

*St. Paul's
United Church of Christ
104 Green Street
Sellersville PA 18960*

Phone: 215-257-7268

Fax: 215-257-0902

Web: www.stpaulsucc.net

Staff

- ◆ Rev. Patti Thomas, Pastor
 - ◆ Nancy Ziegenfuss, Director
Of Christian Education
 - ◆ Christopher Ziegenfuss,
Choir Director
 - ◆ Peter Ziegenfuss,
Handbell Choir Director
 - ◆ Ruth Schoeller, Organist
 - ◆ James Stover, Assistant
Organist
 - ◆ Karen Weikel, Secretary,
Newsletter Editor
 - ◆ Dennis Hurchalla, Custodian
 - ◆ Cindy Bibic, Financial Secty.
-

*~ Weekly Worship ~
9 am in Fellowship Hall*

*8 and 10:15 am. beginning
September 9*

*Sunday School
~ begins September 9 ~*

~ The Voice of Consistory ~

The Gospel lesson on June 3, when I filled in for Pastor Patti, was the story of Nicodemus coming to see Jesus, and Jesus telling him he must be 'born anew'. I asked those of you listening to the sermon if you had experienced any born anew moments in your life.

I did not take time to share a recent example from my life, one that that also may help to explain what the members of the revitalization Team learned in that three year process and beyond.

The sermon background spoke about how we could participate this process of being born anew: take the first step! We took many first steps in Revitalization. Agreeing to take part. Moving into year two after a first year that left us lost. Trusting the program. Then: a skit about Lazarus, a whole church small group book study, a worship plan for Advent, Steel Drums at Winterfest for the community, Young Adult/Family programs such as a Pig Roast and Coffee Talk, and many other ideas that were saved for the future.

These were concrete, visible activities that really just reflected what was happening inside each of us individually and as a group. We learned to trust in the power of the spirit and risked that first step and we were each born anew or born from above. It really was that radical, born again type experience that Jesus was trying to tell Nicodemus about. Like Nicodemus, our church, let alone life, experience may have said that this was impossible, but now we were caught up in the spirit and led by it. It is difficult to describe, but it changed each of us.

The author of the book in our current book study sums up what I feel personally after Revitalization. Here are just two points he lists when talking about apostolic characteristics like those exhibited by our church's namesake, Paul:

- 1) The passionate conviction that we offer something that will renew human lives and communities.
- 2) The belief that God sent us to this particular place at this particular moment.

I feel this so strongly that it seems to direct each thought of what St. Paul's should be and do. Like so many other times in life, we received so much more than we gave as part of Revitalization. We were truly revitalized ourselves. You might even say 'born anew'.

The logo for 'Spiritual Renewal' features the words 'Spiritual' and 'Renewal' stacked vertically in a serif font. A small cross icon is positioned above the letter 'i' in 'Spiritual'.

Neil Clark



at St. Paul's ~ July and August ~

▪ **Sunday, July 1, 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Worship in Fellowship Hall
through Sept. 9

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: Healing Powers ~ Experiences of vulnerability may make us feel as if we have nowhere to turn. In those times and places, we are invited to turn to God, whose compassion knows no boundaries. We see in these readings, the character of God's power revealed in loving acts of healing and saving. In receiving and in offering such care, we open ourselves to lives of wholeness in God's reign.



-Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

* * * * *

▪ **Sunday, July 8, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: Sent with Power ~ Living in the fullness of God's powerful and loving presence is a faith-filled journey. God calls and sends; our response is trust that we are being sent where we are needed. The readings today invite us to discern God's wisdom as we move forward, embracing challenges and hurdles with hope and imagination.

-Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

-Commissioning NYE Youth.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

▪ **Sunday, July 15, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: God-inspired Joy ~ Living in the fullness of God's powerful and living presence is a faith-filled journey. As we discern God's presence among us, we are called to express our joy in words and deeds of praise. In so doing, we welcome the grace that God so freely bestows. Human made tension and misunderstanding are not able to suppress such God-inspired joy.

-Scriptures: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Mark 6:14-29

-Baptism of Justis Bergey

-Joyful Noise offering.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.



* * * * *

▪ **Sunday, July 22, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: Wherever We Are ~ For those weary of wandering, home speaks of peace and rest. Why wouldn't God want the same? David plans to build a home for God, but receives instead the promise of a new house. Wherever we are – in wilderness wandering, in cross-forged peace, in acts of compassion – God is there. Covenant welcomes us into God's household; it is our place.

