

# ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

122 W. Michigan Avenue

Saline, MI 48176

www.uccstpaul.org

# ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March / April 2010 Newsletter

## Address Service Requested

TO:

**SERVICES:** 10:00am Sunday with Coffee Hour immediately following service

### CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patti Kenney Phone: 770-9808 Email: pastor@uccstpaul.org  
Secretary/Office Manager: Karen Basile Phone: 429-7716 Email: secretary@uccstpaul.org

### PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 12:30p—4:30p  
Tuesday: 8:30a—12:30p

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 12:30p—4:30p (volunteer staff)  
Tuesday: 8:30a—2:30p  
Wednesday: 8:30a—2:30p  
Thursday: 8:30a—2:30p

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council President — Gerald Miller	gerbev@comcast.net	429-2680
Treasurer — Mary Ann Sweet	grambino1@sbcglobal.net	439-3048
Council Members:		
Darryl Girbach ( <i>Tech Team</i> )	dgirbach@its.jnj.com	429-8159
Lloyd Girbach ( <i>Activities</i> )	kegirbach@yahoo.com	482-5167
Lisa Hartman ( <i>O &amp; M</i> )	alhartmanfamily@aol.com	429-4343
Pat Jensen ( <i>Bldg &amp; Grounds</i> )	pj419@comcast.net	429-7793
Babs Losee ( <i>Christian Ed</i> )	blosee@comcast.net	429-7318
Gayle Rogers ( <i>ICM</i> )	grogers1960@verizon.net	944-1476
Peter Schoenfeld ( <i>Worship/Music</i> )	pkschoenfeld12@verizon.net	429-5340
Len Winkelman ( <i>Memorial</i> )	lewk1ng@comcast.net	429-4273

## Inside this issue:

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## PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS—

It's Lent once again. Lent is the equivalent "New Year's resolution" time on the Christian calendar. It's time to begin, once again, the journey that leads us through the desert into eternal life. A time of giving up old ways and habits, focusing our hearts on what lies ahead, preparing ourselves for something harder, bigger, and better than what we have now.

The story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness sets a tone for all those resolutions we've made for the next six weeks. However, we might be so distracted by what we're supposed to do, or intend to do, that we lose track of what the story's really about, and what God is doing out there, in the wilderness.

After his baptism Jesus goes out, led by the Spirit, to a long time of reflection and fasting. Jesus is about to face a great trial. His enemy almost comes across as a "friend" who offers things that sound perfectly reasonable and good at first. After all, why shouldn't Jesus satisfy his hunger with a little bread, and wouldn't it be great if Jesus ruled the world (instead of the Romans), and how awesome would it be if Jesus flung himself off the temple roof and 1000 angels came to rescue him?

The tests Jesus faces remind us of the tests faced by Israel in the wilderness long ago, about trusting God to provide, and worshipping only God, and moving forward into a way of life under God's rule of justice, mercy, and peace. In a small way, our economic crisis in Michigan has been an opportunity to re-examine our priorities and reflect on where we place our trust, as well as what holds power in our lives. During this season of Lent, God is asking us to trust that today's manna is enough, without hoarding for tomorrow what we really need to offer to God and share with others. We're asked to worship only God, and not worry about defending our honor or reputation in the sight of others. We're asked to live faithfully, rather than expecting God to rescue us from a self-induced crisis.

"Lent is a time for us to *remember* that we are dust and not merely to wear it on our foreheads....we have Lent each year, so that again and again God can offer us the salvation that only God can give" (*Preaching the New Lectionary C*). Barbara Brown Taylor challenges us to approach Lent as a time for a kind of spring housecleaning for our souls, so we can "find out what life is like with no comfort but God." (*Home by Another Way*).

As we journey together through Lent to Holy week, may we let God shape our faith into one that endures and grows and thrives, no matter what is going on around us, no matter what we encounter out there, in the wilderness. May we look ahead, knowing that beyond the suffering of the cross, there is resurrection. God is with us, taking the ashes of our human weakness and calling forth a phoenix of new life. Thank you God, for sending us Jesus. Amen.

