

# St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 33, Issue 12

December, 2010

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.

Elida, OH 45807

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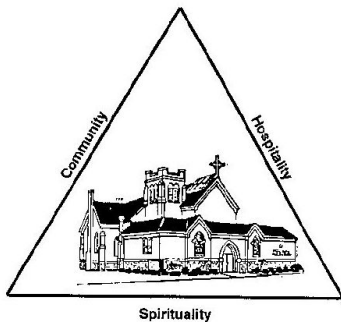
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Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming! The stores have been promoting the coming of Christmas since the beginning of October. Their promos have been more about getting 'stuff' than about the coming of the Lord. We in the church have a message to get out this Christmas that Christ is coming.

I recently read a post on Facebook by one of the young people, Audrey Fox, that the message that needs to be given by the church is how much God loves people. She said that is what people really want to hear about. What better time to share God's love than at Christmas? We know that we celebrate Christmas because God loved the world so much that Jesus, the Son of God, was sent to us. Jesus is the greatest gift of love.

So, how will you share that love message with others this year? Will you give an extra gift to support the church? Will you give to support the church's mission this year? Will you give to any number of charitable organizations that do God's work? Will you give your time to help in one of those organizations? Will you invite a lonely person to share a meal with your family? Will you offer to help stay with young children so the parents can have some time away, or so they can get their shopping done? Will you offer to stay with someone who can't be left alone so the care giver can get out and shop, or get an afternoon of relief? There are so many ways we can share the message of God's love in celebration of Christ's birth. And, sometimes, all it takes is sending a card or making a phone call to let someone know they are loved.

Audrey is right. All people really need to know is that God loves them. It's up to Christ's disciples to let that message be known to all people. God can't do it without us. May God bless you this Advent and Christmas Season so that you know the fullness of God's love. And may you pass it on.

Peace to you all,  
Pastor Ruth



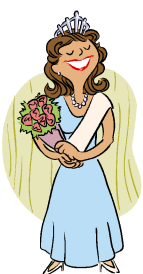
## Thought for the Month:

Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever-fresh and radiant possibility.

— Kate Douglas Wiggin

## Youth News

**Michele Theodore** has been chosen to participate in the **Allen County Jr. Miss** program in February, 2011.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YOUTH

The **Elida High School Football Team** had their first winning record in 15 years. They were 6-2 overall and 5-2 in the Western Buckeye League. They had their first play-off win in 28 years when they defeated Tippecanoe, 26-21. Even though they came up short in their second play-off game against Columbus Watterson, we are extremely proud of this team and their coach, who had only won 5 games in the past three years. St. Paul's **Alex McAdams**, a senior, and **Reggie McAdams**, a junior, were part of this history-making team!

***We're Proud of You!***



## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said, "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



### St. Paul's Epistle

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Youth Director:	Corinne Piper
Custodian:	Dave Decker



**Candlelight  
Service**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:30 PM

Gospel Readings with Dramatization  
Singing of Christmas Carols  
Lighting of Candles

Newsletter  
deadline:  
the **16th**  
of each  
month

## AEGMA YOUTH

Come and join middle school and high school students from various churches in Western Allen County for a chance to meet and have fun and a few deep thoughts at a once a month activity. **St. Paul UMC, The Church at Allentown, Gomer Church of Christ, Celebration and Salem Mennonite Youth (and friends)** have joined together for s'mores and a bonfire, and a progressive dinner (from church to church). Coming **December 12** will be a praise and worship service led by **At the Cross**. Also in the plans on **January 16** is an activity night at the YMCA. I'll be getting the permission forms out soon. We invite all youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up to invite some friends and join us.

### New Topic in Jr. and Sr. High Class

The first couple of months in this school year have been exciting for all the middle school and high school kids! Congratulations on getting through the football, volleyball, soccer, and cross-country seasons as well as the musical and Jr. Miss Contest without injuries and with integrity and discipline! Oh yeah—there was a small time killer called “school” in there as well.

We finally finished watching **Bruce Almighty** and talked about how we approach prayer and how God approaches prayer. Now we are going to change topics. Following Jesus is a matter of faith but there is plenty of hard evidence to prove what was said about Him in the Gospels did really happen. We are going to explore **The Case for Christ** over the weeks leading up to Christmas when we will choose again to believe in the birth of God in human form.



## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

### Holiday Home Walk

Wednesday, December 8, 2010  
5:30 PM Fellowship Hall  
Light Supper

6:00 Home Tours Begin  
1) Sandra Parker  
2) Shirley Moser  
3) Jone Lane

Join us for an evening of fun, food, & fellowship!

*If you have any items you would like to donate as door prizes, please take them to the church office.*



Charge Conference  
December 5, 2010  
3:00 PM

St. Paul's UMC will be hosting this charge conference for seven United Methodist churches in the Northwest Plains District



# The Heart of Church

## Greeters

December 5, 2010	Gene Craft
December 12, 2010	Bill & Joyce Nichols
December 19, 2010	Steve, Tracy, & Tahler Sdao
December 24, 2010	Molly & Oliver Fessler
December 26, 2010	John & Jenessa Fletcher

## Nursery Volunteers

December 5	Corinne Piper
December 12	Volunteer Needed
December 19	Volunteer Needed
December 26	Volunteer Needed



### THE ReFOCUS PROCESS COMING JANUARY, 2011

A verse from the hymn, "What Gift Can We Bring?" sung on Consecration Sunday offers this thought:  
 'Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,  
 Who planted and watered so dreams could come true.  
 Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship,  
 For mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.'

How did St. Paul's reach its position in the world, in our community today? Obviously our predecessors—those who passed through our doors and sat in our pews—had vision.

"The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." 2 Corinthians 9:6

The seeds these people sowed, then nurtured, watered, and cultivated represent some of the bounty we enjoy today at St. Paul's. Through study, they set goals and priorities, meditated upon them, then 'turned prayer into deed.'

What is our prayer, our vision for the future of St. Paul's U.M.C.? Undoubtedly, it will involve change. We will apply our guiding convictions, values, and biblical purpose to explore and develop a vision, ministry structure, and strategic plan to re-discover or re-Focus God's purpose and calling for St. Paul's for impact within our community and for living our church's mission statement: "...to be an inviting community of Christ's disciples."

Beginning with Summit #1 on Saturday, January 29, 2011, 'Assessment' asks, 'Where have we been?' Subsequent Summit sessions February 26 and March 26 address 'Discovery', 'Where are we going?' and 'Strategic Planning', 'How will we get there?' Have no fear: you will *not* be asked to pray aloud. You *will* be asked to have fun, eat food, and share light times as you shape the future of the congregation of St. Paul's. If you see it, if you expect it, it will happen. See *you* at The Summit! Invitational and registration meetings for our three Summit sessions are January 5 and 12 in the church's fellowship hall. *Much more to come!*





# The Business of Church

## CONSECRATION SUNDAY CELEBRATED

As part of the Consecration Sunday Program, we held a Leadership Dinner in our fellowship hall on November 9th. Around thirty of our church leaders and spouses attended the dinner and Reverend Jeff Motter, Assistant District Superintendent, was our guest speaker. Leading up to Consecration Sunday, we had Lay Speakers talk each of the three Sundays about what St. Paul United Methodist Church meant to them and how important it is to continue supporting our church so we may continue to serve God. Pastor Ruth Solo delivered a message on November 7th referencing Bible stories about God's blessings. Then, Consecration Sunday was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>, and Reverend Motter gave an inspirational message about how God has blessed each of us. A Victory Celebration catered luncheon held after the service was enjoyed by all who were present. Our Financial Secretary and Finance Chair reported that St. Paul's church received 42 pledges on commitment Sunday, for a total commitment of \$129,267. There were 24 giving families that increased their pledge from last year, 4 decreased their pledge from last year and 14 remained the same. A final report on our 2011 pledge totals will be listed in the next newsletter.

Thank you to the Stewardship Committee, persons that made phone calls to our leaders and membership, persons that arranged the catering of the meals, persons that set up tables and chairs, persons that decorated and persons that gave a talk. Thanks to our Financial Secretary and Finance Chair for tallying the pledges. Special thanks to Pastor Ruth for her leadership role during this program and to Rev. Motter for taking time to be our guest leader. And thank you to everyone who pledged for 2011 so that St. Paul's church may continue with God's work. Praise God! *Tim Piper, Stewardship Committee*



## Small Group Ministry

There's a new group in town. Actually, there are lots of new groups in town and we'd love to have you join one. Are you interested in fishing? Reading? Crocheting? Quilting? Knitting? Women's Bible Study of Psalms? Men's Bible Study of Colossians? Pastor's Bible Study? Improving your physical and spiritual health?

