



The St. Paul Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Bellville, Ohio

February, 2011

Captive Free Concert

The group **Captive Free** will present a family concert on Thursday evening February 17th. Through a combination of songs, skits, and stories this group of troubadours entertains and informs. This is the same group that will be leading the music for the *YouthQuake* that the Middle School are attending the next three days.

Rummage Sale News....

This year the Rummage Sale is April 10th - 12th. This is when we transform the Community Room into a showcase of amazing treasures!! You won't want to miss it!! We will begin receiving your treasures at noon on April 10th until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, April 12th. We need help sorting, pricing and selling. We have a job for everyone!! The money generated from this rummage sale supports the workcamp trip. Clean out your closets, drawers, attics, garages and sheds. Watch the March Newsletter for sign-ups. Questions or comments, see Diane Hammett.

New Baby

Pete and Lindsey Anderson are pleased to announce the birth of their first child. Max William Anderson was born December 27, 2010. He weighed 9 pounds and 7 ounces.

Gift of the Month MedCentral

While families and friends wait to visit new mothers and babies in the brand new birthing area, children need toys and books to keep them amused. Toys must be hard plastic so that they can be sanitized. NO stuffed animals.

In the children's x-ray department the staff needs new boxes of crayons (8 or 16 count), coloring books and stickers. Lots of stickers help encourage the little ones to keep still!

SOS from BNOC

Our food pantry needs flour, sugar and cooking oil. Although *The Cleveland Food Bank* supplies thousands of pounds of meat and canned goods etc., flour, sugar and oil are always in demand. Any donations for the Bellville pantry would be greatly appreciated. Please place in chest as usual.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is up again. Each year we collect gloves and hats for both Bellville and Butler Elementary Schools. Our teachers tell us that quite often children arrive on very cold mornings without gloves, hats or scarves, and they are most grateful for our donations.

News from Children's Ministries Coordinator.....

A blessed and happy February to our children, parents and church family!

At the end of January the 6th and 7th grade youth were invited to an overnight at the church in which we cooked dinner together, did activities that helped each other know each other better, shared our faith more deeply and had the chance to ask questions about our faith and God. **On February 4th and 5th** we will be having an overnight lock-in for our **4th and 5th** grade children and will also have a chance to spend more time to get to know each other better, to more deeply share our faith and to have fun!

Many of our Middle School Youth will be attending the **2011 Youth Quake** during the weekend of February 18- 20th. Both Ginger and Pastor Doug will be attending the weekend as well Thank you to our worship leaders who will be leading worship and sharing the message that weekend!

PLEASE PRAY for all of our youth during February as they continue to discover and deepen in their walk with God in a variety of ways. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

ATTENTION: IF ANYONE in the congregation feels a call to help with these types of activities or any of our youth outings please **CONTACT Ginger**. I am looking for volunteers who feel called to this special kind of ministry and am in the process of putting together a Children's Ministry Board. The Children's Ministry Board would serve as a *Spirit led* "think-tank" and "overseer" of our Children's Ministries program. Most of all it will be fun.

Also in January we had a great start to our new Sunday morning **Parenting Class** which is all about how to communicate better with our teens. The *First Love Languages of Teens* has been a great DVD, series and I think many of us have been learning a lot. **ANY** adult is welcome to come and join us as we continue this class.

Our **Friday afternoon Bible Study** (1:30 - 2:30 p.m.) is also off to a great start. We are finishing up the topic of Jesus' teachings and then we will go on to the parables of Jesus. We have had wonderful discussions. Please come!

Peace and Blessings,
Ginger

Perish the Thought

Pastor Doug preached a sermon on Jesus' invitation to Peter and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." To help illustrate it Pastor Doug wore fishing clothes. One woman said, "I'm so glad that Jesus did not say "Bike for people" because the vision of spandex..."

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God whom we know as Abba, Jesus, and Spirit.

This first line is more than just an imitation of the opening greeting of one of St. Paul's letters. Imitation may have been the reason that I began opening my pastoral letter to you but over the years it has become the fountain from which the writing flows. Occasionally I have started writing with a topic in mind but more often than not when I write the words "grace to you and peace" I begin to think of the specific grace and peace that I desire for you.

