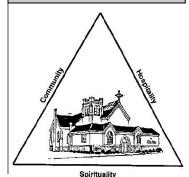
# St. Paul's Epistle

An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples

#### Volume 34, Issue 10

St. Paul's United Methodist Church 105 E. Main St. Elida, OH 45807 419-339-3801 <u>espcoffice@embarqmail.com</u> Rev. Ruth Solo 419/909-9102 Cell Phone: 419/812-3032 <u>espcpastor@embarqmail.com</u> Web Address: www.elidastpaulschurch.org



Inside this issue:	
Youth News	2
Upcoming Events	2-3
The Heart of Church	4
Pastor's Letter Continued	5
Faith In Action	6
Consulting the Manual	7
Fair Chairs	8
Stewardship	9
Remember When	10
Connecting With	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
October Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Korner	15
Living Our Faith	16

Dear Friends,

The author of Ecclesiastes, called "The Teacher," wrote: "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." He then goes on to write a litany of the events and concerns that seem to have a timeline to them, that seem to come and go in life, so that we know when the painful side of life confronts us, the healing hopeful side will follow. As a pastor, I have preached this scripture for funerals and for weddings. It is appropriate for both, because life brings the good and the bad. Jesus said the rain falls and the sun shines on the good and the bad. We call times of trial rainy days, and times of unanticipated joy our sunny days.

As we have just changed from summer to fall on the calendar, it is a reminder that we identify many things by the seasons, including life. Spring is likened to childhood and youth as we venture into the world to explore all of the possibilities of life. Summer is identified with young adulthood as we move with energy into life taking on new responsibilities and looking for what makes us enjoy life a little more. Middle adulthood is identified as the autumn of our years when we finish some of our tasks and begin to wonder where the plans went we had made when we were younger. And finally, elderly years become seen as the winter of our lives, because our abilities are fading, our expectation of more life is limited, and we can see with new eyes the promise of life after death. One looks back and reflects on the good and the bad in life, and makes decisions on continued life or giving in to the aches and pains of old age.

These seasons affect the life of the church, too. When a congregation is planted, however long ago that was, the founders could vision all the possibilities that lay ahead. As the church became vibrant and strong, it moved into a time of wooing new people, trying new ministries, and claiming an identity. As the autumn years in the life of a congregation comes, the members think of how it used to be, wonder how they got where they currently are, and regret the things they did not do. When the winter years come, when the members are tired from all the doing, when their own lives seem limited, and they wonder if death will come to the congregation, there is a time of deep reflection about why the church is in the place it is in the first place. The congregation has to make decisions about what's next.

