

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155**

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To:

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155
410-239-3456
The Rev. Melvina Stricklin**

February & March 2010



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Directory



President Sarah Morris
410-526-7598

Vice President Charles Baber
410-751-7511

Secretary Susan Fleming
410-239-1174

Treasurer Richard Harris
410-239-7483

Council Members

John Kelly Rob Holtz

Shriver Foster Derek DuBois

Wade Hilgartner

Committee Chairpersons

OUTREACH

Suzi Lyons
410-239-7656
Sarah Morris
410-526-7598

EVANGELISM

Rob Holtz
410-526-2927

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Susan Fleming
410-239-1174

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Charles Baber
410-751-7511

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Suzi Lyons
410-239-7656

FINANCE

Bryan Benson
410-526-2817
Richard Harris
410-239-7483

PROPERTY

Leon Fleming
410-239-1174
Shriver Foster
410-239-2663

YOUTH

Derek DuBois
410-374-1133

PARK

Richard Harris
410-239-7483

SHEPHERDS

Ginny Harris
410-239-7483

HOSPITALITY

John Kelly
410-239-9427

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

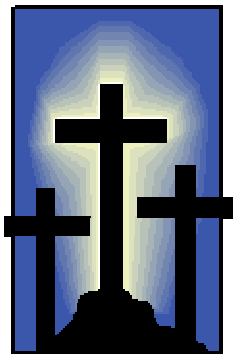
Charles Baber
410-751-7511

CEMETERY

Maidie Brown
410-429-0907

NEWSLETTER

Carol Hunt
410-429-4229
OphirGSP@aol.com



SAINT PAUL 'S VOICE

February/March 2010

Hats off to so many in our church family who helped St. Paul's have a very prosperous and productive year in 2009. There are so many things that were accomplished. There were so many people who helped with the many projects. There were so many who reached out in love and touched the lives of many. May this continue into the future with 2010 being even a greater year. Our labor for the Kingdom of God is continuous. Keep the faith and keep up the good work.

As I was writing this, devastating news came out of Haiti. A terrible earthquake struck that impoverished island and many were injured and killed. The country was already a poor one with a fragile infrastructure. They also had been hit with several hurricanes over the last few years. The scenes we watched on the news made us realize how horrible this was. The people who survived are lacking housing, food, water, and medical attention. The scene was so similar to Hurricane Katrina and other storms that created havoc in many places in our own country.

We want to do something. Our hearts are stirred. As it says in Romans 8:26-27 "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." So we pray for the people with great fervor asking the Holy Spirit to intercede for us. God does know what is in our hearts for the people of Haiti.

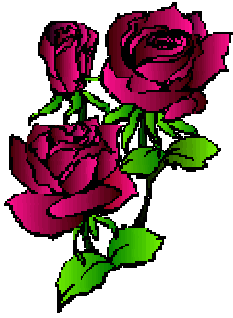
Hopefully, that stirring within us will help us to not only pray but, to respond to their needs. We can take donations of goods to the Brethren Center in New Windsor which can include summer clothing, hygiene products, bottles of water, etc. Call them first before you take your items there.

The ELCA National Church in Chicago coordinates volunteers to go and give direct aid to the Haitians. If you are so moved, please let me know and I will help you attain that goal. Also, we may make monetary donations to the Lutheran World Relief. Mark your donations Haiti Earthquake and send to Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

It will take months for recovery from the earthquake. Let us pray diligently for them and offer all that we can during this very trying time. It is what God asks us to do. May God bless each of you as you reach out in love to others.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mel Strucklin



THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

WE PRAY FOR:

