



The Steeple

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



JANUARY 2020

Happy New Year!

The New Year is a great time to start a new habit or adopt a new practice. Please notice I am steering clear of the “R” word, (resolution). Resolutions are the norm this time of year. The problem with resolutions is that they imply jumping into a new activity with both feet. I have seen how that works firsthand. For example, people make resolutions to actually go to the fitness place where they have been paying membership fees for the last several months. From the first week in January until about the end of February, the fitness places are full to overflowing. Every class is packed; the equipment is full of sweating, well-intentioned people. At precisely half past February, suddenly attendance drops off, and by the end of the month, resolutions to get fit have dissolved into thin air. People succumb to sore muscles, and slow progress. Life gets in the way of their resolution. For many people who make resolution, jumping in with both feet is too much.

I uncovered some interesting statistics from the Barna Group. The Barna Group studies patterns in religious trends in the U.S. the article I am referring to can be found by following the link below. The article discusses seven findings in how Americans relate to the Bible. I cannot go into all the points, but I was particularly encouraged by this finding:

People Think that Reading the Bible Positively Impacts Spiritual Growth

More than half of monthly Bible users report that reading the Bible has resulted in a self-perceived willingness to engage in their faith more (56%) and to show more loving behavior toward others (54%). Two out of five Bible users (42%) say they are more generous with their time, energy or financial resources. More than half of Bible users (57%) contend that when they use the Bible, they have a greater awareness of how much they need God all of the time. Slightly less than half experience a curiosity to know God better (48%) and consistently experience a sense of connection with God (47%).

<https://www.barna.com/research/state-of-the-bible-2018-seven-top-findings/>

In other words, reading the Bible makes us more faith-filled and generous; it reminds us of how much we need God. All of those attributes come together to improve our spiritual growth. Read the full article if you want to look it up. The link is listed. It contains encouraging news about how Americans view Bible reading, and how time spent reading scripture transforms their lives.

As I mentioned earlier, the New Year is a terrific time to begin a new practice so here is what I am proposing; BYOB (bring your own Bible) to church. But don't just bring it; be ready to engage with it. In my sermons, I will include a supporting scripture and ask the congregation to look it up and read it with me. In this way we can open God's Word and examine it as a congregation. One of my greatest joys is sharing scripture with my beloved people here at St. Paul. I don't want to be selfish with it though, I want to share the joy by encouraging everyone who attends to open their Bibles, read the Word, and bask in the love and knowledge of God. May God bless us all this year with a deeper love for, a fuller knowledge of, and a greater enjoyment of God's words to us, through the Bible. It's all about growing closer to Jesus. Let's do this together!

**Happy New Year and much love,
Joe and Pastor Debra**

REFLECTIONS...



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- Thank you to **director Cheri Trusty**, **all the members of the cantata choir** (*Jeannie Huddleston, Jean Kainz, Karen Martin, Rachel Schiber, Iris Uzzell, Tracy Franks, Megan Parker, Noël Schiber, Dorothy Kasinger, Joe Hoertel, Debra Hoertel, Jen Garrison, Randy McLain, and Maggie Funke*), **narrator Connie Hickerson**, **sound man Mike Link**, and **anyone else** who helped them share the meaning of Christmas in song through “The Gift Goes On,” our annual Christmas cantata. With song you help to instill within us the wonder and awe of that first Christmas. Christmas is meaningless if it does not result in our worship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Dick Massey**, friend of Lois Mitchell; the family of **Bob Clayton**, cousin of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; the family of **Martha Chiolero**, friend of Lois Mitchell; the family of **Daniel Tharp**, son of Emma Harper and brother of Kimberly (George) McGilvrey; and the family & friends of **Shari Yates, AJ Brooks, and John McMillian**, of Bethalto. **May all touched by a loss know God’s comfort and peace now and in the days ahead.**

THANK YOU: Thank you to all who helped at the Christmas Dinner. And thank you to all who helped with the Christmas play, “The Joy Of Christmas”: Noël & Dave Schiber, all the kids, & the parents who got them to practice! Everyone who attended had a great time! God Bless you all in the New Year! *Nurture Ministry Team*

THANK YOU: Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift! Joe & I are so blessed to be in ministry here at St. Paul! Happy New Year! *Pastor Debra & Joe Hoertel*

