



# Circuit Rider

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

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**March 2007**

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Have you ever tried to figure out when Easter comes? I mean, if calendars didn't come with the Holy Days and holidays all marked, how would you fare?

I found the formula for figuring it out. Are you ready for this?

I quote from a copyrighted appointment calendar I saved from a few years ago:

"Easter falls on the first Sunday following the arbitrary Paschal Full Moon, which does not necessarily coincide with a real or astronomical full moon. The Paschal Full Moon is calculated by adding 1 to the remainder obtained by dividing the year by 19 and applying the following table."

There followed a list of dates with numbers from 1 to 19 beside them. The same publication told me that Easter could be as early as March 23 and as late as April 25. I never did figure it out.

Then I checked my encyclopedia and that took three columns to tell me about it. But I figured that was more than you really wanted to know!

If you are like me, it hasn't really mattered very much. Not once have I ever tried to personally figure out when Easter comes. I just wait until the next year's calendar comes out.

There have been times when I wearied of all this mystery and would have readily voted to have the church take charge of Easter and settle on a regular Sunday about the middle of April. But one day I got to wondering if there might not be some value in this seeming mystery about the date of Easter.

Perhaps the fluctuations of the date can serve as a reminder that there is a quality about Easter that is not so easily predicted. There is a sense in which Easter sets its own time.

Consider that first Easter. Christ did not appear to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem for Passover. There was no dramatic announcement, no leaking of the news of some impending extravaganza to the press, no special music, no record crowds.

Nor did Christ appear all at once to those who did see him. Easter came to Mary early in the morning as she came to the garden in the depth of her grief (John 20:15-16); it came to the disciples cowering in fear behind locked doors (John 20:19); it came to two travelers on the road to Emmaus as they expressed their disillusionment, saying, "We had hoped that he (Jesus) was the One to redeem Israel" (Luke 24:21).

Christ appeared to some of the disciples as they were fishing on the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1ff).

And as Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, several years after that first Easter Day, "He appeared to me, as one born out of due time" (I Corinthians 15:8).

May I suggest that Easter really comes whenever and wherever people meet the Risen Christ. There is no fixed date or stated place for that!

When does Easter come? Easter comes whenever and wherever people meet the Risen Christ. It can even come in church - or before a garden tomb.

See you in worship. Pastor D

Greetings!

As I write this letter there is ice melting off of the side of the church building and the bushes just outside of my window. It kind of reminds me of a scene in the Narnia movie that came out a little over a year ago, when the snow and ice from the witch's spell all starts to melt, showing that the power of evil is beginning to fall apart, and that Aslan the king of Narnia has arrived. As many of you know, the movie is an allegory of Christ and the gospel message.

1 John 3:8-9 says that "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him' he cannot go on sinning because he has been born of God." I pray that you would enjoy the freedom that you have in Christ today, knowing that you have been set free from sin and guilt to live a life of love, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit.

As for youth group news, we had a great time of fellowship and skiing on the youth ski retreat weekend, and some of us learned how to ski for the first time! Much thanks to John Leighton for taking the time to teach some of us how to ski. Junior and Senior high youth nights each week have been going well as we continue to have a good time and discuss Jesus' earthly life and ministry from the gospels. If anyone is interested in coming out, our Senior High (High School) group meets on Mondays and our Junior High meets on Tuesdays, both in the evening from 7:00pm until 8:30pm in the youth room. Also, we have a Senior High Bible study that meets at my (Matt's) house every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for dinner and discussion.

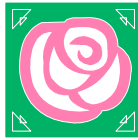
Much thanks for all of your prayers and support for the youth ministry at St. Paul's.

In Christ,

Matt K.

## **LENTEN LUNCHES**

Our Lenten Lunches & Devotions started on Wednesday, February 21st this year. Lunch will be from 11:45-12:15 PM followed by devotions in the sanctuary. If you are interested in providing soup or dessert for one of the weekly lunches please contact Ruth B.



# Thank You

### **From the O's**

*Pastor DiGiamberardino and all the angels of Saint Paul's,*

We want to say thank you for all of your prayers for Eric and our family. And for the visits by some of you to the hospital. They meant so much to us and we know that God was listening because we are back home. Also we want to thank all of you who helped to care for our family by bringing hot meals every night or by spending a day with our children when they needed a break and Mom and Dad couldn't be there. As Eric said when he heard about all of the wonderful things that were being done for us "I didn't know how many people cared about us".

