

# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 35, Issue 1

January 2012

St. Paul's United  
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.  
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

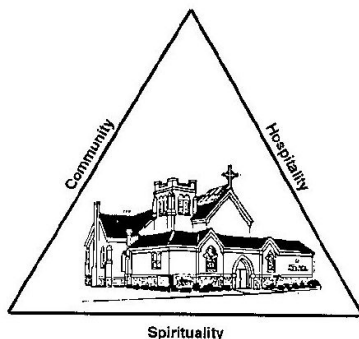
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Rev. Ruth Solo

419/909-9102

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[espcpastor@embarqmail.com](mailto:espcpastor@embarqmail.com)



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! When I was young and thought about the then next millennium, it seemed that I'd never live to be that old. But, here I am, 12 years into the millennium, and I don't really feel all that old. Each new year, we begin to wonder what will happen in the coming months. Will it be more of the same? Will the new year really make things better? Will we be healthier, happier, more content? All of these questions, and yet there is really only one answer: If we set our hearts and minds on making this a better world, then it will be better for everyone.



Setting our hearts on making the new year better than in the past should be easy for Christians. We receive into our hearts the Christ whose birth we just celebrated, which will yield hope, peace, joy, and love in our lives. And when we live it, we spread it.

Setting our minds on making this a better world may be more of a challenge. Starting with ourselves, it takes some effort on our part to exercise and eat wisely for good health. It takes commitment to do our parts to recycle, reuse, and restore the earth. It takes perseverance to stand up for what is right, not just for ourselves, but for what is right and just for all people. It takes humility to reconcile broken relationships. It takes generosity to "lift up the lowly."

So, in this New Year of 2012, besides realizing I am a little bit older, I make my resolutions based on what it will take to make this world a better place for all people. Starting with myself, I resolve to be closer in my walk with Christ through spiritual disciplines; I resolve to be healthier through physical disciplines; I resolve to be mentally and emotionally astute through study and rest.

I also resolve to make the world better by restoring the earth, standing up for what is right and just, reconciling broken relationships, and lifting up the lowly. I commend you to resolutions that will make a difference for your life and for the world. See you in church.

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Ruth



## Thought for the Month:

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

### Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events Lima District News	2-3
Personnel Report	4-5
The Business of Church	5
Faith in Action	6
C9onsulting the Manual	7
Food for Thought	8
Worth Repeating	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

# Thank You

A very **BIG** thank you to **Judy Chaffins** and all the adults and children who participated in the Cantata on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The church was filled with wonderful singing voices and happy children's voices. We appreciate all of your hard work to make the day a **HUGE** success!



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who have helped to make this Advent/Christmas season so special in worship: Those who lit Advent candles: **Alex McAdams** and **Stacy Alexander, Shoupes, Wyants, Bests, and Holmans**; to **Linda Craft** for serving as liturgist; to **Tim Theodore** for sound and **Rich Solo** for the visuals; to **Judy Chaffins** and the **choir** for your wonderful anthems and the beautiful cantata and **Marty White** for your narration; to all of our ushers, and especially to **Marty White** and **Bill McKinney** for serving as ushers on Christmas Day; and to all who provided hospitality each Sunday; and to **Gail** and **Jone** for your tireless work on the bulletins and endless messages sent for me to various people who helped. It takes true servants to make a church a place where people encounter Christ.

Thank you.  
Pastor Ruth

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



BAPTISM OF  
THE LORD SUNDAY  
JANUARY 8, 2012

### Seniors Day Out

January 10, 2012  
1:00-3:00 PM

Be thinking of a **SNOW** memory story to share

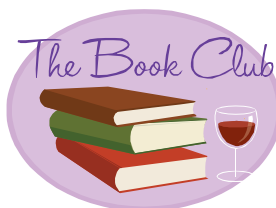
All seniors welcome!

### St. Paul's Epistle

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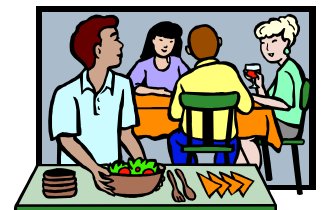
Editor:	Judy Chaffins
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Secretary:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Youth Director:	Corinne Piper
Custodian:	Dave Decker



St. Paul's Book Club  
January 7, 2012  
9:00 AM

Same Kind of Different As Me  
Stories of Hope and Healing  
By Ron Hall and Denver Moore

Join us for a book discussion.  
Please bring your own breakfast.



