

St. Paul's Epistle

~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~

Volume 31, Issue 3

March, 2008

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

419-339-3801

espcoffice@embarqmail.com

Rev. Ruth Solo

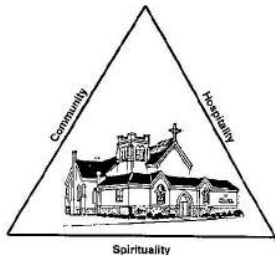
419/339-4621

Cell Phone: 419-722-5881

espcpastor@embarqmail.com

St. Paul's Website:

www.elidastpaulschurch.org



Inside this issue:

Youth News	2
Upcoming Events	2-3
Northwest Plains	3
The Heart of Church	4
The Business of Church	5
Faith In Action	6
Consulting the Manual	7
Our Corporate Prayers	8
Committee Update	9
Let's Reminisce	10
Connecting With...	11
With Jesus In Holy Week	12
Praises & Prayers	13
The People of St. Paul's	14
March Calendar	15
Recipes	16
Kidz Korner	17
Living Our Faith	18

Dear Friends,

SURPRISE!!! We all like surprises, especially when they are for us. Sometimes they come in the form of an unexpected gift, or an unexpected visit, or even an unexpected party. When I was reappointed from St. Andrew's UMC several years ago, I was surprised when some of my former classmates from Deshler High School showed up for my farewell party. Surprises are one of the joys of life.

The greatest surprise we have as we enter Easter is, of course, the surprise of the empty tomb. What an unexpected gift of life! Imagine the surprise the women (or one woman, depending on which gospel you read) felt when they went to the tomb to fulfill a traditional burial rite and found nothing there but angels telling them that "He is not here; he has been raised." (Matthew 28:1-6) Imagine Mary's surprise while talking to whom she thought was a gardener when she heard her name and realized it was Jesus. (John 20:16)

I hope that the surprise of Easter fills you with joy as you receive Good News of Christ's resurrection, and experience the new life that is available to each one of us in that Easter surprise. May God bless the rest of this season of Lent with grace, and may you be surprised as you come to Easter morning, ready to fulfill our traditional rites of worship, but finding the glory of God when you arrive.



Thought for the Month:

Look at life through
the windshield, not the
rear-view mirror.

— Byrd Baggett

Youth News

March Youth Calendar

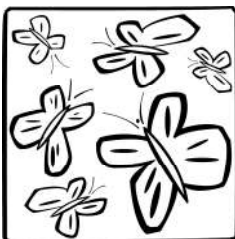
March 2, 2008	Confirmation Follow up 5-7 PM
March 9, 2008	Confirmation Follow up 5-7 PM
March 16, 2008	Sunrise Service Puppet Ministry
March 23, 2008	Spend Easter with your family
March 30, 2008	Receiving Youth into Membership

Since I've been in Columbus, I have been attending Oasis Christian Community. Oasis' focus is on "showing God's love in a practical way." It is a very outreach-oriented church and provides many opportunities for me to grow in my faith and spread the word of God. Over spring break (March 14-21) I will be going with Oasis to Guatemala to help build a Sunday School. Including myself, 8 students will be going to Guatemala along with one of our worship leaders. The church we are building the Sunday school for is run by a missionary from the United States. His daughter is one of the girls going on the trip with me. This week will be a week of intense labor and praising God. I ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we make this journey. Thank you!

~Jenni Theodore
OSU Freshman



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Koinonia Chicken Barbeque



Coming
April 19, 2008

Watch for more information in
the April Newsletter

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
Music Director:	Mary Kay Pease
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Youth Director:	Doug Fox
Custodian:	Sunny Day Maids

March 2008						
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					

Time Reminder!!!
March 9, 2008
Daylight Savings Time

Newsletter
deadline:
the **20th**



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

Mission News

Lima Area Mission Opportunity for Students

June 9th – 13th at Robb Park in Lima

Renovate – Rebuilding Hope

"You will be a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age old foundations; you will be called repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." Isaiah 58: 11b – 12

Purpose: To Serve our community (Lima, Oh) and share Christ's love.

Organized by: Lima Area Youth Pastor's Network

Knowing Your Divine Design

Finding Your Fit in the Body of Christ

Discover your Spiritual Gifts.

Discover how you are energized & organized.

Discover your ministry passion.

Saturday, April 19, 8:30 am-5:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 504 Glynwood Rd., Wapakoneta, OH 45895. Participants will take three assessments during the training to discover their unique design for ministry and will discover how to use the knowledge to make sure they are in the right ministry areas in their local congregation. This course will also model how to use the material in participants' local church.