Small groups allow us to meet together and not only share an interest but also share our joys, problems, faith, and lives. If you'd like to become part of one of the groups and if you have an interest not covered by these groups, let the office know.

Book of Timothy



## Committee Chairs

<b>PPR Chair</b>	Linda Craft
<b>Trustees Chair</b>	Larry Moser
<b>Finance Chair</b>	Art Holman
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gene Craft
<b>Education Chair</b>	Steve Moser
<b>Administrative Council Chair</b>	Scott Fessler
<b>Worship Setting</b>	Ruth Solo
<b>Nurture</b>	Martha Vazquez
<b>Stewardship</b>	Tim Piper
<b>Missions</b>	Maedene Holmes & Marty White

# Faith In Action

## Worship Attendance:

October 31, 2010	104
November 7, 2010	113
November 14, 2010	107
November 21, 2010	99

## Financial Giving

Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
October 31, 2010	\$2,418.62	\$921.62
November 7, 2010	\$5,001.67	\$1,026.52
November 14, 2010	\$3,722.00	\$1,323.00
November 21, 2010	\$4,281.00	\$876.62

## WANTED:

### ST. PAUL'S LIAISON TO IMMANUEL UMC, ELIDA'S FAMILY PROMISE MISSION PROJECT

**Tim Piper** has graciously been our congregation's liaison to Immanuel U.M.C.'s Family Promise mission project for the past several years and he is ready to turn his energies and spirit of ministry elsewhere in our community. Consequently, the Missions Committee is seeking a new volunteer to follow Tim in this particular liaison and ministry capacity. If interested, please contact Marty White or Pastor Ruth. For specific details of this ministry work, see Tim.



## Children and Youth ministry Attendance

October 31, 2010	9
November 7, 2010	8
November 14, 2010	14
November 21, 2010	10

## Flowers:

December 5, 2010	Dan & Margie Best
December 12, 2010	Poinsettias
December 19, 2010	Poinsettias
December 26, 2010	Virginia Hollar

Visit The United  
Methodist Website at:  
[www.umw.org](http://www.umw.org)

# Consulting the Manual



## Bible Readings for December

Revised Common Lectionary  
Year A

### Week of December 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Color: Blue or Purple

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

*New Testament:*

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

### Week of December 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Color: Blue or Purple

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 35:1-10

*New Testament:*

Luke 1:47-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



### Week of December 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Color: Blue or Purple

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

*New Testament:*

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

### Week of December 26 First Sunday after Christmas Day

Color: White

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 63:7-9

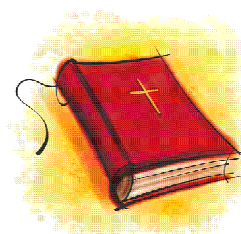
Psalms 148

*New Testament:*

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

For more detailed information on the  
Revised Common Lectionary,  
please visit:  
[www.gbod.org](http://www.gbod.org)



# Missions

## ST. PAUL'S MISSIONS ACTIVITIES/COMMITTEE WORK SEPT./OCT., 2010

The **2010 Christmas Offering** will be designated for i) **Meals 'til Monday**, and ii) **St. Paul's Special Needs Fund**;

**Tim Piper, Jamie Wyant**, and others attended the August Lima Area Methodist Men's breakfast August 28 at I.U.M. Jamie presented a report on the 2010 St. Paul's-led United Methodist Children's Home Mission Week this past July that was attended and supported by numerous other United Methodist churches in our area. Pastor Neal Whitney reported on the Allen County Fair's Kid's Fun Zone to which St. Paul's donated \$250. Elida Schools Superintendent Don Diglia reported on Meals 'til Monday initiative led by Allentown U.M.C. St. Paul's is attempting some degree of support as yet to be determined. Next L.A.M.M. meeting is Nov. 6 at Allentown U.M.C.;

**Maedene Holmes** led a very successful 2010 school & health kits campaign. She reported during the October 3 Sunday service that she and others packaged 31 school and four health kits September 30 for Pastor Ruth's delivery to the District Office in Ottawa October 1;