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



### Leadership Training Event

The Northwest Plains District invites you to gather with other UM leaders to be equipped for service in 2012 and beyond.



*“Effective Ad-Ministry”* is the theme for the first Leadership Training Day on Saturday, January 28, 2012. This event will offer sessions for leaders who serve their local churches through Administrative Council/Board, Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, and Nominations and Leadership Development. The cost is \$5.00 for the day, which includes lunch. Trinity UMC at 413 E. Second St. in Defiance will host this event. Learn about the sessions and register on the District website at <http://nwpumc.org/index.php?page=district-training#AdMinistry>. Please let Pastor Ruth know if you wish to attend so that she can register us together.

**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.

## Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

### Community Unity Service

Sunday, January 22, 2012  
7:00 PM

At New Creation Lutheran Church

Rev. Glenn Rader of Pike Mennonite Church will be preaching.

Thank you to all who placed hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves on our sanctuary Christmas Tree. The tree was overflowing with items..

### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2012

Other than regular scheduled meetings and the Administrative Team Training on Jan. 28, Pastor Ruth will be available all of the month of January. If you need pastoral care when the office is closed, please call her on her cell phone: **419-812-3032**.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
January 16, 2012



# Personnel Report for 2012

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson Administrative Council	Scott Fessler	(12)
Church Conf./Church Council Secretary	Janet Grigg	(12)
Chair of Finance	Marty White	(14)
Christian Education	Jan Wyant	(14)
Church Historian	Jone Lane	(12)
Financial Secretary	Carole Grapner	(12)
Higher Education	Lois Cook	(12)
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)
Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Lavonne Segovia	(12)
Members-at-large	Norm Grigsby	
Membership	Lavonne Segovia	(12)
Missions	Tim Piper	(14)
Nurture	Linda Holman	(14)
Chairperson Pastor/Parish Relations	Dwain Metzger	(14)
Small Group Leader	Corinne Piper	(14)
Chair of Trustees	Ron Steiner	(12)
Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(14)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	

## NOMINATIONS

Chairperson	Ruth Solo	
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)
Molly Fessler	(12)	Norm Grigsby (13)
Susan Nartker	(13)	Kathy White (13)
Maedene Holmes	(14)	_____ (14)

## PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Dwain Metzger	(14)
Lay Member	Lavonne Segovia	(12)
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(14)
Bill McKinney	(12)	Jamie Wyant (14)
Mary Irvin	(13)	Shirley Shoup (14)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson	Ron Steiner	(12)
Finance	Marty White	(12)
Margie Best	(12)	Karen Bible (13)
Brad Whetstone	(12)	Larry Moser (13)
Tony Shoup	(13)	

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

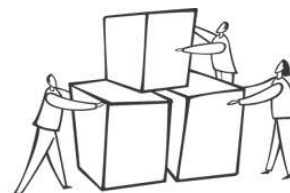
Chairperson	Marty White	(14)
Chairperson Admin. Council	Scott Fessler	(12)
Financial Secretary	Carole Grapner	(12)
Lay Leader	Dan Best	(13)
Lay Member of Annual Conf.	Lavonne Segovia	(12)
Member-at-large	Norm Grigsby	(12)
PPRC Chair or Rep.	Dwain Metzger	(14)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	
Permanent Endowment Rep.	Dwain Metzger	(14)
Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(14)
Trustee Chair or Rep.	Ron Steiner	(12)

## PERMANENT ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Dwain Metzger	(12)
Trustee Rep.	Ron Steiner	(12)
Finance Rep.	Marty White	(12)
Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher	(12)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	

## WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Ruth Solo
Alter Guild	Kathy White
Communion Stewards	Steve & Tracy Sdao
Communion Stewards	Jenessa Fletcher
Ushers	Dwain Metzger
Musician	Lois Cook
Musician	Linda Holman
Liturgical Arts	Myrna Metzger
Tech Team/Choir	Judy Chaffins
Tech Team	Tim Piper
Tech Team	Rich Solo
Tech Team	Tim Theodore
Tech Team	Jamie Wyant



