



# Circuit Rider

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

714 Herbertsville Road  
Brick, NJ 08724

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November 2010

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From the Pastor's Desk

In September we started a new class at St. Paul's, Financial Peace University. Over 60 people are participating in this class. We hope to offer the class again in the spring. Please let the office know if you want to be part of the spring class.

There are 2 myths involving money and the church. The first is that people don't want to talk about it and the second is that people really don't want to give. However, Jesus spoke often about money and we actually want to give, the problem is that most Americans are enslaved by debt and literally unable to give. We have become slaves to money instead of allowing money to serve us. Have you collected a lot of stuff you never or rarely use? Is there a charity or mission you would love to support financially if you could just afford it?

The first key to financial freedom is building a trust, not in finances, but in God. Our culture tells us that we find meaning in what we own, but Jesus tells us to be on guard against greed and materialism because life is about serving and loving God. Instead of using our blessings to help others we often build bigger barns for ourselves and miss God's purpose and fulfillment for our lives. Do you connect meaning in life with what you own?

By trusting in God we keep the inherent danger of serving money at bay so that it can't jeopardize our relationship with God who actually is the source of our resources. We also begin to change our perspective from living today to living for eternity. Instead of building up our temporal net worth we begin to make eternal investments that God blesses in our lives both today and forever. Has there even been a time when money actually jeopardized your relationship with a spouse or friend or even with God? A good question to ask is how does your eternal net worth match up with your temporary net worth?

Even though we know we are to worship God and not material possessions, it is in the practice of money that we truly begin to show our faith and trust in God. The discipline of tithing was not put into place to tax us of our resources, but to help us understand the law of sowing and reaping. By practicing this discipline we don't allow ourselves to rationalize faithlessness but put God first in our lives. And God promises to continually take care of all our needs and even bless us more than we could imagine, if we will just trust him and continually put our blessings to work for Jesus Christ. Have you ever "tested God" and His promise to take care of you by giving through tithing or offerings? Have you ever given sacrificially to the work of God or ministry to people? How will you begin to sow your faith and finances to God? What step do you need to take to begin trusting in God with all your finances?

On Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup> we will be celebrating Consecration Sunday. This will be a time to celebrate what God has been doing through the ministries of St. Paul's here and around our world.

See you in worship, Pastor John



## Youth News

The St. Paul's Youth Group will be starting a discipleship group this fall for students who want to go deeper into God's Word and to go deeper into fellowship with Him and one-another. I'm excited for this new avenue of pursuing Christ with the students and growing in our faith together!

The group is going to be called "Roots." I love the image of a tree whose roots go down so deep that it's getting the most of the nutrients that it needs and it's also so firmly planted in the ground that no wind or storm can knock it down. I believe that such a tree can be a beautiful picture of the kind of faith that God longs to see in His children.

In Ephesians 3.17, the Apostle Paul shares his prayer that God's people would be "rooted and grounded in love." Psalm 1 speaks of the blessed man who delights in God's Law and meditates on it day and night: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers." In Colossians 2.6-7 we read: "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

The image of the firmly rooted tree fits well with the purpose of our discipleship group, and it fits well with God's desire for all those who would call themselves Christians. How are *your* roots today? Are they growing in faith and love for God and overflowing in love and concern for people? Are your roots so deep that you'll still be found standing in Christ when the storms of life are raging? May you allow the Lord to make this the desire of your heart today, and please keep our youth group, their families, and the leaders in prayer – that we might not only be a few individuals that are firmly rooted and established in Christ, but that we may also be an entire *community* of people who have our faith deeply rooted in Him as one!



## *St. Paul's*

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND**

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

***714 Herbertsville Road Brick, NJ 08724***

This unique band is sponsored by St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Our band is open to church, community, high school, college, and others 9<sup>th</sup> grade to adult and includes professionals, students, and people who just simply love to play instrumental music. We play regular concert band literature and numbered approximately 45+ members (woodwinds, brass, and percussion) last year.

