



Circuit Rider

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

October 2011

For ten weeks this fall we are looking in detail at the implication and application of the Ten Commandments for today. Everyone has been encouraged to be in a small group for these ten weeks to provide an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Also each week we have a New Testament verse of scripture to memorize that relates to each commandment.

The Ten Commandments break down into two sections. The first section is comprised of the first four commandments, known as the vertical commandments. They deal directly with our relationship with God. And the last six commandments, known as the horizontal commandments, deal with our relationships with each other.

Commandment #1 deals with the Object of Our Worship. In Exodus 20:2, God is speaking and God says, *"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."* God begins commandment #1 by declaring that He is the Lord their God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. God doesn't attempt to prove to the Israelites that He is Almighty God. Instead He simply refers them back to the events in Egypt that they all experienced.

It is like God is saying...after what you saw me do in Egypt, after witnessing the ten miraculous plagues, after seeing what I did at the Red Sea, after providing manna, quail and water for you in the wilderness, there should be no need for me to prove to you, who I am. God says, "I Am", "I am the Lord...I am God."

And because I am God, here is my number one command for you. *"You shall have no other gods before me."*
Exodus 20:3

God is demanding that He be Israel's exclusive God. He is demanding that He be the exclusive object of Israel's love, devotion and affection. He is demanding that He be the one-and-only focus of Israel's loyalty.

This commandment is personal. "My commandment is that you as an individual person shall have no other God, in your individual life, except for me. That I (Am) be the object of your worship."

It is all about our relationship with God. What lay at the heart of this relationship is an attitude of "absolute surrender" to the will of God. Every part of our life. We have to dethrone ourselves and enthrone God. We have to let God be first in every area of our lives. God is saying "I Am" and then asking us to respond to his question, "Am I?" Is God Lord of our lives?

When we understand what God has done for us through Jesus Christ it is a logical response to surrender our lives completely to God's will. God provided a way for us to be forgiven of our sin, not just that our sin be covered up but that we can be forgiven. The Holy Spirit takes up residency in our lives and gives us the strength to do all things through Christ who gives us the strength.

A true disciple has *dethroned* himself or herself. A true disciple of Jesus has *enthroned* God on the throne of their lives. Submission and obedience, for a disciple of Jesus is not something you are forced into, but a logical reasonable response to all that God has done for you. And as a result God becomes the object of our worship above all other things.

Who is sitting on the throne of your life? You or God? Is it your will or God's will ... that will be done? Is God the only object of your worship?

See You In Worship Pastor John

Youth News

“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry (Colossians 3.5 NKJV).”

The Apostle Paul directly links the sin of covetousness with idolatry. What exactly is idolatry? Simply put, idolatry is anyone or anything that we love and trust more than God. Historically, these idols were “gods” created by man, usually made into some kind of carved or sculpted image, and who “existed” to serve people’s own desires. While ancient forms of idol worship have ceased to exist in many parts of the world, idolatry in our society is still alive and well today. People still have a strong tendency today to put people and things in the place of God.

Covetousness, which is another form of idolatry, is the *inappropriate desire* of a person or thing. This begs the question, “How do we know when a desire is inappropriate?” Every day I desire things like a cup of coffee, some quiet time, quality time with my family, and the satisfaction of getting work done. When can a desire cross that line into a covetous idolatry? How can I know?

At this point I want to turn you to an extremely helpful article by a pastor named John Piper: “Discerning Idolatry in Desire – 12 Ways to Recognize the Rise of Covetousness.” You can find the article at <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/taste-see-articles/discerning-idolatry-in-desire>

Some of the helpful thoughts that he includes in that article are listed in a shorter form below:

Desire leads us to Idol-Worship when...

- Our desires are forbidden by God
- Our desire for something is greater than our desire for God (the gift becomes greater than the Giver)
- Our desires don’t leave us with a thankful attitude toward God
- Our desires are starting to turn into demands
- Our desires make us oblivious to the needs of others
- Our desires are killing our appetite to grow in Christ
- We lose what we desire and it causes us to stop trusting God

- We lose what we desire and we stop loving other people

I strongly recommend you take the opportunity to read this article and find helpful insight and encouragement to continue to fully surrender your life to Jesus Christ because of who He is and what He’s done for you!

Grace & Peace, - Matt

From Donna Ridge.....

This summer God was speaking to me about prayer. Not just about praying to receive something in prayer, but also to listen to that still small voice that we sometimes miss in our hectic lives and busy schedules.