**Thanks, volunteers!**

# The Business of Church

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chairperson	Jan Wyant
Adult CE	Corinne Piper
Pastor	Ruth Solo
Gail Fessler	Linda Matlock
Shirley Moser	Janna Thompson
Slone Whetstone	

## MISSIONS

Chairpersons	Tim Piper	(12)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	
Slone Whetstone	(12)	
_____	(14)	_____ (14)
_____	(14)	

## NURTURE

Chairperson	Linda Holman	(14)
Pastor	Ruth Solo	
Becky Bean	Shirley Moser	Lois Rabley
Lynda Evans	Mary Grigsby	Susan Nartker
Sue Theodore	Linda Holman	
At large member -	Janet Grigg	

***St. Paul's Vision Statement:***  
*Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.*

***Our Biblical Purpose Statement:***  
*Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.*

## Book of Timothy



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## Committee Chairs 2012

<b>PPR Chair</b>	Dwain Metzger
<b>Trustees Chair</b>	Ron Steiner
<b>Finance Chair</b>	Marty White
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jenessa Fletcher
<b>Education Chair</b>	Jan Wyant
<b>Administrative Council</b>	Scott Fessler
<b>Worship</b>	Ruth Solo
<b>Nurture</b>	Linda Holman
<b>Missions</b>	Tim Piper

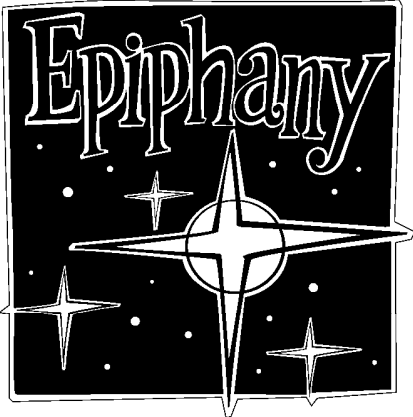
# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
December 4, 2011	81
December 11, 2011	86
December 18, 2011	188
December 24, 2011	79
December 25, 2011	37

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



<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
December 4, 2011	\$6,634.00	\$1,016.00
December 11, 2011	\$5,643.00	\$920.00
December 18, 2011	\$2,641.00	\$1,741.00
December 24, 2011	\$1,851.46	\$640.00
December 25, 2011	\$875.00	\$217.00

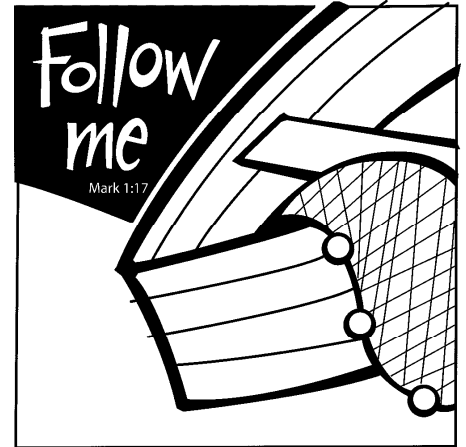


<b>Greeters</b>	
<b>January 1, 2012</b>	Susan Nartker & Ruth Burgoon
<b>January 8, 2012</b>	Denny & Carole Grapner
<b>January 15, 2012</b>	Brent & Vicki McAdams
<b>January 22, 2012</b>	Marty & Kathy White
<b>January 29, 2012</b>	Don & Mary Irvin

<b>Flowers:</b>	
January 1, 2012	Virginia Hollar
January 8, 2012	Gary & Janet Grigg
January 15, 2012	Tony & Linda Matlock
January 22, 2012	Ruth Hardy
January 29, 2012	OPEN

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

# Consulting the Manual



## **Bible Readings for** Revised Common Lectionary Year B

### **Week of January 1** **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 8** **Baptism of the Lord**

Color: White

*Old Testament:*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

*New Testament:*

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

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



## **Week of January 15** **Human Relations Day**

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

## **Week of January 22**

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

## **Week of January 29**

Color: Green

*Old Testament:*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

*New Testament:*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

# Food For Thought

## To Name and To Let Go

When we pray it is helpful to have an attitude that holds in tension the naming and claiming of our deepest longings, and a willingness to let go of outcomes. This might be an attitude worth bearing in mind as we pray about the new year.

