

The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!
Saint Paul's UMC



www.saintpauls-umc.com

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services!

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.** Come and enjoy this Holy day with a time of worship and communion. This is a great time to invite a friend or acquaintance and bring them with you to worship. Nursery care will be provided at all services for children preschool age and younger.



If you feel as though you have been blessed by God this year, then please consider making a special offering during the Christmas Eve services. We call this **March to the Manger**, and it is simply a time for us to make an offering to God by placing an offering in Jesus' manger. These offerings will go toward supporting our missions, locally, nationally and around the world. We have received the greatest gift of all in Jesus and this is simply an opportunity to give back to God. An offering envelope will be included in your Christmas Eve program.

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!

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. Or visit our website at www.thesalvageyard.com

The Crossing for Saint Paul's Youth, Grades 6-12

Join us at *The Crossing* for our dynamic Wednesday night youth group! We meet every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and dinner is provided! We spend time in worship and in small group discussion. Come join the fun! *The Crossing* will begin on January 3rd in The Zone at Saint Paul's.

CrossTraining Begins Again 1/10/07!

CrossTraining commence again on January 10, 2007. CrossTraining is on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00 p.m., with dinner provided. Children pre-K through 5th grade can be part of an exciting and active environment. CrossTraining goes beyond fun to teach strong biblical principals and will also communicate values. Each lesson includes stories, object lessons, crafts, games, memory verses and Bible reading incentives. CrossTraining makes the Bible come alive in children's hearts. But don't take our word for it, bring your kids and let them tell you all about it.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

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 6 week study led by Dan Distler.
- **Having a Mary Spirit** is a book and Bible study for women about allowing God to change our spirit from the inside-out. Led by Bernice Robinson.
- **Mountain Movers** is a support group for people dealing with depression. Led by Ann Leach.
- **Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours** is a parenting course written by Dr. Kevin Leman. This course will help you bring out the best in your kids by doing what is best for them. Applicable for parents of children ages toddler to teenager. Led by Patti McGregor.

Upcoming Sermons

December 17 'Christmas Unwrapped-Hope'

December 24 'What Difference Does Christmas Make?'

"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

- Sunday, Dec. 17** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Go 4th
12 Noon-3 p.m. Lunch at Del Rio and nursing home visit
- Wednesday, Dec. 20 & 27** NO Crossing (Christmas Break)
- Sunday, Dec. 24** No Go 4th
- Thursday, Dec. 28** 11a.m.-5 p.m. Ice Skating
- Sunday, Dec. 31** 9:30-10:30 a.m. Go 4th

DID YOU KNOW????????????????

...Saint Paul's collected almost 100 jars of peanut butter and jelly! That's a lot of sandwiches! We were able to distribute the jars to the Children's Haven, the Ronald McDonald House and Watered Gardens! Thanks to everyone who brought the peanut butter or jelly!

Confirmation Begins Jan. 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.

Big Cedar Lodge Weekend Vacation to be Auctioned!

The youth of Saint Paul's are holding a silent auction for someone to purchase a great 3 day weekend at Big Cedar Lodge on Table Rock Lake! The date is scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 16, 17 and 18. The minimum bid is \$450.00 and the actual value of the weekend is \$1350.00! The bidding will close on Thursday, February 1st at 5:00 p.m. All proceeds from this auction will go to support the youth missions and camps.



A few words from Aaron...

As we approach Christmas Eve and Day, I want to remind you that many of your friends who don't have a church family will be most receptive to an invitation at this time of year. In fact, a lot of people are literally just waiting for an invitation. And over the years we've found that many people who come to be a part of Saint Paul's and begin their faith journey, begin on Christmas Eve. So your invitation could make a lifelong difference for someone you know. Christmas Eve candlelight services will be a joyful and reflective time. I'll be talking about the difference that Christmas makes and relate the Christmas story in a very real-life way. This is always a powerful day, so share the experience by inviting someone you know. And don't forget that all the services (including the morning one at 10:00 a.m.) will all be very similar. I'll be preaching at all of them at the main campus and Ben Bainbridge will be preaching at the Salvage Yard. The music will be different at each service with the choir performing in the morning and other groups and individuals sharing some awesome music at each of the other services. It will be a great day!

On another note, I'm preparing for the next series of messages that will start on January 7. As we get ready for a brand new year, I want us to go into it facing the fears in our lives. Some of us have lingering fears of failure (or even success), some of us fear loneliness, some death, some of us fear God, some fear the future. What if we could begin a new year without fear? What if we had the tools to address the fears in our lives in a God-centered way that really would last? That's what we're going to be tackling as we start 2007. It's going to be awesome!

But in the mean time, I pray that you are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a way that sees beyond the superficial veneer of Christmas, to what God was really doing. This Sunday and Christmas Eve we'll keep "Unwrapping Christmas."

See you on Sunday, Aaron
(aaron.brown@spwired.com)



We would like to thank Joplin Construction Design and Management for the use of their equipment to clear the parking lot on Sunday, December 3rd.

