



Circuit Rider

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

October, 2006

SHARING OUR FAITH THROUGH TESTIMONY

Read John 4:4-42

We have been talking these last few weeks about sharing our faith through testimony. God has given each of us a message to share with others. It is simply telling people what God has done in our lives. There are people we need to verbally share that message with that they too may understand and receive forgiveness as we have.

Often we do not tell others out of fear of rejection. We are afraid of how someone will react when we tell them what we believe. How do you overcome this fear? How can you be bold about sharing your faith. The only thing that can motivate us to share our faith is a clear understanding of people's condition and future outcome. If we really believed that lost people matter to God, they should matter to us. If we really believe that a lost person is lost, that should motivate us to share with them about Jesus. If we really have a clear sense of what happens to someone who is lost when they die, it would move us to share with others.

What does happen to someone when they die? That is a question many people avoid discussing or even thinking about because they fear the answer. Is this all there is, we live these 60, 70, 80 years and then we stop existing? Are we like a tree in the forest that may live a long life and then suddenly one day is destroyed by fire and ceases to exist? What does happen when a person dies? Life is a precious gift. It is given to us by God. We were made to exist forever. When my body dies, my life continues with God or apart from God. The question then becomes where we will exist? Will I be with God forever or apart from Him forever? Praise God for Jesus and the forgiveness we have received through His life, death and resurrection from the dead. Because He lives we will live also.

Isn't the truth for us the same truth for others? Isn't the same forgiveness that we have received available to others? Why keep this to ourselves? I praise God that someone, in fact there were many people, cared enough about me to tell me about Jesus and my need for forgiveness. Don't people we know deserve to know that same truth and love? Sometimes I get so busy doing what seems to be right, I neglect the best thing God has called me to do...to speak the truth about Jesus in love with others. I guess as I reflect on this I have to ask myself do I really care about others? Do I care that they will be apart from God forever? That should be part of my motivation to share my testimony. What is your motivation for sharing your testimony? How is God using you as a witness to others of His forgiveness and love? Every person you see is someone that Jesus died for.

I want to encourage you, as I seek this encouragement myself, to be in prayer for three people that God would give you the opportunity to talk to them about the difference Jesus has made in your life. Pray that God would give you eyes to see their need for Jesus. Pray for wisdom to see the opportunity and seize that moment. God calls us to build relationship with others in order that we may share with them the Good News that Jesus has died on the cross for the forgiveness of their sins and risen from the dead to show that we can have victory over sin and even the grave. May God give you the blessing of witnessing your faith through your testimony in this coming week.

See you in worship Pastor John

Youth News

Hello again,

St. Paul's is beginning to feel more and more like home as the time goes by. At first, it's crazy because you're in a new place, with new people, having new responsibilities, and adjusting to all of the changes as God uses it all to make you who you are today and who you're going to be tomorrow. It's been an awesome experience, and we really have an awesome Father! God knows just what we need at just the right time, and it's a freeing thought to know that the One who's in charge of the universe is looking out for us with our best interests in mind!

As I write these things, it makes me wonder what kind of experiences God has brought each one of you through, both individually and as a church family. I recently got into an awesome conversation with someone about our stories and how when God is the main character, our stories are never lame and they always bring encouragement and hope to others and ourselves in the Body of Christ. So what's your story? What has God done in your life to bring you to where you are today? And, if God has brought you through everything thus far, do you think He'll let you down in the future? No way! The scriptures say that we can be convinced that He who began a good work in us will be sure to complete it (Philippians 1:), and that He'll never let us down if we trust in Him (Romans 10:).

Again, if anyone is interested in coming out to youth group, the middle school group meets every Tuesday from 7pm-9pm and the high school group meets every Monday from 7pm-9pm. Feel free to talk to me or ask some of the youth that come out how things are going. I think we've been having a good time. There are a lot of great people who come out on Mondays and Tuesdays.

I have recently spoken to a few of you about the children's ministry program. As of right now, we do not have a team of volunteers to head up that program and give it what it really needs to thrive. I don't mention this to *pressure* anyone into helping lead this ministry, but if you really have a *passion* for it, let me know! Until we have a team with passion and vision, we're going to keep the children's ministry ('Angels') on hold. Call me or find me if you have any questions.

Grace & Peace, Matt



!! 27th ANNUAL VARIETY SHOW !!

November 4, 2006 - 7:00 PM

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

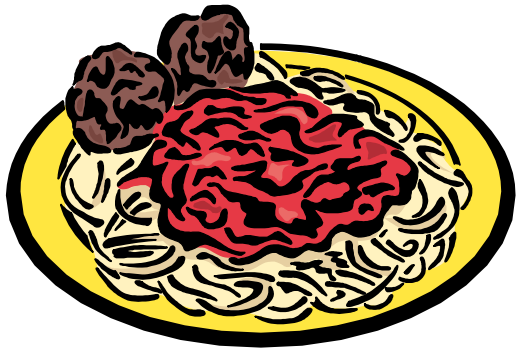
COME ONE! COME ALL! WE'RE GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER GREAT SHOW!

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! There will also be some other great 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 time 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 everyone—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!



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, October 20 from 4:00 PM - 8:00PM will be St. Paul's Cub Scout Pack 33 annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. The dinner will include: spaghetti and meatballs, bread, salad, and beverages. Tickets will be available on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the church beginning on Thursday, October 5. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12-4 years old. Pay ahead of time or at the door. So come out and enjoy a delicious spaghetti dinner served by the cub scouts and let them know we support them!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Dates to Remember

October 3 – Executive Board 7 PM



October 17th

Dinner 6:00 PM & Auction
7:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Can you knit or crochet? Would you like to pray for and comfort someone in need? You can help in the following ways.