-Scriptures: 2 Samuel 7:1-14
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

-Baptism for Caroline Hendricks and Oliver Moyer

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.



Worship Services, continued...

▪ **Sunday, July 29, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: God's Abundant Presence ~ In all circumstances, God's abundant presence sustains us and provides more than we need – food, faith, grace, salvation. We are called to respond to God's activity among us, ordering our lives in ways that proclaim and extend God's abundant gifts to others.

-Scriptures: Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

***Christmas is a time for giving. In addition to your weekly offering, you are invited to use the offering envelope to help Living Water UCC funding. (More information on page 10)*

AUGUST

▪ **Sunday, August 5, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-ALTAR STYLE HOLY COMMUNION.

-Worship at 9 am.

-Theme: Bread of Life ~ Bread of life signifies both the gift and sign of God's presence among us. Its gift reminds us, and questions us about, what is of real value. That is, what is essential to life and community with God and others, and what is illusion? Its sign points us to its gracious source in the Holy One, who provides all that is needed for life and community.

-Scriptures: Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

-Guest soloist ~ John Butterwick.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.



-Lancaster Theological Seminary will be supported on August 5th.

The Seminary lives out its mission to educate and strengthen leaders for congregations, enable other Christian vocations, foster lifelong learning, and nurture a worshiping and caring community. The Church has high expectations for its ordained leaders. In addition to mastering the academics required to lead a church, the expectation is that formation for ministry includes spiritual centeredness, biblical knowledge, and administrative and pastoral skills.

No funds come to the seven UCC seminaries from the national budget of the Church. Instead, each Seminary has been encouraged to develop a network of regional support for education from its local / regional churches and individual donors. Envelopes are attached to this GOOD NEWS.

Please give generously.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 12th

10:30 AM (note time)

Location: Perkasio Park, 9th Street, Perkasio (note location)

-Theme: Shaping Community ~ What does it mean to live as a community that is shaped by God's abundant presence? God's gifts of love and forgiveness transform Jesus' followers to live life to its fullness as the body of Christ. Giving and receiving such grace shapes our choices, guiding us to invite God's love to be the "rule" or the measure of our life together.

-Scriptures: Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51



* * * * *

~ Lunch, with the residents, will follow the service ~ please sign up to bring either BBQ or a salad.

Worship Services, continued...

▪ **Sunday, August 19, 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-**Theme: Wisdom Quest** ~ We seek God's wisdom in our quest to know what is good and right, and to live in God's way. Such wisdom begins in the recognition of God's presence. It makes the most of times and choices given. Such wisdom pushes beneath surface appearances to discern fresh insights from the Spirit's leading; it seeks to avoid the painful consequences of human folly.

-**Scriptures:** 1 Kings 2:10-21; 3:3-14
John 6:51-58

-**Joyful Noise loose change offering.**

-**Mr. Frank McCrae, representing the Gideons, will give a brief presentation.**

-**Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.**



▪ **Sunday, August 26, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 9 am.

-**Theme: At Home with God** ~ On every journey we undertake, we may be at home with God wherever we are. Such a trusted dwelling place provides security and hope. But this home is not ours alone. God makes room and invites all to find place and sanctuary. Those often deemed as least and least likely are welcomed. We celebrate together the joy of living in God's whole community.

-**Scriptures:** Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

-**Blessing of backpacks and lunch-boxes during worship.**

-**Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.**

Highlights of Important Dates in September . . .

* Sunday, September 2nd ~ 9 am

* Sunday, September 9th ~ 8/10:15 am
RALLY DAY

-Mark your calendars! Look for more information as summer draws to a close.



~ **TOT TIME coming in the Fall** ~

A Tot Time Program will be offered beginning this Fall on Monday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 am.

- Tot Time will be an hour long program for children and their parent / caregiver.
- The program will be geared to children ages 1-3, but younger siblings may accompany their older siblings. Tot Time will be held in the Nursery.
- The program will consist of a half hour of free play followed by a half hour of stories, songs, and finger plays with a simple snack.

Be on the lookout! Informative invitation flyers will be sent to all eligible church families in August.

Invite a friend!



