St. Paul's Epistle An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

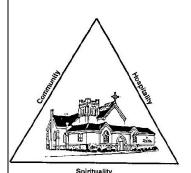
Volume 33, Issue 4 April, 2010

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Dear Friends,

Prayer is very powerful. In February, my "lost month," while I was ill, I felt the power of the prayers that were being said on my behalf. While prayer didn't make me recover any faster, it did keep me positive about the situation, and allowed me to relax and allow my body to heal, seek people to lead worship, trust the doctors, and follow

through with what I had to do. Your prayers held me close to God's heart in that time.

One of the blessings that St. Paul's has offered to us in those times of ill health is the ministry of the prayer shawls. I cannot thank you enough for the prayer shawl, made by Shirley Moser, that wrapped me in your prayers. I know from personal experience what a healing force these symbols of prayer are in the recovery process.

As we pray for people among us who are in need, whether through ill health or loss, let us not forget to continue to pray for St. Paul's Church and our ministry in our community. There is a need to minister to one another, for sure, because that is what keeps us strong in our faith. But, in our caring for each other, we cannot forget that we are called to care for others beyond our church family. As Christians, we are called to emulate Jesus who cared for the "least of these." As United Methodists, we stand on a tradition begun by John Wesley to reach out in love and service to those who are marginalized and suffering in our communities. And, in our global world that is brought home to us so easily through the media and our internet access, we recognize that, truly, "the world is our parish." Our intercessory prayers need to include the suffering and marginalized people throughout the world, along with our families, friends, and faith community.

As we continue our journey to ReFocus our ministries in the future, my prayer is that we will see opportunities to reach out in the name of Christ in prayer and service.

See you in church. *Peace, Pastor Ruth Solo*

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Thought for the Month: Try your best to make goodness attractive. That's one of the toughest assignments you'll ever be given.

- Fred Rogers

7



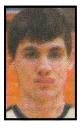
April Youth Calendar

April 4, 2010	TBA
April 11, 2010	TBA
April 18, 2010	TBA
April 25, 2010	TBA



Molly Fessler received a \$1,000 Educational Fund Grant award from the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 54. She also received an additional \$1,000 from the state organization. Molly will be attending UNOH in the fall to study Medical Assistance Technology.

Reggie McAdams was selected as the Player of the Year on the All-Western Buckeye League Basketball Team. He was also named on the 2010 Associated Press Division II special mention list. Reggie, a sophomore, helped the Elida Bulldogs reach the District Finals.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Early on the first day of the week.

St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Officed Fredhouse Charen		
Subscription Rate: NONE		
Editor:	Judy Chaffins	
Secretary:	Gail Fessler	
Secretary:	Jone Lane	
Choir Director:	Mary Kaye Pease	
Organist:	Linda Holman	
Pianist:	Lois Cook	
Youth Director:	Corinne Piper	
Custodian: Dave Decker		

Coming April 19 and 20

It is time for St. Paul's to update our church directory. Family photos will be taken On Monday and Tuesday, April 19th and 20th 2:30-9:00 PM.

Please call the church office to set up a time for your family's photogragh to be taken.



Newsletter deadline: the **20th** of each month



Northwest Plains District Mission Trip Sierra Linda in El Cercado July 24 — 31, 2010

You can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to children at a youth camp in Mexico, this summer as part of a District mission team. The Northwest Plains District is partnering with the Oriental Conference to host 80 poor children at a youth camp at Sierra Linda in El Cercado.

Just \$4,000 is necessary to sponsor 80 children at the camp.

Growing Disciple Makers

910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875 Telephone: 419.523.9901 / 800.589.7828 Fax: 419.523.3479 Email nwplains@wocumc.org

To date, the District has received \$2,153 toward this amount. Will you or your church prayerfully consider participating in this opportunity to offer the love of Christ to children? You can participate by joining the team or by sending an offering designated for —Camp Sierra Linda, payable to the Northwest Plains District.

The mission experience is planned for July 24 through 31. After worship and orientation on Sunday, July 25, the children will arrive and participate Monday through Thursday. Our Oriental Conference hosts will provide some bilingual team members to

help deal with the language difference, so Spanish language knowledge is not required. The team will have time to tour Monterrey on Friday and will return to Ohio on Saturday, July 31. The only cost to team members is \$600 for an airline ticket; all other costs are covered by the District.

