



Circuit Rider

St. Paul's United Methodist
Church

714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

October 2009

50 Days of Faith

In September we began a new series, 50 Days of Faith. You have been provided with opportunities to get connected with God (daily devotional), get connected with others (attend a Small Group), put God's Word in your heart (memory verses), stretch, challenge and deepen faith (attend worship), and to share how your faith has grown (completing survey).

This past year I have done a great deal of reflection about what is important. Economic, financial, health conditions and tragedies are often a wake-up call to realize how important our relationship with God is. As we study the scriptures we learn very quickly that God's love for us is unconditional. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more and there is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. But when you love someone, really love them, your natural, logical desire is to please them, to listen to them.

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, "*Without faith it is impossible to please God.*"

We are told that faith is an essential issue. How do you get more faith? Faith comes from hearing the Word. When we read, study and understand the Word of God we can expect the best. We can have confident assurance that God is in control of the future and that He plans what is best for our lives because He loves us. God wants the best for us so He tells us how to live. Our problem is we fail to listen to His voice, we fail to follow His instructions and when we do, we always find ourselves in trouble.

We have been learning how to live by faith in the midst of this fallen, messed up world. How do you expect God's best when you have problems? We looked at David as our example. Not only did he have problems with the people and the nations around him, he also struggled with a number of family and internal problems.

You **TUNE** into God every morning. Psalm 5:3

You **THINK** on God's Promises throughout the day. Psalm 119:95

You **TRUST** in God's love even when things look bad. Psalm 42:11

You **TALK** with other believers. Psalm 119:63

We learned what helped David grow in his faith was that he had a quiet time with God, he reflected on the promises of God, he worshipped God even more when things were toughest, and his deepest relationships were with those who also had faith in God like him.

That has been our model through these 50 Days of Faith; to read the daily devotional, memorize the promises of God, to be in worship and be encouraged in the midst of the trials, and to be in a small group where we can share our needs and find support in one another.

Is your faith growing? Without faith it is impossible to please God.
See you in worship.

Pastor John

Youth News

I dare you to spend just seven minutes in silence. Shut off your television, radio, or iPod. Remove all distractions from your midst and put down whatever it is that might distract you, and spend time listening for God in the quiet.

Mark 1.35 tells us that Jesus rose up early in the morning and went out to a desolate place to pray. Why do you think that He went to desolate, lonely, and solitary places (see also Luke 5.15-16)? Could it be that Jesus Himself was removing all distraction from His midst so that He could focus all of His attention on the Father? And if Jesus, being God in human flesh, spent time alone with the Father, it may be a great indication that we ought to as well.

In 1 Kings 19, we read of the prophet Elijah, worn out and ready to throw in the towel, because people are seeking to take his life. At one point, the Lord tells him to “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD (v.11).” A great wind came and tore the mountains, but God wasn’t in the wind. An earthquake came next, but God wasn’t in the earthquake. After that was a fire, but God wasn’t in the fire. At last, there was the sound of a “still, small voice,” which some believe could be translated “a thin silence.” God was in the silence!

Sometimes people struggle with communicating with God or listening to God. But at the same time, many people keep themselves distracted from ever being able to hear God’s voice! We have the distraction of cell phones, the Internet, Ipods, music on in the car, television on at home... and on top of all that, there are things to do, places to go, and people to see.

The reality is... we have to *make* time to allow ourselves to listen to God’s voice!

As you take time out in your schedule to spend time alone with the Lord, I want to encourage you to bring two questions along with you for the journey: (1) What areas of my life does God want to speak to me about right now? And (2) What is God saying to me about those areas of my life?

As you ask these questions before the Lord, listen for His answers in your reading of scripture. Let the word of God dwell in you richly as you grow in your relationship with Him!

Solitude: spending time alone with the Lord, is a major theme for our Senior High youth group retreat coming up in less than two weeks from the time I’m writing this newsletter. It is one of many spiritual disciplines that the Lord uses to deepen our faith in His grace!