~ Vacation Bible School Reminder ~

**SonRise National Parks Vacation Bible School is
July 16 – 20th
at St. Andrew’s U.C.C., Perkasio
from 9 am. until 12 Noon.**

****Donations needed for VBS Operation Christmas Child Mission Project include:**

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| Washcloths | Toothbrushes | Toothpaste tubes | Shoebboxes |
| Soap bars | Bags of wrapped candy | Crayon packages | Small toys |

****Donations needed for craft projects include:**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Scrub Sponges with pads, 1” thick | Oatmeal containers with lids (coffee cans, bread crumb containers of equal size) |
| Skeins of <u>thin</u> yarn | |
| Sheets of craft foam | Small stones, shells, mosaics, glass (for garden stepping stones) |

Items can be placed in the collection box located in Fellowship Hall by July 8th
Please speak to Nancy Ziegenfuss if you have any questions.
Thank You!!!



CELEBRATION SUNDAY
was held June 10 and proudly recognized
High School ~ College ~ James Frantz Award Recipient

Graduates from High School include:

Caryn Skalon, daughter of Melissa and Eric Pruss, granddaughter of Rev. George and Carolyn Schmidt, graduated from High School in Arizona.



Graduating from College:

Aaron Clark, son of Neil and Brenda Clark and grandson to Ellen Clark ~ graduated from Penn State University with a BA, in Broadcast Journalism and a Minor in Political Science. Aaron was on the Dean’s List and a College of Communications scholarship winner.

Aaron was also a member of the Penn State Baseball Club, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, President, Recruitment Chair, membership Development Chair and Greek Week Overall Committee Chair.

At this time, Aaron is producer of the 69 News at Noon (WFMZ-TV), Allentown and Web producer of WFMZ.com. In his spare time, Aaron is coaching the Abington Friends School Softball team and a member of St. Paul’s Consistory.

Josh Fosbenner, son of Chris and Cindy Fosbenner graduated with honors from Farleigh Dickinson University with a degree in Creative Writing. Josh is actively pursuing a job in his field.

Congratulations, Caryn, Aaron and Josh!



The James Frantz Dedication Award presented during Celebration Service

We are delighted to announce that **Renay Landis**, daughter of Greg and Sue Landis, received the James Frantz Dedication Award.

This award is presented to a youth who shows dedication to the church, similar to the dedication shown by Jim Frantz who was a lifelong dedicated member of St. Paul's from 1919 to 1999.

Renay is involved in Youth Group, regularly attends Sunday School, serves as Liturgist and took part in the Youth Service. Renay volunteers in the Nursery and at many functions that ask for volunteers as Renay is always there to say she will help. You can find Renay involved in every activity at St. Paul's.

A plaque with her name is on display. \$150 was awarded to Renay to designate to a cause yet to be named.

Congratulations, Renay!



“The Heat is On” but that is because Mother Nature wants it to be.

But we, at St. Paul's, are through a heating season that was probably the kindest in that we had a very mild winter, but the toughest in recent history from the standpoint of costs to repair our heating system.

Consistory started “The Heat Is On” campaign to raise monies to pay for the unexpected repairs to our heating system. Your response has truly been one of blessing, showing God's abundance through your giving.

In the months of this campaign, without much fanfare or hoopla, you have contributed \$12,927.00!! That money coupled with \$10,000 from Endowment marked a total to date of \$22,927.00 raised to cover these repairs and improvements to the heating system.

Currently we have paid \$20,412.04 for work with one remaining item on our list for \$2,147.00 that has been approved to be done. Once that is completed, our heating system should “be like new.” Any excess monies will go back to Endowment to replace the \$10,000 taken.

So, if you still want to give to “The Heat Is On,” go right ahead, knowing that your generosity will replenish money given from Endowment. “The Heat Is On” campaign is now officially turned off (just like our heat).

God Bless you all for your support of this campaign.

Paul Koehler, Consistory member





**INTER-FAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK
ST. PAUL'S ~ August 2012**

**'Buddy Church' congregation with
St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's UCC.**

Dinner Volunteers

- Needed every evening, approximately between 5:45 pm. and 7:30 pm.
- Families and/or individuals bring the evening meal and eat with the participant families.
- Dinner volunteers stay at the church until the overnight volunteers arrive.
- Participant families are responsible for setting the table and cleaning up after the meal.
- A prayer should be said before the meal.

Overnight Volunteers

- Two volunteers needed every night to "sleep over" at church and interact with families during the evening hours.
- Arrive at approximately 7:30 pm. and leave in the early am.
- Families are encouraged to bring their children.
- At least one female overnight volunteer is needed (due to predominant makeup of the guest families)
- Interfaith provides cots for volunteers but volunteers need to bring their own bedding.