With all of our love and thanks and appreciation, God bless you all,

Mary, John, Frank, Eric, Chris and Jenna O

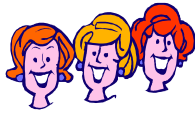
### **From the N's and Troop 33**

Christopher N and the members of Boy Scout Troop 33 would like to thank: Blair's Rental Service located at 1782 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08753 (732-255-3584) for their generous contribution to Christopher's Eagle Project. Blair's donated a bobcat free of charge (including gas and transportation) so Chris could level the ground for the new St. Paul's Picnic Area. This would have cost well over \$200 if he had to pay for it.

The troop would also like to thank Phil's Tree Service located at 539 Vath Street, Jackson, NJ 08527 (732-657-5349) for cutting down and trimming the trees in the new St. Paul's Picnic Area. They did the job at a very reduced cost and squeezed us in during their busy season so that the work could be done when it needed to be done.

## **Senior Joy**

Senior Joy will be held on Thursday, March 8th at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich. Matt K, St. Paul's Youth Director, will be our guest. For more information call Ruth S



## **United Methodist Women**

Dates to Remember

March 6 Executive Board 7 PM

20 Dinner & General Meeting 6:30 PM

The speaker for our Dinner and General Meeting is Debbie Bottomley from Dottie's House. Dottie's House is a Transitional Housing Program designed to aid survivors of domestic violence in their struggle to become self sufficient and end the violence in their lives by offering an affordable housing options and housing these families in their own apartments. All ladies are invited to join us for dinner at 6:30 PM and the speaker to follow.

### **A Note To Parents**

Due to concerns that have been raised, please be aware that the following activities should not occur during the time between services in Norcross Hall:

- \*Opening of any of the storage rooms
- \* Ball playing of any kind
- \* Climbing on bleachers when in the "closed" position

We appreciate that children need some time to release after sitting through Sunday school or a church service, but we all need to respect the comfort and safety of everyone who uses the gym during our fellowship time. If you could inform your children of these changes, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
The Trustees

### **Longwood Gardens Spring Flower Show**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church Brunch Bunch is planning a bus trip to Longwood Gardens for the Spring Flower Show on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$52 which includes the bus, tickets to the Longwood Gardens and lunch. Signup and payment must be received by March 11, 2007.

## **Camden Mission Trip**

This summer Saint Pauls will be joining other churches and individuals from around our area to spend a week (August 11th to the 18th) at Kids Alley in Camden. We will be supporting the ministry physically through construction projects, running VBS for the week and painting. But it is also always a joy to support Viv and the kids by showing that there are people who care about them and love them.

If you would like to be part of this trip (*and there are LOTS of ways to be a part!*) there will be a meeting on Wednesday, March 7th at the South Wall Firehouse at 7:00. You can either meet us there at 7 or meet us here at 6:30 and we'll be driving over in the vans. I hope to see you there!

Jen

### **Ocean County Board of Health Telephone Survey**

During the dates of February 26, 2007 through March 30, 2007, the Ocean County Health Department will be conducting a telephone survey of county residents that will gather information as we look to create a healthy community and better quality of life for our residents.

The telephone survey, officially titled the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes and ask questions on the health lifestyles of the individual being interviewed. All survey responses are kept confidential and each person's input is very important as the results will greatly help the Health Department in deciding what programs and services are needed in the community.

### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER**

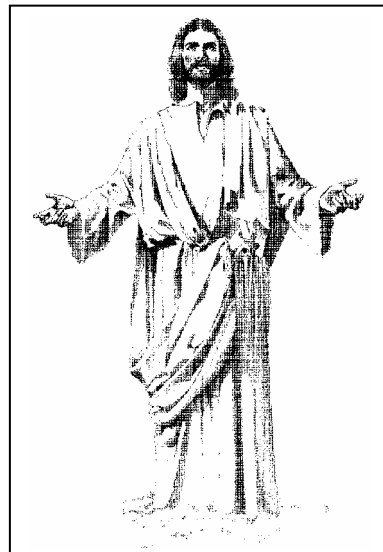
On Saturday March 24th, Cub Scout Pack 33 will be having a pancake breakfast fundraiser here at SPUMC. This is your chance to come out and support the boys involved in this ministry of St. Paul's. The menu will include: pancakes, syrup, scrambled eggs, bacon, coffee (and decaff), milk, and OJ. So give yourself the morning off, and bring the whole family over for a hearty meal to start the day. We hope to see you there!

"EYES of FAITH"

*Seeing and Believing the Messiah*

*Easter Cantata*  
Presented by

**St. Paul's Chancel Choir**



Join us for an Easter worship experience that combines choir, soloists, narrator, filmed characters on DVD, and congregation. This is an experience that you don't want to miss! Mark your calendars today.