1. Tell us who we can help
2. Knit or crochet a shawl
3. Donate money for yarn

Call Sharon Gto volunteer or for more information.

Mexico Mission Trip

We are in the process of planning the mission trip to New Fountain of Life in Acuna, Mexico. The dates for the trip are December 26, 2006 to January 1st or 2nd, 2007. We will be staying at a hotel in Del Rio, Texas, and crossing over into Mexico everyday. If you have never been to New Fountain of Life I would STRONGLY encourage you to go. You will never forget the love on the faces of the children in the orphanage, as well as witness first hand God's continual work in Mexico through Norris and Ruth, and Dr. Chavez.

Members of the Salvation Army in Montclair, NJ will be joining us again this year. We would like to try to get a count of how many people are interested in going from St. Paul's. Please contact Jim or Claire, or Don.

COMMUNION OFFERING

The Communion Offering for the month of October will support our Missionaries Steve and Dianne S with whom we hold a covenant relationship. Steve S is the pastor of the Thousand Sticks United Methodist Church in the Appalachian Region of Kentucky. Their mission is critical in this very poor area. Local resources are very limited and therefore extra support is needed.

Year after year the S have been a real inspiration to us all. Although they work in one of the poorest regions of the United States, their mission continues to grow and they are not only able to support their own church, but are able to support others in the surrounding community.

Your offering today will be sent as salary support which will allow the S to continue their good work in spreading God's word to the people of Kentucky.

If you have any questions regarding this ministry, or missions in general, please feel free to call Jim or Claire.

LEXINGTON HOUSE MISSION

We will be having our annual Christmas Party on December 17th at Lexington House in Lakewood. Once again we will need your support to make this a happy and special time for the residents. Thank you for being so caring and generous in the past in your donations of the many items we need each month for Bingo and dessert. The residents show their appreciation with a smile, a thank you and my favorite question: "When will you be back?" I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who help every month and are so quick to say yes when asked.

At this time we are looking for 2007 calendars. Any size and type of calendar including the free ones you receive in the mail would be appreciated. Please leave them in the large container marked "Lexington House" near the inside mailboxes. Just a heads up: next month, I will be handing out information listing exactly what is needed for the Christmas Party.

If you would be interested in helping, we are always looking for new volunteers. I hope you will consider joining us in this mission. If you have any questions call Donna. Thank you again.

Donna

Christmas Store



The Christmas store will be here before we know it (DEC. 9) and 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

BLAIR BENEFIT CONCERT

*TO BENEFIT THE
CHILDRENS ORPHANAGE
IN MEXICO*

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 1st - 7 PM



MUSIC



***BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY &
CHRISTIAN CONTEMPORARY***

***JEFF P, RANDY B
AND FRIENDS***

JOE S

***ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
714 HERBERTSVILLE ROAD
BRICK, NEW JERSEY***



CHRIST CENTERED PEOPLE!

THE ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL IS IN THE WORKS! PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. THIS IS SAINT PAULS EIGHTH YEAR DOING THIS MINISTRY. WE WELCOME MEMBERS, AND NON-MEMBERS, SAINT PAULS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TOO. ALL ARE INVITED. THE DATE IS OCTOBER 31ST. CHECK THE BULLETIN OR CHURCH OFFICE FOR TIME.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.

BOYD HALL RENOVATIONS PROJECT

We greatly appreciate all those who have come in and donated their time and expertise to the renovation of Boyd Hall. The Norman Boyd Youth and Music Wing has received the Certificate of Occupancy and is ready for use.

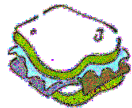
Thank you also to the many others who came in and helped that I have forgotten to include.

Most of the work was done on Wednesday nights for about 3 hours at a time and some Saturdays in December, January, and February.

The work night has been changed to Tuesday nights from 6 to 9 pm for the next phase that will be the new library and church office.

Senior Joy

Senior Joy will meet on Thursday, October 12TH at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich, Dessert will be provided.



We will be having a Hymn Sing and Matt will be sharing his "journey" with us. Please join us.

Delanco Camp Meeting Winter Retreat at 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 DougS. Pastor. For more information contact the office at 732-458-2080.

IN FAITH WE GROW STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Financial Update regarding the 30 year mortgage:

Monthly Mortgage

Payment.....\$9,637.03

Expansion Givings for

Aug.....\$7,997

30 year Mortgage with an interest rate of 5.75%

Today's Reading:

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, Matthew 6:19-21

Key Thought: Excellence in giving is part of a matched set of virtues.

Today's Reflection

In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the believers in Corinth, he describes a complete set of ideals, and he urges them to have the whole collection as it were: "But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7). This verse describes a matched set of virtues, a combination of qualities that epitomize all that is best: excellence in what one believes, says, knows, desires, feels and gives. For the believer, living a life of excellence is paramount, for it reflects the pure perfection of God.

Excellence should characterize all servants of Jesus Christ, and it should be thoroughly evident in our stewardship. This principle reinforces the priority of teaching us to always pursue the highest and best, never settling for mediocrity. Take a look at the men and women of faith in Scripture and it's crystal clear that they were people who excelled.

Stewardship Speakers: Boyd Hall Work Crew