# EASTER PLANT SALE

## Easter is April 4



Plant	Quantity	Price	Total
6" Lilies (5+ blooms) 1 stem		9.00	
8" Lilies (8+ blooms) 2 stem		17.00	
10" Lilies 3 stem		20.00	
6" Hydrangea		16.00	
6.5" Hyacinths		8.00	
6" Tulips		8.00	
6.5" Daffodils		8.00	
6.5" Azaleas		14.00	
<b>TOTAL</b> (Checks Payable to: SASHPF)			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wording of Memorial for Bulletin—Please spell names accurately

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## OUTREACH & MISSION

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO:

Cass Corridor, Ronald Mc Donald House meals, E-Home Bingo, Brecon Memory Chapel, Haiti Relief Fund

### MONTHLY OPPORTUNITIES:

Outreach and Mission Meeting	March 1 & April 5 7:00 p.m.
Cass Corridor	March 27 & April 24
E-Home Bingo	March 16 & April 20
Ronald McDonald House Meal	March 24 (Wednesday) & April 22
Loving Yarns Needlework	Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.
Loving Hands Quilt Group	1st Saturday of each month, 10:00am-2:30pm

### SPECIAL HAPPENINGS:

A check for \$5,209 was delivered to the Brecon Memory Chapel on March 4. Staff at the Chapel were delighted as we were the first to turn in our pledge and the donation exceeded the \$5,000. Thank you for your support of this project.

\$1,193 was collected in January for the Haiti Relief Fund. Thank you for your generous donations.

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES:

Lenten Folders begin February 17 and go through Lent until Easter. Donations to OCWM. Box for their collection and extra folders on the Ushers Table.  
 Collection for a Saline Area Social Services Easter Basket due March 28th.  
 OGHs (One Great Hour of Sharing) collection on March 21  
 Millpond Manor Meal on April 13. See Opportunity Table to sign up to provide food for meal.  
 Loose Change Bucket donations for shipping of Church World Service personal hygiene and baby care kits outside Fellowship Room

### BULLETIN BOARD

Check the Bulletin Board outside the Chapel for current Mission activities and thank-you notes

### FOR DETAILS ON OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:

Kay Girbach, Margaret Auten, Robyn Girbach, Bruce Finkbeiner, Lisa Hartman, Gayle Rogers

## ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Events:

- **Sauerkraut Dinner—March 5, 2010**
- **Swiss Steak Dinner — April 23, 2010**
- **Ice Cream Social & Country Store — June 17, 2010**

We still need help with hosting Coffee Hour's. If your interested but not sure how it works, see Bev Miller or Betsy Marl. You may also use the sign up sheet on the Opportunity Table.

## FROM THE DESK OF GERALD MILLER

The annual meeting is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. This is an open forum meeting so please attend.

The Windows Committee is getting all the facts before any commitment is made so please be patient with them because we don't want to proceed unless we are certain we can get the job done properly.

Even though we are only going into March please consider serving on Council or as an officer. It's all about commitment.

Bev and I will be going to Arizona in March. Looking forward to it.

As we approach Easter may your days be filled with joy and also be rewarding.

Gerald Miller

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### JANUARY through DECEMBER —2009

Jan-Dec 2009 Income	\$145,578.00
Jan-Dec 2009 Expense	<u>\$151,704.34</u>
<b>Actual Spending Over Income</b>	<b>(\$ 6,126.34)</b>

### JANUARY 2010

***Needed to Meet 2010 General Fund:***  
***2,774.04/week***

January 2010 Income	\$14,069.28
January 2010 Expense	<u>(\$13,689.42)</u>
<b>Income over Spending</b>	<b>\$379.86</b>

## EVALUATION OF ST PAUL UCC PASTOR 2010

Please feel free to add comments. If you have not had any experience in any of the categories leave blank. Your input will be of a great help to the Council. Thank You.

Score 0 - 5. 5 being highest.

Does the Pastor's messages challenge us to higher levels? \_\_\_\_\_

Do the Sermons hold your interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the Pastor effectively conduct prayers of the people? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Pastor actively involved in the community? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you rate contact with Pastor other than Church services? \_\_\_\_\_

What are areas that are the Pastors greatest strength?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What areas need more positive growth?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for your input.

The Church Council 2010.  
Feel free to add any comments to any points.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature **Optional**

Please mail into the church secretary or give to a member of the Church Council.  
Thank you.

## GO WITH THE FLOW

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Why are some people able to successfully navigate change while others have such a hard time? One of the keys is acceptance.

Resisting change is like rowing against the current. Everything lies there ahead of you. But instead, you try to row upstream, back to where you once were.

When you refuse to accept change, you work against the forward momentum taking you to the next phase of your life, and remain stuck in the past.

Every thought that begins with I can't, I won't or I don't equals resistance. Argue with reality, and you'll lose every time.