As I was studying prayer, it became clear to me that yes there are different types of prayer, however all prayer is heartfelt and God hears it all. We strive to improve our prayer life. We strive to have our prayers answered. Stop striving is what I heard and just enjoy His presence. I began to realize that above all we need His presence in our lives.

There was a song that was sung while I was going to Rhema Bible Training Center that I would sing every morning,

Lord i want to know You
In my heart there is a fire
Every morning when i wake up
It’s You that i desire
Just to feel Your heartbeat
Is what i long for, oh, Lord
i want to know You more

I can't remember the songwriter. When I found the words on the internet I was going to correct the capitalization, but thought maybe that it how it is written, small i big God. As Pastor John said in his first message on the Ten Commandments we need to get off the throne and allow God to rule and reign in our lives. As we struggle to live our lives let us draw closer to Him. In His presence is joy. For myself, as a counselor, it is of the utmost importance to hear the heartbeat of God in all situations, not depending so much on my thoughts or training, which are a part of it of course. Believe me this counselor knows how much I need to lean on Him in my personal and well as professional life. Let us all hear His heartbeat as we rest in Him and support each other.

May you feel His presence stronger and stronger each day.

32nd Annual VARIETY SHOW!!!!

TV Shows, Themes, and More!!



St. Paul's Music Ministry will present their 32nd Annual Variety Show on Saturday, October 29, at 7:00PM. It is hard to believe that the talented children, youth, and adults have been bringing this fun filled show to our congregation and the community for 32 years!! We are really looking forward to our show! Our theme this year will be themes and songs from the many great and funny *TV shows* we all know and love—plus other great music from contemporary pop and jazz to classical, movies, and Broadway. There is sure to be great music to interest everyone!

All of our choirs (children, youth, adults, Bells, and Praise Team) will be participating as well as many solos, duets, groups, and instrumentals.

For 32 years we have been presenting this great time of music and fellowship to St. Paul's and the community. Please invite family and friends to join us for another fun evening with St. Paul's Talented musicians!

Baptism Congratulations

Congratulations to the family of who was baptized at St. Paul's UMC Sunday, September 4, 2011:

Congratulations New Member

Congratulations to who joined the church as a member.

MUSIC MINISTRY "Employment Opportunities"

POSITIONS OPEN: Chancel Choir—Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (No others need apply)

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the Sanctuary

Must be able to focus on the director 15 feet away

Must remain alert and hungrily interested in the sermon

AGE LIMIT: Must be under 100

EXPERIENCE: No applications accepted from anyone not having sung in the tub, shower, or whistled in the dark

WAGES: Joy in service—"Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing"

FRINGE BENEFITS: Social Security—fellowship with other fine choir members and our wonderful congregation

Uniforms furnished

Best seat in the "house"

HOURS: Thursdays- 8:00 PM

Sundays—Alternate 9:00 and 10:45 services

Other special times by request

RETIREMENT: After your voice reaches the point that you can sing two notes at the same time, you may retire to the congregation. 😊

Opportunities also available for all of our choirs!

Won't you join us as we gather again to "Sing for Joy

Chancel Choir—(10th grade – Adult) Thursdays at 8:00PM

Cherubs- 4 years-1st grade –Wednesdays 4:30-5:30

Carol Choir- (2nd grade- 5th grade) Thursdays 7:00-7:45

Celebration Choir—(6th grade- 12th grade) Thursdays 7:00-7:45

Food Pantry Needs

Help! We have had more people coming in due to the hurricane and we are desperately low on a lot of items for the food pantry. Listed below are the items needed most but just about any food which does not need to be refrigerated would help.



**Powered Milk ,
Hash, Stew, Baked Beans
Macaroni and Cheese packages
Canned Vegetables,
Rice, Pasta
Pancake Mix and Syrup**

Please leave all donations in the round tub by the mailboxes outside the Narthex. Thank you for all you do.

Every Family Can Get a Free Portrait!



You do not need to be a member to take advantage of this offer! We will be taking pictures for a new pictorial directory this coming fall and winter. Every family (members and non-members alike) that has a picture taken will receive a \$25 credit towards the purchase of pictures. This is enough for a free 8x10 family portrait or a 5x7. Or you can use this credit towards the purchase of other portrait packages that will be available. Olin Mills has been doing the directories at St. Paul's UMC for many years and always does a fabulous job on your pictures. The photographer recommends that you do not wear blue shirts as this will blend in with the background.

