



THE CORNERSTONE

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Services: Sunday, 8:45 & 11:00 AM

Church School: Sunday, 10:00 AM

Youth Groups: Sunday: 6:00 PM

Phone: 332-4191

Email: office@stpaulbloomington.org

Web: www.stpaulbloomington.org

Please join the youth of St. Paul as we celebrate Valentine's Day with an evening of dinner and entertainment.

Who: YOU are invited . . .

What: St. Paul Valentine's Dinner. . .

Where: Brashaber Fellowship Hall. . .

When: Saturday, February 11th, 6:30 PM. . .

Why: Fun!

Fellowship!

Sit down meal prepared and served by the St. Paul Youth (SPY) Group!

Cost: \$12.50/person, \$25.00/couple

All proceeds go toward the youth programs. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Payment will be taken at the door.

Free childcare will be provided.

Always There

I don't know about you but it seems like Christmas was just a few days ago. January is already behind us and we're quickly approaching the Lenten Season. Granted, we still have Ground Hog's day to tell us what our weather will be like over the next six weeks, and the Super Bowl will be fun to watch this year, even without the Colts playing.... I never thought the Super Bowl would be played in Indianapolis.

Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season begin this month. Lent is the time set aside for us to take an honest look at who we are and confess our shortcomings. I like the way Timothy Merrill defines Lent. He writes, "*Lent is properly about three things: Ceasing to do wrong things, starting to do right things, and confessing one's failure at both.*" (*Homiletics Journal, Feb., 2012*).

As we prepare for this coming Lenten Season it's important to remember that God is always there for us. The following story speaks to that reality:

Chaplain Barbara Sherer, U.S. Army, tells the story of a little miracle she encountered while preparing for an Ash Wednesday service for soldiers in Kuwait. A complex of several dining tents in the camp had caught on fire, and tragedy was averted when all the soldiers inside managed to escape without serious injury.

Looking around for a source of ashes to use for the upcoming service, Chaplain Sherer decided to use some of the ashes from the burned mess tents. Obtaining permission from the MPs who were guarding the site, she filled a small plastic bag with ashes.

The story concludes in her own words:

"Two days later I decided to open the bag and see if I needed to crunch up the ashes into smaller pieces. I was digging around in the cup with a plastic knife when I noticed the edge of something metallic. I reached in, and pulled out a cross. A flat, metal cross. It had some dark smudges on it from the fire, but it was otherwise undamaged. I could still read the etching on it: 'Jesus is Lord.'

I can't even fathom the odds of picking the exact site of that cross out of the acreage destroyed by the fire. It doesn't matter. The message to me is clear: God walks with us through the terrible firestorms of our lives, and we are lifted unharmed out of the ashes. We may be marked in some way, like the cross of ash placed on our foreheads during Ash Wednesday. However, that mark is a symbol of God's love and protection.

I wear that cross now on my dog tags. No matter where the Army may send me, or what God may ask of me, I will cherish this special reminder that God will never leave us alone to face the tragedies in our lives. With God's help, we will always rise out of the ashes." (B. Sherer, Out of the Ashes, Feb. 2012)

(continued)

May we always remember in the midst of the ashes, and through this season of repentance, that God is *always there*.

Grace & Peace on the journey,
Frank



Ash Wednesday Service Marks Beginning of Lent



WORSHIP
Wednesday, February 22
7:00 PM
St. Paul Sanctuary



The seventh Wednesday before Easter, *Ash Wednesday*, is the first day of *Lent* for Christians. It is frequently observed as a day of repentance. As a way of beginning the season of *Lent*, you are invited to attend this special service and receive the sign of ashes as a reminder of your mortality and your need for the saving grace of God.

Lenten Devotionals. . .

Adult Devotionals

In Lent, we often can get stuck in the past history of the events of Christ's life, death and resurrection 2000 years ago, or we can get caught up in the future glory yet to come. The booklet, "*Living in the Moment*," written by **Stephen J. Carter**, takes a practical look at what we are called to do right now at this moment to live out the life that Christ has in mind for us as his forgiven, beloved and saved followers.