Cost: \$40.00

Register by emailing diana@nextstepscc.com

Registrations due no later than March 14, 2008

MAKE MALARIA HISTORY

A United Methodist Campaign

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/malaria/>

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday
Service
7:00 PM

Good Friday Service
Immanuel UMC
7:00 PM



Good Friday

Easter Sunrise
Service
7:30 AM

Puppet Ministry

Easter Service
10:30 AM



Easter Breakfast

8:30 AM

The Heart of Church

Greeters

March 2	Ron & Mary Steiner
March 9	Brian & Angie Nartker
March 16	Dennis & Shara Bowsher
March 23	Gary & Janet Grigg
March 30	Eileen Slade

Nursery Volunteers

March 2	Slone Nagy & Molly Fessler
March 9	Open
March 16	Corinne Piper
March 23	Open
March 30	Open

You may lose your way, or you may not.
But you can always walk with God.
You may suffer, or you may not.
But you can always find deep happiness in Christ.
You may know fear, or you may not.
But you can always find encouragement in the Holy Spirit.”

— Kent Keith, *Jesus Did It Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments for Christians*



Children's Worship

(Conducted During the Worship Hour)

1st Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story
2nd Sunday of Each Month	Corinne Piper—Story Slone Nagy—Children's Church
3rd Sunday of Each Month	Pastor Ruth—Story Angie & Brian Nartker—Children's Church
4th Sunday of Each Month	Corinne Piper—Story & Children's church

Book of Timothy



The Business of Church

Date: January 31, 2008		St. Paul's Reconciliation Statement			
		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Ministerial Fund		\$21,867.55	\$18,832.45	\$21,583.66	\$19,116.34
Capital Improvement Fund		\$7,310.61	\$583.00	\$0.00	\$7,893.61
Youth Fund		\$1,511.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,511.96
Total Checking		\$30,690.12	\$19,415.45	\$21,583.66	\$28,521.91
Pastoral Moving Fund		\$166.84	\$50.40		\$217.24
Memorial Fund		\$4,462.98	\$10.63		\$4,473.61
Special Needs Fund		\$772.09	\$1.84		\$773.93
Total Savings		\$5,401.91	\$62.87	\$0.00	\$5,464.78
Loan Money added to BF	\$90,500.00		\$0.00		\$0.00
Building Fund		\$19,039.51	\$5,877.38	\$5,154.36	\$19,762.53
Permanent Endowment Fund		\$12,547.68	\$530.34		\$13,078.02
Total All Funds		\$67,679.22	\$25,886.04	\$26,738.02	\$66,827.24
Net Worth		\$67,679.22			\$66,827.24
Lima District Apportionments		\$0.00		\$679.25	\$679.25
Conference Apportionments		\$0.00		\$1,630.00	\$1,630.00
Total Apportionments					\$2,309.25
Building Fund Loan Balance		\$90,500.00		\$1,556.30	\$88,943.70
				Submitted by Art Holman	
				Finance Chair	

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE February 15, 2008

The Stewardship Committee met on this date. It was noted that church attendance has increased, finances are improving and best of all, this phase of the building program is near completion. For our new committee members, information was given as to what has been done since our last meeting. People were contacted by phone, and/or letters, regarding lack of attendance. This was to see if there was any way our church could help them and to let them know we are here for them. There were also stewardship speeches made during church services.

Then the group

checked through many names to see why their attendance was low. Some have moved, others had health problems and others will get letters asking how we can help them. This will be our main goal until all church members and non-members have been checked on before Charge Conference arrives.

~ Wilbur Hurd, Chair

Members Present: Pastor Ruth Solo, Norman Grigsby, Evelyn Sarber,

Committee Chairs

PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Jamie Wyant
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Education Chair	Corinne Piper
Administrative Council Chair	Tim Piper
Worship	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Gail Fessler
Stewardship	Wilbur Hurd
Missions	Dennis Bowsher & Jamie Wyant

Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

February 3, 2008	109
February 10, 2008	107
February 17, 2008	108
February 24, 2008	80

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$2,991.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
Feb. 3, 2008	\$3,458.83	\$1,303.00
Feb. 10, 2008	\$3,968.35	\$974.75
Feb. 17, 2008	\$2,934.00	\$865.00
Feb. 24, 2008	\$1,701.00	\$1,780.40

Jesus uttered a triumphant cry: "It is accomplished!" and it was as though he had said: "Everything has begun!"

