

St. Paul's Epistle

Volume 40 Issue 1

January 2017

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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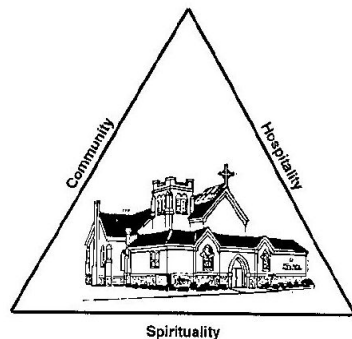
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Happy New Year! What a wonderful Christmas we had at St. Paul's and I want to say thank you to everyone who made Christmas Eve and Christmas services a big success. Music, decorations, readers, snacks, children in the early service, the choir during the late service, ushers, sound, visuals: all these things and more go into making a wonderful worship experience for everyone. All the hard work does not go unnoticed. Worship is something I look forward to trying to make better each and every Sunday. Beginning in mid-January, we are going to take a look at the phrase "do not be afraid" in a sermon series. We see this phrase throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. We will look at what God is trying to teach us through these four simple words that carry so much weight.

I also want to take a moment to say thank you for all the cards, gifts and food that my family and I received this Christmas season. I am still amazed at the love that's shown to us by the people at St. Paul's. You have truly adopted our family into yours.

I want to talk to those of you who are not members of the church, but have thought about joining the church. This winter/spring I would like to put together a membership class/Bible study. It has been wonderful to see so many new faces and to hear the wonderful news you are sharing with the congregation: marriages, new children, different jobs, new homes and many more exciting things that demand our time. I appreciate your desire to make time for God and church. I look forward to meeting with you and finding out what else God has planned for you.

I'll see you in the Mission field in 2017!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Paul

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Thought for the Month:

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.

—Victor Hugo

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for making **The Cookie and Treats Walk** a great success. Whether you donated items, helped during the walk, or purchased items, we thank you. The proceeds earned from this event was \$651, which goes to the "Crafty Creatures" small group to purchase batting, flannel material and thread, for the comfort quilts that are taken to area nursing homes.



Thank you to those who placed items on the special hat and mitten Christmas tree. The tree was overflowing with many hand made and purchased items for children at Elida Elementary School, the adults and children at Lima Samaritan House and men in need at the Lima Rescue mission.

Thank you for your generosity!

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

January Coins for Communion will benefit Heartbeat of Lima



January 1, 2017
Happy New Year's

St. Paul's Epistle	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Secretary:	Jone Lane
Organist:	Linda Holman
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian:	Dave Decker

**NO
Seniors Day Out
In January**

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

Christian Symbol

Three Chests

Sometimes called "three arks," this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical account doesn't say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.



Bible Quiz

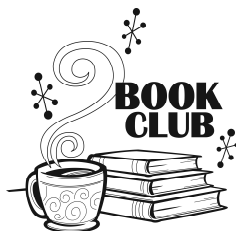
In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- A. A farmer sowing seed
- B. A mustard seed
- C. Yeast
- D. Hidden treasure
- E. A merchant who finds a pearl
- F. A fishing net
- G. All of the above



Answer: G (see Mathew 13:24-51)

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's



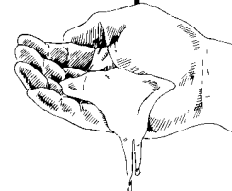
St. Paul's Book Club

Saturday, January 7, 2017
at 9:00 AM

We will be discussing
Fruitcake and Other Leftovers
by Lori Copeland.

Bring your own breakfast and join
in the discussion.

Reaffirmation
of **Baptism**



January 8, 2017

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Five Loaves Food Pantry
at The Church at Allentown

Food Pantry Sunday is
January 15, 2017

Cereal is the needed item.

Poem

A Towel

Author unknown

At first glance, it is easy to look at a towel
as a most ordinary object. Have you ever stopped to
think that for thousands of years, the towel has been
used for many wonderful purposes?
For example, the mother who wipes the tears of a child,
the physician who binds the wounds of a patient,
or the woman in her home, wiping her hands
as she moves from task to task.

Perhaps the most significant use of the towel
happened nearly two thousand years ago when our Savior,
only hours before he hung on the cross,
took an ordinary towel in His loving hands and dried the feet
of His disciples. This simple loving act personifies the selflessness
and loving service we seek to give during our lives.
It illustrates that an ordinary thing like a towel, in the right hands,
and with a giving heart, can lighten another's load.
As with every action performed by the Savior
on this earth, His act of service reminds us that
simple day-to-day kindnesses are the Savior's way
to bless and comfort.