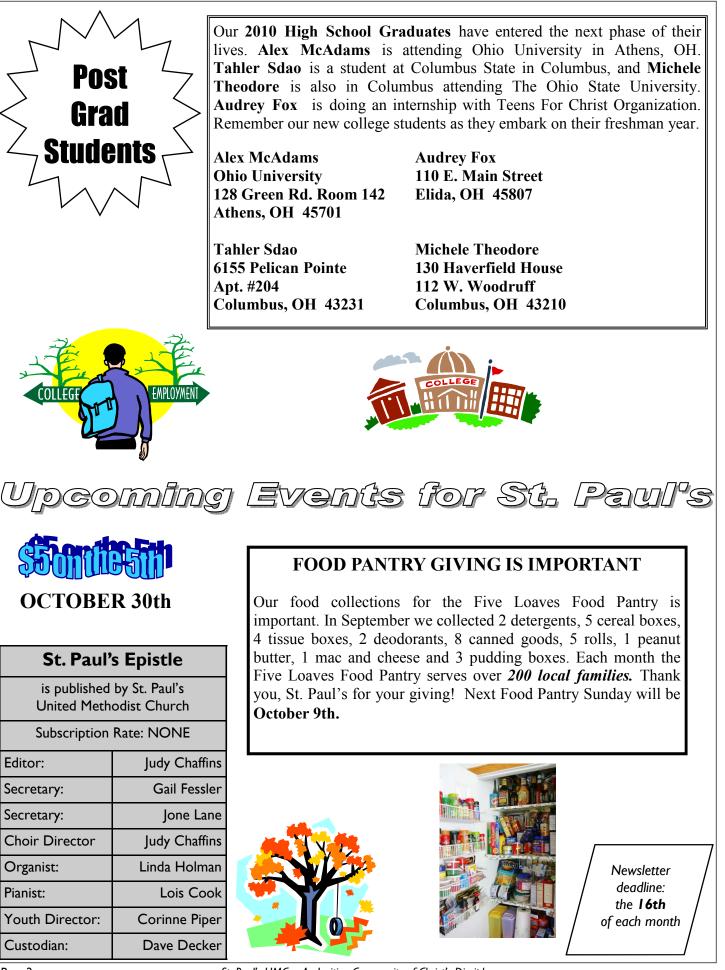


Thought for the Month:

October, 2011

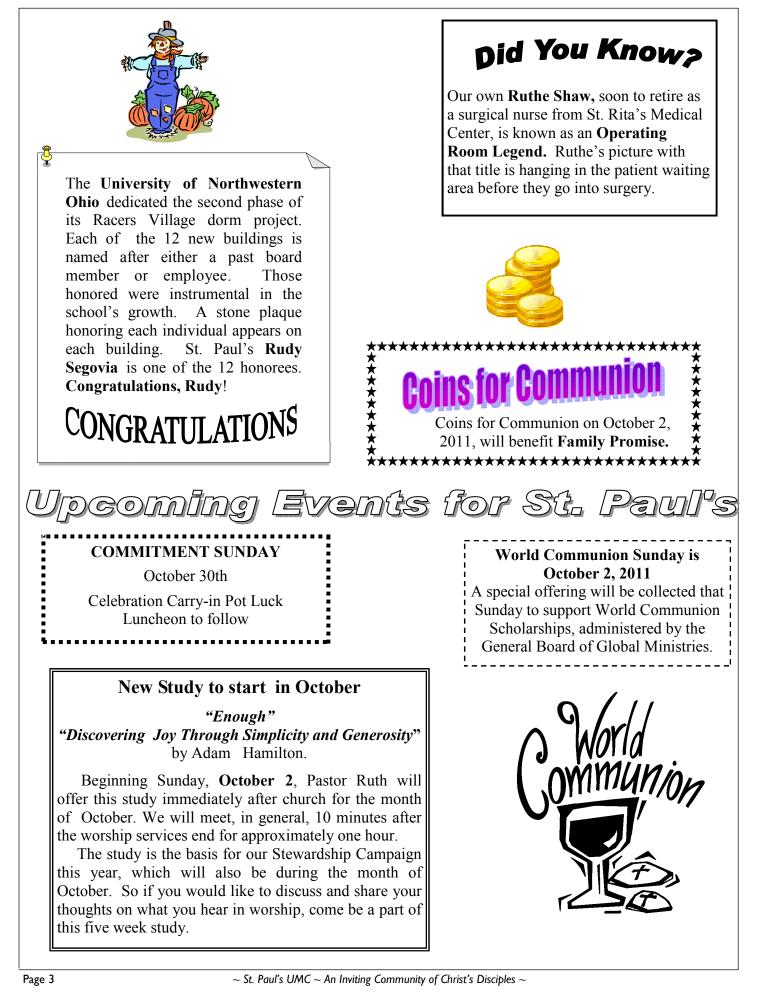
Be a sinner and sin strongly, but more strongly have faith and rejoice in Christ. - Martin Luther

Continued on pg. 5



St. Paul's Epistle

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	The Heart of Church
<sup>♣</sup>	WE NEED YOUR HELPI
	conducting a survey to see if it would be cost effective to e-mail the to those who have e-mail and <u>wish</u> to receive the newsletter by this
	Please fill out and return to the church office, call the office at 419-339-3801, or e-mail us at <u>espcoffice@embarqmail.com</u> .
(Circle one YES	e) I wish to receive the newsletter by <b>e-mail.</b>
NO	I wish to continue receiving the newsletter through the <b>mail</b> .
NAME:	
E-MAII	:
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<b></b>	
	Samaritan House Wish List

