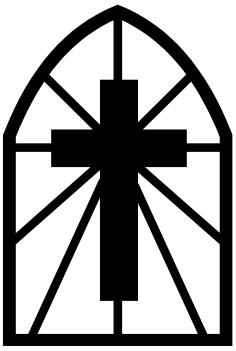
Circuit Rider

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

September 2013



Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul begins the fourth chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, "I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." These words provide great guidelines for any church family, especially one going through significant changes and transitions. Throughout the first month and a half of my ministry here with you all at St. Paul's, I have been continually blessed and encouraged by all the expressions of welcome and support. So many have gone out of their way to help the Darby family feel a part of the St. Paul's family and I appreciate the love and grace tremendously. With opportunities for introductions the first Sunday and all the "Meet the Pastor" groups, we are already starting to feel like we belong here. Thank you so much!

As we have had the opportunity to observe St. Paul's "in action", I have been greatly impressed with the level of commitment and service sacrificially given by so many. Vacation Bible School was a huge example of the hard work and faithfulness of all the leaders and helpers all the way through the week. There are a lot of spiritually gifted and talented folks working well together here in ministry for the sake of Christ's Kingdom. I know that this is a blessing to Him as it is to me, your pastor. I am confident that the strong and sure foundation laid out by Pastor J.D. and St. Paul's leadership will serve us well as we continue to build and grow in fruitful future ministry. As we are faithful, we can surely trust the Lord to provide the grace to enable us to be humble, gentle, patient and forbearing in love to bring Him honor – together.

In His Regard, Pastor Al

Youth News

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28
At various moments in your life, some verses jump off the page and come to life for you more than others. This verse was the theme verse for the JUNE project this year. A group of 12 students and 4 leaders travelled to Hamburg, PA for a week of ministry and fun alongside other youth groups from New Jersey. One would think that a missions trip was anything but restful, but I was personally encouraged and refreshed by the students and leaders on this trip.

As I prepared for what our group devotions would be for the week (we opened each day with devotions) I felt God leading me to the idea of getting away to connect. I believe that one of the reasons we can get so reenergized in our faith when we go on missions trips is that we are getting out of the norm and we are able to put things in perspective. Sometimes it's easy to be in our own world and do the things we want to do at our own speed and for our own comfort. Sometimes we get so focused on serving ourselves that we don't see how that can actually drain us and keep us from experiencing all of God's blessings. Yet in the verse Jesus calls His followers to come to Him. To get away from the normal hum drum of life and see the fullness of what God has to offer. And though it may not always give us the physical comfort and rest that we are looking for, the spiritual rest of connecting with God is one that sees us through tough seasons.

As the summer comes to a close we will be given various opportunities to rest. And physical rest is a great and God-commanded blessing. Yet as we seek to enjoy the last few months of warm weather, let us not neglect the wonderful benefits of connecting with the God who reigns and gives us rest in every season. As our students enter into another school year my prayer is that they would continue to allow God to give them rest and use them to bring His rest to others.

Hector Meza, Youth Director

Ministry Moment
Communications
Chairpersons Terry & Nancy Penrod

Communication's outreach provide information to as many people as we can about the ministries and opportunities at St. Paul's that bring Jesus closer in the lives of our members, friends, and community.

E-MAIL MINISTRY
We provide the e-mail ministry in which church events and prayer requests are sent to the members on our e-mail list. . You can use – (call office to get email address) to send your requests to us. A committee to telephone the requests to people who don't have e-mail is also available.

ADVERTISING
We advertise for special events and during Easter and Christmas.

WEB PAGE
Paul Cavanaugh is Web Master. We post the weekly bulletin, Circuit Rider and church ministries. Recordings of the Sunday sermons are available on the web – www.stpaulsbrick.org.

CIRCUIT RIDER
The Circuit Rider, our church newsletter, is sent out 11 times yearly. Articles should be sent to Nancy by the 10th of the month.

VISITORS TABLE
New Bibles, welcome packets, brochures, notices and announcements are available on the Visitor's Table outside Norcross Hall and in the narthex.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
St. Paul's is a member of the Brick Chamber of Commerce. Our advertisement is in their magazine that is distributed to many new residents and businesses in the Brick Town and surrounding communities.

FACEBOOK - Church events are found on Facebook.

