

# Sharing the GOOD NEWS



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

September, 2012

## Rally Day Celebration

When: Sunday, September 9

Theme: ***I Have Hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You ~ Ps. 119:11***

- ◆ The Bible is full of good news and promises. It is a source of peace, comfort, strength, and wisdom.
- ◆ Sending children to Sunday School is the best way for them to be exposed to God's love and promises as they hear the Bible lessons and memorize Bible verses.
- ◆ Having God's Word in their hearts will enable them to make wise choices when faced with temptation. It will guide them in the way they should go.

***Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path ~ Ps. 119:105***

### **Sunday School classes**

will gather in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.  
for some singing before heading back to their classrooms  
to meet and greet one another and catch up after the summer.  
~ All classes will be participating in the worship service at 10:15 am. ~

Ice Cream Social



**EVERYONE...**  
**you are invited to stay and share in the**  
**celebration of RALLY DAY**  
**immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall.**

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

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### 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.
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### *Weekly Worship ~*

- *September 2 ~ 9 am.*
- *September 9, begin 8 & 10:15*

*Sunday School begins on  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am.*

## ~ *The Voice of Consistory* ~

For a society that often promotes the “latest and greatest” champion excellence, it’s tough to think about accepting the challenge of being a better Christian.

At work you may want to make the best product, to make the most sales, or to get a promotion or raise. In sports or games there is a goal to be the winner before the end; we even set

goals like trying to lose 5 pounds or to run a marathon. The common theme among those things is a personal mark. A challenge from yourself to win, to be better, to reach a point where you have grown, and in the process, succeeded.

But what about striving to be a better Christian? What’s the prompt? What’s the end goal if I’m already promised the Kingdom of Heaven? God already has unconditional love for me. I already do what I need to do - like go to church, pray, put my money in the offering plate. I’m doing fine.

But fine isn’t excellent.

Spiritual growth is a quest for character ~ a quest which there will be little progress on without the pursuit of excellence. Without pursuing excellence, life remains stagnant, faith remains untapped. Simply getting by without getting better.

Our goal for ourselves as Christians should be to be excellent. To strive for excellence in all our faithful doings.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 even says, “*Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might...*”



So, next time you come to church, take a moment to pray or even just stop to consider God’s love for you. Think, “what can I be doing to be a better Christian? What can I do to go above and beyond?”

Constantly striving for excellence can make a daunting task like spiritual growth easier and gives you the self imposed challenge you need when you already know you’ve won.

~ Aaron Clark, Consistory member

Verses: Ecclesiastes 9:10  
2 Corinthians 8:7  
1 Thessalonians 4:1  
1 Corinthians 10:31

▪ **Sunday, September 2 , Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship 9 am.

-Scriptures: James 1:17-27 / Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

-Theme: **Be Love** ~ to be called and led by God's Spirit beckons us to be doers of God's Word. God's generous gift of love in Christ models the love we then practice toward God and others. Such love changes hearts. Such loves cares for the vulnerable. The wisdom of enacted love moves religion from how we talk about God into the ways we act as the image of God. Be love.

-Guest Preacher: Mark Stryjak, Member-in-Discernment from St. John's UCC, Lansdale.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.



▪ **Sunday, September 9, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 8 am. and 10:15 am.

-Scriptures: James 2:1-10, 14-17 / Mark 7:26-37

-Theme: **Be Opened** ~ change for the good may come when we listen with care, speak with compassion, and enact our faith. Such wisdom sees that the persistent practice of mercy, like love, comes as a gift and calling from God. As we continue in the Season after Pentecost, hear the invitation to be open to the welcome God extends to all by responding to the presence and needs of others.

**Return to regular worship hours, September 9**  
8:00 am. and 10:15 am.  
Sunday School, 9 am. for all ages!  
WELCOME EVERYONE!

RALLY DAY

-Rally Day Celebration & activities, 9 am. ~ see front page for scheduling.

-Rally Day Ice Cream Social immediately follows late worship in Fellowship Hall



◆ **Sunday, September 16, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-Worship at 8 am. and 10:15 am.

-Sunday School, 9 am.

-Scriptures: James 3:1-12 / Mark 8:27-38

-Theme: **Who are You Jesus?** Words have the power to “name” or shape people in ways that may lead to good or ill, to acceptance or rebuke. Who we say Jesus is shapes our journey as disciples. Wise followers listen for the words and ways of God in their midst. For God's words and ways lead to deeper understanding of who we are called to be because of whom we follow.

-Joyful Noise loose change offering.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

## WORSHIP SERVICES, continued....

### ◆ Sunday, September 23, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

-Worship at 8 am. and 10:15 am.

-Sunday School, 9 am.

-Scriptures: James 3:13-4; 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

-Theme: **First in caring** ~ Jesus calls us to receive and practice this wisdom about those who are great in God's reign: God's wise children are called to welcome and care for "little ones" among us. Wise ones reach out with encouraging presence to those who are vulnerable. Wise ones live close to God by living justly with neighbor.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

### ◆ Sunday, September 30, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

-Worship at 8 am. and 10:15 am.