First the naming of our deepest longings. Here before God who is unconditionally inviting us to find life in all its fullness, we might with confidence give words to the longings we may never speak to another person.

When we start to sift and sort through those longings we begin to excavate the desires that lie beneath them, desires that were placed within us by God's Spirit. At the deepest level of our being we are hard-wired to be in tune with that Spirit.

So, what do you long for as this new year begins? What is driving your actions, and shaping your motivations? Can you sift and sort until you begin to hear the desires that lie underneath, and find yourself tuning in to what God desires for you?

Having clarified and articulated our desires, there comes the invitation to let go of the outcome of our prayers. In his prayers in Gethsemane, Jesus moved from "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me" to "yet, not my will but yours be done (Luke 22:42)." It may take us much longer to make this transition!

Letting go of outcomes gives God room to move, acknowledges that we do not have all the answers, frees us to let the outcomes be different to what we expected. If we become too fixed on the limited possibilities that lie within our imagination we may miss the unfolding of something more splendid!

God loves you as if you were the only one in the world to love. And he loves everybody the way he loves you.

There is so much about prayer and the spiritual life that remains a mystery. But fortunately many have travelled this road and left us good advice. Learning to both embrace and name our longings, and to let go of outcomes is an inviting, but rather radical, approach to life in a world that encourages longings but likes to control and measure outcomes.

-Ann Siddall

*Ann Siddall is a Spiritual Director working within the life of the Uniting Church. She lives in South Australia.*



**We observed His star.**  
Matthew 2:2





# Worth Repeating

## The Meaning for a Happy New Year

The new year's chief value to us is its spiritual opportunity. A year from now we may be richer or poorer than we are today; stronger in body or weaker; more famous or more obscure. Whatever these results may be, they will not interpret the real significance of the year. That will only be revealed by the application of finer tests. If the year makes us more patient and courageous, with a purer zeal for righteousness and a consciousness of deeper fellowship with the Spirit of Christ, it will have brought us the richest harvest it can bring. Whatever else the new year may mean to us, it surely means the opportunity for spiritual attainment. If we go forth into it with the full appreciation of that fact, and the purpose and prayer to redeem the time, we shall estimate our experiences by a true standard and be certain not to fail to gather the choicest fruitage of the days.

- George E. Horr



## Friends

Before we can be a good friend to someone else, we need to be well acquainted with ourselves.

To be a good friend is to have empathy - the ability to leave one's own problems and passions and enter fully into the problems and passions of the other.

It's like being a time traveler. It ought to be impossible, especially since we have to keep a rope attached to our own self. Entering another's problems is not helpful unless we can bring our own perspective to bear.

If I have no foundation or strength or identity of my own, I am useless to my friend. One of two things will happen. I might enter into her life, but have no connection with my own life experience to draw on for help. There will be no exhilarating moment of clarity when we can see front and back of the difficulty, because we have two sets of eyes.

The other possibility is that I will - perhaps wisely - not enter her life in any depth. Without a strong identity of my own, I might not find my own self again. A time traveler without a rope.

Write in a journal. Pray. Finding out who we are is how we learn to be a friend.

- *A Woman's Book of Days* by Donna Sinclair. Copyright 1997 Donna Sinclair.

## Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take 12 whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy. Make them just as fresh and clean as possible. Now cut each month into 28, 30, or 31 different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once. Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience one part of courage, and one part of work. Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness. Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed. Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love. Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness. You're bound to have a happy new year.



# Remember When...



1978 Ushers  
Calvin Cook, Orville Dunahay, John Reynolds, Harold Metzger

1985 New Members  
Front: Doug Guess, Connie Rienoehl,  
Vicki Gossett, Ruth Hurley  
Back: Ronald Rienoehl, Larry Gossett



1992  
Vacation Bible School

# Connecting With ...

Our sympathy to the family of Tom Stalter, a neighbor to the church. He passed away Wednesday December, 7th. St. Paul's men had built a ramp for him.



