

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Dover & Trenton Roads
Upperco, Maryland 21155
410-239-3456**

The Rev. Melvina Stricklin

December 2008 & January 2009



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

**Non-Profit Organization
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St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Directory



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410-526-7598

Vice President Charles Baber
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Treasurer Richard Harris
410-239-7483

Council Members

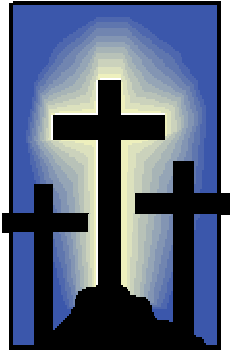
John Kelly Rob Holtz

Carol Hunt Meg Jones

Wade Hilgartner

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SAINT PAUL 'S VOICE

December 2008/January 2009

We have just come through a very exciting event. Our country has elected its first African-American president, Barack Obama. In his campaigning he constantly talked about *change*. America has been going through some troubled times. We are experiencing major economic downturns, credit markets are in chaos, and many are losing their homes. Other major concerns include global-warming, being at war with two different countries, terrorist threats, natural disasters, health issues and related insurance coverage, social security and whether it will still be there for us at retirement, and on and on.

As I see it, we do need change. But, that change must come within us and it must be God-centered. Without God the chaos will continue. We must renew our faith and put God first in all things. Yes, that may mean we need to modify our life styles. But, we can do it. God will not forsake us in our effort. God loves us and is constantly there for us.

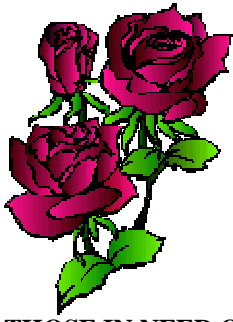
As we work on this change and look forward to the celebration of the Christ-child coming in human form, let us simplify, simplify, simplify our lives. Remember Jesus was born in a lowly manger. There was no insurance coverage. Only the cattle and the smell of hay accompanied his birth. Angels announce his birth and the Wise men began their journey to bring their gifts to the Lord.

We will shortly begin a New Year. May we reflect on our way of living and modify it to the ways of the Lord. Let us bring about *change* in our own individual lives and renew our faith. Then may those *changes* spread out into our communities and across America so that our nation will be one under God.

May the joys of this Christmas season remain with us throughout the New Year and may the peace of the Lord exist everywhere.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mel Stricklin



**THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER
WE PRAY FOR:**

MEMBERS: Lois Armacost, Mary Armacost, Hazel Ashe, Kim Boose, Mary Burk, Sue Bosley, Matilda Griffin, Olan "Eli" Harris, Shirley Harris, Mildren Hasson, Matthew Jones, Jesse McGee, Heather Lord, Mary Louise Miller, Sara Moore, Shari Underhill, Leslie Vink-Hood, George Walter, Lorraine Walter, and all homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Genny Casper, Esther Watson, Ann Stricklin, Carol Graff, Debbie Hahn, Bill Peters, Jim Howard, Clyde Utz, Andrew Shipton, Braylynn, Pastor Marty Roberson, Connie Pilloud, Ryan Mahoney, Casimer Gorecki, Joyce Rhoten, Pastor Gene Alexander, Bishop Jerry Knoche, Madeline Sabo, Shirley, Ex Officio Bishop Mocko, Pastor Andrea Hagan-Arendt, Linwood Roberts, Troy Gourley, Jessica McGee, Becky Nouwood, Harry Thomas, Raj Williams, Gunnar, Michael Lally, Danielle, Bill Buchman, Bob Leaf, Mary Albright, Tom Groft, Wendy Geist, Harold Edris, the Turner family, and those in broken relationships.

WE ALSO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES: family and friends of Dorothea Gross, Mox Barnes, John Gross, Jr., Mary Jane Smith, Frank Waneki, III, Robert Sprinkle, Bix Bixler, and Alice Smith.