**Please join us and invite your instrument-playing friends as well!**

**\*\* We start practices Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 7:30 PM**

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

**October 27, Nov. 3, Nov. 10, Nov. 17 at 7:30-8:30PM**

**December 1, December 8, Dec. 15 at 7:30-8:45**

(Please be here a few minutes early to set up and tune)

Dec. 15 will be in the Sanctuary

(No practice on Nov. 24—

Happy Thanksgiving!)

**DRESS REHEARSAL** in Sanctuary

**Saturday, December 18 9:30 AM-10:30 AM**

(Please be here by 9:15 to set up and tune).

**CONCERT**

**December 18 and 19** Saturday and Sunday nights  
Snow Date-- **Dec. 20** Be here: 7:00 PM Concert start: 7:30 PM The Band portion will probably be done around 8:15. **Following this will be St. Paul's Chancel Choir Christmas cantata, "Only Love". Please invite family and friends to a great evening of music!**

Hope you can join us for this community outreach!  
Thanks for your consideration.

Director: Barbara Estelle

# MARRIAGE MOMENT

## Devotion.

It says in Proverbs 5:18-19:

*Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer, may her breasts satisfy you always, may you be intoxicated always with her love.*

Every marriage eventually reaches the disillusionment stage, when reality sets in. Expectations are not met, hopes are unfulfilled. It is easier at this stage to believe that what we don't have must be better than what we do; but the grass is not greener. It is a trick of the eye - or more to the point a trick of the heart and mind. It plays upon that aspect of human nature that always wants what it doesn't - or can't - have. Humans tend to be lazy, to not want to do the work required to transform what we have into what we want; especially if that involves changing ourselves.

When we took our vows though, we said some variation of "Until death do us part." If we meant what we said, then we must remain devoted to our spouse, committed to making the marriage we have work - for both people! When our devotion wanes, when we start to believe the lie that it is better "out there," we stop enjoying our life. That runs counter to what Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes 9:9.

*Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your life that are given you under the sun.*

It has been said that women marry men thinking they will change - and they don't - while men marry women thinking they won't change - and they do. It is important for everyone to accept their spouse for who they are, and not pine for who they were, or yearn for who they could be. Love your spouse for who they are each minute, **for** all their virtues, sure, but also **with** all their quirks and flaws. In Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" both protagonists come to this conclusion in their own way.

Eve writes "The garden is lost, but I have found him, and am content." She then goes on for pages trying to figure out why she loves Adam, listing many of his qualities and stating that she admires him and is proud of him for these, but they are not

why she loves him. She states finally, "I think I love him because he is masculine, and he is mine." He is Adam, and for her, that is enough.

Adam, being a guy, comes to his epiphany in far fewer words. At her grave he remarks, "Wheresoever she was, there was Eden."

If you have drifted, take the time to once again DEVOTE yourself to your spouse. Recognize that God put the two of you together for a reason, and do everything in your power to make the best of what you've been given. Do it well, and the grass on the "other side of the fence" will look far less green.

Let me know if you think it's too long.

Brian

## Counseling Article Nov 2010

Romans 12: 18 if it is, possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

If only, we could all live by this scripture, what a peaceful world we would have. Seriously, we cannot be responsible for the actions of others, but we are responsible for our own actions and how we handle situations in our own lives.

Being at peace with others does not mean that we have to be their best friend or even have a casual relationship with them. It does mean that we should not be little them to others or air anyone's dirty laundry. It is human nature when we are hurt to want to lash out and let others know what a terrible person the other person is. God cannot honor that. Really it can make the person doing the lashing out be undesirable to be around. Many times in my life people have wronged me and of course my flesh would want to say nasty and spiteful things. Only by the grace of God could I refrain from voicing my anger and unhappiness. In the end I may have confided in a few people that I knew would not repeat what I said. Everyone needs a confidant that you know will hold you accountable to live in a Godly manor and will not take up your offence. The next time you feel slighted, insulted or ignored etc. Remember this verse and be as the world says "the bigger person", but we know that it is the Godly way. Pray that the God of all peace will help us to be that person who decides to live in peace and bring peace rather than in constant tension and upheaval. May God help us all!

