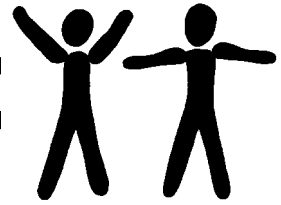


The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!
Saint Paul's UMC



www.saintpauls-umc.com

Christmas At Saint Paul's!



- Saturday, December 9th, Holiday Gift & Craft Show.** The Holiday Gift and Craft Show is sponsored by Saint Paul's youth. It is held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center and will feature over 50 vendors from all over the area. Mark your calendar and plan to come and do your Christmas shopping!
- Wednesday, December 20th, African Children's Choir and Old Fashioned Fireside Christmas.** Fireside Christmas this year will be different than in the past. The festivities will begin with the world-renowned African Children's Choir in the worship center at 7:00 p.m. The program will feature well-loved children's songs, Christmas music and traditional spirituals, along with some ethnic instrumentation. After the program there will be homemade cookies and apple cider in the Family Life Center!
- Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.** On Christmas Eve this year, we will be holding five candlelight worship services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. These services will be at **10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.** in the Worship Center. We will also have our first ever Mosaic candlelight worship service at the **Salvage Yard at 6:45 p.m.**
- Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve.** We will have our normal Sunday worship times of 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. The Salvage Yard will have its normal Mosaic service at 6:45 p.m. followed by a New Year's Eve party with local live music.

Kindermusik Now Enrolling for the Winter/Spring Semester!

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 four different age groups: Newborns-18 months, 18 months-3½ years, 3½ years-5 years, and 5-7 years. All classes for the winter/spring semester begin the week of January 22nd

Please stop by the *Kindermusik* table in the church lobby to pick up a more detailed brochure with specific class times and other information. You may also contact Janet Brown at 623-7090 (ext. 31) for more information.

Kindermusik

Upcoming Sermons

NEW SERIES BEGINS! "Christmas Unwrapped"

December 3 "Unwrapping The Gift of Strength"

December 10 "Unwrapping The Gift of Hope"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE FOR ADULTS!!

It's an all-star line up of opportunities for adults at WNL this January! The journeys begin on **January 10th**. Bring the whole FAM! - There's CrossTraining for children, and The Crossing for youth. Feed your body with the dinner, which is provided, at 6:00 p.m., then feed your soul with one of the following (more options coming!):

- Alpha is for everyone!** It's a **10-week** exploration of the basics of the Christian faith AND it's a wonderful way to get to know other people! Give Alpha a try!
- Joy of Living Bible Study** is a 10-week study of the book of Acts. This interactive and exciting study will be led by Larry Courtney.
- Crown Financial Bible Study.** The Bible has a lot to say about how we use our resources. This course will help you discover how to manage your resources to live fulfilling, purposeful, God-honoring lives.
- Healing Hearts Seminar** is a journey of developing your relationship with God and improving your relationship with others by understanding more about yourself. Led by Bob and Dixie Wynne.
- Nooma.** "Thought-provoking", "challenging" and "refreshing" are a few ways to describe the *Nooma* videos. This group will watch 10-minute videos and discuss. This is a 6 week study led by Dan Distler.

"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 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME: 9:30 a.m.

Youth Corner

Friday, December 1 6-10 p.m. Parents' Night Out

Sunday, December 3 9:30-10:30 a.m. Go 4th

Sunday School

Wednesday, December 6 6-8 p.m.

The Crossing Night of Worship

Thursday, December 7 4-8 p.m. Craft Show setup

Friday, December 8 12-8 p.m. Craft Show setup

Saturday, December 9 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Holiday Gift and Craft Show

Sunday, December 10 9:30-10:30 a.m. Go 4th

Sunday School 12 Noon - 2 p.m. SWIM/SLUG Mtg.

4:00-5:30 p.m. Ronald McDonald House

Wednesday, December 13 6-8 p.m.

The Crossing Christmas party

Sunday, December 17 9:30-10:30 a.m. Go 4th

12 Noon-3 p.m. Lunch at Del Rio and nursing

home visit

Confirmation Begins January 28th!

We invite all youth in grades 7-12 to be a part of Confirmation '07. 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.

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 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, 2007.

WOMAN TO WOMAN

- **The Ruby Circle - R(each) U(p) B(eyond) Y(ourself)**
The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wed., December 20th at 11:30 a.m. at Saint Paul's.
- **The Lamplighters** - The December meeting will be held on December 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Maril Thompson.

A few words from Aaron...

This Sunday, December 3, I'll be starting a new series of messages called "Christmas Unwrapped." The title comes from a show on the Food Network that my oldest daughter, Zoe, just loves. In this series I want to emphasize the real and powerful gifts that are available to us because Jesus was born, because God took on human form, and became one of us. As with any gift, however, once we receive it, we have to unwrap it in order to enjoy it. This week we'll look at the gift of strength that God wants to give us and why we need that strength and how we unwrap it.

On a different note I want to say "Great job!" Our financial commitments for 2007 are already 24% over what they were for 2006. God is doing amazing things here and as we give we are helping lives to be transformed. All we ask is that you ask God, "What do you want to give through me?" Simply listen and respond.

I also want to point out some awesome hospitality I saw in action a couple of weeks ago. Before one of the worship services on Sunday I greeted a man as he entered the worship center. We introduced ourselves and he told me that it was his first time in church in a very long time. We chatted and I introduced him to one of our First Impressions Hosts. They visited briefly. As that host talked to someone else right after that, they told him that they had an extra ticket to the Thanksgiving lunch that day. The host immediately went to that first-time visitor and extended the invitation to have a free meal and sit with the person who had the extra ticket. He took them up on it. That is true hospitality in action. Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Let's never forget how important it is to welcome each other, and especially our guests, to each and every event.