Cheese, eggs, butter, powdered milk, creamer, sugar, cooking oil, salt & pepper, coffee, drink mixes, canned pasta, canned fruit, kids snacks, sandwich meats,

## frozen meat, canned chicken/beef,

Ziploc bags—gal & qt, tall can & large capacity trash bags, foil, disposable gloves, spray disinfectant, air/fabric freshener, laundry baskets, laundry Detergent, fabric softener, hand sanitizer, **toilet paper, paper towels**, drain opener, new/like new pots & pans, 60 watt energy efficient light bulbs, infants cold/sinus medicine, Tylenol/ibuprofen, basic office supplies, postage stamps, copy paper, writing tablets/legal pads, diapers sizes 4&5, women's deodorant, conditioner, women's underwear sizes 7-10 Wal-Mart/Meijer/Rays gift cards

> Please take your items to the Samaritan House Questions? Contact us at 419 222-4663 or samhouselima@embargmail.com Bold Items = Most Needed

## **Pastor's Letter Continued**

### Continued from pg. 1

All churches must make decisions at some point, recognize the seasons of ministry, recognize the season of life in which it is currently functioning. But, in the process of reflection, every church can claim new life, since the church exists because of Jesus Christ, who promised new life to all who believe that he can give life, and to all who follow his way. The seasons change. All people, all things grow older. But in Christ, we can claim life rather than death, as persons and as a congregation. Which will we choose?

One of our hymns, #583 in the hymnal, is "You are the Seed." The third verse says: You are the life that will nurture the plant; You're the waves in a turbulent sea; Yesterday's yeast is beginning to rise, A new loaf of bread it will yield. There is no place for a city to hide, Nor a mountain can cover its might; May your good deeds show a world in despair A path that will lead all to God.

Even as we age, we have seeds to plant for those still in the spring and summer of their faith lives. We have wisdom, lessons we've learned, the capacity to love, and a great understanding of grace, because we've experienced it. And we have faith in God through Jesus Christ that life goes on. We are called to go and share the good news.

See you in church.

God's Peace and Blessing, Pastor Ruth Solo







<b>Committee Chairs</b>	
PPR Chair	Linda Craft
Trustees Chair	Tim Theodore
Finance Chair	Art Holman
Physical Plant Chair	Ron Steiner
Treasurer	Gene Craft
Assistant Treasurer	Jenessa Fletcher
Education Chair	TBA
Administrative Council Chair	Scott Fessler
Worship	Ruth Solo
Nurture	Martha Vazquez
Stewardship	Tim Piper
Missions	Marty White, Maedene Holmes

# Faith In Action

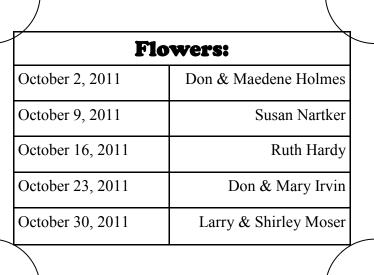
$\bigcirc$	
Worship Atter	ndance:
August 28, 2011	65
September 4, 2011	58
September 11, 2011	79
September 18, 2011	74
September 25, 2011	72

	weekly Need fo fied Ministry Bu \$3,466.00	r
<b>Unified Min</b>	istry Giving:	Other:
August 28, 2011	\$1,877.00	\$407.00
September 4, 2011	\$3,595.00	\$369.75
September 11, 2011	\$3,949.25	\$733.00
September 18, 2011	\$1,076.05	\$1,083.00
September 25, 2011	\$956.00	\$467.88



Greeters			
October 2, 2011	Tony & Shirley Shoup		
October 9, 2011	Denny & Carole Grapner		
October 16, 2011	Jerry & Becky Bean		
October 23, 2011	Gary & Janet Grigg		
October 30, 2011	Margie Best & Jone Lane		







