



# Circuit Rider

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

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March 2009

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## What Do The Different Colors Mean?

Periodically someone asks me what the different colors mean in the sanctuary. Why do they change and is there any significance? The sanctuary is decorated through the various seasons of the church year with different colors to remind us of the entirety of the Christian story.

The church year begins with Advent. Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays prior to Christmas. Advent calls the Christian community to prepare for the coming of Jesus through the remembrance of His birth, through the Word and Holy Spirit, and in anticipation of His return in victory. The colors are **PURPLE** or blue, which represent royalty. Each Sunday of Advent has a theme using a wreath with four candles. On Christmas Eve a final fifth candle is lit to represent the birth of Christ.

Then comes the Christmas Season. Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins with Christmas Eve or Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. On the Day of Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of Jesus. The colors are **WHITE** and gold, which represent purity and joy.

Following Christmas is the Season after Epiphany. This is four to nine Sundays depending on the date of Easter. The first Sunday focuses on the Baptism of Christ and the Last Sunday on the Transfiguration. The colors used for the first and last Sundays is **WHITE**. The other Sundays use **GREEN**, which represents life.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days, not counting Sundays. The word Lent means spring and is a preparation for Easter. It is a period of fasting, penance, contemplation, and introspection. Ash Wednesday is a time when we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God. The color used through Lent is **PURPLE**. It has been St. Paul's tradition for many years to join with our brothers and sisters at Epiphany for a time of worship.

There are three Great Days: Holy Thursday, the night before Christ was crucified, Good Friday, the day of His death, and Holy Saturday. The colors change to **BLACK** for Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. This is the most joyous and celebrative time of the Christian year. That is because we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit on both the first Easter and the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost comes from the Greek word meaning fiftieth and it is also related to the Jewish Feast of Weeks. The Day of Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples of Jesus to give power to their ministry. Up until the Day of Pentecost the colors are **WHITE** and gold. However, on Pentecost the color is **RED**.

The Season after Pentecost is known as Kingdomtide. It begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the first Sunday of Advent. Kingdomtide lasts for a period of between twenty-three to twenty-eight Sundays. The first Sunday is Trinity Sunday celebrating the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The last Sunday is the Reign of Christ or Christ the King. Also included are All Saints and Thanksgiving. The United Methodist Church is the only denomination using the term Kingdomtide. The colors used are varied but the main color is **GREEN**, which symbolizes growth and life in Christ.

I appreciate all those who take the time to decorate the sanctuary and help us remember the meaning of the various church seasons. If you would like to help in this task, contact Judy, Worship Committee Chair.

See you in worship

**St. Paul's Chancel Choir**  
*Presents*  
**Easter Cantata**

May We Never Lose the Wonder ...

**“THE WONDER OF THE CROSS”**



**April 4 & 5, 2009 7:30pm**  
Palm Sunday Weekend

***The Chancel Choir will present the cantata, “The Wonder of the Cross” by contemporary Christian composers, Randy Vader and Jay Rouse. This Easter musical involves choir, narrators, solos, and congregation. Along with the choir will be beautiful and inspiring DVD visuals and meaningful lyrics for the worship songs. The DVD scenes are truly amazing and the choral songs that accompany these scenes are gorgeous.***

***One of the composers and creators of this great cantata, Randy Vader, states; this musical is about the importance of remembering. On the eve of His trial and execution Jesus made it clear that we were to remember Him and His sacrifice.***

***We cannot stand in the distance and casually observe the sacrifice of the Cross. The Cross is not something that we get used to—not something that we can get comfortable with—not something that we can ever take lightly.***

***Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by His own choice died nailed to a Cross for the sins that we committed. May we never forget His sacrifice, may we never fail to fall to our knees in thanksgiving for that kind of love, may we never lose the wonder—THE WONDER OF THE CROSS.***

***“The Wonder of the Cross” is sure to be  
an unforgettable experience for all.***

***JOIN US FOR THIS TRULY EXTRAORDINARY EVENT!***

## Youth News

Today in chapel at St. Paul's Christian School we discussed missions and looked at the way that Paul sought to reach others with the Gospel message. A missionary, simply put, is a person to go out to reach lost people with this message about Jesus in the love and power and Spirit of Jesus. One of the first things that we discussed was that missions is an opportunity for every believer to step out of their comfort zones and to grow by becoming stretched in their faith. Whether it is academically, athletically, or spiritually, people will not grow past a certain point unless they are given a challenge and an opportunity to take risks. Approaching faith with an attitude that wants to remain within familiar and comfortable boundaries only produces a sterile and stagnant faith. Following Jesus is far from familiar and comfortable.

