



The Steeple

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



AUGUST 2018

REFLECTIONS...

People of Infinite Worth,

Two men travel the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus; their gait is slow and their heads are bowed in sorrow. They speak in desperate whispers about the man called Jesus whom they supposed was the Messiah. "We thought he was the One", they lamented. "We believed he was the Son of God who was going to free our people from bondage. Yet we just witnessed his execution on a hill outside of Jerusalem, how can this be?" In subdued misery, they trudge home to Emmaus.

Seemingly out of nowhere, a stranger meets them; they invite him to walk with them. They are amazed, because; he claims ignorance about the execution that had just taken place. Who is he, and how has he not heard? As they continue their journey home, they tell him of the events that had just transpired. But when they finish informing him of recent events, *he begins to teach them* about the scriptures. His words illuminate their understanding of God's Word. Inwardly, they marvel at his wisdom and powerful teaching. Who is he; they wonder?

The two men arrive home and invite their companion to have supper and spend the night, before he continues his journey. The stranger agrees, but he does something so odd; he is their guest, yet he usurps the role of host, picks up the bread and blesses it. As he breaks the bread, the two men recognize him; he is the Lord! In the exact moment they realize his identity, he disappears! In that instant they know with all their heart that Jesus is alive. The two men are so energized, they run the seven mile distance back to Jerusalem to spread the Good News that Jesus the Christ is alive!

I am sure you recognize this story from the Book of Luke 24:13-32. It illustrates the way Jesus is always present and how he wants to teach us. His purpose in teaching is to give us hope for the future and to motivate us to trust him and make his name known! The Walk to Emmaus is not just a story from the Bible, but it is also a community of Christian men and women who seek to spread the hope of salvation and to energize Christians in their faith walk.

I have been involved in the Walk to Emmaus community (WtE) for over ten years. I have served as spiritual director for several walks and I can tell you, the participants are blessed and amazed by what they learn. You may have heard of people going on a WtE; the people who attend the first time are called pilgrims. Thankfully, pilgrims do not need to walk (or run) seven miles. A WtE is a 72 hour spiritual retreat; it is a time away from the day-to-day life. It is time of learning and reflection. Some call it a 72 hour short course in Christianity. Pilgrims are reminded of God's love for them through talks they hear, the activities they experience, and by the actions of the workers.

Typically, a WtE begins on a Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon/evening. The men's walk and the women's walk occur on separate weekends and they are separate from each other; the walks are held in the fall and the spring. The idea behind a WtE is to inspire, challenge, and equip Christian men and women to grow in their faith – to renew and re-energize our churches, homes, and places of work through loving service in the name of Jesus!

If attending a WtE appeals to you, or if you have questions, I would be delighted to talk to you about it. Our next walks will be held: Men's walk - September 6th – 9th and the Women's walk September 13th – 16th. A WtE can be a life-changing experience that brings new friendships and a deeper faith in Jesus Christ. I pray you will consider attending!

Blessings!
Pastor Debra



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- We are quite excited to welcome to St. Paul UMC our new pastor, **Pastor Debra Hoertel!** We also welcome her husband, **Joe.** They have been here since July 1 and are off to a good start. If you have not met Pastor Debra or Joe yet, we hope that you will be able to do so soon!
- **Oliver Bacus** was casted as Demetrius in the SIUE Theater and Dance summer performances of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on July 6-8 and 13-15. Oliver is a junior Theater Performance major and this is his second year performing with SIUE's Summer Shakespeare. Oliver is an excellent actor and director. He has received the Student Experimental Theater Organization Awards for Best Supporting Actor & Best Leading Actor for his performances as Aldolpho in "The Drowsy Chaperone" and as Tartuffe in "Tartuffe," respectively. Congratulations Oliver!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Harold Meisenheimer**, cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell and the family of **Angela Wehrle**, Matt Johnson's brother-in-law's sister. May you all know God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.

THANK YOU: "Thank you to thoughtful you... from thankful me!" Thank you for all the healing prayers, kind thoughts, cards, and visits. Each and every one was greatly appreciated. You are the best. God Bless all of you! *-Maggie Funke*

THANK YOU: Rohland thanks everyone for all of the prayers, good thoughts, cards, calls, etc. following the miracle of his recent transplant of his new kidney. As he continues the recovery process your prayers are still needed ...that there would be no rejection. Also, please pray for the family of the donor. God Bless you all! *-Rohland & Susie Pruetzel*

THANK YOU: Debra, Meg, and I wish to thank everyone who made my retirement service so very special. The speakers, the musicians, those who helped with the meal, and those who planned the service did well. If we were to name individuals, we would forget someone so please know whether you attended or helped in any way you reminded us once more what a special church St. Paul is. Thank you. We are so appreciative of all your kindness to us. We know you are in good hands with Pastor Debra. And tell Harvey that I have already heard the question: "What did you do all day?" *-Pastor Daryl*

OUR **New**
ADDRESS

**Pastor Daryl, Debra, &
Meg Fansler**
1852 Appleton Court
Maryville, IL 62062



Worship Under the Trees



ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER

at 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 3rd-AUGUST 26th

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

Thank You!

