



Circuit Rider

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

November, 2006

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
WHAT'S YOUR STORY

In the last few weeks we have been talking about how lost people matter to God enough to warrant an all out search. There is celebration all across heaven when one person comes to Christ. We talked about some practical ways we can build relationships and start spiritual conversations with people we are trying to reach for Christ.

We talked about communicating what Christ has done for us. What has God done for you? Can you explain it in plain English?

Our testimonies are important enough to write out. Many people have never done this. I cannot tell you how important it is to organize your thoughts on what God has done in your life. You never know when you will have that opportunity to tell someone else.

How do you do it? In Acts 26, we find Paul telling his story. Although there are a lot more details, there are essentially three sections, or what we will call three "handles." We can build our stories around the same three handles so that you have a simple three part outline to remember.

The first handle is represented by the letters BC, and it is about Paul's life "BEFORE CHRIST." Here Paul tells about his life growing up. He was a Pharisee, and he was convinced that he should do everything possible to oppose the teachings of Jesus, including putting Christians in prison and even condemning them to death.

The second handle is represented by a cross, and it is Paul's "CONVERSION." Paul relates how he came to Christ. He tells how he was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, when Christ appeared to him and appointed him to be His servant and spokesperson.

The third handle is represented by the letters AD, and is Paul's life "AFTER CHRIST." Paul shares about coming to Christ and how he preached that people should repent, turn to God, and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Then Paul asks the King, "*King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.*" It is always important to ask people if what we are sharing with them makes sense.

I want to encourage you to go home and sit down and write out your testimony. You never know when God might provide the opportunity for you to share it with someone. People matter to God and enough to us to let them know the Good News that Jesus loves them.

See You In Worship, Pastor John

Greetings!

I'm at the office at St. Paul's right now working through some of the things that I'm doing for our chapel here at the Christian school. We have some young people here that are awesome. Right now I'm thinking of the Jr. High students that I meet both here at the school and at our youth group on Tuesday nights. I get to hang out with most of them twice on Tuesdays and I'm thankful for their energy and excitement. If you have the opportunity to introduce yourself to any of them and get to know them I would strongly encourage you to. I think that many of you would be a blessing to them and they will be to you as well.

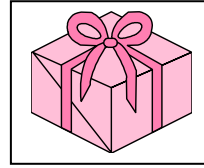
Our Senior High youth are awesome too! It's been great to not only spend time together with them at our Monday night gatherings, but also getting to know some of them one-on-one as I've been able to spend time with some of them. One thing that I am thankful for in my walk with the Lord is that he has continually put people in my life who were there to listen, be an encouragement, and to mentor me; people who play vital part in my growth as a follower of Christ. I am also thankful for the opportunities and relationships in which God has used me to be that kind of mentor to others. Discipleship is a beautiful thing, and it is our privilege to be and to make disciples after Christ's example.

Every relationship is an opportunity for discipleship, and each one of us has been given spiritual gifts of God's grace that he's given us to benefit others with. How can we be that vital part in someone's life that God uses to grow someone else today? It starts with our hearts beating with life in connection with God's heart and letting that life overflow into the relationships he's given to us. Whether it's with family, friends, acquaintances, strangers, or enemies, let's let every relationship become a thriving ministry of love for God and others.

What a great calling for us to share!

Your brother and partner in service,

Matt K.



The Christmas Store

Since 1977 the congregations of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brick Township have provided a "Christmas Store" for the needy. The store is held each year on a Saturday in the middle of December. The church hall is festively decorated and Christmas Carols play on the stereo. There are tables laden with toys, games, books and other gifts for the children. Also the "warm tree" table full of knitted hats, scarves, mittens, sweaters, and etc. (the ladies from both churches knit all year long in preparation). Cartons are filled with all the necessities for a complete Christmas dinner (including a turkey). There are also hygiene kits with soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs and washcloths.