**Tim Piper** led St. Paul's efforts to support Family Promise Week at I.U.M. Oct. 10-17. St. Paul's had a few volunteers for evening care-giving and for meal preparation/donations;

October 29 was a fifth Friday and meant St. Paul's day at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen on Central Ave. in Lima. **The Mosers, Brunks, and Bill McKinney** represented St. Paul's this date as meal prep., servers, and clean-up volunteer personnel;

**Tim Piper and the Sdaos** are still leading a very strong 5 Loaves Food Pantry contribution by St. Paul's every month;

**Marty White** presented the annual Missions Committee report on Missions Sunday, September 29, prior to **Linda Craft's** Russian Mission trip report and slide show. With data supplied by Treasurer **Gene Craft**, Marty reported that for the period Sept. 2009 to Sept. 2010 St. Paul's gave approx. \$13,200 in support of any and all missions. This sum represents approx. 8% of the church's working budget;

On Sept. 22 & 23, **Jamie Wyant** led about 8-9 men in the building of a handicap ramp at a residence on S. McPherson St. on the east side of Lima;

**The Holmans and Crafts** led a St. Paul's effort of new or used shoe donations to assist the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter 30016 'Shoeman Water Projects'. The shoes are sold and proceeds used for water supplies to needy areas of the world. 170 pairs of shoes (**wow!**) were donated from St. Paul's;

Committee met Sept. 21, no mtgs. Oct. & Nov. Either a short mtg. Dec. 21 (regular mtg. night or one Dec. Sunday after church to wrap-up 2010 business.)

*Marty White, Mission Co-Chairman*



## Celebrating...

### THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

According to a legend,  
 Many years ago,  
 A monk name Martin Luther  
 Made the first Christmas tree glow.  
 One night the monastery  
 Let out very late,  
 The path was hard to see  
 In the earth's darkened state.  
 He needed to get home  
 For tomorrow was Christmas Day,  
 So he looked for a light  
 To show him the way.  
 Then there through the trees,  
 Tall, lush, and green,  
 Shone the brightest lights  
 He had ever seen.  
 The wonder of those stars  
 In the nighttime air  
 Led his thoughts to Bethlehem  
 And the three Wise Men there  
 Who followed just a star  
 To see the newborn child,  
 The little baby Jesus,  
 Lowly, meek, and mild.  
 To share this experience  
 With his family,  
 Luther cut down a fir  
 Very carefully.  
 He then took it home,  
 Set it up just right  
 And placed candles on its branches  
 To emulate the light.  
 His children liked it much,  
 So they told every friend,  
 And that is how the tradition  
 Of lighting Christmas trees would begin.

*by Jenessa Fletcher*



### Christmas in Mexico

#### Los Posada

In Mexico, a celebration called Los Posada reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph to find a room in Bethlehem. Los Posada happens during the last 12 days of Advent. Each night Mary and Joseph go from house to house asking if there is room for them to stay. Some places say there is "no room" just like the innkeeper. But finally, on Christmas Eve, one place welcomes Mary and Joseph to stay.

Reenact the Los Posada journey with friends and family by preparing a small picnic. Place a basket inside one room of your house and shut the doors of all the rooms. Pretend together that you are travelers like Mary and Joseph, looking for a place that will welcome you. Search the house together. At each door ask, "Are we welcome?" Open the door and if the picnic is inside, share the goodies. While you eat, share stories of times when you have experienced hospitality.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, may we always be ready to welcome all people and share hospitality with them. Amen.*



# Remember When...

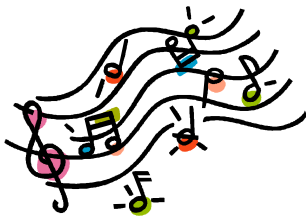


Someone Cares  
Food Collection  
1983



Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs,  
and Fireflies

December 1985  
Directed by Tom Tozer



Rev. Terry Heck's  
Last Sunday at St. Paul's  
December 30, 2001



# Connecting With ...



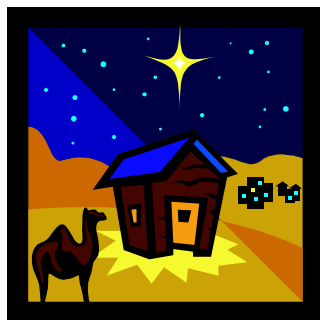
*On October 30th, Sarah Dyke and Kyle Brenneman became engaged after dating for 7 years. Sarah is a senior at Valparaiso University. Congratulations, Sarah and Kyle, from Jenni Theodore and all your friends at St. Paul's UMC!*



