

St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 34, Issue 1

January, 2011

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807
419-339-3801

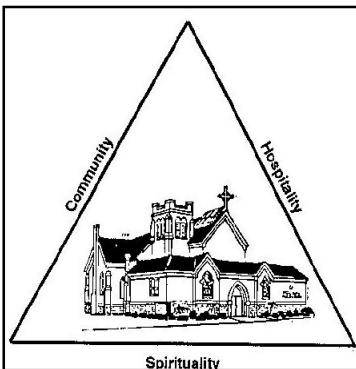
espcoffice@embarqmail.com

Rev. Ruth Solo

419/909-9102

Cell Phone: 419/812-3032

espcpastor@embarqmail.com



Dear Friends,

It's that time again: Time to make resolutions in the New Year to become a better person. You know those old resolutions? Those promises you have made to yourself every year for the last 20 years or more? They are things like: read more books, get more exercise, loose weight, and/or spend more time with the family. I remember when I was about 10 years old and had just learned about resolutions. I made a list that went something like this (to the best of my memory): make my bed every day –which lasted about a week; do my chores when asked – which lasted about one Saturday; save my allowance – which lasted until I received my next allowance. I wasn't very successful at keeping those resolutions back then. And I have to admit that I'm not very successful at keeping the long list of those same old resolutions I make every year.

But, in the process of thinking about resolutions, I begin to remember what I've done in the past year, and years. Perhaps the best line in *The Lion King* was, "Remember who you are." As we begin 2011, we will celebrate the Word that has come among us in January 2, continuing to look at the God who came to dwell among us. The next week, we will remember our Baptism as we remember Jesus' baptism, and be claimed once again as children of God. It is in these special acts of worship that we remember who we are as beloved children of God and followers of Jesus the Christ.

We will continue to remember on January 29 as we hold the first ReFocus Summit, and everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to remember who we have been as a church for as far back as the oldest one there can remember. Remembering grounds our identity in Christ, and helps us to go forward to meet God in the future.

This will be a year of remembering, and then looking forward as we develop a strategic plan for our ministry in our community. What simple resolutions for the church: Remember who you are and discover where God is leading you. I hope to meet you on the journey in 2011 as we go forward to keep these resolutions as sacred promises.

See you in church.
Peace be to you,
Pastor Ruth Solo

Inside this issue:

Youth News	2
Upcoming Events	2-3
ReFocus News	3
The Heart of Church	4
Epiphany season	5
Faith In Action	6
Consulting the Manual	7
Personnel Report	8-9
Want Ads	8-9
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



Thought for the Month:

If it weren't for the
optimist, the pessimist
would never know how
happy he wasn't.



Notice:
St. Paul's UMC hard working students are recognized for their grades!

Elida High School

Grade 9: Torie McAdams

Grade 10: Aric Thompson

Grade 11: Reggie McAdams, Kelsey Smith

Grade 12: Audrey Fox, Alex McAdams, Michele Theodore,

The Ohio State University

Megan Bible, Jenni Theodore

University of Findlay

Lindsey Reiff



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Community Youth Gathering

Date: January 16, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: YMCA, Lima



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
Organist: Linda Holman
Pianist: Lois Cook
Youth Director: Corinne Piper
Custodian: Dave Decker

St. Paul Happenings

Committee Meetings

January 3—PPR, 7:15 PM
January 4—Trustees, 7:00 PM
January 5—Worship Team, 6:00 PM
January 10—Finance, 7:00 PM
Ad Council, 8:00 PM
January 11—Stewardship, 7:00 PM
January 18—Missions, 7:00 PM

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

ReFocus News



“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before hand to be our way of life.” Ephesians 2:10

The ReFocus process that has been advertised and discussed in this newsletter during the past two years is nearing the starting line. During the evenings of January 5 & 12, 2011 (attend one), the St. Paul's ReFocus Team Leadership Team will hold invitational and Summit registration meetings for the congregation at large. The goal of this entire ReFocus process is to develop a strategic plan for ministry at St. Paul's U.M.C. that is Christ centered and spiritually focused. The three Summit meetings examine where God has been at work in our lives, where God is currently working, and where God is calling us to reap a harvest of renewed disciples with a mindset for mission throughout our community. Would Elida be concerned if St. Paul's closed? Would they even notice? What do we have to offer our community in advancing the mission and purpose of our congregation?