MEMBERS: Jeff Armacost, Lois Armacost, Michael Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Kim Boose, Mary Burk, Sue Bosley, Matilda Griffin, Cassie Harris, Shirley Harris, Mildred Hasson, Sydney Henry, Matthew Jones, Oneida Jones, Mary Louise Miller, Shari Underhill, Leslie Vink-Hood, George Walter, Lorraine Walter, and all homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Genny Casper, Esther Watson, Carol Graff, Debbie Hahn, Bill Peters, Jim Howard, Braylynn, Joyce Rhoten, Pastor Gene Alexander, Bishop Jerry Knoche, Shirley, Ex Officio Bishop Mocko, Pastor Andrea Hagan-Arendt, Becky Norwood, Bill Higgins, Christine Wheeler, Pastor Dick Michael, Ruth McGee, Tanner Yingling, Wade Lease, Steve Hannon, Emma Miller, John Eichler, Spike Bradford, Trinity United Church of Christ, Rita Harrison, Julia Wagner, Elaine Braver, Bettie Panagakos, Bernie May, Fred Baber, Mark Farver, those facing job loss, and those in broken relationships.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES: family and friends of Martha Moses, Kijo Dolan, Timmy Ruhlin, Noah Asid, Lester Lease, Sarah Foxwell, John Haines, John Sievert, Virginia Westbrook, Peter, LaFata, and Grace Yox.

May the promises of our resurrected Lord bring them peace and comfort.

THE PRAYER: We give you thanks, O God, for your healing word. Write it on the bodies, hearts, and minds of those who suffer physically, mentally, or spiritually, especially (names) so that your Spirit might give them relief from their pain. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell it about other people.

Virginia Woolf

The baptized should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where they are transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.

St. Vincent Ferrer

I've learned that when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

Maya Angelou

Love is shown in your deeds, not in your words.

Father Jerome Cummings

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BIBLE TRIVIA

1. What did Jesus say should not be cast before swine?
2. What city has gates made of pearl?
3. Which epistle refers to Christ as a living stone?
4. What nation suffered ten plagues that were signs of God's power?
5. According to Jesus, where do we never put our light?



Temple Talk

Given by Richard Harris on 12/27/09

Merry Christmas and good morning. A few weeks ago I was asked to provide a temple talk today.

Pastor Mel gave me some ideas for the talk which I of course rejected immediately and decided to write a talk of my own choosing. Since being asked, I have had a number of ideas which I felt all had merit. So I will try to blend the ideas into one perspective.

When I was in my teens, my family was members of a church near where we lived. I was happy with the church, had many friends there and would probably have continued my relationship with the church until we moved away. There was a situation which occurred that created a very negative political environment and I chose to stop going to church altogether. In my 20's and 30's, I had no contact with any church on a regular basis and was very busy with my businesses. I specifically avoided church even though my siblings were committed to their family church. I had been totally secularized and came to the realization that I probably would never be a churchgoer again. I still continued to believe in Christ and God, I still adopted the Christian ethic that I had learned as a youngster but the concept of becoming a regular member of any church was something that I never expected to regain.

When our daughter Becky was about 10, she began to come to St. Paul's with her friend Katie Binebrink who is Liisa's daughter. They were the best of friends and spent a lot of time together. Eventually, Becky became an associate member of the church and began accepting some of the responsibilities. She was an acolyte many times and attended the services and Sunday School. When Christmas came, she was part of the pageant and we came to St. Paul's to watch the show. Ginny and I enjoyed seeing Becky being a part of St. Paul's but we didn't think that we would ever consider becoming members ourselves.

Then there was an odd occurrence which prompted us to think about St. Paul's in a different light. We had been to a viewing of one of Ginny's former bosses who was also a family friend. At the viewing were 3 ladies who we spoke with and seemed very familiar. We realized that these 3 ladies were members of St. Paul's and were also friends of the family that Ginny had worked with. The 3 ladies were Gene Zepp, Oneida Jones and DJ Seaks who we later realized were inseparable lifelong friends. We began to come to church more frequently and I began to feel that going to St. Paul's was becoming something I looked forward to and that it was a missing part of my life. Shortly after that epiphany, Pastor Mel, who had just started her ministry at St. Paul's, asked us if we would like to have Becky baptized and renew our own Christian faith and become members of St. Paul's. We accepted and happily became members. This was during the period when the church ceiling was being repaired and most of the services were held in the fire hall. This added an additional opportunity to meet with the other members of the church and we found that we genuinely felt welcomed into the congregation. Since then, people have come and gone, but the feeling of openness and Christian geniality has sustained us in times of stress and discord. Even when we disagreed with something that was happening, we knew that all of our St. Paul's extended family were striving to maintain a Christian attitude and outlook.

