



THE LAMPLIGHTER

A Newsletter For The Members of

St. Paul's United Methodist Church and Gaither United Methodist Church

www.StPaulsSykesville.org

February 2016

LENT—A SEASON OF GRACE

An ancient oriental story tells of a little fish swimming along the edge of the river. Nearby on the river bank a science teacher had assembled his class for an instruction on “water.” As the fish swam by it heard the teacher speak, “Water is absolutely necessary to life. Without water we would all perish within a week’s time.” “Golly,” said the fish, “If what that teacher said is true, I’d better find some of that substance called ‘water’ or I shall die in a few days.” It asked every other little fish it saw where water might be found, but none of them knew. Then it put the question to some older, larger fish, but they were more interested in food for the day. Some thought the little fish was crazy: “Go away and let us alone,” they said in fish language. From stream to stream the frightened fish carried its quest, but in vain, until finally it came upon a fish who seemed wiser than the rest. “Please, where can I find the substance called water that will give me life?” “Water?” replied the wise old fish. “You are in water this very minute. You were conceived and born in water. Water is your environment. Water supports your very life. Draw on it and you will live.”

We too are immersed in a precious substance on which our life’s fulfillment depends. Like that little fish, we are born and conceived in it, our lives are sustained by it, we eat, sleep, work and play in it—we are immersed in it. Like that little fish who couldn’t see the water for the river, we fail to recognize it and we wait longingly to encounter it . . . and we wait . . . and we wait.

In theology, the word for this precious, life-giving substance is Grace: the Grace of God. In plain language, “Grace” means that God is continually doing for us everything we need to have done for our life’s fulfillment—whether we know it or not, whether we appreciate it or not, whether we are worthy of it or not, whether we recognize it or not. Lent is a time of creative waiting. It is a time of prayer and fasting and self-examination, as we go deep within ourselves in order to come to terms with whatever it is in our life that is blocking out God. It is a time when we are especially reminded of God’s GRACE through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Peace,

Terri Rae

Sermon Series--New Year Resolutions to Live By

February 7th--"Trust God"

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

February 10th--Ash Wednesday Worship at St. Paul's 12noon and 6:30PM

Sermon Series--Journeying with Jesus Through the Gospel of Luke

February 14th--Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

February 21st--Scripture: Luke 7:36-8:3

February 28th--Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

March 6th--Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

March 13th--Scripture: Luke 21:1-4

March 20th --Palm/Passion Sunday

March 27th--Easter Sunday

St. Paul's Birthdays

- 2/1 Allen Wicker
- 2/3 Gil Creutzer
- 2/3 Carol Bleam
- 2/3 Cassidy Toth
- 2/5 Buzz Baker
- 2/7 Lisa Shifflett
- 2/8 Thiha Htwar
- 2/10 Ti Esbrandt
- 2/11 Larry Ridgley
- 2/17 Billy Shifflett
- 2/20 Debra Hoover
- 2/21 Bud Herndon
- 2/23 Patrick Komiske
- 2/27 Kelly Stauffer
- 2/28 Adam Fetterman



Gaither's Birthdays

- 2/9 Valli Adams
- 2/18 Brady Rogers
- 2/26 Jeff Adams

St. Paul's Anniversaries

- 2/12 Carol & Tony Good
- 2/14 David & Kelly Stauffer



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

During the winter months, remember you can keep current on cancellations/postponements of church events by visiting the church website at (stpaulssykesville.org) or by calling the church office (410-795-0714, extension 2).



BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please note that all announcements for the Gaither and St. Paul's bulletins must be received by the church office **no later than 12noon on Tuesday of that week** in order to be placed in the bulletin on Sunday. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CHURCH LIBRARY

All books, CD's, etc. donated to the church library must be approved by Debbie Scheller (scheller5@verizon.net) prior to being displayed. Any donations left in the church foyer or bench outside the church office will be discarded. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Church Office:		http://www.stpaulssykesville.org
Monday thru Friday: 9:00 AM – Noon		Fax: (410) 795-0744
Church Office: (410) 795-0714		V/TTY: Maryland Relay
St. Paul's Staff:		
Terri Rae Chatin, Senior Pastor	(410) 322-6304 (Home) *	srpastor@stpaulssykesville.org
Doug Tzan, Associate Pastor	(410) 795-0940 (Home) *	asstpastor@stpaulssykesville.org
Colleen Goodman, Admin. Assistant	(410) 795-0714 (Church Office) *	admin@stpaulssykesville.org
Kim Reed, Youth Coordinator	(410) 552-5888 (Home)	youth@stpaulssykesville.org
Betty May, Music/Choir Director	David Eide-Altman, Organist	
The Communications Staff:		
Todd Johnson, Lamplighter Editor	lamplighter@stpaulssykesville.org	
Katie Birger, Webmaster	ckbirger@gmail.com	
* Answering machine at each		
MAILING LIST: If you have an address change or correction, would like to be added to either our electronic or paper distribution list or would like your birthday and anniversary published in <i>The Lamplighter</i> , please contact the church office at 410-795-0714 with the updated information and dates.		
<i>Please specify if it is for St. Paul's or Gaither.</i>		



Hey Youth!

