

LECTIONARY READINGS COMING UP

February 1

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111 (UMH 832)
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

February 15

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30 (UMH 762);
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 8

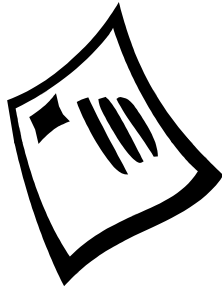
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (UMH 859)
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 22

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 (UMH 783)
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9



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The Epistle

A Publication of
St. Paul United Methodist Church
A Good Neighbor

If St. Paul Closed Today...

During hard times, churches can easily forget their purpose and heritage. Year-end budget drives, especially when the economy is down, can often convey unfortunate messages. The message that too often comes through indirectly – and sometimes fairly directly – is members are being asked “to do something for the church.”

No one ever established a church as something to be served. Forgetting our original mission can easily happen. The message those who worship in our church should hear is, “We exist to serve you – and to give you an opportunity together in the name of Christ to meet the needs of a hurting world.”

Churches conduct a financial audit each year. What if St. Paul also conducted an annual audit to assess its faithfulness to serving others? We only need to ask one question in this audit. If St. Paul United Methodist Church closed today, who would miss it other than our members?

Thank about that for a moment. Think of the people and groups in our community outside of our membership who would miss St. Paul.

What would they miss?

One of our **St. Paul's goals for 2009** is “To develop and implement a program for renewed emphasis and enthusiasm for missions.” During the coming weeks and months, you will be given many opportunities for service through St Paul. Please remember that if we want St. Paul to thrive, we must serve.

Brenda C. Brown

Adapted from an article by Rev. Lovett H. Weems Jr.
From *Interpreter Magazine*, a publication of United Methodist Communications
January/February 2009

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Garrett Wheeler
- 3 Sarafina Chitika
Julianna Carter
- 4 Hugh William Gaines
Se'Vunaye Raines
- 8 Billy Wallace
- 9 Grant Judd
Lisa South
- 10 John Chamness
- 11 Beverly Rease
- 15 Danielle Hanson
Gene Hodges
- 17 Peggy Boroughs
Larry Webb
Elliott Dougherty
Colton Roberson
- 20 Daniel Hardy
Kiwani Howard
- 21 Lauren Burns
Linda Greiss
- 22 Adele McLees
- 23 Malcolm Gideons
- 25 Steven Sage
Tanner Browning
- 26 Everett Riser
Bill McKinnon
Mark Greever
- 27 Anna Nelson-Daniel
Sandra Bemis



ST. PAUL NEWS YOU NEED

- **NEW LOCAL MISSION PROJECT** Beginning in February, canned goods and other non-perishable food items will be collected at both services on the first Sunday of each month for the benefit of the Georgia Avenue Food Cooperative. Please be mindful of our neighbors in need, and please be generous.
- **COOKIES, COFFEE, AND CONVERSATION** will be served in Chester Commons by the St. Paul Hospitality Committee immediately following the 11:00 service Sundays beginning February 8th. No agenda, just a relaxed time to gather and catch up with old friends and welcome new ones. Please plan to join in each Sunday except first Sunday when the covered dish lunch is served after the service. Thanks to Julie Clarkson, Bill Erickson, and Louis Lindic for coordinating this wonderful time together.
- **GOD GOES HOLLYWOOD: RELIGION AND MEDIA** is a new ten-week course that will be facilitated by St. Paul member and Contextual Ed student Jenny Stevens. The class will explore religious themes as they appear in popular culture by watching movies and t.v. shows and discussing them in a thoughtful, Christian context. Media includes such favorites as Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, The Simpsons, The West Wing, and WALL-E. The class will meet Wednesdays at 6:45pm beginning February 4th. Please contact Jenny at jennifer.stevens@emory.edu to sign up or for more information.
- **WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP?** It's time for the annual training for anyone who wants to serve in 2009 as liturgist, Children's Time giver, usher or sound technology assistant and we could use a few new people! We will hold training after worship on Sunday February 15th. We will keep the training to a half hour. If you would like to serve and cannot attend on the 15th, please let me know so that we can arrange an alternate time for your training. If you have any other questions please contact Laura Magistro Wells at lauramagistrowells@alumni.duke.edu or at (404)627-6756.
- **HANDBELL DIRECTOR NEEDED** St. Paul is **STILL** looking for a musically inclined volunteer to lead the Adult and Children's Handbell groups for this Spring and next Fall Seasons. If anyone is interested, please contact Sherri Scott at sherriscott1@bellsouth.net. The Children's group has had a lot of interest from potential players and the current group is very focused and learns very fast! What a fabulous time to take this group to a new level of participation in the services!

