

February 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

**FEBRUARY 2: "YO VINNY"** will be the title of a humorous and thought provoking dramatic monologue Pastor Bill created based upon a retelling of Luke 5:17-37 from the perspective of Matthew the tax collector. This will be the fourth in the "Foundations of Renewal" series.



**FEBRUARY 9: "THE FIELDS ARE WHITE"** is the fourth sermon that will be coordinated with the ReVision experience. Check out John 4:31-38 if you would like to come

prepared.



**SERMON SERIES: "FOUNDATIONS OF RENEWAL."** This series will complement the work that is being done in the ReVision small groups by highlighting an idea or Bible passage that will be studied by the groups in the upcoming week. It will also help those not in a ReVision group understand what the groups are doing.

**FEBRUARY 16: "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE"** will be our sermon, based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. As society has changed, barriers between the church and society have unknowingly been erected. What can churches do to "bridge the gap" and connect with culture again? This will also be Scout Sunday. Members of Troop 44, which our church sponsors, will assist in the service. All scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms to worship!

**FEBRUARY 23: "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION?"** will be our sermon title. At their November meeting, our session adopted the Purpose Driven model of ministry. How will this model complement the ReVision process and shape our future as a congregation? Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 in preparation.



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**STEWARDSHIP ROAD - RESULTS TO MAKE YOU CHEER**  
**By Dean Nihart**

Wow, another year behind us. It was certainly a whirlwind year at St. Paul with lots and lots to celebrate. Since this is a Stewardship article, let's focus on the celebration we call Stewardship Sunday! The main things I want to write are THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS! With people moving and others passing away, our pledge starting point was lowered by over \$15,000 from 2012, with all things being equal. However, when the new numbers came in on Stewardship Sunday and as other pledges trickled in, I am happy to say that YOU made up the difference and then some. Overall, despite the hole we started in, our pledges are UP almost \$10,000 in 2014!

God asks us to be cheerful givers and to give of our first fruits. The St. Paul congregation is listening and working toward being the best Stewards we can be. For those of you that want to review the budget numbers, be sure to study the 2013 Annual Report. This shows the actual expenditures for 2013 and also lists the income and expense budget in 2014. The Session has approved a small positive budget (\$176) even though our costs are up significantly in the coming year primarily due to moving from an interim to a new full-time Pastor. So, your increase in pledges is truly a blessing!

Hopefully in the future, we can keep this momentum going and do even more to make our programs, our music and our Mission outreach even better! As it says in Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." THANK YOU to all for what you are giving here at St. Paul. You make the Road of Stewardship, a great road to travel on, indeed!

**From M&E**

M & E is in the process of planning and setting a calendar for 2014. We are planning to continue many events that have been a tradition for years. If you have any suggestions and thoughts about new events that you would like to see at St. Paul, please contact Carin Birt (515-707-803 or carinbirt@gmail.com).

M & E is also looking for help. We have been working on a program to help welcome new guests to our church. Some of the activities include: greeting them during Passing of the Peace, giving first time guests gift bags, talking with guests during fellowship time, delivering cookies to the guest's home. We are looking for congregation members who attend regularly that can work in this group. Contact Carin Birt if you are able to help.

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers;  
For thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*

- Hebrews 13:2

January 2014

### Youth and Children's Ministry

After the holiday break LOGOS has been in full gear with plenty of laughter, games, music, and ministry. It is great to be back on a regular schedule and to have students fill the church halls once again. The elementary students are energetic as ever racing up and down the gym and challenging each other with treasure hunts and games of football. The middle schoolers continue to balance homework with exploring life as they use the mid-week program to help anchor their week with school and extracurricular activities. The sr. high students are continuing with the church wide ReVision series and exploring where we are as a church, where we want to be, and how to close the gap between the two points.

### Some things to keep in mind as January closes and February begins:

-Keep an eye out for the Sr. High fundraiser opportunities to be presented soon. The students are set to go to Newport Tennessee the first week in June and will be looking for contributions from the church congregation and community to help with the financial aspects.

-The Elementary, Middle, and Sr. High students will all be going to Skyzone February 19<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips and cost details will be email out in the next few weeks.

-The first day of Spring is March 20<sup>th</sup> meaning there are plenty of opportunities of cold days ahead. If Johnston schools are canceled any particular Wednesday the will be NO LOGOS or FORT.

-Feel free to join us for Sunday School every Sunday morning after the Children's moment for K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade. High Schoolers meet for fellowship before service every Sunday morning 9:40 – 10:10am.