When a towel is given with love, it is given with the hope that works
of goodness will be done with it as the Savior did so many years ago.
May the absorbing spirit of the season blot our problems,
soak up our sorrows, wipe away difficulties,
and may your Christmas be shining bright!



The Right Time

I find New Year's depressing. Another year has ended, another has begun. You are one year older; one year closer to your end... Happy New Year! And though we rarely have church on New Year's, the scripture assigned is the appropriately depressing but perhaps instructive poetry from Ecclesiastes 3:1-3:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal.

When Pete Seger set those words to music I thought them beautiful, until I read them in context. They suddenly revealed themselves to be terribly dark. After considering the passing of time, Ecclesiastes asks, "What gain have the workers from their toil (verse 9)?" What good comes of it?

Look back on the year that has just passed. There is a time to live, yes. A time to write checks, a time to paint bedrooms, a time to care for the yard, a time for conservatives, a time for liberals, a time for independents, and a time to die. And with that time, a January wind blows through this ancient poem.

As we read these words, we are not in Hebrew time, which begins somewhere and steadily moves somewhere to its gracious fulfillment. This is Greek time. It is circular, without beginning or end. We are not moving forward, onward, or upward. We are on the treadmill to nowhere.

The writer isn't just talking about how time passes. The writer says there is a "right time" for every matter under heaven. For example, a doctor told me that timing is everything in diagnosis. If the patient comes too early to the physician, the complaint is unspecific and difficult to pinpoint. But if the patient waits too long the illness can progress too far and it is too late for treatment. The same could be said about the difference between the right time and almost the right time.

In all things - birth, death, love, war, planting, and harvesting - there is the right time. It is beyond us to fully know the appropriate time for anything. God is God and we are not. At New Year's, Ecclesiastes bids us to think of the difference between us and God in terms of time.

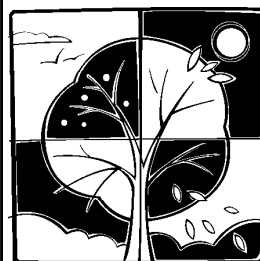
As a teacher, I have learned that there is a "teachable moment," that sacred, unknown moment when the listener becomes a learner and the eyes light up. The heartbeat quickens, and it is the right time. The older you get, the more you see how often you have done something right, but at the wrong time. You pushed your children too soon, or you missed a golden opportunity, or you jumped forward when you should have stood still.

It would be great wisdom to always know the right time. But Ecclesiastes says that it is greater wisdom to accept our finite, creaturely status. Too much is outside our ability to control. The right time is in God's hands, not ours.

Christmas was such a time. Mary and Joseph didn't know it as they went about paying taxes, visiting relatives, getting engaged, having a baby. But it was the right time; God knew.

You and I are not gods unto ourselves. We cannot know the right time. Yet, here is the good news: Wherever life takes you in the coming year, the seasons of your life are held in God's hand and by God's grace. All shall be well.

- By William H. Willimon,
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Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:	
November 27, 2016	112
December 4, 2016	109
December 11, 2016	117
December 18, 2016	91
December 24, 2016 <i>6:00 PM Service</i>	52
December 24, 2016 <i>10:00 PM Service</i>	91
December 25, 2016	63

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

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
November 27, 2016	\$2,172.00	\$3,519.06
December 4, 2016	\$10,208.00	\$532.88
December 11, 2016	\$2,697.00	\$585.24
December 18, 2016	\$2,263.00	\$580.00
December 25, 2016	\$6,857.55	\$1,906.00

Sunday School Attendance	
November 27, 2016	15
December 4, 2016	20
December 11, 2016	20
December 18, 2016	8
December 25, 2016	N/A

Greeters	
January 1, 2017	OPEN
January 8, 2017	Cari Metzger & Anika Bok
January 15, 2017	Don & Mary Irvin
January 22, 2017	Becky Ellinger & Girls
January 29, 2017	Margie Best & Jone Lane

Flower Calendar	
January 1, 2017	Jerry & Becky Bean
January 8, 2017	OPEN
January 15, 2017	OPEN
January 22, 2017	OPEN
January 29, 2017	Rudy & Lavonne Segovia

Hospitality Cart	
January 1, 2017	Book Club
January 8, 2017	OPEN
January 15, 2017	OPEN
January 22, 2017	Choir
January 29, 2017	OPEN