YOU ARE INVITED

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be conferred on Joy Allen Grady Sunday, February 15th at Cannon Chapel on the campus of Emory University at 2 pm. Come in enough time to park in the Peavine lot or deck and make your way on foot to the chapel at the heart of campus on the quadrangle. Dave and Susan want their church families to be present, so they have chosen to have Joy's baptism at a time and place to which they could invite the people of St. Paul and Avondale Pattillo UMCs to participate. The Revs. Hoyt Allen (Susan's dad) and Jim Cantrell will preside. They sincerely hope that both congregations will be present with other friends and relatives to help Joy begin to understand the loving families into which she has been born and who will nurture her as she grows in body, faith, and spirit.



UNITED METHODIST DAY OF LOVE AND JUSTICE AT GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL

Monday, February 9, is the Fifth Annual United Methodist Day of Love and Justice at the Georgia State Capitol. The theme is "Stop the Cycle of Poverty Now! Creating a New Legacy for the Next Generation." All Georgia United Methodists – lay and clergy – are encouraged to participate. North Georgia Bishop Mike Watson will be chaplain of the day for the State Senate and will open their session with prayer. Persons who would like to be in attendance for this prayer need to be in the Senate chambers by 9:45 a.m. For schedule and parking information, visit http://www.ngumc.org/advocacy/day_of_love_and_justice/.



Conference-wide Homeless Offering: "These Are Our Neighbors"

The 2009 Homeless Offering is scheduled for Sunday, February 22. When you support the Homeless Offering, you help people in need who are right here among us. Proceeds benefit the North Georgia United Methodist Housing & Homeless Council which was created to help churches and other non-profit organizations in ministering to very poor and homeless persons. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus showed that the neighbor is someone who offers help.

St. Paul: A Good Neighbor

St. Paul UMC February 2009 Planning Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30a Fellowship Breakfast 11:15a-11:45a Children's Church (3rd Floor) 12:15p First Sunday Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall)	2 12:00p ADOX District Clergy Lunch	3 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)	4	5 9:30a GAC	6 6-11p Scrapbooking Workshop (Huiet Hall)	7 2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) 5p AGE (Huiet Hall)
8 9:30a Fellowship Breakfast 12:15p Administrative Council	9 7:00p Worship Committee	10 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)	11	12 9:30a GAC 7p-9p GPCP Board Meeting (3rd Floor)	13	14 2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor)
15 9:30a Fellowship Breakfast	16	17 8:30a Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)	18	19 9:30a GAC	20	21 2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor)
22 9:30a Fellowship Breakfast	23 March Epistle Deadline	24 8:30a Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)	25	26 9:30a GAC 7p-9p AEF/APS Public Affairs Meeting (Huiet Hall)	27	28 9a-1pm GPCP Conference (3rd floor) 2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor)

February Prayer Calendar

The February Prayer Calendar, "Prayers for Ending Poverty," is available to download at www.ngumc.org under the "Resources" drop-down menu. Prayer Calendars are the work of our parishioner, Sybil Davidson.



Every Sunday:

- 8:30-9:30a Worship First (Chester Commons)
- 10:00a Sunday School Classes (Youth and Adult)
- 10:00-10:45a Children's Sunday School (3rd Floor)
- 10:55a-Noon Morning Worship
- 5-7:30p Disciple I (Adult Sunday School Room)

Every Wednesday:

- 5:30-6p Little Angels (2-4) Choir (3rd Floor)
- 6-6:45p Fellowship Supper (Huiet Hall)
- 6:30-8p Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group (Youth Room)
- 6:45-7:15p Little Saints (5-7) Choir/Jr. Saints (8-12) Choir (3rd Floor)
- 6:45-7:30p Joyful Noise (Choir Room)
- 6:45-7:45p Book Discussion Group (Office Conference)
- 7:00p Companions in Christ: The Way
- 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir)