## In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Rich and Pastor Ruth Solo on the death of Rich's sister, Barbara Pawlus. Pastor Ruth officiated at the funeral service Thursday, December 8th, in Michigan.

We extend our sympathy to **Gloria Brunk**, on the death of her cousin, **Bernie Kazienko**, on December 2nd, in West Virginia. Having no siblings, Gloria was very close to this cousin. Our Sympathy also to **Larry**, whose aunt, **Ruth Brunk Stewart**, also passed away. Cards will reach Gloria and Larry at **1501 Ivy Drive, Elida, OH 45807**.

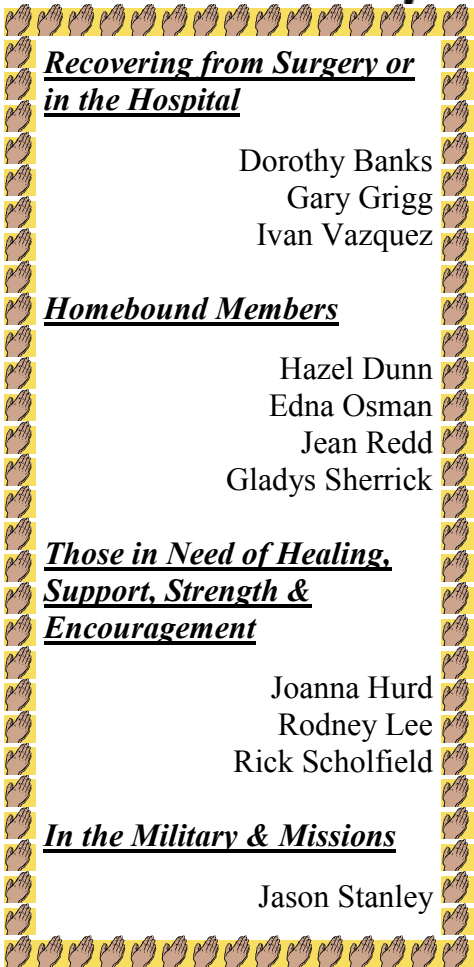
*Congratulations to **Brad and Slone Whetstone** on the birth of their daughter, **Lena Mae Whetstone**, born on Thursday, December 1, 2011. Lena weighed 8 lbs. and was 20 1/2 inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother, **Michael Whetstone**, and big sisters, **Samantha Whetstone** and **Jenson Nagy**.*



*Congratulations to **Aaron Piper** and **Kim English** on the birth of their daughter, **Taryn Isabella Piper**, born on December 15, 2011, at 6:29 PM. She weighed in at 7lbs. 6oz. and 20 inches long. Proud Grandparents are **Tim** and **Corinne Piper**.*




## Remember in Prayer



### Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Dorothy Banks  
Gary Grigg  
Ivan Vazquez

### 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

Jason Stanley

*Congratulations to **Kyle and Kim (Bowsher) Gordon**, on the birth of their son, **Oliver Allen Gordon**, born on Sunday, November 28, 2011, in Columbus, and weighing 7 pounds and 1 ounce. Proud grandparents are **Dennis and Shara Bowsher**. **Chris Bowsher** is the very proud great-grandmother.*



# The People of St. Paul's

## **To Our St. Paul's Family,**

Thank you so much for the beautiful planter and flowers. Jo has it in her apartment. Thank you to Judy and the choir for doing such a terrific job with the Navy hymn and to the church ladies for the delicious dinner afterwards. And finally, a huge thank you to Pastor Ruth for her love and compassion. It's because of friends like all of you that we are able to get through difficult times like these. God bless you all.

**The Family of Wilbur Hurd**

We appreciated all the prayers and cards we received during the passing of our sister **Esther Boyer**.

**Jerry and Becky Bean**



## **To All Friends and Family,**

Thank you! I don't know where to begin; for cards and prayers, both get well and sympathy; for rides to and from the hospital; Lavonne and Rudy, you were right there and ready; for Pastor Ruth, who came when we called, whenever it was possible; for flowers, for kind words about a good man; for pallbearers, all who were special to Wilbur; for a marvelous dinner that also turned into a special family Thanksgiving dinner; for whatever and whoever I am forgetting; for the wonderful choir and Judy. The Navy Hymn had to be done and it was beautiful; The whole extended family were warmed by the love that showed. I look forward to being physically able to join you and until then I call you blessed.