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 way that truly expresses how much my ministry with you means to me. The blessing of your generous Christmas gift and all the other cards & gifts received has been wonderful. Blessings on you all! *Lois Mitchell*

THANK YOU: Thank you so very much for the Christmas gift and for all you allow me to do. I am glad that I am able to minister here at St. Paul! God Bless you all! *Doug Pascoe*

THANK YOU: The St. Paul Trustees thanks WOW for their donation to our Capital Fund Campaign as part of the disbursement of their yearly funds. This will go to help repay our Endowment Fund where we borrowed money for the campaign. *St. Paul UMC Trustees*

THANK YOU: Thank you all for the prayers regarding my DEC. 10th surgery. I am happy to report I'm recouping well and all seems to be coming along. Thank you all for your love, support, and prayers. *Susie Pruetzel*

THANK YOU: St. Paul would like to thank the families of **Sue Cloninger** and **Jake Cathorall** for their memorial donations towards bricks on the Prayer Walk. Their loved ones will be remembered by those visiting our park. *Memorial Committee*



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

- ✦ **ACTIVATE OUR PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✦ **leave a message on the office 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)**



Have you been away too long? Start 2020 off in the right way; reconnect with God!

2020 NEWSLETTERS:

Please think about the 2020 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you will be **\$8.50**. 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.

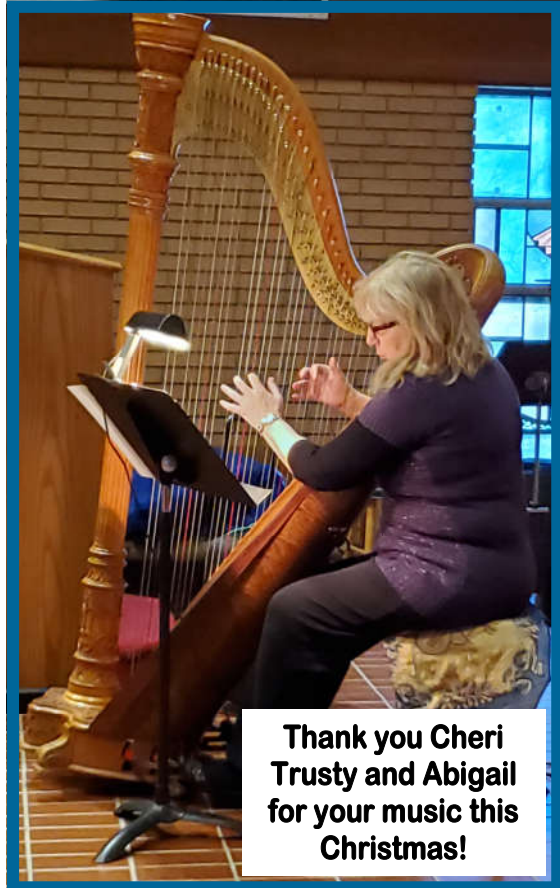
Send your request to have it mailed to you to the Church Office and your check for **\$8.50**.
 Any questions...call 259-5210.



Calling all kids who like to sing! ANGEL CHOIR practices on Sundays! We practice every Sunday during the

10:30 service after the SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN time. We practice as part of MORE JESUS TIME. Ages 3-8th grade are all welcome! Be sure to bring your friends!

-Noël Schiber, Director



Thank you Cheri Trusty and Abigail for your music this Christmas!



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

Our 8:15 a.m. service is a traditional service with hymns played upon our beautiful pipe organ. The Pastor leads worship clothed in a robe and stole. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.



Our 10:30 a.m. service—*Awakening*—is a contemporary service. The preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is lead by a worship & praise team. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or are available on the entry-way table. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service. The intent of both worship services is to draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ and with each other. *A Nursery and "More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.*

5th: Epiphany Sunday. Communion Both Services.

Message: Drawn To The Light! **Scripture:** *Matthew 2:1-12* **Theme:** The three wise men followed the light of the star to find Jesus.



12th: Birthday Sunday. Message: The Light Of Christ Shines On Cana! Scripture: John 2:1-11 Theme: Jesus shines His light on the ordinary people. He brings grace instead of disgrace on this little wedding party.