## Telephone Prayer Chain

If you do not have access to the Internet and would like to be on a telephone prayer chain, please fill out the form below and return to the Office. If you have e-mail, we ask that you join our e-mail prayer chain. You can join the church e-mail prayer chain by contacting Nancy

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

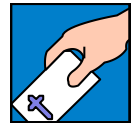


**St. Paul's UMW  
Holiday Shoppe and  
Attic Sale  
Norcross Hall  
Saturday, November  
13<sup>th</sup> -  
10-2 PM  
Homemade Lunch,  
Christmas Gifts &  
Decorations, Crafts, Bake  
Goods, Cheeses, White  
Elephant, Jewelry,  
Handmade Items, Candy  
Shop til you drop and  
enjoy a delicious lunch**

### CHRISTMAS STORE



Plans for this year's Christmas Store are underway. Again, we are asking for donations of **knitted or crocheted hats, scarves and mittens, shampoo, hand sanitizers, wrapped bar soap, wash clothes and combs.** Also packages of C, D and AAA batteries would be appreciated. Donations may be placed in the box labeled "Christmas Store" in the narthex. Please call Bery or Walt if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



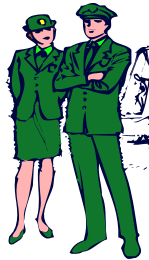
### Giving Envelopes

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, 2011 envelopes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Sending Cards to Our Service Men and Women



The UMW would like service men and women to have Christmas cards sent to them from the congregation. If you know someone in the service you would like cards sent to, please fill out the form below. You can place it in the offering plate or return to the office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## **LEXINGTON HOUSE CHRISTMAS MISSION BAGS**

*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 a gallon size zip-lock plastic bag would help us immensely, and be greatly appreciated!

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

*We are also looking for these additional items to distribute:*

**2011 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 21, 2010**. If you have any questions, please contact, Claire. As always, thank You for your generosity in supporting the Lexington House Mission.

## **KIDSTUFF BOOKS ARE ON SALE**

St. Paul's Christian School is selling KidStuff books for \$25.00. The book includes \$20 in Shop Rite coupons, discounts at Kohl's, McDonald's Dunkin Donuts and so much more! Order forms and more information are on the back table. All proceeds from this sale go towards our School's Financial Assistance Program.

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Can you Knit or Crochet? Would you like to pray for and comfort someone in need? You could help in the following ways:

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

Call Sharon



## **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. You may also 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank-you.

Please call Virginia if you have any questions.

## **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.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and click on "EZ Give"

## Senior Joy – November 2010

At our October meeting Sergio shared his beautiful show birds with us. He also answered many questions that we all had. WOW ..... The birds are a full time job! Thanks, Sergio.

Mark your calendars. Our next meeting will be on: Thursday, November 11, 2010. Bill Stoughton will be presenting a program on: FIRE PREVENTION IN OUR HOME - WE CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL!

Bring your lunch and enjoy the desserts that our Sr. Joy friends provide. The desserts are greatly appreciated. The Sr. Joy team gives many thanks for all of the support that you give!

New friends are always welcome. Hope to see you on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 12:30. Until then stay well and happy. Judy

### Snowbirds



If you will be leaving New Jersey for warmer climates over the winter please let the office know. We will hold your Circuit Rider for your return. The post office does not forward Circuit Riders and charges us \$0.44 to return them to the church. Please include an estimated return date so we can start sending the Circuit Rider to you when you return.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I will be leaving \_\_\_\_\_ returning \_\_\_\_\_



Thanksgiving Community Service – 7pm at  
Temple Beth Or on Van Zile Road  
sponsored by Brick Ministerium

# Church News

## CHURCH

### CONFERENCE- NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>

### Worship Begins at 7:30 PM

### All are invited to attend

### Fall Food Pantry Needs

Listed below are the items needed most but just about any food which does not need to be refrigerated would help.