Happy February and Valentine's Day. Ya know, nothing is greater than God's love for us! That is the greatest gift we can ever imagine! We can't even imagine! Praise God!! Remember to always show God's goodness, grace and kindness to one another...especially during this time of love. Love isn't always romantic love (thank goodness)...you can show your different kinds of love for so many around you. Just say a kind word to someone or do a kind deed. It will go farther than you think and will always be remembered!

Can't wait to see you guys this month! Stay warm, happy and healthy! Pray a lot and thank God a lot and you'll be just fine! :)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 6th - Super Bowl Sub Making: Please...Please...Please come help make our subs!! St. Paul's 5:30PM-7:00PM

Feb. 7th - Super Bowl Sub Distribution: Please...Please...Please stay after church and help us pass out subs!

No Regular Meetings

Feb. 14th - Happy Valentine's Day!! No Regular Meetings

Feb. 21st - Regular Meetings

Feb. 28th - Regular Meetings

MARCH 11th-13th - Retreat to Manidokan

JUNE 24-JULY 2 - Mission Trip to Virginia Beach, Virginia (Trip starts with one day at Busch Gardens)

In His Love,
Miss Kim
301-233-3203



Heifer International Mission Project

Thank you to all of the families who continue to drop off donations in our "Water Jug" every Sunday. It is exciting to watch the jug "fill up" with money that will go to this special charity at the end of February!

Winter Curriculum

During the month of February, teachers will conclude their winter lessons. We encourage parents to check out the white board at the Sunday School Welcome Table to see what lesson is being taught each Sunday. You may also visit DeepBlueKids.com at any time to view curriculum.

"Let us love on another, for love comes from God."

1 John 4:7



HOMework CLUB

The school bell will ring at the Historic Sykesville Colored Schoolhouse on Monday, February 1st to begin a new Missions Project for St. Paul's. We will initiate a Homework Club to assist some of our area's at-risk students with their academic work. On Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:00PM we will welcome children with a warm smile and healthy snack, and then sit down with them to assist with their homework. Pupils from the Schoolhouse Road community can walk to the Schoolhouse; others must provide their own transportation. Children from grades 1st through 8th are invited to join us. There is no charge for the families. If you would like to sign up for days as a tutor, schedule a day to provide the snack, or if you have a child to recommend for the program, please contact Pat Greenwald at 410-489-6540 or patgreenwald@comcast.net. Otherwise just pray that we get off to a good start!



UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

February 9th from 4:00PM – 8:00PM

All are invited to join us in this pre-Lenten celebration and fundraiser!

Pancakes & Sausage. \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family.

Save the date! Invite your friends and neighbors!

We could also use a few volunteers to help out with the cooking.

If you are interested, please contact Dawn.wittfelt@gmail.com.

UMW Meeting

February 14th - Regular Meeting at 12:15PM

All women of the Sykesville Parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

Join us for lunch and see what we are up to.

Donate Old Christmas Decorations

We are collecting any Christmas decorations you may want to do away with at this time to store away for next year's Christmas Bazaar. Contact Jackie Talley to donate. Thank you!

St. PAUL'S MISSION UPDATE

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." Corinthians 13:13

February provides us a unique opportunity to share this love. There is Valentine's Day, but of course this bible verse has a deeper meaning. Pastor Greg McNeil is in his 2nd year at Wilson Memorial UMC in Crofton, MD (about 40 minutes from Sykesville) after serving in Mt. Airy for 15 years – and he could use some help! He has a very active outreach in the community delivering hot meals, stocking a soup pantry, temporarily sheltering some battered women and children, and growing the church. Our February mission will focus on four ways our congregation can join together to offer support to another United Methodist Church. Please consider:

- Bringing in non-perishable food items for their pantry and soup kitchen
- Bringing in toiletries and household items for their women's shelter
- Financial donations to their "building fund" to help fix up their physical building
- Participate in a "Share the Love" Workday on Saturday, February 13 from 9am – 2pm

Our congregation has been witness to the amazing difference many hands working together can make in our own church, our UMYF Mission Trips, and locally for other churches like St. Luke's and Ferndale. We have also talked about planning an Adult Mission Trip, but we're not quite there yet. This is a perfect way to continue our St. Paul's outreach, grow a core work crew (of both young and "more seasoned" adults) and meaningfully celebrate Valentine's Day a day early – 13:13 on the 13th!

