



Circuit Rider

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

May 2009

THE HOLY LAND

I took the opportunity to visit the Holy Land three times in my life. The first time was in 1992 and it was called a familiarization tour. It was a group of pastors that went in hopes that they would set up future trips with groups from their churches. In 1994, I led a group of 80 youth from the Southwest District of our Conference. And again in 1996, we took a group from our district of youth and adults.

In January of this year, I am again leading a pilgrimage to Israel. I am hoping to take a group from St Paul's and any other friends we might know that would be blessed by such an experience. Brochures are available in the church office. There are savings if you register early so please make this a consideration.

We will be leaving on January 3rd from New York and traveling to Amman, the capital city of Jordan. We would arrive in the evening to check into our beautiful hotel and be treated to a lavish buffet before getting a good night's rest. We will spend the day in Jordan first on Mt. Nebo and see the Holy Land as Moses saw it before they entered. We will travel to Petra the city of rock, where one of the Indiana Jones movies was filmed. The next day we will walk through the Roman City Jerash and seek to understand the culture of that time. Later that day we will cross the Jordan River and stop in ancient Jericho. We will spend the night in Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee.

The next morning we will go out on a boat on the Sea and have a special time of worship. We will see the synagogue at Capernaum and stop by the spot where it is believed Jesus shared the Beatitudes and fed the 5,000. Later that day we will go to the Jordan River and have a reaffirmation service for our baptismal vows.

The next day we will visit Cana where Jesus attended a wedding and saved the host from embarrassment by turning the water into wine. We will visit Jesus' hometown of Nazareth and cross the plains of Megiddo, visit Mt. Carmel, the Roman Aqueduct at Caesarea and end the day by entering the city of Jerusalem.

The next two days we will be seeing all the sites around Jerusalem. We will go to the Mount of Olives and view the Old City, walk the Via Dolorosa, pray in the garden and at the Western Wall, visit the Dome of the Rock, sing a carol at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ at the garden tomb.

The next day we will take the Old Roman Road to Jericho and continue to the Dead Sea. There we will explore Masada, Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls we discovered), and Ein Gedi. We will cross back into Jordan for a good night's rest and in the morning fly back to New York.

Throughout the pilgrimage there will be times of worship and studying of the scriptures. You will experience the sights and sounds of the Holy Land that you have read about. We will also visit the Hope School in Bethlehem. It is a school that provides education for the physically challenged. The United Methodist Church has supported this ministry for many years.

I am looking forward to this wonderful and powerful spiritual experience. Please prayerfully consider if you could join me for this pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Pastor John

Youth News

I recently asked our young people if our faith, the Christian faith, is supposed to be a personal faith or a public faith. It was sort of a trick question, because the answer is undoubtedly both – our faith is a personal *and* public faith! Our faith is all about *knowing* God, and not just knowing *about* God. It's about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. But our faith is also a public faith – a faith that turns to action in our relationships, our churches, our homes, our schools, our communities, and our world.

Faith gets to work! James says, “Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works... faith without works is dead (Jas. 2.18b, 20b).” Just to be clear, we don't work to earn our salvation in Christ – only Jesus can do that, and He did it at the cross. The reason why we work is as a *result* of and a grateful *response* to the love, forgiveness, and power we've received by God's grace through faith in Jesus.

When our faith gets to work, people around us get to see a glimpse of the grace of God in tangible ways. Jesus told us, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5.16).” I remember a few years ago when I was on a missions trip to Pottsville, Pennsylvania. We were a collection of different youth and adults from New Jersey churches who were gutting homes that were going to be renovated for low-income housing. We were having a great time... and then one day the local news showed up! With their cameras rolling, they asked students and leaders what they were doing and why they were doing it in their area. It became a great opportunity to share the love of Jesus in a tangible and verbal way in that community!

When our faith is being lived out in practical and tangible ways, some may be drawn to want to know Christ, some may be indifferent, and others may be outright hostile; but none of these things ought to hold us back from living it out. After all we live to serve our King who sacrificed all so that we might have life, and have it to the fullest. At the end of the day we want to hear Jesus say to us,

“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me...Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.”

May your faith move you to action today, as a grateful response to, and as a compelling result of the love of Christ at work in your life!