Canned Pasta and Ravioli Hash Crackers  
Baked Beans Stew Pancake mix and Syrup  
Canned Fruit Cereal Macaroni and Cheese  
Tuna Box Pasta  
Powdered Milk (qt. size) Juice Jelly  
Canned Vegetables (except corn) Potatoes

**We are running very low on food. Anything you can do will be appreciated.** Please leave all donations in the round tub by the mailboxes outside the Narthex. Thank you for all you do.

### **November Dinner**

WHEN: Saturday, November 20, 2010

WHERE: Norcross Hall

TIME: 6 PM

#### Menu

**Roast Beef and Turkey**  
**Vegetables**  
**Rolls & Butter**  
**Salad**



For the kids  
Chicken Fingers, Mac & Cheese

## Men's Discipleship and Accountability Group

The Saturday morning Men's Discipleship and Accountability Group will soon begin a study of the book *Quiet Strength*, written by Tony Dungy, coach of the Indianapolis Colts when they won Super Bowl XLI. *Quiet Strength* explores six tough questions men ask. Each of the six Bible studies is crafted especially for men, and provides biblical answers, relationship-building discussion questions, fun activities, and character-building insights from the life of Super Bowl Winning Head Coach Tony Dungy. We will discuss the answers to these questions: What is my game plan? What is my strength? What is success? Where is my security? What is my significance? What is my legacy?

We welcome men interested in joining us for this study and beyond. We meet in the Youth Room at 7:00am Saturday mornings.

Yes, I said 7:00am on Saturday mornings.  
Why then?

When this group formed in October 1996, the members decided that early Saturday morning was the time least disruptive to their schedules and, more importantly, to their families. Fourteen years of history has proven this to be correct. We are usually finished before 8:30, and on weeks when the UMM is meeting, we try to wrap up just after 8:00. Give us a try! It might just change your life for the better.

If you are interested, just speak to either Nelson or Vern.



**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 28<sup>th</sup> or in  
December**

## THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4 – 5 2010-RESOURCE DAYS

"Engage Conflict Well"--Two-day event at Hamilton UMC,  
858 Old Coriles Ave., Neptune, NJ 07753

Rev. Stephanie Hixon, Co-executive Director/**JUSTPEACE CENTER** for Mediation and Conflict Transformation, United Methodist Church, will present a 2-day practical training rooted in the theology, theory, principles and practices of faith-based conflict transformation. Core elements of the training are found in the new book, *The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace*, by Rev. Tom Porter, Co- Executive Director/**JUSTPEACE CENTER**  
*For both clergy and laity as follows:*

THURS., Nov. 4- 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. /light lunch provided.

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.- laity session  
(for those laity unable to attend the day session)

FRIDAY, Nov. 5- 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
For both clergy & laity-light lunch provided.

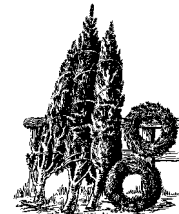
\*RSVP TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE AT (732) 359-1060  
LETTING US KNOW IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND. \*

## THANK YOU

To all who supported St. Paul's Christian School's "Cheeburger Cheeburger" fundraiser last month. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoyed your meal. We made \$265 to be put towards our recess and gym equipment. Just a note, if you enjoyed "Cheeburger Cheeburger" pick up one of our KidStuff books for \$25 which includes a coupon to this great eating establishment along with many other local favorites.

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**Delivery of Christmas trees  
Wednesday November 24, 2010 at 5am.  
We need HELP to Unload the trees and  
there's Breakfast at 6am**



Mark Your Calendars!

# CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA & CHRISTMAS CONCERT BAND

**St. Paul's Chancel Choir and Christmas Concert Band will present their Christmas cantata and concert on December 18 and 19 Saturday and Sunday nights, at 7:30 PM. Snowdate is December 20.**

The **Chancel Choir** will present the recently released cantata "**Only Love**" by Rouse and Vader. It will touch hearts with the timeless message of God's love through Christ's birth. We are led through the musical by two narrators, a beautiful DVD presentation, and pageantry that tell the story of Jesus' birth. Besides the beautiful singing of our Chancel Choir there are solos, duets, trios, and a children's/youth number. There is beautiful carol music, rousing gospel songs, and exciting songs of celebration as well. There is truly something for everyone to enjoy for this wonderful season of joy.

Our **Christmas Concert Band** will present "**Songs of the Season**" with great Christmas music. We are planning on presenting different styles, from traditional Christmas songs to classical and even a "swing" Christmas number. Our Concert Band is made up of woodwinds, brass, and percussion players from St. Paul's and the high schools, colleges, and communities around us, ages 9<sup>th</sup> grade through adult. It is a unique ensemble of over 45 members and we are excited to involve our church and community in this instrumental outreach.



**Why not take time out from the hustle and bustle of holiday planning to experience what the season is really all about. Please mark these dates on your calendar today and invite family and friends to join us. It is sure to be a great part of your Christmas celebration.**



# St. Paul's United Methodist Church

## November 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Weekly Events &amp; Meetings - - - &gt;</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Adult Bible Study - Library 9:00 Trad. Worship Service 9:00 & 10:45 Childcare- Rm 1 10:10 Fellowship – Norcross Hall 10:45 Contmp. Worship Service 8:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6:30pm Senior High Youth 6:00 Cub 33 – Tigers 6:30 Cub 33 – Wolves 6:30 Cub 33 – Bears 7:00 Financial Peace University – Sanc. 7:00 Mon Night Bible Study 7:15 MN Bible Study Men 7:15 MN Bible Study Women 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 9:30 The Quilters 10:00 Ladies Share Grp- Penrods 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm Cherub Choir 6:00 Handbell Choir 6:00 Volleyball 7:30 Christmas Concert Band Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	5:30pm Father-Son Basketball – Norc. 6:30 Alcoholics Anon. – Room 6 6:30 Webelos Den 2 7:00 7:00 Carol Choir 7:00 Celebration Choir 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scout Trp 33 8:00 Chancel Choir Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	9:00am Bulletin Team 6:15 Webelos Den 7:00pm Praise Team 8:00 OCA - Library Before/After Care 7:30-9:30am 12noon – 6:00pm Youth Room	7:00AM Men's Disciple
	1 4:30pm trp 1022 Girl Scouts 6:00pm trp 304 Daisy Troop 7:30 Administrative Board	2 7:00pm UMW Exec Bd Mtg 7:30 Christmas Store Meeting – Library	3	4	5 3:00pm Girl Scout Trp 1311	6
7 <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>	8 6:00 SPCS Lead Parent 6:30pm trp 1493 Girl Scouts 7:00 SPCS HSA – Library	9 12noon Rebecca Circle 6:30 PM Miriam Circle 7:00pm Finance Mtg	10 7:00PM Lydia Circle	11 12:30PM Senior Joy	12	13 <b>UMW Holiday Shoppe</b> 
14	15 4:30pm trp 1022 Girl Scouts 6:00pm trp 304 Daisy Troop <b>7:30pm Annual Church Conference</b>	16 6:30 Girl Scout Trp 339	17 3:30pm Girls Scouts 1572	18	19 6:30am Breakfast for Homeless	20 8:00AM UMM Breakfast 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner
21 <b>7:00 Town Thanksgiving Service</b>	22 7:30PM SPRC Mtg 6:30pm trp 1493 Girl Scouts	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27
28 <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	29	30	31			