

# St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 33, Issue 1

January, 2010

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

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Dear Friends,

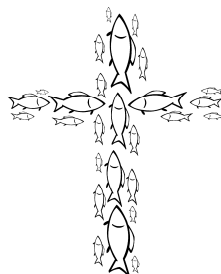
Happy New Year! What a wonderful season we've had to celebrate God with us. God's coming means we have the opportunity to do everything new, once again. St. Paul's will be going through some exciting times in this coming year as we enter into the Phase II of the ReFocus

Process. I will be inviting some of those who have been through the Focused Living Retreats to become a part of the ReFocus Team, who will help lead us through the three summits. By the end of the summits, we'll have all we need to develop a strategic plan for new ministry with a missional focus in our community.

The scripture I had on my ordination banner was from Isaiah 43:19a: "I am about to do a new thing." The rest of it reads, "now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." The changes that will come because of a new missional focus will indeed feel that we are wandering in the wilderness at times, because we will no longer be doing what we've always done. But, God will provide springs of living water that will nourish us through this time and create us anew.

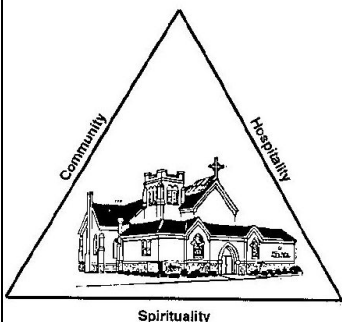
I am excited about the possibilities for St. Paul's in the coming year. There is still one more week before the four-week Focused Living Retreat begins on Sunday afternoons from 3-6pm. We'll meet beginning January 10 through January 31. If you think you would like to be a part of the **ReFocus Team** to help set the direction of St. Paul's strategic missions, you must participate in the Focused Living Retreat. Everyone will be welcome at the summits and focus groups, whether you've taken the Focused Living Retreats or not. I look forward to this year with excitement and faith that God is indeed doing a new thing.

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



Thought for the Month:

Blessed are they  
who can laugh at  
themselves, for they  
shall never cease  
to be amused.



## Inside this issue:

Youth News	2
Upcoming Events	2-3
Northwest Plains News	3
The Heart of Church	4
The Business of Church	5
Faith In Action	6
Consulting the Manual	7
Guest Author-J. Fletcher	8
Celebrating	9
Remember When...	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
January Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



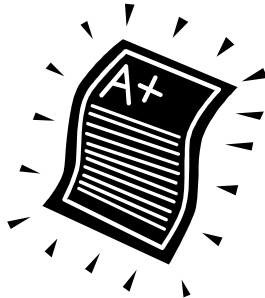
# Making the Grade

## January Youth Calendar

January 3, 2010	TBA
January 10, 2010	TBA
January 17, 2010	TBA
January 24, 2010	TBA
January 31, 2010	TBA

Elida High School:

- Grade 9: Aric Thompson
- Grade 10: Reggie McAdams  
Kelsey Smith
- Grade 11: Audrey Fox  
Alex McAdams  
Tahler Sdao  
Michele Theodore
- Grade 12: Derek Bible  
Molly Fessler  
Jacinda Fletcher  
Ashly Fox  
Cory Stewart



Shawnee High School: Grade 12:

Cody Smith

The Ohio State University:

Megan Bible  
Jenni Theodore

University of Findlay:

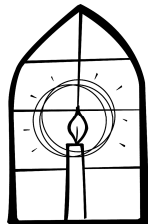
Lindsey Reiff

University of Northwestern Ohio:

Jenessa Fletcher

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



### St. Paul's Epistle

is published by St. Paul's  
United Methodist Church

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



Pharmacy student **Lindsey Reiff** recently participated in the White Coat Ceremony at the University of Findlay. The ceremony signifies the entrance into the 3rd year of the six-year pharmacy program. Lindsey is the daughter of Jeff and Shelly Reiff, 2470 Irvin Rd., Elida, OH.

**Congratulations, Lindsey!**



### Epiphany Activities

Epiphany (January 6) is the day many in the church celebrate the arrival of the magi to visit Jesus. You can read the story in Matthew 2:1-12.