— Nikos Kazantzakis,
The Last Temptation of Christ



Flowers:

March 2, 2008	Gene & Linda Craft
March 9, 2008	Dorothy Banks
March 16, 2008	Linda Evans
March 23, 2008	Don & Chris Bowsher
March 30, 2008	Ruth Hardy

Sunday School Attendance

February 3, 2008	37
February 10, 2008	44
February 17, 2008	50
February 24, 2008	33

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

Consulting the Manual



Bible Readings for March

Revised Common Lectionary
Year B

Week of March 2

Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing

Color: Purple

Old Testament:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

New Testament:

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

Week of March 9

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Old Testament:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

New Testament:

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

Week of March 16

Passion/Palm Sunday

Color: Purple

Old Testament:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

New Testament:

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...

— Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

Week of March 23

Easter Sunday

Color: White

Old Testament:

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

New Testament:

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10

Week of March 30

Second Sunday of Easter

Color: White

Old Testament:

Psalm 16

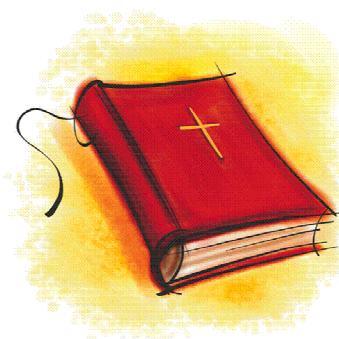
New Testament:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

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



OUR CORPORATE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Continued from last month)

by Pastor Ruth Solo

Bidding Prayers

The guided bidding prayers that we use in our corporate worship helps us to stay focused on lifting up the individuals for prayer, and not focus on what is going on with them. My belief is that God knows their need. We just need to lift the name. God knows our hearts. When we speak the name of someone we know has need of prayer, God knows the deepest request of our heart for them.

There are various forms of litanies of intercession. I like the one we use, because it uses the bidding prayers, where names are lifted up in intercession after the area of concern is named. If you wonder when to lift up names in particular areas of need, you might use the following as a guide:

“For the people of this congregation”—this is the people you see here on a regular basis, members and people who attend regularly, as well as those who are on the shut-in list. Name people by first name.

“for those who suffer and those in trouble”—this is the people you know of who are suffering from any cause, or are experiencing any kind of trouble in life. It may be victims of terrorism, people

who have broken the law, people who live in neighborhood or family violence, those who suffer the ravages of natural disaster. It is anyone, anywhere who suffers or is in trouble of any kind, from a speeding ticket to being grounded by parents to someone losing a job. Name people by first name.

“for the concerns of this local community”—this is issues and events that are of concern for the community of Elida, Lima, or our surrounding neighbor towns and villages. It would include concerns that affect our lives together, where there is brokenness or danger. It would be a fire, a severe accident, the shooting of the woman in Lima and the officers involved, gang violence in Lima, problems at our schools, a business shut down, and so on. Name the town, city or village, and/or name the situation or institution.

“for the world, its peoples, and its leaders”—this is prayer for what is happening in the world. It includes the wars in all places, people of Darfur in Sudan, threats to national and international security, prayer for leaders of nations, prayers for peoples who are struggling to make a new life. Name the country, the war, the tragic event, the name of the leader, the name of the group or people who struggle.

“for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission”—this is prayer for Christ's church everywhere, no matter what denomination or sect. Christians argue and fight

with one another over trivial matters of who believes better. We need to pray for one another, that we develop tolerance, understanding, and love for each other, regardless of how we each understand Christ's call. To lift up the Church is to pray for our ministry, the various denominations, our UM bishops, leaders of other sects and denominations, especially when we hear things on the news. Name a church congregation you know may be going through changes, our denomination, Bishop Ough (or our residing bishop), our District Superintendent, “the leaders of other churches and denominations” or if you know the name, speak it.

“in communion with the saints”—name those who have died, and now are in heaven as we believe. Name those who have died recently that you know, those whose death anniversary is near, those who you mourn personally.

Finding the right or wrong way to pray in our corporate worship is sometimes a challenge. When I was growing up, the pastor did the “Pastoral Prayer” which was always eloquent and never named names. As I began my pastoral ministry, I did “Prayers of the People” where I prayed for all that was going on in the world and in the lives of members of the congregation, naming by first name, but not naming situations.

Committee Updates

I learned Joys and Concerns, and used this in the past, since it involved the congregation in prayers, and made it truly "Prayers of the People." However, the litany of bidding prayers that we now do allows us to all come before God in prayer, participate in the prayer time with intercessions, and still respect the privacy of those for whom we pray. After all, prayer is about coming before God first, interceding on behalf of those for whom we pray, and knowing that we are a part of God's answer.