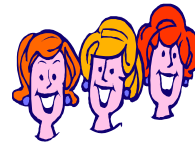
When we read of Paul going into synagogues and other places of worship to share the Gospel, we also notice that Paul approaches the subject by beginning with things that are familiar to the audience that he is speaking to. Paul sought to meet people where they are at. Whenever Paul was in a synagogue, he would speak starting with the Old Testament – scriptures that the Jewish worshippers believed in and agreed with. The Old Testament was a shared common ground that he had with his fellow Jews. When in Athens, Paul would point out the fact that there is an altar “To An Unknown God” and use that as his starting point in sharing God’s truth with them. As a matter of fact, Paul was so familiar with their culture that he even quoted one of their own poets as a reference point to the truth he was speaking about (see Acts 17.22-31). We too, share things in common with the unbelievers in our lives. Many of my friends that don’t know the Lord share my interest in music, and music has been a great bridge in being able to share my faith with them.

We tend to think of missionaries as people who go great distances to bring Jesus to people that don’t have Him, but I want to change that perception a bit. First, we are all missionaries in the sense that God desires for every one of His people to be a means for others to hear His Word and know His love. I pray that the Lord would use you as a missionary, wherever you are, in the lives of those that don’t know Him yet. Second, while we are

bringing the Gospel *message* to people, we are not necessarily bringing God to them. Paul’s example shows that we can actually point out where God is *already* at work in the lives of unbelievers. We can point out glimpses of His grace and kindness in such a way that leads them to understand and receive the salvation they need in trusting Jesus as their Savior. Jesus said that God “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5.45).” And Paul said to unbelievers, “We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth... He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy (see Acts 14.15-17).” Paul showed unbelievers that God’s kindness was already at work in their lives, and we can use that as a starting point to show them the greatest act of kindness that God did in sending His only begotten Son.

May you be a missionary today, stepping out of your comfort zone, meeting people where they are at, pointing out God’s kindness in their lives, and being used of God to share the wonderful message of the Gospel to those who need to hear it.

Grace & Peace from Him to you,  
Matt



## United Methodist Women

Dates to Remember

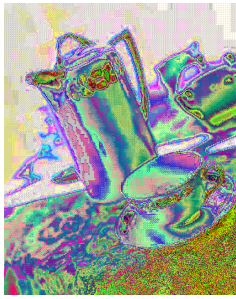
March 3 Executive Board 7 PM

17 Dinner & General Meeting 6:30 PM

All ladies are invited to join us for dinner at 6:30 PM and the speaker to follow.

## Senior Joy

Senior Joy will be held on Thursday, March 12th at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich. Reverend David Cotton, Chaplain, Jersey Shore University Medical Center will be speaking. For more information call Ruth.



## Elegant Afternoon Tea

The United Methodist Women of St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Bricktown, request the pleasure of your company for an Elegant Afternoon Tea.

On Saturday,  
April 25, 2009  
At 2pm - 4pm

In Eleanor Norcross Hall  
at St. Paul's Church  
*Reservations are required*

Price is \$17.00 per person  
All proceeds go to UMW Missions  
Tickets go on sale March 29th  
Last day to purchase tickets is  
April 19, 2009  
*Only 150 tickets are available*

Please join us for a time of true relaxation,  
an inducement to gentle conversation,  
music, door prizes, scones, breads, finger  
sandwiches and desserts.

Please see Ruth Snyder between services  
for tickets

## EASTER FLOWERS

United Methodist Men are now taking orders for Easter Flowers. If you would like to purchase a flower please fill out form below and return with your payment. Form and money can be placed in the collection plate or sent/given directly to Church office attention UMM.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
ST. PAUL'S U.M.M.

