

May 2014

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# THE EPISTLE

The Newsletter of St. Paul Presbyterian Church

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**Worship @ 10:15 a.m. Sunday School: Adult @ 9:00am; Sr. High @ 9:40; K-6 @ 10:30**



**MAY 4: CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION** If Easter really is true, how would our worship be affected? That will be the topic in the second sermon in the "Church of the Resurrection" series. You may read Psalm 96 in

preparation. The Adult Choir will sing "Come and Praise the Lord" and the Praise Band will sing "Tower."

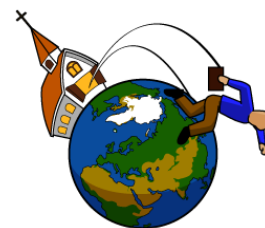
**MAY 11: EASTER EDUCATION** Since this is the last day for our children's Sunday School, this sermon will explore what Easter-based Christian Education would look like. You can check out Colossians 2:1-12 in preparation. The Bells will play "Kum Bah Ya," the Praise Team will share "Those Who Trust," and the LOGOS Singers will share a song. All women of the church will be recognized for Mothers Day.



**MAY 18: SENIOR SUNDAY** Join us as our high school seniors (Kate Allender, Kelsey Kramer, Hagen Meyer, Andrew Mills, and Amy Nihart,) each share some reflections prior to their graduation. We will also commission our Senior

High Mission Trip to Newport, Tennessee. Since this is the last day for our music groups before a well earned summer break, we are going out with a bang: the Bells will play, "Kum Bah Ya," the choir will sing "Solid Rock," and the Praise Team will lead us in "Those Who Trust"!

**MAY 25: EL SALVADOR MISSION!** Maurice & Betty Dyer will be speaking on the Des Moines Presbytery's "Our Sister Parish" mission, in El Salvador. They are members of Trinity Presbyterian Church (Indianola), which has had a partnership relationship in El Salvador for 12 years. They have been members of Companeros, the El Salvador mission board, as well as being the coffee coordinators for the Don Justo Coffee project. Maurice is currently the vice-moderator of Companeros. They have both visited the Our Sister Parish mission 5 times. Betty is currently the office manager of Des Moines Presbytery. Together they have visited 18 Des Presbytery churches to tell the story of the mission and St Paul is long overdue! Maurice will share a sermon entitled, "Sometimes" to tell us the story of the mission.



## NEW SERMON SERIES!

What if we truly lived every day as if Easter was true? What if we lived as if life really is more powerful than death? As if love is stronger than apathy? As if hope is stronger than despair? If these were true, we would have to re-think everything, including many ways the church has slipped into the world's ways of death. This series will explore what a church based on the resurrection would look like in a changing world.

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## **STEWARDSHIP ROAD IS PASSION OUT OF FASHION?**

by Dean Nihart

Pastor Bill's sermon on Palm Sunday was another really, really good and thought-provoking message. He talked about chickens running around with their heads cut off. He asked, "Is Passion out of Fashion?" You may be asking what this has to do with "Stewardship?"

An article I once read said the meaning of Stewardship, when it comes to relationships, is that a Christian is not taking another for granted and instead is giving 100% to the relationship.

Please allow me to tie these thoughts together. God does not want us running around, being busy with no purpose. God has needs for us. Our response to God's call helps get things done. My dear friends, all of you at St. Paul, please know that Janet, Amy and I have felt your passion. We have felt your love. Everyone has done so much for us, in thought, in deed, in prayer. You have proven that God calls people to reach out and you have shown that passion is not out of fashion. We hope, as Pastor Bill discussed, that you have felt the joy in giving, because we have sure felt the love. We are so, so grateful.

Our congregation, our friends, our companions at St. Paul, YOU have all shown that you are amazing stewards. You have given so much, and we can likely never express how important every thought, every word, every deed and every prayer was to us. Passion in St. Paul is not out of fashion. You have such big hearts. Thank you for caring and thank you for keeping the joy of stewardship alive in our church!

**Dear St. Paul Family -**

Please allow us to thank each and every one of you for the care, concern and good wishes that you've shared with us over the past several months during Janet's illness. We deeply felt the love from you, our church family!! Every single gesture helped us through this trying time. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the meals, rides, cards, flowers, gifts, thoughts, jokes, and prayers! We are still overwhelmed by your kindness, and we are thankful to have such caring people and GOD in our lives! We couldn't have gotten through this without all of you!

Janet is starting to feel better and gain strength, so we hope to see more of you in the near future. All signs, at this point, indicate that her health is headed in the right direction, thanks to the skill of an awesome medical team and all of you prayer warriors!

Again, thank you so much for your love and support!

*Dean, Janet and Amy Nihart*

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

## Sunday School

### **Final Sunday School**

The final Sunday School for 2013/2014 will be Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Look forward to special music and crafts that morning.