Eventually, we became more involved with the responsibilities of maintaining different parts of the church. Ginny taught Sunday School and worked on the Bazaar and Lent soup suppers. I became a member of the Church Council and am currently the Church Treasurer. Being the treasurer gives me a unique way of seeing St. Paul's. I can see when things are going well and when there are problems on the horizon. When I accepted the position of treasurer, my predecessor predicted that we would probably be insolvent in a couple of years. As treasurer, it is my job to count the numbers and see the trends of the income and outflows of funds. Since 2003 when I started, the end of the year numbers have been acceptable but rarely encouraging. St. Paul's seems to be capable of supporting itself but not improving to the extent that we have a surplus to carry over into the next year and certainly not enough to create new projects or ministries. To confound me, we have maintained so many projects and ministries that I am amazed that this small country church has such a large footprint in the community. We have built a beautiful playground for all the kids in the community; we have a fantastic Sunday School program that continues to grow and gave us a wonderful Christmas program a couple of weeks ago. We have a very active outreach group that provides gifts for needy people and soldiers at different times of the year. We have a group that provides sandwiches for the hungry within Carroll County once a month all year long. We have a core of very dedicated leaders who try their best to maintain the stewardship of our church building, the business of the church and to prepare for the future of our church. We utilize the church property for the flea markets which provides an outlet for people from all around our region to make unwanted items available for other members of the community who want them. The list goes on and on of the impact that St. Paul's has in our community. There are so many things that people don't even think about

or know about that St. Paul's does. Our church nurtures, heals, educates and entertains. St. Paul's has been an important part of our community as long as I have been coming here and I hope that it will always be an active and compassionate part of the fabric of our region. I hope that all who come to St. Paul's will always be welcomed and encouraged to become a part of our fold. I hope that we will never see a time when St. Paul's no longer exists. We are St. Paul's. Not the building, not the Pastor, not the property. Pastor Mel is our spiritual guide but we, the people, are St. Paul's Lutheran Church. St. Paul's is my family church and I hope it always will be. As long as we continue to be the church we are, I will proudly say that I am a member and I will ask if anyone else would join us. We have much yet to do and many good Christians to help us. We will support the church and the church will support us.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU
THANK YOU, THANK YOU

..... TO ALL THOSE WHO:

helped decorate our church for the Christmas season which set the mood for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

to our council who set the goals for our church and the calendar of events for 2010 at a half day workshop in December.

to Marissa and Alexa Siperko, daughters of Gus and Jennifer, who attended classes and then received their first communion during worship December 13.

to our children who presented a Christmas program during worship, Dec. 13 to a filled sanctuary of 126 attendees. Hats off to Patti Schunk for directing the program, and to the Sunday School teachers, parents, and teenagers who assisted. We thank Beth Hannon for leading the choir of seventeen children at many practices who were dressed in white capes and big red bows made by Ms. Patti. It was a wonderful service.

to those who provided special music at our Christmas Eve Services. We thank Leslie and Paul Kemp, and Wendy and Carliana Folfas for their music presentations at the 4:30 service. We thank Helen Kemp who sang a solo at the 9 p.m. Candlelight Service.

to Sarah Morris who lead the Lessons and Carols service while Pastor Mel was on vacation. We thank Richard Harris for his very moving Temple Talk. Thanks also goes to those who did the readings: Charles Baber, Carol Hilgartner, and Carol Hunt.

to those who faithfully attend our Healing Service which is held once a month, alternating between Christ Lutheran Church and St. Paul's. The service is held the third Wednesday of the month except during Lent.

to our young folks who presented a skit during worship Jan. 31 in preparation for "Souper Bowl Sunday" Feb. 7 with the donations going NESAP.