Transportation Volunteers

- Use own cars to drive families to and from the day center.
- Times are early in the AM and late in the afternoon.
- Families will already have needed car seats for infants and children.
- All seat belt and car seat laws must be followed.

Child Care Volunteers

- May be needed one evening per week while participant families are in meetings.
- Must have at least one adult volunteer.
- Teenagers and children are welcome to help.

~ Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Richard Moyer, 215-257-4926 or Pastor Patti ~

**Inter-faith Hospitality Network
St. Paul's UCC ~ August 2012**



NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I am interested in serving IHN in one/more of the following areas & would like more information.

_____ Dinner Volunteer

_____ Child Care Volunteer

_____ Overnight Volunteer

_____ Transportation Volunteer

*Return this form to the church office,
drop in the offering plate or give to Rick Moyer.*



*~Blessing of Backpacks/Lunchboxes
for the children of St. Paul's ~*

**School just ended for summer, and we're asking you to think about
going back to school in the Fall!**

Please mark your calendars and plan to bring your backpacks and lunchboxes
to worship on August 26th .

Pastor Patti will once again offer a blessing to prepare these supplies for the upcoming school year.

-Collection of School supplies for Pennridge FISH-

We are collecting school supplies to donate to Pennridge FISH for distribution to needy families in the
community as they prepare to head back to school. The list below contains suggested items for
donation. A collection box is located in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring your donations to church by August 12.

School bags and backpacks
Binders
Prong folders
Notebook filler paper
Pens
Highlighters
Construction paper
Glue sticks
Water color paints
Rulers
Good calculators (for higher math)

Notebooks
Pocket folders
Pocket and prong folders
Pencils
Crayons
Erasers
Glitter
Glue
Book covers
Compasses



LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE?

Why not purchase a backpack and fill it with the above items!
Let's see how many children we can provide school supplies for this summer!



Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ **Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation** ~ Hosts are needed! Meet and greet your church family, as well as share your gift for serving ~ a cold drink, a hot cup of coffee, and some cookies to share. Check out the open dates and sign up on the sheet located on the table in Fellowship Hall.

All dates in July and August are open ~choose your date!

- ◆ ***BULLETIN and ALTAR FLOWER charts have openings:***

Bulletin chart openings include: July 8 and August 26, September 9, September 16

Altar Flower chart openings include: July 1, July 8, July 29, and August 26

Stewardship of the Earth: “Honor and Preserve All of God’s Creation”



HOW GREEN ARE YOU? A Quiz – Part Two

7. It’s time for a healthy dinner: Salmon at the fish counter, you choose:
 - a. Atlantic.
 - b. Wild caught from WA, Oregon or California.
 - c. Neither; you skip the fish counter and buy canned.

8. With fruits and vegetable you look for this label:
 - a. Organic.
 - b. Locally grown.
 - c. Don’t look at labels.

9. It’s your turn to do the dishes. Do you:
 - a. Wash everything by hand.
 - b. Rinse off bits of food, then load the dishwasher.
 - c. Put the dirty dishes straight into the dishwasher.

10. After mowing the lawn, what do you do with the clippings?
 - a. Leave them in the yard.
 - b. Bag them and put them out for pick up.

11. When a light bulb burns out, you replace it with:
 - a. An incandescent light bulb.
 - b. A compact florescent light bulb. (CFL)
 - c. A light-emitting diode bulb. (LED)

12. You clean out the medicine cabinet and find expired medications. Do you:
 - a. Flush them down the toilet.
 - b. Toss them in the garbage but recycle the container.
 - c. Return them to the pharmacy.



See answers to Quiz, Part Two ~ on page 10

Christmas in July ~Living Waters United Church of Christ ~

located in Philadelphia with Dwayne D. Royster as Sr. Pastor

Our Christmas in July offering will be dedicated to help *Living Waters UCC* provide for office items as they set up their new office. They are in the midst of repairs and renovations and have contractors and volunteers fixing up their new building.

Special needs in the church include office items ~ so, our goal is to purchase as many boxes of copier paper (1 case of white as well as all the colors which cost approximately \$45.00) as well as a supply of pens, pencils, and post-its to set up the space.



Special envelopes marked “*Living Waters U.C.C. / Christmas in July*” are located in Fellowship Hall and other locations around the church. Funds will be supported through our Christmas in July celebration on July 29th.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE PA SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE. . .

