessfully tried to pry off the lids from the garbage cans. Kyle woke up and watched the bears through the window.

Although it was an odd way of putting it, *we saw bears unlocked* makes sense when the only bears you have seen to this point are securely locked in habitats at the zoo.

The women are afraid because *they saw Jesus unlocked from the stone cold tomb. Jesus was alive and that changed everything. Everything they once thought was true was now false. Jesus' way did not end in death but life!*

The unlocked Jesus appears to us and His grace changes us. Grace is one of those words that we struggle to define but we know it when we see it and, in particular, when we experience it. Some modern translations render it: *wonderful kindness or special favor.*

**WE ARE BIG ON GRACE. FIRST, WE BELIEVE THAT GRACE IS A FREE GIFT.** None of us deserves the wonderful kindness Jesus has bestowed upon us. All we may do is say *thank you, God."*

Paul says in Ephesians: *"Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!"*

**SECOND, WE BELIEVE THAT GRACE IS EXTENDED TO EVERYONE. NO ONE IS EXCLUDED.** Jesus himself says: *"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."*

Grace pours into our lives as freely as the rain on a warm summer afternoon.

**THIRD, WE BELIEVE THAT WE ALL NEED GRACE. NONE OF US IS BETTER THAN OUR NEIGHBOR.**

Paul says: *God got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

*God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured. This is not only clear, but it's now—this is current*

**Jerry Poore - Continued on Page 14**

**Jerry Poore - Continued from Page 13**

*history! God sets things right. He also makes it possible for us to live in his rightness."*

While God has made it possible for us to live in his rightness through Jesus' grace, we still need to hold out our hands and receive this grace.

FINALLY, WE BELIEVE IN FREE WILL. GOD DOES NOT FORCE HIMSELF UPON US. WE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW JESUS OR TO WALK AWAY. THAT WAS TRUE IN JESUS' TIME ON EARTH AND IT IS TRUE NOW.

Paul has an opinion about this as he does about everything regarding our relationship with God.. He is convinced that the smart move is for us to accept the gift of grace offered to us. He says: *“Companions as we are in this work with you, we beg you, please don’t squander one bit of this marvelous life God has given us. God reminds us,*

*I heard your call in the nick of time;*

*The day you needed me, I was there to help. Well, now is the right time to listen, the day to be helped.”*

Jesus is unlocked from the tomb. He is risen just as he promised. An unlocked Jesus roaming through the world is a frightening and yet joyful happening. As these women discovered.

A Jesus unlocked reveals that the sting of death is replaced with the bliss of eternal life.

A Jesus unlocked joins His Spirit with our spirit to provide daily assurances of his presence, his love, and his care in our life.

A Jesus unlocked gives us the grace to begin our lives anew today or any day. He provides the power to live His life.

This is what I believe.

Please keep Jan and all of Jerry's family in your prayers. May they be comforted by the unlocked Jesus! 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 information 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 were able to 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 –2018 envelopes. **If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.**