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



### 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](mailto:nwplains@wocumc.org)

#### Webinar Series and Online Course Schedules Available

Tuesdays @ 10am Central, The Communications Ministry Webinar Series from United Methodist Communications, airs each Tuesday at 10 AM (central) and features one specific topic each week. All live broadcasts are recorded and available as RSS feeds. Visit [umcom.org/webinars](http://umcom.org/webinars) for a complete listing of upcoming webinars and to access the archives.

Free Online Courses are available in a variety of subjects from United Methodist Basics to Welcoming and Web Ministry.

The 2010 course schedule is now available by visiting [training.umcom.org](http://training.umcom.org).

#### Learn the Facts

Every 30 seconds, an innocent child in Africa dies of malaria. This disease causes immeasurable suffering across the African continent. Left untreated, malaria's flu-like symptoms - fever, chills, vomiting, headache - lead to convulsions, organ failure and unnecessary deaths. All caused by a parasite called Plasmodium, transmitted through the bite of a tiny mosquito.

Imagine No Malaria is an extraordinary effort of The people of The United Methodist Church to eliminate death and suffering from malaria in Africa by 2015. Just as the cross is a sign to us of God's love, we are called to be a sign of God's love and

commitment to the world.

The key to overcoming malaria's burden is achieving **sustainability**, which we will accomplish through: **Prevention:** Distributing insecticide-treated bed nets (Nothing But Nets), and working to drain standing water where mosquitoes breed.

**Education:** Teaching people in rural areas how to protect themselves from mosquitoes and how to identify early symptoms of malaria...before it's too late.

**Communication:** Using radio and cell phones to deliver lifesaving information about malaria.

**Treatment:** Improving existing hospitals and clinics, training community health workers and providing life-saving medicines to those in need.

**Get Your Church Involved! Visit the Imagine No Malaria [online library](#) for more about malaria and how we are uniting faith and works to save lives in Africa.**

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



The simplicity of the manger in the Chancel area led to quiet thoughts of our Savior's birth.  
*Photo by Ron Steiner*

Relay for Life Luncheon  
 February 7, 2010  
 Following Worship Service



#### United Methodist July 12-16 is the "UMCH Mission Week"

##### Potential Projects:

- Inside work (in priority order):
  - Administrative filing / sorting / digitizing records
  - Significant sorting / organizing / redirecting items in building 109 (household building)
  - Inside painting of the cottages (prep / painting / clean-up)
  - Sanding / sealing wood cottage furniture

- Outside work (in priority order):
  - School roof (leaking section only)
  - Pavement seal and re-stripping
  - Gutters for school and building 147
  - Mulching an unusually large brush pile
  - Repair and replace damaged siding on cottages
  - Wood and window work on the dining hall second story

*God Bless you for all that you do as His hands and feet on earth.  
 Todd Hanes*

# The Heart of Church

## Greeters

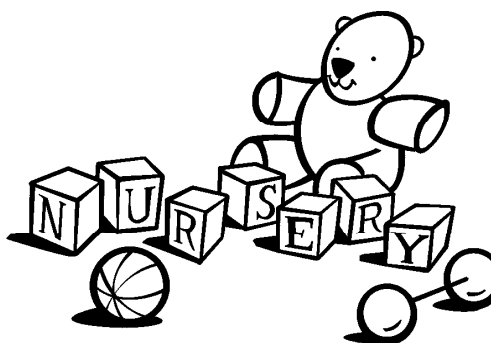
January 3, 2010	Evelyn Sarber
January 10, 2010	Steve and Tracy Sdao
January 17, 2010	Jerry and Becky Bean
January 24, 2010	Brad and Slone Whetstone
January 31, 2010	Rudy and Lavonne Segovia

## Nursery Volunteers

January 3	Torie & Vicki McAdams
January 10	Shirley Moser
January 17	Volunteer Needed
January 24	Volunteer Needed
January 31	Margie Best & Jone Lane

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every[one] which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus.

— Blaise Pascal



Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you.