### **ORDER FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

(\$7.00) LILY QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$4.50) MUMS 4-1/2" QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(\$7.00) TULIPS QTY. \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE BE SURE TO TAKE YOUR PLANTS HOME  
FOLLOWING EASTER SERVICE.**

## UMM EASTER FLOWERS SALES

United Methodist Men will be selling  
Easter Flowers  
(Outside by the garage)  
Starting Thursday April 9, 2009  
From 3pm to 6:00pm Thursday  
From 9am to 6:00pm Friday, Saturday  
Closed on Sunday

—◆—  
Delivery of the Flowers  
Tuesday April 7, 2009 Time: 9:30 - 10:30 am  
We need HELP to Unload the Flowers

—◆—  
Sign up chart to help sell Flowers will be up in  
the narthex and or in Lobby in  
March & April

# Northern Shore District UMMen Annual Gathering

## Morganville UMC

(215 Conover Rd, Morganville)

For Directions call the Church Office 732-946-4247 or go to their web)

## Saturday March 21 2009

(Breakfast Provided—Cost \$5.00/person)

### 9:00am – noon

**Speaker: Rev. Robert Williams-  
General Secretary, General Commission on  
Archives and History**

**What today's men can learn from the  
Wesleys as brothers in Christ . We all  
are brothers in Christ!.**

### ***Community Hymn Sing***

The Community Inspirational Hymn Sing was started many years ago by members of the First Baptist Church “with a vision to unite local believers who loved to sing (and hear) His praises.” The hymn sings occur throughout the year. Many local churches participate in the monthly Hymn Sing with their Praise Bands, choirs and individual solos. St. Paul’s Chancel Choir and Praise Team will be participating as well. Each church is encouraged to host one of the monthly events and provide refreshments for fellowship afterwards. The Hymn Sings for the Spring are as follows:

March 29	6:30	Central Methodist Arnold Avenue, Pt. Pleasant Beach
April 26	6:30	First Baptist, Manasquan
May 31	6:30	First Assembly of God Bridge Avenue, Pt. Pleasant

## Counseling Corner

Anger – the very word evokes an emotion to some just by hearing the word itself. Some with certain temperaments will never admit that they are angry. All they will say is that their feelings are hurt, which may be true also. Some bury their anger until they it explodes one day and probably on the wrong person, or they could become very depressed.

So how should we deal with anger without sinning? Here are a few suggestions:

- Express anger in private when at all possible
- Tell the other person why you feel angry without concentrating on their faults. Concentrate on your reaction
- Work on whatever circumstances or situation caused the anger
- Do not exaggerate the issue or make threats
- Allow the other person to respond without interruption
- Work toward a solution – try to reach an agreement

I once knew a couple when I was younger who would have big blowups. I observed that even as they were arguing they began to agree with each other, but since they had to get their point across neither of them realized it.

It takes time to make changes so don't get discouraged. If you really have an anger problem, make yourself accountable to someone or take a few anger management classes. Pray, memorize scripture concerning anger, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Remember God loves us just where we are.

Donna Ridge



## Explore Your Faith

Pastor John will be giving a **membership class** for individuals who are interested in joining the Church (and anyone who wishes to explore their faith). At the end of the membership class you may make your decision on joining the church. He will also be giving classes for anyone who wishes to continue exploration of their faith. The classes will be on a Saturday at the Sally Ike parsonage from 10am to 2pm. Contact the office (732)-458-2080 if you are interested in either of these classes.



March 7            Maturity (How to grow in Christ)  
March 14          Ministry (How to serve Christ)

## Fireproof Your Marriage

*"Never leave your partner behind."*

That's the fireman's code, but that can also be applied to marriage. Unfortunately, too many marriages end with "I don't love you anymore." So how can we Fireproof our marriages against this? During this season of lent, we invite anyone who is married, is going to be married, or is thinking about marriage, to join us for a bible study based on the movie "Fireproof". Through this study, we hope to challenge all to learn to love unconditionally, as God first loved us, and to learn new methods for building a stronger marriage. We will be meeting on Tuesday nights at 7pm in the library.. Babysitting will be provided during all meetings; please indicate number of children and their ages. If interested, please contact Brian or Diane or sign up in the narthex following the service. Everyone is welcome to come see the movie, even if you can't make the bible study.

## Women's Softball



Softball season is right around the corner! We will start practice on 3/22/09 at 12:30. You have to be at least 14 years old or turn 14 before 7/6/09. If you are interested in playing softball for the women this year, please contact Eric. More details to follow.

