

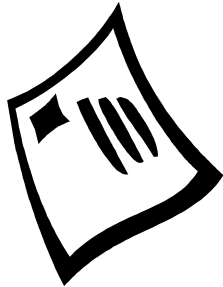
**Our Goals for 2009**



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

About a year ago, St. Paul began to whisper a phrase in the ear of our community that we hoped would stick and would let people know who we are as a community of faith. That phrase is the now familiar, "St. Paul. A good neighbor."

We have had many opportunities to live up to this self-designation. When storms have blown through our neighborhoods and neighboring communities, we have responded as individuals and groups to help repair and rebuild. We have looked for ways we can help people in our own front yards repair their homes. We have begun a canned food collection every month. Recently, when a neighbor's home on Broyles Street was hit by a fallen tree, several of our members reached out to the neighbor offering our support and our help in their time of need. We have helped the St. John the Wonderworker Greek Orthodox congregation a few blocks away collect food and other items for their Christmas offering to families in the neighborhood. And we have welcomed many new faces into our community of faith.

Now I would like to challenge us to move beyond our neighborhood to a few other little corners of the world where we have United Methodist brothers and sisters in need. Consider these words I recently read in the Avondale Pattillo UMC newsletter, written by our own Rev. Jim Cantrell:

*"The United Methodist Church is a global denomination. We have congregations on every inhabited continent and are growing rapidly in Africa and Asia. While those pastors who are fortunate enough to live and serve in the United States can expect to benefit from a modest but supportive pension in retirement, the pastors of the Central Conferences [outside the U.S.] are not so fortunate. Many of our United Methodist pastors who have served forty or more years in difficult situations in Africa, Central Europe, and Asia often retire with little or no pension.*

*In an effort to assist our brothers and sisters in the Central Conferences, the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church has begun the Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI). The goal of the CCPI is to raise \$20,000,000 over the next four years so that the retired pastors and families in Africa, Central Europe, and Asia can have at least a minimum level of support.*

*To give you an idea of what this means, consider this: currently, a retired pastor in Liberia receives \$60 per quarter in pension benefits. That equates to \$20 per month. Many of our retired pastors do not have enough money to buy food to last an entire month. There is not social security system for them such as we have here in the U.S.*

*The churches of the North Georgia conference are being asked to receive this year's Bishop's Offering to bring to Annual Conference in Athens to support the CCPI. Pastors from our annual conference have already begun making their individual pledges to the CCPI and have*

(From the Pastor Continued on page 2)

(From the Pastor, Continued from page 1)

already pledged nearly \$500,000. We hope our congregations will be generous with their offerings and will want to help in this very important endeavor.”

Friends, here is another opportunity that the Holy Spirit has dropped into our proverbial laps to be “a good neighbor.” These brothers and sisters in the Central Conferences have given their lives to God and the ministry of the church, and now it is our responsibility to help ensure that in return for that gift of the church gives them a stable and dependable retirement so that their days can be finished in grace, dignity, and joy.

I am asking each individual in this congregation to contribute \$10 over and above your regular giving as a one-time contribution to this important denomination-wide collection. If you are a household of one, that would be a one-time extra gift of \$10. If you are a household of 4, it would be \$40, and so on. Our one-time gifts could make a lifetime of difference for the clergy in these conferences who, by the way, are no less credentialed than the pastors who have served you at St. Paul. Let us extend the boundaries of our neighborhood and truly embrace the vision Christ had for us when he told us to love our neighbors. Let's collect at least \$1,000 to add to this important initiative. It is what we should do. It is too easy not to do. It is what a good neighbor would do. It is what the Spirit is asking us to do.