~Live Blessed!~

# C A L E N D A R

## ***February Worship schedule:***

<b>Feb 2nd -</b>	<b>Presentation of Jesus in the temple</b>
<b>Feb 9th -</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>
<b>Feb 16th -</b>	<b>6th Sunday after Epiphany</b>
<b>Feb 23rd -</b>	<b>7th Sunday after Epiphany</b>

## **Feb Driving Schedule:**

<b>2</b>	<b>Brian</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Doug</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Mike</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Rob</b>



## **Coffee Hosts and Greeters**

<b>Feb 2nd -</b>	<b>Carlos &amp; Sue Loeffler</b>
<b>Feb 9th -</b>	<b>Birt Family</b>
<b>Feb 16th -</b>	<b>Darling Family</b>
<b>Feb 23rd -</b>	<b>Peters Family</b>

## **February birthdays**

2	Chuck Dunlap
3	Steve Huston
4	James Peitzman
8	John W. Gilmore
8	Lorna Reay
9	Susan Conrey
11	Raymond Magnani
12	Haggen Meyer
13	Ed Wegele
15	Grant Michael Dunn
16	Carol Shore
18	Janet Nihart
18	Olivia Flodin
19	Lisa Stange
21	Kris Huston
22	Kerri Dreibelbeis
23	Aaron Wych
26	Stephanie Nichols



# Johnston Partnership's annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 4, 2014 ... 5-7 p.m.

Summit Middle School, 9500 Windsor Parkway, Johnston



Entertainment:  
Johnston Station  
Jazz Band

Chefs:  
Johnston Kiwanis

Come  
hungry  
and enjoy  
a great  
family  
evening!



All proceeds go to the  
Johnston Partnership,  
funding the Johnston  
DMARC Food Pantry,  
Clothes Closet and  
Johnston Youth  
Mentoring Program.



School, Family, & Community  
Working Together in Johnston

\$5 per person, kids under 3 eat free

For information phone (515) 868-1357

## Easter Giving Tree

Johnston's Partnership for a Healthy Community is assembling Easter Meal Gift packages. St Paul will set up an Easter Giving Tree decorated with donation ornaments on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. These donations of non-perishables will be collected by Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> so that the Partnership has plenty of time to assemble the packages. Requested items are:

Reusable grocery bags	Cream of mushroom soup
Instant scalloped potatoes	Jello
Brownie Mix	Egg coloring kit

Also, donations of \$25.00 to cover the cost of a meal package will be gratefully accepted. Hams will be donated by a corporate sponsor.

St Paul's Christmas Giving Tree was such a successful project that we are confident we can collect food for several Easter meal packages. We thank you in advance for your kind support!

St Paul Mission Committee

### The Day the Kids Sabotaged my Bible Lesson by Val

A couple of weeks ago I had the privilege to teach a couple of Logos Bible studies for the elementary class. We were in the Book of Genesis learning the creation story. All was going well and a few fun things happened along the way. Then came the moment where the serpent tempts Eve. Here was the setup: Both leaders needed to leave the classroom to carry something heavy back into the room. Outside the classroom a high school serpent and his minions were waiting. Inside the classroom I had a table full of props ready for the next part of the lesson: a huge shiny red apple, a box of brown raisins with the top ripped off, and a crystal tray filled with colorful M&M's, gummi bears, gummi worms, skittles, charm pops, and a fountain of red licorice. What better to tempt our young charges with (big, sly wink!). Before leaving the room we instructed the kids to stay in the room; they could visit quietly and help themselves to the apple and box of raisins, but please don't touch the candy plate! And we left.... The "serpents" slithered in, greeted the younger students, and proceeded straight to the colorful plate of sweets and helped themselves! They invited the youngsters to join them. In horror, our little champions protested loudly. The boys ran to the table and pushed the "serpents" away telling them that the candy was not allowed! This, all while being tempted to join the serpents eating those perfect, sweet confections! A contingent of girls ran out of the room screaming the leader's names loudly! And so we returned to a room of bedlam.

Foolishly, I believed those young tykes would weaken and take the bait. I had a perfect lesson planned on listening, obedience, and faith in God's guidance. Silly me! They'd been listening all along! They did their best to cast out those "serpents" and ran for help! Not only did they listen, obey, and have faith, but they knew how to pray. It was a great lesson.

## WANTED!!!

**3 ½ TO 5 FT “CHRISTMAS STYLE” tree in white, pink, or blue to be used for future Giving Tree projects! Call Val at 276-7880**

### Song of the Month

**“Swallow the Ocean (Coming Alive)” By NewSong**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZI2nRzbzzE>

(ctrl + left click to follow link)

Who can stand apart from Your presence?  
Once we have tasted, the goodness of Your love.  
Who can change a heart? Only You can.  
We're restless and thirsty, for healing from above.  
You break the heavens open,  
and I'm trying to swallow the ocean.

[Chorus:]  
I'm coming alive with You.  
I'm coming undone with You.  
I'm coming away with You.  
With the faith of a child I come.  
With my hands lifted high I come.  
I'm coming alive with You.

Who can know Your thoughts and Your purpose?  
I want to join in, to listen and obey.  
Who can do the things that You can?  
If its impossible, Lord You know the way.  
You break the heavens open,  
and I'm trying to swallow the ocean.

[Chorus]

[Bridge:]  
You make all things new [x5]

[Chorus]

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## The Back Page

### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



**VALENTINE TIP:** No matter how sweet the deal, resist getting roses at the Hardware store.  
*(inspired by an actual Sunday Paper ad)*