To serve on the District mission team to Sierra Linda, please contact Pastor Neal Whitney at 419.231.0226. To support our District's mission outreach this summer, send your offering to the District Office at 910 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

April 1, 2010Maundy Thursday Service Featuring our Chancel Choir

7:00 PM

April 2, 2010

Community Good Friday Service
Sponsored by Allentown, Elida, Gomer
Ministerial Association
Hosted by St. Paul's UMC
Featuring choirs and music from all churches
7:00 PM

April 17, 2010 St. Paul's Chicken Barbeque 5-7:00 PM Tickets are \$7.00

Menu: half chicken, homemade potato salad, applesauce, roll, and homemade desserts

homemade desserts Walk-in, dine-in, or carry-out

April 4, 2010

Easter Sunrise Service
Featuring our youth
and
puppet ministry
8:00 AM



Breakfast provided by the Nurture Committee
9:00 AM

Easter Worship Service Featuring our Chancel Choir 10:30 AM

April 11, 2010

The congregation is invited for cake and punch after the service to celebrate the **50th anniversary** of

Ray and Phyllis Trigg



The Heart of Church

April 25

Greeters

April 4, 2010	Ruth Burgoon & Susan Nartker
April 11, 2010	Don & Mary Irvin
April 18, 2010	Eileen Slade & Mary LaRue
April 25, 2010	Open



The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice.

- Henry Knox Sherrill

Children's Worship (Conducted During the Worship Hour)

1st Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—story No Children's Church
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Steve Moser—Story Slone Whetstone—Children's Church
3rd Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story Shirley Moser— Children's Church
4th Sunday of Each Month	Corinne Piper—Story & Children's Church
5th Sunday of the Month	Pastor Ruth—Story Steve Moser—Children's Church

Nurse	ry Volunteers
April 4	Volunteer Needed
April 11	Corinne Piper
April 18	Volunteer Needed

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

Janna & Aric Thompson

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the Latters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

! When you are **DOWN** to nothing....**God** is **UP** Ito something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! **Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!**



The Business of Church

REFOCUS OUR MINISTRIES

At the Administrative Council meeting in March, the ReFocus Team was approved unanimously. The team members are: Dan Best, Team Administrator; Jamie Wyant, Team Facilitator; Marty White, Team Communications Coordinator; Lavonne Segovia, Team Prayer Coordinator; and at large members: Linda Craft, Corinne and Tim Piper, and Jan Wyant.

These team members will be attending a training in the next two months. They will then be working closely with Pastor Ruth to prepare for and facilitate the three summits during this year which will help the congregation answer the questions: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where is God calling us to be in the future? They will also work closely with the Administrative Council as we look at our current administrative structure to make it more efficient for our missions and ministry and develop our final three year strategic plan.

Be watching for more information about the upcoming summits so that you can take an active part in listening for God's call for St. Paul's and taking an active part in designing a plan according to that call.

LIMA AREA METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Lima Area Methodist Men's Group held a breakfast at Elida St. Paul United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 6th. A good number of men were present representing the following churches: St. Paul UMC, Immanuel UMC, Trinity UMC, Shawnee UMC, Allentown UMC and Forest Park UMC. We wish to thank the persons at St. Paul UMC who donated egg casseroles, fruit, pastries, biscuits and gravy, coffee cake, juice and coffee for the breakfast. Everything tasted great and we had plenty of food and refreshments. We received two comments attending: what good cooks from those we have at St. Paul's and how nice our Fellowship Hall is to host the event. Praise God for all of our food providers and for those responsible for the Fellowship Hall renovation. Special thanks to Corinne Piper and Susan Nartker for staying to help prepare and serve the food to our group.

St. Paul's Men

Book of Timothy



Committee Chairs	
PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Larry Moser
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Education Chair	Steve Moser
Administrative Council Chair	Scott Fessler
Worship	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Martha Vazquez
Stewardship	Tim Piper
Missions	Maedene Holmes & Marty White

Faith In Action



Financial Giving

Weekly Need for Unified Ministry Budget \$3,466.00

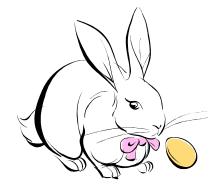


Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
February 28, 2010	\$2,034.01	\$334.00
March 7, 2010	\$4,616.00	\$789.58
March 14, 2010	\$3,051.00	\$594.00
March 21, 2010	\$2,277.00	\$805.50

Table Grace (Hold hands for this grace. During the last line, everyone lifts their hands together as an act of praise.)

