



Circuit Rider

St. Paul's United Methodist
Church

714 Herbertsville Road
Brick, NJ 08724

September 2010

From The Pastor's Desk

Throughout the summer we have been thinking about what it means to be a Christ Follower.

In John 4 we read about a Samaritan woman who has an encounter with Jesus. Just like the woman at the well, to truly be a Christ follower we must come to terms with our desperate need for God. We must deal with our propensity to live a life of duplicity and sin, and deal with our 'stuff'. The good news is that God is a God of broken people who doesn't just forgive but transforms! Have you come to that place where you realized that you really need God in your life? Has your relationship with Christ been just about forgiveness or has it transformed your brokenness?

As we read John 4 we realize that just as there is a powerful physical thirst for water, there is equally a powerful spiritual thirst for living water in which only God can fill. The problem comes when you try to fill that spiritual thirst with temporary things instead of Jesus Christ. Not only is it unsatisfying to build life around the temporary things of this world but it also leads to disheartening exhaustion and grief.

Before the woman at the well could fully receive the living water Jesus offered, she had to come to grips with the truth about her compromising lifestyle. When God's truth engages your life, you too will see the "shadow self" in you that continues to push you to do things you know are wrong and not of God. External religious rules will not keep you from sinning. Power only comes through the hard spiritual work of surrender and dependence upon God, one day at a time. Are you letting God's truth engage your life every day? Do you acknowledge that you have a "shadow self?" How do you keep it in check?

Following Jesus leads to trusting only in him and his ways. Ultimately, you only have an audience of one in which you must live and that audience is God. The method the woman at the well dealt with her 'shadow self' was to take her energy and work for God. She took her misdirected and misaligned relationship addictions and channeled it to purposeful actions of service and sacrifice, witnessing to her friends and neighbors about Jesus. Who is your audience? Is it God and God alone? How could you transfer your energies to serving the Lord?

God is a God who heals our brokenness. Have you let Him not only forgive you but heal you, transform you? Like the woman at the well let God fill your cup.

See You In Worship!

Pastor John

Fill My Cup, Lord

Words and Music by Richard Blanshard

Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Savior speaking:
"Draw from my well that never shall run dry".

CHORUS

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord!
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more--

Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

There are millions in this world who are craving
The pleasures earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

So, my brother, if the things this world gave you
Leave hungers that won't pass away,
My blessed Lord will come and save you,
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray:

Youth News

At the time that I'm writing this article, I've been home for a little less than a week from the JUNE Project Missions trip to Pennsylvania. Our youth had a blast worshipping, serving communities and families in need, and enjoying down times with fun activities last week!

I was blown away by the people who saw the work that was being done in their community and joined in by serving and expressing their thanks and appreciation for the ministry that was being done in their city. There were some in our group that were interviewed for an article that was being written for a local newspaper, there was a man from a bottled water delivery truck who refreshed our group on a hot day, there was a woman and her two young children who quietly dropped off sandwiches and a jug of Kool-Aid to one of our work sites, there was a group of women from a local church in Reading who housed all of us for lunch one afternoon, there was a woman who owns a Rita's Water Ice who donated free water ice to all of the people on the JUNE Project... the outpouring of support was incredible!

On top of all that, there were people who asked the question "Why?" People wanted to know why groups of churches from Jersey would sacrifice their time and effort to serve the broken areas of their community. It made me think of what kind of work we can continue to do in our community that would get people asking us "Why?"

And we have the greatest reason to give and to serve, because we serve a God who was willing to step down and sacrifice all comforts for our sake. We have a King who was willing to become a servant to people like us! What a humbling thought! The Apostle Paul puts it in this way:

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore

God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2.5-11

May we be a people who carry this same attitude of Christ in the Spirit of Christ! May we be a people who consider the needs of others and not just of ourselves, a people who count others as more significant than ourselves, and a people who love each other and our neighbors so much that the reality of God's Kingdom becomes a reality on earth as it is in heaven!

What can we do to show the love of Christ to the broken areas of our community?

Grace & Peace from Him to you!