*We extend our sympathy to the family of **Paul Scholfield**. Paul passed away on Monday, November 1st, at the age of 89 years. Rev. James Kuhn officiated at the funeral, held on Friday, November 5th. Paul and Helen were married for over 64 years. They became members of St. Paul's UMC in March, 1961. Cards may reach Helen at 709 Wildwood Ave., Elida, OH 45807.*

*We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Margaret Marie Lee**. Marie passed away on Thursday, November 4th, at the age of 93 years. Pastor Ruth officiated at her funeral, held on Monday, November 8th. Marie became a member of St. Paul's UMC in September, 1955.*

*Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Marvin Patton**, who passed away in October. Marvin was the brother of **Maedene Holmes**. Cards may reach Don and Maedene Holmes at 167 Brookview Court, Lima, OH 45801*



## Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Don Chaffins  
Mary Grigsby  
Maedene Holmes  
Joanna Hurd  
Mary Kaye Pease  
Phyllis Trigg

## Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn  
Ruth Hurley  
Edna Osman  
Jean Redd  
Gladys Sherrick  
Helen Waldron

## Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Rick Scholfield  
Mary Steiner

## In the Military & Missions

Lesley Parker  
Jason Stanley

**Visit The United Methodist Communications website : [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org)**

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



## The People of St. Paul's

**To our St. Paul's Church  
Family:**

*Thank you for all of the  
prayers and support during  
my recent illness.  
The prayer shawl is being used  
daily and I dearly love it.  
Pastor Ruth, thank you doesn't  
seem enough for all of your  
kindness. We will always be  
grateful for you and  
your support.*

**Barb & Greg Schade**

**Dear Pastor Ruth and my  
Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**  
*I'm so Thankful for you all, my  
church family. Your loving  
support helped me so much,  
this past week. Thank you for  
your prayers, cards, visitations  
and the lovely floral  
arrangement. I felt wrapped in  
your loving support.  
Love to you all, in Christ,  
**Maedene and Don***

**Pastor Ruth and Church  
family,**  
*Thank you for the cards and  
prayers during my recent  
illness. Your caring and  
kindness is so appreciated.  
Thank you, Pastor Ruth for  
your gentle soothing spirit at  
the hospital prior to surgery.  
You are a special lady, with  
many talents.  
Peace and Love,  
**Lois Rabley***

*Thanks to all who contributed  
to the shoe collection drive. As  
a congregation we sent **170  
pairs** of unneeded shoes to help  
build water wells in third world  
countries. Our shoes combined  
with those of the Thrivent  
chapter of Northwest Ohio  
totaled 3,500 pounds, nearly 2  
tons of shoes! Again, St. Paul's  
people reach out and care for  
those less fortunate. **Thanks!***

*Thank you so much for the  
beautiful mum arrangement,  
and for your prayers and  
thoughtfulness during this  
difficult time for our family.  
**Family of Marvin Patton  
(brother of Maedene Holmes)***

**Dear St. Paul's Friends,**  
*A warm thank you to all of  
you for remembering our  
family during Marie's illness  
and death. We appreciate  
your prayers, cards, flowers  
and the wonderful lunch that  
was prepared for us.  
Blessings to all of you.*

**Carol Lee  
Nancy Gesler  
Gene & Linda Craft**

**Dear St. Paul's Family,**  
*Thank you so much for your  
prayers, cards and words of  
encouragement during my  
recent ankle problem.  
A special thanks to those  
of you who loaned me  
equipment to make my life  
easier when I had to  
immobilize my foot. What a  
wonderful church family  
we have!  
**Linda Craft***



## Meetings

# December 2010

November 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 6, 2010  
PPR...7:15 PM