**Joanna Hurd**

I want to thank all who shared good wishes, attended my surprise party, and sent cards in celebration of my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Your cards, notes, and comments made it a truly special time. Thank you St. Paul's people.

**Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Ruth**

We would like to thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy in these days following the death of Rich's sister, **Barbara Pawlus**. Your caring and concern have been comforting and greatly appreciated.

**Yours in Christ,  
Rich and Ruth Solo**

## **THANK YOU!**

Dear St. Paul's Family, Thank you so much for the Christmas messages, cards, and expressions of joy and appreciation. We are truly blessed to be here to serve you.

**Pastor Ruth and Rich**



## **To the good people of St. Paul's,**

Thank You for the beautiful flowers I received during my three day "vacation" at Lima Memorial Health Systems.

**Gary Grigg**

## **Prayer List Updates**

**Please Contact  
Lavonne Segovia**

**Meetings**

January 3, 2012  
**Trustees...7:00 PM**

January 4, 2012  
**Worship Team..6:00 PM**

January 5, 2012  
**PPR...7:00 PM**

January 9, 2012  
**No Finance Meeting**

January 9, 2012  
**Ad Council...7:30 PM**

January 17, 2012  
**Missions...7:00 PM**

**Sundays**  
**Prayer...9:30 AM**  
**Fellowship...9:30 AM**  
**Worship...10:00 AM**

**Wednesdays**  
**Chancel Choir...7:00 PM**

# January 2012

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

1 Tim Piper Ron Stewart	2	3 Becky Ellinger Trustees	4 Worship	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook PPR	6	7
8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9 Jenessa Fletcher Ad Council	10	11 Nate Craft	12 Jaime Chambers	13	14
15	16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby 82 years Missions	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup
22	23 Joanne Bragg	24	25	26 Ginger Fox Jeff Reiff Virginia Yarger 84 years	27	28
29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31 Judy Strayer				

*Anniversaries*

*Rudy & Lavonne Segovia  
 January 1  
 56yrs.*

*Gerald & Wanda Strayer  
 January 13  
 57yrs.*

*Don & Maedene Holmes  
 January 25  
 53 yrs.*

# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook

## Canneloni Roma

*by Jan Wyant*

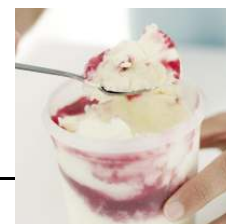
Ingredients		Instructions
1/2 lb.	ground beef	Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  Cook beef and onion, drain. Stir in Parmesan cheese, egg, and seasonings.  Fill manicotti shells; place in greased baking dish. Pour Prego over pasta.  Cover and bake 1 hour. Top with mozzarella cheese,. Continue baking until melted.
1/4 cup	chopped onion	
1/2 cup	Parmesan cheese	
1	egg, beaten	
1/2 tsp.	oregano	
1/2 tsp.	garlic salt	
1 box	manicotti shells, cooked according to directions	
1 large	Prego sauce	
8 oz.	shredded mozzarella cheese	



## Peppermint Ice Cream Dessert

*by Linda Holman's Mother*

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cups	graham cracker crumbs	For first layer, combine oleo, sugar, and graham cracker crumbs. Press in 9x13 inch pan.  For second layer, melt together oleo and unsweetened chocolate. Beat in eggs and powdered sugar. Pour over first layer and freeze 2 hours.  Spread on ice cream and refreeze.  Spread on Cool Whip and garnish with chocolate shavings (optional). Refreeze.
1/2 cup	oleo, melted	
1/3 cup	Sugar	
1/2 cup	oleo, melted	
2 squares	unsweetened chocolate, melted	
3	eggs, beaten	
1 1/2 cups	powdered sugar	
1/2 gal.	peppermint ice cream	
1 large	Cool Whip	
	chocolate shavings, optional	



# KIDZ KORNER

## Song Maze

Follow through the maze.

