



Circuit Rider

**St. Paul's United Methodist
Church**

714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

November 2009

How The Protestant Reformation Began

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted *Ninety-Five Theses* on the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. They are widely regarded as the primary catalyst for the [Protestant Reformation](#). Church doors at the time functioned very much as [bulletin boards](#). It made a lot of sense to post them then since October 31 is the day before All Saints Day when everyone would be in church.

I have included the first of the *Ninety Five Theses*. It takes a background of history to understand how these statements were received at that time. Let me say that many rebuked what He said but many also agreed and as a result the Protestant Reformation began. We United Methodist's are part of the result or product of the posting of these *Theses*.

1st Theses: Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said Poenitentiam agite, willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

“*Poenitentiam agite*” means repent or do penance. It is used in two particular scriptures. First in Matthew 3:2 by John the Baptist. He says, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*” Then it is also mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 4:17, “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.*” How this phrase is interpreted is what caused such a stir in the church. Does it mean repent, turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel or does it mean do penance. Is it about faith or works. I believe this is what started the reformation in 1517.

This discussion has continued for the last 500 years. Is our relationship with God based on what we do or on what God has done for us? How do our works of righteousness fit in? Can I earn my way to heaven? And for that matter what is heaven?

Out of the reformation we have come to understand that good works can be done by anyone. You do not have to be in a relationship with God to be kind to others, to love others, to help others. But good works cannot make God love you more. God's love for everyone is complete and unconditional. But God's love and God's pleasure for us are not the same thing. We have been reflecting through these 50 Days on the verse, “*Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must first believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*” Hebrews 11:6

The things we do for good should be a logical, natural, reasonable response to our understanding of what God has done for us. “*For God so loved the world that He sent His only son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life.*” John 3:16.

So repentance is a turning away from sin. It is an acknowledgement that what we have done is wrong and needs forgiveness. We should be sorry for our sin, our disobedience to God, but we should also repent or turn away from it. We should have a deep desire to not repeat it. Repent for the Kingdom of God is near!

See You In Worship,

Pastor John

Step of Faith

On October 18th during worship you were challenged to put your faith in to practice. To take a Step Of Faith. Like the parable that Jesus told about the servants that were given a talent while he went away. We too are given time, talents, treasures, everything we have is given to us from God. He has left us as stewards of this world. What are we doing with what He has given us? You were encouraged to take what you received that Sunday and creatively find a way to invest and increase what you were given and return it on November 22nd.

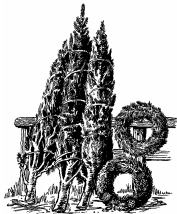
Celebration Dinner November 21st

We invite everyone to celebrate the end of our 50 Days of Faith by attending the Fellowship Dinner at 6pm on Saturday, November 21st. We encourage all the small groups to sit with their 50 Days of Faith Small Group. During and after the meal there will be a time of sharing for everyone to share about how their faith has grown during these 50 days.

Celebration Sunday – November 22nd

During morning worship you will be given an opportunity to share how you have grown in your faith over the last 50 Days. Also at the service we will be making our commitments to the Unified Budget for 2010. We ask you to prayerfully consider what you will give in 2010 and encourage all to step out in faith by tithing or working towards tithing in the coming year.

UPCOMING MEN'S FELLOWSHIP EVENTS



November 7 – Christmas Tree pen set up - open to entire church to assist (approximately 8am – 12noon) We will be serving coffee and doughnuts for the helpers. All help is greatly appreciated.

November 21 – Men's Breakfast Fellowship and Bible Study



St. Paul's UMW
Holiday Shoppe and
Attic Sale
Norcross Hall
Saturday, November
14th –
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 lunch

*Donations are appreciated and can be
dropped off on Friday Nov. 13th*

Youth News

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share...

- Paul (in 1 Timothy 6.17-18; ESV)

I'm not so sure what "rich" looked like when Paul wrote this letter to a young pastor in the first century, but I did have an idea of what that looks like in our day: big mansions, fancy cars, luxurious forms of dining and entertainment, etc. And while these are all obvious descriptions of what it means to be "rich in this present age," a few years ago I was challenged by the idea that being "rich" might include a lot more than what I once considered.

Right now I have sixteen dollars in my pocket, and I live in a world where forty percent of the population lives on less than two dollars a day (that's 2.6 billion people). What does that say about being "rich?" Am I rich? Are you rich?

I never grew up thinking of myself as a rich person, but these days I've been challenged to think again. I believe that I am rich, and that this passage is written for me to pay attention to; and I believe that you are probably rich too, and that we share in this responsibility laid out in Paul's letter to his dear friend in Christ.