Grace & Peace, Matt

Counseling Corner

April was Prevent Child Abuse month. Physical abuse is only one type of abuse. In the next few weeks there will be some coloring books available for children, if you would like to take one for your child and would like to discuss it with your child. They talk about Safe and Unsafe touching for the little ones and for third and fourth graders information about who to go to and things they can say. They will be located with the Care Notes.

When I was growing up, we were taught not to talk to strangers. In this day and age it is a sad fact that most predators are known to the children. I'm sure many of you have seen to *Catch a Predator* on NBC. This is just the tip of iceberg. We can all help protect our children. If you suspect that a child is being abused in anyway, mentally, physically or emotionally, ask the Lord to give you the courage to report it.

You can call your local Division of Family services anonymously. Contrary to popular belief, it is my experience that they do follow up. Again, I stress that all calls are confidential. You don't have to give your name. DYFS will not be able to tell you any information after the fact.

Next month I will give more information about child abuse and helping parents to cope with raising children in this world today.

Donna Ridge

Sunday Morning Fellowship / Coffee Hour Time

Over the years; decades in fact, there has been a time set aside in between Sunday morning services in which the congregation could gather and meet over light refreshment. Typically, many individuals and families have facilitated this time beginning with the start of the school year in September and ending in June. With the dedication of the new kitchen and hall, refreshments have evolved from the basic offering of regular and decaf coffee to a range of baked goods, fruits, juices, breakfast sandwiches and has provided for fund raising opportunities for small groups in mission. For several years this ministry has been supported by weekly free will donations.

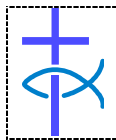
Several years ago, Betty and I were called to serve in this ministry. In my own case this new responsibility became a starting point for regular involvement in the life of the church leading to participation in Bible Studies, Men's Ministry and active involvement in the Walk to Emmaus. From this Emmaus experience I came to understand the joy of serving others and sharing that joy through the Fellowship Time each Sunday morning.

As of September, 2009, I will no longer be hosting the Sunday Morning Fellowship time on a week to week basis. Fortunately, over the history of this ministry, people have stepped up but should not be expected to shoulder this responsibility alone. It is my heartfelt desire that other people (including myself) in the form of small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies, etc) to serve on a rotating schedule. Soon a calendar will be posted for available Sunday mornings. I will be available to speak to anyone wishing to know more during Fellowship Time about the possibilities.

In His Service and of His Church,
Vern



MEMBERSHIP CLASS



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. The class will be on **Saturday, May 9th** from 10am to 2pm at the Sally Ike parsonage. Contact the office (732)-458-2080 if you are interested in joining the class.

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk

The 2009 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Great Strides-Taking Steps to cure CF is underway and we would like you to join in on our efforts to make this the best year ever for our team "LAUREN'S ROSES" by making CF stand for cure found! We would like to ask anyone and everyone who may be interested in supporting the Lake Family to help us raise funds and awareness and walk with us on Sunday May 3rd in Bradley Beach at the Pavilion on 5th and Ocean Ave. Registration starts at 11:00 and walk starts at 12:00 noon. We are walking for team Lauren's Roses.

For more info please contact Tom & Christine You may also go to the following web link for info on our walk team and to pre-register and/or donate.

We thank you for your support and are grateful for your generosity and prayers. Tom, Christine, Logan and especially Lauren

HELP NEEDED

On Saturday May 16th 8:30-12:30 a Northern Shore District Pre-conference Brunch and Meeting is being held at St. Paul's for Pastors and Lay Representatives. We are asking the congregation to lend a hand to set-up, serve and clean up. Friday evening we need people at 7 PM, Saturday from 7:30 AM - 2PM. If you can help any time during these hours, please call Jan. Your generous support of this event last year was appreciated. We hope we can count on you again. "Many hands make less work".

SALE

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

Saturday May 23, 2009

10 AM-2 PM

Clothing \$4/bag

Lunch Available

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

Pastor's Notes Binders

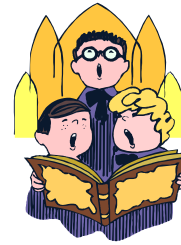
We have available in the Office a limited number of 5 ½ by 8 ½ binders which are the perfect size for the Pastor's Notes. If you are interested in buying one please contact the office at 732/458-2080. The notebooks are \$7.50 each. This is an unusual size which is not available at local stores.