Thanks for all of your continued support of the mission work of St. Paul's!

Ridia Dearie, Missions Chair rande65@jhu.edu



NEW OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Join us on February 6th from 11:00AM-5:00PM at The Sykesville Main Street Ice Fest! We will be handing out popcorn and hot chocolate/coffee to help warm up the attendees as well as music by our own Fishers of Men. It's a great opportunity to show the love of God in our community.

The outreach committee will also be sponsoring a water booth for the Sykesville Shiver Shuffle 5K on Feb 27th.

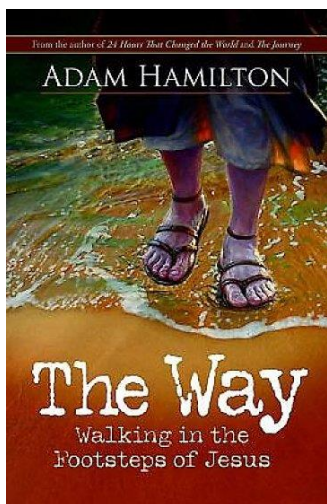
Feb.21st - Next Outreach Committee Meeting, 7:00PM in St. Paul's Cry Room. - Join us!

Gaither's Missions

Gaither UMC will be supporting our sponsored child Sonu through World Children's Fund for our February 2016 mission project. We will be collecting monetary donations to help care for her. Please remember to pray for Sonu and to take time to read the letters that she sends to us. Please contact Carmella Evans with any questions at 410-795-0864.



You can now find all related missions information in the hall at the bottom of the stairs by the Upper Rooms.



Parish Lenten Study

The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

From the Jordan River, to the wilderness, into the mountains...walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Baptized by John. Tempted by the devil. Followed by the multitudes. The stories he told. The people he loved. The enemies he made. The life he gave. The hope we share.

DISCOVER THE WAY...

EMERGE CHANGED FOREVER

This Lent we will offer a four-week study by Adam Hamilton to explore the life and ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Using historical information, archaeological data, and stories of the faith, Hamilton follows in the footsteps of Jesus from his baptism to the temptations, to the heart of his ministry, including the people he loved, the parables he taught, the enemies he made, and the healing he brought.

Beginning Sunday, February 21st and continuing on February 28th, March 6th, and 13th (with March 20th as a backup/snow day), we will open at 5:30PM with a light potluck dinner and conclude by 7pm. **All ages are welcome! There will be different learning stations for children filled with crafts and fun.**

To sign up, contact the church office at 410-795-0714, email Pastor Doug at asstpastor@stpaulssykesville.org or visit www.stpaulssykesville.org.

		GREETERS	LITURGIST	ACOLYTE	NURSERY
St. Paul's	2/7	Jeff, Terri, Sidney, & Rachel Parkent	Thiha Htwar	Allison Creutzer	Megan Forbes
	2/14	June Linden & Susan Bennett	Boy Scout Sunday	Maya Tzan	Megan Vogel
	2/21	John, Pam, & Sarah Riley	Sam Moore, Jr	Sarah Creutzer	Carol Blead
	2/28	Bill & Sandy Gawel	Courtney Williams	Thomas Brooks	Donna Norman
Gaither	2/7	Amy Hoffman	Jessica Boyd	Kesi Mertz	
	2/14	Jean Hershberger	Bettye Stirn	Chad Doxzen	
	2/21	Jeff & Valli Adams	Janet Boyd	Kesi Mertz	
	2/28	Ed & Carol Hullett	Jessica Boyd	Kesi Mertz	

2016 Budget

Income:

Envelopes & Loose Plate	\$ 425,463
Sunday School Offerings	\$ 1,000
Gaither UMC	\$ 37,648
AA Social Hall	\$ 600
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
	\$ 467,211

EXPENSES:

Salaries & Conference Obligations	\$ 295,720
Apportionments	\$ 49,791
Program Expenses	\$ 47,900
Church Maintenance and Utilities	\$ 57,300
Parsonage Maintenance and Utilities	\$ 9,200
Insurance	<u>\$ 7,300</u>
	\$ 467,211