March 31 and April 1

Palm Sunday Weekend  
7:30 PM

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Creation 2007 Signup



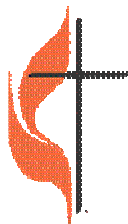
Dates: June 27<sup>th</sup> - July 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

Estimated Cost: \$90 per person  
(excluding food)

Contact: Amy  
Kyle

Pre-registration required by March 1<sup>st</sup> to qualify for the \$90 fee. Price increases every month thereafter. Please sign up as soon as possible to allow us to obtain this pricing.

For more info on the Creation Festival go to [www.creationfest.com](http://www.creationfest.com) and click on the Northeast festival.



Northern Shore  
 UMMen District  
 Spring Gathering

\$6.00 Reservations Requested

Place: Toms River First,  
 Old Freehold Rd and Chestnut St, Toms River NJ  
 08753

Phone: 732-349-8155

Time: 8:30 am—12:00 pm

Date: Saturday March 10, 2006

Who: **All men and their families**

Speaker: Rick Traa (Linwood UMC)

Rick Traa is the former owner of many McDonald's in South Jersey and active in the formation of the first Ronald McDonald House.

For more information call: Lew Weil, 732-849-4232 or email [Lew\\_Weil@comcast.net](mailto:Lew_Weil@comcast.net)

For Reservations call or mail your check to John Fischer III, 732-349-5384 or mail to: 11 Lafayette St., Toms River NJ 08753. Reservations should be made and paid for in advance, so that we can anticipate how many will be present!

Open all men and their families  
 Breakfast will be served!

Entertainment will be provided by the Toms River First Praise Team.

**MARCH FELLOWSHIP DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH 6 PM**



**MENU – CORNED BEEF  
 & CABBAGE**

## Year End Contribution Statements

2006 Contribution statements (for those families and individuals who use envelopes) were recently mailed out. (If you have not received your statement and you used the envelopes last year, contact the office to get a replacement statement.) Please check your statement to make sure all contributions you made were included on the statement. This would be all tithes, 2<sup>nd</sup> mile mission offerings, communion, expansion, flowers etc. If you need to have corrections made please contact Janet for those whose last names begin with A-L or Madeline for those whose last names begin with M-Z. If you need a more detailed breakdown please contact the church office at 732-458-2080.

## IN FAITH WE GROW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

### Financial Update Regarding the 20 Year Mortgage:

Monthly mortgage payment.....\$9,637.03  
 Expansion givings for Jan.....\$10,909  
 \*30 year mortgage with an interest rate of 5.75%\*

**Today's Reading:** **Law 21:** The Law of Sacrificial Example

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 10:25-37, Mark 12:43-44

**Key Thought:** The most significant gifts are often given by the most insignificant givers.

### **Today's Reflection**

A despised Samaritan. One of the most insignificant people in the scheme of life 2,000 years ago. But his example of sacrificial giving continues to inspire believers two millennia later. The Samaritan's philosophy - What's Mine is Yours - permeated his actions and his attitudes. His behavior set an example we are to follow today as we live out the Law of Sacrificial Example in our stewardship. Our challenge is to look at our lives and ask honestly, what would God have me give sacrificially for His sake? There are people in desperate need today - physically, emotionally and spiritually desperate - and God uses people to meet such needs. As the Samaritan's actions saved a man's life, we too can be instruments used of God in His miraculous work of redemption. As true believers it is imperative that we look at all of our resources and say resoundingly, Lord, What's Mine is Yours! This must be our philosophy, for without this spirit of sacrifice we cannot and will not mature and succeed spiritually.

## Joy's January 2007 Monthly Memo

### Three Good Reasons

I'm sure you've heard someone say before, "Give me three good reasons!"

As I explained in my last monthly memo the last few months have been hard ones. It's been really easy to get wrapped up in the administrative quagmire and lose sight of why I'm here.

In walking through the wards the other day I was able to catch sight of why I'm here, and why Samaritan's Purse is here and has persevered through hard times.

#### Reason No. 1. Prevention is better than cure!



This baby had tetanus and died. Our Primary Health Care program immunizes mothers during pregnancy to prevent neonatal deaths like this. We also target other diseases like measles, whooping cough, polio, TB and diphtheria. We run six primary health care units that are staffed by a health worker who has received 9 months of training and one health care center that is staffed by nurses and midwives. All these facilities including the hospital offer preventive services because prevention really is better than cure.

#### Reason No. 2: We get the chance to offer people hope through knowing Jesus Christ



Chaplains at Lui Hospital

Simon Kariuki, on the left, is a pastor from Kenya on staff with Samaritan's Purse. He's a great guy and is frequently my right hand man. He is mentoring these two Sudanese hospital chaplains. Repent (don't you love that name!) is in the middle with another Simon on the right.