> Rub-a-dub-dub, Thanks for the grub. Yeah, God! Amen.



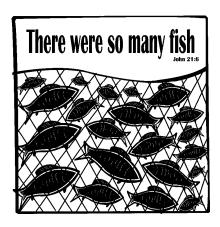


Fi	lowers:
April 4, 2010	Chris Bowsher
April 11, 20010	Denny & Carole Grapner
April 18, 2010	Susan Nartker
April 25, 2010	Virginia Hollar
\	

Sunday School	Attendance
February 28, 2010	30
March 7, 2010	35
March 14, 2010	37
March 21, 2010	31

Visit The United Methodist Website at: www.umw.org

Consulting the Manual



She said to them,
"They have taken
away my Lord, and
I do not know where
they have laid him."
When she had said
this, she turned
around and saw
Jesus standing there.

~ John 20: 12-14



Bible Readings for April

Revised Common Lectionary
Year C

Week of April 4

Easter Sunday

Color: White or Gold
Old Testament:
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
New Testament:
Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

Week of April 11 Second Sunday of Easter

Color: White or Gold
Old Testament:
Psalm 150
New Testament:
Acts 5:27-32
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31



Week of April 18 Third Sunday of Easter

Color: White or Gold
Old Testament:
Psalm 30
New Testament:
Acts 9:1-6
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Week of April 25 Native American Ministries Day

Color: White or Gold
Old Testament:
Psalm 23
New Testament:
Acts 9:36-43
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

For more detailed information on the Revised Common Lectionary, please visit: www.gbod.org



St. Paul's Mission Work

MISSION UPDATES

January's Coins for Communion were in support of Lima's Hope Visitation & Exchange Center (formerly Grampy's House) in the amount of \$78.54.

February and March Coins for Communion totaled **\$168.81** in support of the United Methodist Children's Home.

January's '\$5 on the 5th' Sunday United Methodist Children's Home campaign raised **\$202.00**.

St. Paul's February Haiti disaster relief effort raised \$701.00 and was sent to U.M.C.O.R. (the United Methodist Council on Relief) on March 12, 2010. This is in addition to the \$500 designated for Haiti by the Missions Committee during January.

Thanks to all people of St. Paul's for your spirit of mission and contribution to our community and to our world!

2010 ST. PAUL'S UMCH SUMMER MISSION KICK-OFF

The Missions Committee will host a carry-in lunch on Sunday, April 18, 2010, in the fellowship hall following the Sunday worship service. Please plan to join us for lunch and for a presentation by persons leading this year's mission project. St. Paul's has pledged \$2,000 toward the overall project materials expense budget. The Children's Home has fallen upon hard times financially and cannot provide any substantial funds for materials and supplies needed for this summer's mission work.

There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Paul's fellowship hall for those attending or considering attending the July 12-16, 2010 U.M.C.H. mission project in Worthington, OH. Work scheduled for this year includes:

Administrative filing/sorting/digitizing records;

Significant sorting/organizing/redistributing items in Bldg. 109; Inside painting of cottages;

Sanding/sealing wood cottage furniture;

Roof repairs;

Pavement sealing and striping;

New gutters for school and Bldg. 147;

Chipping a large brush pile for use w/landscape activities;

Repair/replace damaged siding on cottages;

Wood & window work on dining hall second story.

Attendees are asked to contribute \$100/individual or \$150/couple for incidental lodging and meal expenses at the discretion of Scioto Ridge U.M.C., our host church and headquarters. Also this year there will be a \$30/week/person meal expense as reimbursement to the Children's Home for the daily lunch break. Please plan to join us April 18 and 21 to learn more about this particular St. Paul's mission project.

A ST. PAUL'S MISSIONARY!

Linda Craft will participate in a mission trip to Samara, Russia, July 29 to August 9, She will be part of a 2010. Volunteer in Mission team that will instruct approximately 35 Russians in their Volga District about the United Methodist Church and, specifically, John Wesley and our U.M. heritage. She will also discuss our St. Paul's church, our laity, and how we share our church mission throughout the surrounding communities. There will be some physical work applied to an orphanage building as There will not be anv involvement with the children of the orphanage as they will be away at a camp outing.