The young people at St. Paul's are currently raising money for an organization called World Vision - a Christian organization that seeks to respond to global crises such as poverty, hunger relief, disease, and natural disasters. If you are interested in supporting the youth in their cause, or in learning more about the youth group's fundraising for their ministry, you can feel free to email me

In a culture where so many are trusting more in money than in God, may you rest your hope fully on Jesus Christ, who "though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8.9; ESV)." May you enjoy and be content with the things you have in a culture where people are always "needing" more stuff. May you live out the calling to do good for others because of the free gift of grace that God has given you in Jesus, and may you be willing to generously share your "riches" with those whose needs are real; especially with those whose needs are a matter of life and death.

Grace & Peace from Him to you,

- Matt

Counseling Corner

Sometimes, we may think, that God is not hearing our prayers. It seems as if things are getting worse instead of better. I took a course a few years back on Prayer Counseling. I remember them saying the same thing. It is so difficult for us to be patient and wait upon the Lord. Polly Wigglesworth is a woman from whose life we can learn patience and faith. Many of us have probably heard of Smith Wigglesworth a simple plumber who ended up being a great man for God. He had accepted the Lord early in his life, but had backslidden and became a drunk. His wife Polly was a faithful Christian woman. Smith told Polly during one of his rages that if she went to church he would lock her out for the night. Even though she knew she might also face a beating, she fled to church.

When Polly returned that night, Smith had locked her out, even though it was almost winter and very cold at night. She pounded and pounded on the door. Smith would not come to the door. Perhaps he was in a stupor, whatever the reason he would not come to the door. In the morning, when he opened the door Polly popped up and said "Are you ready for breakfast Smith?" He was totally taken aback and the story goes that he repented of his actions and became a faithful servant of God.

No way am I advocating spousal abuse. Those who know me quite the opposite is true. We see that God can and does work all things to the good for those that love Him and are called to His purpose.

I heard another similar story about a man who now travels the world for Jesus, preaching the Gospel wherever he goes. He is from Africa and when a missionary came to their town, he forbid his wife to go to services. She got on her knees and prayed to the Lord to touch her husband's heart. She wanted to go to service and had received the Lord in her heart. She knew it would be a disgrace to her husband to disobey him.

Her husband could hear service from their house and heard a man that he knew did not speak English speaking in English. The man was speaking in tongues. The husband immediately bowed his knees to the Lord for he knew that this was of God. Whether or not you believe in tongues God used it to bring this man to himself.

Personally, I have a brother who made fun of me most of my life for being "a Jesus freak". He did not live a Godly life. I got to the point that I just lived my life before the Lord and stopped trying to convince him to receive Jesus. One day when I wasn't expecting it he called me to tell me that he had received the Lord.

The point is that our witness and our prayers as we honor God can bring our loved ones to the Lord, so no matter how impossible we think it is, nothing is impossible to God. Keep praying and believing for your loved ones. Remember God loves them more than we do. Donna

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
714 Herbertsville Road Brick, NJ

Our Christmas Concert Band is about to begin rehearsals for the 2009 holiday season. I would like to invite you to join us again in this special and unique band. We had a great concert last year and I know it was due to hard working and dedicated members like you. Please let me know your schedule so that I can plan for this season. We only have 7 regular rehearsals scheduled so please come when you can so that the band as a whole has a feel for the overall sound. We appreciate whatever you can do to make this the success it has been in the past for this community. Please also pass the word on to other instrumentalists that you know that may be interested in playing with us. If you are in college and would like to pick up the music on one of your breaks or weekends home, please let me know.

Our band is open to church, community, high school, college, and others 8th grade to adult and includes professionals, students, and people who just simply love to play instrumental music.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our Christmas Concert Band. I look forward to another great year of wonderful Christmas music.

PRACTICES- Wednesdays—in music room at St. Paul's

October 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, Nov. 18 and Dec. 2
at **7:30-8:30PM**

Dec. 9, Dec. 16 at 7:30-8:30 or 8:45 (depending on how things are going)

Dec. 16 rehearsal will be in the Sanctuary
(No practice on Nov. 25—Happy Thanksgiving!)

DRESS REHEARSAL in Sanctuary
Saturday, December 19 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

CONCERT
December 19 and 20---Saturday and Sunday nights
Be here: 7:00 PM

Concert start: 7:30 PM (Band portion will probably be done by 8:15). Chancel Choir Cantata will immediately follow. Please invite your friends and family to stay for our cantata, "A Christmas Invitation"!

