

St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

Volume 41, Issue 9

September, 2018

St. Paul's United
Methodist Church

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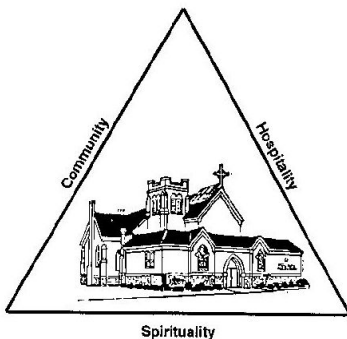
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Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2-3
Spotlight On...	4
EACC & EASY	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Remember When...	8
Our Church History	9
The Quilt	10
Connecting With...	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
September Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16



Can it be winding down toward the end of another year already? Yes, I know, it will not be fall until the end of the month, but school has started, next will be Halloween, Thanksgiving, then Christmas. Time continues to march on and we are called to be more than keepers of time. We are inheritors of eternity. I invite you to embrace the inheritance of eternal life through the gift of Christ given freely to all who believe. Join us for the next couple of weeks as we look a little closer at what unconditional love looks like in real life. Later in the month we will talk about stewardship and creating a legacy for the future.

Thank you to everyone who has already given health and school kits, but there is still a little time left to bring your kits to church. These kits help people here in the U.S. who are affected by natural disasters and people around the world who don't have the resources we take for granted.

I want to say thank you for all the prayers for me for this last knee surgery. The knee is doing great, but I have been a little slower to recover my stamina following this surgery. As a result, I have not made the time to put together the sanctuary safety team and report back to you with a plan. My hope is to move forward with this in the next few weeks. Thanks for your patience.

I also want to invite you to come to the ice cream social on Sept. 9th after church. The nurture committee is providing not only the ice cream but is also providing sandwiches. They are asking that you bring a dish to pass with a picnic theme so we can hang on to the end of summer. Come join the fellowship and fun as we celebrate being the church.

I will see you around church and around town.

Pastor Paul



Thought for the Month:

The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything.

—Unknown

September 2

Coins for Communion
to benefit
The Samaritan House



September 3
Labor Day
Office Closed

Food Pantry Sunday
September 16

Thank you to all who
have been donating

Ice Cream Social**September 9**

Following the worship service.

Sandwiches, drinks, and ice cream
provided by the Nurture Committee.

Please bring a picnic item to share.



Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

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

St. Paul's Epistle

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United Methodist Church

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Secretary	Gail Fessler
Newsletter	Jone Lane
Organist	Linda Holman
Pianist	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Judy Chaffins
Custodian	Dave Decker

Christian Symbol**Seal**

A seal is the mark of God's promises to the believer and of the believer's consecration to God. Old Testament priests wore a piece of gold against their forehead, as a seal, engraved with the words "Holy to the Lord." For Christians, the sign of the cross serves as a seal of salvation. Paul declares, "He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22, NIV).

Seniors Day Out

September 18
12:00 noon
In the Fellowship Hall

September 23
First Day of Fall

**CHANCEL CHOIR:**

Choir practice
Wednesday's
7:00 PM — 8:00 PM

Anyone interested in choir
is welcome to attend.

**All voices are needed
and welcome!**

BOOK CLUB

Saturday, October 6, at 9:00 AM

In the Classroom beside the main office.

Bring your breakfast if you wish and
join the group for conversation about

"Grandma Gatewood's Walk"

By Ben Montgomery

Upcoming Events for St. Paul's

SEPTEMBER 9 — Last Sunday to turn in kits

SCHOOL KITS

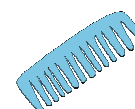
- One pair blunt scissors (**Round Tip**)
- Three **70 count** spiral notebooks (**Wide Ruled**)
 - One ruler (**12" – metric**)
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
 - One large eraser (**2 1/2"**)
- Six new #2 pencils with erasers (**unsharpened**)
- One box Crayola crayons (**24 ct.**)
- Canvas Tote Bag (**12"x14" to 14"x17"**)
- **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits

Pack kit in a **2 gallon size ziplock bag**
and place at the altar.

**HEALTH KITS**

- One hand towel (@**15"x28"** to **16"x32"**)
 - One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb (**remove from package**)
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper (**remove from package**)
- One bar of soap (**bath size in wrapper**)
- One adult size toothbrush (**in original packaging**)
 - **Ten** standard size Band-aids
- **\$2.00** for processing and shipping kits

Seal kit in a **gallon size ziplock bag**
and place at the altar.