There are no academic prerequisites for attendance at any of these Summit sessions, no minimum ACT scores, no leadership qualifications or experience – just a caring heart and discerning mind intent on developing a future plan for the congregation of St. Paul's that will best utilize our time, talents, and resources in implementing our calling from God today and tomorrow.

Be part of the SOLUTION....be in attendance at the ReFocus Summit meetings January – March, 2011, beginning with one of the January invitational sessions. More to follow!

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Congregational Meeting

ReFocus Meetings

January 5—ReFocus Informational Meeting, 7:00 PM

January 12—ReFocus Informational Meeting, 7:00 PM

January 24—ReFocus Team, 7:00 PM

January 29—ReFocus Summit #1, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Community Unity Service

January 23, 2011

Allentown UMC

Rev. Brian Knoderer
Speaker

Come and see!
Jn 1:39

Tutoring at St. Paul's

Each Tuesday and Thursday

4:00 PM—7:00 PM



The Heart of Church

Greeters

January 2, 2010	Scott & Gail Fessler
January 9, 2010	Steve, Tracy & Tahler Sdao
January 16, 2010	Mary & Norm Grigsby
January 23, 2010	Judy Chaffins
January 30, 2010	Tim & Sue Theodore

Nursery Volunteers

January 2	Volunteer Needed
January 9	Volunteer Needed
January 16	Volunteer Needed
January 23	Volunteer Needed
January 30	Volunteer Needed

We are in great need of nursery volunteers. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way



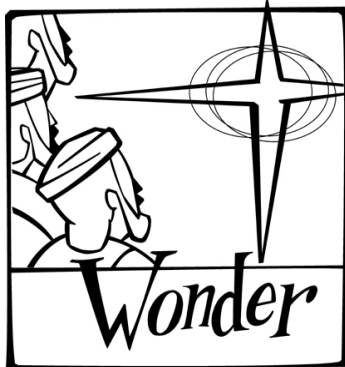
Book of Timothy



Committee Chairs

PPR	Linda Craft
Trustees	TBA
Finance	Art Holman
Physical Plant	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Christian Education	TBA
Administrative Council	Scott Fessler
Worship	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Martha Vazquez
Stewardship	Tim Piper
Missions	Marty White and Maedene Holmes

Epiphany—The Season of Revelation



The name of the church season that follows Christmas is The Season after the Epiphany. The word epiphany means "revelation." Although we don't use this word very often, you might have heard someone say "What an epiphany!" when they have had an exciting new idea.

- When was the last time you had a big idea or saw something in a brand new way? How did you feel? Did you tell anyone, or keep it to yourself? If you haven't told anyone, find someone today and share your "epiphany."

Epiphany begins on January 6 with the Festival of the Epiphany. This celebrates the arrival of the magi at Bethlehem. The magi were thought to be earthly kings who noticed a bright star in the sky and understood it to be a sign that a new king had been born. They decided to follow the star and brought gifts to honor the new king, who turned out to be baby Jesus.

- What do you remember about the story of the magi? (You can read it in Matthew 2:1-12.) What questions do you have about this story? What does it reveal about Jesus? Because the magi came from far away, this story helps us to see that God's gift of Jesus is meant for all people. What other gifts from God are meant for all people?

Just as the magi were amazed to find the king they had been seeking for so long, we too feel the joy of Jesus. In our hearts, we can kneel and worship the God who comes to us in Jesus and stays with us always.

- What kind of prayers do you think the magi might have whispered as they knelt in the presence of God's promised one? Perhaps they expressed joy or thanks for the wonder of God's love in the tiny baby. When have you offered prayers of joy or thanks?

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany the church celebrates Jesus' baptism. This took place when Jesus was about 30 years old. It can seem like Jesus grows up very quickly as we go from stories of Jesus' birth one week to stories of his ministry the next week, but this is the rhythm of the church year!

- What do you remember about the story of Jesus' baptism? (You can read it in Matthew 3:16-17.) What do you think is the most interesting part of this story? What is revealed about Jesus in his baptism?