Mission Committee Meeting of February 19th

Pastor Ruth started the meeting with a devotional and prayer. Doug Fox nominated Audrey Fox to be the secretary for the Mission Committee starting in March. The visit by Steve Putka from the United Methodist Children's Home on Sunday, February 24th, was discussed. The NEW fellowship hall will be cleaned on Saturday morning. Afterwards, the tables and chairs will be set up for the carry-in dinner and Steve Putka's presentation. Doug Fox will coordinate the dinner and will make sure we have plasticware for the meal. Tim will bring a projector screen. Audrey Fox will make a sign-up poster for those wishing to volunteer for the roofing mission trip. The Grigsby's will take care of coffee for dinner.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Ministries Committee is busy planning new things for the coming months in our newly renovated basement. The week after Easter we will be starting a new type of Children's Sunday School. There will be games, drama, and maybe food as we continue to celebrate the good news of Easter! He is Risen! We hope to have all the children from 4 years old to 5th grade joining us!

The adult classes are studying two different topics. One class is learning from Adam Hamilton how to "Make Love Last a Lifetime". The other class is trying to find the answer to "The Best Question Ever" or "learning to foolproof your life". Either group welcomes adults of any age.

The Middle/High School classes continue to meet in the library with rotating teachers--Steve and Tracy Sdao, Jan Wyant, and Vicki McAdams. There always seems to be lots of laughter and breakfast so if you are a teen in sixth to 12th grade come join them and invite some friends.

~ Corinne Piper, Chair



start this summer. Additional fundraising ideas were discussed and many looked promising to raise funds for St. Paul's mission work. It was noted that the next conference call for the roofing project will be February 26th in Pastor Ruth's office at 8:00 P.M. The meeting ended with prayer and everyone was reminded of the next meeting on **March 18th**.

Roofing and ramp projects were discussed with photos to be put on our website of mission projects. The Samaritan House and other local missions were discussed with various people volunteering to look into each of the missions to get more details and report back to committee for further discussion and action. A Missions Saturation Sunday in September was briefly discussed with planning for this event to



Let's Reminisce

In going through some past papers, I found a series of score sheets in regard to the St. Paul's Golf Open that was held in the years 1982-1989. I thought the results would be of interest to some of you that play golf and perhaps golf widows.

The first Open was played at Tamarac Golf Course, and in first place with a score of 71 using the scramble method was the team of **Doug Adams, Harold Daugherty, and Jim Hines**. Players now deceased included **Harold Hardy, Warren Hannah, Harold Daugherty, Rollie Swank, and Bill Mauch**. **Allen Puffenberger**, our minister, also played that day on October 2, 1982. **Jamie Wyant** won two balls-closest to the pin on #10.

In 1983, the Open was played at Kalida, and in 1984 at Colonial Country Club. Some familiar names included **Danny and Harry Banks, Doug Adams, Gary Adams, Bob Holmes, Denny Mault, John Holmes, Ray Trigg, Jeff Reiff, Chuck Bowsher, Jim Hines, Shirley Moser, Martha Vazquez** (yes, the women were included, and they performed well), **Doug Guess, and Kermit Gladfelter**.

On October 5, 1985, the match was played at Springbrook (I believe), and the team of **Kermit Gladfelter, Bob Holmes, Ron Gossard, and Harry Banks** won with a 68. Close by with a 69 were **Don Chaffins, Ron Stewart, Mike Neeley, and Shirley Moser**. Now don't take offense, but in last place with a 76 was **Harold Hardy, Don Holmes, Dennis Bowsher, and Martha Vazquez**.

In 1986, we returned to Colonial, and the team of **Don Chaffins, Bill Mauch, and Larry Moser** won with a score of 72. **Dennis Bowsher** was closest to the pin on #13 and won a set of iron covers. Does anybody remember who won a set of wood covers for the longest drive on #18?

In 1987, the Open was played at Bluffton Golf Course. Winners were **Danny Banks, Harry Banks, and Janice Neeley** with a score of 70. We had seven teams and the scores ranged from 70-81. Who shot that 81? Contact me.

The last Open was played October 8, 1989, at Springbrook, and I believe it was **Allen Puffenberger's** last year at St. Paul's. As it turned out, a record score of 62 was posted by the team of **Dan Banks, Dennis Bowsher, Mick Hardy, and Harry Banks**.