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

THE PRAYER: O God, our helper, stretch out your loving arms to all who are in need. Come to the aid of those who suffer loneliness, pain, or any affliction especially (names). May they feel the comfort of your presence. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Gentleness, self-sacrifice, and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion.

Mohandas Gandhi

The walls we build around us to keep sadness out also keep out the joy.

Jim Rohn

Happiness is first of all a gift of God that is received by following the unexpected paths of God's will.

Pope Benedict XVI

Next to a good soul-stirring prayer is a good laugh.

Samuel Muchmore

BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Which Gospel opens with John the Baptist preaching in the desert?
2. What did John the Baptist tell the tax collectors who came to him for baptism?
3. Which epistle says that the flood waters at the time of Noah symbolizes baptism?
4. Who succeeded Judas Iscariot as an apostle?
5. Which apostle, originally a disciple of John the Baptist, was supposed to have been crucified on an X-shaped cross?

+++++



..... TO ALL THOSE WHO:

made our blood drive a big success.

contributed to the CROP WALK. A total of \$210 was collected from our church.

are leaders of our Christian Education classes.

for those who donate food items each month for NESAP's food pantry

our youth who participate each month in our worship service.

donated, volunteered and assisted with our basket bingo fund raiser, especially Carol Hilgartner

decorated our sanctuary for Harvest Home and those who gave generously for World Hunger.

helped at our flea markets each month, especially Sarah and Bob Morris.

decorated and planned the games and fun for our Trunk or Treat Halloween party especially Carol Hilgartner.

have served on council and now are finished their terms: Bill Stratton, president, Carol Hilgartner, secretary, Vivan Chenoweth, vice president, and Maidie Brown.

Patti Schunk for teaching our children music and having them sing during worship.

Those who worked on crafts, donated items, baked goods, served lunches, and volunteered to make our Christmas Bazaar a big success.

NEWS



CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL

The Worship and Music Committee is busy planning some special services for us to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child. Our Christmas Eve services will be a Family Service at 4:30 and a Candlelight Service at 9 p.m. Please come and worship with us at one of these services.

The Sunday after Christmas, December 28 we will have a special service of Lessons and Carols. Enjoy an hour of singing some of your favorite Christmas hymns. You may even hear someone share about their own life's journey with the Lord.

BIBLE STUDY AND ADULT CLASSES

During the month of December the adult Bible Study Class will not be held. We will reconvene on Monday, January 12th at 7 p.m. We will continue our studies of "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor".

As a reminder, there is an adult "chat time" in the "chat corner" after worship each week. You may bring any topic or question for discussion. It is an open forum each week. Come and get answers to those questions you have always wanted to know more about.

UNTRIM THE CHRISTMAS TREE PARTY

Each year we have a fun time un-trimming the Christmas tree. This event will happen January 4 immediately after worship. Bring some goodies to share with others.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our children are planning a special Christmas program to be presented during worship December 21. They have been practicing diligently under the leadership of Patti Schunk. If you want your child to participate, see Patti or one of the Sunday School teachers.

NEW HYMNALS TO BE PURCHASED

The council has approved converting to the New Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, referred to as the ELW. Cost per hymnal is \$20. At an additional cost you may have them in memory of or in honor of a loved one. You may purchase as many as you would like. Hopefully, we will get enough requests to have hymnals in all the pews. See Carol Hunt if you would like to order one or more of these hymnals.

BASKET BINGO/FUNDRAISER

We need a member to step up and lead our fundraiser for 2009. Several new ideas have been discussed for this event as well as bingo. If you are inspired with an idea, please don't wait to be asked. We need YOU!