Linda's Team must provide for \$6,000 worth of teaching and project supplies. In addition, she must pay her own travel and materials expense. Linda will be attending a Team meeting March 21 in Dayton to learn more about the logistics, itinerary, and expenses of her trip. We expect to hear more from Linda in the weeks leading up to her departure.

April 11, 2010 FORO Presentation during Worship Service. Goodwill Offering will be taken.

Celebrating...

Did you help save my life?



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood."

Central Ohio Blood Recipient

On June 21, 2009, 5-year-o@ Michae@craft was diagnosed with Burkitt's i ym' homa, an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Due to the nature of the cancer and a ra' idly growing tumor in his abdomen, Michael began intensive chemothera' y within days of his diagnosis.

Overall, Michael s¹ ent 8 weeks in the hos¹ ital undergoing 5 chemothera¹ y treatments and 11 surgical ¹ rocedures. ^a uring his treatments he received several units of ¹ latelets and at least 1 Munits of blood.

Michael has been described as a ty' ical 5 jyear jold. e e loves to watch Ptart ars, P' ongeBob P quare' ants, and to' lay with his cars and Legos. During his treatments he wasn't allowed to' lay rough or ride his bike. However, Michae spirits remained high, even when he was at his worst. e is illness also im' acted the lives of his entire family, including his

younger brother Carter and his ' arents k ate and Tonya, who s' ent countless hours at the hos' ital and cared for him at home.

Tonya is also the ^a irector of bmergency Pervices for the ^oed Cross in Central Ohio. Michael, aware of the ^oed Cross symbol during his transfusions, understood that ¹ eo¹ le were voluntarily s¹ ending their time to give blood to hel¹ him and others in need.

Though Tonya sees everyday how the ^oed Cross helⁱ s the community for disaster relief, she says when Michael was ill and needed blood transfusions she exⁱ erienced it from a different ⁱ oint of view, ^Qas a mom, and Mst as important part of the 5ed Cross mission.^r

What is Apheresis?

Ar heresis is a sr ecial tyr e of blood donation that allows for the collection of a sr ecific blood rart, or comr onent, such as r latelets.

Matelets aid in the clotting 'rocess to 'revent or sto' bleeding, and are vital in hel' ing a 'atient with leukemia or other cancers.

t ith one a heresis donation, the amount of latelets collected is six to eight times more than a regular blood donation.

During Michae 3 i ess, many people asked Tonya what they could do to hel. e er frequent answer was "donate blood in Michael's honor."

In October 2M/P, scans showed that Michael was cancer free. e e is currently in remission and finally learned how to ride his bike without training wheels. Though he still undergoes monthly scans to ensure the cancer doesn't return, he's now ad sting back to his norma Ochildhood and life as a kindergartener.

To those who donate blood regularly, Tonya says, ¶hank you! Thank you! Thank you! I fam so grateful to those who give generously to save the lives of others. There are not words that can adequately express my gratitude and that of my fami@r

redcrossblood.org 1-800-RED CROSS

© 2010 The American National Red Cross QA####

Remember When...



Koinonia Chicken Barbeque 1991

Left:

Preparing Potato Salad: Gene Craft, Ron Steiner, Art Holman

Below: "Chefs" Dan Best and Jamie Wyant



Koinonia Chicken Barbeque 1997

Above: Mary Steiner

Right:

Michele Theodore, Shirley Moser

Don't miss the 2010 BBQ on April 17th!



Connecting With ...



Congratulations to Todd and Jenny Chaffins on the birth of their daughter, Addison Elizabeth, on February 26, 2010, in Ft. Wayne, IN. Addy weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 3/4 in. long. Proud grandparents are Don and Judy Chaffins. **Jerry Crates** is the proud great-grandfather.

We extend our sympathy to Scott and Gail Fessler and family. Gail's mother, Marilyn Potter, passed away on February 25th. Her service was held at First Baptist Church in Lima on March 1st. Cards will reach Scott and Gail at 206 E. Main St., Elida, OH 45807.

We extend our sympathy to **Barry and Cyndi** Smith and family. Barry's mother, Caroline **Smith,** passed away on March 3rd. funeral service was held on March 9th. Cards will reach Barry and Cyndi at 2872 Sherwood Dr., Lima, OH 45805.



A Different Drug Problem...

An older gentleman reading about a Methamphetamine lab found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county, asked his friend a rhetorical question, "Why didn't we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?"