ON-LINE SIGNUP IS NOW OPEN!!!

You can now signup on-line through October 9th for your appointment. Go to the stpaulsbrick.org website and click on the link for directory pictures. This will bring you directly to the page for making appointments. When you sign up on line you will automatically be sent an email reminder of your appointment.

The dates the pictures will be taken are (Wednesday through Saturday) **November 9, 10, 11 and 12 and January 4, 5, 6 and 7.** Pictures taken in November will be available for Christmas.

In person signup will begin outside of Norcross Hall Sunday, October 16th or you can call Jan Primrose at 732/840-2186 during the week. For more information contact the church office.

We hope to get 100% participation! So check your calendars and signup today.

Get in the Picture!

On Sunday, October 16th, between services we want to take a picture of as many members of the congregation as possible. We will be congregating on the lawn outside of the Sanctuary at about 10:20am that day. (Rain Date October 23rd) We plan to use the picture as the cover of the next directory that will be available in the Spring.

Mission to Uganda!



St. Paul's mission committee is planning a Work/Ministry trip to Uganda August 2013 for two weeks. The trip is being run under the auspices of World Gospel Mission (WGM.org) and will visit the Coppedges. For more information on the

Coppedges you can check out their blog www.coppedgeafrica.blogspot.com

Approximate total cost of the trip is \$3000. We will be having fundraisers to help offset the cost.

If you are thinking of going on the trip start saving now. **You must have a current passport at least 6 months before the trip.**

We encourage you to pray and see if God is leading you to travel with us in ministry to Uganda. For more information you may contact the church office at 732/458-2080.

Marriage Moments - Privacy

A successful marriage needs a healthy measure of privacy. Problems need to be discussed between spouses to achieve resolution, not shared with co-workers or even best friends. A couple's sex life should of course be completely private. It's probably not a coincidence that almost every couple that stars on a reality TV show winds up split, usually nastily so: Jessica and Nick, John and Kate, all the so-called unions resulting from the endless iterations of bachelor and bachelorette, and VH1's various "Fill-in-the-blank of Love" shows... Maybe this is also one of the reasons why Hollywood marriages rarely work - too much time spent in the public eye.

It is naïvé however to think that marriage is a completely private affair. People are watching when you leave your house. If you publicly call yourself "Christian" then they are watching more intently. Critics of the church love to point to religious folks who stumble and say "See? They're no better than the rest of us," in essence declaring "God makes no difference." In a society that is saying that marriage is an outdated institution, quaint at best and pointless at worst, it is our job as Christians to be an advertisement for God's ideas of what it is supposed to be.

Jesus' first miracle was performed at a wedding. There are constant metaphorical references to Christ as the bridegroom with the church as his bride. Wedding imagery is used extensively in Revelations to describe the reconciling of God to his creation. Marriage is meant to be a glimpse of God's plan for the salvation of us all. Done right, it can be a ray of hope in a fallen world that God loves us, and wants us to be in relationship with him forever. I make this point not to put pressure on those of us who struggle - none of us is perfect, and we all have our problems. I make this point to remind us that we are part of something much bigger than us, and our marriages are not just for our benefit. They can be an inspiration to others, whom we may not even realize are watching.

Listen to comedians, watch a sit com... the media says that marriage is a chore, a dead end, spiritually numbing and usually doomed to failure. Does your marriage reinforce that worldview - or refute it? The

Bible is the template of what God wants for all marriages. Deuteronomy 24:5 says that men should "be at home to bring happiness to the wife he married." Guys, are you doing that? Proverbs 14:1 says "The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down." Ladies, are your efforts constructive or destructive?

A friend of mine said this: "Your walk must be so loud that people can't hear what you are saying." Louder than words, your actions are what other people notice - so what message is your marriage sending? The Bishop of London gave a homily on marriage recently. In it he said "The more we give of self, the richer we become in soul; the more we go beyond ourselves in love, the more we become our true selves... In marriage we are seeking to bring one another into fuller life." To truly become one flesh (Matthew 19:6) each spouse must die to themselves and put the other first in their hearts in order for the union to flourish and be what God desires. The joy this type of marriage exudes is noticeable, inspirational and hopefully contagious. Is your marriage sending God's message to those around you? If not, then what do you need to change, to do differently? As Christians, how we live our lives can - and should - be our loudest testimony to the value of having God at the center of all we do.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Can you Knit or Crochet?