Each volunteer has his or her appointed assignment – baby sitters for the children while the parents "shop", hostesses to guide participants around the room, "salespersons" at each table to help the parents select an appropriate toy for their child, a person to dispense gift wrap and folks to help load the shopping baskets with food. The church youth help the recipients to their cars with their packages.

This past year over \$7,000 was distributed in toys and food. Over the last twenty-nine years, the volunteers of "The Christmas Store" have cared and shared with approximately 1,810 families including 5,338 children. Funded buy donations from the two congregations, "The Christmas Store" has distributed over \$121,185 in toys and food.

For additional information contact,
Bery or Walt

We will again be collecting new and handmade items for the warm tree. They include hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, lap robes and afghans. If you are in need of yarn please call Maureen - I can bring it to your home if needed.
Thank You



Hanging of the Greens

Come and join us as we usher in the Christmas season with the traditional "Hanging of the greens". Our day begins in fellowship by enjoying some delicious breakfast treats. We will then be making ornaments which will be used for the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. We will also work together decorating the church in preparation for this blessed time of year.

This is an event for the whole family, so come and join in the fun on as we meet in the sanctuary on **Saturday December 2nd at 9:00am**. If you would like more information please contact Judy.

A Note From Bill ...

To all my friends and church members who remembered me during my stay in the hospital, with your cards, visits and telephone calls, your prayers: May God give each of you His blessing for your love and kindness. I pray that I may soon be strong enough to contribute in my own small way to Sunday Worship. Thank you again, Bill .

Delanco Camp Meeting Winter Retreat Willow Valley Resort & Conference Center

All members of St. Paul's UMC are invited to the Delanco camp Retreat taking place at Willow Valley on March 9-11 2007. The theme for the weekend is "The Deeper Life" and the featured speaker is Doug S, Sr. Pastor. To encourage more people from St. Paul's to attend the church is giving a \$25 upfront discount per person. This will be a great opportunity for you to get away, relax and recharge your spiritual batteries. For more information contact the office at 732-458-2080

27th ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW November 4, 2006 - 7:00 PM

***27 YEARS OF GREAT MUSIC, GREAT
FUN,
& GREAT FELLOWSHIP!***

***COME ONE! COME ALL! WE'RE GETTING
READY FOR ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!***

St. Paul's Music Department is very excited to present its 27th Annual Variety Show! This year we have the pleasure of featuring great American music from the past 75 years! Mixed in will also be some other enjoyable music from pop to classical. It is sure to be a great evening for us and for our always wonderful audience.

We hope the show this year will be an extraordinary treat for everyone with participation by all the Choirs: children, teens, and adults will be involved in this fun time for participants and audience alike. There will be some super highlights and we're sure you and your family and friends will want to be a part of this exciting night at St. Paul's. We are truly blessed by all the **great talent we have here. Besides the choirs, we will also have solos, duets, quartets, ensembles and instrumentals. There will be music for all tastes—pop, Broadway, jazz, country, classical, and praise!**

For 27 years this has been a wonderful time of fellowship for the whole church family. We will all be working hard to present this great collage of music to you. All proceeds will go towards the new music room.

Please invite ALL your family and friends and join us for a great time of fellowship! After all...you don't want to miss all the FUN on Nov. 4 at 7:00!

Maturity/Ministry Classes

This Fall Pastor John will be teaching the Ministry class for individuals who wish to deepen their faith in Christ. The class will be at 7:00 pm in the Library November 1st & 8th.

**CHANCEL CHOIR
CHRISTMAS CANTATA & MESSIAH
SING-A-LONG
&
CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND**

St. Paul's Chancel Choir and Christmas Concert Band will present their Christmas cantata and concert on December 16 and 17, Saturday and Sunday nights, at 7:30 PM.

