



Circuit Rider

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

May 2008

Pentecost / Mother's Day
Holy Communion
May 11th

Through April our Sunday School has been taking time to educate and communicate with our children and their parents the meaning and importance of Holy Communion.

When is a child ready to receive Holy Communion? Since each child's development varies, the age of readiness also varies from child to child. The determination of a child's readiness is primarily the responsibility of the parents; however, it is also the responsibility of the whole church, and its leaders, to assist and help the parents. Our desire together is to prepare children for a meaningful experience of Holy Communion.

On May 11th we as a church body will be receiving Holy Communion. The children will come to the sanctuary with their class to also take Holy Communion with their family, many for the first time. This will be a very special Sunday for these children and for us as a church. As a church we will receive Holy Communion in the pews, but we will also be asking children with their parents to come to the altar to receive Holy Communion.

Please keep our Sunday School teachers in your prayers as they teach our children. And continue to pray for our children. That God will protect them, watch over them and they would continue to grow in God's grace and mercy.

Pastor John DiGiamberardino

Welcome ***New Members***

St. Paul's UMC welcomes the following new members who joined the church in April.

Hey everyone!

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying life as we enter into this Spring season. As I write this month's article, I've been back from a two-week trip to the Philippines for a little over a week now. It's been four years since the last time I was there to visit my family, and this was Erin's first time being there and meeting many of our family members for the first time.

The weather was hot and humid, which is very uncomfortable for some, but it's just the way I like it. We spent a short time in the city of Manila and then we took the drive (about ten hours) to the province where my grandmother lives and where my mother grew up. We had a wonderful time with my grandmother, Mom, uncle, aunts, and cousins.

One thing that has stuck me in the more recent times that I've visited the Philippines is that there is such a need for the gospel to be proclaimed and lived out amongst the people there (just as it is in America!). While many of the people there are very familiar with Jesus as the Lord and Messiah, you wonder how many people really know Him and the free gift of salvation that He offers. The majority of people there go to some kind of church on a Sunday morning, but sometimes people's seeming familiarity with the Lord can be the very thing that gets in their way from coming to see and know Him for who He really is!

In our Junior High study in the gospel of John, we looked at a passage where some were not able to hear His word because of their seeming familiarity with who He is. After the Lord teaches them a bit concerning who He is and what He will do, the Bible says: "At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'" (John 6.41-42) They were so 'familiar' with Jesus that they missed the point.

I hope that nobody amongst our families, friends, and those who attend our church would ever be found to be in this kind of place. May we be the kind of believers that help to make the 'familiar' aspects of our faith to be things that are known with conviction and understood by those that we disciple and share the gospel with. May we be followers of Christ who bring His word so clearly into focus through our lives and our words that those who know us will have a clear vision of who

He is and be able to distinguish Him from man-made religion and the false portrait of Him that it can paint. May we live so blessed in the grace of God that it overflows in our lives to be a gracious blessing to others.

God bless,

Matt

Congratulations

Congratulations to James and Meredith who adopted a baby girl 4 weeks ago. The baby's name is Sonja Chelsea and she weighed just a little over 5 pounds at birth! James and Meredith are thrilled over their new addition. Congratulations may be sent to:

James and Meredith
c/o First United Methodist Church of Blairstown



Save the date!

Strawberry Festival

June 7, 2008

*All profits to offset
Uganda Mission Trip expenses*



*Anyone interested in helping with the Strawberry
Festival please call Claire*

Counseling Expectations

By Donna

I have been thinking about expectations. Many counselees come into the office because either their

Communion Offerings 2008

expectations have not been met or things did not turn out as they expected. Sometimes they feel let down by others, God or even themselves. Some circumstances they may have control of, but mostly they do not have control.

When I think about expectations, I think about Joseph in the Old Testament. He was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and ended up in prison. Even in prison God blessed him. He had favor with the warden. He put Joseph over everyone and everything in the prison. Genesis 39: 23 tells us that the warden paid no attention to anything Joseph did because Joseph had favor with God.

In Genesis 40 we read the story of the cupbearer and the baker. Both had dreams. Joseph interpreted those dreams. He told the cupbearer that he would be restored to the palace and be serving Pharaoh again. He asked him to please ask the Pharaoh to remember him in jail. I'm sure that after interpreting the cupbearer's dream the baker expected a positive answer as well. Unfortunately, his was the opposite. Joseph saw that the baker would die. He may have been guilty of the crime.

When the cupbearer returned to the palace he forgot about Joseph. Joseph continued to believe God. The cupbearer did not remember Joseph for two years. The Pharaoh had a dream and the cupbearer remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream. Suddenly, Joseph went from the prison to the palace in one day. God gave him favor with Pharaoh and he became the second in command.