Director: Barbara Estelle
732-270-4698 *mbestelle@comcast.net*

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	-(Qt. packets)
Chili	Soup	Pork and Beans
Peanut Butter	Stew	

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

Giving Envelopes

If you currently do not use envelopes and would like to start receiving them please fill out the tear off and give to the office or place in the offering plate. Just a reminder for all, we will be issuing new envelope numbers starting with the January, 2010 envelopes.

Name _____

Address _____

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It's time once again to deliver the Good News by filling shoeboxes to send to children all over the world.

Each Christmas, Franklin Graham's very special ministry takes our boxes, encloses Bible tracts and delivers them in many lands to children who might never know about the love of Jesus.

Wrapped shoeboxes will be made available in the Narthex weekly. However, you may fill an unwrapped box and Samaritan's Purse will wrap it for you. Please use the forms available in the boxes or in the Narthex for packing instructions. Boxes will be collected at St. Paul's on Sunday, November 15th. Thank-you.

Follow your Shoebox!

You can "follow your box", and discover the destination of your shoe box gift, by using EZ Give through the Samaritan's Purse website. As you pack your shoebox gift this year, make your accompanying financial contribution online by using a credit or debit card and then printing out the EZ give label included in your e-mail receipt.

The barcode on the label will enable us to track each shoebox gift. When shoe boxes begin shipping overseas, you will receive an e-mail telling you the destination of your gift, along with information about Operation Christmas Child in that country.

Go to www.samaritanaspurse.org and click on "EZ Give"

Sunday Morning Fellowship /Coffee Hour Time

A special thanks for the small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies and individuals) that have been serving during fellowship time on Sunday mornings. Opportunities are still available for dates in 2009. Dates in the upcoming New Year would be a great opportunity for the small groups currently meeting for the 50 Days of Faith to gather again in the service of others. A schedule will continue to be available in the Narthex and Kitchen to sign up for this informal fellowship time we have enjoyed over the years. I will be available to speak to anyone wishing to know more.

In His Service, Vern



SUNDAY SCHOOL THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Share with others what we are thankful for

During the month of November the Sunday school classes will be collecting the following food pantry items to help prepare food baskets for the needy in our area. The congregation is welcome to help with this community service by helping the children collect the following items:

Tuna Fish, Chili, Canned Fruit, Pasta/Spaghetti Sauce, Salad Dressing, Soups, Hash/Stew, Peanut Butter/Jelly Powdered Milk (Qt. Packages), Juice, Rice, Gravy Pork and Beans, Stuffing/Crackers, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Vegetables, Instant Mash Potatoes

All donated items can be dropped off in the church office or the Thanksgiving collection box outside the Sunday school office. If anyone has an extra turkey that they would like to donate they can drop it off at the Sunday school office on November 22nd, for distribution. A sincere THANK YOU to everyone who can help the children with this mission. Wishing all a thankful and blessed Thanksgiving.

"In everything give thanks." 1 Thessalonians 5:18



**CHRISTMAS
MISSION BAGS
FOR**

LEXINGTON HOUSE

“CALLING ALL ANGELS”It is that time again when all of our St. Paul’s Angels come to the aid of the residents at Lexington House.

Each Christmas, through all of your generous contributions, the Warming Hearts Mission is able to distribute 150 mission bags to the residents, filled with their very basic needs. The following is a list of items that are needed to fill the mission bags. Placing only the regular size (no trial or large size) toiletries, in the enclosed plastic bag would help us immensely, and be greatly appreciated!

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Shampoo | Deodorant (stick or roll-on) |
| Toothpaste | Toothbrush (single pack) |
| 1 bar Soap (no liquid) | |
| Lip Balm (i.e., Chapstick) | |

We are also looking for these additional items to distribute:

- 2010 Calendars
- Socks (male & female; white & colors)
- Travel Size tissues
- Warm Hats & Gloves

Christmas Candy (Candy Canes, Hershey Kisses, York Peppermint Patties– NO NUTS, please)

Epiphany Church will be donating the tins of Butter Cookies, as in the past.

Please place your contributions in the large blue container marked “Lexington House”, near the inside church mailboxes, by Sunday, November 22, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact, Donna.

As always, “Thank You Angels, for your generosity in supporting the Lexington House Mission.”

Senior Joy

Senior Joy will meet on Thursday, November 12 at 12:30 PM. Bring a sandwich, dessert will be provided.. We will have a sing-a-long with Janet Post and Barbara Meyer Please join us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- Thursday, December 10th. Our special guest will be Jim Hughes who presents a Bible-based message through music and drama. Lunch start at 12:30 PM and the program at 1:30 PM



**It’s time to order your
CUSTOM WREATH/GRAVE
BLANKET/CENTER PIECE**

**From the United Methodist Men
Order Forms available in the Narthex for
delivery on November 29th or in
December**

HELP US MINISTER TO YOU!