Bleachers in Norcross Hall

Due to vandalism the bleacher controls will no longer be available at night. If your group will need the bleachers to be open for their event they must contact the church office two school days in advance. The school will open the bleachers (and close them the next day). Please remember that sitting on the bleachers when they are closed can cause damage to them. We ask everyone to help make sure no one sits on them in the closed position. Thank you

Confirmation Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who were confirmed on April 19th their baptism today. We rejoice with them and their families as they confirm their faith in the Lord.



Cherub Choir Cantata

“CROSS COUNTRY”

Saturday, May 2, 2009 4:30 PM

Get on your mark! Get set! Let's go! Welcome to “Cross Country,” the race to beat all others....the race for life with Jesus. Today, it seems it has become more and more difficult to live the Christian life. The evil one is constantly attacking us from all sides. The way we can maintain our Christian walk is to take up our Lord's cross daily and follow Him. “Cross Country” is a new musical presented to you by the Cherub Choir, teaching children (and all of us) to follow Jesus.

Join us in the Sanctuary for a wonderful and spiritual message heard through the voices of our Cherub Choir. Following the cantata, our monthly dinner will be held at 6:00 PM. A sign-up chart for the dinner is in the hall outside Norcross Hall. The menu is Mexican cuisine. Mark your calendars for a time of joyful music and good food.

United Methodist Women

Dates to Remember:

May 5 Executive Board 7 PM

May 19 Dinner & General Meeting

May 23 Rummage Sale 10-2

Mission Team Trip to Kentucky !!

The date has been set, and we are calling all families and church members to please join us. The mission group from St. Paul's will be leaving for Kentucky on Saturday, July 25, 2009 and returning on the Saturday, August 1, 2009. This trip is for families, youth, adults or any other group in the church that is feeling lead to be a part of missions. This is a great opportunity for those that would have loved to go to Uganda or Mexico, but were not able to go. The estimated cost per person is \$200. There are mission scholarships available for those that feel the calling to go but do not have the funds.

We'll be staying with Rev Steve and Diane Springer at the Lower Beach Fork Church and will be working in and around the church community there and possibly at Thousands Sticks depending on the size of the group. As Diane has said, "The Lord will provide the specific need when we get there." Our job is to just get there. I encourage you to follow God's calling in your life if you're feeling led to be Christ's hands and feet for His people in Kentucky. If He calls you to it, He will lead you through it. He will take care of the details; you just need to answer the call.

If the Holy Spirit is leading you to be a part of the team, please contact Tom or the church office for more information.

Senior Joy

Senior Joy will be held on May 14th at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Our District Superintendent Reverend Frances Noll and her husband William will be sharing with music and words.

Council on Ministries Coupon Ministry

The council on ministries would like to start a new ministry to provide a coupon exchange for the congregation. People bring in coupons they don't need and at the same time look through the ones that others had brought in to see if there are any that they could use. You do not need to bring in coupons to take some. We are looking for someone to help organize this. If interested please call Lorraine). Thank you.

It's a Baby Shower!



As most of you know, our delightful youth pastor and his lovely wife are expecting a little boy in July. We will be having a shower to celebrate his arrival on Sunday, May 31st at 12:30. For gift ideas, they have registered at Babies 'R Us. We will also have a little basket there for those of you who would like to give a "love offering" instead. After all, you can only use so many onesies. This will be a pot luck lunch, so we hope you prepare your favorite yummy food to share with others! There will be a sign up sheet in the hall in a week or two. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact Jen

SUNDAY SCHOOL WALK FOR MISSIONS

It is that time of year again. Spring has sprung and walking outdoors is wonderful at this time of year! The Sunday school classes will again be walking in order to raise money for Missions. The students will be asking for donations starting the first week of May until the day of the walk on June 7th. The rain date for the walk is June 14th.

We are keeping the focus of the Sunday school walk to missions that help children. We will be collecting Pop Top can tabs again to support the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, NJ. The tabs may be brought in thru June 7th. There is a collection box in the Sunday school Office and beginning in May there will be a collection container in the Narthex as well. The proceeds of the walk will help with children's scholarships for Christian summer camp programs or children and youth going on mission trips.

Scholarship applications are available through the Sunday school office and must be returned by May 25, 2009.