## **Consulting the Manual** Signa has become the corners **Bible Readings for** Week of October 23 **Revised Common Lectionary** Color: Green Year A Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Week of October 2 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 **World Communion Sunday** New Testament: Color: White 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 *Old Testament:* Matthew 22:34-46 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 *New Testament:* Week of October 30 Philippians 3:4b-14 **Reformation Sunday** Matthew 21:33-46 Color: Green or White Old Testament: Week of October 9 Joshua 3:7-17 Color: Green Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 Old Testament: New Testament: Exodus 32:1-14 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 Matthew 23:1-12 *New Testament:* Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14 For more detailed information on the Revised Common Lectionary, please visit: Week of October 16 www.gbod.org Laity Sunday Color: Green *Old Testament:* Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 *New Testament:* 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22 ~ St. Paul's UMC ~ An Inviting Community of Christ's Disciples ~ Page 7

## **Fair Chairs**



Left: Allen County Engineer—Tim Piper playing to the crowd Right Top: Brian Steiner and Marty White, Bottom: Oliver Fessler *Working hard one and all!!!* 



The 2011 Fair Chair Crew— Bottom Row: Steve Sdao, Zachary Loose, Rich Solo, Larry Moser, Art Holman, Aric Thompson 2nd Row: Judy Chaffins, Tracy Sdao, Tahlor Sdao, Kylee Loose, Ruth Solo, Shauna Brown, Taylor Shirk, Taylor Ellison 3rd Row: Myrna Metzger, Tim Piper, Corinne Piper, Margie Best, Dan Best, Jerry Crates, Jamie Wyant 4th Row: Tim Theodore, Sue Theodore, Oliver Fessler, Gail Fessler, Lois Cook, Jana Thompson, Denny Thompson 5th Row: Cindy Guess, T.J. McPheron, Josh Guess, Shelby McPheron, A.J. White, Marty White, Dennis Bowsher, John Fletcher Top Row: Ron Steiner, Scott Fessler

Not pictured: Don Chaffins, Butch Rabley, Shirley Moser, Linda Holman



Left: Hard workers taking a much deserved rest— Scott Fessler, John Fletcher, Linda Holman, Rich Solo, Ron Steiner, Jerry Crates, Ruth Solo Right: The finished product - lots and LOTS of chairs!!!!! Over 4000 this year!!!!!

# Stewardship

## "Enough" Stewardship Campaign Introduction

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company just three years ago, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty as the market goes up and down unpredictably.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported lying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."<sup>1</sup> While there are small signs of improvement, the unemployment rate continues to weigh heavily on people's minds as adult children of many of us find themselves in the unemployment line.

Join us in worship the weeks of **October 9, 16, 23, and 30<sup>th</sup>**, for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare." Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, an unemployment rate nearing double digits, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

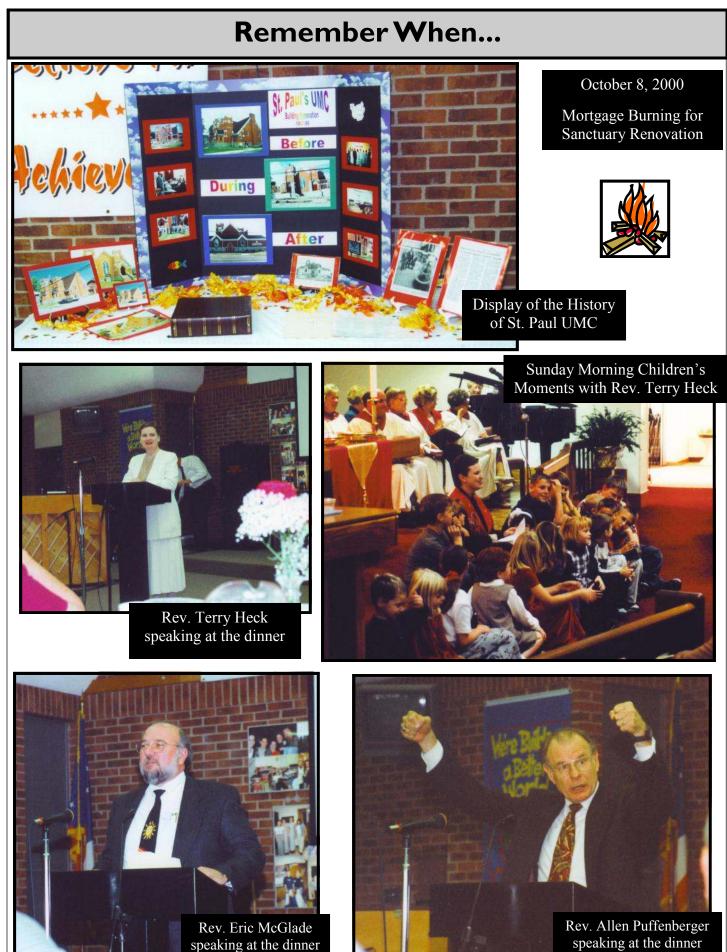
All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, over the four weeks in October, we will be offering a study and worship emphasis called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship and a small group study led by Pastor Ruth. We'll hear expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges. Each week we will provide you with some practical tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on the last Sunday in October, with a celebration luncheon to follow (see the schedule that follows).