If you or anyone you know is ill or going into the hospital please call the Church office and let us know 732-458-2080.

From the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee comes before you with a concerned heart. As of today (Sunday, September 27) when we project our income to the end of the year we here at St. Paul's will have about \$ 43,000.00 in bills that we will not be able to pay from the Unified Budget. This is based on the current weekly giving that is collected each Sunday.

To this date the finance status is as follows,

- Utilities are paid in full to date, and we have taken steps to put both parsonages and the church on a Monthly Budget with the Utility companies.
- Salaries are also paid to date.
- The church's obligations to the Greater Methodist Conference are paid up to the end of May 2009.
- All other bills have been paid when funds became available.

In the Bulletin for the past few weeks is a request by the Finance committee to stop all your designated giving and transfer those monies to the Unified Fund. As of now all designated accounts are amply funded, so again we ask that you review your disbursements of funds, to support the Unified Fund and the Mortgage Fund which is also falling behind.

We understand that your weekly giving is Spiritual and that is between you and God. We also understand that times are hard for everyone here. We know that some of you meet and or exceed the Tithes amount of 10% of your income in your giving here at St. Paul's, and for that we thank you. But we as church body still need to do more.

Based on the weekly attendance, about 240 members attend church regularly, and that we have about 14 Sundays left till the end of this year we estimate that if each of us increased our weekly giving by \$15.00 we would meet and clear all of the outstanding and projected bills for 2009 by the end of the year.

We understand that some will meet this request and others will not but we ask that each of you pray and review your giving amounts to meet the churches needs. If we don't meet this obligation, possible changes in the way projects, ministries or staff are

funded may take place to address this deficit that is before us.

If anyone of you has any questions please feel free to talk to myself, JD or anyone on the Finance Committee. Again I leave an Open invitation to each of you to attend our next Finance Meeting here at the church on October 19, at 7:00 pm

Thank you.

Peter the Finance Chairman for St Paul's.

Church News

DATES TO REMEMBER

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
NOVEMBER 16TH 7:30PM

CHURCH CONFERENCE-
NOVEMBER 23RD 7:30 PM

**This will be a special time of
worship and affirmation of our
ministries. All are welcome to come.**

Christmas Store

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

Toothpaste Shampoo
Toothbrushes Combs
Bars of Soap (regular size)



Thanksgiving Community Service – 7pm at
Brick Presbyterian Church, sponsored by
Brick Ministerium

November Dinner

Everyone is invited to come and celebrate the conclusion of “50 Days of Faith” We encourage all small groups to come and sit together. Even if you were not able to participate in a small group we encourage you to attend and join in the fellowship.



WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009

WHERE: Norcross Hall

TIME: 6 PM

Menu

Roast Beef and Turkey

Vegetables

Rolls & Butter

Salad

For the kids

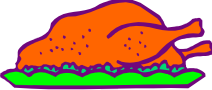
Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese



St. Paul's United Methodist Church

November 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 – 2, 16 & 30) 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	5:30pm Men’s Basketball 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 3:30pm Girls Scouts 1572 – Norcross/Nurs. (every other week) 4 & 18 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/ Norcross 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 Communion Sunday	2 7:00PM Trustees	3	4 SPCS Adj. Schedule	5 Teacher’s Convention	6 Teacher’s Convention	7
8	9 7:00pm Finance Mtg	10 12noon Rebecca Circle 7:00PM Miriam Circle	11 7:00PM Lydia Circle	12 12:30PM Senior Joy	13 3:00PM Holiday Shoppe Set-up – Norcross 3:30pm Girls Scout Trp 1311	14 8:00AM Men’s Breakfast 10AM Holiday Shoppe
15	16 7:30PM Administrative Board	17	18 SPCS Adj. Schedule	19 SPCS Adj. Schedule	20 6:30am Breakfast for the Homeless SPCS Adj. Schedule 5:00pm Cub Scout Spaghetti Dinner – Setup 3pm	21 8:00AM Men’s Breakfast 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
22 7:00PM Community Thanksgiving Service Brick Presbyterian	23 6:30 SPR 7:30 PM ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE SPCS Thanksgiving Service	24 SPCS Thanksgiving Service	25 5pm Miller Wedding Reh. 6pm Miller Dinner - Norcross SPCS Adj. Schedule NO VOLLEYBALL	26 THANKSGIVING 	27 OFFICE CLOSED Miller/Brown Wedding	28
29	30					