Please reach out to the Sunday school classes by sponsoring a child (or two) and help them make this Mission a success!! With the Salem, Maine trip slated for the end of June we should see and hear of some great results forthcoming! Please look for the classes between services. God bless you for your help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FIRE DRILL

Over the next several months the Sunday school classes will be practicing our fire drill program so we can be prepared in the event of a real fire or emergency evacuation. Our practice will culminate in a church wide fire drill encompassing the entire church congregation and fire department during a Sunday service within the next few months. This practice will require the cooperation of our parents so that the children will understand the importance of a safe and timely evacuation from the building. Please review the following evacuation protocol that must be followed exactly to insure everyone's safety:

Children's Evacuation Procedure:

Children will be escorted immediately from the classroom by their teachers thru the nearest exit door walking to the safe area on the far side of the parking lot. Adult bible study classes will also be exiting the building and assisting with the evacuation of classes if needed.

Adult Evacuation Procedure:

Ushers in the church will direct all adults to the nearest exit doors in the sanctuary (3 exits). Adults evacuating the building will then proceed to the safe area on the far side of the parking lot away from fire fighting equipment and fireman entering the building.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: It is imperative that adults leave the building immediately and do not attempt to go to the classrooms, as the children will have already left the building. When everyone has reached the safe area you may stand with your child's class if you wish, however, please DO NOT take your child out of the class until every child is accounted for by their teachers. I know that every parent wants their child to be safe and will adhere to this request to ensure a safe and timely evacuation in the event of an emergency.

THANK YOU THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Trip to Israel

Have you always wanted to visit the Holy Land and see where Jesus may have walked? Mark your Calendars and start saving your money to take a trip to Israel lead by Pastor John leaving on January 3, 2010. More information is available in the office

NEW FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

Norris and Ruth send their love to St. Paul's.

The following is an update from Norris and Ruth:

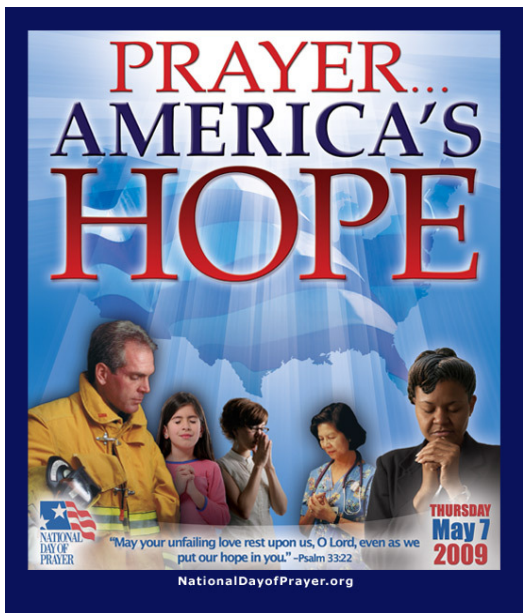
- Due to the global economy, three factories have shut down in the Acuna area which has caused an increase in children at the soup kitchen. Last week they served over 50 children.
- Norris is helping Pastor Patoni evangelize to the people of Mexico.
- Pastor Patoni is teaching the Word of God to three pastors at a time and then sending them out with program materials so they in turn can teach three more people to become pastors – then those pastors would go out and pastor three more, and so on...
- They have completed the construction needed in the soup kitchen replacing the ceiling, tiling and repairing the outside wall.
- When the government releases the home (a long process in Mexico), Norris has plans to open it as a shelter for women. The plans are to have sewing machines available and Rosa would teach them to sew so that they can use that skill to earn money to get back on their feet.

Norris is requesting your prayers for an unspoken request (security reasons). Please keep New Fountain of Life Ministry, Norris and Ruth in prayer.

If you should have any questions regarding this mission, or any other mission we support, please feel free to speak with us.

– Jim and Claire





The Sanctuary will be open for National Day of Prayer (May 7th) 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.