To the people of St. Paul UMC: We thank you for the gracious offer to use your facility for our summer Bible Study. Our ladies have been blessed by your hearts & your church.

The Alton Christian Ladies Group (Also, thank you for the use of your JOHN DVD Study!)

From:

- Vonda Wooder Mary-ellen Grieham Lulu Yerkes
- PAT DOSSEY Dottie Rogers Sherri Rose**
- Robin Woodson JoAnn Hill **Phyllis Stevens**
- Rhonda Griffin Kay Hancock Marjorie Gaines



PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU!

Hospice...
Hospital...
Nursing/Care Center...

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, rehab/care/

nursing center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office. None of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws. We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call may be the only way for us to know of the situation. Thank you for your help!



BOWLING WITH ST. PAUL!

Are you interested in joining the St. Paul UMC bowling team this season? We bowl on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. but we rotate people so you would not have to bowl every Monday night...sometimes you have other plans. To find out more please call Mark Mayer at 377-6463 today!

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM VBS!

If you sent a Christmas tree to be used for VBS this year and still want it back, come and get it, please. If you would like to have a Christmas tree, please, same instructions! The trees are on the stage! If you have questions, please call **Jamie Gwaltney**. Thank you!



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

Our 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park during the summer. Wear casual clothes; bring your coffee and lawn chair. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary.



Our 10:30 a.m. service—*Awakening*—is based upon this verse from 2 Chronicles 16:9: “God’s eyes range from to and fro throughout the Earth looking to strengthen the person that would bend their heart toward Him.” The preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is played by a worship band. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or are available on the entryway table. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service. The intent of both worship services is to connect, to reconnect, and to draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ.

“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.

- 5: Communion celebrated in both services. New Sermon Series—Armor Of God (Ephesians).** The series strives to answer the question, “how are we to live out our Christian faith in this chaotic world?” Today Pastor Debra looks at the **Armor Of God—Body Parts**. The scripture is *Ephesians 4:1-16*.



- 12: Birthday Sunday. Mr. Dar Bryant at the 8:15 & 10:30 services.** (Previously scheduled, Mr. Dar Bryant will be speaking at both services. Mr. Bryant, an ex-convict, is now center director of the **Dream Center at Alton’s River of Life Family Church**. He also serves with River of Life’s Prison Ministries, working directly with the Illinois Department of Corrections and veteran’s service centers to assist “returning citizens,” the term used for those released from prison who are assimilating back into society. A 1978 graduate of Roxana High School, Bryant was raised in the church. Come hear from Mr. Dar Bryant!)



- 19: Back to School, Back To Church, Back To Basics—and the Blessing of the Backpacks. Sermon Series—Armor Of God (Ephesians) continues.** Today Pastor Debra looks at the **Armor Of God—Strength In Gentleness**. The scripture is *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*.

- 26: Sermon Series—Armor Of God (Ephesians) concludes.** Today Pastor Debra looks at the **Armor Of God—Suit-Up**. The scripture is *Ephesians 6:10-20*.



Activating the Healing Power of God's Word

By James P. Gills



"Your words were found and I ate them. And Your word became to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of Hosts" (*Jeremiah 15:16*).

It is encouraging to find that many of the passages of Scripture that deal with healing point us to the healing power of God's Word. The reason it is so encouraging is that we have the Word of God in our hands and so can plead with God to fulfill these promises in our lives by faith

and the work of His Spirit. Solomon counsels us to cling to God's Word in our hearts (*Prov. 3:1*).

The mercy and truth that God speaks forth to you from the Word are designed to work in you a life that will "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths" (*Prov. 3:5-6*).

The truth embraced and lived is health. "It will be health to your body, and strength to your bones" (*Prov. 3:8*). The Message paraphrases it like this: "Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life!" The ways of God marked out for you in His Word are said to be "ways of pleasantness, and ... peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy is everyone who retains her" (*Prov. 3:17-18, MEV*).