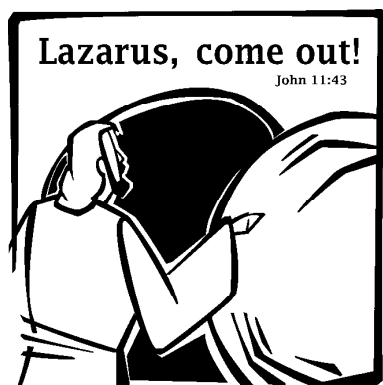
Some other players who played during this era included **Gene Craft, Ray Trigg, Jr., Rollie Swank** (former Superintendent of Elida Schools), **Chuck Hopkins, Tom Tozer, and oh yes, myself**.

Allen Puffenberger left a legacy in regard to St. Paul's, for it was he who was the spark for our church renovation in the late 1980's. We are now in the final phase of our work for the Fellowship Hall. Get ready for a dedication in March, the arrangements for which will be forthcoming in the near future!

Norm Grigsby

Ostensibly seen in church bulletins:

- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at First Christian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's A Terrible Experience."



Connecting With ...

A few months ago the office received this email:

Thank you for the postcard reminding me about the altar flowers. All through Sunday School, I kept thinking about what to do with the flowers. After class, I went into the church and looked around for two ladies who might enjoy them. One of the ladies I chose was truly thrilled to receive them. Her family member with her that day appreciated the gesture and of course, she couldn't thank me enough. What a thrill I had giving such a small thing and to see such happiness from her! I will remember this for the next time.

(Member wishes to remain anonymous)

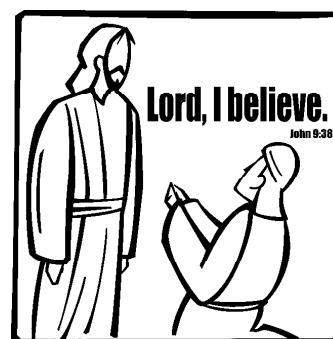
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL REPORT

We are now into the second month of 2008 and the eighth month of Pastor Ruth Solo leading our congregation. At our Administrative Council meeting on February 11th, we discussed the first three-hour session of the leadership study, "Leadership From the Heart" attended by Administrative Council members on February 3rd and moderated by Pastor Ruth. The study focuses on knowing and doing the will of God, following the example of Christ, appreciating others' worth and valuing their needs, and leading others toward a deeper walk with Christ. We learned that servant-leadership manifests itself through submission to Christ, in service to others and in response to the Holy Spirit. We are looking forward to the next two sessions on February 17th and March 2nd.

We also discussed setting goals for our Administrative Council this year. Focusing on our new Mission Statement, "*The Mission of Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church is to be an inviting community of Christ's disciples*" we discussed setting goals to fulfill our mission statement. Things that were discussed were: revisiting our *Safe Sanctuary* commitments, a welcome center in the narthex to welcome visitors, more informative signage throughout the church to inform visitors of our handicap-friendly facilities and room numbers, revisiting Dot-Sunday suggestions, informative bulletin boards, soft music in the sanctuary before the start of services and the use of video screens to display upcoming church events and hymns. There were many good ideas which council will continue to explore.

We heard reports from our standing committees of their activities. Summaries of those reports may be found in this newsletter. We received an update from Norm Grigsby on the progress of the work in the *NEW fellowship hall* and a plea from trustee chairperson Jamie Wyant for everyone to come help clean the hall on Saturday, February 23, in preparation for the United Methodist Children's Home presentation on February 24th. It was noted that the Fellowship Hall Utilization Committee would meet on February 18th to discuss the different uses of our fellowship hall and what equipment will need to be purchased to make it fully functional. Pastor Ruth offered a closing prayer at the end of the meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Piper, Council Chairperson*



**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.

With Jesus in Holy Week



The eight days from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday are perhaps the most important in the entire Christian year. They provide an opportunity to reflect on what the death and resurrection of Jesus can mean to each one of us, and to come a little closer to God in the process.

Below is an outline for a week-long spiritual experience that can be done individually or shared with family or friends in almost any setting – adapt it as you wish. This is based on the holy week story from the Gospel of Matthew (which is the focus in the Revised Common Lectionary for this year).

If possible, set up a small worship center or table where you can place the suggested items, adding more each day. Or, if you choose to use this in connection with your evening meal, you could place the items as a centerpiece on your dining table.