Perhaps, Joseph did get discouraged when he heard nothing for two years. Perhaps, he just decided to serve God where he was. The Bible doesn't tell what was going on with Joseph during those two years. We do know that God did not forsake him. At the right time, God caused the cupbearer to remember Joseph. That is what we have to remember. Our timing or expectations may not be God's. When our expectations are not met, because we are human we will be disappointed and upset. I have had many disappointments in my life as I'm sure you have. Some of them, in retrospect, I think God didn't come to pass, others I don't understand. I, as we all do, have to trust God. As Jeremiah 11: 29 says *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord.*

January	Terhunes/Japan
February	Campus Crusades
March	Springers
April	Blairs, Mexico
May	Andy & Lizet /Paraguay
June	UMCOR World Relief
July	John and Erika /Uganda
August	Haitian Church/Asbury Park
September	Blairs, Mexico
October	Springers/Kentucky
November	Joy Phillips
December	Kid's Alley/Camden

United Methodist Women

Dates to Remember

May 6 - Executive Board 6:30 PM

May 24 - Rummage Sale 10-3 PM

(There will be no General Meeting in May, please join us on June 17th for our dinner and meeting)



**Rummage/ White Elephant/Bake
Sale
& Lunch**

Saturday May 24, 2008

10 am-3 PM

Clothing \$4/bag

Lunch Available

**Donations can be left at church on Friday, May
23 rd only - 9 AM-8PM**

Who Does It Belong To?

Acts 4:36-37

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Too often when we think about giving, we start with the idea that something must happen for us first before we can consider helping out someone else: after we get the promotion and raise, after we buy a larger home, remodel the kitchen, get a new sofa, replace the old car, etc. There always seems to be a never ending list of things to do or acquire before the giving begins. This is the exact opposite idea of instruction from the Bible and how things are to work in God's family.

I am sure you are aware that the tithe required by the Old Testament would be the equivalent of 10% of your income (see Leviticus 27, Numbers 18, Deuteronomy 12 and 14). I am also sure that for some of us tithing like that would seem to border on the impossible. It represents too much of a financial burden. Take a moment and figure out how much 10% of your income is -- then make a list of what you would have to give up to tithe appropriately. Now you have honestly answered the question: Why is it so hard to give? The answer: It requires more sacrifice or compromise of our lifestyle than we are willing.

How did we get this attitude about tithing? How did our finances get so tight that we live paycheck to paycheck? There are lots of answers, but I think it all revolves around one central theme and that is: We think it all belongs to us. In other words, "It's mine, I earned it and I alone decide how to spend it." This is true for the financial liberal as well as the conservative. The only difference is how it's spent: either on consumer purchases or investment and retirement accounts. The bottom line is this -- the liberal and conservative are both in error in God's sight.

In Matthew 19:16-24, Jesus was approached by a rich young man who asked what he must do to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus answered, "sell all that you have, give it to the poor and follow me." Jesus wasn't asking for 10%, He was asking for everything. You see, Jesus saw this young man's problem wasn't following the Law, it was allowing his possessions to possess him. Jesus goes on to say in verse 24, "it is easier for a camel to enter through

the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

History tells us that in Jerusalem all commerce would stop at sunset or on the Sabbath because the gates allowing camels and caravans to enter the city were closed. One gate was left open for foot traffic to enter the city and that was the "Needle Gate" (which was actually a gate within the main entrance gate). A camel could fit through this gate if it was first unpacked (it's burden removed), and it crawled through on it's knees. This is a great picture for me. It tells me that if I am not careful, I can let my financial burdens (house, car, college tuition, etc) rob me of experiencing the joy of giving. So how do we free ourselves? We give what we have to God -- we follow Joseph's (Barnabas') example -- we take what we have and we put it at the foot of the cross for Jesus to do with it what He wills.

Questions to Ponder:

Those of us living in the United States are rich by the world's standard, so whether you live in an apartment or a mansion, drive a 10 year old car or a new top-of-the-line model -- You are the "rich young man" Jesus was speaking to and about. Ask yourself: who owns your television, health club membership, Starbucks card, or paycheck? What or who is the Lord of your life? Is it your possessions, or Jesus? God is the creator of the universe; if He wants to do something He doesn't need our money to do it. What He's after is our hearts. If we truly trust Jesus -- give Him our paychecks -- and let Him decide how to spend it. What is your next step in giving? Is it to see everything you have as God's? Is it to begin giving regularly? It is to trust God with the first 10%, and learn to live on the rest? What is it for you?

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Senior Joy

Senior Joy will be meeting on Thursday May 8th at 12:30. Bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided. Our speaker will be Pastor Ed Hann, former pastor at St. Paul's. Please join us and be Blessed.

Stewardship – In Faith We Grow

Need more time? What do you do with your time? Do you waste it, spend it, invest it or redeem it?