The Lord's Laughter

From the *Joyful Noiseletter*, March 2010 edition

A mother was getting irritated with her five-year-old daughter, who wouldn't clean up her toys in the den.

"Mommy, I can't clean up the den," the little girl said after her mother fussed at her for the third time.

"Why not?" the mother asked.

"Because I gave up cleaning for Lent," she replied.

Smiley Anders, columnist
Baton Rouge, La *Advocate*

A cautious preacher concluded his sermon with the words: "The sinners referred to in my sermon are fictitious. Any similarity to members of this congregation is strictly coincidental!"

Tal Bonham

A recently married young couple arrived in church, but there was a full house, and the usher had to split them up. He placed the young bride in a back pew, and led the husband to an empty seat in front near the pulpit.

About 15 minutes into the sermon, the young bride remembered that she had left Sunday's chicken dinner in the oven and was concerned that it would burn.

She decided she would ask her husband to rush home and rescue the dinner from the stove. She scribbled out a quick note and whispered to the usher to deliver it to "the man up front."

The usher figured the note was for the preacher, so he went to the pulpit and delivered it to the preacher. The preacher read the note, quickly concluded his sermon, invited the audience to stand, and led a closing prayer.

Afterwards, a deacon and the trustees asked the preacher why he had concluded the service abruptly.

"Well, the preacher asked, "what would you have done after receiving this note?"

The deacon opened the note and read it aloud, "Go home and shut off the gas!"

via Peggy Goldtrap
Ormond-by-the-Sea, Fl

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. pearls (Matthew 7:6) 2. The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:21) 3. I Peter 2:4-8 4. Egypt (Exodus 10:2) 5. Under a bushel (Matthew 5: 15).

NEWS

OOPS

We forgot to mention Helen Utz as the great grandmother of two newborns last year. She is the proud great grandmother of Lila Singer and Jordon Brown, the grandchildren of Barbara and Steve Utz. Ask her about her 3 great grandchildren including Natalie and you will get the biggest smile out of her. She promises not to spoil them too much. Sorry, Helen, that we omitted you in the last newsletter. Enjoy those youngsters.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

As you receive this newsletter our children will have put on a skit about “souper bowl” (January 31st). At the end of worship, February 7, they will be collecting money for “souper bowl”. The money collected will go to NESAP So please be generous.

SPAGHETTI DINNER SOCIAL

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner Social will be held on Friday evening, February 12 at 6:30. Plan on a night of fun and fellowship!
Bingo will follow the meal. Please bring a prize with you (under \$5) to donate to the prize table. If you are an adult bring something suitable for an adult; if you have children bring something suitable for a child.
If you can bring a dessert or you can help with the dinner, please contact Carol Hunt ophirgsp@aol.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT

An Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 27, 10 am – noon, rain or shine here at St. Paul’s. Invite all the children in your family and in the neighborhood. We will have an egg hunt,

games, and snacks. Please contact Colleen Geldmacher if you have any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alan and Becky Miller on the birth of their son, Braeden Emerald Miller born January 13 at University Hospital Baltimore, weighing 5lb 13 ozs. and is 19 inches in length. He is the grandson of Richard and Ginny Harris, and Cynthia and Harry Schmidt. May they enjoy this new gift of life that God has bestowed on them.

OUTREACH

We adopted 5 families this Christmas and supplied each with many gifts that were generously donated by our members. The families were extremely appreciative and some said our gifts were the only gifts that would be under their trees. We also sent goodie boxes for 5 soldiers in Afghanistan.
Upcoming projects/events:
March/April - We'll be making ditty bags for the homeless shelters.
May 1st - BLOOD DRIVE---WE NEED DONORS BADLY

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lenten Season begins Feb. 17 with Ash Wednesday Service at 7 p.m. (no soup supper at this service). Each week of Lent we will have Soup Supper at 6 followed by service at 7. In Holy Week, we will have soup supper and service on Maundy Thursday, April 1, including the stripping of the altar. Good Friday is April 2 with only a service at 7. Easter will be celebrated April 4. If you can provide soup during the Lenten Season, see Sarah Morris.