— Dr. Seuss

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

— source unknown

## 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

## Book of Timothy



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# The Business of Church

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

The recent "\$5 on the 5<sup>th</sup>" United Methodist Children's Home fund raising effort on November 29, 2009, netted \$272.00. This is a wonderful display of caring and outreach by the parishioners of St. Paul's. Thank you!

On December 15, 2009, the Missions Committee listened to an Acts 434 mission presentation by the leaders of this Lima Allen County initiative. We have opportunities to donate our time and talents to this mission in the areas of meal provisions; education; utility/domestics support; and home refurbishment activities. This effort, originally brought to us by former St. Paul's worshiper John Foster, has active members primarily from Allentown UMC along with a few Lima and surrounding township church locations. Acts 434 intends to be a clearing house and logistics resource for those in need throughout our community. Look for more news in the coming months regarding this effort.

## Consecration Sunday Results

- ◇ The total pledge for 2010 is \$140,442.
- ◇ The total pledge for 2009 was \$145,304.
- ◇ The pledge for 2010 is down \$4,862 from 2009.
- ◇ There were 17 giving units that did not pledge for 2010.
- ◇ There were 9 giving units that pledged the same amount in 2009 and 2010.
- ◇ There were 6 giving units that are new first time pledges.
- ◇ There were 25 giving units that increased their pledge for 2010.
- ◇ There were 11 giving units that decreased their pledge for 2010.

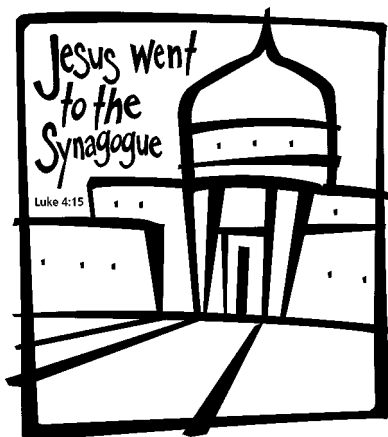


When you say, "No, No, No" the world gets smaller and heavier.

*– Stephen Nachmanovitch*

When you have a spiritual foundation, you look at poverty differently.

*– Dennis Banks*



## Committee Chairs

<b>PPR Chair</b>	Linda Craft
<b>Trustees Chair</b>	TBA
<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:

November 29, 2009	100
December 6, 2009	80
December 13, 2009	110
December 20, 2009	150
December 24, 2009	148
December 27, 2009	91

## Financial Giving

Weekly Need for  
Unified Ministry Budget  
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 29, 2009	\$1,861.00	\$760.00
December 6, 2009	\$3,901.00	\$736.10
December 13, 2009	\$6,079.00	\$1,531.00
December 20, 2009	\$2,422.00	\$1,768.45
December 24	\$700.00	N/A
December 27, 2009	\$2,222.86	\$632.00



## Sunday School Attendance

November 29, 2009	27
December 6, 2009	32
December 13, 2009	30
December 20, 2009	33
December 27, 2009	NA

## Flowers:

January 3, 2010	Open
January 10, 2010	Open
January 17, 2010	Ruth Hardy
January 24, 2010	Open
January 31, 2010	Open

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

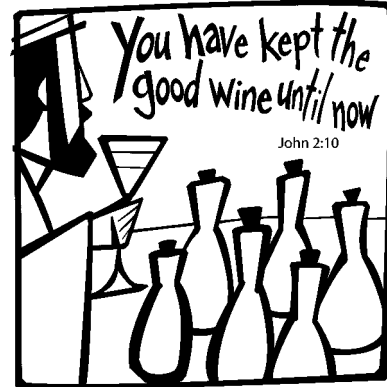


# Consulting the Manual



“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.”

*Isaiah 60:1*



## **Bible Readings for January**

Revised Common Lectionary  
Year C

### Week of January 3

#### **Epiphany Sunday**

Color: White or Gold

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*New Testament:*

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

### Week of January 10

#### **Baptism of the Lord**

Color: White or Gold

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

*New Testament:*

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### Week of January 17

#### **Human Relations Day**

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2: 1-11

### Week of January 24

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

Psalm 19

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

### Week of January 31

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

Jeremiah 1:4-10

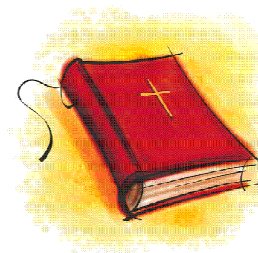
Psalm 71:1-6

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Luke 4:21-30

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



# Guest Author—Jenessa Fletcher



Our hat and mitten tree helped children in the area find warmth.