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Schedule of Events:	
<u>Sunday, October 2</u>	Small-Group Study Begins 15 minutes after worship
<u>Sunday, October 9</u>	Sermon: When Dreams Become Nightmares
Sunday, October 16	Sermon: Wisdom and Finance
Sunday, October 23	Sermon: Cultivating Contentment
<u>Sunday, October 30</u>	Sermon: Defined by Generosity – Consecration Sunday followed by a
	Celebration Carry-in Pot luck Luncheon. Sandwiches and drink
	provided. We ask the congregation to bring a covered dish.
	Small-Group Study Ends 15 minutes after luncheon ends.

1 "Eight Out of Ten Americans Stressed Because of Economy," by Madison Park, from CNN.com, October 7, 2008; http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/10/07/economic.stress/index.html.



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# **Connecting With ...**

#### 

## Dear Pastor Solo,

Now that our Youth Summer Reading Program has been completed, the Elida Branch Library would like to say a huge thank you to you and your parishioners for once again opening your church to us. Your basement and central location provide an ideal setting for us to be able to present special programs to our young patrons and their families. Without your generosity, the library would be hard-pressed to deliver programs as we have no space or facility in which to do so. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude to you, Gail Fessler and your congregation for helping us make this year's Summer Reading a success.

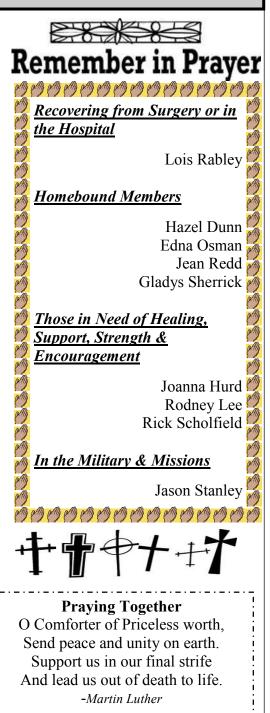
Sincerely, Stephanie Rhine and Becky Mack Elida Branch Library



## **Changing Like the Leaves**

When the sky does not provide Enough essential rain *In the fall for leaves to turn,* The color green they remain. *There is no breathtaking wonder For my curious eyes to behold;* The leaves are only green and brown, Instead of red, pink, purple, orange or gold. *God's word is nutritious:* To our souls, it is like rain. And so one day we die without Having our colors shown full and bright. What a loss to all in this world To never get to witness this beautiful sight! God created us to grow and change, To embrace this season we must By opening up to let His Word inside Before we turn to dust.

> Poem by, Jenessa Fletcher



## Visit The United Methodist Communications website : www.umcom.org

This website offers book reviews, music reviews, and web ministry information among other relevant and interesting links.

# The People of St. Paul's

To my church family, Thank you for your prayers, cards, flowers and visits during my knee replacement surgery. I thank **Pastor Ruth** for her support during this time. It has meant a lot to me.