A father and a boy went fishing all day. At the end of the day, they each wrote in their journals. The father's said, "Went fishing all day. A day wasted." The son wrote: "Went fishing all day. Spent time with my dad and the Lord, the greatest day of my life." Two people in the same place had two very different experiences. We can be like that. Two people can be in the same place—one is wasting time while the other is redeeming time for the Lord. Two people can be doing their quiet time—one is wasting time and one is spending time with the heavenly Father. Unless you are spending time with the Lord, everything you do will be spiritually ineffective.

The Bible says in Eph 5:15 – *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* To redeem the time means to make the most of every moment and do what is most spiritually profitable with our time, standing ready to lend a helping hand to other believers as well as reaching out to the lost with Christ's message of hope and peace. It takes effort to redeem time and laziness to waste it. I've noticed when I make the effort to give God a portion of time at the start of my day, often the day's events go much smoother, so that the end result is – I have more time.

Prayerfully consider how God wants each of us to use our time and if you want more of it, check out the poem by Grace L. Naessens below. Start each day by giving God a portion of it.

The Difference

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day; I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.

"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;

I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.

God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;

I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.

Monthly Mort. Payment on New Building	\$9,637
Expansion Giving for Mar 2008	\$8,217
Bal, Due on Mort. as of 3/31/08	\$1,192,081

Telephone Prayer Ministry

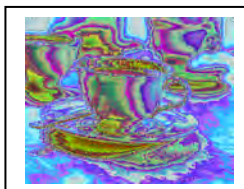
We are starting a telephone ministry to relay prayer requests and church announcements to those that do not have access to a computer and cannot receive these messages via e-mail. If you would like to be added to this list please see or call Nancy, or Ruth S or call the church office 732-458-2080.



Volunteer Drivers Needed

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport members of our congregation to and/or from Sunday services one week each month. If you live on the South side of Brick please consider volunteering to serve Our Lord as you help others. Contact Bill & Judy or Peggy

"TEA CUPS"



Lydia Circle is looking for china tea cups with saucers for a project. If you have any you would like to donate, there will be a box in the Narthex

5 7 T H A N N U A L O B S E R V A N C E

Prayer! AMERICA'S STRENGTH & SHIELD

THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SHIELD; MY HEART TRUSTS IN HIM AND I AM HELPED." PSALM 28:7

The psalmist, David, knew where his strength came from. As a boy he faced off against the giant, Goliath, in an epic one-on-one battle for the future of his nation. Boy vs. giant, weakness vs. strength, a small sling vs. full armor and a sword. To an onlooker, the outcome seemed clear. But David had a secret, and as the world watched, this small boy with an unconventional weapon felled a foe who had an entire army quaking in fear. Why? David trusted in and was helped by the Lord—his strength and shield.

Since the inception of our nation, we too have faced enemies. "Goliaths" from both without and within endanger our security, our prosperity and our very way of life. In response, we can react like Saul and the Israelites and tremble at the threats, or we can recognize as David did that "it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give (the enemy) into our hands" (1 Sam. 17:47).

God's victory plan has not changed over the centuries; He does not need conventional weapons to succeed. However, He has called His people to participate in the battle by first putting on the armor He has accorded them – the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:13-17). The Lord is looking for individuals who will trust in Him, persist in prayer, and not become discouraged or overwhelmed by their circumstances.

This Thursday you have the opportunity to personally answer His call by taking up spiritual arms in intercession for our nation. Please join us in asking Almighty God to be America's strength and shield as we encounter the "giants" of our age. Just as in David's day, He stands ready to help if we will humbly come before Him.

*"God is moving in this time in history; He's giving us opportunities unparalleled... You can become the dream of God by becoming a praying person."
-Ravi Zacharias*



WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG

**MAY 1
2008**

NT408 © 2008 The National Day of Prayer Task Force

The Sanctuary will be open for National Day of Prayer (May 1st) from 6:30AM to 6:30PM.

We encourage everyone to be in Prayer for our government, our military, the media, business, education, church and family.

Prayer guides are included in the Circuit Rider and are also available on the information table outside Norcross Hall.

2007 Cantata Videos - "Make Us One"

For those of you who enjoyed the Easter Cantata – "Make Us One" (and for those of you who missed it) we have videos available for purchase on Tape or DVD. The cost of the video is \$5. For more information please call the office or Dave Cavanaugh at 732/458-4579.

Name _____

Phone _____

Quantity wanted _____

DVD Videotape

(check off the format you want)

Softball News!!!

WOMEN: If you, or someone you know, are interested in playing on the Women's Softball team please contact Eric. Practice is from 12:30 to 2:30 every Sunday throughout the season. Games will be on Monday Nights.