## March Administrative Board

The March Administrative Board has been moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March (March 16, 2009) at 7:30PM. All leaders in the church are asked to attend and everyone is encouraged to attend. Please remember to submit all motions for administrative board to the office at least one week prior to the meeting. We will be emailing copies of the minutes and any new motions to all Ad Board members who have given us their email address. If you would like to receive a copy please make sure to submit your email address to the office

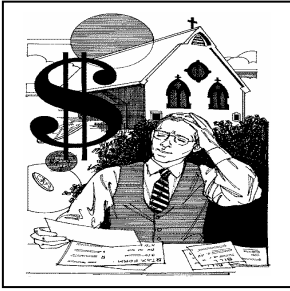
## LENTEN PRETZELS

Lent is a Season of prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving. Relational Prayer is communication between two persons getting to know one another and growing in love. It is a mutual relating between God and us. God loves us so much that he sent His Son, Jesus to live among us and to show us how to love unconditionally, even unto death, death on a cross.

We use the pretzel as our Lenten symbol. The tale of the pretzel tells us that the pretzel came about as a "little reward" for reciting prayers. During this Lenten season, let our prayers and sacrifices bring us to a deeper relationship with God. Let our "reward" be experiencing God's unconditional love as we journey with Jesus

### Tale of the Pretzel

Pretzels had their beginning around 610A.D. somewhere in Southern France or Northern Italy. A young monk was preparing unleavened bread for Lent, the Christian period of fasting and penitence before Easter. This was a simple bread made of flour and water because no eggs, lard or dairy products were consumed during the Lenten fast. Christians of the day prayed with their arms folded across their chests, each hand on the opposite shoulder. It occurred to him that he could twist the leftover dough from the bread into this shape and use it as a treat for the children to recite their prayers. He named his creation 'pretiola', Latin for 'little reward'. This tradition, a reward for prayer, continued and spread to other countries. It later developed into the pretzel business that we know today.



## Assistance for Families in Need

In this difficult economy many families need some assistance; here are a few places that may help in times of need:

### Ocean County

Call 211 or [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org) on the web

– help from a-z

Catholic Charities – 732-363-5322 – Various Helps

New Beginnings Food and Clothing Pantry

– 732-451-0777

Ocean Inc.– Home Energy Assistance Program

-732-244-9041 x 10, 11 and 16

Your Grandmother's Cupboard – Toms River

- 732-240-0441 - Food

St. Vincent De Paul at: (Rent, Utility Bills)

St. Dominic's -732-840-7450

St. Martha's – 732-295-3630

Church of the Visitation -732-477-0028

Social Services – 732-349-1500 -Information on

help available plus contact for Ocean County

Hunger Relief

### Monmouth County

Call 211 or [www.nj211.org](http://www.nj211.org) on the web

- help from a-z

St. Vincent's De Paul at:

St. Veronica's – 732-363-4200

Love Inc.:732-542-7012

-Furniture, Finances, Vehicles

Check Mate Inc. –732-774-3100 – helps with rent

Interfaith Neighbors – 732-775 0525

Social Services – 732-431-6000

### Help with Debt Management

HUD – certified counseling agencies [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)

NJCA – [www.njcitizenaction.org](http://www.njcitizenaction.org)

NJHOPE – HOPENOW 1-888-995-HOPE

Your mortgage lender or servicer

NJ Dept of Banking or Insurance (973) 648-4713

NJ Division of Consumer Affairs (800) 242-5846

HMFA – [nj.gov/dca/hmfa/](http://nj.gov/dca/hmfa/)

Legal Services of New Jersey (888) 576-5529

Newark Essex Legal Services (973) 824-3000

## Weekly Bible Studies

We encourage everyone to be in a Bible Study. Listed below are the Bible Studies currently open at St. Paul's UMC.

**Sunday 9am** LibraryPastor Notes  
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

**Monday 7pm** Monday Night Bible Study\*\*\*

**Tuesday 7pm** Sanctuary/Library - Fireproof  
During this season of lent, we invite anyone who is married, is going to be married, or is thinking about marriage, to join us for a bible study based on the movie "Fireproof".

**Wednesday 6:30am** Men's Bible Study  
Come out for breakfast and Bible study

**10:00am** Women's Share Group  
This group meets at Nancy Penrod's and is open to any woman who would like to come and share.

**7pm** Youth Rm - Pastor's Bible  
This group is led by Pastor John and just started a new study on the book of Revelation. If you missed the first week you may still come out for the Bible Study.