We continue to look for other opportunities to reach within our church and community with St. Paul's events and ministries. If you are interested in helping in any of these activities, call Terry or Nancy 732-458-7641.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE ABOUT YOUR MINISTRY FOR PUBLICATION IN THE CIRCUIT RIDER, PLEASE E-MAIL TO Nancy

St. Paul's Music Ministry

St. Paul's new music season will soon begin and we are hoping that many of you will consider joining one of our choirs and /or instrumental groups. There are always places in our choirs and we encourage participation for your own enjoyment and fellowship as well as to sing or play for the glory of God. Many exciting things are planned this year for all groups. If you have been in choirs before or can carry a tune you should make this a singing or playing season for our Lord. **If you have any questions about any of our musical groups please call the Director of Music, Barbara Estelle, at 732-270-4698 or the church office at 732-458-2080 Ext. #14.** The following are the groups offered by ***St. Paul's Music Ministry:***

CHERUBS

4yrs. to 1st grade Rehearse Wed. 4:30-5:30

This cute group directed by Janet sings once a month on the first Sunday of the month as well as all special Sundays. They also go to Nursing Homes to sing. This is a wonderful opportunity for your little ones to learn the joy of singing and to be part of our worship service. We really need these youngsters to sing with us so that they will continue to be part of our music ministry for many years to come. **Rehearsals begin September 11.**

CAROL CHOIR

2nd grade through 5th gr. – Rehearsals- Thurs. 7:00 to 7:45.

This choir, led by Judy, sings twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month as well as all special Sundays. They also minister at Nursing Homes. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate in this great choir—we need singers and this is a great way for your child to enjoy singing for the Lord. **Rehearsals begin Sept. 12**.

CELEBRATION CHOIR

6th grade to 12th grade- Rehearsals- Thurs. 7:00 - 7:45PM

Our youth choir, directed by Barbara Estelle, sings the 3rd and 4th Sundays as well as all special Sundays. We have a great time singing, dancing, and even acting. We hope you'll join us! We are looking for more youth to be part of our Celebration Choir. Please invite your friends to come out for a great time of Christian fellowship and song.

Rehearsals begin September 12.

CHANCEL CHOIR

10th grade to Adult--Rehearsals- Thursdays at 8:00PM

Our adult choir sings every Sunday and alternates early and late services except on special Sundays when we sing at both services. We also minister on holidays and during special church events. Our **Christmas and Easter cantatas** are attended by many people in the community and are well known throughout the area. Our annual **Variety Show** is a fun-filled fellowship time for the whole church. God has blessed St. Paul's with many talented and dedicated musicians and we encourage ***you*** to be part of this great choir—new and former singers are always welcome. We need YOU! **Rehearsals begin September 5.**

HANDBELL CHOIR

9th grade through adult- Rehearsals- Wednesdays at 6:00-7:15. Our talented Handbell Choir plays at different times throughout the year. You have to be able to read music. Please join us for some great bell ringing! Please call Barbara Estelle if you are considering joining.

Rehearsals begin September 11.

CONCERT BAND

9th grade to Adult --Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30 PM. This unique instrumental group plays as part of the Christmas program prior to the choir cantata. It is made up of all instruments: Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion and includes members from St. Paul's as well as high school, colleges, and the community at large. We numbered 56 members last year and play standard concert band repertoire. Please call Barbara or the church office for more information.

Rehearsals begin November 6.

PRAISE TEAM

11th Grade to Adult--Our Praise Team leads songs in worship at the second service every Sunday. The teams are made up of guitars, bass, keyboard, drums, and vocalists. Please contact Barbara for more information. We are in need of people to work the sound board/system. Please call if you think you might be able to help. We play year round.

****Please note that you can join our choral groups any time throughout the year.**

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United Methodist Women

September
3 Executive Board 7 PM
17 Membership Dinner & Gathering

"Collective Joy"

Music is food for the soul.

It is our privilege to feed the hungry. God's message is one of love, compassion, acceptance, and sacrifice, we use music to comfort, nourish, educate, and promote joy.

We strive to improve the human condition using music as a mechanism to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Fall Rummage Sale October 12th 10 AM- 2PM

AUGUST COMMUNION OFFERING

JOY PHILLIPS

"I am involved in Mango Ministries, a new World Gospel Mission (WGM) initiative in Sudan. Sudan is the largest country in Africa. North Sudan is mainly Islamic with people of Arabic origin while South Sudan is mainly Christian with people of African descent. I am working in South Sudan.