## LOGOS News

### **LOGOS Awards Night: May 7!**

Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> will be our final LOGOS for the 2013/2014 season. We will end the year with awards for each of the students that evening to celebrate them bringing joy and smiles to everyone involved with LOGOS.



Also parents please feel welcome to come eat pizza with us that evening with us during dinner at 6pm.

### **FORT**

The Final Fort for the 2013/2014 season will be May 21<sup>st</sup>. FORT is an open time from 2pm – 4pm where volunteers monitor and interact with the students. Children will need to be picked up around 4pm

### **Sr. High Mission Trip Fundraisers**

#### **Sr. High Garage Sale: May 10**

Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30am – Noon the Sr. High Students will be having their final organized fundraiser of the year by the church garage (if its rainy it will be indoors). Please stop by and see if there is any treasure to be found.

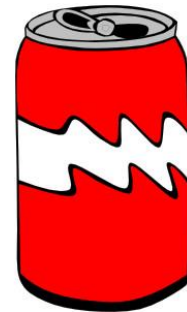


### **74 Envelope Campaign**

The envelope campaign will wrap up around May 18th. So far there has been over \$1,000 dollars raised. If you would like to be a part of the contributions for the campaign you can find the numbered envelopes on the bulletin board on the East side of Fellowship Hall.

### **Can and Bottle Drive**

The Sr. High students are still collecting aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles to redeem for cash. Please drop off any cans or bottles in the Sr. High room or in the Youth Directors office.



### **Final Word**

It has been a wonderful year of LOGOS and Sunday school full of memories and joy. Please stay tuned for Summer activities and Fall start dates for LOGOS and Sunday School.

-Aaron

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**May Worship schedule:**

May 4th - 3rd Sunday in Easter  
 May 11th - 4th Sunday in Easter  
 May 18th - 5th Sunday in Easter  
 May 25th - 6th Sunday in Easter

**High School Can Drive!!!**  
 May 19th  
 Drink 'em & Bring 'em!!

**Drivers**

May 4<sup>th</sup> - Rob  
 May 11<sup>th</sup> - Doug  
 May 18<sup>th</sup> - Brian  
 May 25<sup>th</sup> - Mike



**Coffee Hosts and Greeters**

May 4th - Peters Family  
 May 11th - Pauline Chambers  
 May 18th - Senior Sunday (Deacons host)  
 May 25th - Valerie Nichols



**May birthdays**

4 Nell Dunlap  
 5 Janet Bartels  
 5 Valerie Nichols  
 5 Tim Kramer  
 5 Renee Kramer  
 8 Patrick Freese  
 8 Kelsy Kramer  
 10 Josten Foley  
 10 Aaron Johnson  
 10 Ken Krueger  
 10 Cole Price  
 11 Rick McConnell  
 12 Twyla Thorpe  
 15 Amanda Freese  
 19 Josh Fausch  
 19 Dave Madsen  
 19 Lindsey Watkins  
 21 Aly Vukelich  
 22 Liz Price  
 22 Pam Wilson  
 23 Jeff Johnson  
 24 Kaylee Richter  
 24 Riley Richter  
 26 Doug Darling  
 27 Mary Watkins  
 28 Jerica George  
 28 Susan Meyer  
 29 Andrew Soelberg

## [WWW.STPAUL-JOHNSTON.COM](http://WWW.STPAUL-JOHNSTON.COM) GETS A NEW LOOK!

A small but dedicated group of church staff and members have been working hard to update our church's web page and the results are now live! Please check it out and let us know if there are mistakes or things that are missing. Also, if there is a page that you should be or would like to be an editor of, just contact PB or Charissa and let us know so that we can send you a link to edit that page. We chose to build our site with "Weebly," which is super intuitive and easy to upload content to. If you can word process you can help keep our web page up to date and informative for church members and visitors!

Many thanks to Lisa Stange for getting us started on Weebly and Whitey Stange for helping with some of the more technical aspects of the website. Pastor Bill, Charissa and Aaron uploaded most of the new content. Carin Birt, from Membership and Evangelism, helped plan the overall look. Many thanks to Mary Zirkelbach, who established and maintained our previous website for years!



St Paul Presbyterian Church  
Johnston, Iowa

Check us out on Facebook! 

St Paul Presbyterian Church

Join us in Worship Sunday Mornings at 10:15  
Nursery provided by caring adult professional

k-6 Church School at 10:30

[Contact us](#) >

Home Worship Who We Are Youth Activities Adult Activities Upcoming Events more...