-Sunday School, 9 am.

-Scriptures: James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

-Rev. Dorothy Shelly guest preacher.

-Theme: **Courage for Community** ~ What is true greatness? In Mark's gospel, Jesus speaks of greatness through calls for bold serving and courageous hospitality that preserve community in trying times. In today's Old Testament reading, the people of Israel in exile are at risk; Esther acts with such greatness and wisdom to defeat a deadly plot and thus preserve the Jews.

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.



Something new is coming to St. Paul's  
~ **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** ~

Reserve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month and plan to join in some family fun.

Events include:

- ◆ Game night ~ September 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Hayride ~ October 12<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Progressive Dinner ~ November 9<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Christmas caroling ~ December 14<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ ALL families are invited to join in the fun!

**Game Night** ~ Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, come to Fellowship Hall at 6 pm. for a simple meal followed by games and activities (Twister, bean bag toss, Zingo!, Memory, UNO, ping pong, air hockey, pool, etc.)

**Please call the church office ~ 215-257-7268**, to let us know if you plan to attend so we can have enough food prepared.

Mark you calendar for future Family Fun nights!

# Vacation Bible School Summary

In 2012, we pursued a new Vacation Bible School partnership with St. Andrew's UCC who also desired to host VBS in the morning after learning that our past VBS partnership with St. Andrew's and St. Michael's Lutheran churches needed to end because they desired to hold VBS in the evening.

VBS Directors from both churches, Nancy Ziegenfuss and Ann Wright, worked collaboratively to plan, organize and run *SonRise National Park* Vacation Bible School. Those who turned out enjoyed a week full of fun, learning and fellowship.

- 44 children from the two churches registered and attended VBS.
- 16 teens and 24 adults volunteered as staff.
- \$580 was raised as offering for the week.
- \$378 will cover the shipping costs for the 54 shoeboxes that were filled for the Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box project which was this summer's mission project.
- The remaining \$202 will be sent to Operation Christmas Child for the charity to use as needed.



Thank you to all the members of the congregation who donated craft supplies for VBS and supplies to fill the shoe boxes. The week-long event wouldn't have been possible without your help and support.

I want to thank the people from St. Paul's who donated their time, love, and talents as volunteers at VBS: ***Brandon Barndt, Breanna Barndt, Brenda Bishop, Janet Dunlap, Angela Fuhs, Jessica Gillespie, Dr. Pat Guth, Renay Landis, Ric Landis, Lori Milkowich, and Kristen Tomlinson.*** With the help of all these people, VBS became a friendlier, more familiar place for St. Paul's children.

What a blessing it was to have 15 children from St. Paul's attending VBS!!! ***Jacob Baringer, Bailey Bishop, Katelyn Dusza, Logan Fuhs, Trevor Fuhs, Carter Fuhs, Tessa Hawkins, Taylor Hawkins, Andrew Hauptert, Zachary Hauptert, Marcus Milkowich, Makya Milkowich, McKenna Milkowich, Preston Ziegenfuss and Jocelyn Ziegenfuss*** were among the 44 children each day. With all the familiar faces of St. Paul's members among the staff, it made the children more comfortable to come each day.

I encourage you to talk with those people who helped at VBS or those parents who sent their children. Listen to their stories, hear the excitement and enthusiasm in their voices. Think about it, pray about it, and see if you decide to be a part of the wonderful VBS experience next year!

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## ***Sunday School Offering***

Thank you to the parents and students for all of the money you gave to our Sunday School offering. We raised \$806.23! With that money, we were able to purchase 17 units of Sunday School materials for needy children around the world through Samaritan's Purse.

Think of all the children who have heard God's Word and met Jesus Christ as their Savior as a result!

As the 2012-2013 Sunday School year is about to begin, we plan to continue to support this charity with our offering once again. Please continue to bring an offering to Sunday School each week. Let's see if we can raise even more money than last year!



***Praise The Lord!***  
**Sing to the Lord a new song.**  
**Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.**  
**-psalm 149 vs. 1, NLT**

Weekly Wednesday night (7 pm) choir rehearsals start on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

New voices always needed and welcome!

No experience necessary!

We rehearse for about an hour and it is a fun time of singing, learning and fellowship.

As I have mentioned several times over the past couple of years, please consider joining us even if you cannot commit to every week or the entire season.

As much as possible, I try to make our rehearsal schedules accommodating to our modern hectic lives.

If you have requests for the choir, whether it be an old favorite or something new you have heard that you like, please let me know and I will see if we can sing it.

Priority is given to requests from choir members; hopefully that will motivate YOU to join us.

Come make a joyful noise with us.

~ Chris Ziegenfuss, Choir Director



Love Your Neighbor  
As Yourself

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

**Green Your Vocabulary!**

September has always seemed to me to be a time of fresh starts. Summer and its more leisurely schedule is over, school is starting, fall housecleaning and yard clean up begins and there is a new enthusiasm in the air. So, it’s a good time to think about stewardship and what it really means.

To quote Mike Bibic in a Mission Moment, it means “to manage someone else’s property.” For the Christian...we manage the property of our Lord. ...That means all that we are and all that we have are not really ours to begin with. They belong to God. So the duty of the Christian is to learn how to become responsible stewards of our Lord’s resources entrusted into our care.