Unlike Advent, which always has four weeks, the length of the Season after the Epiphany varies. This year, Easter comes very late - April 24 - so Epiphany is longer than it has been for many years. The Season after the Epiphany ends on March 6 when we celebrate Jesus' transfiguration.

- What do you remember about the story of Jesus' transfiguration? (You can read it in Matthew 17:1-8.) What do you think is the most puzzling part of this story? What is revealed about Jesus in this experience?

The church uses more than one color for its worship banners and paraments during the Season after the Epiphany. On the first and last days of Epiphany (January 6 and March 6, 2011), white or gold are used to represent God's revelation in Jesus. On the Sundays in between, green is used to represent the time of the church year known as Ordinary Time. On these Sundays we focus on Jesus' call to his disciples, as well as other call stories from the Hebrew Scriptures.

- Look around your church sanctuary during the Season after the Epiphany for signs of white, gold, and green. What do these colors mean to you? What colors might you choose to represent God's revelation in Jesus? What colors would you use to represent Jesus' call to follow him?

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

November 28, 2010	109
December 5, 2010	104
December 12, 2010	81
December 19, 2010	105

Financial Giving
Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00



Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 28, 2010	\$2,922.00	\$2,358.12
December 5, 2010	\$4,614.00	\$1,020.83
December 12, 2010	\$2,689.20	\$1,405.00
December 19, 2010	\$3,716.76	\$1,546.00



We are in need of people to donate flowers for the altar on Sundays.

Children and Youth Ministry Attendance	
November 28, 2010	8
December 5, 2010	5
December 12, 2010	8
December 19, 2010	15

Flowers:	
January 2, 2010	Open
January 9, 2010	Open
January 16, 2010	Ruth Hardy
January 23, 2010	Open
January 30, 2010	Open

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

Consulting the Manual

Jesus came to be baptized.

Mt 3:13



Blessed are you !

Mt 5:11

Bible Readings for January

Revised Common Lectionary
Year A

Week of January 2

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 9

Baptism of the Lord

Color: White

Old Testament:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

New Testament:

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Week of January 16

Human Relations Day

Color: Green

Old Testament:

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Week of January 23

Ecumenical Sunday

Color: green

Old Testament:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Week of January 30

Color: Green

Old Testament:

Micah 6:1-8

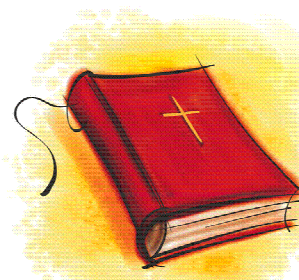
Psalm 15

New Testament:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

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



Personnel Report for 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson Administrative Council	Scott Fessler	(11)
Church Conf./Church Council Secretary	Janet Grigg	(11)
Chair of Finance	Art Holman	(11)
Christian Education	___TBA___	(13)
Church Historian	Jone Lane	(11)
Financial Secretary	Carole Grapner	(12)
Higher Education	Lois Cook	(12)
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)
Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Lavonne Segovia	(11)
Members-at-large	Norm Grigsby Wilbur Hurd	
Membership	Lavonne Segovia	(12)
Missions	Marty White	(11)
	Maedene Holmes	(11)
Nuture	Martha Vazquez	(11)
Chairperson Pastor/Parish Relations	Linda Craft	(11)
Chair of Trustees	___TBA___	(11)
Treasurer	Gene Craft	(11)
Co-Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(11)
Youth Leader	Corinne Piper	
Youth Representative	The Youth (rotating)	
Pastor	Ruth Solo	

NOMINATIONS

Chairperson		Ruth Solo	
Lay Leader		Dan Best	(13)
Margie Best	(11)	Molly Fessler	(12) Norm Grigsby (13)
Cindy Guess	(11)	Linda Matlock	(12) Susan Nartker (13)
Virginia Hollar	(11)	Michele Theodore	(12) Kathy White (13)

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson		Linda Craft	(11)
Lay Member		Lavonne Segovia	(11)
Lay Leader		Dan Best	(13)
Linda Craft	(11)	Tim Piper	(12) Mary Irvin (13)
Myrna Metzger	(11)	Bill McKinney	(12) Brian Nartker (13)
Jan Wyant	(11)		