Spotlight On



My Father, Ted Lennox

by Marla Scannell

My father, Ted Lennox, has been a man to push the boundaries set for people with visual disabilities. He turned 85 on April 8th and has lived an amazing life. He is the oldest of three brothers. He was born with detached retinas and glaucoma. When he was four the doctors removed both of his eyes. He sees nothing, not even a little bit of light. That has not stopped him or his brothers as they grew up together. He was taught how to ride a bike. He could tell he was on a bumpy dirt road. My grandmother would drop the boys at the town dump each day. It held all kinds of interesting things for boys to explore. They talked to the hobos waiting for the next train to come. These are good memories for the boys. They had to walk four miles home from the dump. All of them had chores they were expected to do and they did them, even my father.

When my father was old enough to attend school, he was sent to the Michigan School for the Blind. He lived there with other blind and low vision students year round. He came home on holidays and had a great time with his brothers. They taught him to golf, drive, play football and wrestle. My father decided to go to the high school in the town near the School for the Blind. He had to catch a city bus and ride it for about an hour each way. He went to the high school so he could wrestle on the wrestling team. After graduation he attended Michigan State University on a wrestling scholarship. After graduating from Michigan State he found a job teaching in a preschool for visually impaired students. He met my mother and moved from Detroit to the suburbs. When his co-workers took jobs at the University of Pittsburgh, my father became the lead teacher for the visually impaired students K-12. He chose to teach in the elementary building and train teachers to teach at the middle school and high school. He continued to expand his opportunities by being a visiting professor at Eastern Michigan and Wayne State Universities. He taught classes on vision and understanding special needs children. He also worked for the State of Michigan learning and then teaching the new technology that became available for those with visual impairments. He worked for the state of Michigan part time until his 82nd birthday.

What did he do for fun? He loved it when people offered to let him drive. I always got out of the car when my dad was behind the wheel! He has driven a motorcycle and was a golfer until he had a full hip replacement. My dad has obtained a license and performed the marriage ceremony for a former student and his wife. At the age of 50 he decided to take up running. When he was ready he would run marathons and 5K races with friends. He is a huge Michigan State football and a Tiger fan. He loves to play scrabble and cribbage. He is a chess player and loves to play cards, mostly Rummy and Hearts.

My father is looking forward to the opportunity to tease everyone about living in a foreign country of OSU fans. He is a teaser and enjoys company. Watch out if he seems to be just nodding or saying "Is that right?" He cannot hear you. He fakes it till he makes it. No verbal clues from him is your best answer that he is thinking, not hearing.

My father reads the bulletin in braille that I have brailled for him each week. He loves being in church and participating with the congregation. It makes worship real for him. I have the hymnal in braille which is about 8 to 10 books, so be patient with us when getting to the songs and responsive readings.

How can you visit best with him? Raise your voice, but don't yell. Those are the tones he does not hear. Let him know if he is about to run into something or someone. Most people do not realize he is blind and don't move. Tell him about yourself. Laugh with him, tease him and give him a hard time. He loves that! He now lives at Primrose Retirement Community of Lima.

The Braille Alphabet

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

EACC & EASY

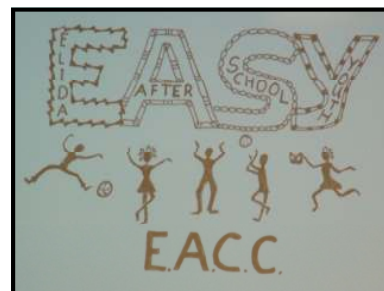
EACC

This August 7th Elida Area Community Center group (EACC) put on their second National Night Out. With music, games, food and fun it was a great success. Many families and neighbors turned out to show support for our police and fire department. We want to take time to give a thank you to Schwartz for the donation of water, to St. Paul for tables, chairs and chips, and to Immanuel for hot dogs and buns.



EASY

Elida After School Youth Program (EASY) starts Oct. 1st at 3 pm. During the months between October and April the volunteers of EASY will provide a snack, homework support and interesting classes. The kids have an opportunity to learn and grow as students and people. They will have a time to learn to work together and to learn about manners. We will also be offering the opportunity to listen to speakers who have come from other countries or are doing interesting things in their lives. You could come be part of this. What do you need to volunteer? A smile, a willingness to answer questions and maybe a willingness to share a skill you have with some students. Come join us for a volunteer information meeting. Contact Marla Scannell, Corinne Piper, Jamie Wyant or Lavonne Segovia if you are interested in volunteering.