The Chancel Choir will present "**Sing We Now of Christmas**". The music is beautiful and includes many well-known and new Christmas songs to be sung by choir, youth, and congregation. Along with the music will be a special "*Hangings of the Greens*" time for the congregation to decorate the tree with ornaments that they have brought. There will be another time in the cantata when the congregation will bring up food donations as their "gift" to the baby Jesus to be used for our church food pantry. *We therefore ask the congregation to bring a simple ornament and can of food to help us out in our presentation.*

Following the cantata, the Chancel Choir will invite audience members to join us in singing some of the famous Christmas choruses from Handel's Messiah. If you have ever sung this glorious work you are invited to join us in front of the congregation. We are excited to join together in our joy of our Savior's birth.

Our Christmas Concert Band will present some great Christmas music as well. We are planning on presenting different styles, from traditional Christmas songs to classical and even a "swing" Christmas number. Our Concert Band is made up of woodwinds, brass, and percussion players from St. Paul's and the communities around us, ages 7th grade through adult. It is a unique ensemble and we are excited to involve our church and community in this instrumental outreach.

Please mark these dates on your calendar today and invite family and friends to join us. It is sure to be a great part of your Christmas celebrations.

Barbara E
Director of Music

**ATTENTION ALL
INSTRUMENTALISTS**

It is time to dust off those instruments, warm up your fingers and lips, and join us for a great unique ministry! **St. Paul's Christmas Concert Band** is open to youth and adults, 7th grade-Adult. If you can play a woodwind (flute, clarinet, sax), brass (trumpet, baritone, Fr. Horn, trombone, tuba), percussion and bells—we encourage you to join us. at **7:15 (set-up) and 7:30 start** and will continue on Wednesdays until December's concert. Rehearsals will be held in the **new Music Room**.

The concert will be held on **December 16 and 17 prior to the Chancel Choir cantata**. This group includes members from St. Paul's, area High Schools and Colleges, and the Community, Please join us for some great band music and invite your instrument playing friends and family as well. It is sure to be a great experience –praise God with a joyful

Kid's Alley Arts & Crafts Fair

On December 2, 2006, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 714 Herbertsville Road, Brick, New Jersey will host a Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair to benefit Kids Alley, a non-profit faith-based organization, which provides inner-city children with school supplies and after-school programs, educational and academic support, nutritional provisions, leadership development, and living arts.

Artists and Crafters are still needed for the show, which will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Spaces are \$50.00 for a 10 X 10 space. Only original works please, no flea market items, imported items, or manufactured items of any kind. Admission is \$3.00 for adults and children under 10 free.

For information please call Jo-Ann.

Communications

E-Mail Announcements and Prayer Requests

If you would like to be on the church e-mail list to receive announcements, reminders of upcoming events and prayer requests, e-mail your information to penrodt@Comcast.net

If you have been on the list and have not been getting the church e-mail during the last few weeks, please e-mail us your address.

Terry & Nancy



A SUNDAY SCHOOL THANKSGIVING MISSION

This year the Sunday school children would like to ask the congregation to help them learn how God wants us to share what we have with others in need. Please help us in our mission to collect food pantry donations to help those less fortunate during the Thanksgiving/Christmas season and throughout the year. The following items are listed in the order of most needed:

1. Individual Dry Milk Packets (boxes containing individual packets)
2. Canned Main Dishes (ex. Chili, stews, meats, chicken etc.)
3. Canned Fruit
4. Rice
5. Crackers
6. Pie Crust Mix
7. Canned Pumpkin
8. Pancake Mix / Syrup
9. Juice
10. Macaroni and Cheese

Boxes for donations will be inside the church entrance and in the Sunday school office. If anyone wishes to donate a turkey please notify the church office. The Sunday school children wish to thank the congregation for their help in the success of this mission. If everyone donated 1 item from the list we could help many struggling families feed their children, no child should ever go hungry.

Campbell's Soup Labels

Campbell's no longer accepts the front panels of



soup can labels! The part of the label that can now be redeemed is the UPC section, along with the Labels for Education symbol showed at left. This may be a stylized pencil on old labels or the little student. These must be cut out together, not taped or

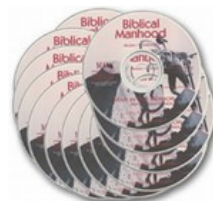
glued or stapled. **Remember just cut them off the label in one piece.** You may bring them to the UMW meeting or give to any member of the UMW. All the labels are sent to the Red Bird Mission and are used to buy items to help them in their work. Last year they received enough labels to buy a van and 30 other items.