May you draw near to Jesus today, and may you clear space in your daily life to draw near to Jesus and listen to His voice!

Grace & Peace from Him to you,
Matt

Counseling Article September 2009

Mental health today has come a far from the early days, but is still not understood. When most people think of mental health they think of depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, phobias, etc. Just as there are many physical diseases, so there are mental illnesses. Where to turn for help sometimes can be confusing. If you or a loved one, neighbor, co-worker or anyone you may know is suffering in this area or are wondering if help is needed, help is just a phone call away. New Jersey Mental Health Cares is a comprehensive mental health information and referral hotline and website. It is not just for professionals, but also the general public.

NJ Mental Health Cares is not for crisis intervention, but provides information which includes services for adults and children. It makes referrals to legal services, housing, employment, rehabilitation, inpatient and outpatient, self-help and more.

There are trained mental health professionals to answer calls.

- Live coverage is from 8am to 8pm. (Multi language capability and TTY.)
- Complete up to date listings of NJ’s public mental health services
- Ability to answer information and referral request over the phone or through e-mail
- Individuals can search NJ Mental HealthCares online data base
- Follow-up to ensure callers are satisfied with the referred service
- Ability to directly transfer calls to services while the staff remains on the line with you to facilitate transfers

The number is 1-866-202-4357 or on the web at njmentalhelpcares.org . I hope this information is or value to you. Do not hesitate or feel ashamed to call. After all our brain and our emotions are just as much a part of us as are our hearts, and the rest of our physical body.

Donna Ridge

30th Annual VARIETY SHOW!!!!



St. Paul's Music Ministry will present their 30th Annual Variety Show on Saturday, October 24, at 7:00PM. It is hard to believe that the talented children, youth, and adults have been bringing this fun filled show to our congregation and the community for 30 years!! There will be no general theme because there is so much great music that we have to choose from in the last 30 years—not to mention the new music that comes out all the time!

All of our choirs (children, youth, adults, Bells, and Praise Team) will be participating as well as many solos, duets, groups, and instrumentals. There will be a variety of Pop, Jazz, Gospel, Country, Classical, Broadway, Movies, and more. There is sure to be great music to interest everyone!

For 30 years we have been presenting this great time of music and fellowship for St. Paul's and the community. Please invite family and friends to join us for another fun evening with St. Paul's talented musicians!

Christmas Store

The Christmas Store committee is in need of the following for their hygiene kits. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Toothpaste	Shampoo
	Combs
Toothbrushes	Bars of Soap (regular size)

United Methodist Men

The Saint Paul's United Methodist Men will begin their 2009 – 2010 year on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Many of you do not know how to become a member or what we do.

1. Every man joining Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is a United Methodist Man.
2. Any man regardless of church membership can be a United Methodist Man by simply coming to one of our meetings.
3. There are no dues or membership fee.
4. We meet on the third Saturday of each month from September through June at 8:00 AM for breakfast (at a nominal cost), a devotion time, and a short business meeting.
5. There is a Bible study every Sat. morning from 7:00 to 8:00AM
6. There is a breakfast and Bible study every Wed. at 6:00 AM
7. We sell Christmas trees and Easter flowers every year.

With the money we make we support the missions of St. Paul's including but not limited to:

1. The Blair Mission to Mexico
2. Saint Paul's Church
2. Saint Paul's Christian School
3. The Boy Scouts

October Dinner

When: October 17th
Where: Norcross Hall
Time: 6:00 pm



For the kids: Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese



Sunday School Information

Welcome back to Sunday school! Our classes began September 13th, but children are welcome to start at any time. **Children from pre-kindergarten through 6th grade begin in church** for the children's sermon then proceed to their class (classrooms listed below and at the Sunday school office). **Grades 7th through 12th go directly to their classes at 9:00 am.** Sunday school class time will be 9:00 to 10:20 am. Please pick up your child/children promptly in their classroom at 10:20. Babysitting for infants through age 3 will only be available during the 9:00 service at this time.