Faith In Action

Worship Attendance:

July 29, 2018	77
August 5, 2018	88
August 12, 2018	78
August 19, 2018	91
August 26, 2018	79

Financial Giving

Weekly Need for
Unified Ministry Budget
\$3,466.00

Unified Ministry Giving:		Other:
July 29, 2018	\$1,980.53	\$324.10
August 5, 2018	\$3,098.00	\$969.12
August 12, 2018	\$2,903.00	\$342.00
August 19, 2018	\$2,359.00	\$288.79
August 26, 2018	\$2,182.00	\$1,297.19

Sunday School Attendance

July 29, 2018	7
August 5, 2018	8
August 12, 2018	7
August 19, 2018	8
August 26, 2018	9

Greeters

September 2, 2018	Julie Bok & Cari Metzger
September 9, 2018	Dennis & Shara Bowsher
September 16, 2018	Marty & Kathy White
September 23, 2018	OPEN
September 30, 2018	Lois Cook

Flower Calendar



September 2, 2018	Marty, Kathy & AJ White
September 9, 2018	Lynda Evans
September 16, 2018	Dwain & Myrna Metzger
September 23, 2018	Don & Mary Irvin
September 30, 2018	Mike & Becky Ellinger

Hospitality Cart

September 2, 2018	Corinne Piper
September 9, 2018	OPEN
September 16, 2018	OPEN
September 23, 2018	Choir/ Janet Grigg & Myrna Metzger
September 30, 2018	Marty & Kathy White

Daily Bible Readings

Saturday 9/1

Psalm 104, 137, 144
Job 3:1-26
Acts 9:10-19a, John 6:41-51

Sunday 9/2

Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147
Job 4:1-6, 12-21
Revelation 4:1-11, Mark 6:1-6a

Monday 9/3

Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Job 4:1, 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27
Acts 9:19b-31, John 6:52-59

Tuesday 9/4

Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11
Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21
Acts 9:32-43, John 6:60-71

Wednesday 9/5

Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24
Job 6:1, 7:1-21
Acts 10:1-16, John 7:1-13

Thursday 9/6

Psalm 18, Job 6:1, 7:1-21
Acts 10:17-33, John 7:14-36

Friday 9/7

Psalm 16, 17, 22
Job 9:1-15, 32-35
Acts 10:34-48, John 7:37-52

Saturday 9/8

Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117
Job 9:1, 10:1-9, 16-22
Acts 11:1-18, John 8:12-20

Sunday 9/9

Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150
Job 11:1-9, 13-20
Revelation 5:1-14
Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 9/10

Psalm 9, 15, 25
Job 12:1-6, 13-25
Acts 11:19-30, John 8:21-32

Tuesday 9/11

Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39
Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27
Acts 12:1-17, John 8:33-47

Wednesday 9/12

Psalm 38, 119:25-48
Job 12:1, 14:1-22
Acts 12:18-25, John 8:47-59

Thursday 9/13

Psalm 37
Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16
Acts 13:1-12, John 9:1-17

Friday 9/14

Psalm 31, 35, Job 19:1-7, 14-27
Acts 13:13-25, John 9:18-41

Saturday 9/15

Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43
Job 22:1-4, 21-23:7
Acts 13:26-43, John 10:1-18