Wanted: Used Jewelry

Deborah Circle is collecting used jewelry for their table at the Holiday Shoppe this month. They are asking everyone to go through their jewelry box and donate any items that are just gathering dust. All items should be in wearable condition. There will be a box in the Narthex for the next few weeks labeled "Jewelry for Deborah Circle" to put the jewelry in. All proceeds from the sale go to missions.

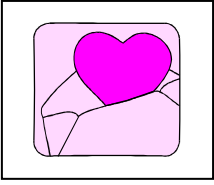
How Are Men Wired?



How is it that men are wired, and in what way has God called us to live? This upcoming 24 week series consists of 12 CD's and related discussion questions.

Starts November 8, 2006
Wednesday Morning Men's Breakfast and Study
Every Wednesday Morning at 6AM in Norcross Hall

Send Some Cheer...



Our District Superintendent Diane Koob has been released from the hospital after serious complications of surgery. She is currently in rehab and improving daily. We encourage everyone to send her

“cheer” in the form of a letter or card to her home address

Senior Joy

There will be no Senior Joy in November due to repairs to the floor in Norcross Hall. Mark your calendar for December 8th for a special lunch and program

United Methodist Women

November 7 – Executive Board 7 PM

November 18 Holiday Shoppe and Attic Sale

10-2 PM

There is no General Meeting this month

NORCROSS HALL REPAIR

As many of you know, the floor in Norcross Hall has been damaged by excessive moisture and high pH. This combination has destroyed the adhesives holding the floor to the concrete slab. We have spent several months testing and consulting with engineers and our architect about possibilities of how water is getting to the concrete slab and ways to correct this issue. Our insurance company tested all the pipes for leaks and reported they did not find any leaks causing our moisture problem. Therefore, we have no claim under our policy to collect from the insurance company.

Norcross Hall was designed with the following:

1. It has a concrete slab with a vapor barrier under the entire slab.
2. A three-foot wall that is also vapor treated surrounds the entire slab.
3. All drainage, by design, moves water away from Norcross Hall
4. All drains and gutters have been inspected for leakage
5. The slab was poured in two sections. The slab towards Herbertsville Road is built on grade while the slab towards the kitchen is elevated several feet.

The concrete section towards Herbertsville Road is the damaged area. Last week, a technician from the flooring company tested to the mid-line and found the floor to have poor adhesive contact. He touch tested and did a slice test and found the adhesive was still attached on the side towards the kitchen.

We are reviewing two options to repair the floor. Option One is replacing the floor up to the mid-line and placing a liquid vapor barrier directly on the slab. This entire section of 2,436 sq. ft. with a ten-year insurance warranty will cost \$25,456.20. Option Two is replacing the entire floor with the same warranty. The cost for replacing the entire floor is \$48,310.36.

We have many ministries and programs that use Norcross Hall. Please pray about this issue and consider giving a donation above your unified and building/ expansion commitment. If we can all give something then our gifts together will add up to an awesome gift. Remember, any sacrifice above your commitment will be pleasing to God. Thank you and God Bless, Milt

Joy's Sept. 2006 Monthly Memo Inspiration Block

I'm not sure what to write this month. I've been waiting several weeks for an inspirational insight into my life here. Nothing's coming. Life has been busy, but not necessarily stirring. I know God is at work, but I don't feel it. That doesn't lessen my commitment to being here, it's just not as fun when it's hard work, frustrating and at times overwhelming. Transitioning to a new culture, workplace, lifestyle, communal living, etc. is taking work. Pray that I will do my best to follow God's leading in each of these areas of my life.