Prayer to end each meditation:

*Jesus, loving Savior:
be with us, this week and
always. Hear us, hold us,
love us, we pray. Amen.*

Sunday, March 16: Read Matthew 26:1-16

(Place on the worship table a small flask or perfume bottle and a handful of coins.) The stories of the woman anointing Jesus and of Judas planning to betray Jesus make us stop and think: how do *our* lives honor Jesus? How do *we* betray Jesus in our living each day? Discuss this as you are comfortable, or simply reflect quietly on the questions.

Monday, March 17: Read Matthew 26:17-30

(Bring paper plates and pencils, one per person.) Jesus shared a special meal with his disciples – even ones that he knew would turn away from him. This showed Jesus' amazing love for all people. As you think of Jesus' love for you and others, write or draw something on your plate that shows that love. Place the plate on the worship table.

Tuesday, March 18: Read Matthew 26:31-56

(Place a small houseplant on or near the worship table.) Knowing what was about to happen, Jesus prayed to God. For

a moment, Jesus even wished that things could be different. Yet, Jesus also knew that God would be with him, no matter what. Talk about, or reflect silently, on how God is always with us, even in scary and difficult times.

Wednesday, March 19: Read Matthew 26:57-75

(Place a Bible on the worship table.) Jesus always spoke the truth about God and God's love, even when Jesus knew it would lead to his death. Peter got scared and lied to protect himself. God calls us to speak out for truth, justice, and love, even when it is not easy. Think or talk about times when people have dared to speak the truth for God.

Thursday, March 20: Read Matthew 27:1-31

(Bring some recent news magazines or newspapers.) Judas felt so guilty when he realized how much he had hurt Jesus that he took his own life. The crowd and the soldiers bullied and hurt Jesus. They also poked fun at him and mocked him, and encouraged others to make fun of him. Look in the magazines and newspapers for examples of how people hurt and mistreat others today. Tear these out and add them to the worship table.

Praises and Prayers

Friday, March 21: Read Matthew 27:32-56

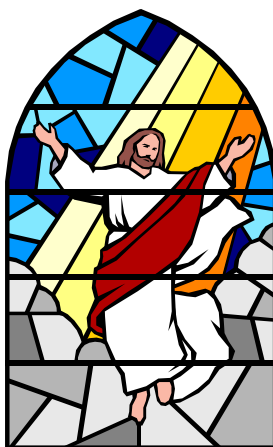
(Give each person a nail to hold while the story is being read.) Jesus came to show the world that God's love has no limits. In stories and in acts of love Jesus tried to show that. Matthew's Gospel especially wants us to know that even by dying, Jesus showed us that God still loves us and that nothing can separate us from God's love – not even death. Hold your nail and say a silent prayer of thanks to God for sending Jesus. Then place your nail on the worship table.

Saturday, March 22: Read Matthew 27:57-66

(Place a clock, preferably an old-fashioned one that ticks, on the worship table.) It can be difficult to wait. Imagine what it was like for Jesus' friends, after Jesus had died on the cross. Wonder what they might have been thinking and feeling. The women wanted to anoint Jesus' body properly, but they had to wait until the Sabbath (Saturday) was over. During that time, they probably thought about what life without Jesus was going to be like. Can you imagine what your life would be like if you did not know Jesus?

Sunday, March 23: Read Matthew 28:1-10

(Place one or more Easter eggs on the worship table. Remove the other items.) Hallelujah! Christ is risen! There is no greater joy than celebrating that Jesus Christ is risen from the grave. God has said that life, not death, is the final word. God's love is stronger than all of the evil things in the world. Shout, dance, sing for joy! Do something wonderful to celebrate. Christ is risen indeed!



The Honour of Your Presence is Requested at the Surprise Celebration of the past 60 years of
Richard Solo's Life

A cake and punch reception will be held
Saturday, March 8, 2008
at Monroe Street UMC
 3513 Monroe Street
 Toledo, Ohio 43606
From 1:30 pm until 4:40 pm
RSVP to Wendy Jackson
by email at
 jefnwen@bex.net
Or by phone at 419-868-1826

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Hope Mathwig
 Myrna Metzger
 Rudy Segovia

Homebound Members

Rebekah Baxter
 Don Bowsher
 Hazel Dunn
 Warren Flick
 John & Betty Holmes
 Ruth Hurley
 Marie Lee
 Harold Metzger
 Edna Osman
 Jean Redd
 Gladys Sherrick
 Ray & Helen Waldron

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Pam Gaghen
 Betty Holmes
 Sara House
 June Metzger
 Rick Scholfield
 Ron Strayer

Those in the Military

Jason Stanley



The People of St. Paul's

*To My Friends at St. Paul's,
Thank you so much for the
cards, prayers, and flowers
following my recent surgery.*

*I feel very blessed by my
church family.*

*God's Blessings,
Myrna Metzger*

*To the People of St. Paul's,
Thank you so much for the
cards, flowers, and
expressions of concern during
my hospital visit. They were
very much appreciated.*
Rudy Segovia



*St. Paul's Friends,
Thank you so much for the
flowers, cards, visitation, and
the wonderful luncheon.*

Bless you all!