Please mark your gift so that the church counters and office manager will know how to direct the funds and credit your giving. Thank you for participating in this life-changing ministry. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

*Susan*

### MAY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

	Altar Guild	Ushers	L: Liturgist C: Children's Time A: Acolytes	Nursery	Sound Board
<b>1st Sunday May 3rd Easter + 3</b>	Jessica Gaines	Don Wallace (Head Usher); Bob Vermillion; Robin South; Louis Lindic	L: Tim Hill C: Jenny Stevens A: Teresa Davis and Elise Nanista	Laura Wells, Jenny Stevens, Talley Wells	Don Wallace/A.J. Seymour
<b>2nd Sunday May 10th Easter + 4 Mothers' Day</b>	Allen W. Graham	Bryan Russell (Head Usher); Jim Mason; Susan Johnson; Bill Ericson	L: Paige Matthews C: Talley Wells A: Bryan and Telia Garner	Guy Seymour, Melissa Mason, Bryan Russell	John Peterson/ Collin Seymour
<b>3rd Sunday, May 17th Easter + 5</b>	Karen Merritt	David Hardy (Head Usher); Rob MacGregor; Collin Seymour, Melissa Mason	L: Rebecca Wallace C: Alex Diaz-Williamson A: Zxelema and Kiwani Howard	Patres Hillis, Danielle Hanson, Sherri Scott	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels
<b>4th Sunday May 24th Ascension</b>	David Scott	Marc Gowan (Head Usher); Talley Wells; Marcus Merritt; <b>USHER NEEDED</b>	L: Tim Hill C: Shelly Hart A: Jess and Henry Gaines	Robyn Bley, Donna Mayer Todd	Tom Sweeny/ A.J. Seymour
<b>5th Sunday May 31st Pentecost</b>	Bill Ericson	Marc Gown (Head Usher); Robin South; Jim Mason; Louis Lindic	L: Laura Wells C: Becky Boyette A: Donna Mayer Todd and Colin Seymour	Don Wallace, Rebecca Wallace, Greg Bley	Tom Sweeny/ Langston Daniels

## St. Paul UMC May 2009 Planning Calendar

<p><b>Every Sunday:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>8:30a</b> Worship First (Chester Commons)</li> <li><b>9:30a</b> Fellowship Breakfast (Huiet Hall)</li> <li><b>10:00a</b> Sunday School Classes (Youth and Adult)</li> <li><b>10:00-10:45a</b> Children's Sunday School (3rd Floor)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Every Wednesday:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>5:30-6p</b> Little Angels (2-4) Choir (thru May 13th 3rd Floor); <b>Children's Handbell Group</b> (through May 6th ) Chester Commons)</li> <li><b>6-6:45p</b> Fellowship Supper (through May 20th Huiet Hall)</li> <li><b>6:30-8p</b> Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group (Youth Room)</li> </ul>
---	---

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>2-4:30p</b> Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) <b>5p</b> AGE (Huiet Hall)
<b>3</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>11:15a-11:45a</b> Children's Church (3rd Floor) <b>12:15p</b> First Sunday Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall) <b>6-8p</b> Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	<b>4</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>12:00p</b> ADOX District Clergy Lunch <b>7-9p</b> Finance Committee (@TDavis's house)	<b>5</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>7:00p</b> FA (Choir Room)	<b>6</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor)	<b>7</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>6:30p</b> Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>8</b> Vanderbilt Un ASB (3rd Floor) <b>5-11p</b> Scrapbooking Workshop (Huiet Hall) <b>7-8p</b> Carroll/Light Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>9</b> <b>2-4:30p</b> Four Seasons Chamber Orchestra (Third Floor) <b>5-6:30p</b> Carroll/Light Wedding (Sanctuary)
<b>10</b> <b>12:15p</b> Administrative Council <b>6-8p</b> Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	<b>11</b> <b>7:00p</b> Worship Committee	<b>12</b> <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>6:30p</b> Backyard Bible Club (Adult Sunday School Room) <b>7:00p</b> FA (Choir Room)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>6-7:30p</b> GPCP Graduation (Sanctuary) <b>6:30p</b> Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>12:30-2:30p</b> GAC Possum Queen Festival <b>6-8p</b> Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>8:30a</b> Staff Meeting (Highland Bakery) <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>7:00p</b> FA (Choir Room)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>6:30p</b> Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>22</b> <b>4p</b> Boyette/Bragg Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	<b>23</b> <b>5p</b> Boyette/Bragg Wedding (Sanctuary, Huiet Hall, Gym)
<b>24</b> <b>6-8p</b> Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)	<b>25</b> <b>JUNE EPISTLE DEADLINE</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>7:00p</b> FA (Choir Room)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>9:30a</b> GAC <b>6:30p</b> Backyard Bible Club (Adult Sunday School Room) <b>6:30p</b> Worship First Praise Team Rehearsal (Choir Room)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>6-8p</b> Atlanta Freedom Band (3rd Floor)						