Grace and peace are more than just ideas or throwaway words. Grace and peace are the experience of God that means so much to me and that I have been called to communicate to you. And yet these are not easy to define, harder to explain, and hardest of all to live.

As we began this new year and as I reflected on the upcoming scripture lessons for the Sundays in Epiphany (January and February), I felt God nudging me to emphasize our Mission Statement:

Living and Sharing God's Love.

We need to be reminded of the core of who we are, for this statement is really all about grace. "God's love" is a replacement phrase for the word "grace" even though grace is much more than simply God's love for us.

The Holy Spirit is the one who makes grace real to us. Spirit takes the word and makes it alive through experiences of grace. For that reason I have been encouraging you to practice a little exercise throughout all of Epiphany. That is, each time you touch water repeat to yourself all three phrases below, or perhaps just the one you need the most:

God delights in me.

God chose me to be his son/daughter.

God fills me with the Spirit.

The repetition is important and that is why I took a member's suggestion of taping it to the bathroom mirror here at the church and again at home.

The first week when I did not have it in front of me I forgot to say it for a couple of days at a time. But, since then I have gradually begun to do it more and more regularly. As I have done so I find myself experiencing a little jolt of joy each time I say it. Sometimes I say it when I am feeling it and other times I feel anything but the truth of these words.

I invite you to practice this simple little exercise and see if it does not begin to seep into your bones,

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Doug

Worship Services for February

February 6 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

(Isaiah 58:1–12) Psalm 112:1–10 1 Cor. 2:1–16 Matt. 5:13–20

A Mind Transplant

There are three ways to live. One, live lawless; do what you want, when you want, how you want. Two, live rule regulated; obey every rule in all circumstances for there is a rule, a guideline, or a life principle for everything. Three, live Lordly; have the mind of Christ in all you do.

February 13 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Temple Talk – Chris McClelland

Children’s Choir – *In God’s Love*, Allyson, Brooke and choir

Deut. 30:15–20 Psalm 119:1–8 (1 Cor. 3:1–9) Matt. 5:21–26

No Anger...No Problem!

When we begin to practice what Jesus says we discover how hard it is. For Jesus is not content to let us off easy. Nearly all of us can say, “But I never murdered anyone;” but none of us can say, “But I was never angry.” Jesus says of anger, “It is the same as murder.” But how is that possible? Can one live and not be angry?

February 20 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

(Leviticus 19:1–2, 9–18) Psalm 119:33–40 1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23

Matthew 5:38–48

To be called children of God seems like such a nice title, until Jesus reinterprets it. To be a child of God is to be like God, and to be like God is to love and serve people who are most ungodly. “Love your enemies,” Jesus says. Who can do that? And why should I?

February 27 Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:8–16a Psalm 131 (1 Corinthians 4:1–5) Matthew 6:24–34

No Worries

To live without worry is to live fully trusting in God. Jesus invites us to live as if we had no worries. He said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” When he says “these things” he is referring to food, clothing, all that we need for life. Our normal pattern, however, is to seek backwards. Jesus invites us to seek forward.

February Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

1 Austin Boyd	8 Lloyd Hull	16 Ethan Zimmerman
3 Carly McCue	9 Gary Lantz	17 Diane Hammett
5 Stacy Wright	12 Jean Leedy	21 Gary Brenneman
5 Zoe McCue	13 Cliff Worner	24 Amos Fry
6 Tyler Weaver	13 Eugene Leedy	26 Barbara Peiker
7 Tom Boyd (Jr)	14 Bobby Sharp	28 William Hartley
7 Dennis Tenison	16 Jim Shaum	

February 1, 1992 Jim & Mary Wise
 February 15, 1975 Russ & Lynn Ousley
 February 24, 2001 David & Charla Irvin
 February 25, 1974 Dan & Joyce White

Please Pray for and Remember Our Shut-Ins

Please remember people in our congregation who have not been able to worship with us. Your cards, letters, and visits give them much joy. It is important that we help them remember they are part of our church family.