- Matt



St. Paul's Music Ministry

St. Paul's new music season will soon begin and we are hoping that many of you will consider joining one of our choirs and /or instrumental groups. There are always places in our choirs and we encourage participation for your own enjoyment and fellowship as well as to sing or play for the glory of God. Many exciting things are planned this year for all groups. If you have been in choirs before or can carry a tune you should make this a singing or playing season for our Lord. The following are the groups offered by **St. Paul's Music Ministry**:

CHERUBS

4yrs. to 1st grade Rehearse Wed. 4:30-5:30

This cute group directed by Janet Post sings once a month on the first Sunday of the month as well as all special Sundays. They also put on a musical and

go to Nursing Homes to sing. This is a wonderful opportunity for your little ones to learn the joy of singing and to be part of our worship service. We really need these youngsters to sing with us so that they will continue to be part of our music ministry for many years to come. **Rehearsals begin September 15.**

CAROL CHOIR

**2nd grade through 5th gr.
Rehearsals- Thurs. 7:00 to 7:45.**

This choir, led by Judy Propert, sings twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month as well as all special Sundays. They also minister at Nursing Homes. We hope that you will encourage your children to participate in this great choir—we need singers and this is a great way for your child to enjoy singing for the Lord. **Rehearsals begin Sept. 16.**

CELEBRATION CHOIR

**6 th grade to 12th grade
Rehearsals- Thurs. 7:00 - 7:45PM**

Our youth choir, directed by Barbara Estelle, sings the 3rd and 4th Sundays as well as all special Sundays. We have a great time singing, dancing, and even acting. We hope you'll join us! We are looking for more youth to be part of our Celebration Choir. Please invite your friends to come out for a great time of Christian fellowship and song.

Rehearsals begin September 16.

CHANCEL CHOIR

**10th grade to Adult
Rehearsals- Thursdays at 8:00PM**

Our adult choir sings every Sunday and alternates early and late services except on special Sundays when we sing at both services. We also minister on holidays and during special church events. Our **Christmas and Easter cantatas** are attended by many people in the community and are well known throughout the area. Our annual **Variety Show** is a fun-filled fellowship time for the whole church. God has blessed St. Paul's with many talented and dedicated musicians and we encourage *you* to be part of this great choir—new and former singers are

always welcome. We need YOU! **Rehearsals begin September 9.**

HANDBELL CHOIR

**9th grade through Adult
Rehearsals Wednesdays at 6:00-7:00.**

Our talented Handbell Choir plays at different times throughout the year. You have to be able to read music. Please join us for some great bell ringing! Please call Barbara if you are considering joining for the first time. **Rehearsals begin September 15.**

CONCERT BAND

**9th grade to Adult –
Wednesdays at 7:15-8:15 PM.**

This unique instrumental group plays primarily at Christmas. It is made up of all instruments: Brass, Woodwind, and Percussion and includes members from St. Paul's as well as the community at large. We numbered about 45+ members last year. Smaller groups as well as soloists and duets are used at various times during the year as well. Please call Barbara or the church office for more information or if you are thinking about soloing. **Rehearsals will begin October 27** for the Concert Band.

PRAISE TEAM

11th Grade to Adult

Our Praise Team leads songs in worship at the second service every Sunday. The teams are made up of guitars, bass, keyboard, drums, and vocalists. Please contact Barbara for more information. We are in need of people to work the sound board/system. Please call if you think you might be able to help. We play year round.

If you have any questions about any of our musical groups please call the Director of Music, Barbara Estelle, at the church office at 732-458-2080 Ext. #14.

****Please note that you can join our choral groups any time throughout the year.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION WALK

The Sunday school classes gathered sponsors for their annual Walk to benefit Missions which took place June 6th. This year the proceeds are for the benefit of youth mission trips, Christian Summer camp scholarships, and a collection of pop top pull tabs was taken for the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch.

We are very excited to report that the walk was a SUCCESS and the children raised \$1,160.50 and there is still some more to be collected. With \$1,170.50 in pledged sponsors this has been a great year!! If you have sponsored a child and wish to leave your donation in the offering plate, please mark it *mission walk*. The collection of pop tops will be taken to the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch.