*LaDonna Strayer
Family*

*To My Church Family,
Thank you very much for the
cards, prayers, and well
wishes I received during my
hospital stay. I am recovering
and appreciate all your
expressions of concern.*

Hope Mathwig

*We extend sympathies
to several at St. Paul's :*

*To the family of **LaDonna Strayer**, who passed away on January 28, 2008. Pastor Ruth officiated at her funeral service on February 1, 2008.*

*To the family of **Pauline Beerman**, who passed away February 15, 2008. Pauline was 90 years old and had been a member of St. Paul's since 1956. Pastor Ruth officiated at her funeral service on February 19, 2008.*

*To the family of **Gay Foust**, who passed away February 22, 2008. Gay became a member in 1936. Pastor Ruth officiated at her funeral service on February 26, 2008.*



*Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! By his
great mercy he has
given us a new birth
unto a loving hope
through the
resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead,
and into an inheritance
that is imperishable,
undefiled, and
unfading, kept in
heaven for you, who
are being protected by
the power of God
through faith for a
salvation ready to be
revealed in the
last time.*

1 Peter 1: 3-5

Prayer List Updates
Please Contact
Lavonne Segovia

Meetings

March 4, 2008
Trustees...7:00 PM

March 5, 2008
PPR...7:00 PM

March 10, 2008
Finance...7:00 PM

March 10, 2008
Ad Council...7:00 PM

March 11, 2008
Worship...5:00-7:00 PM
Christian Ed....7:00 PM

March 18, 2008
Missions...7:00 PM

March 25, 2008
Christian Ed...7:00 PM

Sundays
Prayer...9:00 AM

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

Anniversaries

Wilbur & Joanna Hurd
March 8
55 years

Jim & Carolyn Michael
March 12

Jeff & Shelly Reiff
March 12

Brent & Vicki McAdams
March 21

Bruce & Nancy Kizer
March 23
40 years

Ivan & Martha Vazquez
March 26

March 2008


Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Scott Grapner
2 Joanna Hurd	3 Ryker Rabley	4 Rich Solo Janna Thompson	5 Scott Fessler	6	7 Tim Theodore	8
9 Howard Foltz	10 Jim Phillips	11	12 Linda Holman Ethan Lewis	13 Carol Lee 86 years	14 Jason Murphy Cody Smith	15 Amanda Crates
16	17	18 Kira Kizer	19	20 Tara Thompson	21 Amber Fox	22
23 Nathaniel Ross	24	25 Cory Williams	26	27 Julie Adkins Mindy Schulz	28 Derek Bible	29
30 Tahler Sdao Julia Thomas	31 Tom Thomas					

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cookbook


Springtime Chicken Salad

by Maedene Holmes

Ingredients		Instructions
1 cup	cooked chicken, diced	<p>Combine all ingredients.</p> <p>Toss.</p> <p>Serve on lettuce leaves.</p> <p>Garnish with cherry tomatoes.</p> <p>You may substitute 1/4 cup light Miracle Whip for vinegar and oil.</p> 
3 Tbl.	wine vinegar	
1 Tbl.	olive oil	
1 cup	corkscrew macaroni, cooked	
1/4 cup	peas, cooked	
3 Tbl.	green onions, diced	
1/2 tsp.	dried dill, optional	
1/2 cup	raisins, seedless grapes, or pineapple	
1/2 cup	pecans or walnuts	

