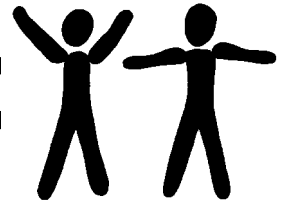


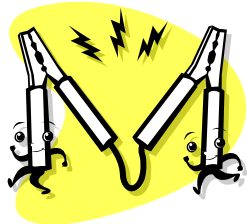
The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!

Saint Paul's UMC



www.saintpauls-umc.com



JUMP-START COURSES, BEGIN NOV 30!

JUMP-START is a name of a new set of 2 or 3 week courses designed to help you jump-start some aspect of your spiritual life. These courses all begin on Wednesday, November 30 and will run for two or three weeks.

Go ahead, step out, and begin a new spiritual journey. Sign up for any of these through the Friendship Form in the Sunday worship brochure, or by calling the office at 623-7090.

• **Spiritual Gifts** - Discover your spiritual gifts and find places to use them. 2 weeks.

CLASS FULL!

- **Prayer Launch** - An introduction to the basics of prayer. 3 weeks.
- **Into the New Testament** - Want to start reading the Bible, but don't know where to begin or how to get the most out of it? Discover what the New Testament is about with this course.
- **The Saint Paul's Experience** - Step deeper into the values, vision, mission and purposes that make our church such a great place to be. Also, learn more about partnering in ministry with us through membership.

Christmas Events...

- **Saturday, December 10, Holiday Gift & Craft Show.**
The Holiday Gift and Craft Show is sponsored by Saint Paul's youth. It is held from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Family Life Center and will feature over 50 crafters from all over the area. Mark your calendar and plan to come and do your Christmas shopping!!
- **Wednesday, December 14, Old Fashioned Fireside Christmas.** The festivities begin at 7:00 PM! Come sit by the fireplace and enjoy Christmas songs. You may pick carols you want to sing and you are invited to bring a brief story, poem or Christmas memory to share. Come join us in celebration as we fellowship together and share homemade cookies and apple cider!
- **Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.** On Christmas Eve this year, we will be holding four candlelight worship services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These services will be at **4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 PM.** You are invited to bring your family to celebrate and worship at the time that best suits your schedule. Nursery care will be provided at all services for children preschool age and younger.
- **Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day.** This year on Christmas Day, we will be holding **one** worship service at **10:00 AM.** **There will be no Sunday School** but nursery care will be provided for children preschool age and younger.

Upcoming Sermons

November 20 "Thanksgiving 2005: Understanding The Meaning of 'Good'"

November 27 "An Undivided Christmas"

Young Adult Gathering!

All young adults are encouraged to join us in the Family Life Center on Sunday, November 30 at 6:00 PM for a fun get together and a FREE dinner!! If you consider yourself a young adult, please join us!! At this meeting, we will discuss the possibilities of starting small group studies. Please make plans to be here for this important meeting!!

Holiday Gift & Craft Show

The Holiday Gift & Craft show sponsored by the Saint Paul's Youth, will be held on **Saturday, December 10** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Mark your calendar and plan to some and do your Christmas shopping!

Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive Ends Sunday!

Sunday, November 20, is the last day to bring your non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving baskets for local families in need.

We need your help, so please set your food items by the door so you won't forget them!

Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving tree will be in the lobby on November 20. Tags will be placed on the tree with needs and gifts for the local community. We are sponsoring 2 adopted apartment families, the 12 girls at Turnaround Ranch, plus there will be donation gifts to the Salvation Army helping local families and children in need. Please take a tag, purchase the item, wrap it, place the tag back on the top of the gift, and bring back to the church by Wednesday, December 14.



"The primary purpose of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to lead people to an active faith in Jesus Christ."

Located at 2423 W. 26th Street • Joplin, Missouri 64804 • 417-623-7090 • fax 623-7533 • www.saintpauls-umc.com
Aaron Brown, Senior Pastor • Sunday Worship—8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 6:45 p.m. • Sunday School—9:30 a.m.

Student Ministries!

Saint Paul's Youth

Grades 6-12

The Crossing meets Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME: 9:30 A.M.!

Youth Corner

Sunday, November 20 12:00 Noon Thanksgiving Dinner 5:30-6:30 PM 24/7

Wednesday, November 23 No Crossing

Saturday, November 26 2:00 PM Family Fun Day/ Paintball 4:00 PM Flag Football/Bonfire

Sunday, November 27 4:00-5:15 PM E Team Meeting 5:30-6:30 PM 24/7

Wednesday, November 30 6:00-8:00 PM *The Crossing*

Did you know: 24/7 is our night of small groups organized just for students in grades 6 - 12. Currently, we have 4 groups that meet every Sunday from 5:30-6:30 PM. A number of the groups are doing the Life Together Study and one of the groups is doing the Point of Grace - Girls of Grace Study. We invite all teenagers to join us on Sunday nights!!!

Attention all Youth! Come to Go 4th Sunday School and check it out! We are meeting in the Family Life Center for a time of praise, devotions and our Bible Study! All youth in grades 6 - 12, meet together in the Family Life Center at 9:30. After our time of worship, we break up into small groups for a study of the Bible. Join us in December for an Advent Study as we take a deeper look into the Book of Luke.

Confirmation Mentors Needed

If you are interested in helping with the spiritual growth of a Saint Paul's youth, we need you to be a Confirmation Mentor. Confirmation is a 12 week experience working one-on-one with a youth in grades 7—12. Mentors don't have to be perfect, just willing to share. Some of the qualifications for a mentor include being a part of Saint Paul's for at least 6 months and being on your own spiritual walk with God.

If you can help with this important ministry, please call Nancy Hampton at 623-7090. Confirmation begins in January, 2006.



Care Packages for College Students

We have a number of students who are away at college and each year we like to send them a special care package from

Saint Paul's. If you would like to donate some items to this ministry, please leave your contributions in the basket in the lobby by Sunday, November 27. They would love pens, paper, hot chocolate, McDonalds gift certificates, etc. Please send items that are non-perishable and cannot be easily broken in the mail.

A Few Words from Aaron...

Don Postema wrote, "A thankful life is a response to seeing life as a gift from God." This Sunday, the Sunday before Thanksgiving Day, is when we as a church celebrate Thanksgiving. I personally have so much to give thanks for and I'm truly looking forward to Sunday as a way to celebrate together all the blessings, large and small, that God has provided. In fact, I'm going to be challenging each of us to look and see the many small blessings that we tend to overlook, and teach us some new ways to give thanks and see how our lives are gifts from God.

I also want to remind you to bring your 2006 Offering Card with you this Sunday. We've had a good response so far. One of the commitments that our members make is to return this card each year, so if you haven't yet, now's the time. It's our way to thoughtfully, intentionally and prayerfully consider what God is calling us to give to do his work through our church and hopefully take a step forward from this year to next.

As for our current financial state, our giving as a church has increased significantly over the last several weeks and our giving to support the ongoing ministries of the church has increased 4% over the same time last year. However, our expenses year-to-date, are still about 3% above our giving. That translates into a need of about \$25,000.

The reason for this need is that we are growing in every way as a church as we lead people to an active faith in Jesus Christ. We have grown in our support of missions and needs locally and around the world, in worship attendance, in participation in small groups, and children and youth ministries. We have grown in the classes and courses of all sorts that we offer, as well as our outreach to those who are far from God. Let's all be sure that we are giving as God leads us to fuel the fire of the amazing things God is doing through Saint Paul's.

See you on Sunday! Aaron (stpauls@joplin.com)

Sponsor a Newsletter!

Would you like the opportunity to reach 1,300 families and help your church at the same time? You could do this by sponsoring a newsletter. Every other week, we send out approximately 1,300 newsletters to families in our community and throughout the country. You can publicize your business or an upcoming event, show a loved one your appreciation, or simply praise God for His blessings.

If you would like to sponsor an issue of *The Post Newsletter* as an individual or business, contact Linda at 623-7090.

Our Stewardship Tells of our Faith . . .

Date	Total Worship	Sunday School	Faith Offering	Making Room For All
Oct 23.....	648.....	177.....	\$8,963	\$3,639
Oct 30.....	733.....	193.....	\$14,859	\$2,425
Nov 6.....	559.....	200.....	\$17,208	\$5,366
Nov 13.....	696.....	199.....	\$34,370	\$5,283

Church Financial Reports may be picked up at the Info Center.

A Friendly Reminder:

If you have not returned your 2006 Offering Card mailed last week, please bring it Sunday. If you can't find your card, please call the church office at 623-7090 so we can mail another one. With your help, we can conclude our stewardship drive shortly.

Adult Sunday School Current Studies...

Seekers - This class is beginning to study "In Search of The Real Spirit of Christmas" by Dan Schaeffer.

Messengers - They are starting an Advent series on November 27. "Where Heaven Touches Earth" based on the Christmas stories from Luke's gospel.

Forum - Currently studying "Paul's Writings from Prison".

Koinonia - The Gospel of John.

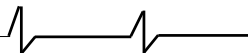
Living Room - This group is just starting a study of the book "Big Girls Don't Whine".

Praying Parents - "Running the Rapids" - Guiding teenagers through the turbulent waters of adolescence.

Charge Conference...

Each year we have an annual business meeting where leaders are elected for the coming year, reports for ministry are submitted and our District Superintendent shares her vision for the new year. This meeting will be held **Monday, November 28 at 7:00 PM**. All are encouraged to attend.

Healthbeat



If you're disturbed by upsetting news, close your eyes, breathe deeply, relax your neck and shoulders and concentrate on a wonderful moment in your life. This will help moderate your mental and physical responses to stress.

Sprinkle sea salt on greens just before tossing a salad. The lettuce will taste so good, you'll need less dressing.

Recovery Support Group

Do you suffer from alcohol or drug addiction and feel like nobody understands you? Well we understand and want to help you. The Recovery Support Group at Saint Paul's is a 12-step Christ centered program and you are invited to join us.

Recovery is a wonderful thing, so let's celebrate together! We meet each Thursday at 6:00 PM in Room 24 at the church.

If you would like more information call Robby Boyd at 438-2354 or Teddy Steen at 624-3745.

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Raridon	Zachery Oden	Jason Lewis
Jim & Ardie Wasson	Richard Stanley	Military troops, homeless people, unemployed people and lost people
Jeanne Matlock	Amy & Whitney Hammond	
Laura Thompson	Rob Boyd	
Jerry Webster	Brandi Purdy	
Carrol Skelton	Zachary Dugan	
Chathen Roth	Natosha Purdy	
World Peace	Heather Lewis & Family	
Dale, Dean, Bill, Bobby Joe Lyerla	Tina Harter	
Edna & Ervin Dill	Jason Kranz	
Patrick Hamilton & Family	Russell Ward	
John Smith	The family of Karen Edens at her passing	
Kortlyn McCallister	Chris & Amy Hale	
		Kara Hulsey
		David Forkner
		Singles
		Bill Mauldin
		Dixie Johnson
		Erik Shank
		Elsie Chorum
		Shirley Breckinridge
		Judy Wigginton
		Gavin James

Did you know you could order gift cards from Saint Paul's?

We have a list of our 59 local retailers/restaurants to choose from. New to the list are Finish Line and Quizno's. Place your order by Wednesday morning and pick it up the following Monday. If you don't know what to get someone for Christmas, a gift card always makes a nice gift! Order forms are available in the church lobby. For more information, contact Kim Soriano, 623-7090.



Alpha Course Begins January 11, 2006!

A new 10 week Alpha Class will start on Wednesday, January 11. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

Parents' Night Out!

Register now for Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 2! Would you like to spend an evening Christmas shopping without the kids? We have the perfect opportunity for you! Register your kids through age 10 for an evening of fun at Saint Paul's.

The time is from 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM and the cost is \$12 for the first child, and \$10 for each additional child. Kids will be supervised by Saint Paul's youth, parents and staff. The cost will include a small snack, movie, crafts, fun and games! Sign up by November 28! Sign-ups are posted in Creation Station and the church lobby.

Guys and Dolls...

On Wednesday, December 7, Saint Paul's will host a lunch for persons 65 and older at 12:00 Noon. Lunch will be served at no cost. There will also be a short program with the "Strolling Strings" from Joplin High School. We must have reservations. If you are interested, please contact Maril Thompson at 623-7803 or the church at 623-7090 before Friday, December 2, 2005. Transportation can be provided.



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2423 W. 26th Street
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(417) 623-7090

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- *JUMP START classes begin November 30!*

LABEL



Kids' Corner



CrossTraining News!

We will be taking a short break for the Thanksgiving season. There will be no CrossTraining on November 23. We will also be taking off December 14, 21 & 28 and January 4 for the holidays. CrossTraining will resume again on Wednesday, January 11, 2006.

CrossTraining and Sunday School children will perform!

During worship service on Sunday, November 27 and Sunday, December 18, during the 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship services. Mark your calendars to come and enjoy "the reason for the season!"

Children's T-shirts Available in Creation Station!

Hey kids...get your shirt now and be proud to support your church for only \$3.50 per shirt! This is not your everyday/ordinary t-shirt, but a shirt that you can color! Red, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight!

Awesome Adventure Preschool News and Notes

Saint Paul's Weekday Preschool is a program that is an important part of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church's Ministry which serves its church members and the community. The preschool is available for children ages 12 months to 5 years old.

The preschool has experienced trained staff, provides a nurturing atmosphere where children can grow and learn educationally. Each room meets or exceeds the adult/child ratio set by the state, ensuring quality attention and supervision that is so vital during these early years. Children can grow at their own pace, gaining a positive self-image and a healthy Christian outlook for their ever-expanding world.

Inside the colorful, inviting classrooms, the equipment is age appropriate to fit the child's needs. Outdoors, the playground promotes imagination and outside fun. During inclement weather, the church gym is utilized for fun and games. The preschool's atmosphere is very warm and inviting, which establishes an easier transition from home to school. For more information, call 623-7090.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOVEMBER 28