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- Sam Bangura (Sierra Leone missionary)
  - mother of Greg Barron
  - Family of Betty Bishop (Becky Wellman's mom, died 4/30)**
  - Family of Dean Brown (Van's uncle)**
  - Cathy Carlock's aunt Caroline (94)
  - Carol (Laura Wells' friend, double mastectomy)**
  - Beulah Cockrum (Terry's mother, age 93)
  - Dottie Copeland (Lana Hardy's mother)
  - Mabel Couch (Tim's mother)
  - \*Patrice and Langston Daniels
  - Mark Crenshaw's parents (father recently hospitalized)
  - Helen Eiler (Vanessa J's coworker)
  - Leslie Truman's niece Elise (needs funding to attend college)**
  - Community at Emmaus House (neighboring ministry) (2 members recently shot )**
  - father of Will Gaines
  - Ramiro Garcia, Sr. (Ramiro's dad, cancer recurrence)
  - Ralph Garner (Bryan's father, inoperable lung cancer)
  - \*Tom Gazaway
  - \*Gracie Gazaway
  - Matthew Thomas Gazaway (Tom's son, redeployed to Iraq)
  - Michael George's grandmother and grandfather**
  - Ed Greene (Kelly's father, prostate cancer)
  - father of Lana Hardy
  - Stella Hardy
  - mother of Joan Hildebrand
  - Carol Howard (Zxelema's mom)
  - Ben Huiet, Jr.
  - Ben Huiet, III (chronic health problems)
  - Irene Jackson (Vanessa's mom)
  - \*Vanessa Jackson
  - \***Ben Johnson (job search)**
  - Rev. Rex Kaney (cancer)
  - Allysa Kropp (Teresa Davis's cousin, deployed to Iraq)
  - Nate, Jonathan Kidwell's friend (deployed to Iraq)
  - Brian Lowring (neighbor, stroke, Shepherds Spinal Clinic)**
  - Beth Luten (Michelle's friend, cancer)
  - Ed McCoy (Mark Crenshaw's co-worker, prostate cancer, lost job)
  - Jack McCollough (Candace and Celeste's dad)
  - Sandra Meyer (miscarriage)**
  - Glenda Nesbitt (Vanessa Jackson's cousin, needs kidney)
  - Jim Nelson (James Palmer's uncle, myopic muscular dystrophy)
  - Pachman family (father undergoing cancer treatment)**
  - Ryan Panessa (Angela Russel's 2-1/2 year old friend, Coat's disease of the eye, surgery, loss of sight)**
  - 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
  - Pat Phillips (Mark's mother, cancer)
  - Julia Richardson's (recent visitor) brother Ben—deployed to Afghanistan
  - Don and Jane Saliers (Jane diagnosed with breast cancer)
  - Se'Varius, Se'Vunayae and Se'Ve Raines (Vanessa J's nephews)
  - father of Erica Ray
  - Zxelema Reese (Zxelema Howard's aunt)
  - Remesse (Zxelema Howard's friend, hospitalized for duration of pregnancy)
  - Arlene Smith (Wells' friend, ICU, pancreatic cancer, special needs adult child to care for)**
  - Max Snyder and family (Warners' infant neighbor, Scottish Rite CHOA, pulmonary hypertension and other significant issues related to premature birth)
  - friend of Robin South (tonsil cancer)
  - \*Anne Spealman
  - friend of Natalie Stadnick, divorcing, 2 small children**
  - Guin Stanton (Leslie Truman's niece, kidney problems)
  - James Stephens's friend Pat (breast cancer)
  - Hyde Talbot (20 month old son of Rachel Quartarone's friends, rare, serious blood/kidney disease, facing decisions about surgeries)
  - Amanda Tomlinson (Rachel Wayte's granddaughter)
  - Frances Truman (Leslie's mom)
  - Virginia Vickery
  - \***Su Watson and Bob Vermillion**
  - Paige Swaim's mother and grandmother
  - \*Becky Wellman
  - Talley Wells's mother
  - 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
  - all those with cancer
  - those family and friends separated by physical distance or broken relationships
  - those seeking work
  - those suffering the effects of natural disasters
  - the economy
  - all children!