The goal of this ministry is to see a vibrant church established to assist in the transformation of its community, bringing the kingdom of heaven to Sudan. Relying on the strengths of WGM Africa, we will focus on assisting mission hospitals, church leadership training, and community health and development work. Our approach will be community-based, dynamic, participatory, and holistic as we establish multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural teams to come alongside the Sudanese."

Please support Joy through your financial giving and prayers. "God is using you through me to build up His Kingdom here in this part of Africa."

Knitting and Crocheting Group

The knitting and crocheting group meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month, after 2nd service (12 noon), in the Library at the church. The focus of the group is to make items that would benefit various missions of the church like the Holiday Shop, Lexington House, Prayer Shawl Ministry, or the Christmas Store which is a partnership between St. Paul's and St. Thomas . The group consists of individuals who have varying degrees of experience with knitting or crocheting. We have individuals who are more than happy to teach you how to knit or crochet, even if you feel you have two left thumbs. There is no need to purchase any materials, yarn and needles or hooks are available. If you are interested, or have any questions, or would like to make a donation, please feel free to contact Laura

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know someone in need of a prayer shawl or prayer lap blanket?
Please contact Cheryl

Also if you would like to make or know someone who makes shawls or blankets, please contact Cheryl also.

Thank you Cheryl

Baptism Congratulations

Saint Paul's
People & Paws Pet Ministry

Our Mission:

Our Mission is to ensure we're being good stewards of all God's creation by advocating a greater awareness of what it means to be in love and charity with our neighbors and with the living creatures of our world.

In particular, some of that stewardship will be more narrowly defined through this Pet Ministry which calls us to care especially for people and their pets, as well as the relationship that exists between them. Also the relationship that exists with God the Creator.

The People & Paws Pet Ministry Proudly Announces their 2nd Annual "Blessing of the Animals"

When: **Saturday September 14th** with registration and sign-in from 1030am to 1130am - ANIMAL TIME!

Where: Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 714 Herbertsville Road, Brick NJ
On the Baseball Field. In the event of bad weather we will move the Ceremony into Norcross Hall.

Pre-registration is recommended. Forms are available on our website at: **www.stpaulsbrick.org/petministry** or through the church office. Please drop off the completed forms to the church office or they can be emailed to **petministry@stpaulsbrick.org**. Please have the forms back by September 6th to ensure your Blessing Certificate will be ready the day of the event.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help at the Ceremony please contact: Bob & Noelle Administrative Directors .

Thank you and God Bless

Help Raise the Roof!

"What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight. What is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs." Matthew 10:26-28.

You have the opportunity to buy a roof tile to help put a new roof over our sanctuary at St. Paul's. We will be selling these "tiles" for $5.00 each in the office. You can call the office at 732/458-2080 or drop in during office hours. Please add your name to the bottom of the tile, add decorations if you wish, and we will hang them all on our support wall so everyone can see who has helped. Get one for each member of your family; buy them in honor of, or in memory of loved ones; ask friends and neighbors if they would like to donate for a tile! With your help we hope to raise $5,000 for the roof (that's 1000 tiles). So please be generous, spread the word, and help raise the roof!

COUPON MINISTRY

At St. Paul's we have a coupon ministry where anyone can take coupons that are good at local grocery stores, restaurants and other businesses. They are free for the taking. We only ask that you let us know how many you have taken so we can see if this ministry is being used. There is a shoe bag with the coupons hanging on the wall near the double doors. We also collect expired coupons and send them on to our service men and women who can use them after the expiration date.
If anyone would like to help out with this ministry please call Lorraine, and she would be happy to hear from you. All that is required is to cut out coupons, usually in the weekend papers, and bring them in and put them in the basket in the Narthex or the one near Fellowship Hall. If you have additional time to help there is always a need to sort and keep the shoe bag up to date.

Senior Joy

Senior Joy will meet on **Thursday, September 19th** at 12:30 PM in Norcross Hall. Bring your lunch, beverage and dessert will be provided. Ruth and Ralph Baker will be sharing about their trip to New Zealand and Australia. If you have any questions or would like to help please call Becky or the office.

United Methodist Men Purpose Statement

Grow - help each man grow in his knowledge of Christ, assist him in leading a life that is an example to others.

Serve - as men we will serve the Lord in our homes, in His church, and then into the world with the gifts the Lord has bestowed on each of us.