Carley, and Jesse attended Christian Summer camps and each received a scholarship from the Missions Committee. The proceeds of the Sunday school walk were paid as follows: a tithe of \$116.05 to St. Paul's and \$1044.45 to the JUNE PROJECT mission trip involving our youth which will take place in August. We look forward to hearing from them upon their return.

Give the children and teachers a pat on the back for their hard work and dedication to the Mission work being done at St. Paul's. Their example is one to follow! Thank you to all the Sunday school teachers, the Sunday school office staff, St. Paul's Christian school, the junior and senior high for our field games and those involved weekly with help setting up the tables. We could not have done it without everyone's help. And last but certainly by no means least, the members of St. Paul's thank you for all of your support!

Thank You

I would like to thank our St. Paul's family for the love, prayers and kindness that you shared with me while I was in the hospital and at home recovering.
In Christ, Andrea

THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Every year dedicated volunteers bring God's Word to our children and adults through our Sunday school programs. The work they do takes many forms: teaching, office staffing, babysitting, substitute teaching, special programs and adult classes. All of which require time, energy and commitment in sharing their gifts. Please recognize and thank these volunteers for without them, these programs would not be possible:

Mortgage Re-finance Approved!

The Finance Committee is pleased to announce that the Mortgage held by TD Bank has been successfully re-negotiated. The rate will stay the same at 5.75% but is now a 25 year mortgage. That reduces our monthly payment from \$9,637.03 to \$6,858.82, a difference of \$2,778.28 per month. The committee wishes to thank all those who have given over the years and continue to faithfully give to the Mortgage Fund. Since the original note in 2005, the Mortgage amount has been reduced from \$1,374,276.61 to \$1,079,533. Your continued support is greatly needed and appreciated

Blood Drive

**St. Paul's UMC
Norcross Hall**

September 1, 2010

2-8pm

**Contact information: Chale Ashley
Or call the Office at 732-458-2080 to
schedule an appointment.**

Senior Joy

Mark your calendars. Senior Joy will be meeting on Thursday, September 9th @ 12:30 PM. Matt will be joining us and sharing about the youth mission trip to Pennsylvania. We will also have a group discussion on ideas for our upcoming meeting. If you have or know of anyone (or group) that has any gifts or talents, hobbies, collections, etc. that would be enjoyed at Senior Joy, please jot them down and bring them to the September meeting. We are open to any and all suggestions. With your help and support my goal is to CONTINUE to make Senior Joy a gathering of friends that will be both fun and interesting.

Bring your lunch and then enjoy the delicious desserts that will be provided. New friends are always welcome! Questions?? Call Judy E

Sunday Morning Fellowship / Coffee Hour Time

A special thanks for the small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies and individuals) that had served during fellowship time on Sunday mornings during the 2009-2010 church year.

Beginning in September, people (including myself) in the form of small groups (committees, ministries, circles, missions, studies, etc) will again 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.

A helpful guide is available at the church office or requesting by email.

In His Service and of His Church,
Vern

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men of St. Paul's is an organization of men from St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Brick Township New Jersey. It is the goal of our organization to promote fellowship of men of Christ and to serve the church and its members. We sell Christmas trees and Easter flowers to raise money as well as conducting other fund raising activities. Every man that is a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church is automatically a member of the United Methodist Men but you do not have to be a St. Paul's member to be in the United Methodist Men.

We meet the third Saturday of every month from September to June at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast and a short time of devotion. There are no dues but there is a small cost for breakfast. The September meeting will be held on September 18th and all men are welcome. That is also the day of the church's first fellowship dinner and we will help set up following our meeting.

Also at the September meeting, we will elect officers for the coming year. If you are interested in being an officer or know someone who would be interested, please let me or Dave Cavanaugh know. Hope to see you at our meeting and bring a friend.