19th: Human Relations Sunday. Message: Gathering And Growing 1! Scripture: Malachi 3:10 Theme: My (very) imperfect journey of tithing in the church; God has taught me so much!



26th: Stewardship Sunday. Message: Gathering And Growing 2! Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 Theme: The only time God asks us to test Him is through our giving!

Our first Bible Study of 2020 will be **Renegade Gospel: The Radical Road to the Cross**, by Mike Slaughter. Jesus did not come to start a religion; he came to start a revolution. Mike Slaughter is the lead Pastor at Ginghamburg Church in Ohio. In this study, he teaches a challenging message to inspire us in the New Year. **Renegade Gospel** is a 6 week, video-driven study that focuses on the words of Jesus. We will meet Sundays at 5 p.m. Please join us for a time of learning & discussion. Sign up today!

Dates:

January 19th - Discovering The Rebel Jesus

January 26th - Revolutionary Lifestyle

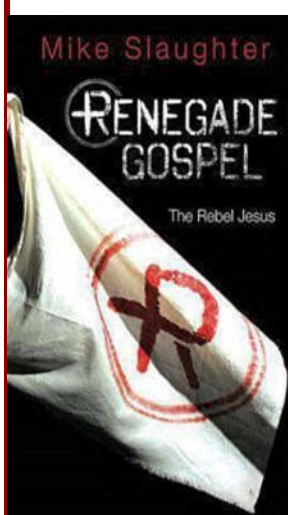
February 2nd - The Most Important Question You Will Ever Have To Answer

February 9th - (no meeting)

February 16th - Seeing Jesus Today

February 23rd - The Way Of The Cross

March 1st - Resurrection






KINDNESS HEALTH FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

KINDNESS IS TEACHABLE

"It's kind of like weight training, we found that people can actually build up their compassion 'muscle' and respond to others' suffering with care and a desire to help."

Dr. Ritchie Davidson, University of Wisconsin

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

The positive effects of kindness are experienced in the brain of everyone who witnessed the act, improving their mood and making them significantly more likely to "pay it forward." This means one good deed in a crowded area can create a domino effect and improve the day of dozens of people!

KINDNESS INCREASES:

THE LOVE HORMONE

Witnessing acts of kindness produces oxytocin, occasionally referred to as the 'love hormone' which aids in lowering blood pressure and improving our overall heart-health. Oxytocin also increases our self-esteem and optimism, which is extra helpful when we're in anxious or shy in a social situation.

ENERGY

"About half of participants in one study reported that they feel stronger and more energetic after helping others; many also reported feeling calmer and less depressed, with increased feelings of self-worth"

Christine Carter, UC Berkeley, Greater Good Science Center

HAPPINESS

A 2010 Harvard Business School survey of happiness in 136 countries found that people who are altruistic—in this case, people who were generous financially, such as with charitable donations—were happiest overall.

LIFESPAN

"People who volunteer tend to experience fewer aches and pains. Giving help to others protects overall health twice as much as aspirin protects against heart disease. People 55 and older who volunteer for two or more organizations have an impressive 44% lower likelihood of dying early, and that's after sifting out every other contributing factor, including physical health, exercise, gender, habits like smoking, marital status and many more. This is a stronger effect than exercising four times a week or going to church." Christine Carter, Author, "Raising Happiness: In Pursuit of Joyful Kids and Happier Parents"

PLEASURE

According to research from Emory University, when you are kind to another person, your brain's pleasure and reward centers light up, as if you were the recipient of the good deed—not the giver. This phenomenon is called the "helper's high."

SEROTONIN

Like most medical antidepressants, kindness stimulates the production of serotonin. This feel-good chemical heals your wounds, calms you down, and makes you happy!

KINDNESS DECREASES:

PAIN

Engaging in acts of kindness produces endorphins, the brain's natural painkiller!

STRESS

Perpetually kind people have 23% less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age slower than the average population!

ANXIETY

A group of highly anxious individuals performed at least six acts of kindness a week. After one month, there was a significant increase in positive moods, relationship satisfaction and a decrease in social avoidance in socially anxious individuals. University of British Columbia Study

DEPRESSION

Stephen Post of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine found that when we give of ourselves, everything from life satisfaction to self-realization and physical health is significantly improved. Mortality is delayed, depression is reduced and well-being and good fortune are increased.