Embracing God's truth activates all that is good, all that is honoring to God, and all that is concerned with true joy. Here is how you find the satisfaction, contentment and appreciation of God and His created gifts and joys. By doing so you implement what God calls you to and you know the fulfillment of God's promises. You will know the joys of serving your wife or husband, family and community (*Ps. 112*). By embracing God's truth, you will know the love of God poured out into your heart (*Rom. 5:5*). You will know how to deal with fear: "He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord" (*Ps. 112:7*).

It is life renewed to enjoy daily the majesty of God in appreciation of all His gifts to us and callings that rest upon us in a life with anointed purpose.

The healing that comes from the Word of God is described in Nehemiah. The captives who returned from Babylon gathered to hear the Word of God read and explained. The effect of that day was to teach them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength" (*Neh. 8:10c*).

The message of the healing power of God's Word is found throughout the Bible. *Psalms 107:20* says, "He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction." God sends His Word to us. We are often jarred off-center when illness comes our way; we easily get discouraged and flounder in a disoriented perspective of our lives.

Prayer is the opposite of self-reliance. Joy is the opposite of self-pity. A thankful spirit is the opposite of cynicism. These negative dispositions are the things that destroy you; joy, prayer and gratitude are the graces that enliven you and keep you living in the presence of God who is your only source of lasting and satisfying peace. When this new principle dwells in you, you see the folly and vanity of life and understand that everything is contingent upon divine goodness and grace.

When your heart is infused with God's Word, you observe a wholeness and balance, and understand that the love and joy you experience today, and the appreciation you can offer in worship now, are elements in your eternal life with Him. This is healing.

This is an excerpt from God's Prescription for Healing by James P. Gills, M.D.



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Aug Savannah Cincoski
- 01-Aug Finnegan Plummer
- 02-Aug Josh Brown
- 03-Aug Nealy Budde
- 03-Aug Linda Tillery
- 05-Aug Ryan Scroggins
- 06-Aug Norris Dorsey
- 07-Aug Jessica Roberts
- 09-Aug Tracy Franks
- 09-Aug Nic Hale
- 10-Aug Lois Mitchell
- 11-Aug Betty Burns
- 11-Aug Alex Davis
- 11-Aug Erin Hall
- 11-Aug Mary Meyer
- 11-Aug Tyler Skinner
- 12-Aug Jaxson Helmkamp
- 13-Aug Elinor Blacklock
- 13-Aug Brandie Brown
- 13-Aug Jennifer Garrison
- 13-Aug Katie Herndon
- 13-Aug Grace McPheters
- 14-Aug Alicia Herndon
- 14-Aug Jim Stewart

- 15-Aug Chandra Redden
- 15-Aug Anika Richter
- 16-Aug Ryne Emerick
- 16-Aug Stephanie Redden
- 17-Aug Andrea Kasten
- 17-Aug Tracy Scoggins
- 19-Aug Chance Foss
- 19-Aug Alan Uzzell
- 20-Aug Leta Harshbarger
- 20-Aug Jo Ann Hill
- 20-Aug Gracie Mortland
- 22-Aug Brooke Standefer
- 23-Aug Carol Carn
- 23-Aug Dave Herndon
- 24-Aug Michael Scroggins
- 25-Aug Lauren Cranmer
- 25-Aug Emily Hall
- 25-Aug Bethany Rain
- 26-Aug Teri Sabo, RN
- 26-Aug Terry Sitze

- 27-Aug Keith Armon
- 27-Aug Logan Scroggins
- 28-Aug Noël Schiber
- 29-Aug Kristin Cameron
- 29-Aug Doug Clouatre
- 29-Aug Danny Redden
- 29-Aug Joanna Scroggins
- 29-Aug Lori Seba
- 30-Aug Karah Phelps
- 31-Aug Mike Scroggins
- 31-Aug Juliana Sullivan



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 06-Aug Duane & Sandy Moore
- 10-Aug Rod & Virginia Croxford
- 12-Aug Randy & Mindy McLain
- 13-Aug John & Leona Hendricks
- 15-Aug Duane & Tammy Atchley
- 17-Aug Steve & Sarah Campbell
- 18-Aug Bill & Amy Hale
- 19-Aug John & Barbara Yunker
- 20-Aug Nathan & Lydia Chester

- 22-Aug Tim & Joni Bunt
- 22-Aug Keith & Ashley Sheppard
- 23-Aug Terry & Betty Sitze
- 24-Aug Scott & Jamie Gwaltney
- 26-Aug Jim & Maggie Funke
- 30-Aug David & Lisa Betts



Be Sure To Pick Up A copy of the church Directory for 2018!