**May Prayer Calendar**

The May Prayer Calendar, "Prayers for Finding Faith," is available to download at [www.ngumc.org](http://www.ngumc.org) under the "Resources" drop-down menu. Prayer Calendars are the work of our parishioner, Sybil Davidson.

**What is Annual Conference and Why Should I Care?**

Wednesday, May 27, 2009  
6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Have you ever found yourself asking this question? Come for a light supper and conversation on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM to discuss the what, when, where, WHY, and WHO Cares of the North Georgia Annual Conference. This will be an opportunity for you to meet St. Paul's delegates to this important meeting and to discuss with them the issues that affect us as United Methodists and members of St. Paul.



**United Methodist Apportionments  
The Episcopal Fund**

In recent Epistles, we've profile how our apportionments (the funds that United Methodist congregations share with the larger church) support the Africa Fund and The Black College Fund. This month, we will profile how our apportionments support the Episcopal Fund.

The United Methodist church is organized into districts (St Paul is part of the Atlanta Decatur Oxford district) and conferences (St Paul is part of the North Georgia Conference). Bishops are the administrative leaders of these conferences. A bishop's task is noble and practical. United Methodist bishops oversee and promote the church's spiritual interests. The Episcopal Fund apportionment provides economic support for these diverse and important tasks.

Specifically, the Episcopal Fund pays bishop's salaries and health benefits, covers office expenses, and provides pensions for retired bishops.

Next month we'll profile the World Service Fund.

**Come to the 'Possum Queen Festival**

Don't play 'possum! On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, load up the whole family and come join the fun at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Possum Queen Festival!

What is a 'Possum Queen? The 'Possum Queen Festival is an annual fundraiser for the St. Paul Golden Age Center. Several candidates run for 'Possum Queen, and each one collects "votes" for \$1 a piece (it's a traditional election where all votes are bought!). The candidate who collects the most "votes" earns the title of 'Possum Queen (or King). Two Queens are crowned each year: one 'Possum Queen is from among the Golden Age Center membership, the other is the Community 'Possum Queen.

Now – the Golden Age Center is keeping their candidates a secret for now (because they don't want to scare off the community candidates). But this year's exciting slate of *community* candidates includes:



David Hardy, whose grandmother Stella Hardy was 'Possum Queen in

2008, is trying to keep the coveted 'Possum crown in the family.



Leslie Grant is a Grant Park neighbor to the Golden Age Center, and all

around good egg!



Blossom the 'Possum has entered the contest (yet again), and is

sincerely hoping that this will be her year! (Have you been behaving yourself Blossom?)



Writer and syndicated columnist Hollis Gillespie is joining the fray (and

thinks Blossom looks vaguely familiar from around the trailer...)



As a special treat, our emcee this year- back by popular demand - is Vince Tortorici!!! He's a multi-talented performer who has worked professionally as an actor, clown and puppeteer for the many years. Kids of all ages just love Vince!