Sunday 9/16

Psalm 63, 98, 103
Job 25:1-6, 27:1-6
Revelation 14:1-7, 13
Matthew 5:13-20

Monday 9/17

Psalm 41, 44, 52
Job 32:1-10, 19-33:1, 19-28
Acts 13:44-52, John 10:19-30

Tuesday 9/18

Psalm 45, 47, 48, Job 29:1-20
Acts 14:1-18, John 10:31-42

Wednesday 9/19

Psalm 49, 53, 119:49-72
Job 29:1, 30:1-2, 16-31
Acts 14:19-28, John 11:1-16

Thursday 9/20

Psalm 50, 59, 60
Job 29:1, 31:1-23
Acts 15:1-11, John 11:17-29

Friday 9/21

Psalm 40, 51, 54
Job 29:1, 31:24-40
Acts 15:12-21, John 11:30-44

Saturday 9/22

Psalm 55, 138, 139
Job 38:1-17
Acts 15:22-35, John 11:45-54

Sunday 9/23

Psalm 8, 24, 29, 84
Job 38:1, 18-41
Revelation 18:1-8
Matthew 5:21-26

Monday 9/24

Psalm 56, 57, 58, 64, 65
Job 40:1-24
Acts 15:36-16:5
John 11:55-12:8

Tuesday 9/25

Psalm 61, 62, 68
Job 40:1, 41:1-11
Acts 16:6-15, John 12:9-19

Wednesday 9/26

Psalm 72, 119:73-96
Job 42:1-17
Acts 16:16-24, John 12:20-26

Thursday 9/27

Psalm 70, 71, 74
Job 28:1-28
Acts 16:25-40
John 12:27-36a

Friday 9/28

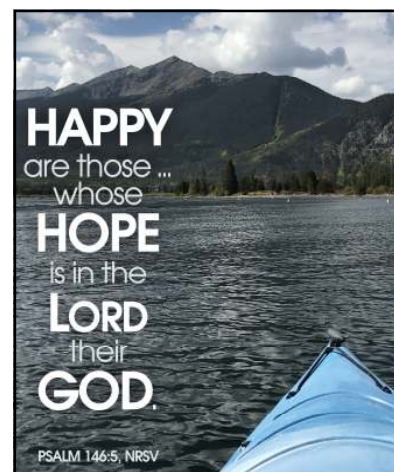
Psalm 69, 73, Esther 1:1-19
Acts 17:1-15, John 12:36b-43

Saturday 9/29

Psalm 23, 27, 75, 76
Esther 2:5-23
Acts 17:16-34, John 12:44-50

Sunday 9/30

Psalm 34, 93, 96, Esther 3:1-4:3
James 1:19-27, Matthew 6:1-18



Remember When



September, 2009

Rally Day



September, 2013

Lima Area Methodist
Men's Breakfast

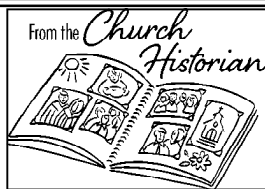


September, 2016

Helpers getting the School and
Health Kits ready for sending



Our Church History



In July, several people from St. Paul UMC joined others on a mission trip to the United Methodist Children's Home in Columbus, OH. Their main task that week was installing new roofs. St. Paul's received a certificate from the United Methodist Children's Home in appreciation of ministry support for the 2008 Roof Project. It was signed by Dean W. Pulliam, Executive Director and Rev. Steven Putka, Director of Spiritual Life and Development.

That August, the Lima News recognized a couple who have been volunteering and assisting in the rabbit barn at the Allen Co. Fair since 1982. It was none other than our very own Ron and Mary Steiner. It was a wonderful article for the very deserving Ron and Mary.

An air conditioner was installed in the pharmacy of Nuevo Progreso in memory of Brad Joseph, who was tragically killed in an auto accident in 2007 and spent several years doing mission work in Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. A plaque was installed which reads: "Bradley Joseph Memorial Pharmacy - Dedicated to our great friend, the much loved Brad Joseph, RPH, who devoted so much of himself to the Clinica Buena Fe and the people of Nuevo Progreso."

St. Paul prepared a float for the Elida Homecoming Parade on September 20, 2008. Julia and Makayla Bok, Dennis and Shara Bowsher, Linda and Michael Craft, John Fletcher, Jenson Nagy, Brian Nartker, Tracy Sdao and Pastor Ruth Solo, rode or walked with the float, as well as the puppets and puppeteers of St. Paul's UMC.

Mission Saturation Sunday was held on September 28. The Praise Team of Steve Moser, Brian and Angie Nartker, and Mindy Shultz sang for the service. The missions that St. Paul supports were on display in the fellowship hall.

November 9 that year was Consecration Sunday. A carry-in dinner was enjoyed by everyone after the service in the fellowship hall. Carole Grapner spoke to everyone who attended.



Mission Trip to United Methodist Children's Home



St. Paul Float, in Elida Homecoming Parade

The Quilt

Inspirational Christian Story

Author unknown

As I faced my maker at the last judgement, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles.

An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that was our life.

But as an Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes! Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, (which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Others had a tiny hole here and there, other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune.