December 7, 2010  
Trustees...7:00 PM

December 13, 2010  
Finance...7:00 PM

**No Ad Council in Dec.**

December 21, 2010  
Missions...7:00 PM

**No Christian Ed  
Meeting in December**

**Sundays**  
Prayer...10:00 AM  
Fellowship...10:00 AM  
Worship...10:30 AM

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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 A.J. White	2 Lavonne Segovia	3 Mary LaRue	4
5 Shirley Adams Todd Hanes David Segovia	6 Teresa Grigsby Lisa Wurster Sue Theodore PPR	7	8	9	10	11 Ron McAdams Phyllis Trigg John Segovia
12	13 Finance	14	15	16	17 Audrey Fox	18 Mary Holmes
19	20 Ruth Burgoon Mary Steiner	21	22 Kara Woeller	23 Kayla Stewart	24 Linda Craft Christmas Eve Candlelight	25 Denny Grapner Merry Christmas
26	27	28 Adam Crates	29 Tammy Segovia	30 Tristin Gaghen	31	
						

## Anniversaries

John & Bev Foster  
December 17  
44 yrs.

Dennis & Shara  
Bowsher  
December 19

Larry & Gloria Brunk  
December 21  
42 yrs.

John & Valerie Kuenzli  
December 27

Denny & Janna  
Thompson  
December 29

Karen & Ron Bible  
December 30

Michael & Kim Crates  
December 31



# Special Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

## Chocolate Chip Cookies (A favorite on the Reds trip)

by Shirley Moser

Ingredients		Instructions
2/3 cup	shortening	Heat oven to 375 degrees.  Mix thoroughly first 6 ingredients. Blend in remaining ingredients.  Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet. For a more uniform cookie, roll into balls about the size of large walnuts.  Bake 8-10 minutes until light brown.
2/3 cup	butter	
1 cup	sugar	
1 cup	brown sugar (packed)	
2	eggs	
2 tsp.	vanilla	
3 1/2 cups	flour	
1 tsp.	baking soda	
1 tsp.	salt	
1 cup	chopped nuts (optional)	
12 oz.	chocolate chips	



## Poppy Seed Chicken

by Margie Best

Ingredients		Instructions
3 whole	chicken breasts	Cook chicken breasts until tender. Cut cooked chicken into chunks and put in a 9x13 pan.
1/2 pint	sour cream	
1 can	cream of chicken soup	Combine sour cream, soup, broth, and poppy seeds. Pour over chicken.
1/2 can	chicken broth	
1 roll	Ritz crackers, crushed	Spread cracker crumbs on top. Drizzle butter over crumbs. Sprinkle extra poppy seeds on top.
1 stick	butter, melted	
1 tsp.	poppy seeds	Cook for 30 minutes or until bubbles at 350 degrees.

