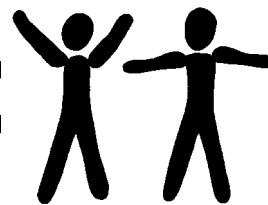


The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!

Saint Paul's UMC



www.saintpauls-umc.com

Christmas At Saint Paul's!



- **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! Childcare will not be provided, bring the kids in with you!
- **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.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving tree is up in the lobby. Tags are 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.

Please call Betty Adams at 782-4407, if you have selected a Turnaround Ranch girl.

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 23rd.



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.

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 do your Christmas shopping!

Alpha Course Begins January 11

What is Alpha?

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. Adults of all ages are welcome.

Learning and laughter. It is possible to learn about the Christian faith and to have fun at the same time.

People meeting together. An opportunity to get to know others and make new friends.

Helping one another. The small groups give you a chance to discuss issues raised during the talks.

Ask anything. *Alpha* is a place where no question is seen as too simple or too direct.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for everyone! It's especially geared to people interested in investigating Christianity, newcomers to the church, new Christians, couples preparing for marriage, Christians who want to brush up on the basics.

The next 10 week course begins Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 6:00 PM. You may sign up for Alpha in the Sunday brochure on the Friendship Form.

Upcoming Sermons

December 4 "The Characters Surrounding Christmas—Herod and the Magi"

December 11 "Joseph the Doubter"

"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

Friday, December 2 5:30-10:30 PM Parents' Night Out

Sunday, December 4 5:30-6:30 PM 24/7

Wednesday, December 7 6-9 PM FFH Concert at Memorial Hall

Thursday, December 8 5:30-8:30 PM Craft Show set up

Friday, December 9 3:30-8:30 PM Craft Show set up

Saturday, December 10 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Craft Show

Sunday, December 11 4:00-5:30 PM Ronald McDonald

House (Mid-High) 5:30-6:30 PM 24/7

Wednesday, December 14 6:00-7:00 PM *The Crossing*
Christmas Party 7:00-8:30 PM Old Fashioned Fireside
Christmas

Sunday, December 18 5:30-6:30 PM 24/7

Wednesday, December 21 TBA The Chronicles of
Narnia

Sunday, December 25 Merry Christmas!!

(No Go 4th or 24/7)

Wednesday, December 28 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM SWIM/
SLUG Retreat 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Salvage Yard Ser-
vice (Senior High) NO CROSSING

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.

Confirmation Begins Jan 29!

We invite all youth in grades 7-12 to be a part of Confirmation '06. 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.

Young Adult Bible Study to Begin December 8!

All young adults are invited to join us for a weekly Bible study beginning Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 PM in the End Zone. Contact Nancy Hampton at 623-7090 for more information.

A Few Words from Aaron...

This Sunday I'll be starting a special Christmas sermon series that will look at some of the characters surrounding the birth of Jesus. This Sunday, I'll look at two minor characters, King Herod and the wise men, from whom we can learn several major things about our relationship with Jesus Christ. As I've been preparing for this series, I've learned so many things that have already made an impact on the way I understand Christmas and I'm very excited about sharing that with you. I guarantee that you will learn something you didn't know and be challenged in some powerful ways.

We're in the season traditionally called Advent. This is a time to prepare to celebrate that the God of the universe took on human form and chose to be born to two working-class parents, in a backwater village, in a backwater part of the Roman Empire. God became one of us, and celebrating that, and understanding what it means, is very important. That's why there are so many opportunities at this time of year to worship, to give, to serve, to study, to party. Take advantage of as many of these things as you can.

Finally, I want to encourage you to take part in the church conference we'll be having on December 12 at 6:00 p.m. We are finally at a place where we are ready to break ground for the expansion of the youth and children's wing. At the conference you'll get another look at the plans, hear how we plan to finance the project, and ask any questions you may have. It will be a time where we as a church, vote on the next step. This is an exciting time and I encourage you to be as knowledgeable as possible. It's also important that you pray about this project and for the church as a whole as we always strive to live our primary purpose of leading people to an active faith in Jesus Christ. What an exciting place to be!

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

Church Conference...

The Building Committee has met and is ready for the next step. On Monday December 12 at 6:00 PM, we will have a Church Conference to show and discuss the final plan for the new addition to Creation Station.

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
Nov 6.....	559.....	200.....	\$17,208	\$5,366
Nov 13.....	696.....	199.....	\$34,370	\$5,283
Nov 20.....	729.....	173.....	\$11,534	\$4,037
Nov 27.....	662.....	184.....	\$16,747	\$5,762

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

A Friendly Reminder:

If you have not returned your 2006 Offering Card which was mailed in November, 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.

