

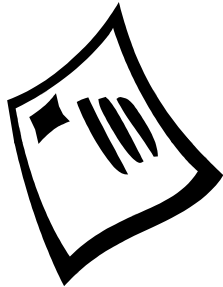
Our Goals for 2009



1. Develop and implement a renewed mission emphasis and enthusiasm for 2009.
2. Develop and implement a plan for renewed focus on stewardship of our prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness.
3. Develop and implement a plan for membership growth and inclusion of our members into regular activities of the church.



The Rev. Susan Allen Grady,
Pastor
501 Grant Street, S. E
Atlanta, GA 30312
404-688-7501
www.stpaulgrantpark.org
stpaulgrantpark@earthlink.net



The Epistle

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

FROM THE PASTOR

We watch a lot of news in our household. We also listen to it on the car radio. I was sure that Joy would recognize voices like Wolf Blitzer on CNN and Michelle Norris on "All Things Considered" because she heard them all the time while still in the womb. Recently I was listening to a financial show on the radio and the host made the comment that he guessed a lot of people were tuning out these days because they either heard the same thing every time they listen or are tired of hearing bad news. That resonated with me because there is a lot of pressure on those of us who speak to the public on a regular basis, and we wonder what you think of what we have to say. I am grateful that my message is not my own nor is it dependent on what everyone else in the world is doing at any given moment. While informed by the world, the message I have to bring to you comes from God; our news as people of faith is good news. It is the news that God loves us, offers us forgiveness and grace, and desires for us to love and serve one another.

Having said that, I occasionally have a word to share with you that is not as positive-sounding as the good news of Jesus Christ. We are living in one of those times now. While continuing to preach the Word of God, I also am now feeling urgency about getting the word to you that your church is facing very difficult financial times. From paying the bills, to paying our staff, there are many expenses involved in keeping a church up and running. It takes a good bit of energy and, therefore, resources to power our building. We have a very talented staff who gives us far more of their time than we pay them for, but they need jobs as much as you and I do. Even more importantly than that, we work to fund a lot of very important ministries in our neighborhood and beyond. We had to make the very hard decision to put absolutely no funding in our budget for 2009 for missions. We had to cut back the amounts we anticipate we'll need to have successful children and youth ministries because we were not confident that we'd have the funds available when we needed them. Our staff members are providing supplies for the church knowing that they will not get reimbursed in a timely fashion. We do not have reserve funds or savings upon which we can rely. This may all sound like the same kinds of issues you are dealing with in your home economies.

But there is some good news! There's an old joke that a pastor walked into his pulpit one Sunday and told the congregation that there was good news and bad news. The good news was that he had found that the church had all the money they needed to do whatever God led them and asked them to do. The bad news was that the money was all still in their pockets. There is some truth to that which is what makes us laugh at it. The truth is that the resources need to do everything we want to do as a church are in our grasp; now we need what someone has called a "Revival of Responsibility" so that we will be

(From the Pastor Continued on page 6)

ST. PAUL NEWS YOU NEED

- **2009 Palooza Bonanza Extravaganza** (Saturday, March 21st at 7:30 pm) will showcase the talent of the St. Paul youth, and will include performance as well as visual arts. The youth really want to share with St. Paul and the community their talents. Donations will be accepted as the youth attempt to raise money to help support their Spiritual Life retreat on Palm Sunday weekend (April 3rd - 5th)
- **One Great Hour of Sharing** is a church-wide special offering to benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Gifts to this offering help UMCOR respond in disaster, fight hunger, alleviate poverty, provide relief supplies around the world and offer hospitality to immigrants and refugees. This year's offering will be collected on Sunday, March 22nd. Please be generous.
- **Meal Maker Coordinator Needed** The Meal Makers ministry prepares meals for new mothers, the sick, the bereaved, or anyone needing temporary assistance getting meals on the table. One of our coordinators is forced to give up her position because of work issues. If you can serve the church by filling her spot this year, please contact the church office.
- **Great Day of Service** Peachtree Road UMC will be sending a crew of volunteers to St. Paul on March 28th to perform a number of cleaning and maintenance tasks for us as a part of their Great Day of Service. We need at least 15 volunteers from St. Paul to complement their work force and ensure we complete everything we hope to get done. Please contact Marcus Merritt (marcusmerritt@comcast.net) or Don Wallace (don.wallace@cbsoutdoor.com) for more information. Sign up sheet is outside the Sanctuary door in the Sydney St. stairwell.
- **Vacation Bible School** is just around the corner and we need you! Mark Your Calendars! There will be a daytime VBS for children ages 2 years to 5th grade from 9am to 12pm June 1st through 5th and an evening session for adults the following week from June 8th -12th from 6:30 to 8:30pm. We need all of your help to make these events a success. More information will be coming but mark your calendars now and let us know if you can help out. Contact Doug Hollis at seedoug@hotmail.com for more information.
- Join our St. Paul family from 6:30 to 6:45 on Wednesday nights for **Lenten crafts and activities** for all ages! Bring your children or simply your own childlike spirit as we explore the themes of Lent hands-on. Activities will begin Wednesday, March 4 and will continue through Wednesday, April 8.
- **Children's Handbell Group** has resumed rehearsal Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. There are spots for new players. **Players must be in grades 1st – 5th and have an interest in music and playing.** No prior music experience is required. **New players will be learning the basics of how to read music, rhythms, and how to work together as a team to make music.** Parent helpers are also needed. If you and/or your child would like to participate please contact sherri.scott@ihg.com.
- **St. Paul Annual Easter Egg Hunt:** Please join us for a hopping good time at the St. Paul Easter Egg Hunt! Saturday, March 28, 2009. 11:00am-1:00pm. Mark your calendars now-- more details to come. Volunteers are needed-- please contact Doug Hollis (doug@stpaulgrantpark.org).