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Mark 2. Not to collect more than what was legal (Luke 3:12-13) 3. Peter (3:20-21) 4. Matthias (Acts 1: 23-26) 5. Andrew

Celebrations for December & January

10 Calvin & Mary Armacost

December Birthdays

2 Leslie Vink-Hood
6 Heather Lord
7 Ginny Harris
9 Lisa Brinebrink
Jen Brown
11 Charles Baber
18 Sophia Panagakos
20 Gregory Hancock
Matt Peters
23 John Kelly, Jr.
24 Nadine McGee
Shirley Stratton
28 Sue Benson
Becky Harris
30 Joe Smith

January Birthdays






8 Laura Grabowski
11 Nelly Warren
14 Doris Hoffman
15 Mary Jane Peters
20 Mary Louise Miller
22 Becky Gottschalk
26 Sarah Morris
30 Angela Bell
Mary Graff
Earle Wolfe

December Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

See

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1 Pastor's Vacation	2 Pastor's Vacation 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours	3 Pastor's Vacation	4 Pastor's Vacation	5 Pastor's Vacation 600pm HANGING OF THE GREENS 	6 Pastor's Vacation
7 900am – Worship Youth Sunday Food Collection Pastor's Vacation	8 Pastor's Vacation	9 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 7:00pm – Council Pastor's Vacation	10 730 pm AA	11	12	13 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
14 900am – Worship Harvest Home Sunday Second Offering St. Dysmas 1215 pm Confirmation	15	16 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	17 6:45pm – Healing Service @ St Paul's 730 pm AA	18	19	20 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours 930am Shared Ministry Workshop - Jerusalem
21 900am – Worship –  Children's Christmas Programs Fellowship after Worship 1215 pm – Confirmation	22	23 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	24 430pm  900pm Candlelight Service 	25  Merry Christmas!	26	27 Pastor's Vacation
28 900am – Worship Service of Lessons and Carols Pastor's Vacation	29 Pastor's Vacation	30 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours Pastor's Vacation	31 Pastor's Vacation			

January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Pastor's Vacation	2 Pastor's Vacation	3 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
4 900am – Worship Food Collection Sunday Youth Sunday Un-trim the Christmas Tree Party	5	6 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	7 730 pm AA	8	9	10 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
11 900am – Worship 1215pm Confirmation Class	12 700pm Bible Study	13 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours 7:00pm - Council	14 730 pm AA	15	16	17 930- Shared Ministry Workshop - Jerusalem 1200 pm -130pm Pastor's Office Hours
18 900am – Worship Fellowship after service	19 700pm Bible Study	20 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	21 645pm -Healing Service @ Christ Lutheran 730 pm AA	22	23	24 12:00 pm - 1:30pm Pastor's Office Hours
25 900am – Worship 12:15 pm - Confirmation	26 700pm Bible Study	27 1000am-1200pm Treasurer's Office Hours 300 pm – 430pm Pastor's Office Hours	28	29	30	31 12:00 pm - 1:30pm Pastor's Office Hours

Make a Blessing of These Times

A Pastoral Letter from
Delaware-Maryland Synod Bishop H. Gerard Knoche
Regarding the Current Financial Crisis

Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and being in need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:11-13

It's easy to trust God when things are going well. At least that's what some folks say. I personally can become too self-reliant in those times, believing it's all my effort that has brought about prosperity or even just a state in life that is comfortable. I have learned that a nightly recitation before God of all those things during the day for which I am thankful helps keep my perspective in the right place.

When times are difficult, there is no denying I need to trust God. We are in one of those times financially these days. Folks are losing their houses. Our retirement funds or investments for college are dropping in value. And so far, all efforts to turn things around have not been fully successful. So fear about our future security results.

Paul's words about being able to face plenty and want speak directly to my fear. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," he says. Christ may do that by teaching us to live more simply: meat once a week; fewer meals out; games at home instead of the movies; more sweaters and lower thermostats.

Christ may do that by teaching us to live more communally; sharing lawnmowers and snow blowers; having the neighbors over for soup and bread; together pitching in to get friends or church members who have been downsized over the hump.

Christ may do that by calling us to send spiritual roots down deeper: pray and read Scripture more to find out how God has cared for God's people; reexamine our values to discover what really is important; compare our plight to that of our brothers and sisters in the southern hemisphere; place our trust where it belongs.

Make a blessing out of these times. God is ready to give one.