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



JULY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 7/31/2018	\$21293.00
Designated Giving:	through 7/31/2018	\$689.70
	Capital Improvements	115.00
	Loose Change	105.00
	Flowers	50.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	135.00
	Upper Room	18.00
	VBS	20.00
	Youth	176.70
	Memorials	50.00
	Helping Hands	20.00
Catch Up Offering		100.00
Capital Campaign		2805.00
Total:		\$24887.70

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you would like to be a Greeter for either **Sunday service!**

Average Attendance for JULY 2018

Early Service	55
Late Service	55
Sunday School	28
Visitors	6



Capital Campaign money received as of 07-31-18: **\$313,169.92**

**DEADLINE FOR
SEPTEMBER 2018
STEEPLE, Tues.,
August 21st!**

MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT



August's Loose Change Project is UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. This ministry assists in disasters in our country and throughout the

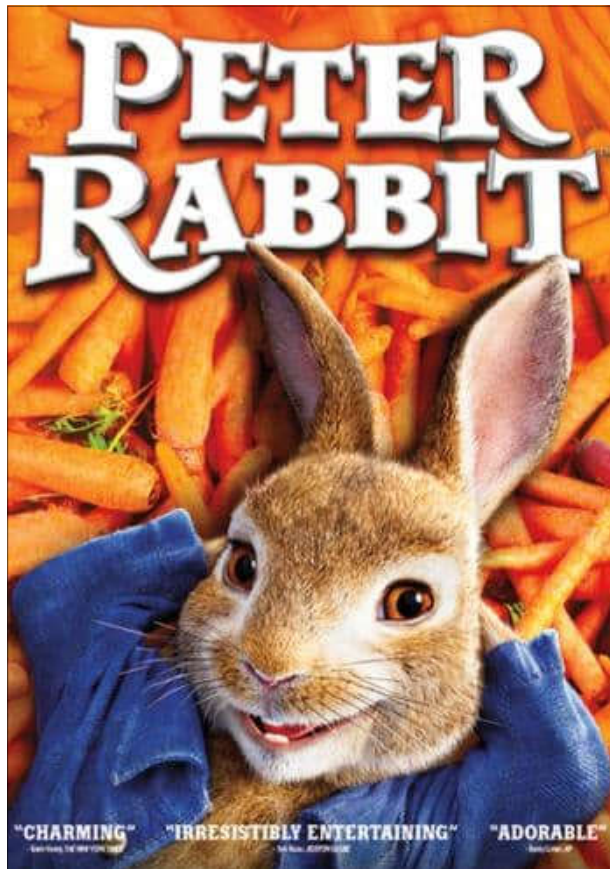
world. Help is given for flood, tornado, hurricanes, and fire. In addition this agency supports ongoing programs in parts of the world that have nutrition and food supply problems. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

FREE FAMILY MOVIES

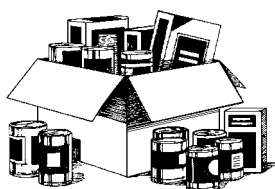
Friday, AUGUST 3 @ 7 p.m.

Saturday, AUGUST 4 @ 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.





Food Drive & School Supply Collection---



Each year the Outreach Ministry Team sponsors the collection of food & school supplies. This year the collection **began July 22, after the distribution of this information, and continues through August 12th.** This is so the school supplies can be distributed to the children before school starts. Please place food and school supplies in separate bags. The school supplies go to schools in Bethalto, Roxana, and East Alton.

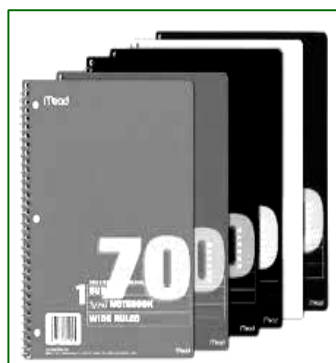
Paper, crayons, scissors, erasers, folders, and binders are always needed.

Food collected will go to the food pantries at Operation Blessing and the Community Hope Center. These are the places we refer people to for food.

Place all items in the coat area/hallway where we traditionally gather items for various collections. So fill up a sack or a bag (or more) and bring them to church!

Thank you in advance!!

The food & school supplies will be distributed the week of August 12th!



Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

For several years we have collected new and used, serviceable coats and shoes for Riverbend Head Start & Family Services families in our area.



We begin this in the fall. The general guidelines they have given us are for **new** or **gently used** items:

- ▶ Coats and Jackets - sizes 2T to 7-8
- ▶ Shoes - infant sizes to children size 1

This information is to remind you that if you go to yard sales, have grandchildren with outgrown shoes and coats, go to

Goodwill, or however you come across such items, you may want to buy them for the **fall collection** during the summer. Then just hang on to them.