Align your boat with the direction of the river. Stop clinging to the rock, let go of the oars and go with the flow.

On the other side of acceptance is where peace exists, where solutions are. Draw on your spiritual resources. Begin to trust, and you can become the person God meant for you to become all along.

Ariane de Bonvoisin

## PARISH NURSES

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St Paul U.C.C. now has 3 Parish Nurses who have been specially trained to provide supportive care to the congregation members.

Please feel free to call upon them with questions concerning health care issues, or speak with them when you see them at church.

Also available are items of durable medical equipment, if needed.

Rose Carol Toth, R.N.	734-429-5980	<a href="mailto:RCToth@aol.com">RCToth@aol.com</a>
Greta Graban, R.N.	734-429-7588	<a href="mailto:GGraban@aol.com">GGraban@aol.com</a>
Dawn Welt, R.N.	734-429-7128	<a href="mailto:d2welt@comcast.net">d2welt@comcast.net</a>

We maintain strict confidentiality. always.

## TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF (continued)

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### Your Life

The worst promise you can break is one made to yourself.

Do the right thing!

Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.

You don't have a soul. *You are a soul.* You have a body.

However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

The best is yet to come.

When you awake alive in the morning, thank God for it.

Your Innermost Self is always happy. Follow it.

No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

### Notes:

Keep these rules handy and review them often. Follow them and small, almost imperceptible, changes will accumulate into something big. Your life will change.

## 2010 READING GROUP

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The Reading Group will continue for 2010. Please join us for our first planning session on Sunday, April 18 after the service. We'll meet in Pastor Patti's office. Grab a cup of coffee and a cookie or two and come on in. We will be choosing at least one book for the upcoming months. We guarantee you will enjoy the books as well as the discussion and wonderful fellowship. We hope you'll join us.

This is the list of the books we read last year:

- [The Last Lecture](#) by [Randy Pausch](#) and [Jeffrey Zaslow](#)
- [The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference](#) by [Malcolm Gladwell](#)
- [Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time](#) by [Greg Mortenson](#) and [David Oliver Relin](#)
- [Water for Elephants: A Novel](#) by [Sara Gruen](#)
- [Tisha: The Story of a Young Teacher in the Alaska Wilderness](#) by [Robert Specht](#) and [Anne Purdy](#)
- [The Road](#) by [Cormac McCarthy](#).

## TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

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### Taking Care of You

Drink plenty of water.

Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper.

Eat more fruits and vegetables and eat less that is manufactured in processing plants.

Avoid eating food that is handed to you through a window.

Live the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy.

Play more games.

Read more books than you did in 2009.

Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.

Sleep for 7 hours.

Take a 10-30 minute walk daily. And while you walk, smile.

### Your Outlook

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

Don't have negative thoughts of things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.

Don't overdo. Keep your limits.

Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

Don't waste your precious energy on gossip.

Dream more while you are awake.

Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.

Forget issues of the past. Don't remind others of their past mistakes.

Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.

No one is in charge of your happiness except you.

Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.

Learn a new word every day.

Smile and laugh more.

You don't have to win every argument.

### Your Relationships

Call your family often.

Each day give something good to others.

Forgive everyone for everything.

Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.

Try to make at least three people smile each day.

What other people think of you is none of your business.

Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.

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## THE PARSONAGE

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- Last spring the Memorial Committee gave money to put a hand rail on the front porch. This was installed and a water valve was fixed.
- Water softener was installed by Luckhardt Plumbing.
- John Layher and I changed the light bulbs on the outside and inside changed batteries in fire alarms and thermostats.
- New fan was installed in living room. Ken Auten helped to install the fan.
- Air conditioner was repaired by Wall Heating.

Submitted by Gus & Grace Lindemann

## COUNTRY STORE—CRAFTS NEEDED!

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We will have the Country Store open again this year at the Ice Cream Social on Thursday, June 17th and are looking for crafters! We had a great success with the Country Store last year with all of your beautiful crafts! Start your projects early to be ready in time for the social!

All types of crafts are needed! Some ideas for crafts are: flower crafts, [beading](#), sewing, [doll making](#), painting, [candle or soap making](#), needlework, [quilting](#), stone crafts, [pottery](#), jewelry, [embroidery](#), weaving, [woodworking](#), macramé, latch hook or paper crafts.

## SAUERKRAUT SUPPER ————— MARCH 5th

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Join us on Friday, March 5th at 5:00pm to 7:00pm for the Sauerkraut Supper!