\$8,985/per week needed to meet the budget

2015 Final Report

Income:	\$452,460
Expenses:	
Salaries	\$303,981
Apportionments	\$45,870
Program	\$43,608
Maintenance/Utilities	\$61,852
Insurance	\$7,017

Total Expenses: \$462,328

Deficit: (\$9,868)

Other income	
Cap Improvement	\$28,250
Roof	\$11,674
Lent	\$2,105
Pastors Discretion	\$13,000
Scholarship	\$1,024
Missions	\$30,441

Capital Expenses:	
Roof	\$39,750
Construction	\$2,860
Bells	\$1,947
Scholarships Paid:	\$4,000

We are very appreciative of all the offerings and donations that were received in 2015. As seen above we were not able to fully fund the annual expenses of the church in 2015. We were able to keep the budget to under a 1% increase for 2016. We ask that you please prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your tithes and offerings for 2016. A small increase each week can help.

If you use the envelopes in the pews, please write your full name on the envelope. This will help us make sure we put it to the correct account. If you need envelopes please contact Donna Larkin at stpaulssykesville@gmail.com.

Online giving is available for Checking. There is a link on the Church Website under "What's Happening." Email any questions to Donna at stpaulssykesville@gmail.com.



2016 BWC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Baltimore-Washington Conference will once again be offering college scholarships for the Fall 2016 semester. Students can apply January 4th – March 1st through an online application system.

Scholarships are available to students attending or enrolling in accredited colleges and universities in the United States. Students must be an active member of a church for at least one year and be attending (or will attend) an accredited college or university within the United States full-time.

Students will need to provide their official transcript (high school or college) and contact information for two church references (pastor and another member of the church). In addition, the student must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

For additional information and to apply, visit www.bwcumc.org/finance/scholarships.

To the Pastors and Parishioners of St. Paul's United Methodist Church:

My name is Michelle James and I was a recipient of your Christmas blessing for the needy! I received canned goods, clothing, gift cards, handmade blankets, and many other cherished items. The most important thing I received was love. Love of community, of friendship, and of God. It reinforced my belief and picked me up when I was at a low point.

The gifts I received that day still echo in my life now. I would like to thank my sponsors, the Reed family, everyone who donated, to the Youth Group of your church, and all your parishioners.

I wish everyone there a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Michelle James



To the Congregations of Gaither & St. Paul's:

The Sykesville Parish Staff and volunteers thank each of you for your cards, gifts, and expressions of love during the 2015 Christmas season. We are privileged to serve this parish and the surrounding community. We greatly appreciate your care and concern for us.

In this year of 2016, we look forward to partnering with each of you as together we serve, strengthen, touch hearts, and build His kingdom.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Terri Rae, Pastor Doug, Colleen, Kim, Charlotte, Callie, Betty, David, Janet, Charles, & Brad



St. PAUL'S JOYS & CONCERNS

One of the most important parts of our worship services is the sharing of our prayer joys and concerns. For a number of reasons we are moving to a new format. We will be asking folks to write their joys and concerns down so that we can

share them before the pastoral prayer time. Cards will be provided which also have a space that can be marked private if the prayer request is only to be seen by the pastors. These cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service and passed along to the pastors. We hope this even more emphasizes the importance of lifting and supporting one another in prayer.



RECYCLE

Thanks to everyone who has saved cards for the ARC.

-It is no longer necessary to tear off the fronts. Just make sure there are no identifiable names, addresses, or phone numbers on them.

-Magazines are needed for Carroll Hospital to give to the patients. Please remove the address labels.

-Pull tabs from cans are still being donated to the Ronald McDonald house to help pay for gasoline.