According to Merriam Webster: stewardship is the conducting, supervising or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.

Therefore, environmental stewardship is the responsible management and caretaking of land, water, air and organisms. Now is a good time to get a fresh start for all of us in taking more seriously our own stewardship commitments. A prayer in a recent bulletin may help us.”

*“O Lord, restore among us a love of the earth that you created to be our home.  
Help us to put an end to everything that destroys your creation and give us respect for all creatures so that  
we may live in harmony. Amen”*

~ Submitted by Nancy Lyons

## Volunteer Opportunities



### **NURSERY Volunteers for September:**

- Sept. 2 - NO Staffed Nursery
- Sept. 9 - Nancy Ziegenfuss & Dr. Pat Guth
- Sept. 16 - Terri Hawkins & Breanna Barndt
- Sept. 23 - Chris & Cindy Fosbenner
- Sept. 30 - Lori Milkowich & Brandon Barndt

### **COFFEE, COOKIES & CONVERSATION following late church each Sunday. . .**

Please sign up on the poster now located in Fellowship Hall and later, located in Fretz Hall!  
Bring some cookies, a cold drink, and make some coffee!

**BULLETIN CHART** ~ there are many opening ~ please sign up on one or more of these  
Sundays: September 9, October 14, October 21, October 28, November 4, November 11.



**From Bob & Judy Ockenfuss,  
IHN Mission Project**

*We would like to extend many "Thank You's" to those of you who volunteered in August for St. Stephen's IHN mission project. Our guests really seemed to enjoy each meal that was prepared.*

*Thanks, too, to the many people who stayed overnight. We know that everyone's time is full to the brim, and we feel grateful that you added this worthy mission project to an already busy life.*

*We feel that taking part in this wonderful mission project is a truly enlightening and humbling experience. We hope that all of you came away with a positive feeling and that you will be willing to help again next August.*

~ Love in Christ, Bob & Judy

~To the Scholarship Committee and St. Paul's ~

◆ *"I'd like to thank you for the gracious monetary gift. It will come in very handy for books and supplies. Thank you again."*

~ Adam Fosbenner

◆ *"Thank you so much for the contribution and continued support of my education. I will put it to good use."*

~ Kevin Thomas



### **....PENNRIDGE CROP WALK ~ Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

Watch for more information coming soon. Sponsor sheets and flyers will be available shortly. Mark your calendar.

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**...Needed ~ Celebration Sunday pictures.** . .or any pictures you may have taken at a church event, please send them via email to have them placed on the website.

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**...Visit St. Paul's website** ~ you will find a link to this newsletter, photos of current events, and other information. Try it today!  
[www.stpaulsucc.net](http://www.stpaulsucc.net)



# Thoughts To Ponder

## HOLY BIBLE, BOOK DIVINE

John Burton, Sr., 1772-1822

*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.* Psalm 119:97

Nobody ever outgrows Scripture; the Book widens and deepens with our years ~ Charles H. Spurgeon

The Bible is truly an amazing book. It has rightfully been called “The Book of Books.” The first book ever printed was the Bible—the German Gutenberg Bible, between the years 1450-1455. Today, it is printed in more than 600 languages, and portions of it are printed in more than 1,000 tongues and dialects. It has long been the world’s best seller.

In addition to being God’s love letter and self-disclosure of Himself, the Bible clearly spells out His plan for our redemption and restored fellowship. It is also our final authority for all matters of faith, morals, and practice. Through the inspired Word, God the Holy Spirit illuminates and guides believers in their Christian walk and also prepares them for their future heavenly destination.

Our minds will never be able to comprehend all the teaching of Scripture, but the essential truths related to our redemption and Christ-like living cannot be misunderstood. It was Abraham Lincoln who once observed: “Read the Bible for whatever reason you can accept and take the rest on faith, and you will live and die a better man.”

John Burton, author of “Holy Bible, Book Divine,” was an English Sunday school teacher with a concern for teaching spiritual truths to children. The text appeared in 1806 in Burton’s Sunday school hymnal, which was titled *Incentives for Early Piety*. These words have been spiritually profitable for both young and old:

Holy Bible, Book divine, precious treasure, thou art mine;  
Mine to tell me whence I came, mine to teach me what I am;

Mine to chide me when I rove, mine to show a Savior’s love;  
Mine thou art to guide and guard, mine to punish or reward;

Mine to comfort in distress-Suff’ring in this wilderness;  
Mine to show, by living faith, man can triumph over death;

Mine to tell of joys to come and the rebel sinner’s doom;  
O thou holy Book divine, precious treasure, thou art mine.



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It was George Mueller who said: “The vigor of our spiritual life will be inexact proportion to the place held by the Word in our life and thoughts.” Determine to give the Bible a greater place in your life. Sing this child-like hymn as you go---

*Holy Bible, Book divine, Precious treasure, Thou art mine:  
Mine to tell me whence I came, Mine to teach me what I am.*

+++++

~ Ruth Schoeller