Praise - encourage each man to participate in praise and worship. As men we will be an example through our regular attendance and worship, beginning in our home and church.

Share - help each man to share his testimony and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

My brothers, as Saint Paul's begins a new year and the fall brings with it a new Pastor, Youth Director, Programs, Projects, and Studies; it seems appropriate to remind ourselves as men of the United Methodist Church of our purpose and take stock of how we are living out these guiding principles. As doers of the Word we find ourselves involved in every ministry of Saint Paul's.

To help enable our purpose we must:

* Support the Pastor, Youth Director, and Lay Leadership in all Saint Paul's ministries.

* Be prayer warriors and communicate needs among the men and others of the church.

* Encourage knowledge of and support of the United Methodist Church's mission of changing lives throughout the world.

* Engage in evangelism by sharing the fullness of the gospel as it applies to our daily lives.

* To be the men to stand in the gap by our living witness and to draw others to Christ by our examples.

* Commit to become better disciples through prayer, study and service to others.
* Become visible participants as United Methodist Men in the programs of the local church, district, conference and jurisdiction.

If we **grow** in our faith and the Word by daily quiet time, prayer, and study or weekly studies, we make strong our foundation for being a living witness to others.

While we **serve** in whatever capacity the Holy Spirit has directed us, we will find ourselves more sensitive to the opportunity for fellowship and **praise** while faithfully working at building each other up in discipleship in these various ministries.

Where we can do the most good is to take our experiences and blessings Jesus Christ has given us, and **share** them with those out in the mission field at our jobs, at the PTA meetings, on the soccer fields and wherever we are seen as we are the only Jesus many people see and meet.

By taking stock now of how we are following our purpose as United Methodist Men, we can be better ambassadors for Christ and bring other men closer to a saving knowledge of our Lord.

So let us: **Grow, Serve, Praise, and Share** using all our gifts in the unity of the Holy Spirit. To whom much is given, much is also expected and ---

Lets Go and Do Great Things Together!

You can help support St. Paul's UMC by signing up for Community Rewards. Register your **Pathmark Advantage Club Card** Online at ***www.escrip.com/Pathmark*** (look us up under our zip code 08724) or call 1.800.931.6258. St. Paul's UMC will earn up to 3% of your purchases amount at Pathmark every time you shop. Cost to you is nothing. It's Free … It's Easy… Sign Up Today!

MARRIAGE MOMENT

Learn. Act. Share.

So, when I was struggling with marriage stuff, I read a lot; books on relationships, books on marriage, books on how to deal with stuff. At some point, my counselor said that I knew a lot, in fact, I knew all I needed to find my answers, come to terms with - and get on with - my life. She told me I had probably read more relationship books than some counselors, and I really needed to do something with that knowledge. I knew she was was right, and yet I kept looking for books I hadn't read, angles I hadn't looked at my situation from. I kept searching instead of doing anything. I had grown comfortable in my discomfort. I was not happy but at least my life was a known quantity. To DO something would mean things might change; hopefully for the better, but as in most things there were no guarantees. That was scary. What if things got worse? (Yes, this showed a clear lack of faith on my part, but that's another article) I eventually started talking to my wife about what was bothering me, and we worked through it. That's not what this article is about though.

My point here is twofold. It is not to avoid learning, to stop seeking after knowledge. Research is important, but then we must act. The wisdom we gain, the lessons we learn on our journey must be put to good use. To remain miserable even after we have acquired the tools to fix our situation would be folly. Change is rarely easy, and often there is work to do (some serious) to enact positive change, to get us back on the path God has set before us; but it is up to us to do that work, to take those steps. As it says in James 2:20 about faith:

...wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

so too it is with knowledge, wisdom and experience: without the work to implement it, it does us no good. So, if you and your spouse do a devotional together, great. If you do a couples' study together, awesome! Read a book as a couple, like Gary Chapman's "Love Languages" or Kevin Lehman's "Sheet Music"? Excellent! But... make sure you work together to DO the things you learn, to change your marriage for the better, to grow as a couple in love.

So we do, we heal, we change, we grow... then what?

I think we get very attached to the notion that our trials and tribulations, our pain and suffering - and even our successes and victories - are for and about us. This is not at all the case. There's a saying in Latin: "Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc sciat alter." It means "Your knowledge is nothing when no one knows you know it."