MEN: Looking for men over the age of 18 to play on the Men's Softball teams. Practice is Tuesday at 6:30pm. Come on out and meet the guys. If you have any questions please contact Rich



HANDBELL CHOIR

St. Paul's Handbell Choir has worked hard all year to present a variety of great music to our congregation. Many hours have been spent in rehearsal and I wish to thank all of our ringers. You are all dedicated to this ministry and have added beautiful and unique music to our worship services. Thank You!

Director, Barbara

Bell Choir Members



Blood Drive – May 16, 2008

Vortex (The Young Adult Group) will be hosting a blood drive on Friday May 16th, 2008 from 2-8pm. You can sign-up to give blood before and after services in the Narthex or by calling the church office at (732) 458-2080. Everyone who shows up to donate on May 16th will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win tickets to a Blue Claws game.

Here is the Link for current Blood Levels if you are interested

<http://donatebloodnow.org/BloodLevels/>

St. Paul's Christian School

Come see what our families have discovered...

NURSERY SCHOOL
THRU
EIGHTH GRADE

- NURTURING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT AND VALUES
- SMALL CLASSES
- CERTIFIED TEACHERS
- COMPETITIVE SCHOLASTIC AND SPORT TEAMS
- BEFORE AND AFTER CARE AVAILABLE
- ST. PAUL'S CHURCH MEMBER DISCOUNT

ENROLL NOW!

School Hours - 9:00am - 3:00pm
Visitation is always welcomed and encouraged.

(732)458-2004

Serving our community for 29 years

**SPCS NEEDS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING
POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY:
FOR 2007/2008 SCHOOL YEAR**

**BAND TEACHER (GRADES 5 – 8)
TUESDAY'S 9:00 – 12:30 & FRIDAY'S
12:00 – 3:00
(\$15 – \$17 PER HOUR)**

**GENERAL MUSIC TEACHER (GRADES K – 4)
THURSDAY 9:00 – 3:00
(\$15 - \$17 PER HOUR)**

For all positions please submit:

- *Copy of Resume; 2 written character references*
- *statement of faith*
- *copy of your teaching certification or license*

Please submit the above to:

**St. Paul's Christian School
714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 8724**

Any questions please call us at 732-458-2004

May Dinner

Roast beef & Salmon

Vegetables
Bread and Butter
Salad
Dessert

When: Saturday, May 17, 2008

Where: Norcross Hall

Time: 6:00 pm

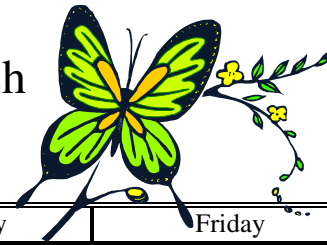
For the Children - Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese





Entertainment:
Cherub Choir
4:30pm



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

May 2008



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Events & Meetings ---> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Trad. Worship Service 9:00 Childcare- Rm 1 10:10 Fellowship – Norcross Hall 10:45 Contmp. Worship Service 12:30 Women's Softball Practice 6:30PM Vortex 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	7:00PM Sr High Youth	6:30PM Men's Softball Practice 7:00PM Jr High Youth 7:30 Safe Place 8:00 Men's Basketball	6:00AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Ladies Share Grp-Penrods 4:30PM Cherub Choir 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Workteam Lib. & Offices 6:30 Volleyball 7:00 Adult Bible Study	2:00PM Agape Homeschoolers - Nursery 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 7:00 Carol Choir 7:00 Celebration Choir 7:00 Bible Study – Pastor's Notes 8:00 Chancel Choir	9:00AM Bulletin Team 7:00 PM Praise Team 8:00 OC Anon	7:00AM Men's Disciple
				1 6:00pm Missions Mtg. - Staff Lounge 6:30 Men's Softball Game	2 3:00pm Setup for Tea	3 10:00am Setup 2:00pm UMW Elegant Tea 7:00pm Youth Community Worship
4	5 6:30pm Women's Softball game 7:00pm Administrative Board 7:00pm Trustees	6 7:00 UMW Exec Bd Mtg	7	8 12:30 Senior Joy 6:30 Men's Softball Game	9	10 9:00am Northern Shore District Pre-Conference
11 Pentecost Sunday Communion Sunday Mother's Day 	12 6:30pm Women's Softball game 7:00pm Finance	13 10:00AM Deborah Circle 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	14 7:30 Lydia Circle	15 6:30 Men's Softball Game	16 2:00pm BLOOD DRIVE 	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast 4:30pm Cherub Choir Cantata 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
18	19 6:30pm Women's Softball game	20 7:30pm SPCS Spring Concert	21	22 SPCS Field Day 6:30 Men's Softball Game	23 9:00am Rummage Sale Setup	24 10:00am Rummage Sale and White Elephant 
25	26 Memorial Day Office Closed 	27	28	29 6:30 Men's Softball Game GNJUMC Annual Conference	30	31 6:30pm Youth vs. Adult Basketball Game 