Would you like to pray for and comfort someone in need?

You could help in the following ways:

1. Tell us who we can help
2. Knit or crochet a shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group of Women of St Paul's who share their love of knitting or crocheting and their love of God by making shawls for others. These soft, warm shawls are prayed over during their creation and again by this group before presentation. Prayer shawls can be made for those who are ill, those who mourn, those who are distressed, those who move away. These can also be made into a shawl for a blessing or for a celebration

Call Sharon

United Methodist Women **Rummage/
White Elephant/Bake Sale**

Saturday, October 15th
10 am-2 PM

Clothing \$5/Bag
Lunch Available

Sales

Donations of CLOTHING, LINENS, WHITE
ELEHANT ITEMS, BAKED GOODS, JEWELRY
can be brought in on Friday, October 14th only from
9 AM- 8 PM

Kitchen donations should also be brought in on
FRIDAY

Tuesday, October 18th
Covered Dish Dinner 6:00 PM
Auction 7 PM
New & Nearly New Items

Come shop early for Christmas & bring a friend.
Donations are welcome and should be brought in
that evening

United Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast
Saturday November 5, 2011
8:00—11:00 A.M.

In support of the Society of St. Andrew
and St. Paul's local food pantry

During a meeting of the National UMM
Conference Presidents, Wade Mays an
executive of the Society of St. Andrew said that
there are 49 million people who the Dept. of
Agriculture calls food insecure. These are
those who have to choose between paying for
heating oil and buying food. The society wants
to end farm food waste to go to hungry
neighbors. For every \$100 raised will provide
enough fresh produce for a family of four for
one year. For more information please visit
endhunger.org

All you can eat Pancake Breakfast
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ, 08724
\$5.00 Per Person (Under 12 \$2.50)

Baked Potato Luncheon

(Proceeds to benefit Unified Fund
& Food Pantry)

Sunday October 30, 2011


10:15am to 1:30pm

Eat-in or Take-out (check one)

_____ After 1st Service _____ After 2nd Service

Plain Baked Potato - \$3.50

Toppings

Butter	50¢	
Sour Cream	50¢	
Bacon	50¢	
Cheddar Cheese	50¢	
Chili (as topping)	\$1	
Broccoli and Cheese	\$1	
BOWL of Chili	\$3.50	

Total Due _____

Please fill out one form for each potato
ordered and include payment. Circle all
toppings you wish to have on your potato.
Orders due by October 23rd. Orders may be
placed in the Narthex, outside Norcross Hall
or turned into the office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Extra forms available in the Narthex, Office or
on table outside of Norcross Hall. If you have
any questions, want to help or contribute, please
see Joan or any member of Miriam Circle.

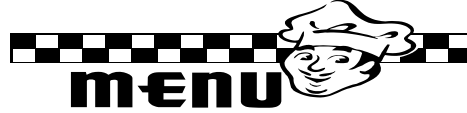
Annual Church Conference
Sunday, November 20th
at 2:30pm
All Are Invited to Attend

October Dinner Oktoberfest Night

When: October 22, 2011

Where: Norcross Hall

Time: 6:00 pm



Assorted Wurst

Sauerkraut

Roast Pork

Red Potatoes

Salad

Bread and Butter

Dessert

For the Children

Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese



Ways to Help Yourself and Others

Rich Dworzak – Financial Planner

In our July / August Circuit Rider, the Finance Committee described one way to help yourself financially (charitable gift annuities), and also benefit the Church as well. (The July / August Circuit Rider can be accessed by clicking on the circuit rider link within the welcome section of our Church's website stpaulsbrick.org.)

We would like to continue this month with offering an additional idea for you to contemplate. As previously mentioned, these ideas are meant to offer mechanisms by which one can achieve certain financial advantages, possible tax advantages, and help our Church at the same time.

Distributions from IRAs - In 2011, if you are required to take a minimum distribution from an IRA, which would otherwise result in you having to report the distribution as taxable income in the year in which received, you can instead make a contribution to the Church **directly**. (You would contact your IRA fiduciary about how to facilitate this). Thus, you are permitted to exclude the distribution from your federal taxable income. You must be over 70 ½ and it should be from a traditional IRA (can be from a Roth IRA, but there is no tax advantage). The distribution **cannot** be from an employer sponsored plan such as a SIMPLE IRA, a 401(k) or 403(b) plan or a simplified employment pension ("SEP") plan.