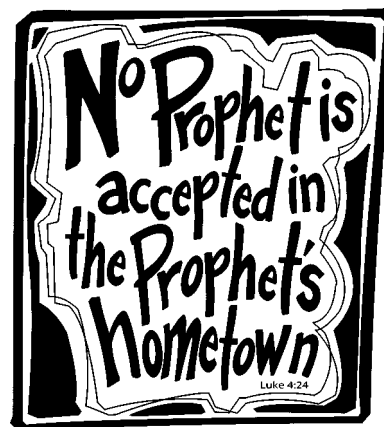
## Journey of the Wise Men

Many must've seen the star  
 That dark and holy night  
 But only three men from afar  
 Had the wisdom to follow its light.  
 So traveling from the East  
 Across the desert ground,  
 Their hope never ceased  
 As they were Bethlehem bound.  
 They came not empty handed,  
 But bearing gifts  
 One brought gold, one, myrrh,  
 And one, Frankincense.  
 As the star continued  
 They followed where it led,  
 Seeing the Christ child  
 When it halted overhead.  
 Then presented they,  
 The treasure they had brought  
 And bowed down and worshipped  
 This One they had sought.  
 Their search was now over  
 But ours must not be  
 Until the day we, too,  
 Jesus' face can see.

~ Jenessa Fletcher

When Jesus Christ asked little children to come to him, he didn't say only rich children, or white children, or children with two-parent families, or children who didn't have a mental or physical handicap. He said, "Let all children come unto me."

— Marian Wright Edelman





# Celebrating...




On December 20, during the morning worship service, the Chancel Choir performed the cantata **“Rise Up!” ‘A New Light A-Comin’** by Larson/Martin.

*Back Row, L-R:*  
 Marty White, narrator; Myrna Metzger, Jamie Wyant, Dan Best, Norm Grigsby, Jerry Crates, and Wilbur Hurd

*Middle Row, L-R:*  
 Janet Grigg, Virginia Hollar, Judy Chaffins, Martha Vazquez, Jan Wyant, and Linda Holman

*Front Row, L-R:*  
 Lynda Evans, Maedene Holmes, Ruth Hardy, Linda Craft, and Nancy Gesler

Pianist: Lois Cook  
 Director: Mary Kaye Pease



Christianity does not remove you from the world and its problems; it makes you fit to live in it, triumphantly and usefully.

– Charles Templeton

# Remember When...



Leadership Spiritual Retreat—mid 1980s  
 Front, L-R:  
 Martha Puffenberger, Jan Wyant, Maedene Holmes  
 Back, L-R:  
 Larry Brown, Judy Chaffins, Lois Rabley,  
 Hope Mathwig, Evelyn Sarber, Linda Craft,  
 Linda Holman

New Members and Baby Baptism  
 1987

L-R:  
 Phyllis Hines, Julie Stephenson, James Hines, Janna and Denny Thompson, Jodi Gladfelter, Barry Smith, Tammy, David, and Bruce Segovia, Brent McAdams



Boys Being Boys—1991  
 Jon Cook, Jordan Wyant, Justin Wyant,  
 Todd Chaffins, Steve Moser





# Connecting With ...

We extend our sympathy to **Jerry and Becky Bean**. Jerry's aunt, **Thelma Fenstermaker**, died December 16, 2009, in Leipsic, OH, at the age of 94 years. Cards will reach Jerry and Becky at **5075 Daisy Lane, Elida, OH 45807**.