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

2007 Building Use Forms...

New Building Use Forms must be filled out by each committee, class or ongoing group for the new year of 2007. 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.

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 1,500 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 . . .

Week of	Total Worship	Sunday Discipleship	Wednesday Nite Live	Faith Offering	Making Room For All
Nov 5	737	206	269	\$17,113	\$15,952
Nov 12	726	196	174	\$11,504	\$1,627
Nov 19	713	178	N/A	\$16,765	\$7,042
Nov 26	680	195		\$17,159	\$1,809

Sunday Discipleship includes all children, youth, & adult classes & courses offered on Sundays. WNL includes children, youth & adult ministries from Wednesday Night Live.
The 2007 Budgets have been approved and are available at the Information Center.

A Friendly Reminder:

If you have not returned your 2007 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.

Missions...

Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree is in the lobby. Tags will be placed on the tree with needs and gifts for local families and individuals. We are sponsoring 2 adopted apartment 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, (if you take a Turnaround Ranch tag, please call Betty Adams with the name at 782-4407) purchase the item, wrap it, place the tag back on the top of the gift, and bring back to the church by Wednesday, December 13th.

Turnaround Ranch Pizza Party

Our annual Christmas party with the teens at Turnaround Ranch will be Tuesday, December 18th, 5:30 PM at Pizza By Stout. Everyone is welcome to attend. Saint Paul's will be the sponsor for the Intensive Care unit at Turnaround Ranch. This will include 10 boys and girls ages 12 to 17 this year. This is a fun evening and these teens really enjoy it. For more information, contact Betty Adams at 782-4407.

Holiday Food Baskets

Thanks to everyone who donated food for the Thanksgiving baskets! We were able to supply 16 baskets to families in need. We now need canned goods, cereal, soap, toiletries, and non-perishable items for Christmas! Place your items in the Missions cargo box in the northeast corner of the lobby. For monetary donations please mark your check "For Holiday Baskets" and place in the offering plate on Sunday or leave in the church office. We will be collecting these items until Sunday, **December 17th**.

Prime Timers...

The Prime Timers will meet Wednesday, December 6, 2006. The Strolling Strings will be the entertainment while we eat. The menu will be baked chicken, baked potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, rolls, coffee and tea and upside down cake for dessert. The food is catered and the cost is \$5.00 per person. Reservations must be made in advance by calling Maril Thompson at 623-7803.

Prayer Concerns

Surgery:	Samuel Yount	Jim Vaughn
	Robbie Boyd	Violet Green
Healing:	Naomi Brown	Jim & Jane Montee
	Katherine Flynt	Joyce & Mike McPheron
	Linda Koehler	Charles Kisling
In Iraq:	Jada Ryan Grindstaff	Great Gram Edna
	Josh Walker	Mendon Ray
Other Concerns:	Military Troops & Families	Edna & Ervin Dill
	Travis & Stephanie Robinson	Patrick Hamilton & Family
	Tom Gibson	Kate
	Carrol Skelton	David & Bradin Hamilton
	Jr. Skelton	Kassie Hamilton
	Mandy Hood	Kayla Pekarek & Family
	Jill Markman	Emily Shannon
		Zach
		Uncle Lewis
		Art Owens
		Aunt Violet Green

Shop With Scrip Gift Cards!

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 Information Center 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,

Salvage Yard News..

Monday Night Recovery Coming

The Salvage Yard will begin Monday night recovery meetings on December 4th. Anyone is welcome to this Christ centered, 12-step recovery group. Step materials will be available for \$8.00. If you are looking for a group of people who can walk with you in some of the hardest times of your life, try us. Let's defeat addiction, and celebrate together.

Come Finish Out 2006 Salvage Yard Style!

On Sunday, December 31st, The Salvage Yard will be hosting a New Year's Eve party like the city of Joplin has never seen!! After Mosaic worship, we will remain open until 2007 begins with local artists, *The Springs*.

Come early, worship the God that made you, and start the new year in a way you won't regret the next morning. Visit us at 1402 Main street, Joplin, MO. For more information email Ben Bainbridge at ben@thesalvageyard.com.

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 one up at the Information Center. You may also call the church office to place your order, 623-7090.





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- *Wednesday Night Live Begins, January 10!*

LABEL



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.

A Birthday Party for Jesus!

Children will be celebrating the birth of Jesus on **Sunday, December 24th**, during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Services (childcare only, will be available for the 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services.) Children will celebrate Jesus' birthday. The Christmas story will be read, games and crafts will be featured and of course birthday cake will be served as we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus!

As with most birthday parties, gifts are appropriate. Please bring unwrapped toys, new underwear, new socks or new clothing as a gift. These gifts will be donated to the **Williamson County Rainbow Room** and will be used by children who have been removed from homes by Child Protective Services.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 11

The Incredible Race On "The Polar Express" !!

Imagine you are able to go on a journey like the boy in Polar Express. Where do you go? How do you get there? How are you changed by the experience?



In preparation for the curriculum during the first two weeks of December, we will be showing portions of "The Polar Express" starting on Sunday, December 10, during KidMo at 11:00 AM. The children will be learning about true friendship, faith, and celebrating God's presence through Jesus. The two lessons will be:

Lesson 1. A Special Person Needs a Special Ticket

Lesson 2. A Walk in the Dark.

The Polar Express is a tale of a boy's dream-like train ride to the North Pole. Like all stories worth knowing, this movie is a celebration of childhood wonder and imagination. It is truly a parable to tell the importance of faith in Jesus Christ.

"Sometimes seeing is believing -- and sometimes the most real things in the world are things we can't see." See you at the starting line!!