BLOOD PRESSURE

Committing acts of kindness lowers blood pressure. According to Dr. David R. Hamilton, acts of kindness create emotional warmth, which releases a hormone known as oxytocin. Oxytocin causes the release of a chemical called nitric oxide, which dilates the blood vessels. This reduces blood pressure and, therefore, oxytocin is known as a "cardioprotective" hormone. It protects the heart by lowering blood pressure.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 01-Jan Calvin Gowan
- 03-Jan Ronald Bishop
- 03-Jan Ashley Groshong
- 03-Jan Kathy Hamlin
- 03-Jan Mike Link
- 05-Jan Heather Decker
- 05-Jan Piper Martin
- 05-Jan Samantha Shewmake
- 06-Jan Joyce Tappy
- 07-Jan Glenn Bowman
- 07-Jan Lana Cox
- 07-Jan Chris Fincher
- 07-Jan Christina Johnson
- 07-Jan Shay Poore
- 07-Jan Laura Jo White
- 08-Jan Becky Balzraine
- 08-Jan Avery Huddleston
- 08-Jan Jim Scroggins
- 09-Jan Mary Lou Dorsey
- 09-Jan Beulah Moore
- 09-Jan Marsha Weston-Fiss
- 10-Jan Emily Voorhees
- 11-Jan Riley Eyster
- 11-Jan Paula Hubbard
- 11-Jan Stacy Lyons
- 11-Jan Norma Shaffer
- 12-Jan Lindsey Mayer
- 12-Jan Nathan Rain

- 13-Jan Aiden Napp
- 13-Jan Mylie Ramirez
- 14-Jan Dottye Aitken
- 14-Jan Scott Gwaltney
- 14-Jan Gregg Liedtke
- 18-Jan Amy Hale
- 18-Jan McLain Oertle
- 19-Jan Eileen Cheatham
- 19-Jan Julie Hobbs
- 19-Jan D.J. Redden Jr.
- 21-Jan Scott Aitken
- 21-Jan Annabelle Chester
- 21-Jan Russell Wheat Jr.
- 22-Jan Clayton Bunt
- 22-Jan William Garrison
- 23-Jan Ken Gimmy
- 23-Jan Tamera Martin
- 24-Jan Ryan Groshong
- 25-Jan Lindsey Cameron
- 25-Jan Jan Poore
- 26-Jan Sandy Moore
- 27-Jan David Sheppard
- 27-Jan James Sheppard
- 28-Jan Duane Moore

- 29-Jan Gail Hansard
- 29-Jan Mychal Voorhees
- 30-Jan Raymond Shaffer
- 30-Jan Logan Sims
- 30-Jan Tom Voorhees
- 30-Jan Londa Weller
- 31-Jan Jessica Barnes
- 31-Jan Geno Hartman
- 31-Jan Marlo Schiber
- 31-Jan William Sullivan
- 31-Jan Miranda Walters



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 05-Jan Kelly & Rachel McPheters
- 20-Jan John & Rita White
- 24-Jan Joe & Debra Hoertel
- 27-Jan Dan & Tammy Davis



Church Directory - Help Us Keep It Up-To-Date!

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



DECEMBER Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 12/31/2019	\$19657.00
Designated Giving:	through 12/31/2019	\$6278.77
	Capital Improvements	180.00
	Loose Change	185.60
	Steeple Postage	34.00
	Flowers	281.00
	Upper Room	14.00
	Helping Hands	500.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	120.00
	UMCOR	500.00
	Missions (undesigned)	20.00
	Offering Envelopes	67.50
	Salvation Army	53.67
	Seasons of Life (misc)	25.00
	Christmas Dinner Donations	898.00
	Apportionment Gift (WOW)	3400.00
Christmas Offering		2655.00
Student Offering		5.00
Thanksgiving Offering		670.00
Capital Campaign		1125.00
Total:		\$30390.77

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

Average Attendance for DECEMBER 2019

Early Service	43
Late Service	51
Sunday School	24
Visitors	2



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

January's Loose Change Project is the SPERO Family Services 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!