Love is patient; love is tender-hearted; love doesn't resent someone else doing well; love doesn't try to impress; love doesn't embarrass others or bully; love doesn't easily lose its cool or hold a grudge; love doesn't enjoy finding things to criticize, but is happy when everything is honest and genuine. Love puts up with all kinds of difficulty; love is open-minded and looks on the bright side; love sticks at it and never admits defeat.  
 — 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures*

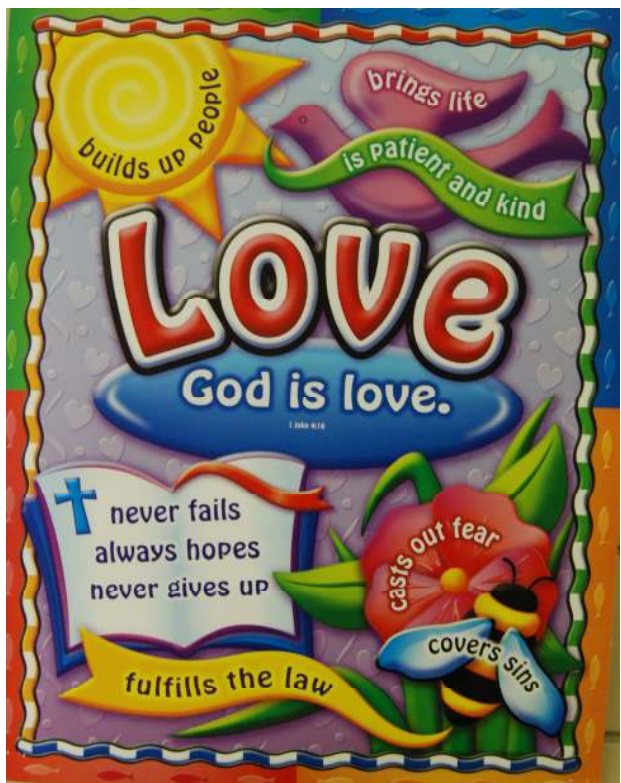


Photo by Ron Steiner

**Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital**

Jim Hines  
Caroline Smith

**Homebound Members**

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

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

Sara House  
June Metzger  
Rick Scholfield

**In the Military**

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

Dear Sisters & Brothers  
in Christ,  
I give thanks to God for you as  
I remember you in prayer.  
Thank you for your gracious  
welcome as I attended worship  
with you on Dec. 20. I was  
truly blessed.  
And special congratulations to  
your choir for their music  
ministry. Your cantata was a  
wonderful presentation of the  
Good News with a motivating  
charge to "Rise Up & Go  
Tell." Your blend and balance  
were superb.  
May God bless you at  
Christmas and always.  
Grace & Peace,  
~ **Rev. Jeff Motter**  
Asst. to the DS,  
Northwest Plains

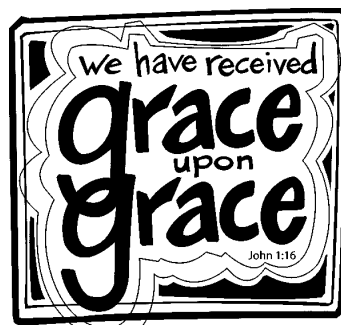
Thank you to all for your  
prayers and concerns for my  
mother, **Hope Mathwig**,  
following her recent stroke. A  
special thank you to **Shirley  
Moser** and **Jo Hurd** for the  
prayer shawl. Mom is settled  
in at Van Crest in Delphos and  
would enjoy visits. She gets  
confused easily but should  
remember any of you.  
~ **Jamie Wyant**

I want to thank everyone for  
your prayers and  
understanding while I was  
down with the sinus  
infection between  
Thanksgiving and Christmas.  
Your prayers sustained me  
and helped me to regain my  
strength. I am truly  
blessed to serve a  
congregation like you.  
~ **Pastor Ruth Solo**

Rich and I want to thank  
everyone who sent us cards  
and brought gifts for  
Christmas. While it isn't  
necessary, it is very nice to  
know we are so appreciated.  
May God bless each of you in  
the New Year with health,  
wholeness, and  
purpose. In Christ,  
~ **Pastor Ruth and Rich**

I want to say "thank you  
to all my church family"  
for sending me so many  
lovely cards, as I celebrated  
my 90th birthday.  
~ **Mary LaRue**