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Ruth Solo
Alter Guild	Kathy White
Communion Stewards	Brian & Angie Nartker
Ushers	Dwain Metzger
Musician	Linda Holman
Liturgical Arts	Myrna Metzger
Tech Team	Judy Chaffins
Tech Team	Steve Moser
Tech Team	Rich Solo
Tech Team	Tim Theodore

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chairperson	___TBA___
Youth Leader	Corinne Piper
Lois Cook	Gail Fessler
Linda Matlock	Shirley Moser
Angie Nartker	Brian Nartker
Corinne Piper	Steve Sdao
Tracy Sdao	Janna Thompson
Slone Whetstone	Jan Wyant

NURTURE

Chairperson	Martha Vazquez	(11)
Becky Bean	Lynda Evans	
Linda Holman	Shirley Moser	
Brian Nartker	Susan Nartker	
Lois Rabley	Wanda Strayer	
Sue Theodore		
At large member	- Janet Grigg	

Visual Technicians: The worship team is gathering a team of people to work the video system for Sunday morning worship. The team will put together the program for the worship service and run the program during the service on a rotating basis. The team will be trained on how to use the new worship software and the computer. **If interested, please see Pastor Ruth or Steve Moser.**

HELP WANTED: see at right

2011 Personnel Report continued

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson	_____ TBA _____	(11)
Vice-Chair of Trustees	Larry Moser	(13)
Treasurer	Art Holman	(11)
Ron Steiner (11)	Margie Best (12)	Karen Bible (13)
Tim Theodore (11)	Brad Whetstone (12)	Larry Moser (13)
	Tony Shoup	(13)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Art Holman	(11)
Chairperson Admin. Council	Scott Fessler	(11)
Assistant Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(11)
Financial Secretary	Carole Grapner	(12)
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)
Lay Member of Annual Conf.	Lavonne Segovia	(11)
Member-at-large	Norm Grigsby	(11)
PPRC Chair or Rep.	Linda Craft	(11)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	
Permanent Endowment Rep.	Dwain Metzger	(11)
Treasurer	Gene Craft	(11)
Trustee Chair or Rep.	_____ TBA _____	(11)

STEWARDSHIP/MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Tim Piper	(11)	
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)	
Membership	Lavonne Segovia	(12)	
Don Irvin (11)	Norm Grigsby (12)	Mary Grigsby (13)	
Evelyn Sarber (11)	Jamie Wyant (12)	Shirley Shoup (13)	

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Dwain Metzger	(11)
Trustee Rep.	_____ TBA _____	(11)
Finance Rep.	Art Holman	(11)
Treasurer	Gene Craft	(11)
Co-Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(11)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	

MISSIONS

Chairpersons	Marty White (11)	
	Maedene Holmes (11)	
Pastor	Ruth Solo	
Virginia Hollar (11)	Dennis Bowsher (12)	Greg Schade (13)
Tim Piper (11)	Shara Bowsher (12)	
Jamie Wyant (11)	Slone Whetstone (12)	



Christian Education Chair: Seeking an individual to oversee the Education/Faith development ministry of the church. The position would involve meeting with those who currently provide education ministry in children's, youth, and adult faith formation ministries. The position would involve minimum of four meetings per year for planning, and consulting with individual teachers about curriculum and events, and attending Administrative Council every other month. **If interested, please see or speak with Pastor Ruth.**



Assistant Sound Technician: Need someone to help Tim Theodore and Rich Solo with the sound system on Sundays when neither of them are available, which happens occasionally. Also would fill in for Rich when he is working on the visual technology one Sunday a month. Would be trained on how to record the services with the current equipment. **See Rich Solo or Tim Theodore if interested.**

Connecting With ...



In Sympathy

*We extend our sympathy to the family of **Ruth Hurley**. Ruth passed away on Monday, November 22, 2010, at the age of 92 years. Rev. Ruth Solo officiated at her funeral on Saturday, November 27th. Ruth became a member of St. Paul's UMC in 1985, when she moved to Elida to be near her brother-in-law and late sister, **John and Betty Holmes**.*

*We also extend our sympathy to the family of **Helen Waldron**. Helen passed away on Monday, Nov. 29, 2010, at the age of 85 years. Helen became a member of St. Paul's UMC in 1976. Pastor Ruth officiated at her funeral in Ottawa on December 4th. Helen will be remembered for her many hand-written notes of love, praise, and encouragement she sent to members of the congregation.*