DEADLINE FOR February 2020 STEEPLE, Tuesday JANUARY 21st!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

400 N. Central Ave.
Roxana, IL
FREE FAMILY MOVIES
EACH MONTH!

Saturday, January 18
@ 6 p.m.





Poinsettias 2019

LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of their Family
 CARLEEN BALZRAINE in honor of her Children and Grandchildren
 DON BUNT, SR in memory of Evelyn Bunt
 SUE CARR in memory of her mom, Alice Burrows
 BECKY CHESTER in memory of Roy & Ann, Roy Jr., Bill Hatcher, and Lynnann Chester
 JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of their Family
 TRACY FRANKS in memory of her Parents, Lute & Dolores Taulbee
 JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in memory of her Father, Bill Shoppell
 JIM & MAGGIE FUNKE in honor of her Mother, Sally Lay and their Kids, Grandkids, and Greats
 MARJORIE HALL in memory of her Son, Dennis Hall
 JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of their Deceased Loved Ones
 JIM & JANE HERNDON in honor of their Children & Grandchildren
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Meghan Hickerson
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in honor of Lori Hickerson
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Dr. Norman & Carole Taylor

THE HICKERSON FAMILY in honor of Iris Uzzell's 80th Birthday!
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in honor of "The Church Ladies"
 DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her parents, Victor & Beulah Strohbeck
 DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children and Grandchildren
 TOM & KAREN MARTIN in honor of their Grandsons: Maddox, Hunter, Wyatt, & Colton
 RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in memory of their Parents, Merle & Norma Davis and Bob & Annabelle McLain
 RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of their 8 Grandchildren
 JAYME SCROGGINS in honor of her Children & Grandchildren
 JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in memory of her dad & mom, Dr. Norman & Carole Taylor
 JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in honor of the birth of her Grand-Niece, Vera Profancik
 TOM & RUTH VOORHEES in honor of their Family

Thank you everyone!

CAP 'N MITTEN TREE



Your efforts to cover the **Cap 'N Mitten Tree** brought these results: **73** pairs of gloves / mittens, **8** scarves, **33** caps, **19** pairs of underwear, and **46** pairs of socks for a total of **179** gifts on the tree! Your generosity will bring warmth and comfort

to many people this winter. Thank you and God bless you for your gifts!

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

~Jonathan Edwards~



Merry Christmas 2019 Sweet Sounds!



We Say Goodbye To Our Dear Friend...

Charles "Charley" P. Woodward, 86, passed away Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at Eden Village in Edwardsville.

He was born June 9, 1933 in Rush Hill, MO. He was retired from Laclede Steel after 27 years of service. Charley was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of the Wood River Masonic Lodge #1062 AF & AM. He enjoyed boating, camping and gardening in his free time.

He is survived by two sons, Andy Woodward of Rosewood Heights and Tony (Stacey) Woodward of Rosewood Heights; a daughter, Barb (Art) Deck of Worden; six grandchildren, Amanda (Rick) Skiff, Sarah (Jim) Mather, Charles Brian Woodward, Brandy (Phillip) Spraggs, Vincent (Cara) Woodward, and Larrisa Bosche; great-grandchildren, Grace and Richard Skiff, Dakota Mather, Jasper and Daphine Woodward, Julie, Vickie, Damian and Zachary Spraggs; great-great-grandchild, Oliver; and two brothers, Bill Woodward of Alton and Richard (Judy) Woodward of Edwardsville.

He was preceded in death by his father, Hardy Woodward; his mother, Lucille (Oppers) Woodward; his wife, Lois (Churchwell) Woodward; and his sister, Sally Halford.

Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

UPCOMING IGRC & MISSISSIPPI RIVER DISTRICT EVENTS

Prayer team initiates Conference Prayer Line

If you are involved in any prayer ministry for the Lord, the IGRC prayer team THANKS you for being faithful. I am hopeful that all is going well as we continue to be in prayer for our conference, our churches, and ourselves.

The **IGRC Prayer Team** has started a **Conference Prayer Line** that meets every **Sunday at 7 p.m.** This conference Prayer Line consists of a five minute devotion, prayer requests, testimonies, and prayers. Please join us. The call number and access code are as follows:

Conference number: (218) 895-0912 Access code: 339523

Grace and Peace - Aletha Weatherall - IGRC Prayer Team Coordinator

IGRC Scholarship applicants sought

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry is offering a scholarship opportunity for the 2020-2021 school year to undergraduate students.