The collection usually occurs in October/November. There will be a big box in the main hallway at that time to place these items in. Thank you so much as we plan ahead!

CDs! Tracy Franks has created a CD of “music at St. Paul UMC through the years.” It includes all of the choirs and some special groups. If you would like to have a copy, please let Tracy or the Church Office know.



“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 4:19

Repeat that verse, over and over again. My GOD will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. We are blessed people. Regardless if we are well off or are barely keeping our head above the water- we are blessed. Our God loves us and provides for us in abundant ways. Whether it is spiritually, emotionally, physically, financially- our God will meet ALL of our needs.

Church, I am asking that you join us on a very important journey over the next few weeks. Back to school is an exciting and stressful time for children and their families. Many churches and organizations provide ways for children to have back to school supplies and backpacks, but our church is going to go beyond that scope and go back to the basics. On **Sunday, August 19th** we will be inviting the community to join us for **Back to School, Back to Church, Back to Basics**. On this Sunday, we will worship together and then head out to the park for a **Blessing of the Backpacks** (so bring yours), fun, and games. Community involvement is very important for the health of our church, and I ask that you pray along with me that we are able to provide some basics for families in need. So in preparation we will begin collecting the following items:

Socks (children & youth sizes)

Underwear (all children & youth sizes, both genders)

Personal Hygiene items (toothbrushes, hair brushes, hair ties, soap, washcloths, deodorant)

These are often items that we forget children outgrow quickly, or simply do without. The goal is to provide the children in our community some of their basic needs in order to start their year off with a fresh start! Thanks!

In His Great Love, Lauren Cranmer - Awakening Worship Coordinator



The youth group is designed for **grades 6th-12th** and meets on the **1st & 3rd Sunday** of the month from **4-5:30 p.m.** It is our prayer that we can double the amount of youth that are currently attending.

Please invite the youth in your life to check out the fun and fellowship!

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to those who help feed the youth group at each meeting- boy, can these kids eat!

During the month of August we will be participating in a **Parents' Night Out** with East Alton FUMC youth. The event will be on **Friday, August 31st from 5-9 p.m. and hosted at East Alton FUMC**. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

**In Christ's Love & Kindness,
Lauren Cranmer—Youth Director**



SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Fellowship, snacks, and games follow the service!

Back to school time means more than just your basic school supplies; that is why this year St. Paul UMC is collecting socks, undies, and personal hygiene items to help families that are in need of assistance during back to school time. If you are willing to donate any of these items, please contact the Church Office at 259-5210 or Lauren Cranmer (l.cranmer4@gmail.com)

**Blessing of the
BackPacks
and the
School Year**

**Bring your backpack
for the blessing!**





Teams from the **BATTLE OF THE CHURCHES** for Capture The Flag! **St. Paul UMC VS. East Alton FUMC! It was great fun!**



Thank you to **East Alton FUMC** for joining us for the **Battle of the Churches** on July 22! **St. Paul was victorious**, winning the best out of three **Capture the Flag** challenges. We had so much fun playing with you! What a great way to fellowship—though different churches, we are all God’s children. Let us continue to build each other up as we continue to do the work of His Kingdom! *-Lauren*





From the Board of Trustees:



Be Kind To Your Trustees!
Please, DO NOT put your feet on the hymnal rack under the pew in front of you. Some of us are not as limber as we used to be and it is very hard to squeeze under the pew to fix the racks that get pulled off.
Thank you! *-Trustees*

REQUEST BY THE TRUSTEES
Please, do not place any kind of tape (scotch, masking, duct, etc.) on the newly refinished floors in the fellowship hall or kitchen areas. It took a long time to remove masking tape that had been placed some time ago on the fellowship hall floor. Because of the sticky residue duct tape should never be used. Thank you! *-Trustees*

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 4 positions. Complete job descriptions & application available at www.stpaulwired.org.
Send cover letter, resume and application to:
**Staff-Parish Committee,
St. Paul UMC, 10 N. Center St.,
East Alton IL 62024
by **AUGUST 10, 2018****

**NURSERY ATTENDANT
JOB OPENINGS:**

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is looking to fill **two** Nursery Attendant positions as soon as possible.
If you are interested and would like to know more or if you want to pick up an application and job description, please contact the Church Office by phone (259-5210) or by email (info@stpaulwired.org). These are paid positions.
Thank you!
**Staff-Parish
Relations Committee**



**VBS 2018 Photos
More on Page 14!**



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

Mission Possible is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. One can still participate. This is how to give 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 Jim Herndon.

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.**



**VBS 2018
Thank you!**