This year our 4th, 5th and 6th grade class will participate in a teacher rotation pilot program. A team of eight teachers will pair off and rotate each on a specific Sunday for classroom instruction. We anticipate this program will allow the children to interact and learn thru quality time from several members of the congregation who love teaching children.

Our Sunday school program is still looking for parents to help support our program by volunteering to help with teaching, teacher's aide and rotating Sundays in the nursery. Without the help of parents we can not provide this program. If you can help, please contact the church or Sunday school office with your name and phone #, it would be greatly appreciated.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Classroom</u>
Nursery & 2 year olds	Room 2
3 year olds and Pre K	- Room 4
Kindergarten/1 st Grade	- Room 9
2 nd / 3 rd Grad	Room 7
4 th , 5 th and 6 th Grades	- Room 8
7 th and 8 th Grades	Room 5
High School	- Youth Room
Adult Bible Study	Library

Thank You

The Walters family, Bill & Judy, son George & Grandson Caiden Joshua, want to express their immense gratitude to the St. Paul's Church family. Your prayers and outpouring of love and support before, during and following George's wife Cyndi's illness after Caiden's birth on July 8th have blessed us. We are overwhelmed by such caring and concern. God keeps His promises and the prayers

and compassion of God's people shine His light. Thanks and God bless you.

Celebrate Christian Education

Please celebrate and support our 3rd grade students who received their bibles on September 20th, Christian Education Sunday in church. We ask their church family, our congregation, to support and guide them on their Christian journey of faith in their walk with God.


We also recognized and showed our appreciation for our Sunday school staff. Our children have learned to grow in their faith and establish a Christian foundation for life through the commitment and dedication of these talented people:

To the Congregation:

As most of you are aware, St. Paul's UMC is experiencing financial difficulties. Due to your generosity we have sufficiently funded other designated giving. However, we are having difficulty paying our bills. At this time we encourage everyone to make giving to the Unified budget and Expansion (Mortgage) their priority.

The Finance Committee would like everyone to help address our finances. Please come and talk to us with any ideas or questions you may have. As always, we invite everyone to attend our next Finance Meeting which will be October 19th at 7:00PM here at the church in the Library.

Thank you for your time and understanding.
Pete Buckley – Finance Chair

	St. Paul's United Methodist Church 714 Herbertville Rd. BRICK TOWN, NEW JERSEY 08724
TITHES/UNIFIED.....\$ _____	2ND MILE MISSIONS.....\$ _____
IMPROVEMENT FUND.....\$ _____	OTHER.....\$ _____
EXPANSION FUND.....\$ _____	OTHER.....\$ _____
NAME _____	

Senior Joy



Senior Joy will meet on Thursday, October 9th at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich. Dessert will be provided. Fred Fiorentino will be our speaker.

Sunday Morning Fellowship /Coffee Hour Time

Beginning in September, people (including myself) in the form of small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies, etc) will begin to serve on Sunday mornings on a rotating basis. A schedule will available in the Narthex for small groups and ministry leaders to sign up for this informal time fellowship time we have enjoyed over the years.

I will be available to speak to anyone wishing to know more about this opportunity to serve our Lord in the service of others.
Vern

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Dates to Remember

October 6 -Executive Board 7 PM

<p>Tuesday, October 20th Dinner 6:00 PM & Auction 7:00 PM</p>  <p>AUCTION ALERT!</p>
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Prescription Mission Program

Dear Friends,
Please extend our thanks to your congregation for the support you give to our less fortunate patients. The gift cards for Walgreen's have made such a difference for many patients, both young and old. Your community mindedness is a beautiful thing, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!
Gratefully yours,
Kathleen A. Martin, RN, BS, LSW
Nurse Manager Family Health Center

Fall Food Pantry Needs

As we head into Fall the food pantry is still helping 15 or more families a month with a four day box of food. Many items are in short supply. Listed below are the items needed most but just about any food which does not need to be refrigerated would help.