\$9.00 Adults \$4.00 ages 5 to 12 Children 4 and under are free

All you can eat — buffet style!

Bring your friends and neighbors!

## ICM SPONSORING CWS KIT DRIVE

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Since there is such an urgent need for Personal Hygiene Kits, as well as Baby Care Kits at this critical time, the group is encouraging St. Paul members to help contribute to kits. If you would like to make up kit/s, contribute items for the kits, or funds to help pay for the shipping, your assistance is greatly needed.

### **PERSONAL HYGIENE KITS**

1 hand towel (approx. 16 X 28") no fingertip or bath towels  
1 washcloth  
1 WIDE tooth comb  
1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)  
1 bar of soap (bath-size in wrapper)  
1 toothbrush (in original packaging)  
6 band-aids (placed in zip top snack size plastic baggie)  
Please do NOT add toothpaste (it will be added at time of shipping)

Seal all items in a 1 gallon plastic bag with zipper closure.

### **BABY CARE KIT**

6 cloth diapers  
2 t-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)  
2 washcloths  
2 diaper pins  
2 gowns or sleepers  
1 sweater or sweatshirt  
2 receiving blankets (1 may be a hand knitted or crocheted baby blanket)  
All items should be placed inside 1 of the receiving blankets, folded, then secured with both diaper pins.

Thanks to those who have already contributed, and to all who will be supporting this vital need.

## PRAYERS & SQUARES—MEETING DATE CHANGE

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The Prayers & Squares Prayer Quilt Ministry meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2:30pm.

Please join us if you can to help grow this important ministry.

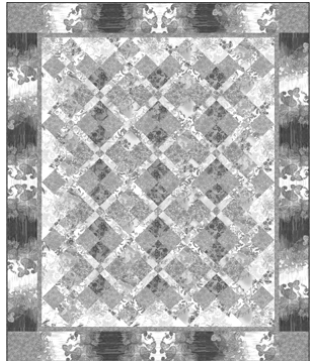
To receive reminders of upcoming meetings, sign up at:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/prayerquiltministry/>

## LOVING HANDS QUILT GROUP

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The Quilt Group is currently working on a quilt to be 'raffled off' again this year at the Ice Cream Social at our Country Store. Stay tuned to the announcements for your opportunity to help sew blocks for this beautiful quilt.

The Loving Hands Quilt Group is supporting the new Dundee Chapter of Quilts For Kids in which Karen Basile has been approved to start. Quilts For Kids is a non-profit organization that creates quilts to comfort children in the hospital who have life threatening illnesses and children who have been abused. Logistics are being worked out so that St. Paul may give out quilt kits and receive completed quilts to be given to the new Chapter which in turn will be given to area hospitals and shelters. You may visit [www.MichiganQuiltsForKids.com](http://www.MichiganQuiltsForKids.com) for more information.



The Loving Hands Quilt Group meets the 1st Saturday of the month from 10:00am—2:30pm for a day to "Sit & Sew". We have coffee and tea, play music to work by, and eat a packed lunch for a break at 12:00pm. If anyone needs a helping hand or has a question, there will be other sewers there to give guidance. Everyone can work at their own pace and skill level on whatever project they wish to. Please feel free to join us anytime you wish and bring a friend!

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

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A prayer square is one quilted block with approximately 15 ties. Prayer squares are given to those who are in need of any type of prayer, but don't need or want a Prayer Quilt.

The Prayer Quilt Ministry recently gave a Prayer Square to one of our members who was having a procedure done at the hospital. We contacted the member to see if he/she might like a Prayer Square to take to the hospital. The member accepted the Prayer Square and later told us how much comfort that square gave while the procedure was being done, knowing that many prayers had been said while tying the knots.

We have sent 11 Military Squares to soldiers serving in Iraq, Bagdad and Afghanistan. These squares are made with the colors red, white and blue honoring our flag. The square can be folded and worn under the helmet, covering the soldier with prayers.

If you know of someone who is in need of a Prayer Square, or if you would like one yourself, please contact Karen during Church office hours.

We need people to make Prayer Squares. We do have fabric and batting available, so there would be no cost involved. After the square is completed you can drop it off at church and leave it with Karen. If you would like more information, please contact Karen Basile ([secretary@uccstpaul.org](mailto:secretary@uccstpaul.org)) at the church office or Mary Ann Sweet (734-439-3048-phone or [grambino1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grambino1@sbcglobal.net) - email).