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry Illinois Great Rivers Conference 2020 Undergraduate Scholarship is being offered. Applicants must be members of a United Methodist Church in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for a minimum of one year. Scholarships awarded will be sent to the community college, college or university that the student will be attending during the 2020-2021 school year to help pay for their undergraduate tuition. The scholarships awarded will be a minimum of \$500.

Applications must be submitted by midnight on March 1, 2020. If you have any questions, contact Christy Blickensderfer at cblickensderfer@igrc.org or Amy Shreve at ashreve@igrc.org.

<https://igrc-reg.brtaapp.com/igrcscholarship> **Please note:** There is no way to save this application in process. Once you have submitted your application you will not be able to review or edit it. It is recommended to review the entire application process before beginning.





MESSY CHURCH

What is Messy Church, and why is this a good thing? In the new year, we are looking for ways to serve and encourage families in our community. Messy Church is a worship option we will offer for our members and neighbors. It is a relaxed experience that includes a friendly welcome zone and a time for busy families to reconnect to one another. Activities include crafts, music, story and prayer. Finally, the worship experience ends with a light supper, shared by all. Messy Church is based on the values of intergenerational worship, celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ.

At the monthly Messy Church gathering we will explore a biblical theme through hands-on creative activities, a short worship celebration of story, song and prayer, and conclude at a table sharing a meal. It does not prioritize either the needs of children or adults but intentionally welcomes and provides for all ages. Messy Church is an intergenerational experience for people who are looking for an interactive form of church. People of all ages and sizes are welcome!

Rev. Greg Ross from Australia describes Messy Church in this way. "It introduces people to the risen Christ by offering the unconditional hospitality of God in a way that has all ages sharing together in all parts of Messy Church and in ways that strive to engage people."

Be in prayer with us as we seek to bring this beautiful ministry to St Paul.

Blessings!
Pastor Debra

HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY: JANUARY 19

Human Relations Sunday calls United Methodists to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

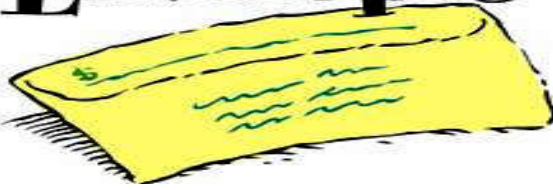
When "Donna," an active participant at Solomon Community Temple United Methodist Church in Milwaukee, WI, became pregnant as a teen, she found herself enfolded in Blanket of Love, a Christ-centered ministry working to improve birth outcomes of African-American babies by teaching prenatal care, infant care, and parenting skills to young pregnant African-American women and their families.

Director Julia Means, R.N., says, "The first thing I teach them is—as a mother—you must teach them to pray. Children need to be brought up in church."

We ask you to consider a generous gift to this special offering of our church.



Offering Envelopes



ALL 2020 Envelopes remaining after church on January 5, 2020 will be mailed. Please pick them up if you are at church to save on the postage!

PLEASE, begin using the 2020 Offering Envelopes!

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

Thank you!!



Thank You to all of our Salvation Army Bell Ringers who rang on



Friday, Dec. 13th 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.



PECANS:

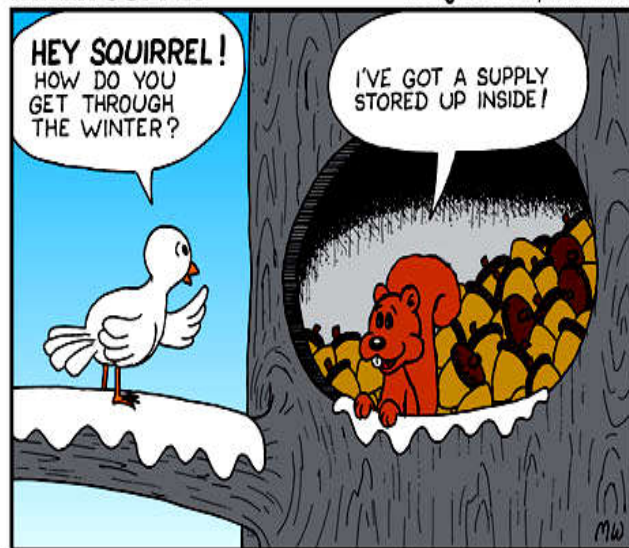
Are still available in the office throughout the week! The cost is:

\$11.00 for the 1lb. bag of plain

The pecans are being sold as a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship missions.