Thank you also to Mark Gooch, Larry Courtney and Roger Clark for giving up their Sunday morning to operate that equipment.

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.

Our Stewardship Tells of our Faith . . .

Week of	Total Worship	Sunday Discipleship	Wednesday Nite Live	Faith Offering	Making Room For All
Nov 19	713	178	N/A	\$16,765	\$7,042
Nov 26	680	195	48	\$17,159	\$1,809
Dec 3	623	150	62	\$14,737	\$2,482
Dec 10	722	189		\$16,302	\$1,615

Sunday Discipleship includes all children, youth, & adult classes & courses offered on Sundays. WNL includes children, youth & adult ministries from Wednesday Night Live.

Year End Giving...

As you consider your year-end giving, please consider the many ministries of Saint Paul's, you will be planting the seeds of faith! In order for your contributions to be credited to the 2006 tax year they must be received by 12:00 Noon on December 31.

Missions...

Turnaround Ranch Pizza Party

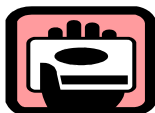
Our annual Christmas party with the teens at Turnaround Ranch will be Tuesday, December 18th, 5:30 PM at Pizza By Stout. Everyone is welcome to attend. Saint Paul's will be the sponsor for the Intensive Care unit at Turnaround Ranch. This will include 10 boys and girls ages 12 to 17 this year. This is 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**.

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,

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 Lamplighters Christmas Party will be held at the home of Maril Thompson at 2611 W. 24th street on December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Concerns

Hospitalized:	Kara Hulsey
Linda Koehler	Violet Green
Gail Blue	Jim & Jane Montee
Health and Healing:	Julie & Megan Hatcher
Robert Holt	Ninny & Jack
Susan Flinn	Zachary
Samuel Yount	Zach and Britt
Tina Harter	Brandon Wortman
Cancer Treatment:	Emily Shannon
Tom Gibson	Ashlee Hembree
Mandy Hood	Dean Walker
In Iraq:	Don Zimmerhaki
Josh Walker	Edna & Ervin Dill
Sympathy to:	Patrick Hamilton & Family
Craig Greer upon the death	Kate, Braden & David
of his father	Hamilton
Other Concerns:	Larry Orfield
Military Troops & Families	Travis & Stephanie
Allison & Lizzie Curci	Robinson

From the Mailbox



Saint Paul's,

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers and concerns. I had back surgery and I am now at home recovering.
Jim Owen

To the Congregation of Saint Paul's,

You are invited to the 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration of Bob & Susie Hicks. They will reaffirm their marriage vows followed by a reception on Sunday, December 17, 2006 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church. *NO Gifts Please* Your presence is the only gift we need. RSVP: Ruth Crayne, 417-237-0535 or 417-439-1951; Linda Roberson, 816-582-6616; or Dawn Barlett, 417-438-2942

Kindermusik Now Enrolling for the Winter/Spring Semester!

Free Demonstration Classes Available

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 -5 years, and children in grades K-2. All classes for the winter/spring semester begin the week of January 22. If you are interested in

participating in a Free Demonstration Class before enrolling, please stop by the Kindermusik table in the church lobby and sign up or check the appropriate box in the church bulletin. The Demonstration classes will be held January 9th and 10th. At the Kindermusik table you will also find brochures with more detailed information regarding all of 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. (January 8th)
18 months-3½ years-6:30-7:00 p.m. (January 8th)
3½ years-5 years - 5:30-6:00 p.m. (January 9th)
Grades K-2 - 6:30-7:00 p.m. (January 9th)





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- Wednesday Night Live Begins, January 10!
- Confirmation Begins January 28!



Building Tomorrow's Church Begins With Today's Children...

In simplest terms, cultivating a biblical worldview means learning to think and act like Jesus. But how can the church and parents teach the children something that their own parents maybe didn't know to teach them? Did you know that a child's moral development is set by the age of nine? Help teach our children!

Teach the Children...

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 story book coming home with your children. We encourage you to sit down and read "Teach the Children" to them. It will only take a few minutes to share with your children the true meaning of Christmas.

Honor God By Volunteering

Honor God by serving his children. Stop by the Information Center for information about helping out in Children's Ministries. If you have questions, call the church at 623-7090.

Celebrating Advent with Kids...

First Sunday of advent : Hope

light one purple candle to symbolize Hope....Prayer -read Isaiah 60:2-3
Extinguish the flame

Second Sunday : Peace

Light two purple candles - Hope and Peace. Prayer -Read Mark 1:4
Extinguish the flames

Third Sunday: Joy

Light two purple candles (Hope and Peace), and one rose to symbolize Joy
Prayer -Read Isaiah 35:10
Extinguish the flames

Fourth Sunday: Love

light all four candles - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Prayer - Read Isaiah 9:6-7
Extinguish the flames

Christmas Eve

After Sunset.. Light all four candles and add the fifth white candle (the light of Christ)
Prayer -Read Luke 1:68-79 and Luke 2:1-20
Keep the candles lit a bit longer, or safely throughout the evening.



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