Budget Update

As of Sunday, December 19, 2010, there were 54 commitment cards returned to fund St. Paul's UMC 2011 budget. The commitment total for 2011 is \$143,559.20, an increase of \$1997.20 committed over 2010. This does not include any projections of members that contribute regularly but do not wish to pledge. Of the commitment cards returned, 2 did not pledge, 28 members increased their pledge, 16 pledges remained the same as 2010, and 8 members decreased their pledge. **The generosity and prayerful commitment to St. Paul's Church will allow us to continue God's work and witness to the world. Thank you for your faithfulness!**



Remember in Prayer



Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

- Don Chaffins
- Mary Grigsby
- Maedene Holmes
- Mary Kaye Pease
- Mary Steiner
- Phyllis Trigg

Homebound Members

- Hazel Dunn
- Edna Osman
- Jean Redd
- Gladys Sherrick

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

- Joanna Hurd
- Rodney Lee
- Rick Scholfield

In the Military & Missions

- Lesley Parker
- Jason Stanley



Visit The United Methodist Communications website : 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

Thanks to all St. Paul's friends, for your thoughtfulness during my surgery and recuperation. I appreciate all of you very much.

Mary Grigsby

*Dear Folks,
Thanks for all the cards, greetings, and messages on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Our church family is always supportive and much appreciated.*

Sincerely,

John Holmes

*Dear Friends,
Thank you for all your donations and help with the Allentown UMC Church Food Pantry. We really appreciate it.*

*May God bless you,
Claire Morgret
Treas.*

*To St. Paul's UMC,
Thank you so very much for your recent donations to our shelter. Your generous support goes a long way in helping us to better serve the homeless women and children who enter our doors.*

Samaritan House

*Dear PPR and People of St. Paul's,
Thank you so much for the gift cards. We greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness. It is nice to be appreciated for the work we do. We feel very fortunate to be able to serve the church and the people we love.*

God's Blessings,

Jone and Gail



*Dear Lois Cook,
Thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas arrangement you sent the office and your sweet note. The flowers have brightened our work place and your kind words are greatly appreciated.*

Blessings to you,

Jone and Gail



**Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia**

Meetings

January 3, 2011
PPR...7:15 PM

January 4, 2011
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 5, 2011
Worship Team...6:00 PM

January 10, 2011
Finance...7:00 PM

January 10, 2011
Ad Council...8:00 PM

January 18, 2011
Missions...7:00 PM

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

Thursdays
Chancel Choir...7:30 PM

January 2011

December 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	

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 Eileen Slade 85 yrs.	14	15
16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby 82 yrs.	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	22
23 JoAnne Bragg Roger Matlock	24	25	26 Ginger Fox Jeff Reiff Virginia Yarger 83 yrs.	27	28	29
30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Judy Strayer					

Anniversaries

Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
January 1
55 yrs.

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
January 13
57 yrs.

Don & Maedene Holmes
January 25
52 yrs.

January 2011						
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					

Featured Recipes *from St. Paul's Cookbook*

Crock-Pot Dressing

by Mary Irvin

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	butter or margarine	Cook in microwave. Put butter, onions, celery and parsley in a microwave bowl and cook until tender.
2 cups	chopped celery	
2 cups	chopped onions	Mix well stuffing mix and seasoning packets, poultry seasoning, sugar, eggs, the remainder of the broth, onions, celery, and parsley.
1/4 cup	parsley sprigs or 1 Tbl. dried parsley flakes	
1 tsp.	poultry seasoning	
1 tsp.	sugar	Pack into crock pot. Lightly cover and cook on high 45 minutes. Reduce to low for 4-5 hours.
3-3 1/2 cups	chicken broth	
2	eggs, beaten	Stir every hour. You may have to add a little more broth.
2—7 oz. pkg.	chicken stove top stuffing mix If you can't find 7 oz. boxes, use 6 oz. and add 1 1/4 cups fine herb stuffing from bag. You can freeze the rest.	
		I cook my onion, celery and parsley the day before and heat them in the microwave to reheat on the day you are going to use them.