Why not just take the distribution, report the income on your return, and then take a charitable contribution deduction? Because making the distribution directly from the IRA to the charity allows you to avoid having to recognize the distribution in the first place and therefore reduces your adjusted gross income from which a host of other considerations arise.

Depending on state laws, you may avoid state income tax on the distributions as well. Note that you will NOT receive an income tax deduction for your IRA distribution; the amount is simply eliminated from your income tax calculations – the better alternative!

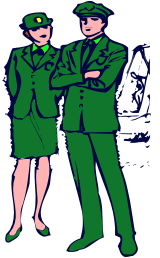
If you have questions, or would like to discuss this in further detail, please feel free to contact Pete Buckley (Finance Chairman), Rich Dworzak, or the Church office. Rest assured that any inquiries will be treated with tact and confidentiality. As with anything of a financial nature, consult your tax advisor as well.

Sending Cards to Our Service Men and Women

The UMW would like service men and women to have cards (Christmas, birthday, etc.) sent to them from the congregation. If you know someone in the service you would like cards sent to, please fill out the form below (You can place it in the offering plate or return to the office) or contact Janet.

Name

Address



We'll Miss You Kate!

Sadly we will be losing a member of our congregation. Kate "Granny" will be moving to Oklahoma next week to be closer to her daughter and family. We will miss her but wish her the best. She can be contacted on her cell phone

Senior Joy

Senior Joy will be starting up again in October. We will meet on Thursday, October 13th at 12:30 PM in Norcross Hall. Bring your lunch, beverage and dessert will be provided. If you have any questions or would like to help please call Becky or the office.

Thank you from the Family

We would like to thank all who expressed their condolences recently on the passing of Rich's Dad, Don, in early August. Peoples' outpouring of kindness and consideration helped to make a difficult situation bearable. Thank you all so much for your love and support.



Rich, Dianne and Mike



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

October 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Sunday School rooms 2,4,5,9,10 youth 9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library 9:00 Trad. Worship Service 9:00 & 10:45 Childcare- Rm 1 10:10 Fellowship – Norcross 10:45 Contmp. Worship Service 10:45 Adult Bible Study – Youth 5:30pm Youth Group (Jr. & Sr. High) 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	4:00pm Girl Scout trp 1471 – Nursery+ 6:00 Cub 33 – Tigers – Rm. 10 6:00 Cub 33 – Wolves– Norcross/Rm. 7 6:30 Cub 33 – Bears – Rm. 6 6:30pm trp 1493 Girl Scouts – rm. 8+ 6:30pm Roots - Youth Disciple Group 7:00pm Monday Night Bible Study – Nursery Before/After Care 7:30- 9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 – Norcross (except 3 rd Tues) 7:30 Safe Place – Rm. 6 Before/After Care 7:30- 9:00am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	6:00am Men's Breakfast 9:30 The Quilters – Youth Room 10:00 Ladies Share Grp- Penrods 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Cherub Choir 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 Volleyball 7:30 Praise Team Practice (every other) Before/After Care 7:30- 9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	5:30pm Zumba – Norc. 6:00 Daisy trp 352 6:30 Alcoholics Anon. – Room 6 7:00 Carol Choir 7:00 Celebration Choir 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 Chancel Choir Before/After Care 7:30- 9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	9:00am Bulletin Team – Lib 4:30pm Daisy Troop #102- Nursery 7:00 Praise Team Practice (every other) Before/After Care 7:30- 9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	7:00 Men's Disciple – Youth Room Every 3 rd Saturday – Men's Breakfast - Library
						1
2	3 7:00 Council on Ministries 7:00 Trustees	4 7:00pm UMW Exec Bd Mtg	5 6:00pm trp 314 Girl Scout Troop – Rm. 8**	6	7.	8
9	10 Colombus Day SPCS Closed Office Closed 7:00pm Finance	11 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	12 7:30pm Lydia Circle	13	14 9am Rummage Sale Setup	15 10:00am Rummage Sale and White Elephant
16	17	18  AUCTION ALERT! 6:00pm UMW Auction 6:30 Troop 33 leader mtg 6:30 Girl Scout Trp 339	19	20	21	22 6pm Fellowship Dinner
23	24 7:30pm SPR	25	26	27	28 6:00 Pack 33 Pack Mtg.	29 9am Potato Bake setup
30 10am Baked Potato Lunch 	31					