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday 1/1

Psalm 66, 67, 145
1 John 2:12-17, John 6:41-47

Monday 1/2

Psalm 33, 34, Genesis 12:1-7
Hebrews 11:1-12
John 6:35-42, 48-51

Tuesday 1/3

Psalm 68, 72
Genesis 28:10-22
Hebrews 11:13-22
John 10:7-17

Wednesday 1/4

Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29
Exodus 3:1-12
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 14:6-14

Thursday 1/5

Psalm 2, 110, Joshua 1:1-9
Hebrews 11:32-12:2, John 15:1-16

Friday 1/6

Psalm 29, 98
Isaiah 66:18-23, Romans 15:7-13

Saturday 1/7

Psalm 103, 114, 115
Isaiah 52:3-6
Revelation 2:1-7, John 2:1-11

Sunday 1/8

Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118
Isaiah 59:15-21
Revelation 2:8-17, John 4:46-54

Monday 1/9

Psalm 63:1-5, Revelation 2:18-29
John 5:1-15

Tuesday 1/10

Psalm 138, 139, 147, Isaiah 3:1-9
Revelation 3:1-6, John 6:1-14

Wednesday 1/11

Psalm 91, 92, 148, 150
Isaiah 65:13-16
Revelation 3:7-13, John 6:15-27

Thursday 1/12

Psalm 98, 99, 100
Isaiah 66:1-2, 22-23
Revelation 3:14-22
John 9:1-12, 35-38

Friday 1/13

Psalm 46, 97, 96, 100
Isaiah 52:7-10
Revelation 21:22-27
Matthew 12:14-21

Saturday 1/14

Psalm 104, Isaiah 61:1-9
Galatians 3:23-29, 4:4-7

Sunday 1/15

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Isaiah 40:1-11
Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-34

Monday 1/16

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Isaiah 40:12-23
Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday 1/17

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Isaiah 40:25-31
Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday 1/18

Psalm 12, 13, 14, Isaiah 41:1-16
Ephesians 2:1-10
Mark 1:29-45

Thursday 1/19

Psalm 18, Isaiah 41:17-29
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 2:1-12

Friday 1/20

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Isaiah 42:(1-9)10-17
Ephesians 3:1-13, Mark 2:13-22

Saturday 1/21

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Isaiah 43:1-13
Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 2:23-3:6

Sunday 1/22

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Isaiah 43:14-44:5
Hebrews 6:17-7:10, John 4:27-42

Monday 1/23

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23
Ephesians 4:1-16
Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday 1/24

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Isaiah 44:9-20
Ephesians 4:17-32
Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday 1/25

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Isaiah 44:24-45:7
Ephesians 5:1-14, Mark 4:1-20

Thursday 1/26

Psalm 37, Isaiah 45:5-17
Ephesians 5:15-33
Mark 4:21-34

Friday 1/27

Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 45:18-25
Ephesians 6:1-9, Mark 4:35-41

Saturday 1/28

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Isaiah 46:1-13
Ephesians 6:10-24
Mark 5:1-20

Sunday 1/29

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Isaiah 47:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-31
John 5:2-18

Monday 1/30

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Isaiah 48:1-11
Galatians 1:1-17, Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday 1/31

Psalm 45, 47, 48
Isaiah 48:12-21
Galatians 1:18-2:10
Mark 6:1-13



Church History (1984-1985)

On September 9, 1984, Irene Plumb portrayed Susanna Wesley, the mother of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. She related how Susanna was a woman of uncommon zeal and the most important influence in John Wesley's life. Norm Grigsby presented "Remembering Our Past" on September 16, Jane Brown presented "Celebrating Our Present" on September 23, and Harold Hardy presented "Proclaiming Our Future" on September 30.

On October 28, 1984, Reformation Sunday, "Proclaiming Grace and Freedom" was the theme for the morning worship. A number of members of St. Paul's presented the chancel drama, "Zeal for Glory." This was one of the greater achievements of the celebration.

John Wesley's order for the Administration of the Lord's Supper was commemorated on Christmas Eve. Wesley's hymn, "The Year of Jubilee Has Come," will long be remembered.

During the summer, the church school tried group interests: international lessons, Methodism: life's transition, and the presence of God. The children gathered together to see filmstrips on the parables of Jesus.