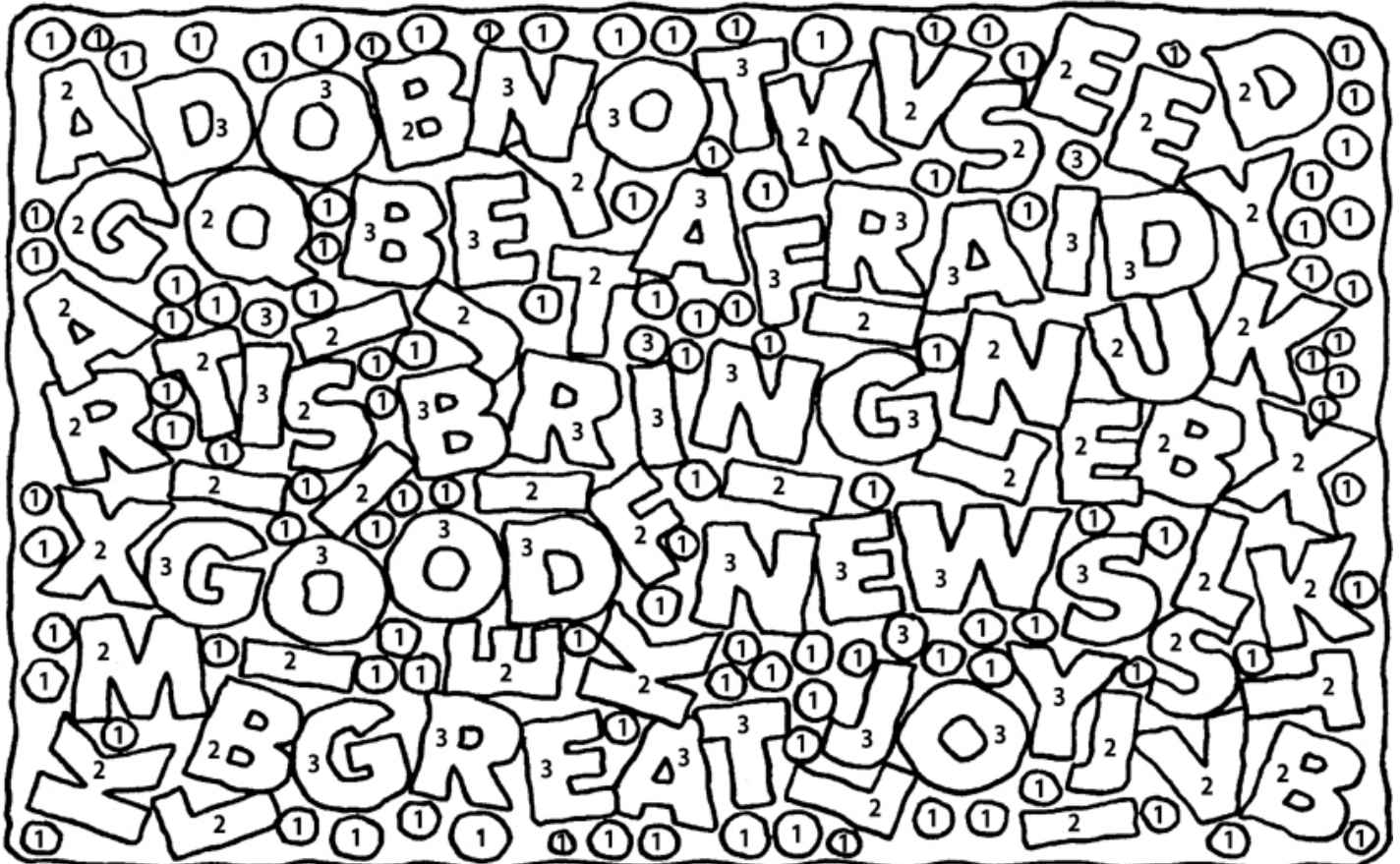


# KIDZ KORNER

## Color by Number

Using the color code, color this art to reveal the message from Luke. 1=Red; 2=Green; 3=Blue

Answer: Do not be afraid.  
I bring good news great  
joy.



## Promise Puzzle

Unscramble the words to find the message from  
Psalm 91:11-12

"O F R E H I L W L

M C A O N M D I S H G L A E S N

C R O N N I C N E G O Y U O T U R D A G U O Y N I

L A L R O Y U W S Y A . N O H I T R E S H N A D H Y E T

L W I L A E R B O U Y P U ."

Answer: "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard  
you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up."



**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

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Permit No. 71

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# December 2010



# Gloria

## Living Our Faith

### BABUSHKA

Share some tea together as you take turns reading aloud this Russian fable; then talk about how Babushka might be able to tell whether she would be welcomed at your home. Babushka was an old grandmother who lived in Russia many years ago. She lived alone on a corner where two roads met. Her days were filled with cleaning and cooking, and even though she hardly ever saw anyone else she was happy.

Late one winter night she was sipping her tea when she heard a knock at her door. She saw some shepherds with their sheep standing outside her house. "What do you want?" she

asked them.

"Grandmother," they said, "we have heard that a baby has been born in Bethlehem who will be the Savior of the world. We want you to come with us and see this child."

"Oh no!" said Babushka. "I cannot leave my clean, warm house to travel with you in the darkness. Maybe I'll go tomorrow."

"If you cannot come, could you let us come in and warm up and have some tea?" asked the shepherds.

"I have just enough for me, and you are all dirty. Perhaps my neighbor down the road can help. Goodnight." And she shut the door.

The next day, Babushka

decided she would go. She packed a bag and took a gift for the child. She traveled for many days but never saw the shepherds again, and when she found the stable it was empty.

Babushka returned to her home but she did not feel like she fit there anymore. She wanted to see the Christ child. So, she put a light in her window as a sign to any shepherds – or other travelers – that they could use her home to make themselves a cup of tea. She travels still, looking for those who know and welcome the love of the Christ child.

**Prayer:** *Jesus, help us to welcome those you send to us and to share the story of your love with others. Amen.*