The following is a guide of things to pray for:

MILITARY

Courage and dependence on God (Psalm 91)
 Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2;
 Divine protection from the enemy (Romans 5:1-5)
 Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)
 Confidence and vision to persist in the face of negative publicity (Psalm 18: 31-39)
 Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1: 8-10)
 Chaplains who are divinely appointed to deliver hope and spiritual strength (Proverbs 4:11)

MEDIA

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make profit by producing family-friendly projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)
 Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)
 Celebrities to be provided with repeated opportunities to hear and receive salvation (Proverbs 8:35)

BUSINESS

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3)

EDUCATION

A return to truth and Judeo-Christian ethics (Psalm 1:1-2)
 A safe atmosphere conducive to learning
 Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)
 Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

CHURCH

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37)

Unity with and among churches that reveals God's love to the world (John 17:23)

A return to the absolutes of God's Word (Psalm 1:1-3)
 Integrity—that God's people look and act differently than the world (1 Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

A holy fear of the Lord released in the heart of God's people (Proverbs 9:10)

FAMILY

The re-establishment of relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6)

A return to family values that serve the nation as a whole (Job 22:21-22)

A return to the biblical mandate to train their children at home in the fear of the Lord and not leave the responsibility to others (Proverbs 22:6)

GOVERNMENT

Government officials to recognize God's authority and rely on Him for wisdom (James 1:5)

- Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of Transportation

Our country to stand strong on the principles of our Founding Fathers (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Our leaders to make wise decisions rather than succumbing to special interest groups (Luke 22:2)

Righteous judges and judgments in every court (Isaiah 1:26)

Our Officials:

- President Obama
- Vice President Biden

**Supreme Court Justices:
State and Local Officials**

Cabinet Members:

- Attorney General
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Health & Human Services
- Secretary of Homeland Security

**"Toby Mac and Six Flags Great Adventure"
June 6, 2009 10:30 am - 10:30 pm**

The Skyland's District invites all Children, Youth, Young Adults, Family, Friends to a day of Christian fellowship and fun at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, NJ on June 6, 2009. We have negotiated a group rate of \$26.75 (\$25.00 + \$1.75 tax), which includes Theme Park Admission and the Toby Mac Concert. (Tickets purchased at the gate are \$59.99 + tax).

Tickets can be ordered by completing the [order form](#) on the conference web site. All orders and monies must be received by the conference office no later than **May 22, 2009**. Questions? Contact Ted Nelson, Skyland's District Youth and Young Adult Coordinator at TedRNelson@GMail.com, or call 856-207-3671

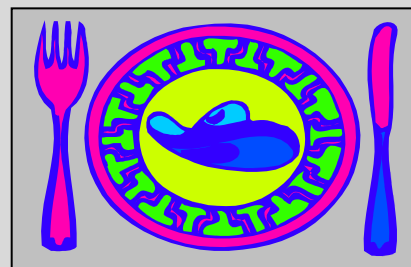
May Dinner Night



When: May 2, 2009
Where: Norcross Hall
Time: Dinner 6:00 PM
Entertainment – Cherub Choir Cantata at 4:30 PM in Sanctuary

Menu

Beef Taco
Chicken Enchilada
Spanish Rice
Bread and Butter
Dessert



For the kids
Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese




Sign up- outside Norcross Hall



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

May 2009



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 & 10:45 Childcare- Rm 1 10:10 Fellowship – Norcross Hall 10:45 Contmp. Worship Service 12:30 Women’s Softball Practice 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 6:30 Women’s Softball 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 6:30 Men’s Softball Practice 7:00PM Junior High Youth 7:30 Safe Place – Rm 10 8:00pm Men’s Basketball	6:00AM Men's Breakfast Norcross/ Library 7-9AM Before Care 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 Rm 6:30 Men’s Softball Practice 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) 6:30 Alcoholics Anon. – Room 5 6:30pm Men’s Softball Games 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
					1	2 12 noon Cherub Reh. 4:30 Cherub Cantata “Cross Country” 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
3	4 7:00 Trustees	5 7:00 UMW Exec Board	6	7	8	9 10AM-2PM Membership Class
10 Mother’s Day 	11	12 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	13 7:30 Lydia Circle	14 12:45 Senior Joy	15	16 8:00AM UMM Breakfast Pre-Conference Brunch
17	18 7:30pm Administrative Board	19 6:30pm UMW Dinner	20	21 SPCS Field Day	22 9am Setup for Rummage Sale	23 Rummage Sale 10am – 2pm 
24/ 31	25 7:00 SPR Committee Office Closed 	26	27	28	29	30