The basket for these items are now located outside the church office. For more information, contact Gil or Judy Creutzer at 410-781-0232.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- Saturday, 6 February – **United Methodist Men’s Church Clean-up & Breakfast** – 8:00AM in St. Paul’s Social Hall. Clean-up will finish between 11:00AM and 11:30AM.
- Sunday, 7 February – **Confirmation Class Continues** – Immediately after the 11:00AM worship service in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204.
– **UMYF Sub Sale**
- Monday, 8 February – **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – 2:00PM in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204
- Tuesday, 9 February – **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** – 4:00PM to 8:00PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Wednesday, 10 February – **Joint Ash Wednesday Services** – 12:00noon and 6:30PM at St. Paul’s
– **March Newsletter Deadline**
- Thursday, 11 February – **Thursday AM Bible Study Resumes** – 11:30AM in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204. “Gideon” in the Book of Judges
- Sunday, 14 February – **Confirmation Class Continues** – Immediately after the 11:00AM worship service in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204.
– **Cub/Boy Scout Sunday**
– **St. Paul’s Coffee Sunday** – hosted by the Cub/Boy Scouts
– **United Methodist Women’s Meeting** – 12:15PM in St. Paul’s Sunday School Basement
- Monday, 15 February – **President’s Day Observance** – The church office will be closed.
- Wednesday, 17 February – **Confirmand/Mentor Night at Chili’s**
- Sunday, 21 February – **St. Paul’s Sunday School Teacher/Social Meeting** – 10:15AM in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204.
– **Lenten Study & Potluck Dinner** – 5:30PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Sunday, 28 February – **Lenten Study & Potluck Dinner** – 5:30PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Tuesday, 1 March – **St. Paul’s Administrative Council Meeting** – 7:00PM in St. Paul’s Education Building Rooms 202 & 204.
- Sunday, 6 March – **Lenten Study & Potluck Dinner** – 5:30PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Wednesday, 9 March – **April Newsletter Deadline**
- Friday, March 11 to – **UMYF Manidokan Retreat**
Sunday, March 13
- Sunday, 13 March – **United Methodist Women’s Meeting** – 12:15PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
– **Lenten Study & Potluck Dinner** – 5:30PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Sunday, 20 March – **Palm Sunday**
– **Lenten Study & Potluck Dinner (Snow Date)** – 5:30PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall
- Monday, 21 March – **Holy Week Begins**
- Thursday, 24 March – **Joint Holy Thursday Services at St. Paul’s** – 12noon & 7:00PM
- Friday, 25 March – **Joint Good Friday Services at Gaither** – 12noon & 7:00PM
- Sunday, 27 March – **Easter Sunday Services**
– 9:00AM Blended Son Light Service at St. Paul’s
– 9:30AM Traditional Service at Gaither
– 11:00AM Traditional Service at St. Paul’s

A.A. Meets Every Monday and Friday at 8:00PM in St. Paul’s Social Hall.

Luke in 40 Days

This Lent, we are encouraging people to commit to reading the Gospel of Luke. Follow this schedule from Ash Wednesday until Easter and you will read the entire Gospel. On Sundays, you may want to reread text that tugged at you or focus on the passages used in worship.

Ash Wednesday to February 13th

- Wed. 1:1-38
- Thurs. 1:39-80
- Fri. 2:1-20
- Sat. 2:21-52

February 14th to 20th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 3:1-38
- Tues. 4:1-30
- Wed. 4:31-44
- Thurs. 5:1-39
- Fri. 6:1-16
- Sat. 6:17-49

February 21st to 28th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 7:1-23
- Tues. 7:24-50
- Wed. 8:1-25
- Thurs. 8:26-56
- Fri. 9:1-27
- Sat. 9:28-62

February 28th to March 5th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 10:1-42
- Tues. 11:1-28
- Wed. 11:29-54
- Thurs. 12:1-32
- Fri. 12:33-59
- Sat. 13:1-35

March 6th to 12th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 14:1-35
- Tues. 15:1-32
- Wed. 16:1-31
- Thurs. 17:1-37
- Fri. 18:1-17
- Sat. 18:18-43

March 13th to 19th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 19:1-28
- Tues. 19:29-48
- Wed. 20:1-26
- Thurs. 20:27-47
- Fri. 21:1-38
- Sat. 22:1-23

March 20th to 26th

- Sun. Rest
- Mon. 22:24-53
- Tues. 22:54-71
- Wed. 23:1-31
- Thurs. 23:32-56
- Fri. 24:1-27
- Sat. 24:28-53

Easter Sunday

- Easter—Celebrate!

Tips for succeeding in Bible reading!

- Set a time and place where you will do your reading.
- Place your Bible some place visible as a reminder. For example, if you are going to read in the morning, put it in front of your coffee pot. Or if you are a night reader, place it on your pillow in the morning, so it is waiting for you when you go to bed.
- Track your progress by marking off readings as you complete them on the chart provided.
- Make no exceptions Vow to do it no matter what.
- If you blow the last tip, then just start over from where you left off. Don't worry about what you missed. Pick it up on a light day or on a Sunday. Most people allow catching up to be an obstacle to just getting back on track.
- Think of this as a gift to God. Have fun giving it and share your story with someone else. Your accomplishment may inspire them.