**Thursday 7pm** LibraryPastor Notes  
This group meets in the library and goes over the Pastor Notes from the previous Sunday

**7pm** Nursery Rm 1 Luke  
This group meets in the Nursery and we are currently studying the book of Luke.

**7pm** Room 6 - Women's Bible St

\*\*\*We would like to update our bible study news and inform the church about the new book we will be studying. We are finishing the study of the book of Colossians and on **MONDAY MARCH 2nd, 2009** we will start to study the book of **Ephesians**. Anyone interested is welcome to join our group. We start at 7PM in the church sanctuary and then move on to rooms 5 & 6 for the study, ending around 8PM. The cost of the book is \$15.00 and the study runs 9 weeks. For further information call Fran or Heidi or Rich. Feel free to come any Monday night and try us out!

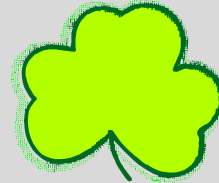
# *March Dinner Night*



**When: March 14, 2009**

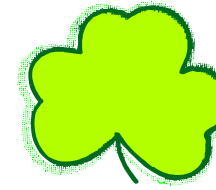
**Where: Norcross Hall**







**Time: 6:00 pm**



**Corn Beef & Cabbage  
Shepherd Pie  
Vegetables  
Salad  
Bread and Butter  
Dessert**

***For the kids  
Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese***



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Weekly Events &amp; Meetings - - - &gt;</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Trad. Worship Service 9:00 & 10:45 Childcare- Rm 1 10:10 Fellowship – Norcross Hall 10:45 Contmp. Worship Service 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous - Norcross	7-9AM Before Care 12:30-6PM After Care 1:15pm Moms In Touch group – Chapel 6:00pm Cub Scout Pack 19 – Room 8 6:00 Girl Scouts – Rm 10 7:00pm Senior High Youth – Norcross/ Youth Room 7:00 Adult Bible Study - Sanctuary/ rm 6/ rm 5	7-9AM Before Care 12:30-6PM After Care 7:00PM Junior High Youth 7:00 Fireproof Bible Study 7:30 Safe Place – Rm 10 8:00pm Men’s Basketball	6:00AM Men's Breakfast Norcross/ Library 7-9AM Before Care 8:00am SPCS Drama Club 8:00SPCS Drama Club – Sanc. 10:00 Ladies Share Gr- Penrods 10:00 Quilting Group – Youth 12:30-6PM After Care 1:00pm Staff Meeting - Library 4:30pm Cherub Choir - Sanc 6:00 Handbell Choir – Music R 6:30 Volleyball - Norcross 7:00 Adult Bible Study Youth room	7-9AM Before Care 12:30-6PM After Care 2:00 Agape Homeschoolers – Nursery – 1st and 3rd Thursdays 5:30 Father and Son Basketball - Norcross 6:00 Girl Scout Troop 1810 – Rm 8 (every other Thursday) starting 9/4 6:30 Alcoholics Anon. – Room 5 7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 - Norcross 7:00 Cub Scout Pack 19 –Rm 10 7:00 Carol Choir - Sanctuary 7:00 Celebration Choir – Music Ro 7:00 Bible Study - Library 7:00 Bible Study – Nursery 7:00 Women’s Study Group – rm 6 8:00 Chancel Choir – Music Room	7-9AM Before Care 9:00am Bulletin Team – Lib 12:30-6PM After Care 6:30pm Praise Team – Sanc 8:00 OC Anonymous - Lib	7:00AM Men’s Disciple
<b>1</b> Communion Sunday	<b>2</b> 7:30PM Trustees	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:30 Lenten Lunch  6:30 HSA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00AM Maturity Class
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00pm Finance Mtg	<b>10</b> 10:00AM Deborah Circle 12noon Rebeccah Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	<b>11</b> 11:30 Lenten Lunch  7:30PM Lydia Circle	<b>12</b> 12:30PM Senior Joy	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00AM Ministry Class 6:00PM Fellowship Dinner 
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30 Administrative Board	<b>17</b> 5:30pm UMW Dinner 	<b>18</b> 11:30 Lenten Lunch 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:30AM Breakfast for the homeless	<b>21</b> 8:00AM Men’s Breakfast
<b>22</b> 12:30 Women’s Softball Practice	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM SPR Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 11:30 Lenten Lunch 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 12:30 Women’s Softball Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7:00PM St. Paul’s Christian School Easter Program				