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Susan, Dave and Joy Allen Grady
 - Sam Bangura (Sierra Leone missionary)
 - Sue Barnard (Elizabeth Hartman's friend, cancer)
 - mother of Greg Barron
 - John Beauchamp (Larry Johnson's friend, leukemia)
 - Betty Bishop (Becky Wellman's mom, moving in with Becky)
 - Greg, Robin and Dane Bley and family (recent death of Greg's father, grandfather)**
 - Ted and Dan Bogner
 - Joy, sister of Becky Boyette
 - Georgette (Becky Boyette's niece, expecting twins in May)
 - Eric, cousin of Andy Brown (cancer treatment, poor prognosis)
 - Dean Brown (Van Brown's uncle, lung cancer, congestive heart failure)
 - Beulah Cockrum (Terry's mother, age 93)
 - brothers-in-law of Terry Cockrum
 - Dottie Copeland (Lana Hardy's mother)
 - Mabel Couch (Tim's mother)
 - Stuart Crenshaw (Mark's brother, managing epilepsy)
 - *Patrice and Langston Daniels
 - Charles Davis's brother-in law (in treatment for addiction)
 - Ronnie Davis (Teresa's uncle, heart and kidney failure)
 - Maxine Eberly (Will Gaines's aunt, cancer)
 - Harriet, aunt of Carolyn Fleisher (cancer)
 - Steve Frashier (Lana Hardy's friend, cancer)
 - John Fuqua (cancer)
 - father of Will Gaines
 - Ralph Garner (Bryan's father, inoperable lung cancer)
 - *Tom Gazaway
 - *Gracie Gazaway
 - Matthew Thomas Gazaway (Tom's son, redeployed to Iraq)
 - Dorie (Allen Graham's step-grandmother)
 - Ed Greene (Kelly's father, prostate cancer)
 - Keenon Griffin
 - Greg and Susie Gunn (Becky Boyette's friends, spinal cancer)
 - Helen Hagermeier (Golden Age member, COPD)
 - Franco Hain (Brian Russell's friend, cancer)
 - Edna Hale (Vanessa J's cousin, 91, hospitalized, shortness of breath)**
 - Peggy Hamil (Paul Bowman's friend, chemo)
 - father of Lana Hardy
 - Stella Hardy
 - Betty Hasan-Amin (chronic kidney disease)
 - family of Rev Jack Heinson (Leslie T's friend, retired Presbyterian minister, who passed away 01/14)**
 - Family of John Henderson (David Hardy's friend, killed at Standard)**
 - Wendy Herbert (Zxelema Howard's friend, MS)
 - Cammerlyn Herport (Mandy Palmer's infant niece, apnea)
 - mother of Joan Hildebrand
 - Sandy Hinton (cancer)
 - Carol Howard (Zxelema's mom)
 - Ben Huiet, III (chronic health problems)
 - Anne Hunter (cancer)
 - Irene Jackson (Vanessa's mom)
 - *Vanessa Jackson
 - Betty and Harold Jenny (Mayer family, Harold's health declining, healing of relationship with son, Bill)**
 - Rev. Rex Kaney (cancer)
 - Nate, friend of Jonathan Kidwell (deployed to Iraq)
 - Linda Lee (Seymours' and Donna Mayer Todd's friend, cancer)
 - Erica (Lou Lindic's niece)
 - Mary Lou, sister of Lou Lindic
 - Francil Lorenc (stroke, mother of Yan Lorenc, Marcus' co-worker, decisions about care)
 - Diane Lowry and Christy (Donna Ruggle's friends, cancer)
 - Kathy and Chuck Mallow (Terry Cockrum's sister and husband)
 - Jim Mason's aunt (advanced cancer diagnosis)
 - Karen Matthews and daughter Rayna (Vanessa J's friends)
 - Ed McCoy (Mark Crenshaw's co-worker, prostate cancer)
 - Jack McCollough (Candace and Celeste's dad)
 - Kody McEachin (Becky Boyette's friend, back injury due to fall)
 - Marsha, friend of Karen Merritt (divorce)
 - Juania Morgan (Vanessa J's co-workers sister, hospitalized, congestive heart failure)**
 - Glenda Nesbitt (Vanessa Jackson's cousin, needs kidney)
 - Jim Nelson (James Palmer's uncle, myopic muscular dystrophy)
 - Cyndia Combee Nipper's Aunt Kay (pancreatic cancer)
 - Ken Pagella family (Mayer family, lost their son Michael)**
 - John Pearce (Cockrums' friend, death of wife)
 - Peggy Peek (Anjie Woodworth's grandmother, pacemaker)
 - Family of Eleanor Peterson (John's mother)**
 - *David Pettis David Pettis's friend Quentin (loss of eye sight)
 - Pat Phillips (Mark's mother, cancer)
 - Se'Varius, Se'Vunyae and Se'Ven Raines (Vanessa J's nephews)
 - Shintika Raines (Vanessa Jackson)
 - father of Erica Ray
 - Zxelema Reese (Zxelema Howard's aunt)
 - *Lisa and Marshall Roberson and family (house fire)
 - Jeff Rogers (Vanessa J's friend, pituitary tumor)
 - Arlene Smith (Wells' friend, pancreatic cancer, special needs adult child to care for)
 - friend of Robin South (tonsil cancer)
 - Martha (friend of Robin South, depression)
 - *Anne Spealman
 - Hyde Talbot (20 month old son of Rachel Quartarone's friends, rare, serious blood/kidney disease, facing decisions about surgeries)
 - Malinda Teel (Lana Hardy's friend, cancer)
 - Heather (friend of Leslie Truman, stage 3 cancer)
 - Virginia Vickery
 - Brazilia Walker, husband Ivan, son Robbie (recovering from colon cancer surgery, dementia)**
 - *Su Watson and Bob Vermillion
 - *Becky Wellman
 - Talley Wells's mother
 - Andrea Wilson (Gretchen Garrett's friend)
 - Rev. John Winn (Lane's dad, hip broken in fall)
 - Myrtle Zappa (Elizabeth's mother, breast cancer)
- General Intercessions:
- world peace
 - our national leaders
 - our troops, especially those in harm's way
 - those struggling with addiction and depression, especially during the holidays
 - all those with cancer
 - those family and friends separated by physical distance or broken relationships, especially during the holiday season
 - those seeking work