The cookies arrived and they  
were wonderful! Children and  
staff really enjoyed them!  
Thanks for once more coming  
through for all of us here at  
the United Methodist  
Children's Home.  
You are a blessing!  
~ **Steve Putka**



**Prayer List Updates**  
**Please Contact**  
**Lavonne Segovia**

# Meetings

# January 2010

December 2009						
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	31		

No PPR meeting until  
February 8, 2010

January 5, 2010  
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 11, 2010  
Finance...7:00 PM

January 11, 2010  
Ad Council...8:00 PM

January 14, 2010  
Missions...6:30 PM

No Christian Ed  
Meeting in January

Sundays  
Prayer...9:00 AM

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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 Tim Piper Ron Stewart	2																																																	
3 Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6	7	8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Fletcher																																																	
10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13 Brian Nartker Carolyn Michael Eileen Slade 84 years	14	15	16 Steve Sdao																																																	
17 Norm Grigsby 81 years	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger	22	23 Joanne Bragg Roger Matlock																																																	
24	25	26 Ginger Fox Jeff Reiff Virginia Yarger 82 years	27	28	29	30 Wanda Strayer Helen Waldron (85 years) Zack White																																																	
31 Judy Strayer					<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2010</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		February 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						
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## Anniversaries

Rudy & Lavonne  
Segovia  
January 1  
54 yrs.

Gerald & Wanda  
Strayer  
January 13  
56 yrs.

Gary & Sue Broshes  
January 25

Don & Maedene  
Holmes  
January 25  
51 yrs.



# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

## Bacon Quiche

*by Mary Grigsby*

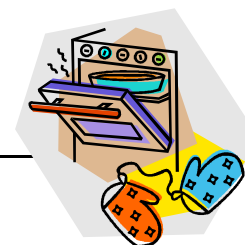
Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 cup	melted butter	Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line bottom of oven with foil because this recipe splatters.
2 cups	Half & Half or evaporated milk	
3/4 tsp.	salt	Dry broccoli a little with paper towels.
Dash	pepper	
4	eggs, beaten	Mix butter, Half & Half, salt, pepper, and eggs with whisk. Stir in Bisquick. Pour into a large deep pie dish. Sprinkle with peppers, onions and broccoli. Then add bacon and cheese.
1/2 cup	plus 1 Tbl. Bisquick	
4 cups	shredded cheese: mix cheddar & Swiss	
1 lb.	bacon, cooked and broken into bits	Don't stir.
1/4 cup	chopped onion	Bake until the middle is firm. It makes its own crust.
1/4 cup	frozen chopped broccoli, thawed	