It's going to be a fun time, and is all for a good cause – the St. Paul Golden Age Center! So come enjoy family fun, BBQ lunch, entertainment and kids' activities. AND - Vote for your favorite 'Possum Queen Candidates and witness the crowning of the 2009 'Possum Queen.

**When:** Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:30pm

**Where:** St. Paul United Methodist Church, 501 Grant Street, SE, Atlanta, 30312

**What:** Food, fun, kid's activities, and the crowning of the 2009 'Possum Queens!

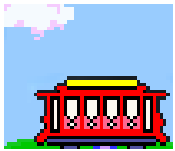
**2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Calling all volunteers! St. Paul needs talented and willing volunteers to help support our double session Vacation Bible School Program June 1st through the 12th. We can use your help for a day or for a week, or for any time that you can give us. Please contact Laura Wells or Doug Hollis to volunteer: [lauraandtalley@mindspring.com](mailto:lauraandtalley@mindspring.com) or [seedoug@hotmail.com](mailto:seedoug@hotmail.com).

Registration for Camp E.D.G.E. (ages 2 through 5th grade) is closed. **NEW DATE FOR VBS VOLUNTEER TRAINING** is Wednesday, **May 13th from 7:30 to 8:30pm** to familiarize volunteers with the Camp E.D.G.E. theme and the teaching plan, as well as to assign specific volunteer duties. There will be a general training from 7:30 to 8:00pm and then group training for specific areas. Please let Laura Wells know if you will be unable to attend this session. An additional session may be scheduled depending on need. There will be a **VBS DECORATING PARTY** Saturday May 30th, 9 am till noon. Your hands are needed to make light work necessary of getting ready for the week. Please mark your calendar. **If you have camping equipment to lend for the week (tents, lanterns, etc.) to use for the Camp Edge set, please clearly mark your name on it and bring it to Huiet Hall.**



Our Evening VBS program, **"Won't You Be My Neighbor?"** runs from Sunday evening, June 7, 2009 through Thursday evening, June 12, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. Paul UMC. It is designed for family, teen, and adult participation. "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" opens on Saturday, June 6, 2009 with a family picnic in Grant Park. Beginning Sunday evening, June 7, come visit with "Mr. Rogers and his friends" to explore a different neighborhood topic each night. There will be opportunities to have a great buffet supper, and participate in music, skits, games, arts and crafts, learning and discussion groups about our neighborhood and our commitments, and lots of just plain fun! Some activities are unified and some are for children, teens, and adults separately, but all are designed as an experience that you can share together. If you are a child 3 and over, a teenager or a teenager at heart, a single adult, or an adult couple, St. Paul has a place for you at Evening VBS!



**May Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- 1 Linda Woodworth  
Spencer Roberson
- 4 Peter Smith  
Terry Gilbert  
Fletcher Davidson
- 8 Elise Nanista  
Evan Butler
- 9 Rachel & Richard  
Quartarone
- 10 Jessica Gaines
- 11 Jimmy Hardy  
John Kelly  
Zoë Spencer
- 16 Deborah Greene
- 18 Collin Seymour  
Randy Brookins  
Kelly Dennis  
Cate Riser  
Curtis Kohlhaas
- 23 Molly Merchant
- 24 Joseph Brooks  
Marc Gowan
- 25 Ryan Belt
- 26 Melissa Wakamo
- 28 Sybil Davidson  
Robin L. Diehl  
Nicholas George  
Quartarone
- 31 Melissa Merchant

Email [office@stpaulgrantpark.org](mailto:office@stpaulgrantpark.org) to receive a paperless copy of the Epistle, or to unsubscribe.

St. Paul United Methodist Church-Grant Park, Inc.  
501 Grant Street, S. E.  
Atlanta, GA 30312

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Atlanta, GA  
Permit No. 622

Address Service Requested