Calico Beans

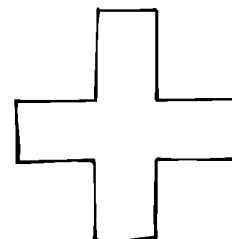
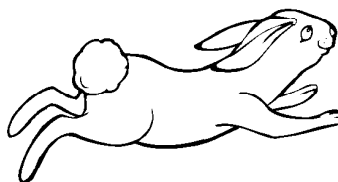
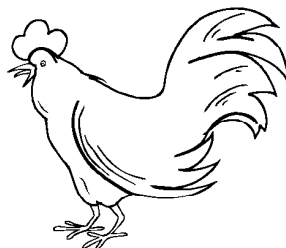
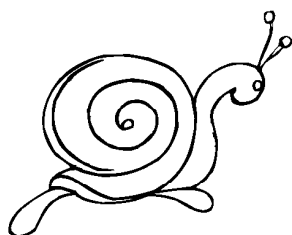
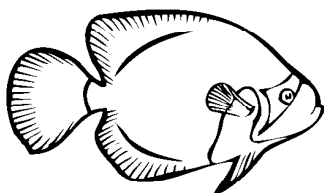
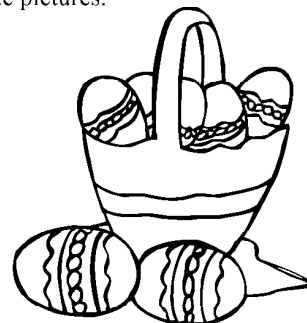
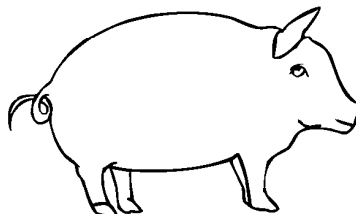
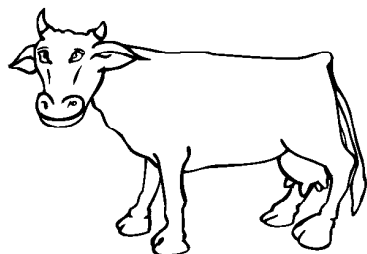
by Gay Foust

Ingredients		Instructions
1/4 lb.	bacon, diced	<p>Brown bacon, beef, and onion.</p> <p>Drain a little juice from cans.</p> <p>Mix all.</p> <p>Bake or simmer 30-45 minutes on low heat.</p> 
1 lb.	hamburger	
1/2 cup	chopped onion	
1/2 cup	brown sugar	
1/2 cup	catsup	
2 Tbl.	vinegar	
1 tsp.	mustard	
1 tsp.	salt	
1 No. 2 can	butter beans	
1 can	kidney beans	
1 large can	pork and beans	

KIDZ KORNER

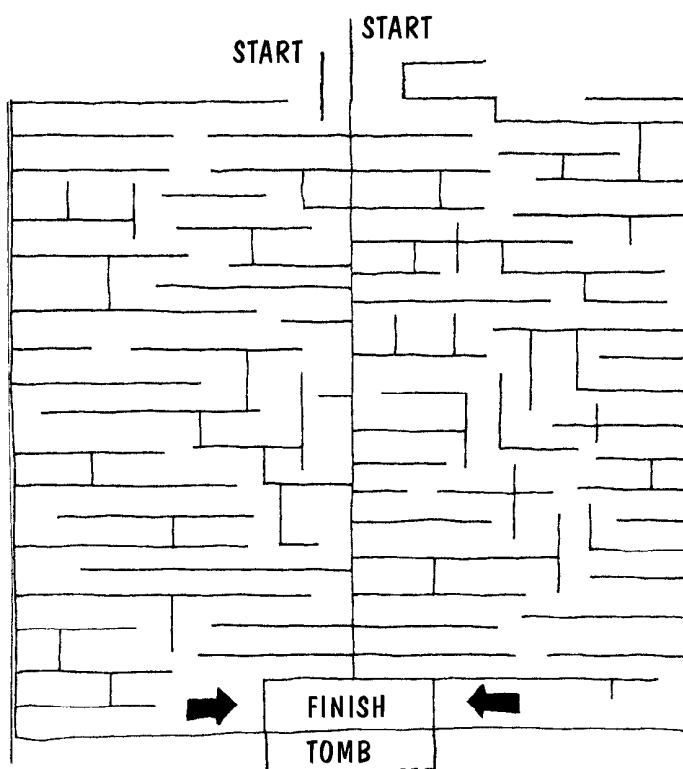
Easter

Circle the symbols of Easter. Some are religious, some are not. Then color the pictures.



Maze

Help the women find their way to the tomb. Try both ways or with a friend, see who can get there first.



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Our E-Mail Address:
espcoffice@earthlink.net

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

March 2008

**Happy
Easter**

Living Our Faith



So I am here –
I have not gone away,
I *will* not go away.
As long as anyone, anywhere, is
rejected
cast aside
spat upon
by the world – or,
worse still,
by the church –
I am here
to proclaim the same truth
once told to me:
Christ Jesus is risen for you,
and calls you by name.

– Donald Schmidt,
Bible Wonderings: Familiar Tales Retold