Country Meadow Care Center
 4910 Algire Rd., Bellville, OH 44813
 Ruth McKinnon, Ed Mazur

Altarcare of Bucyrus
 1929 Whetstone St., Bucyrus, OH
 44820
 Marsades Mast

Homebound Church Family:
 Rubert Hill
 Ann Ackerman,
 Dr. Betty Reed

If you know of someone who needs added to the list, please contact the church office.

Financial Information

General Fund	
Income to date	\$233,524.64
Expenses to date	\$229,311.77
Budget to date	\$241,020.00
Building Fund	
Income to date	\$65,938.50
Expenses to date	\$54,723.88
Principal Balances 12/31/10	
Original loan	\$329,450.26
Parking Lot	\$9,886.14

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for the cheer basket with all the goodies. It was so good! Also to Diane and my church friends for letting me help at Diamond View and for the Christmas gifts I received.

Terry Weaver

My Sincerest Thank you to Diane and the Sr. High Youth of St. Paul Lutheran Church. What a blessing the caroling and the 12 days of Christmas gifts were for me. I looked forward each morning to reading the cards and opening the gifts. Thank you for your generous gifts of love.

God Loves You and So Do I
Joan Echelberger

St. Paul Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Butler CF Nutrition Program, I want to thank you for your continued support of our community services. We strive to use them to provide nutritious meals to our Seniors and food for the needy.

D' Wisenbarger, Coordinator

Dear Women of the Church,

Thank you for the care basket. That was very thoughtful and the cookies were great!

Sam Laux

Dear Ladies,

Your care basket came at a time when I really needed some cheer. Delivered by our very wonderful pastor, it certainly brightened my day. It is such a great thing that you do for people. Thank you so much.

Love,
Susan Gentile

We sure appreciate you letting us use your church for our family get together with our children and families.

Thank you very much,
The Markers

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gifts to the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center during 2010. This letter is to acknowledge your donation of \$5,850.03. Generous gifts such as your not only support the BNOC, but also help expand our outreach in the Clear Fork Valley.

Sincerely,
The Trustees of the BNOC

To St. Paul Lutheran Church,

I would like to send my thank you note of thanks to the Ladies who packed that fruit basket at Christmas. The fruit was delicious and cookies were great. And thanks to Pastor Doug for bringing it to me and his comforting words.

I want to thank all who sent me Christmas cards. I got so many. Thank you all.

Alice Pittenger

Thank you for blessing my day with your kindness. Thanks so much for the Cheer Basket. I appreciate it so much. There was such a nice selection of everything in it. It made many long days shorter for me. Many blessings to you all.

Wavaline Rawson

Thank You Notes Continued

My Dear Young Friends,

Thank you so much for the bright little tree that sits in a dark corner in the living room. It really cheers that corner up. Now I will always have a Christmas tree even when I don't buy one because I sometimes travel to a daughter's for the holidays. During those times when I'm home, though, I'll enjoy that tiny lighted tree.

And I'm enjoying getting to know you who sent the tiny packages on the tree, that tell me about you. Thank you so much for telling me about yourselves because I'm so interested in you and the work you do at Work Camp.

So sorry I wasn't here when you caroled and visited me. My sister enjoyed it though.

Thank you so very much.

Love to you all,

"Grams" Marge Stoodt

P.S. I even get loving messages about you as their leader Diane.

Dear Lutheran Workers,

What thanks can I give you for your labors of charity? While that little Christmas tree glows with Christian warmth, I smile and read another letter from a church worker. Those bright white lights warm the kitchen and remind me of all the good you do for so many people - here and elsewhere. Your letters reflect the blessings you give us all. May God continue to bless you!

Cheers,

Ann Ackerman

Thank you very much for the beautiful care package.

Betty Barton

To the Senior High Youth Group of St. Paul,

What a wonderful way to share God's love during this Christmas Season! I have so enjoyed the little Christmas tree with all the notes tucked in the branches. I just opened one every day so I could think of you individually and thank God for each one of you. I had the lights plugged in all the time I was in the kitchen. They certainly brightened the time I spent there each day. Thank you, too, for the picture. I hope it will help me to match up names with each one of your faces.