**Chris Bowsher** 



St. Paul's Church, A big "thank you" for all the donations vou have blessed us here at Allentown for the 5 Loaves Food Pantry. They are a real blessing as we are having more people all the time. Thanks again. God Bless You All! In Christian Love.

**Allentown UMC** 

St. Paul's family, Thank you for the many prayers and cards sent during my recent illness. May God continue to bless each and everyone of you, as you have all been blessings and inspirations to me.

> Peace and Health. Lois Rabley



**Congratulations to Krista** and Caleb Slemmons. on the birth of their son Ira Alder Slemmons, born on August 25, 2011. He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 193/4inches long. He looks and acts like his big brother **Oren**. Proud Grandparents are Art and Linda Holman. Well wishes may be sent to 162 Bullen St., Milford, ME 04461



Prayer List Updates **Please Contact** Lavonne Segovia

Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flower arranaement I received following my knee replacement surgery. Thanks also for all your cards, prayers, thoughts, and expressions of get well wishes. All were greatly appreciated.

Lavonne Segovia

Jon Blewitt, formerly of Elida, was married to Leah Pryka on September 16th, at a ceremony at Christ Church, Bowling Green. Jon, a former member of St. Paul UMC, is the son of Ms. Darby Dennis and Mr. Bill Blewitt. Leah is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Randy Pryka of Bowling Green. Congratulations to Jon and Leah in starting their life together.



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Meetings	0	ct	ok	)ei	r 2	20	11
October 4, 2011 <b>Trustees7:00 PM</b>	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 5, 2011 Worship6:00 PM				wed			
October 10, 2011 Finance7:00 PM	Fel	Prayer9	undays :30 AM :30 AM				1 Brent McAdams
October 17, 2011 <b>PPR7:15 PM</b>		orship10	:00 AM				Robert Bice
October 18, 2011 Missions7:00 PM	2 Reed Chambers	<b>3</b> Beth Warris	4	5 Corinne Piper Brad Selover	6 Molly Fessler	<b>7</b> Denny Thompson	8
Wednesdays Chancel Choir7:00 PM	Carter Craft		Trustees	Worship		Brogan Wyant	
Happy Viniversary	9	10 Marty Hannah Ray Trigg Cory Stewart Finance	11 Slone Whetstone	12 Bill McKinney	13 Hazel Dunn 92 years	14	15
<ul> <li>Dillon &amp; Helen Staas</li> <li>October 6</li> <li>59 years</li> <li>Barry &amp; Cyndi Smith</li> <li>October 8</li> </ul>	<b>16</b> Evelyn Sarber 92 years	17	18 Brad Whetstone	19 Kelsey Smith	20	21	22
Gary & Shirley Adams October 10 59 years Zack & Katie White October 10 Scott & Gail Fessler October 15 Ron & Ann Stewart October 19	23 Jim Polutnik	PPR 24 Kim Holmes Nick White	Missions 25 Chris Bowsher Phyllis Hines	<b>26</b> Tonya Craft	27	28	<b>29</b> Shirley Moser John Fletcher
Ron & Ann Stewart October 19 Nate & Tonya Craft October 27	30 Mike Matlock	31 Jerry Bean			<u>S</u> M 6 7 13 14	ember 20 <sup>-</sup> <u>T W T F</u> 1 2 3 4 8 9 10 11 15 16 17 18 22 23 24 25 29 30	S 5 12 19