Ash Wednesday Service:
 February 17, 7:00 pm

Soup Suppers:
 Wednesdays, February 24 – March 24, 6:00 pm

Lenten Services:
 Wednesdays, February 24 – March 24, 7:00 pm
 (following Soup Suppers)

Maundy Thursday Service:
 April 1, 7:00 pm following 6:00pm Soup Supper

Good Friday Service:
 April 2, 7:00 pm

February & March Celebrations

February Birthdays

- 1 John Hogarty, Jr.
- 2 Suzi Lyons
- 3 Glenys Hunt
- 4 Maidie Brown
- 7 Jesse Headley
- 8 Calvin Armacost
- 9 Scott Boose
Derek Dubois
- 12 Mildred Hasson
Matthew Jones
- 14 Pat Graff
- 21 Amy Durham
- 23 Diana Hoffman
- 25 Ryan Armacost
- 27 Lynne Fuller

March Birthdays

- 5 Gladys Reed
- 6 Angie Henry
Christopher Geldmacher
- 7 David Warren
- 9 Hazel Ashe
- 10 Carol Hunt
- 11 Bud Boose
- 13 Timothy Vink
- 15 Lori Baskette
- 17 Linda Hale
- 22 Jed Geldmacher
- 23 Allison Hogarty
- 26 Hope Hilgartner
Hannah Hilgartner
- 27 Helen Armacost
Carol Hilgartner
Ruth Walter
Gauge Dubois
- 29 Emily Benson
- 31 Alan Miller

March Anniversaries

- 27 Ernie & Judy Clark

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Rt. 30 & Dover Rd. Upperco, MD.

2010 Flea Market Calendar

April 17, 2010 May 15, 2010
June 19, 2010 July 17, 2010
August 21, 2010 September 18, 2010
October 9, 2010

Cost: \$15.00 per space

Time: 8 AM - 4 PM



To reserve your space contact: Sarah Morris

Phone NO.: 410-526-7598 or by email:
sarah.r.morris@comcast.net






Sponsored by: Thrivent Financial

Rain date the following Saturday

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	3 730 pm AA	4	5	6 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
7 900am – Worship Souper Bowl Youth Sunday Food Collection	8	9 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours) 7:00pm – Council	10 730 pm AA	11 700pm - Confirmation	12 6:30pm- Spaghetti Supper	13 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
14 900am – Worship 200-400pm - Oregon Ridge animal pets for youth	15	16 800am Sandwich Making 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours) 600pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	17 730 pm AA 700pm -  ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19	20 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
21 900am – Worship Fellowship after Worship	22 130pm – Worship & Music Committee	23 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	24 730 pm AA 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm- 	25 700pm - Confirmation	26	27 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
28 900am – Worship						

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	3 730 pm AA 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm- 	4	5	6 9:30am Fund Raising Workshop (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
7 900am – Worship Youth Sunday Food Collection	8	9 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours) 7:00pm - Council	10 730 pm AA 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm- 	11	12	13 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
14 900am – Worship Second Offering Carroll Hospice	15	16 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	17 730 pm AA 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm- 	18	19	20 (1200 pm - 130pm Pastor's Office Hours)
21 900am – Worship Fellowship after service	22	23 800am Sandwich Making 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	24 730 pm AA 600pm- Soup Supper 700pm- 	25	26	27 1000am-1200am Easter Egg Hunt (12:00 pm - 1:30pm Pastor's Office Hours)
28 900am – Worship  Reading of the Passion	29	30 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours (300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours)	31 730 pm AA			