I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young: I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or the preacher, or if I didn't put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me. I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom's garden and flower beds and cockleburs out of dad's fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends, and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline, or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin; and, if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place. God bless the parents who drugged us!

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Cindy Guess Vicki McAdams Shirley Moser Mary Kaye Pease Mary Steiner Kathy White

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn Ruth Hurley Marie Lee Hope Mathwig Edna Osman Jean Redd Gladys Sherrick Helen Waldron

Those in Need of Healing, In the Military

Ja Support, Strength &

Sara House June Metzger Rick Scholfield

Jason Stanley

Visit The United Methodist Communications website: www.umcom.org

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This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

The People of St. Paul's

Dear St. Paul's,
Thank you for all your thoughts
and prayers during mom's
illness. Thank you for the
planter and visits to the funeral
home. Your love and support
during this trying time is
greatly appreciated.
The Fessler Family
Bob Potter
Kevin and Teara Potter

Dear St. Paul's Members,
Mary Steiner would like to
thank you all for the flowers,
prayers, and words of
assurance during her time of
illness. She loves her prayer
shawl and is very thankful for
everyone's encouragement. A
special thank you to Pastor
Ruth for her visits in the
hospital. Mary is healing and
is looking forward to Spring.
Blessings,
Mary and Ron Steiner

As has been tradition for many years at St. Paul's, our church members volunteer to park cars on our property (and sometimes adjacent properties) and work one or two post-season high school basketball tournament games at the Elida Field House. This year was no exception. We collected \$564 in parking receipts March 9-13 and \$260 for working two March 13 district and regional tournament basketball games. "Working" a game includes ticket-taking, rope management (keeping spectators off the game floor), and door-guarding (potentially challenging!). Add to this **\$824** another **\$130** from working a regular season Elida Field House basketball game and we generated a total of \$954 through volunteers efforts. Many thanks to all who braved the elements (although March 9-11 were unseasonably warm) and/or took time out of their schedules to assist with these church fund raising activities. Thanks to Art Holman for organizing the parking activity and for allowing us the basketball game worker opportunities!

Dear Friends at St. Paul,
Thank you so very much for
faithfully paying 100%
of your 2009 conference
apportionments. Your gifts
are being used to transform
lives across our conference
and beyond. Know that we
deeply appreciate the sacrifice
you made to make this
possible. Blessings,
Cindi Dietrich
Council on Finance &

Adsministration

A big thank-you to Larry,
Shirley, and Steve Moser for
cleaning and organizing the
kitchen and store room in the
fellowship hall. It was badly
needed and now makes it a
much more pleasant
place to work.
The People of St. Paul's

Prayer List
Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia

Meetings

April 2010

No PPR Meeting in April.

April 6, 2010 Trustees...7:00 PM

April 12, 2010 Finance...7:00 PM

No Ad Council **Meeting in April**

No Missions Comm. Meeting in April.

> No Christian Ed **Meeting in April**

Sundays Prayer...9:00 AM

Thursdays Bell Choir...6:15PM Chancel Choir...7:30 **PM**

Anniversaries

Carl & Lois Rabley April 4 46 yrs.
Ray L Phyllis Trigg April 15 50 yrs.
John L Joy Fletcher April 17
Tony L Pam Lozano April 17
Brian Angie Nartker April 17
Bobby L Jacquie Bice April 19
Brad L Kim Selover April 28

March 2010						
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28	29	30	31			

	May 2010					
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			19			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Jim Michael	2 Mike Crates	3 Helen Scholfield 88 yrs.
				Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
4 Lynda Evans Ivan Vazquez	5	6	7 Dan Best	8	9	10 Pam Lozano
Easter		Trustees				
11	12	13	14	15 Todd Chaffins	16 Denise Thomas	17 Doug Guess
	Finance					
18 Brent Stemen	19 Maedene Holmes	20 Lori Motzer Aaron Piper Kelly Warris	21	22 Chloe Nartker	23	24
25	26 Kim Selover	27	28	29 Gerald Strayer	30	



"Great for Sunday" Pot Roast

by Mai	v LaRue
--------	---------

Ingredients		Instructions by Mary LaRue	
4-6 lbs.	chuck roast	Preheat oven to 350 degrees.	
1 pkg.	dry onion soup mix	Place roast on a large sheet of heavy duty foil. Cover meat with	
1 can	cream of mushroom soup	mushroom soup and dry onion soup mix. Place potatoes, carrots, and onions around and on top.	
5	small new potatoes	·	
4	carrots, cut in chunks	Bring foil up over the top, making a 6-inch high tent. Seal the top and ends securely, so moisture does not escape.	
2	onions, cut in quarters	Bake for 2-3 hours. This can be baked for 5 hours at 275 degrees.	
		"Put this in the oven as you go to Sunday School and it is ready when you return home."	