Thank you for taking time during the busy Christmas Season to share God's love with me in such a special way!

God bless each one of you!

DeLee McNaul

Thank you so much. Your gift is greatly appreciated in our time of need.

Lauren Berry

Todd & Jessica Berry

Kierstyn, Kaitlyn, Allyssa Carver &

Tessa Berry

Thank you to my dear Church Family and Friends for your love and concern during my recent illness. For everything you have done: Prayers, visits, food, cheer basket, flowers, books, mini message Christmas Tree, house cleaning and those hugs mean so very much to me. George was grateful for all you have done to help him also. God has truly blessed us with a loving and kind Church family.

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Ministry Guardians Meeting Of January 13th, 2011

Present for the meeting were: Michael Murray, Chris Laux, Nancy Snyder, Lisa Brooks, Mike Bing and Pastor Doug. Ruth Lindsey and Paul Martin were present from the Finance team and Ginger Pflueger was present as Child Ministry Coordinator.

Lisa Brooks opened the meeting with devotions. After reflection and discussion, the devotional time was ended with prayer.

Ginger was asked to attend this meeting of the Guardians so that she could give a status report on her ministry. Ginger reported that everything was going well and she excited about the future at St Paul. It was noted that the Guardians had received nothing but positive comments about Ginger and her ministry.

The minutes from the November Guardians meeting were reviewed. Michael Murray moved to accept the minutes, Nancy Snyder seconded, and the motion was approved.

The financial reports for November, December and year ending 2010 were presented and reviewed. Pastor Doug moved to accept all, Mike Bing seconded and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Guardians/Ministry Leaders retreat was postponed till a date to be determined.

Staff evaluations are done and the Guardians will go over the results in a later meeting.

The nominations team has two candidates for the Endowment Team (Paul Sakala and Judy Harding) and three candidates for Guardian (Brenda Gerhart, Stacy Wright and Mindy Wood)

Michael Murray reported that most of the team covenants had expired. The Guardians will address this issue at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ruth Lindsey and Paul Martin presented financial reports for 2010 and the proposed budget for 2011. The Guardians went over the reports in detail. The Guardians also went over the Finance Team's proposed 2011 budget one line item at a time. After much discussion and thoughtful consideration some changes were made to the proposed budget. Pastor Doug moved the revised budget be presented to the Ministry Body for approval at the Annual Meeting, Michael Murray seconded and the motion was approved.

Pastor Doug made the following motion: Since there were no men willing to run for the service of being a Guardian, and since our normal order of procedure is to elect one male and one female Guardian, and since three women agreed to be nominated for election as a Guardian, and since two men and one woman already serve as Guardians, it moved that a single slate of candidates be submitted for election with the persons receiving the top number of votes be elected to a three year term as a Guardian. Nancy Snyder seconded the motion and it was approved.

The following motions were made concerning the Annual Meeting:

Motion one: Rules of Procedure for the Annual Meeting

- 1) Robert's Rules of Order shall be the order of the procedure
- 2) Any amendment to the budget which proposes an increase in spending in any line item will need to include an equal decrease in another line item.

Pastor Doug made this motion, Mike Bing seconded and the motion was approved.

Motion two: The 2011 General Fund Budget is approved with the following provisions:

- 1) The allocation of money from the money given to the General Fund will be distributed according to the column entitled Proposed 2011 Budget.
- 2) If more money than anticipated is received, the Tier 2 budget allocations can be made.
- 3) The Finance Team will meet in July, October, and December in order to determine if Tier 2 money allocations can be made, and they will recommend to the Guardians which line items can receive Tier 2 allocations. The Guardians will then approve or revoke the suggested allocations.
- 4) If Tier 2 allocations can be fully funded, they will be. If not, the Tier 2 allocations will be made according to the ranking assigned each Tier 2 item.

Pastor Doug made this motion, Mike Bing seconded and the motion was approved.

The Guardians will next meet on February 10th, 2011 at 7:00 pm. Michael Murray volunteered to do the devotions.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bing Secretary