UNITED METHODIST APPORTIONMENTS – AN OVERVIEW

Did you know that a portion of your tithe to St. Paul goes to support the activities and missions of the entire United Methodist Church? Every year, all local United Methodist churches contribute a portion of their budget to the larger United Methodist Church. These funds, called Apportioned Funds or Apportionments, enable United Methodists to do together what no church, district, or annual conference could do alone.

These apportioned funds go towards various global missions (such as the World Service Fund and the Africa University Fund) as well as the general church budget. In this way, each individual, each family, each congregation gives a fair share for the church’s work. We combine our prayers, presence, gifts, and service to make a significant difference in the lives of God’s people.

We talk about the connectional system of the United Methodist Church, and apportionments are one powerful way in which link together with other churches to accomplish what none of us could hope to do alone.

The seven apportioned funds include:

- World Service Fund
- Ministerial Education Fund
- Africa University Fund
- Black College Fund
- Interdenominational Cooperation Fund
- Episcopal Fund
- General Administration Fund

Look for profiles of these various missions and funds in the next several epistles.



Ethnic Young Adult Interns gather on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington. The interns, sponsored by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, spent this summer living together while working in organizations that address social concerns. The young people, ages 18 to 22, represent African, African-American, Indian-American, Hispanic/Latino and Asian-American heritages. A UMNS photo by Shalom Agtarap.



LAY SPEAKING CLASSES FORMING

BASIC COURSE: Basic Course for Lay Speaking Ministry

PREREQUISITE: Pastor’s Recommendation
DATES: Feb. 26/March 5, 12, 19, 26 (5 weeks)
TIME: 7:00 pm—9:30 pm
PLACE: Lithonia First UMC
COST: \$40.00

ADVANCED COURSES: Lay Speakers Lead in Small Groups and Lay Speakers Preach

PREREQUISITE: Completion of Basic Course
DATES: Feb. 26/March 5, 12, 19, 26 (5 weeks)
TIME: 7:00 pm—9:30 pm
PLACE: Lithonia First UMC
COST: \$40.00

Carol Standard, a Certified Lay Speaker at Salem UMC and also Choir Director, will teach the Basic Class. Robert Knowles, Certified Lay Speaker at Avondale UMC will teach the Advanced Class *Lay Speakers Lead Small Groups*. The second Advanced Class, *Lay Speakers Preach*, will be taught by Kevin Days, Associate Minister at Stone Mountain UMC. This class is expected to have a large attendance. Anyone wanting to take classes should register as early as possible. Registration forms are in the church office.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

	Preaching	Altar Guild	Ushers	L: Liturgist C: Children's Time A: Acolytes	Nursery	Sound Board
1st Sunday, February 1 Epiphany + 4	Rev. Dr. Tom Frank	Allen Graham	Don Wallace (Head Usher); Bob Vermillion; Robin South; Louis Lindic	L: Jeff McCord C: Brenda Brown A: Teresa Davis and Elise Nanista	Laura Wells, Talley Wells, Jenny Stevens	Don Wallace/A.J. Seymour
2nd Sunday, February 8 Epiphany + 5	Paige Swaim	Karen Merritt	Bryan Russell (Head Usher); Jim Mason; Susan Johnson; Bill Ericson	L: Jeff McCord C: Rebecca Wallace A: Bryan and Telia Garner	Melissa Mason, Bryan Russell, Alex Diaz-Williamson	John Peterson/Collin Seymour
3rd Sunday, February 15 Epiphany + 6	Mark Crenshaw	David Scott	David Hardy (Head Usher); Rob MacGregor; Gretchen Garrett; Collin Seymour	L: Jeff McCord C: Laura Wells A: Zzelema and Kiwani Howard	Don Wallace, Rebecca Wallace, Sherri Scott	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels
4th Sunday February 22 Transfiguration	Jenny Stevens	Bill Ericson	Marc Gowan (Head Usher); Talley Wells; Marcus Merritt; David Hardy	L: Jeff McCord C: Becky Boyette A: Donna Mayer-Todd and Colin Seymour	Robyn Bley, Danielle Hanson, Patres Hillis	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels
February 25 Ash Wednesday	Rev. Laura Rappold	Bill Ericson		L: C: A: Bryan and Joel Garner		

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