Easter Lilies



Honor a living or deceased loved one and beautify the Sanctuary for Easter by purchasing an Easter lily from the Worship Committee sale. Lilies are in 6-1/2 inch pots with gold foil covers and can be taken home after Easter Morning Worship. Dedications will be published in a special bulletin insert on Easter Sunday. Submit your dedications along with payment (\$10 per plant) to the office by Monday, April 6th. Dedications may be emailed to office@stpaulgrantpark.org or submitted on plain paper and placed in the Sunday offering or mailed to the church office. Payment (carefully marked LILIES) may be placed in the Sunday offering or mailed.

St. Paul UMC March 2009 Planning Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>1</p> <p>11:15a-11:45a Children's Church (3rd Floor) 12:15p First Sunday Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall)</p> <p>Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00p ADOX District Clergy Lunch 6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall) Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)</p> <p>Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30a GAC</p> <p>Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Vanderbilt U Alt Spring Break (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) 5p AGE (Huiet Hall)</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>12:15p Administrative Council</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7:00p Worship Committee 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall) Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room)</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30a GAC 7p-9p GPCP Board Meeting (3rd Floor)</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor)</p> <p>Boston University Community Service Center (3rd Floor, Overnight)</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30a Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30a GAC 5:30-9p Celebration of Children's Languages (3rd Floor, Huiet Hall) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	
<p>22</p> <p>GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>23 April Epistle Deadline</p> <p>6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30a Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) 9:30a GAC 7:00p FA (Choir Room) GPCP Celebration of Children's Languages (Art Exhibit, 3rd Floor)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30a GAC</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2-4:30p Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) 11a-1p Easter Egg Hunt (Location TBA) Peachtree Road UMC Great Day of Service</p>	
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30p Prayer Group (Office Conference Room) 7-8:30p GPCP/Marcus Center Parenting Class (Huiet Hall)</p>	<p>Every Sunday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30a Worship First (Chester Commons) 9:30a Fellowship Breakfast (Huiet Hall) 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) 				<p>Every Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30-6p Little Angels (2-4) Choir (3rd Floor); Children's Handbell Group (Chester Commons) 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) 6:45p God Goes Hollywood (Office Conference Room) 6:45-7:30p Joyful Noise (Choir Room) 7:00p Companions in Christ: The Way 7:30p Chancel Choir (Choir)