I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally, the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light and the scrutiny of truth. The others rose each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My Angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, death, and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptations to quit, only to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father, in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded through the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ.

Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you... Welcome Home My Child"



Connecting With ...

Corinne Piper sang "Jesus Loves Me" by S. Warner & WMB. Bradbury for the Special Music on August 19.



Anika and Terry Bok lay their hands on the quilts being blessed during children's moments on August 19.



For I know
the plans I have for you
"declares the Lord," plans
to prosper you and not to
harm you, plans to give
you a hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11



Blessing of the Backpacks, August 26



The People of St. Paul's

Thank You

*Dear Friends,
I was very touched by your gift
of beautiful wind chimes in
honor of my brother-in-law,
Bob Dungan. He was a great
husband and father. Most of
all, he was a devoted servant of
God. Our family is
heartbroken, but we know he is
with his Savior now and that
knowledge gives us peace.
Thank you for your caring
support. I will enjoy listening
to that sound at my new home
at the beach!*

*I will travel back to Ohio
(home!) often and look forward
to being in church with you
worshiping our Heavenly
Father!*

*Blessings to all,
Ginny Doseck*



Our sympathy to Ginny Doseck on the death of her brother-in-law, Bob Dungan, who passed away on July 23.

Remember in Prayer

Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital

Dillon Staas

Homebound Members

Hazel Dunn
Glenna Kohli

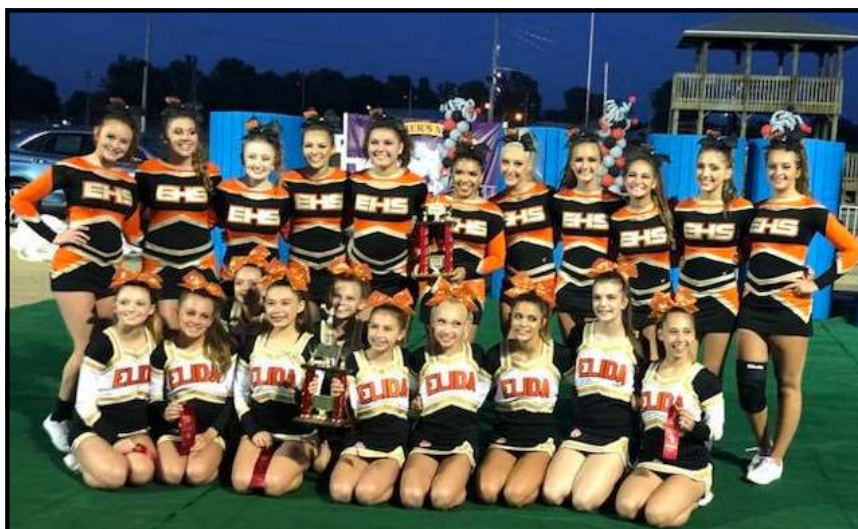
Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement

Ray and Phyllis Trigg

In the Military

Oliver Fessler
Nathan Stewart

Congratulations to High School Cheerleader, Megan Emmons and Middle School Cheerleader, Savannah Emmons. The Elida High School cheerleaders received FIRST place at the Allen County Fair Cheerleading competition and the middle school squad placed SECOND!



Meetings

September 4, 2018
Trustees...7:00 PM

September 5, 2018
Worship...6:00 PM

September 10, 2018
Ad Council...7:00 PM

September 17, 2018
PPR...7:00 PM

NO Finance

No Missions Meeting

Sundays
Sunday School...9:00 AM
Prayer...9:30 AM
Fellowship...9:30 AM
Worship...10:00 AM

Wednesdays
Chancel Choir...7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Avery Chambers
2 Kathy White	3 Reggie McAdams	4	5 Gene Craft Lindsey Rutter	6 Dwain Metzger	7 Logan Smith	8
9 Janet Grigg	10	11	12	13 John Kuenzli	14	15 Ashley Edwards
16	17	18 Bruce Segovia	19 Evan Bowsher Jackson Bowsher Jordan Wyant	20	21 Nathan Stewart	22 Oliver Fessler
23 Amy Wyant	24 Tyler Smith	25 Valerie Kuenzli Helen Staas	26 Carl Rabley	27 Alex McAdams Ann Stewart	28	29 Rob Craft Bruce Kizer
30						

Anniversaries

Chris & Kate Stengel
September 6

Josh & Lori Motzer
September 7

Greg & Barb Schade
September 7

Tim & Katie White
September 8

Dwain & Myrna Metzger
September 10; 57 yrs.