Bob
Interim President

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DINNER & GATHERING

The United Methodist Women will meet on Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 PM for dinner. This is our Membership Dinner. Come out and learn about the UMW. All ladies are invited.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Pastor John will be giving a class on Saturday, September 11, 2010 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 from 10am to 2pm at the Sally Ike parsonage. Contact the office (732)-458-2080 if you are interested in the class.

Marriage Moment

Time.

Is there a more important gift we can give to our spouses than our time? How often during a regular week does your husband or wife have your undivided attention? What are the things that take up your time – or rather, what do you spend your time on? There are so many ways we could reclaim time in our marriages - but this month let's focus on one.

I read an article suggesting that when a couple marries, they should vow to turn off their TV - until their first anniversary! Another article posited that for Lent, people would have a harder time giving up TV than anything else. It would be too great a sacrifice for most; what about you? Could you give it up for a year? A month? A week? National TV Turn-Off Week this year is September 19-25 - try it. As the apostle Paul wrote in Phillipians 4:8:

"...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is good, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, dwell on these things."

How much of what is on TV embodies those qualities? Are there better things you could be dwelling on - like the person you chose to spend the rest of your life with, perhaps?

For you it might not be TV. There is a multitude of other gadgets and things that consume our precious time; internet ready cell phones, video games, social networking sites. What could be gained if you and your spouse spent the time one or both of you would have been watching TV (or surfing the net, etc.) talking, asking each other questions, discussing dreams, or just walking around the neighborhood holding hands? One of the challenges in the Love Dare by Stephen and Alex Kendrick (as seen in the movie Fireproof) is to become a "student" of your spouse. It is too easy to think you know them fully and thus wind up taking them for granted. A human soul is complex though... there is ALWAYS something new to learn if you take the time to seek it. A woman once commented to me, "I've been

married to my husband for almost forty years - and I'm still finding out things about him of which I had no idea!"

So, where are you at in your "education" concerning your spouse? Do you have your high school diploma yet? Your associates or bachelors degree? Have you started grad school? Wherever you are in the process, recommit yourself to getting to know that person better - by spending more of your time together.

Leadership Appreciation

Mark your calendars for the Leadership Appreciation dinner, which will take place on **Monday, September 20, 2010 at 6 PM** in Norcross Hall. Please call the office to let us know if you will be coming. A brief business meeting will take place after the meal. at 7:PM. Everyone who is involved in the leadership of the church (anyone who is serving on a committee) is asked to attend. For more information please call the church office at 732-458-2080



**United Methodist Women
Rummage/ White Elephant/Bake
Sale Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010
10 am-2 PM
Clothing \$4/Bag
Lunch Available**

**Donations of CLOTHING, LINENS, WHITE
ELEHANT ITEMS, BAKED GOODS, JEWELRY
can be brought in on Friday, September 24st only
from 9 AM- 8 PM
Kitchen donations should also be brought in on
FRIDAY.**

Baptism Congratulations



Congratulations to the family of Caiden Wwho was baptized at St. Paul's UMC July 25, 2010.

Congratulations to the family of Jayden Thomas who was baptized at St. Paul's UMC on August 1, 2010

CONTACT of Ocean County – Training

CONTACT of Ocean County (24-hour crisis Intervention Hotline) will start the next (12-week) training class for telephone volunteers on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 from 6:30-9:30pm in the Toms River area. **CONTACT**, a free and confidential service, has served the needs of individuals throughout the community since 1975, by providing a safe place for callers to talk about their problems with anonymity and confidentiality. For more information on training please call the **CONTACT** office at 732-240-6104

Coupon Ministry

Our coupon organizer is located in the hallway between the library and Norcross Hall. Please feel free to browse through and take as many coupons as you can use. You may take coupons even if you didn't bring any in. If you do have coupons that you don't use, they can be placed in the brown baskets in the Narthex and outside Norcross Hall. **Thank You!**

Counseling Article

Donna Ridge

Psalm 119:147 I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in your Word . The dictionary gives the meaning of hope as : to wish (have faith my addition) for something with the expectation of its fulfillment . To have confidence, trust. To look forward with confident expectation.