INNER SUPPLY

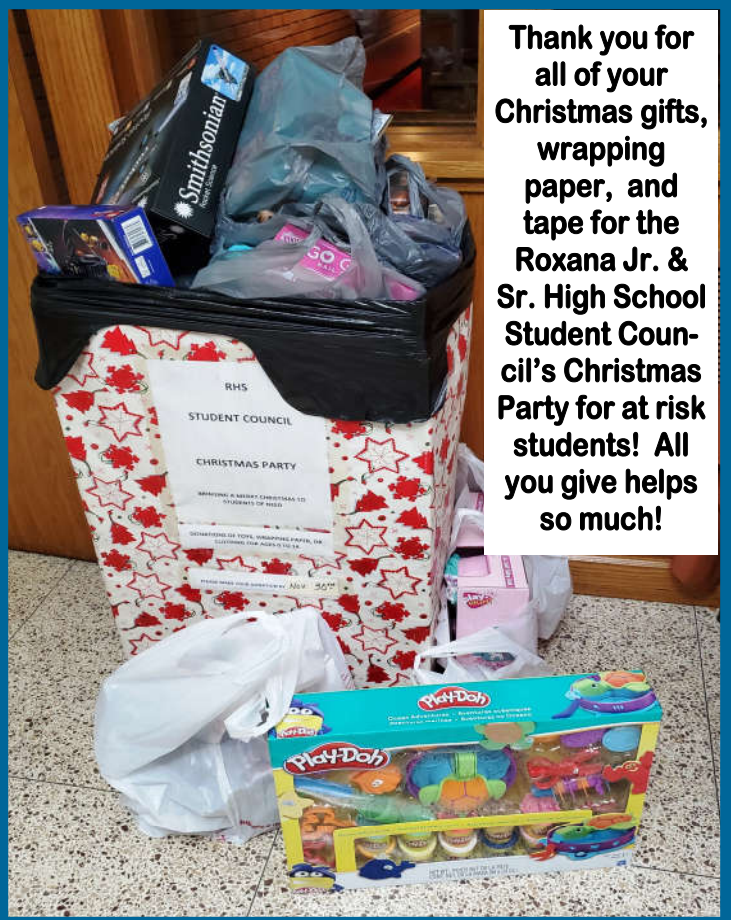
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



© 2008 Michael D. Waters www.joyfultoons.com

My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you.

- PROVERBS 7:1 NIV



Thank you for all of your Christmas gifts, wrapping paper, and tape for the Roxana Jr. & Sr. High School Student Council's Christmas Party for at risk students! All you give helps so much!



2020 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

As we say good-bye to 2019, we think about the year to come. What will 2020 bring to us? We don't know exactly what will come of this new year, but we do know that we intend to follow the mission Christ set forth for us. During the waning thoughts of 2019, we ask that you be in prayer about what shape your stewardship will take in the coming year. In 2020, we are focusing on

Gathering and Growing - Investing in Spiritual Community.

When we offer our gifts to the church, we are investing in spiritual community. Through your generosity, we can do wonderful things. We offer Vacation Bible School; this year we were able to demonstrate the love of Christ to 65 local children. We assist many people with rent, gas money, and help with utilities. We contribute to various social services in the community. I will never forget the love and generosity of the church members when I requested dental hygiene supplies for our trip to Honduras. I was overwhelmed! Thank you for the spirit of generosity you exemplify!

The writer of Hebrews reminds us, *"Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God"* (Hebrews 13:15-16 - NLT).

As you think about your personal budgets for 2020, remember that church leadership is also looking ahead. **We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday on January 26th.** Please prayerfully complete your estimate of giving card after you receive it in the mail and hand it in on the 26th. Your response will allow us to accurately plan our ministries in the future. Your thoughtful gifts will help us to continue to Gather and Grow so that we can invest in spiritual community.