Children's Devotionals

In the devotional, "*Looking Up for Lent*," by Stephanie Hovland, all eyes are on the cross this Lent! This daily devotion booklet asks children to look to Jesus' example of service and love throughout the season of Lent and beyond, and encourages children (and their families) to keep their eyes on Jesus.

Devotional booklets will be available in the narthex at the church beginning Ash Wednesday.

Baby Bottles for Crisis Pregnancy Center



A Lenten tradition at St. Paul is ***Baby Bottles for Crisis Pregnancy Center***. On Sunday, February 26th, (1st Sunday in Lent), baby bottles will be available for you to take home and fill with your extra change.

We have collected and given over \$7,000 of your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollars the last five years to Hannah House/Crisis Pregnancy Center. CPC is able to provide free, Christ-centered services to women and children because YOU care enough to give. Baby bottles are to be returned on Palm Sunday, April 1st.



What's Happening in our Children's Ministries at St. Paul?

With the end of January and the start of February comes our ***Journey with Jesus***. We started this 13-week journey last Sunday in Bethlehem. We will journey to Jordan, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum, Galilee, Bethsaida, Caesarea Philippi, Jericho, Bethany, Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives. It promises to be quite a journey. The Sunday School room is decorated like a marketplace to really get us in the spirit, feel free to join us on this amazing journey.

As always I want to extend an invitation to all St. Paul children and their friends to join us each Sunday morning in Room K at 8:45 or 11:00 for songs, stories, games, and art at our Children's Worship hour, and at 10:00 for Bible Studies in Room F and L. Parents and church family, you are always welcome to participate as well.



Finally, thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers. We have such wonderful volunteers working with our young people month after month. They do such great work! I'd love to add you to our volunteer numbers. We are short 2 people at the 8:45 hour and 1 person at the 11:00 hour. If you have any interest, please stop in and check out our program-you're going to love it!

Wishing you a LOVEly February,

Shari Miller
Director of Children's Ministries

District United Methodist Men to Meet for Breakfast during Lent



Each Saturday during the season of Lent the men of the Bloomington United Methodist Churches will meet for breakfast, beginning at 7:30 for coffee and fellowship, followed by breakfast at 8:00 AM. The schedule is as follows:

- February 25 Arlington United Methodist Church
- March 3 Ellettsville United Methodist Church
- March 10 St. Paul will host the breakfast
- March 17 Fairview United Methodist Church
- March 24 Cross Roads United Methodist Church
- March 31 Greene County Chapel United Methodist Church



FEBRUARY S.W.A.T. Calendar

(Seek. Worship. Accept. Tell)

S.W.A.T youth group is open to any and all 4th & 5th graders. It is SERIOUSLY fun, SERIOUSLY informative, SERIOUSLY cool, SERIOUSLY unruffled, SERIOUSLY entertaining, SERIOUSLY amusing, SERIOUSLY pleasurable, and SERIOUSLY something for you to do on Sunday evenings!!!!

The Official “S.W.A.T.” Schedule for February is:

Feb. 5th: No S.W.A.T. It’s the Super Bowl!!!!

Feb. 12th: Regular, fun-filled, exciting, enthralling, absorbing, engrossing, enchanting, beguiling, gripping, attention-grabbing, captivating, and all-around-good-time, REGULAR MEETING! (6:00– 8:00 PM)

Feb. 19th: Regular, fun-filled, exciting, enthralling, absorbing, engrossing, enchanting, beguiling, gripping, attention-grabbing, captivating, and all-around-good-time, REGULAR MEETING! (6:00—8:00 PM)

Feb. 24th – Feb. 25th: It’s BAAAAACCCCKKKKKKKK!!!!!!!!!!