Write the words from the maze in the spaces below.

Some of the song words may be familiar to you.

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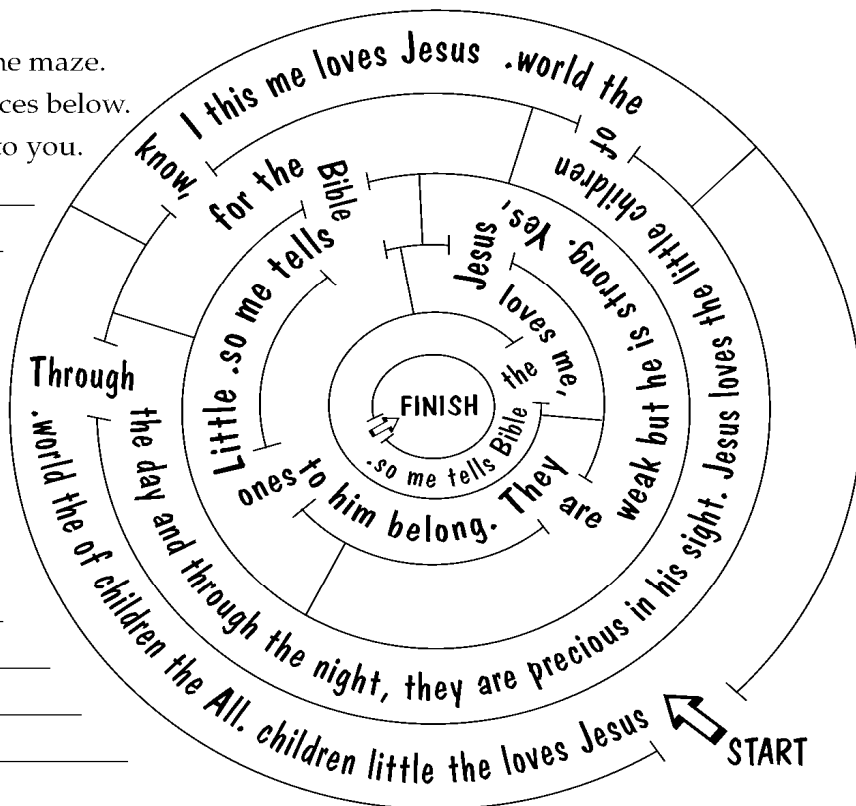
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Answer: Jesus loves the little children of the world. Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

## Psalm 100 Word Scramble

Unscramble these words:

E A M K      A      F J U O L Y      I E N S O

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

---

R T A E H      S W H O I R P      E T H      L R D O

---

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

---

S H I      S E E E C R P N      W H T I      G G S N I N I

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Answer: Psalm 100:1, 2  
 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

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

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**JANUARY**  
**2012**



## Living Our Faith

### A New Year

Before you toss all the 2011 calendars in the recycling bin, flip through the pages of one. Recall some of the events in the world and in your own life that happened on those days, weeks, and months. Give thanks to God, and let them be.

Next, take a 2012 calendar or date book and flip through the pages. Dare to dream a little about what the possibilities can be. Stop at a significant date and wonder what it will be like, or pause at a special anniversary. Remember that, just as in all the days of the old calendar, God will be there in the new year, too.

### What's in a Story?

A story is told in North American tradition about the great flood. After the waters subsided, the Creator sent groups of people off in canoes, to repopulate the earth. The Creator gave each group a language. However, the Creator miscalculated and in the final canoe was forced to give each person their own language.

"But Creator," they asked, "how will we understand each other?"

"What would you have me do?" the Creator asked. "Each of these languages contains its own stories; if we let them die, the stories die with them."

All languages are like that. Even though texts can be translated and interpreted in many different ways, the languages contain stories that are unique in their telling.

When the people of Israel returned from exile, the scribe Ezra read from one of the books of Moses. Several elders translated and interpreted the stories for the people. They were overjoyed! After several generations in a foreign land, it was such a wonder to hear the stories of their faith in their own language. How wonderful, when we can hear the word of God proclaimed in ways we understand and know that that story is our story, too.