Vanilla Coconut Bon-Bons

By Pastor Ruth Solo

		= , = =
Ingredients	<u> </u>	Instructions
1— 2lb. box	powdered sugar	Sift powdered sugar in large bowl. Add sweetened condensed milk and coconut and mix well. Set aside.
1—14oz. pkg.	flaked coconut	Melt wax in double boiler. Add vanilla chips and stir until melted
1 can	sweetened condensed milk	together.
toothpicks	for dipping coconut balls	Wet hands and roll coconut mixture into balls (about 1Tbl. each). Set on wax paper. Do about a dozen at a time.
1—14oz. pkg.	vanilla chips	Insert toothpick into coconut ball; dip into melted candy mixture.
1/4 lb.	household wax	Set on wax paper lined cookie sheet, remove toothpick, and place in freezer immediately.
		Let candies set up overnight. Keep refrigerated until time to serve.
	<u> </u>	Makes about 4 dozen Bon-Bons, depending on size.

KIDZ KORNER

Shape Matching

7000000

Draw a line from the first column to the second column to match the shapes.

1. 🞇

a. **O**

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b. lacksquare

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9.

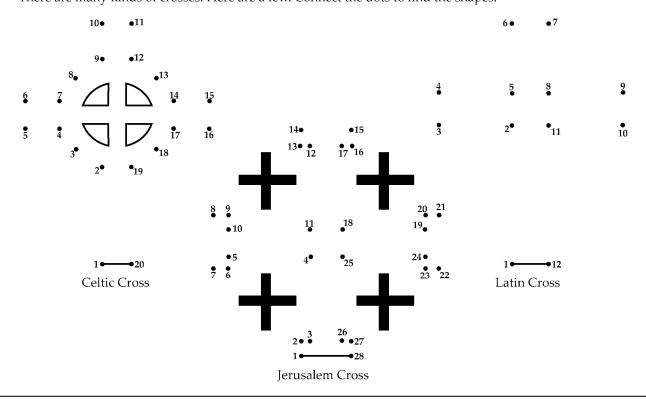
i. 🗱

10.

Answer: J. e, Z. i, 3. g, 4. a, 5. j, 6. h, 7. e, 8. b,

Cross dot-to-dot

The cross is a symbol of Christian faith. Christ's victory over death on the cross is the meaning of Easter. There are many kinds of crosses. Here are a few. Connect the dots to find the shapes.



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

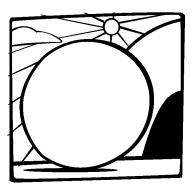
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April 2010



Living Our Faith

An Idle Tale

The New Revised Standard Version says that when the women rushed from the empty tomb back to tell the other disciples that Jesus could not be found there, the men dismissed it as "an idle tale" (Lk 24:11). It's a curious turn of phrase.

Other versions of the Bible have sought different ways to unfold the text. *The Voice* renders it as "they didn't believe a word of it." *The Message* states that the disciples "thought they were making it all up." *Good As New* dismissed it as "wishful thinking."

What might you think? Some women come in, all out of breath, and with excited voices

tell you that Jesus is risen. It does seem to stretch the believability factor. It is interesting, though, that Peter's curiosity led him to go and check out the tomb and he too returns amazed and wondering.

Sometimes stories as out of this world as the resurrection can overwhelm us. They can seem a little too difficult to believe. It's only when I read the Luke story carefully that I find myself connecting.

The women came to believe, it seems, when they remember Jesus' words — his teachings that, no matter what, he would not abandon them/us. It is in many ways the same as the Emmaus story that follows.

Only when they reflect on a long history of the Messiah and the presence of God in their lives do those two disciples come to realize that, however they want to understand it, Jesus is unquestionably traveling with them.

Maybe that's the key. Perhaps the *how* of resurrection does not matter nearly so much as the *awareness* that Jesus has not gone away but is with us now, in each moment, to comfort us and challenge us and inspire us.

Idle tale, indeed.