SUMMER DAY OF PRAYER ~ August 22 (Wednesday)

(Kline Center, Mensch Mill Conference & Retreat Center, Alburtis, PA). This prayer day, **Discipleship Through Prayer and Healing Ministries**, led by Rev. Wanda D. Craner, Minister of Spiritual Nurture and members of the Spiritual Life Mission Team will explore the ways that we can reach out to the larger community as disciples of prayer and healing. We will experience and share prayer avenues that have been powerful blessings. Cost is \$20. Registration deadline: August 15. Register on-line at www.psec.org, or call 610-489-2056.

AND FROM Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, United Church of Christ General Minister and President:

St. Paul's is a "Five for Five" congregation of the United Church of Christ.

You have given to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support and all four of the special mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and The Christmas Fund. You are a leadership church in the U.C.C.

Through your generous giving, you are changing lives in your own neighborhood and in places far away, reaching out in compassion and justice to imagine and then build a better world. You offer extravagant welcome to spiritual seekers, plant new churches, nurture the vitality for established congregations and reach out through your web ministries.

This summer, thousands of young people will attend the National Youth Event, and your giving provides staffing and programs for a gathering that brings enthusiasm, energy and hope to the church. At the same time, you honor the covenant with a generation that has served long and faithfully when you meet the needs of retired pastors and their spouses. You also support the wider church that makes thee and many other ministries possible, nurturing leadership and providing resources in stewardship, worship, and evangelism .



...Red Cross Blood Drive ~ to take place here on Friday, July 20th from 2-7 pm. We are hosting this Blood Drive for Faith Baptist Church as they have construction at this time. Go online to www.redcrossblood.org to make appointment or call 215-257-5031x3304.

* * * * *

...Watch for your next GOOD NEWS Newsletter in early September! Please email your articles or place them in Karen's mailbox. Deadline for September news articles will be Wednesday, August 15.

* * * * *

... The Endowment Committee will be meeting to make decisions on how to spend the available interest. You may make a request for a program or project here at St. Paul's or a worthy organization or special need outside our church. Request forms are located in the Narthex inside a folder in the wall bracket. Please return filled out form to Scott Huff's mailbox.

* * * * *

...Bethany Children's Home Community Festival & 149th Anniversary Day, Friday, August 17. The Soul Singers, a Bethany singing group will perform along with The Uptown Band. There will be a car show, lots of food and carnival games, ending with fireworks. Event begins at 3 pm. Address is: 1863 Bethany Road, Womelsdorf, PA. Plan to attend!



HOW GREEN ARE YOU? “The Answers”

7. (a)0 (b)1 (c)2 ~ Canned salmon comes mainly from Alaskan waters; salmon from other states is endangered or threatened. “Atlantic” usually means farmed, a process that uses chemicals and/or unsustainable fishing practices.
8. (a)1 (b)2 (c)0 ~ The average meal can travel 1,500 miles to your table. Cut down on emissions by buying local produce (usually grown organically)
9. (a)0 (b)1 (c)2 ~ Running a fully loaded dishwasher can use half the energy and 1/6th less water than hand washing. Pre-rinsing can waste up to 6,000 gallons of water per year.
- 10.(a)1 (b)0 ~ American produce millions of tons of leaf and grass clippings; many end in landfills. Leaving them on the lawn makes the soil healthier.
- 11.(a)0 (b)1 (c)2 ~ Super-efficient LED light bulbs are expensive but last 3 times longer than CFL’s and over 10 times longer than incandescent.
- 12.(a)0 (b)1 (c)2 ~ Flushing pills sends them into waterways. Return meds to your pharmacist who will dispose of them properly.

What’s your score?

- 0-7 You’re pale green ~ It’s time to get more eco-conscious.
- 8-11 You’re bright green ~ The planet’s health is on your radar but not always top priority.
- 15-21 You’re fluorescent green as an environmental expert. Share your knowledge.



-From the National MPS Society ~ “Thank you for your contribution of \$2,000 to the National MPS Society’s 2012 Fundraiser. It is through your gifts that we are able to fund medical research grants and provide support to those affected by MPS and related diseases. Thank you for joining us in the fight against MPS.”

~ Terri L. Klein, Development Director

-From Living Water United Church of Christ ~ “On behalf of the ministers, officers and members of Living Waters UCC, I would like to thank you for your financial support of \$1,000. During this time of economic stress we take seriously the investment you have made in our church. On April 8th, we held our first Easter Sunday service open to the public with 45 visitors. An Open House will be held on September 22nd. We are located in the Oxford Circle section of Philadelphia. Again, thank you for your support.”