## Breakfast Casserole

*by Myrna Metzger*

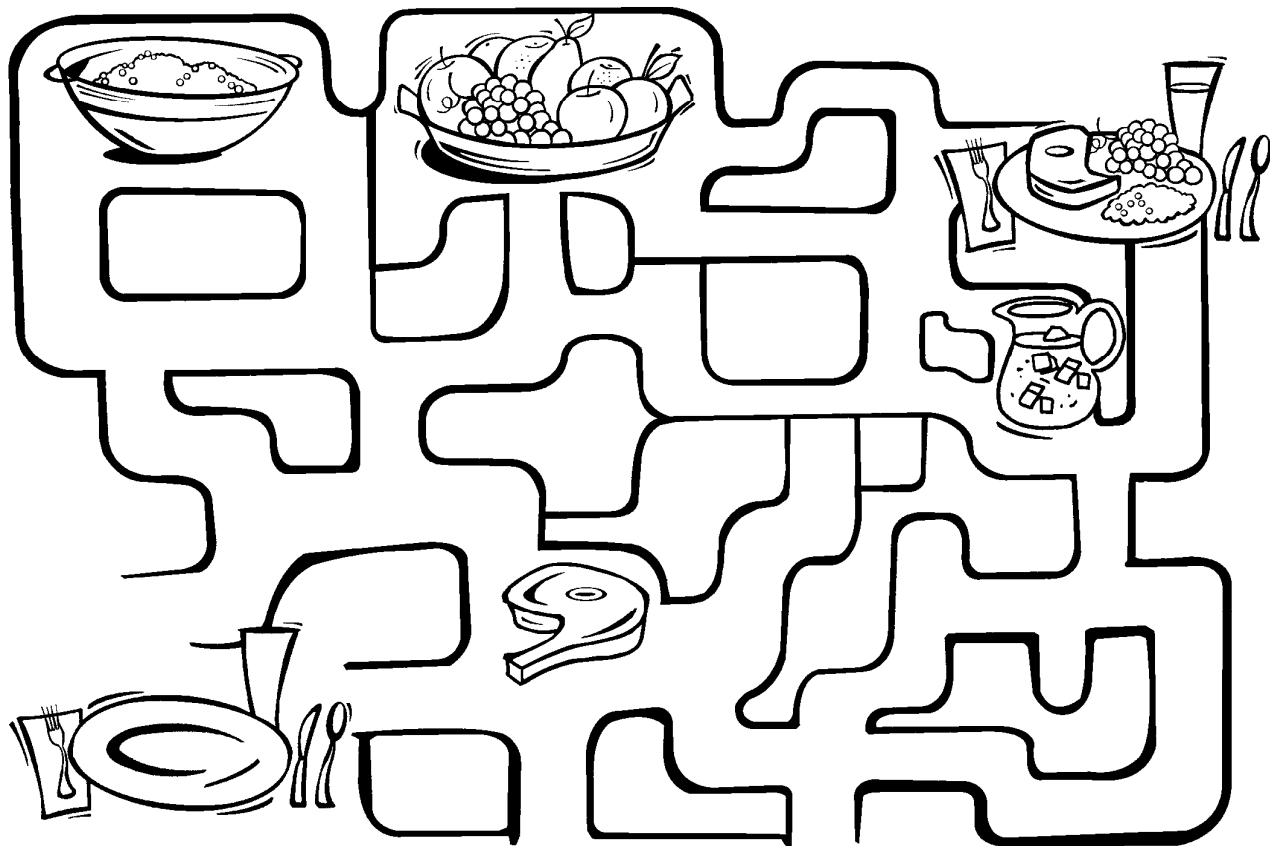
Ingredients		Instructions
6	eggs	Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
1 tsp.	dry mustard	In a greased 9"x13" pan, put cut up bread on the bottom. Top with cooked meat. Sprinkle cheese on top.
1 cup	grated cheddar cheese	
1 tsp.	salt	Pour mixture of milk, eggs, and seasonings over bread.
1/4 tsp.	pepper	Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
2 cups	milk	
6 slices	bread, torn or cut into pieces	Bake 45-55 minutes.
1 lb.	sausage, bacon, or ham	



# KIDZ KORNER

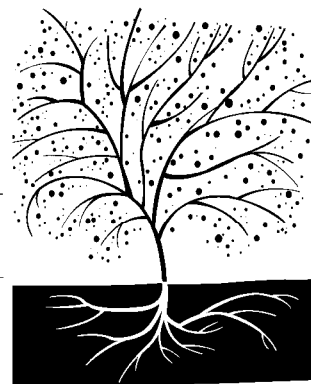
## Fill Your Plate

God wants us to treat our bodies with care. Follow the maze to fill your empty plate and glass with good things to eat and drink.



## Good Food

Read Genesis 2:9a and unscramble the words below.



T O U F O E H T U G N R D O

H T E D R O L O D G D M E A

O T R W G O E Y E R V

T E R E H T T A S I T P N L A E S A

O T T E H G T I H S N A D O D O G

O F R O D F O . Genesis 2:9

Answer: Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.

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

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Peace

January 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
31						

# Living Our Faith

Don't be afraid,  
 I've redeemed you.  
 I've called your name.  
 You're mine.  
 When you're  
 in over your head,  
 I'll be there with you.  
 When you're  
 in rough waters,  
 you will not go down.  
 When you're between a rock  
 and a hard place,  
 it won't be a dead end –  
 Because I am God,  
 your personal God.

– Isaiah 43:1b-3a, *The Message*

The family is a  
 divine institution  
 established to test  
 the limits of our  
 abilities and  
 patience.

– Amy Tan



# January 2010