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Crackers | Canned Fruit | Powdered Milk - |
| Tuna Fish | Hash | -(Quart sized packets) |
| Chili | Soup | |
| Peanut Butter | Stew | Pork and Beans |

Please leave all donations in the round tub by the mailboxes outside the Narthex. Thank you

October Communion Offering
Interdenominational Cooperation Fund

Foster Christian unity and understanding, witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering, and advocate for peace and justice around the world. This fund enables United Methodist to be in ministry with people of many faiths coming together and standing together in unity.

Baked Potato Luncheon

(Proceeds to benefit Unified Fund - hosted by Miriam Circle)

Sunday October 18, 2009
10:15AM to 2PM

Eat-in or Take-out (check one)

_____ After 1st Service _____ After 2nd Service

Plain Baked Potato - \$3

Toppings

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Butter and Sour Cream | 50¢ |
| Bacon | 50¢ |
| Cheddar Cheese | 50¢ |
| Chili | \$1 |
| Broccoli and Cheese | \$1 |



Total Due _____

Please fill out one form for each potato ordered and include payment. Circle all toppings you wish to have on your potato. Orders due by noon on October 8th Orders may be placed in the Narthex on Sunday or turned into the office.

Name: _____

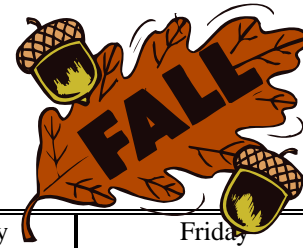
Phone _____

Extra forms available in the Narthex, Office or on table outside of Norcross Hall. If you have any questions please see Joan Gebele or any member of Miriam Circle.



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

October 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 8:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	6:30pm Senior High Youth 6:30pm Girl Scouts – Rm. 8 (every other week - 5 & 19) 6:30 Cub 33 – Tigers – Rm. 10 6:30 Cub 33 – Bears – Rm. 7 7:00 Monday Night Bible Study – Sanc. 7:15 MN Bible Study Men – Rm. 5 7:15 MN Bible Study Women – Rm. 6 Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	6:30pm Junior High Youth 7:30 Safe Place Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	6:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00 Ladies Share Grp-Penrods 10:00 The Quilters – Youth Room 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Cherub Choir 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 Volleyball 6:30 Cubs 33 – Webelos – Rm. 6 7:00 Adult Bible Study Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	1:45pm Moms-in-Touch - Chapel 5:30pm Father-Son Basketball – Norc. 6:30 Alcoholics Anon. – Room 6 7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 – Rm. 5 7:00 Carol Choir 7:00 Celebration Choir 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 Chancel Choir Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm	9:00am Bulletin Team – Lib 7:00pm Praise Team – Sanctuary 8:00 OCA - Library Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	7:00am Men's Disciple
				1	2 4:30 Brick Soccer Pictures	3 Berger/Popola Wedding-Off site
4	5 7:00pm Council of Ministries 7:00 Trustees	6 7:00 UMW Exec Bd Mtg	7 3:30pm Girls Scouts 1572 – Norcross/Nurs.	8 12:30 Senior Joy	9	10 McInerney/Fiore Wedding
11	12 Columbus Day SPCS Closed	13 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	14 7:00 pm Lydia Circle	15 School Pictures	16 6:30am Breakfast for the Homeless School Pictures	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
18 Miriam Circle Potato Bake	19 7:00pm Finance	20 6:00 UMW Dinner – 	21	22	23 Variety Show Rehearsal	24 9:30 UMW of NJ meeting 7:00 Variety Show
25	26 7:30pm SPR	27	28	29	30 SPCS 30 th Anniversary Party	31

IT'S SHOW TIME!