A couple in the church gave me a small statue with a “balloon” that says HOPE. They specifically gave it to me to put on my desk in my office, so those coming in for counseling would see it and know that there is hope. There are so many examples in the Bible of the Lord giving hope to His people. One such story is the example of Hosea’s marriage.

If you are not familiar with this story, let me give you a quick synopsis. Hosea’s wife was a former prostitute, and she worshipped false gods. Yet in the midst of it all God gave him a promise that He would give her hope (Hosea 2:15). In essence God was telling Hosea that He was going to turn her into a blessing to Hosea, giving him comfort that there was hope. You too may be experiencing trouble, hurt, and the pain of past issues and betrayals. The Lord wants to give you opportunities of hope. You may be allowing unresolved issues, unforgiveness, and wounds from past relationships hinder His blessing.

Closing the door to the past is not always easy. Seek His face; spend time with Him talking to Him about the past. Is there someone you need to forgive or someone you need to ask forgiveness of? Have you allowed a root of bitterness to rise up? Let go of the past and ask the Lord to show you a new way of handling situations. Close the door to all the pain and anguish. Allow the Holy Spirit to “fall afresh” on you. Then listen for His new marching instructions. He is our Hope (Psalm 71:5).



VBS Thank You!

We would like to thank all of our VBS volunteers without whom our High Seas Expedition program would not have been possible.

Fellowship Dinners

The schedule has been set, so mark your calendars and plan to attend the fellowship dinners in Norcross Hall. All dinners start at 6pm and a donation is requested to help offset the cost of food and upkeep in the kitchen. A signup sheet will be available outside Norcross Hall and in the Narthex for each dinner which is used to determine the amount of food needed. We ask that you please signup on only one sheet and cross out if you find you cannot attend. Everyone is welcome to attend.

September 18, 2010
Soups and Salad Bar

October 16, 2010
Oktoberfest

November 20, 2010
Roast Beef and Turkey

December 11, 2010
Italian Night

January 22, 2011
Beef Stew and Chicken Pot Pie

February 19, 2011
Surf and Turf

March 12, 2011
Irish Night

April 9, 2011
Easter Dinner – Lamb and Pork

May 14, 2011
Roast Beef and Turkey

June 11, 2011
BBQ

Condolences

The congregation would like to extend their condolences to the following in the loss of their Fathers:

George Keith

IN REMEMBRANCE

In Tribute to Ruth on her passing 7-23-10. Ruth was a devoted member of St. Paul's and this poem was written to honor her 90th birthday".

Happy 90th Birthday Ruth!

“Whom shall go for us”?
“Whom shall we send”?
God is always searching for
One on whom he can depend

To be for Him, His hands and feet

To toil in His field
One who will submit their life to Him
And to His spirit yield

The person that I speak of
Is 90 years old today
We know her as Ruth Snyder
And we are here to say

Thank you for your constant help
In projects great and small
Such as Senior Joy and the Emmaus walk
And for your total face and name recall

You've been a present to our pastors
And to all who call you friend
So may blessings be upon you
As you do the work God sends

So Happy 90th Birthday
We pray for many more
Years to watch you serve the Lord
Who you worship and adore!

With much love and appreciation!

St. Paul's
September



United Methodist Church
2010



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 7:00 Financial Peace University – Sanc. 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 – Rm. 2 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 7:00 Adult Bible Study Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	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 Blood Drive 2- 8 pm	2	3	4
5	6 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 Trustees	7 SPCS Teacher Orientation 7:00pm UMW Exec Mtg	8 SPCS First Day of School 7:00pm Lydia Circle	9 12:30pm Senior Joy	10	11 10am Membership Class
12	13 7:00pm SPCS BACK TO SCHOOL Night 7:00pm FPU Begins	14 112noon Rebecca Circle 6:30 pm Miriam Circle 7:00pm Finance Committee	15	16	17	18 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
19	20	21 6 pm UMW Mtg. & Dinner	22	23	24 9:00AM Rummage Sale Setup	25 Rummage Sale 10am – 2pm
26	27 7:30pm SPRC	28	29 7:30 8 th Grade information Night	30	31	