Recently a father brought his son to the hospital. They had come earlier for treatment and the son had not responded very well to his treatment. This time the father came to see the chaplains just to have them pray with him about his son. We're happy to see that the spiritual aspect of Lui Hospital is as important as the physical side of treatment.

#### Reason No. 3: We are able to respond to infectious disease outbreaks



Loice, one of our head nurses, cares for meningitis patients during a recent outbreak

For the life of me I can't figure out how to turn this picture around – but I hope you can turn your head and get an idea of the crowded conditions during the outbreak. We had to put people on the verandah of our storeroom. Our staff worked really hard and many lives were saved. Surveillance systems have been put in place and we continue to monitor the situation.

#### Prayer & Praise update:

- The interview committee chose a candidate to be our new administrator. If this is God's choice pray that Samuel will accept the terms of employment when I meet with him on Monday.
- Praise the Lord that we were able to effectively respond to the meningitis outbreak with enough drugs and staff to care for the many patients. Pray that an upsurge in the disease will not materialize.
- We still need more nurses and have had many just not show up for work for several weeks without any notification. This seems to be a fairly common practice in Sudan but it makes it hard to run a hospital. Pray that we'll find some committed staff to fill in the gaps.
- Important decisions about the future sustainable running of the hospital will be made in the coming days and weeks. Pray that we will have the mind of Christ and unity in planning.
- The motorbike that I asked you to pray about in October was finally released after being impounded by the police for 5 months. Continue to pray for smooth interactions with the police in future dealings.
- Thanks for your generous gifts that enable me to be here! I appreciate you.



Yours in Sudan,

Joy  
Working in Sudan with World Gospel Mission and Samaritan's Purse

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday Communion Service

7:30 pm April 5<sup>th</sup>

*Good Friday Service*

7:30 pm April 6<sup>th</sup>

## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

April 8<sup>th</sup>

(note time changes)

6:30 am Sunrise Service - Garden of  
Remembrance

8:00 am Traditional Morning Worship

9:30 am Traditional Morning Worship

11:00 am Contemporary Morning Worship

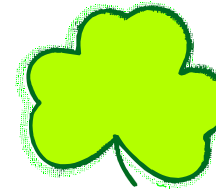
Don't miss these opportunities to worship the  
Lord!





# St. Paul's United Methodist Church

## March 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Weekly Events &amp; Meetings - - - &gt;</b> 9:00AM Sunday School 9:00 Trad. Worship Service 10:10 Fellowship – Boyd Hall 10:45 Contemp. Worship Svc. 1:00PM Volleyball 6:30 Young Adult 8:00 Alcoholics Anon.	6:00PM Cub Scout Webelos 2 – Rm. 8 7:00PM Senior High Youth 7:00PM DivorceCare –Rm 5 DivorceCare for Kids Rm 9	6:00 Tigers Den – Rm 6 6:00 Wolves Den – Rm 6 6:30 Webelos 1 – Rm 5 7:00 Junior High Youth 7:30 Safe Place – Rm 10 8:00pm Men’s Basketball	6:00AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Ladies Share Grp-Penrods 4:30PM Cherub Choir 5:30 Youth Bible Study – SI Par 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:30 Volleyball 6:40 Adult Bell Choir 7:00 Adult Bible Study	6:30PM Alcoholics Anon. 7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 7:00 Carol Choir 7:00 Celebration Choir 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 Chancel Choir	9:00AM Bulletin Team 7:00PM Praise & Worship 8:00 OC Anonymous	7:00am Men’s Disciple
				1	2 7:30pm Koinonia Volleyball	3
4	5 7:00pm Administrative Bd	6 7:00 UMW Exec Bd Mtg	7 11:45 Lenten Lunch	8 12:30 Senior Joy	9 3:30pm Girl Scouts – Rm 5  St. Paul’s Church Retreat	10  St. Paul’s Church Retreat
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins  St. Paul’s Church Retreat	12 7:00pm Finance 7:00 Trustees	13 9:00AM Miriam Circle 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:30pm Deborah Circle	14 11:45 Lenten Lunch 7:30 Lydia Circle	15	16	17 8:00 Men’s Breakfast 6 PM Fellowship Dinner
18	19 7:30pm Leadership Mtg.	20 6:30pm UMW General Mtg.	21 11:45 Lenten Lunch	22	23 3:30pm Girl Scouts – Rm 5	24 8:00am Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast  3:00pm Wedding
25	26 7:30pm SPR	27	28 11:45 Lenten Lunch	29	30	31 10am Cub Scout District Pinewood Derby  10am Cantata Rehearsal  7:30PM Easter Cantata “Eyes of Faith”

MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> & APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 730 PM - EASTER CANTATA “EYES OF FAITH”