The “official, one-of-a-kind, fun-filled, exciting, enthralling, absorbing, engrossing, enchanting, beguiling, gripping, attention-grabbing, captivating, and all-around-good-time, **S.W.A.T. LOCK-IN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

The lock-in begins at 7:00 Friday evening and ends at 8:00 Saturday morning!!! S.W.A.T. members are encouraged to bring their favorite snack items for the evening. All S.W.A.T. members should bring sleeping bags, pillows, and an air mattress if they have one. Breakfast will be served on Saturday morning. Lights out, which means everyone will be sleeping, will be MIDNIGHT. The adults need their beauty rest.

Feb. 26th: No S.W.A.T!!!!!! Adult leaders will be too tired from the lock-in.

From Your Trustees.....

As a typical American I view more television than I probably should and I have to admit one of my favorite shows is “Dirty Jobs” on the Discovery channel. For those of you who are not familiar to the show, it is hosted by Mike Rowe (yes, the same guy who advertises for Ford Motor Company) who is invited along with his film crew to different work places that have a tendency to be very, shall we say, “vile” in nature. Suffice it to say, no matter how warm and inviting the folks at these jobs seem to be, it just doesn’t change the fact their jobs just plain stink (literally and figuratively) because of the physical conditions they work in!

As the trustees of our the church met this past Thursday evening, one of the main topics of discussion is how we can make the church, aside from our warm and inviting members, more physically inviting. With this thought in mind, the trustees are beginning the process to make the church not only spiritually inviting but physically inviting to all those who enter the church. Some ideas involve simply making changes to the décor to make the church building look less “institutional” and seriously addressing areas of the church that look like they are bound for the next show on “Hoarders”.



To get started, we are asking each of the leaders of the different classrooms, committees, and ministries of the church as well as the leaders of the many groups who use the building throughout the week to stop and make a serious assessment of the “things” they have stored away and consider donating or discarding those items to reduce the “hoarding” look. Yes, we know that these items in many cases have been there for a long, long time and we get “used” to seeing these “things”, but for a visitor these items can simply look like clutter. Our goal is by the end of March to have some of these cluttered areas cleaned up and invite all who will to donate the unused and unwanted “things” to the UMW rummage sale in April.

Let’s all work together toward making the church more inviting. This might be a “painful” job for some but remember, even Jesus didn’t necessarily want to perform his first miracle of turning the water into wine, but was asked to do so by his mother to make the wedding guests continue to feel invited.

Together in Christ,
Gary Arvin on behalf of the Trustees Committee
Brian Baker, Chairman

Jubilee Ministries is February Mission of the Month

Jubilee is a college and young adult ministry that explores what it means to live life together as part of the body of Christ. In August of 2011, the Southeast District *Four Corners Cluster* of the United Methodist Church formed *Jubilee*. Under the leadership of Travis Jeffords and Darren Wright (on staff at First UMC Bloomington), *Jubilee* is a growing ministry with over 40 college students attending. Attendees meet for dinner on Wednesday evenings, then gather at the First United Methodist Church Chapel and spend another hour in conversation. They are presently studying Rob Bell's book, *Love Wins*. The group participates in monthly service projects and are busy planning a Super Bowl party and spring activities - Spring Break mission trip to Nashville, TN (\$200) and a spring lock-in.

Last year St. Paul gave \$2,000 to help with some of the start up costs for this important ministry. The Administrative Council approved the money from our concession stand income. God is truly blessing this ministry as it continues to grow. Please mark clearly **Jubilee**, or 'February Mission,' on the mission envelope found in the pew racks at the church.

Gold Group to Visit Amish Country in February

The Gold Group (60+) will travel to Odon on Wednesday, February 29th for a day of shopping, and lunch at the Odon Essen Haus.

The group plans to stop by Barnhart Craft Store, the Sparks Variety Store, and the Odon Meat Locker (you might want to take a cooler if you plan to buy any frozen foods) as well as eating lunch at the Amish Buffet. Plan on leaving St. Paul at 10:15 AM. Cost: \$4 gas money, plus lunch and shopping.