Thank you for praying for Andrew and Monica's visa interviews. They had easy interviews and were granted visas and we will be leaving Kenya on October 12th. Below is our schedule. We'd love to see you at any of our meetings. If you'd like more details just write or contact the listed church directly.

Joy, Andrew & Monica's schedule for Homeland Ministry Assignment - Part 2

October 15, AM, Evangelical UMC, Clarksboro, NJ
PM, Paulsboro UMC, Paulsboro, NJ
October 18, AM, Breakfast meeting with Mullica Hill Rotary Club, NJ
PM, Tabernacle UMC, Erma, NJ
October 20, PM, Tabernacle UMC, Erma, NJ
October 22, AM, Evangelical Free Bible Church, Scranton, PA
October 23, 2 PM, Pitman Manor, Pitman, NJ
October 26 & 27, Visiting friends in Gettysburg area
October 28, AM, Brunch at Memorial UMC, Quarryville, PA
All are welcome! Call Joyce Zercher at 717-284-4389 before October 23 to make reservations
October 29, AM, Emilie UMC, Levittown, PA
PM, Zion UMC, Egg Harbor Township, NJ
November 1, PM, Walnut Creek Mennonite Church, Walnut Creek, OH
Andrew and Monica will continue to share with this church family through Sunday.
November 4, afternoon, Joy at Missions Fair, Dobbins UMC, Delanco UMC
November 5, PM, Joy at Barnsboro UMC, Barnsboro, NJ
November 6, Noon, Joy at Seniors Luncheon, Friendship Finley UMC
November 7, PM, Joy at Clayton UMW, Clayton, NJ
November 6 & 7, Andrew and Monica at Christ Harbor UMC, Tuscaloosa, AL
November 9 - 11, all at Global Health Missions Conference, Louisville, KY
November 12, AM, Bethesda UMC, Swedesboro, NJ

PM, South Vineland UMC, Vineland, NJ
November 13, PM, fly back to Kenya and Sudan
A girlfriend sent this quote in an email recently that was a real encouragement to me. "An easy, routine way of life which many associate with stability and security only gives man stagnation. Entrenched routine only spoils man and makes him simple and weak. On the other hand progressive resistance in life always has the potential to give man progressive strength, and to make man progressively wiser... Resistance makes a man think new thoughts he never thought before. It makes a man ask questions he never asked before. It makes a man seek answers he never sought before. It makes a man beg God for help that he never before realized he needed. These quests, quests of the heart and soul, eventually make a man deeper, wider, taller." Praying God will continue making me deeper, OK - not wider, but definitely taller! Through faith, Joy

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

IN FAITH WE GROW **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

Financial Update Regarding the 20 Year Mortgage:

Monthly mortgage payment.....\$9,637.03
Expansion givings for Sep.....\$8,834
30 year mortgage with an interest rate of 5.75%

Today's Reading:

Scripture Reading: Matthew 19:25-30; 20:8-16

Key Thought: Reward for stewardship and service is granted by God, not gained by man.

Today's Reflection:

Remembering God's word helps us maintain the right heart attitude as we give and serve. We can very easily slip into the mind set of Peter or the first group of laborers, calculating what's in it for me or, unconsciously and subtly, beginning to demand or dictate to God how He keeps His promises to us.

How much better to serve with complete and utter trust in the Master's proposition: Go, and whatever is right I will give you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? God's promises of provision and reward are sure and He will give us far more than we deserve; but only if our motives are pure and our hearts are fixed on Him, not on the reward He brings.

Stewardship Speaker: Ruth



**St. Paul's UMW
Holiday Shoppe and Attic Sale
Norcross Hall**

**Saturday, November 18th –
10-2 PM**

***Homemade Lunch, Christmas Gifts &
Decorations, Crafts, Bake Goods, Cheeses,
White Elephant , Jewelry, Handmade Items,
Candy***

**Shop til you drop and enjoy a delicious
breakfast & lunch**

Donations are appreciated and can be dropped off on Friday Nov. 17th