March Prayer Calendar



The March Prayer Calendar, "Peace Be With You," is available to download at www.ngumc.org under the "Resources" drop-down menu. Prayer Calendars are the work of our parishioner, Sybil Davidson.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Sam Bangura (Sierra Leone missionary)
- mother of Greg Barron
- Betty Bishop (Becky Wellman's mom, moving in with Becky)
- Ann Bruester (GPCP mom, cancer recurrence)**
- Katie Merritt's friend Chris (mother has ALS; he has moved in to care for her)**
- Beulah Cockrum (Terry's mother, age 93)
- Debbie Blevins (Melanie Brown's friend, back surgery, looking for work)
- *Erin Boyette (Becky's daughter, tests for shortness of breath)
- *Julie Clarkson (changing jobs, moving to Indianapolis, smooth transition, sale of townhouse)
- Dottie Copeland (Lana Hardy's mother)
- Mabel Couch (Tim's mother)
- *Patrice and Langston Daniels
- Charles Davis's brother-in law (in treatment for addiction)
- Ronnie Davis (Teresa's uncle, heart and kidney failure)
- Ginella (Gizella Diaz-Williamson's sister, 25 weeks pregnant, pre-eclampsia)**
- father of Will Gaines
- Ramiro Garcia, Sr. (Ramiro's dad, cancer recurrence)**
- Ralph Garner (Bryan's father, lung cancer)
- *Tom Gazaway
- *Gracie Gazaway
- Matthew Thomas Gazaway (Tom's son, redeployed to Iraq)
- Ed Greene (Kelly's father, prostate cancer)
- Family of Jack Hanson**
- father of Lana Hardy
- Stella Hardy**
- mother of Joan Hildebrand
- Carol Howard (Zxelema's mom)
- Ben Huiet, Jr. (more cancer surgery this week)**
- Ben Huiet, III (chronic health problems)
- Irene Jackson (Vanessa's mom)
- *Vanessa Jackson
- Rev. Rex Kaney (cancer)
- Allysa Kropp (Teresa Davis's cousin, deployed to Iraq)**
- Nate, friend of Jonathan Kidwell (deployed to Iraq)
- Beth Luten (Michelle's friend, cancer)**
- Family and friends of Paul Marshall (Natalie Stadnick's friend who died recently)**
- Betty Magellan (Joan Mayer's sister, lost her husband recently)**
- Ed McCoy (Mark Crenshaw's co-worker, prostate cancer)
- Jack McCollough (Candace and Celeste's dad)
- Glenda Nesbitt (Vanessa Jackson's cousin, needs kidney)
- Jo Nesmith's dad (cardiac arrhythmia)**
- Jim Nelson (James Palmer's uncle, myopic muscular dystrophy)
- John Pearce (Cockrums' friend, death of wife)**
- John Peterson's friend's father (kidney transplant, prostate cancer)**
- John's father (sale of house, moving)**
- ***David Pettis (last hip surgery 3/10)**
- Pat Phillips (Mark's mother, cancer)
- Se'Varius, Se'Vunye and Se'Ven Raines (Vanessa J's nephews)
- father of Erica Ray
- Zxelema Reese (Zxelema Howard's aunt)
- *Lisa and Marshall Roberson and family (house fire)
- Arlene Smith (Wells' friend, pancreatic cancer, special needs adult child to care for)
- friend of Robin South (tonsil cancer)
- *Anne Spealman
- Guin Stanton (Leslie Truman's niece, health problems)**
- Hyde Talbot (20 month old son of Rachel Quartarone's friends, blood/kidney disease)
- Amanda Tomlinson (Rachel Wayte's granddaughter)**
- Robin Turner (Rachel Wayte's ex-sister-in-law, injured in auto accident)**
- Frances Truman (Leslie's mom, knee surgery 3/3)**
- Virginia Vickery
- *Stephanie Warner (knee surgery this week)
- *Su Watson and Bob Vermillion
- Paige Swaim's mother and grandmother**
- Brazilia Walker (elderly cancer patient, friend of Vanessa Jackson's)**
- *Becky Wellman
- Talley Wells's mother
- Rev. John Winn (Lane's dad, broke hip)
- 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
- all those with cancer
- those family and friends separated by physical distance or broken relationships, especially during the holiday season
- those seeking work
- those suffering the effects of natural disasters
- the economy
- all children!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

	Altar Guild	Ushers	L: Liturgist C: Children's Time A: Acolytes	Nursery	Sound Board
1st Sunday, March 1 Lent 1	Paul Gardner	Don Wallace (Head Usher); Bob Vermillion; Robin South; Louis Lindic	L: Paige Swaim C: Ashley Miller A: David and Spencer Scott	Laura Wells, Talley Wells, Jenny Stevens	Don Wallace/ A.J. Seymour
2nd Sunday, March 8 Lent 2	Langston Daniels	Bryan Russell (Head Usher); Jim Mason; Susan Johnson; Bill Ericson	L: Tim Hill C: Jenny Stevens A: Amir, Cathy and David Carlock	Melissa Mason, Richard Quartarone, Angela Russell	John Peterson/ Collin Seymour
3rd Sunday, March 15 Lent 3	Jessica Gaines	David Hardy (Head Usher); Rob MacGregor; Collin Seymour, Melissa Mason	L: Paige Matthews C: Paige Swaim A: Teresa Davis and Elise Nanista	Danielle Hanson, Jenny Stevens, Greg Bley	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels
4th Sunday March 22 Lent 4	Allen Graham	Marc Gowan (Head Usher); Talley Wells; Marcus Merritt; USHER NEEDED	L: Rebecca Wallace C: Jeff McCord A: Bryan and Telia Garner	Tori Lutkowski, Lisa Roberson, Stuart Daugherty	Tom Sweeny/ A.J. Seymour
5th Sunday March 29 Lent 5	Karen Merritt	Marc Gowan (Head Usher), Robin South, Jim Mason, Louis Lindic	L: Paige Swaim C: Susan Allen Grady A: Zxelema and Kiwani Howard	Katherine Moore, Jim Mason, Robin Bley	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels

United Methodist Apportionments:

The Africa University Fund

Last month in the Epistle, we introduced apportionments – the funds that Methodist churches share with the larger church to support various missions and the general church budget. This month, we'll begin sharing information on these activities starting with the Africa University Fund.