In 1984, Bishop Dwight E. Loder retired and was replaced by Edsel A. Ammons. On October 14, 1984, seven members of Elida St. Paul's attended the West Ohio Conference Bicentennial Celebration at Ohio Center, Columbus. This large gathering was not only to proclaim our tradition of grace and freedom of the past 200 years, but to help prepare us for our work and plans of the future. It was also to honor Bishop Edsel A. and Mrs. Ammons. There was a reception following the celebration.

Martha Puffenberger led the Cherub Choir and Linda Holman led the Joy Singers. Twenty-two young people attended church camp and half of their fees were supplied by an ice cream social and a car wash.

One innovation of 1984 was the morning worship service and picnic dinner at the Allen County Farm Park.

During this period the proceeds from many fund raisers were turned to the Building Fund, such as basement sales, Mall bazaars, Mother/Daughter banquets, and chicken barbeques.

On December 15, 1985, a very striking performance was directed by Tom Tozer. "Angels, Lambs, Ladybugs, and Fireflies" had a large cast of children in costumes and they acted in a professional manner.

Left: Worship at Allen County Farm Park
Right: Tom Tozer directing children's musical.



December Worship



Dr. Tran explaining to the congregation how he and his wife came to live in America.

The Tran Children sharing their musical talents with St. Paul's on December 18.



Children's choir singing to the congregation on December 18.

L-R: Paysen and Larkin Wyant, Lena Whetstone, Sherilyn and Adrianna Ellinger.

Cody Scannell playing key board with Brittany Scannell at the piano for the Christmas Day worship service.



December Events

Christmas Caroling at Elm Croft assisted living with St. Paul's members and girl scout troop.



Cookie and Treats walk



Seniors Day Out



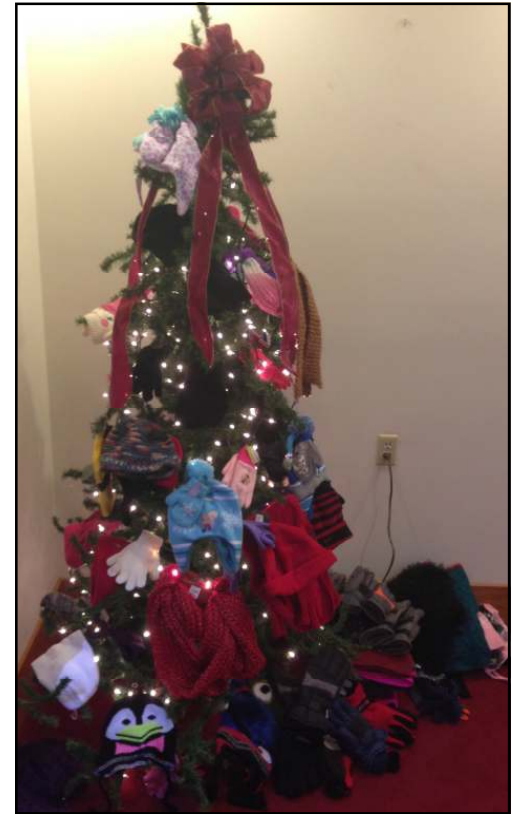
Linda Holman and Corinne Piper leading the Seniors Day Out program



Thank you



Thank you to Dwain and Myrna Metzger and their helpers who decorate our church for the Christmas holiday.



The Hat and Mitten Tree was overflowing again this year. Thank you for all your donations to this important mission.



Thank you to those who filled shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse, Operation Christmas Child mission. 161 boxes were collected.

- Total: Hats: 42
- Gloves: 71
- Scarves: 12
- Sets: 12
- Headbands: 5

The People of St. Paul's

Thank You!

Want to thank our church family for the many cards, hugs and visit from Pastor Paul. We are improving each day, hope to be back to church soon.

Ray and Phyllis Trigg

*Dear Friends at St. Paul's
Thank you very much for your prayers, cards and flowers during my surgery and recovery. I really appreciate your kindness.*

*Sincerely,
Roger Henderson*



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, prayers and concerns.

*Sincerely,
Dolores-Dee Johnson*

Our sympathy to the family of Martha (Marty) Hannah, who passed away December 16. Funeral Services were held in Columbus on December 22. Marty had been a member of St. Paul's since March of 1962.