APRIL 27: HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY



Holy Humor is also called "Holy Fools Sunday" or "Bright Sunday." The origins of this service go back hundreds of years as a way of celebrating God's resurrection victory over Satan. The idea was to laugh at Satan who had been outwitted by God. The service will include humorous and thought provoking skits, an Easter Carol, the choir singing "Come and Praise the Lord" and a joke in every bulletin (and "joke breaks" for you to share yours one of your favorite good clean jokes)! Women are invited to "resurrect" the tradition of hats in worship and all are encouraged to wear their **brightest colors**! We will also have special music from "The Drivers," Nathan Green's barbershop quartet. They will be singing "Gospel Medley," "I'm Feelin' Fine," and "Sweet hour of Prayer." Join us for this unique service of laughter and joy!

## ECOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

For those interested in ecology and new technology – check out this video sent by Lois Watson! (Just hit the Ctrl button while you left click on the link below!)

[www.youtube.com/embed/qGGabrorRS8?rel=0](http://www.youtube.com/embed/qGGabrorRS8?rel=0)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*"I have never been hurt by anything I didn't say."*

- Calvin Coolidge

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

- Aesop




VBS: JULY 7-11!

VBS is just over two months away and we are getting so excited! Our next planning meeting is Sunday, May 4 right after worship in the North room. It is not too late to sign up to help.

Registration forms are now available in the Narthex or you can register online here: [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpaul/gpgs/](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpaul/gpgs/Home.aspx)

[Home.aspx](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/stpaul/gpgs/Home.aspx). Many registration forms are attached to a colorful invitation for you to use to invite a friend or neighbor, so please use them. We really want to grow our VBS program and we need everyone's help to make it happen!

If you can't help with VBS during the week but would like to help in other ways we have opportunities for you also. Be on the lookout for the giving tree that will have all the additional things we need to make VBS great: food for making the snacks and items for games and making crafts. We also need any remnants of latex paint or spray paint you have that you can spare; we need brown, green, and any bright colors. We will gladly take paint in any condition. Also, please save plastic gallon milk jugs - they need to be well rinsed and have the lids. There will be a box in the administrative hallway to put your donations in.



You're Invited to  
**A Mother's Day Tea**

Calvin Community  
 4210 Hickman Road  
 Des Moines, IA 50310

**Saturday, May 10**  
 2:00 PM

Special Guest Speaker:  
**Dr. Richard Deming**  
 Medical Director, Mercy Cancer Center  
 Board Chair, Above + Beyond Cancer

\$25 per person  
 or \$100 for 4 or more

All proceeds benefit the  
 South Lawn Mini Capital Campaign

RSVP by May 5  
 To purchase tickets contact  
 Ann Scallon 515.633.2512

Please Join Us  
 Open House  
 Sunday, June 8, 2014  
 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**THANKS FROM DM PRESBYTERY'S PW'S**

These "thank you's" were received by Lois Watson from Presbytery on behalf of our churches' efforts at their Spring Gathering:

"Dear Lois and the Presbyterian Women of St Paul, We are ever so grateful for your hospitality in hosting the Spring Gathering for the women in our Des Moines Presbytery. As the women reflected on their day in Johnston, we had comments like, "lunch and hospitality excellent," "the location was excellent," "well organized." You may be a small group of women but you are mighty! Lois, you and your co-workers were excellent models to the women who attended. You met each challenge encountered with grace and a smile and we all felt the love of Christ as you shared your time, talents, and nourishment with us. Well done, good and faithful servants!"

Sue Kimball, moderator on behalf of the DM Presbytery PW Coordinating Team.

"Please also express our thanks to the pianist, the "sound guy" and Pastor Bill. Your services made our day a pleasure and meaningful. Dear Lois, Thanks for your organizational and connectational skills in helping us by hosting the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering for the Des Moines Presbytery. I want to especially thank you for making worship more meaningful with providing the communion ware and elements. It was a privilege to use them. They are beautiful. Also thanks for the amazing Pam Wilson who accompanied the hymns. Thanks for all that you did. "

In Christ's love, Reverend Betty Sandy

The salad luncheon was indeed a success. Lois Watson coordinated, recruited, and hosted the event. Thank you to the many who volunteered to make salads and to serve! Monies raised from the lunch are as follows: to Cross Ministries - \$100, to the Good Samaritans at Calvin Manor -\$100, to St Paul-\$150.





Easter At St Paul!



Confirmation Class!





**SONG OF THE MONTH**

***Those Who Trust*** – sung by Shachah  
(and sung by your Praise team at the recent Lock-in)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqnArJm7dME>

(ctrl + left click to follow link)

**Those who trust in the Lord  
Are a strong mountain  
They will not...not be moved**

**Those who trust in the Lord  
Are as Mount Zion  
They will not...not be moved**

**Christ the King, He sets my feet  
On a firm foundation  
They will not...not be moved**

**Though the world moves like mad  
You alone are faithful  
Jesus, you, you will not be changed**



## THE BACK PAGE

### How to Get Into Heaven

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the grace of God that'll I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."

### Hymns for People Over 50

Give Me the Old Timers Religion

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

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