Since 1992, Africa University, the only United Methodist degree-granting university in Africa, has served and graduated hundreds of men and women from 20 countries. With over 1,200 students, Africa University's 1,545 acre campus is located in the Eastern Highlands of Zimbabwe. It is nurtured and funded by United Methodists through the Africa University Fund apportionment. This apportioned fund supports ongoing operations, including building maintenance, utilities, classroom equipment and supplies, faculty and staff salaries, and other operational expenses.

The importance of this apportioned fund is its impact on the lives of students. In a continent torn by war, AIDS, poverty, cyclones, and other natural and human-made hardships, Africa University shines as a beacon of hope and light.

"I hope a new breed of young men and women with vision is going to come out of the institution to champion social change in Africa," said Rutendo Mandunya from Zimbabwe.

Yollande Samba Mavund from the Democratic Republic of Congo adds, "If, in the future, I'll be able to help even one person, I'll do it with happiness and love because of what the church has done for me. Thank you."



THE BILL MALLARD LAY THEOLOGY INSTITUTE

**three-part seminar-
March 19, March 26,
and April 2 from 7:00-
8:30 p.m.-will address
the unique theological
heritage of the United
Methodist Church with
emphasis on the grace
of God and a
denominational structure
that invites broad
participation.** The

seminars will be led by Dr. Bob Winstead 87T, assistant professor in the practice of church leadership and director of lifelong learning, Dr. Alice Rogers 98T, assistant professor in the practice of congregational leadership and director of the Teaching Parish program, and Dr. Anne Burkholder 77T 92G, professor in the practice of ecclesiology and church leadership and assistant dean of Methodist Studies. All sessions will be held at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, located at 3180 Peachtree Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30305. For additional information contact the Rev. Thomas Martin, 404.240.820, thomasm@prumc.org.



DAY OF LOVE AND JUSTICE: Jane Finley, North Georgia Lay Leader, to Be Chaplain for the Day at State House.

The United Methodist Day of Love and Justice at the Georgia State Capitol has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 17. All Georgia United Methodists are encouraged to

attend. The day begins at 9:45 a.m. in the House Gallery. North Georgia Conference Lay Leader Jane Finley will begin the House Session with a devotional and prayer. Participants will then walk to Trinity UMC (1 1/2 blocks from the capitol) for information sessions. For full schedule and more information, visit http://www.ngumc.org/advocacy/day_of_love_and_justice/.



(Continued from page 1)

FROM THE PASTOR reminded once again how important it is for each of us to support our church financially as well as in other ways, no matter what your situation is and how large or small your offering may be.

Last year I found some old church documents including some newsletters from the 1960s. The article on the front of one of them contained the following sentences:

We as a church and people are face to face with tremendous responsibilities. It's with the individual as to what becomes of St. Paul's Church in the future. We might well repeat the little couplet:

*What kind of church would my church be
If every member was just like me?*

I challenge you to ask yourself that question every day. What kind of church would St. Paul be if every member were just like you: gave the same percentage of their income you do, gave the same amount of time you do, prayed for the church as often and sincerely as you do, used the gifts God has given them as you use yours, and told others about how much they love their church family the way you do?

I'll see you on Sunday.

Susan

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Colette Sieder		Daniel Stafford
	Will Marshall		Katherine Nelson-Daniel
5	Sarah Rouse	20	Hilary Greever
	Camerin McKinnon		Julie Clarkson
			Sarah Browning
6	Kim Knight		Vanessa Jackson
7	Janet Withers	23	Julie Judy
	Su Watson		Nicholas Tennes
	Abby Deel		Becky Boyette
	Melissa Mason		Rick Bemis
	Chris Lawes	25	Cooper Russell
	Kathleen Wolfe		Steven Dennis
12	Mason Brandli		Kerri Jackson
14	Conner rensaw		Gracie Gazaway
15	William James Dougherty		Brenda Holley
			Jami Sieder
17	Julian Garcia	28	Lurline Fowler
19	Chris Riser	29	Rachel Deel
	John Gray	30	Julia Rooks



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St. Paul United Methodist Church-Grant Park, Inc.
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Atlanta, GA 30312

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