Nick & Kim White
September 10

Rick & Kara Woeller
September 17

Chris & Molly Przekora
September 19

Jonathan & Chelsey Cook
September 20

Norm & Mary Grigsby
September 20; 60 yrs.

Don & Mary Irvin
September 22; 56 yrs.

Mike & Becky Ellinger
September 25

Recipes from St. Paul's Great Cooks

Pickled Beets

By Shirley Moser

Ingredients		Instructions
2 cups	Sugar	Cook beets in boiling water until tender enough that skins peel off with your hands. Bring water, sugar and vinegar to a boil with spice bag. Cook 5 minutes with beets.
2 cups	Hot water	
2 cups	Vinegar	
		Remove spice bag. For canning: Pack beets in jars with hot liquid. Seal immediately in hot jars. Process for 30 minutes.
	Cheese cloth spice bag:	
1 tsp.	Cloves, whole	
1 tsp.	Allspice, whole	Pickled eggs: Place peeled hard boiled eggs with liquid mixture. Store in a sealed container and refrigerate. Marinate for 2 days. Eggs may be add with beets.
1 Tbl.	Cinnamon stick (broken)	

Zucchini Brownies

By Shirley Shoup

Ingredients		Instructions
1 1/2 cups	Vegetable oil	Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients until well blended. Bake in greased and floured, 15x10x1 inch baking dish. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.
4	Eggs	
2 cups	Sugar	
1 tsp.	Vanilla	
1 cup	Nuts	
2 cup	Flour	
1/2 tsp.	Baking powder	
2 tsp.	Baking soda	
1/2 tsp.	Salt	
4 Tbl.	Cocoa	
2 tsp.	Cinnamon	
2 to 3 cups	Zucchini, shredded	



KIDZ KORNER

Miracles happen!

Create this colorful reminder of God's wondrous works.



What you need:

- white cardstock
- white wax crayon
- paintbrush
- water
- watercolor paints

What you do:

1. Across the paper horizontally, write with the white crayon "Miracles happen!" (or a Bible verse such as Job 5:9; Psalm 77:14; Jeremiah 32:27; or Matthew 19:26).
2. Wet the paintbrush and paint over the words with different colors.
3. Let dry and then hang up.



IT'S A MIRACLE!

Jesus performed many amazing miracles during his earthly ministry.

Directions: Match the words and pictures of different healings, from one column to the other. Then fit the word pairs in the blanks below to complete Matthew 11:5, NIV.



blind



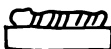
leprosy



lame



deaf



dead

hear



walk



raised



sight



cleansed



The _____ receive _____, the _____, those
who have _____ are _____, the _____
_____, the _____ are _____ ...

MATTHEW 11:5, NIV

Answer: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised ... Matthew 11:5, NIV

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

105 E. Main St.
Elida, OH 45807

*Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
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45807
Permit No. 71

Our Web Address:
www.elidastpaulschurch.org

Our Facebook page
Elida St. Paul's Church

Twitter Account
@ESPCHURCH



Living Our Faith

Will Heaven Be Boring?

As a youngster, I imagined heaven as a big, dim room with thick carpet and worried that filling an *eternity* of days would be boring. I never dreamed anyone shared that concern until I read Sam Storms' words: "Heaven is not one grand, momentary flash of excitement followed by an eternity of boredom" (*One Thing*).

So, what *is* heaven like? Scripture offers only a few intriguing glimpses: Ezekiel's vision of four fiery creatures and the hem of God's garment gleaming in rainbow light; Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus, depicting heaven within shouting distance of Hades; Jesus' mention of many rooms in his Father's house; Stephen seeing Jesus at God's right hand; John of Patmos' view of the new Jerusalem, descending from God.

We can't know exactly what heaven looks like — or how we'll fill all our "free time"! (Doubtless, worship around God's throne will be a big and joyous part.) But we know there will be no hunger, thirst, tears, death or pain (see Revelation 7, 21 and 22). All peoples and languages will be included, with healing for all nations. "There will be a new episode of divine grace every day!" Storms writes. Most importantly, Jesus will be there — the Lamb of God, our Shepherd, sheltering us with his presence. For now, that's *all* we need to know.

—Heidi Mann