'Fellowship for Six' in the Planning for March through May



WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR ST. PAUL FAMILY? Join the *Fellowship for Six* program. Groups of six will meet monthly March through May on a rotating basis for food, fellowship and fun. Sign up on bulletin board #2. For more information, contact Becky Freeman.

***Life Line Screening Coming to St. Paul
Thursday, March 1, 2012***

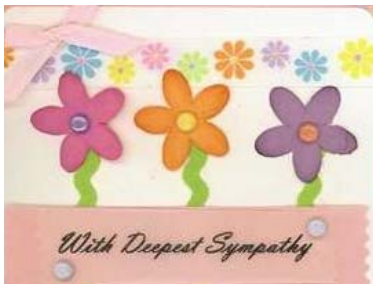


LIFE LINE SCREENING will be at St. Paul on **Wednesday, March 1st**, offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. Screenings are for: (1) carotid artery blockage (stroke), (2) atrial fibrillation, (3) abdominal aortic aneurysm, (4) peripheral arterial disease, and (5) osteoporosis (bone loss). Prices range from \$129 - \$159.

In addition (and new since Life Line last visited at St. Paul): (1) *6 for Life Health Assessment* (\$79) finger stick blood test measures your risk for heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD, and lung cancer; (2) *Risk for stroke, heart disease, and diabetes* (\$99), finger stick blood test; (3) *Thyroid Disorder* (\$45) finger stick blood test; and (4) *Prostate Cancer* ((\$45) a simple PSA blood test.

You must register prior to the screening. Visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners, or call 1-800-690-0323 to register. You may also stop by bulletin board #3 or contact Rita for more information. You may choose the test(s) you want to take when you call for your appointment time. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN APPOINTMENT.**

Our Sympathy . . .



Our sympathy to the family of Nellie Werk. Nellie's mother, Mrs. Maudie Bowman died January 16, 2012..

"Thank you to everyone for your prayers, flowers, cards, phone calls, and much support on my mother's passing."

*Sincerely
Nellie Werk*

Our sympathy to Todd, Judy, Mikaela and Connor Freeman on the death of Judy's mother, Mrs. Maxine Doane. Mrs. Doane died January 28, 2012.

Our sympathy to Bob and Linda Kear on the death of Linda's father, Mr. Bob Kelly. Mr. Kelly died January 29, 2012.

**St. Paul United Methodist Church
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

2011

	<u>1st Half</u>	<u>3rd Qtr</u>	<u>4th Qtr.</u>
Church Operating Expenses			
Offerings received this period	\$173,322.06	\$86,641.77	\$92,154.98
Expenses this period	\$172,220.51	\$82,974.52	\$91,173.32
Current Operating Balance	\$12,204.60	\$15,871.85	\$16,853.51

Other Fund Balances

Missions Funds balance	\$28,804.60	\$28,800.28	\$34,688.88
Designated Funds balance	\$60,412.25	\$37,199.64	\$63,853.21
Building Fund Balance	\$64,008.79	\$69,427.40	\$35,570.60

September, October, November, & December Mission Giving

August Mission -- Native American Ministries	\$ 50.00
September Mission -- Twin Towers Orphan Fund.	\$521.00
October Mission -- Mission Guatemala	\$797.00
November Mission -- MCUM Food Drive	\$565.00
Bishop's Children's Christmas Offering	\$ 50.00
MCUM Food Pantry	\$880.00
Shepherd's Fund (incl. December Mission)	\$2,555.00
Faith Promise Mission Giving	<u>\$5,984.00</u>
Total	\$11,402.00



Your attendance at St. Paul in January

DATE	8:45 AM	11:00 AM	CHURCH SCHOOL
January 1	ONE SERVICE: 202		N/A
January 8	173	120	73
January 15	120	114	66
January 22	109	69	50
January 29	129	117	72

February Ushers

<u>8:45 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
*Craig Munroe	*Terry Patterson
Roland Fletcher	Drew Jones
Steve Lill	Hershel Jones
Kim Munroe	Rick Richardson

St. Paul United Methodist Church
4201 West Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

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FEBRUARY, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