2006 Building Use Forms...

New Building Use Forms must be filled out by each committee, class or ongoing group for the new year of 2006. 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.

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.

Missions...

Watered Gardens

Watered Gardens is in need of new or used (in good condition) storage shelves for kitchen supplies. They also need an LCD projector. For more information, or if you would like to donate, please call Nancy Phelps at 624-8611.

Turnaround Ranch Pizza Party

Our annual Christmas party with the girls at Turnaround Ranch will be Tuesday, December 20, 5:15 PM at Pizza By Stout. Everyone is welcome to attend. Saint Paul's sponsors the south cottage at Turnaround Ranch which consists of 12 girls ranging in age from ages 12 to 17. This is a fun evening and these girls 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 17 baskets to families in need. We now need canned goods, cereal, soap, toiletries, and non-perishable items for Christmas! Look for the tubs in the corner of the church lobby marked "Christmas Baskets." For monetary donations please mark your check "Holiday Food Drive" and place in the offering plate or leave in the church office. We will be collecting these items until Sunday, December 18th.

Prayer Concerns

Hugh Cable	David & Cathy Smith
Shirley Raridon	Stephen Lonney
Stephanie Osborne and family	Rob Boyd
Bill, Bobby Joe, Dean Lyerla	Kate Holmes
Melissa Arbuckel	Ellis
Stephen Vanderbol	Teresa Cooper
Josie Clem	Gavin James
Chathen Roth	Chris James
Kim Olesen	Jeanine Ruth
Kathleen Murren	Tina Harter
Justin Burch	The Salvage Yard
Kassandra Hamilton and family	Ben Bainbridge
Helen Shore	The Walter Nichols Family
	Lois Meeth, surgery
	Heather Lewis
	Valerie Walker

Do Your Christmas Shopping At Saint Paul's!

Toys R Us, J C Penney, Bed Bath & Beyond, Best Buy, Sears, Goody's, The Children's Place, Shoe Carnival, Sam Goody, The Gap, Finish Line, Footlocker, Payless Shoes, Applebee's, Garfield's, Olive Garden, Red Lobster and Starbucks. These are just some of the many gift cards that you can order from Saint Paul's. You can give them as a gift, or purchase cards which allows each person to shop for themselves. Either way you do it, you get the face value of the card you purchase and the company gives Saint Paul's a percentage of the sale, which Saint Paul's will use to send kids to camp next summer. So far, Saint Paul's has made \$363 from church members utilizing this gift card program. Order forms are available in the church lobby. Call Kim Soriano if you have any questions, at 623-7090.

Lunch With The Pastor Sunday, December 11

Would you like to know more about the church? Have you thought about joining, or indicated you would like to join? If so, please come to Lunch With the Pastor, Sunday, December 11. A light lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon following the 11:00 worship service. Aaron will discuss the vision of Saint Paul's and explain the membership covenant, as well as answer questions you may have.

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.



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Saint Paul's UMC
2423 W. 26th Street
Joplin, MO 64804
(417) 623-7090

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Inside This Issue!

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- Lunch With the Pastor, December 11!
- Church Conference, December 12!

LABEL



Kids' Corner



The True Meaning of Christmas

Most kids see Christmas as a time of receiving, so how do we change that? How do we teach our children about the true meaning of the holidays? A great place to start is by sharing with them what Christmas is truly about.

Starting Sunday, you will notice a little storybook coming home with your children. We encourage you to sit down and read this Advent Book of Devotions to them. It will only take a few minutes to share with your children the true meaning of Christmas.

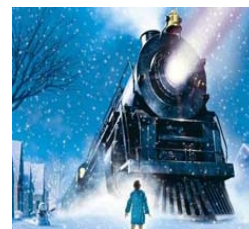
School Closing Snow Policy!

If the Joplin Schools are closed, Cross-training, 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 POLAR EXPRESS" IS COMING! Next Stop, KidMo!

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 three weeks of December, we will be showing "The Polar Express" starting on Sunday, December 4, during KidMo at 11:00 AM. The children will be learning about true friendship, faith, and celebrating God's presence through Jesus. The three lessons will be:

- Lesson 1. A Special Person Needs a Special Ticket
- Lesson 2. A Walk in the Dark.
- Lesson 3. Time Journal.

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."

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE DECEMBER 12