It of course starts with us, but that is not where it should end. God blesses us so that we can bless others. In his Song of Solomon video series, Rev. Tommy Nelson beseeches couples that have weathered the storms of life to find younger couples and mentor them on how to keep love alive, how to stay Christ-centered in their relationship, and how to succeed despite all the forces that seek to erode and destroy a marriage.

Once I had stabilized myself, my counselor asked "Now what?" What else could I do with the knowledge and experience I had gathered? I started writing, and you are reading the result of that, some three years later! I thank God He is still giving me things to say.
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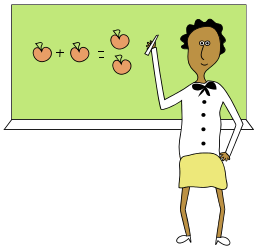
Fellowship / Coffee Hour Time

A special thanks for the small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies and individuals) that had served during fellowship time on Sunday mornings during the 2012-2013 church year.

Beginning in September at the start of Sunday school, people in the form of small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies, etc) will again begin to serve on Sunday mornings on a rotating basis. This is a great opportunity to introduce others to an opportunity to serve and the ministries you represent. As in the past the UMM will host the 3rd Sunday of each month. Beginning in August a schedule will available in the Narthex for small groups and ministry leaders to sign up for this informal time of fellowship we all have enjoyed over the years in the service of others.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday school will be beginning on Sunday, September 8th at 9:00am. Registration forms can be picked up in the Narthex and returned to the office by August 25th for enrollment. We are still currently in need of volunteers (teachers, teacher aides and nursery help) so that we may be able to start the program on time. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of our Sunday school family. If God has placed this on your heart and you are interested in helping, please speak with Kathy or Jamie after church services. You may also leave your phone number with the church office and we will return your call for more information. See you all in September!



SPCS Teacher Needed Immediately!

St. Paul's Christian School is in need of a Part/Time History teacher for our Middle School to begin September 3, 2013. All interested applicants should send a letter of interest, resume, 2 letters of reference along with a statement of faith to:

Mr. Barry Glickman, Principal
St. Paul's Christian School
Fax to 732/458-1139

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Events & Meetings - - - > **9:00 Sunday School** **9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library** **9:00 Trad. WorshipService** **9:00 & 10:45 Childcare- Rm 1** **10:10 Fellowship – Norcross Hall** **10:45 Contmp. Worship Service** **10:45 Adult Bible Study – Youth rm.** **6:00pm Junior High Youth Gr** **8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous**	**6:30pm Senior High Youth Group** **7:00pm Monday Night Bible Study – Nursery** **Before/After Care 7:00-9:00am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room**	**7:30 Safe Place – Staff Lounge** **Before/After Care 7:00-9:00am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room**	**6:00am Men's Breakfast** **9:30 The Quilters – Youth Room** **10:00 Ladies Share Grp-Lib.** **1:00pm Staff Meeting** **4:30pm Cherub Choir** **6:00 Handbell Choir** **6:00 Volleyball** **7:30 Praise Team Practice** **Before/After Care 7:00-9am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room**	**6:30PM Boy Scout Trp 3 – Norcross** **7:00 Carol Choir** **7:00 Celebration Choir** **7:00 Bible Study** **8:00 Chancel Choir** **Before/After Care 7:00-9am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room**	**9:00am Bulletin Team – Lib** **Before/After Care 7:00-9am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room**	**7:00AM Men's Disciple**
1 Communion Sunday	**2** 7:30PM Trustees	**3**	**4** **SPCS first day of school**	**5**	**6** 6:45pm Martha Circle Library and Nursery	**7**
8 12 noon Knitting/Crocheting Group - Library 6:00 Jr. High Moving Up Night	**9** 7:00pm Finance Mtg 6:30 Sr. High Moving Up Night	**10** 12noon Rebeccah Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle 7:30 Christmas Store Meeting at St. Thomas	**11** 6:15 Girl Scout Troop352 7:00PM Lydia Circle	**12**	**13**	**14**
15	**16** 7:30pm Administrative Board	**17** 6:00 pm UMW Dinner & Collective Joy Singers	**18**	**19** 12:30PM Senior Joy	**20**	**21** 8:00AM UMM
22	**23** 7:00 PM SPR Meeting	**24**	**25** 6:15 Girl Scout Troop352	**26**	**27**	**28**
29	**30**					