Be Blessed! Pastor Debra



In a world where you can be anything... Be Kind!

Exciting changes for the youth! We will begin meeting every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays after church until 1pm but not the 4th Sunday of the month. We will serve lunch, do our Bible study, and play games. On months where there is a 5th Sunday, we will plan an activity out of the church and in the community! If you haven't ever checked out our youth group, please give us a try! We are looking to grow our unique group and we want all of our St. Paul youth to be a part of KIND (grades 6th-12th)!

Join us on Sunday, January 5th after church in the youth room for an icebreaker and a meal.

We love you, church!

In God's Love and Kindness, Lauren Cranmer - Youth Director



WOMEN OF WORSHIP 2019 REPORT

The **St. Paul Women of Worship** met on **December 4** for their **Annual Christmas Party**. After the potluck luncheon it was our pleasure to distribute the money from our various projects during the year. These amounts were given to the following organizations:

School Nurses: Roxana - \$ 1,400	UMCOR	\$ 500	* Bethalto and E. Alton have other sources
Bethalto - 400*	SPERO Family Services	600	of income for these expenditures that
East Alton- 600*	St. Paul Help. Hands	500	Roxana does not have, thus the varying
Salvation Army	Lessie Bates	750	amounts.
Oasis Women's Ctr.	St. Paul Apportionment	3,400	
Community Hope Center	Ethiopia Girls Project	100	
Operation Blessing	Cub Scouts	150	
Boy Scouts	Capital Campaign St Paul	500	
Venture Crew		\$10,000	

In addition to the monetary donations, we have supplied OASIS with 71 coverlets made from knit material scraps, 20 Happy Bears per month and numerous crocheted baby caps for newborns to Alton Memorial Hospital. WOW members also organize and serve the funeral dinners. Our **SINCERE THANKS** to everyone who helped in any way to make our many projects so successful during the past year. Your participation has made it possible to provide these donations to those in need. God Bless all of you for your generous spirit.

➔ **NOTE:** **CRAFTS** will resume on **Tuesday, January 21st** at 9:00 a.m. We invite **ANY-ONE** interested to join us! Also, we would really appreciate any of your ideas for items to make and directions on "how to make it." The first WOW meeting for 2020 will also be held on Jan. 21st beginning about **NOON** with a "Bring-Your-Sack-Lunch" lunch and a meeting beginning at 12:30 p.m. See you then...all women are invited!

Thank you so much to the many people who made our Christmas Eve services so special!

5 p.m. service:

Reader - Dave Schiber

Sound Tech - Randy McLain

Special Music - Mike Link

Communion Helper - Tabby Barclay

Advent Candle Lighters - Mike & Kathy Link and Tabby Barclay

Greeters/Ushers - the Dave Schiber family

7 p.m. Service:

Reader - Connie Hickerson

Sound Tech - Mike Link

Special Music - Mike Link

Communion Helper - Connie Hickerson

Advent Candle Lighter - Karen Martin

Greeters/Ushers - Kay & Don Gwaltney



Thank you to **Cheri Trusty** who played the harp, piano, and organ at both services. A very special thank you to **Maggie Funke** who brainstormed and created the candle display with me. Thank you to all who invited friends and family to celebrate with us. It was a glorious evening!

-Pastor Debra



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.

1 THESS 5:16-18



Mission Possible

☺ → **MISSION POSSIBLE UPDATE** ← ☺

As we move past the end of another year it is nice to know that we have completed the planned work in our Mission Possible Campaign. What is equally comforting is the knowledge that we provided in excess of \$500,000 in work, in large part due to your generosity, and have done so with only approximately \$40,000 in remaining debt. We are continuing to lower this debt, with your generosity, on a monthly basis. Please continue your prayers and generosity as we seek to meet our goal of “no indebtedness.” Hopefully, the cessation of our debt will then allow us to once again meet our obligations (apportionments) to the greater United Methodist Church.

Finally, it is exciting to report that we have contracted with the same people who performed our parking renovation work out front, to provide a ramp to the front door of the church. This is an important addition to our facility where our ADA (chairlift) items are located. The work will provide a better and safer access to the equipment. We have now heard when the work may begin!

Many blessings and thanks to all, from your current St. Paul UMC Trustees:
Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, John Hendricks,
Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel