

# The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!  
Saint Paul's UMC



[www.spwired.com](http://www.spwired.com)



## Christmas At Saint Paul's!

- **Saturday, December 8, 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 60 crafters from all over the area. Mark your calendar and plan to come and do your Christmas shopping!!

- **Wednesday, December 12, Old Fashioned Fireside Christmas.** The festivities begin at 6:30 PM! Come sit by the fireplace and enjoy Christmas songs. You may pick carols you want to sing, there will be a special time for

kids and a retelling of the Christmas story. Come join us in celebration as we fellowship together and share homemade cookies and apple cider! Childcare will not be provided, bring the kids in with you!

- **Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.** On Christmas Eve we will be holding five candlelight worship services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These services will be at **4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 PM** at the main campus and **10:45 PM** at The Salvage Yard. 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 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 for children preschool age and younger.

## Kindermusik Now Enrolling for Winter/Spring Semester!

### **Free Demonstration Classes Available**

Children love to sing and dance! Here at Saint Paul's we encourage that natural love of music by offering Kindermusik classes. Kindermusik is a unique music and movement program that uses singing, playing instruments, and dancing to help children grow in their cognitive, language, social, emotional, and musical skills. The classes are divided into three different age groups: Newborns-18 months, 18 months-3½ years, and 3½ - 5 years. All classes for the winter/spring semester begin the week of January 28th.

If you are interested in participating in a free Demonstration class before enrolling, please stop by the Kindermusik display in the church lobby for more information or check the appropriate box in the Sunday worship brochure. The Demonstration classes will be held January 14th and 15th. At the Kindermusik display, you will also find brochures with more detailed information regarding all the classes for the next semester. You may contact Janet Brown at 623-7090 (ext. 31) for more information.

### **Demonstration Class Schedule**

**Newborns-18 months** - 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Monday, Jan. 14th)

**18 months-3½ years** - 6:30-7:00 p.m. (Monday, Jan. 14th) or 6:30-7:00 p.m. (Tuesday, Jan. 15th)

**3½-5 years** - 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Tuesday, Jan. 15th)

## Parents' Night Out

Register now for Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 14th. 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 - 10:00 p.m. and the cost is \$12 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. Kids will be supervised by Saint Paul's youth and staff. The cost will include a small snack, movie, crafts fun and games! Sign up by December 9th. You may sign up on the Friendship Form in the Sunday worship brochure or in KidSpace.

## Christmas Gift and Craft Show ...

Join us on Saturday, December 8th at the annual Christmas Gift and Craft Show at Saint Paul's. This show features many gift and craft vendors from all over the area. The time is from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and it is held in the Family Life Center and foyer area of the church. Admission is by donation and all proceeds go to support youth camps and missions.

## Upcoming Messages

**New Series Begins! "God. With. Us."**

**December 2 "Taking Back Christmas"**

**December 9 "God..."**

"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.spwired.com](http://www.spwired.com)  
Aaron Brown, Senior Pastor • Sunday Worship—8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at the Salvage Yard • Sunday School—9:30 a.m.

# Student Ministries!

## Saint Paul's Youth

Grades 6-12

*The Crossing* meets Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME: 9:30 a.m.

### Youth Corner

**Sunday, Dec. 2** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 small groups

**Wednesday, Dec. 5** 6:00—8:00 pm

*The Crossing*—Christmas NOW

**Thursday, Dec. 6** 4:00-8:00 pm Craft Show set up

**Friday, Dec. 7** 1:00-8:00 pm Craft Show set up

**Saturday, Dec. 8** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Craft Show

**Sunday, Dec. 9** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm Ronald McDonald House

**Wednesday, Dec. 12** 6:00—8:00 pm No *Crossing* Fireside Christmas

**Friday, Dec. 14** 5:30-10:30 pm Parents' Night Out

**Sunday, Dec. 16** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm Caroling w/ 24/7 groups

**Wednesday, Dec. 19** 6:00-8:00 pm *The Crossing* Christmas Party

**Sunday, Dec. 23** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 small groups

**Wednesday, Dec. 26** 6:00-8:00 pm No *Crossing*

**Friday, Dec. 28** Fix up the Zone

**Sunday, Dec. 30** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 small groups

## Confirmation Begins Jan 27!

We invite all youth in grades 7-12 to be a part of Confirmation '08. Beginning in January, we are offering Confirmation Classes and we want you to join us. We will explore who God is and how our lives will be different because we choose to follow Jesus! Confirmation is a 13 week commitment. For more information and to register, please contact the youth office at 623-7090 or send an email to youth@saintpauls-umc.com.

## Do You Have What it Takes to be a Confirmation Mentor?

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 13 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, 2008.



## A few words from Aaron...

Last Monday we held our yearly Charge Conference. It's our annual business meeting presided over by our District Superintendent, Sandy Nenadal. We celebrated as our membership, worship attendance and overall participation in ministries grew from last year.

Our primary purpose is to lead people to an active faith in Jesus Christ, and that is happening.

At the meeting we also addressed the next step in completing the unfinished part of KidSpace. The Charge Conference approved a budget of \$250,000 to complete that area. The Building Committee Chairperson, Kenny Neal, and the Finance Committee Chairperson, Randy Evans, presented information on construction and financing plans. Everything is coming into place for us to complete the project.

We also reviewed and approved the 2008 budget as presented by our Church Administrator and Finance Committee. Copies of the 2008 budget will be available at the Information Center as soon as possible.

We took care of a lot of business that evening and it was a joyful celebration of all that God is doing here. But ultimately our business is not buildings and budgets. Our business is to do our part to connect people to God, to bring life change, hope, and renewal to as many people as we can in the time that we have. It's an honor and privilege to help that happen.

On another note, I'm starting a new series this Sunday called "God. With. Us." I'm very excited about it. Especially since our culture is in the process of disconnecting the events of Jesus' birth from the celebration of this holiday. Now we have the chance to truly reclaim Christmas.

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

## 2008 Building Use Forms

New Building Use Forms must be filled out by each committee, class or ongoing group for the new year of 2008. Please include all pertinent dates, times, rooms, etc. on each form that is filled out. Building Use Forms are available in the church office or they may be picked up and returned to the wall pocket beside the church office door or left in the office.

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*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 . . .

Week of	Total Worship	Sunday Discipleship	Wednesday Nite Live	Faith Offering	Making Room For All
Oct. 28	806	227	39	\$13,389	\$2,085
Nov 4	825	212	286	\$25,331	\$6,916
Nov 11	629	222	301	\$17,980	\$2,293
Nov 18	778	200	N/A	\$21,441	\$2,683
Nov 25	709	187	N/A	\$12,443	\$1,912

*Sunday Discipleship includes all children, youth, & adult classes & courses offered on Sundays. Wednesday Nite Live includes children, youth & adult ministries on Wednesday evenings.*

## A Friendly Reminder:

If you have not returned your 2008 Offering Card, please bring it Sunday. If you can't find your card, please call the church office at 623-7090 so we can mail you another one. With your help, we can conclude our stewardship drive shortly.

## People Carrier Arrived!

After years of saving and searching, it's a joy to report that we now have a 14 passenger people carrier. If you know someone who didn't ride the vans because they were hard to get into, they will want to give this a try. With a nice wide entrance and an aisle to walk to your seats, it's a lot easier to get into. We would like to thank all of those who have given to make this a reality.

## Christmas Care Packages for People Serving in the Military...

Do you have a friend or family member currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Military? We would love to send a small Christmas Care Package to them from the church. All we need is their name and a complete mailing address by December 10th. Please send to the church or email to [spinfodesk@fastfreedom.net](mailto:spinfodesk@fastfreedom.net) or call the church at 623-7090.

## Shop With Scrip!

With the Christmas shopping season upon us, now is a great opportunity to support Saint Paul's by purchasing gift cards in anticipation of your holiday shopping. These gift cards can be used to purchase gifts, and used safely for online purchasing.

Stop by the Bookstore in the church to order from our extensive merchant list and/or choose from our limited supply that we have on hand for your convenience. For more information, call the church at 623-7090.

## Christmas Giving Tree



The Christmas Giving tree is in the lobby! Tags have been placed on the tree with needs and gifts for local families and individuals. We are sponsoring 2 adopted apartment families, some Watered Gardens families, 10 boys and 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 gift and bring back to the church by December 16th.

## Prayer Concerns

<b>Serving in Iraq:</b>	Luke & Britany Cranor
Josh Walker	David North
Jason Lewis	Lexi Sohosky
Eric Larson	Mary Ann
Michell Kent	Kim Sewell
<b>Hospitalized:</b>	Mario & Wenonah Soriano
Drew Howard	Edna Dill & Ervin Dill
<b>Other Concerns:</b>	Patrick Hamilton & Family
Hannah Cranor	Kiel Hayes

## Christmas Poinsettias

You can help decorate the Worship Center with lots of poinsettias this Christmas! The poinsettias are \$8.00 each. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, you may fill out the order form in the Sunday program or pick up one at the Information Center. You may also call the church office to place your order, 623-7090.

## Wednesday Night Live Starts again on January 9<sup>th</sup>!

There is an abundance of opportunities for adults coming up in the January session of WNL! Dinner is provided, your kids can come and have a great time at CrossTraining and your youth will have an awesome experience at The Crossing! It's all on Wednesday Nights, beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m.!

Some of the opportunities for adults are:

**Saint Paul's Essentials** We highly recommend that everyone at Saint Paul's take all of these courses (one at a time, of course!). If you haven't taken any of these, start here!

- **Alpha is for everyone!** It's a 10-week exploration of the Christian life and it's a wonderful way to get to know other people. Give Alpha a try, especially if you're new to WNL!

- **S.H.A.P.E.** Experience joy and fulfillment as you discover how God can use your spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences to grow his kingdom.

- **Crown Financial Bible Study** will help you discover how to manage your resources to live fulfilling, purposeful, God-honoring lives.

**Bible Studies and Other Life Enrichment Courses** will include:

- **Healing Hearts Seminar**
- **Women's Bible Studies**
- **Invitation to the Old Testament**
- **Joy of Living Bible Study**
- **Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage**

Sign up soon through the Friendship Form in the Sunday Worship program or by calling the church at 623-7090.



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### Inside This Issue!

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- Christmas Events!

LABEL



## New Director for Awesome Adventure Preschool...

Please welcome Jean Ann Black as the new Director of Awesome Adventure Preschool and Kids' Day Out. Jean Ann began her new position on November 5, 2007.

Under the direction of Todd Taylor, Director of Children's Ministries, Jean Ann will oversee the daily activities at the preschool, work with the staff and teachers and be the first point of contact for the parents. Jean Ann has a strong background both in and out of the classroom, a friendly demeanor and enthusiasm for children.



### School Closing Snow Policy!

If the Joplin schools are closed, Crosstraining, Kids' Day Out and Awesome Adventure Preschool will be closed. Otherwise, all events and classes will take place as planned.

The radio and television stations will be advised if there are any cancellations.

## The Sock and Underwear Tree

*Christmas for the kids in Las Rosas!*

Imagine a community where all children are nurtured. Envision a place where struggling parents can find the support they need. Picture an environment that fosters healthy families – a world where kid's needs are met. There can be such a place this Christmas – and your support will help to sustain this vital mission.



The children of Las Rosas, Nicaragua need new underwear and socks. What a great way to let your kids get involved this Christmas.

Bring in your donations and place them under the tree located in KidSpace between now and Sunday, December 16, 2007

*I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 10**