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Roger Henderson

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Ruth Hardy
John Holmes
Mary LaRue

Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Glenna Kohli

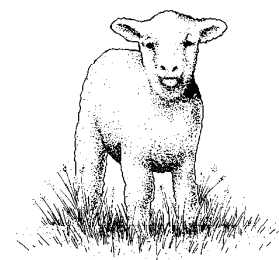
In the Military & Missions

Oliver Fessler
Dani Milke
Nathan Stewart

Congratulations



Back Row: Isaac McAdams, Luke Greeley, Katelyn Sumption, Elida School Board Pres. Jason Bowers
Middle Row: Supt. Joel Mengerink, Keaton Montgomery, Olivia Osmon, Riley James
Front Row: Spencer Geiger and Corban Jones



"Behold,
THE LAMB OF GOD,
who takes away
THE SIN
OF THE WORLD!"

JOHN 1:29, ESV

Meetings

January 2017

NO PPR

January 3, 2017
Trustees...7:00 PM

January 4, 2017
Worship Com.6:00 PM

January 12, 2017
Ad Council..7:00 PM

NO Finance

NO Missions

Sundays
Prayer...8:45 AM
Sunday Sch...9:00 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir.7:00 PM

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Tim Piper	2	3 Becky Ellinger	4	5 Shara Bowsher Lois Cook	6 Adia Slemmons	7
8 Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	9	10 Larkin Wyant	11	12 Jamie Chambers	13	14 Roger Henderson
15	16 Steve Sdao	17 Norm Grigsby	18	19	20	21 Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup
22	23 Joanne Bragg	24	25	26 Jeff Reiff	27 Jackie Henderson	28
29	30 Wanda Strayer Zack White	31				

Anniversaries

Rudy & Lavonne Segovia
 January 1; 61 yrs.

Paul & Marla Scannell
 January 8

Gerald & Wanda Strayer
 January 13; 63yrs.

Bill & Beverly Nesbitt
 January 16

Don & Maedene Holmes
 January 25; 58yrs.

Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

Corn Chowder

By Shirley Moser

Ingredients		Instructions
1 lg.	Onion, chopped	Add top 11 ingredients to large crockpot or slow cooker. Cook on high for 5 hours. 30 Minutes before serving: Combine last 3 ingredients, cornstarch and evaporated milk. Stir into slow cooker along with butter.
2 lg.	Carrots, diced	
4-5 lg.	Potatoes, chopped	
2 (14-16oz)	Whole kernel corn, drained	
2 (14-16oz.)	Creamed Corn	
4 cups	Chicken broth	
1 lb.	Bacon, cooked & crumbled	
1/2 tsp.	Thyme	
1 tsp.	Parsley, dried	
1/2 tsp.	Garlic powder	
To taste	Salt & pepper	
Add last 3:	30 min. before serving:	
1-12oz.can	Evaporated milk	
2 Tbl.	Cornstarch	
3 Tbl.	Butter (optional)	



Buttery Corn Bread

By Jeannine May

Ingredients		Instructions
2/3 cup	Butter, softened	Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Combine the eggs and milk. Combine flour, cornmeal, baking powder and salt. Add to creamed mixture alternately with egg mixture. Pour into greased 13x 9 inch baking pan. Bake 22-27 minutes or until toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cut into squares; serve warm with soup. This is a melt-in-your-mouth corn bread!
1 cup	Sugar	
3	Eggs	
1 2/3 cup	Milk	
2 1/3 cup	All-purpose flour	
1 cup	Cornmeal	
4 1/2 tsp.	Baking powder	
1 tsp.	Salt	

KIDZ KORNER

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.

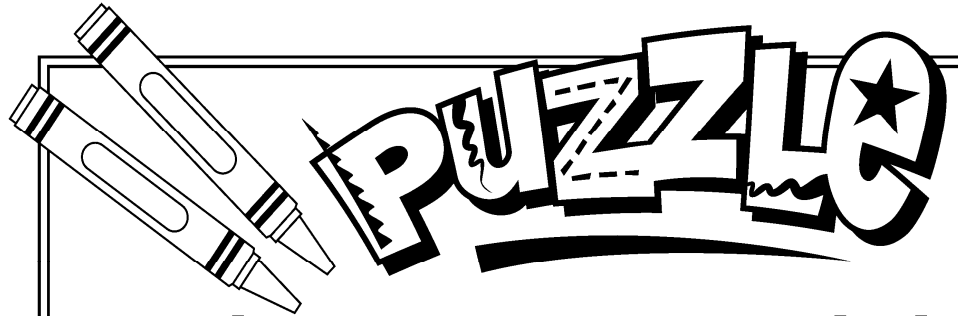


What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F

TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R

F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R

W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."

J _ HN 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

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Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Lessons From a Snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.
- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!



A New View

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

—C. Neil Strait