-Bishop Dwayne D. Royster, Sr. Pastor

-Many thanks to everyone who helped support the youth and adults going to the National Youth Event in July.

Joyfully, we can report that the congregation gave enormously to support the \$4,400 expenses for travel and rooms for the six youth and 2 adults. The Gift basket raffle was a huge success with many people contributing with baskets and restaurant coupons. Some winners include: Preston Ziegenfuss, Nancy Lyons, Jeremy Mask, Dorothy Mask, Sandy Wilhelm, Don Nase and Karen Weikel.

Thoughts to Ponder

Prayer Changes ~ More Than Things

Many of us have heard the saying, "Prayer Changes Things." We want to believe that God hears and answers our prayers. And so when we are diagnosed with a dreaded disease, or we are injured in an accident, we pray. And we mobilize our church's prayer chain, and our friends ask their churches to pray. And we should do all that. But the strange thing is that sometimes we get exactly what we ask for, and other times it seems we get nothing that we ask for.

Gordon MacDonald wrote in one of his books, "We live in a society that is reasonably organized. Put a letter in the box, and it usually ends up where you want it to go. Order an item from a catalogue, and it usually comes to you in the right size, color and model. Ask for someone to provide you a service, and it is reasonable to expect that it will work out that way. In other words, we are used to results in response to our arrangements. That is why prayer can be so discouraging to some of us." Prayer is not ordering an item from God, or arranging for a needed service. God is not a vending machine into which we pop our coins and receive our desired request.

"Prayer changes things" may be true to a point, but it may not change things the way I want them changed. I believe prayer is first and foremost about a relationship, a deep bond between God and me. Because I have this relationship with God, I can bring to God all my problems, needs, and troubles. I tell God exactly how I feel, and maybe even what I want, while always acknowledging that I am limited in my understanding, and that God sees the big picture. What I want and what I think God should do, may not be the best God can do or what would be in the best interest of the one being prayed for. And so, like Jesus, we pray that God's will may be done.



So ultimately, prayer is about changing me and aligning my heart with God's heart. True prayer changes me first and perhaps some things get changed in the process.

~Martha Kolb-Wyckoff, Chaplain at Rockhill Community
(submitted by Richard Moyer)



Church Bulletin errors . . .

- ◆ "Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door."
- ◆ "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."
- ◆ "Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days."
- ◆ "Eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy."

-Submitted by Ruth E. Smith

BREAK THOU THE BREAD OF LIFE

Mary Ann Lathbury, 1841-1912

*(Think of this hymn as we observe our summer communion.)
I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me will never go hungry,
and he who believes in Me will never be thirsty.
John 6:35*

As Christians, our supreme occupation must always be with Christ Himself—not merely our church, denomination or religious system. Reading the Bible and spending time in prayer are vital to our spiritual well-being. But even these activities are a means to an end, the end purpose being that they bring us into a closer relationship with God Himself. Notice the words of this hymn:

*Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord...
And in Thy book revealed I see the Lord.*

Although it is often used as a communion service hymn, this hymn's real teaching is that God's Word—"Bread of Life" should nourish our spiritual lives and bring us into an ever closer relationship with our Lord.

The hymn's author, Mary Lathbury, was a longtime associate with the Chautauqua Assembly, a Methodist camp meeting located on beautiful Lake Chautauqua in New York. In 1877, at the request of the camp director, Miss Lathbury wrote these words to be used as a theme song for the Bible study sessions. The music was composed by the gifted music director of Chautauqua, William F. Sherwin. The hymn has since been widely used at the camp grounds, as it has been by Christians everywhere for times of quiet reflection upon the things of God.

*Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, as Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea:
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord; my spirit pants for Thee, O living Word.*

*Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me—to me, as Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee:
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall, and I shall find my peace, my All in all.*



*Thou are the bread of life, O Lord, to me; Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me:
Give me to eat and live with Thee above; teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.
O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me, that He may touch my eyes and make me see:
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word, and in Thy book revealed I see the Lord.*

Psalms 63:1, 119:45; Jeremiah 15:16; Matthew 14:13-21

Determine that your life will reflect complete peace and contentment as you allow Christ to nourish and fill you with Himself. Use this hymn to help in this spiritual quest,

*Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord:
My spirit pants for Thee, O loving Word.*

*Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
And in Thy book revealed I see the Lord.*

~ submitted by Ruth Schoeller