Page 13



# Nacho Cheese Dip

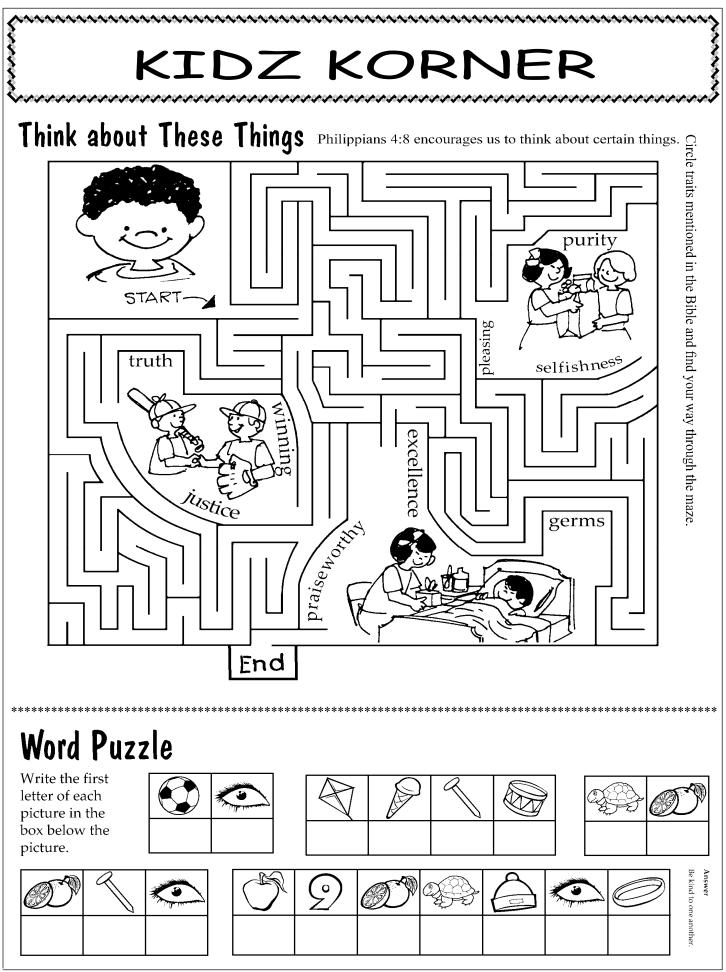
by Sue Theodore

hy Mary Steiner

Ingredient	S	Instructions
2 lb.	Light Velveta Cheese, cubed	Stir together and heat until cheese is melted.
2 lb.	Ground beef or sausage	Serve with tortilla chips.
to taste	Jalepeno peppers, chopped	
1 tsp.	Chili powder	
1 (16oz.) jar	salsa (mild)	

# 7-Layer Mexican Salad

		by Mary Steiner
Ingredien	ts	Instructions
4 c.	Chopped lettuce	Layer lettuce, tomato, onions, olives, beans, cheese, and dressing in 3 quart glass bowl; Refrigerate.
1 c.	Chopped tomato	
		Top with crushed chips and toss lightly just before serving.
1/2 c.	Chopped green onions	
1 (4.5 oz.)	Sliced, pitted ripe olives,	
	drained	
1 (15.5 oz.)	Dark red kidney beans,	
	drained	
1 c.	Shredded mild cheddar	
	cheese	
1 c.	Salsa ranch or zesty garden	
	dressing	
1 bag	Crushed tortilla chips	0,50
(optional)	1	



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

\*Return Service Requested

Our Web Address: www.elidastpaulschurch.org





# **Living Our Faith**

Now and then, set aside for yourself a day on which, without hindrance, you can be at leisure to praise God and to make amends for all the praise and thanksgiving you have neglected all the days of your life to render to God for all the good he has done. This will be a day of praising and thanksgiving and a day of jubilation, and you will celebrate the memory of that radiant praise with which you will be jubilant to the Lord for eternity, when you will be satisfied fully by the presence of God, and the glory of the Lord will fill your soul.

- Gertrude the Great, Spiritual Exercises





Know Your Bible Middle books: Micah and Nahum Middle verse: Psalm 118:8 Middle chapter: Psalm 117 Number of times the word "God" appears: 3,358 Number of times the word "Lord" appears: 7,736 Number of different authors: 40 Number of languages the Bible has been translated into: over 1,200 - cofcnet.org Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Elida, OH 45807 Permit No. 71

## Halloween Fun

Heaviest pumpkin - 821.23 kg (1,810 lb 8 oz) presented at the Harvest Fest in Stillwater, Minnesota, USA.

Largest gathering of zombies -**4,026** participants at The Big Chill Festival in Ledbury, Herefordshire, UK.

Most lit jack-o'-lanterns displayed - **30,128** at the Life is Good Pumpkin Festival in Boston, Massachusetts.

- community.guinnessworldrecords.com