Crock Pot Macaroni and Cheese

By Margie Best

Ingredients		Instructions
16 oz. box	macaroni, cooked	Mix ingredients and cook in crock pot 2 hours on low.
1 pound	Velveeta cheese	
4 cups	shredded cheddar cheese	Need to use a large 5 quart crock pot.
1 can	cheddar cheese soup	
1 can (12 oz.)	evaporated milk	
1 1/4 cup	milk	
1 stick	margarine	
2	eggs, beaten	
1/8 tsp.	paprika	

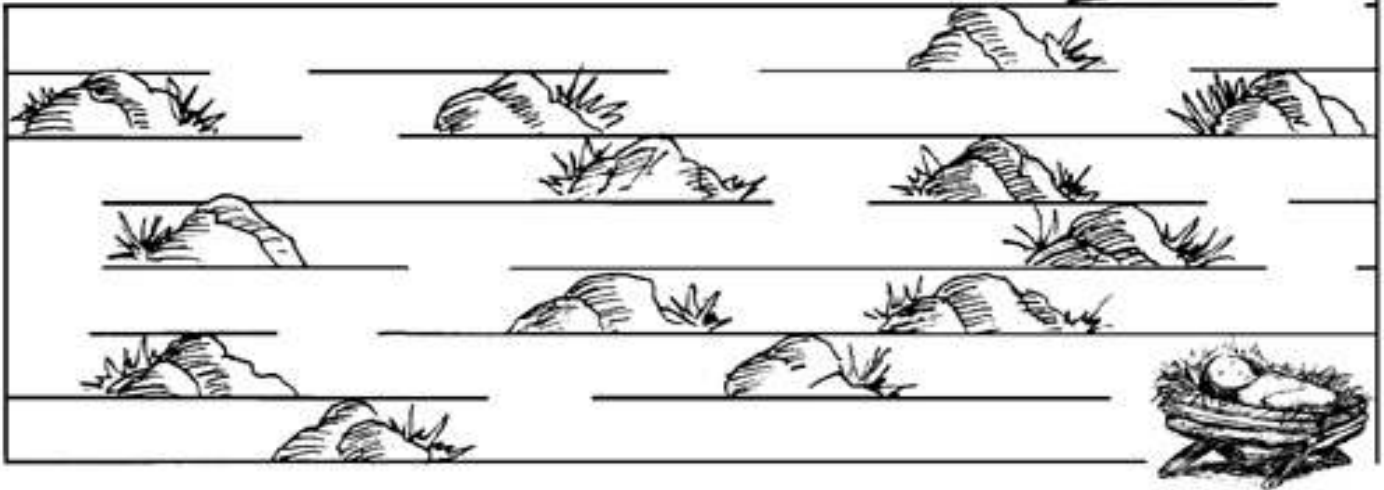


KIDZ KORNER



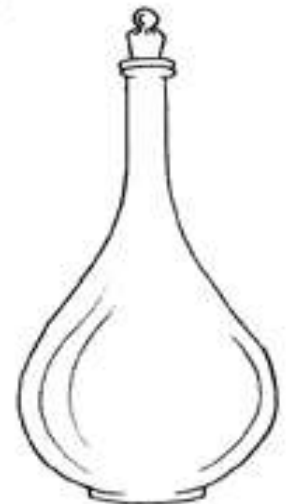
Follow the Star

Help the wise men find Jesus.



Gifts

The wise men brought these three gifts to Jesus. Read Matthew 2:11 and print the name of each gift below. Then color the gifts.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Answers: 1. gold 2. frankincense 3. myrrh

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elida, OH
45807
Permit No. 71

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

January 2011



Living Our Faith

Christian discipleship requires being held in love and being held accountable. We simply cannot follow Christ apart from a community that holds us in compassion and calls us to accountability. Solitary discipleship is a misnomer. We cannot be Christian alone.

- *Kenneth Carder, Duke Divinity School professor and retired United Methodist Bishop*



Through him the world was made.
in 153

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago . . . " "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think.

- *Toni Morrison*

The followers of Christ have been called to peace. And they must not only have peace but also make it. To that end they renounce all violence and tumult . . . His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering rather than inflict it on others. They maintain fellowship where others would break it off. They renounce hatred and wrong. In so doing they overcome evil with good, and establish the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate.

- *Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship*