

The Post

Reaching Up! Reaching Out!
Saint Paul's UMC



www.spwired.com

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services!

Monday, December 24, Five 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 **4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 11:00 PM** at the main campus and **10:45 PM** at The Salvage Yard. Come and enjoy this Holy night 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 4:00, 6:00 and 8:00 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!



New Year's Eve at The Salvage Yard

On Monday, December 31st, The Salvage Yard will be hosting a New Year's Eve party like the city of Joplin has never seen!! On Monday night December 31st The Salvage Yard will open at 6:00 p.m. and we will remain open until next year begins with local artists, *Trinity's Cross and Cody James*. There will be a \$4.00 door donation for the evening. All ages are welcome. Come early 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 9th in The Zone at Saint Paul's.

New Director of Student Ministries!

We would like to welcome Julie Arnold, our new Director of Student Ministries. We are very excited to have Julie on staff. Julie has several years of experience in youth ministry and she will bring a dynamic energy to Saint Paul's! Come meet and greet Julie in The Zone, she'll begin on January 3.

CrossTraining Begins Again 1/09/08!

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 teaches strong biblical principals and communicate values in an amazingly fun environment. 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 Starts again on January 9th!

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 9th 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.

"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
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

- Wednesday, Jan. 2** NO Crossing
- Friday, Jan 4** 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Ice Skating
- Sunday, Jan. 6** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 Small Groups
- Wednesday, Jan. 9** 6:00—8:00 pm *The Crossing* Night of Worship
- Sunday, Jan. 13** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School SWIM/SLUG Meeting 4:00-6:00 pm Serve dinner @ Ronald McDonald House 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 Small Groups
- Wednesday, Jan. 16** 6:00-8:00 pm *The Crossing*
- Sunday, Jan. 20** 9:30—10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 small groups
- Wednesday, Jan. 23** 6:00-8:00 pm *The Crossing*
- Saturday, Jan. 26** WOW Youth Conference
- Sunday, Jan. 27** 9:30-10:30 am Go 4th Sunday School WOW returns 4:00-6:00 pm 24/7 small groups 4:00-5:30 pm 4-5:30 pm Confirmation Meeting
- Wednesday, Jan. 30** 6:00-8:00 pm *The Crossing*

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...

Who ever would guess that we would have had two major ice storms in 11 months? It was a traumatic week for many people, but I'm proud of the response of our church. We had arranged to be a shelter through the Red Cross a long time ago and we were host to approximately 120 people taking

shelter from the cold. As people poured in that Sunday and Monday, I couldn't help but think of Mary and Joseph, looking for a place to stay after a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We were able to say to those 120 people that there was room at the inn, and when we filled to capacity, we helped shuttle people to City Hall and Memorial Hall.

Now we rally to help one another clean up after the storm. What a great time to be the hands of God by offering to help a neighbor remove limbs and clean up the yard. It is in times like this that we are called to shine the light of Christ most brightly.

This Sunday, I'll finish up the series we've been in, "God. With. Us." And then Monday, Christmas Eve, we'll celebrate the birth of Jesus with awesome music, communion, a message of life, and candle lighting. It's always one of the highlights of the year. Don't forget to extend an invitation to someone, it could change their life.

On January 6th I'll be starting a new series called, "God? Conversations with an Atheist." There have been several prominent books published recently that have brought atheism into public view. How do we respond, converse, and understand what's behind this? How can it help us to better understand our faith, and why we believe what we believe? This will be a ground-breaking series that you'll want to invite others to take part in.

See you on Sunday (and Monday!), Aaron

Shop With Saint Paul's 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 bookstore and choose from the gift cards in stock or to order from our extensive merchant list/or choose from our limited supply 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. Please note that gift cards you order may take several weeks to receive.

For more information, call the church at 623-7090.

Upcoming Messages

December 23 "Hope of the World"

December 30 "The Importance of Shipmates"

New Series Begins!

January 6 "God? Conversations with an Atheist"

Our Stewardship Tells of our Faith . . .

Week of	Total Worship	Sunday Discipleship	Wednesday Nite Live	Faith Offering	Making Room For All
Nov 25.....	709.....	187.....	53.....	\$12,443	\$1,912
Dec 2.....	740.....	127.....	146.....	\$22,988	\$2,106
Dec. 9.....	330.....	106.....	N/A.....	\$7,940	\$2,029
Dec. 16.....	748.....	110.....	N/A.....	\$16,633	\$2,193

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.

Pick Up Your Poinsettias

Stop by the church (after Christmas) to pick up your Poinsettia(s). Be sure to only take the Poinsettia(s) in the gold foil. The artificial Poinsettias in green foil belong to the church.

Ice Storm Cleanup

Please call the church office 623-7090 or email to spinfodesk@fastfreedom.com, to let us know if you are able to clean up downed limbs from the recent storm. We will help you find someone who is in need of some assistance.

Area Food Banks Running Low

All of the area food banks are notifying us that they are in urgent need of non-perishable food items. You can make a difference in lots of lives by remembering to pick up something extra for God's people in need and bringing it with you to church. Just place it in the "mission cargo box" in the NE corner of the lobby and we'll get it to an area food bank.

"Extreme Makeover"

Women's Retreat, Jan. 25-26, 2008

The Women's Retreat begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 25 and concludes by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26.

The retreat will be held at Saint Paul's. Bring a sleeping bag, air mattress or whatever you want to sleep on and any personal care items you will need. Feel free to bring anything that will make this time relaxing for you (books, knitting, etc.). Bring a snack to share with others - **all meals will be provided**. This will be a time for fellowship, fun, crafts and spiritual growth with other women.

The cost is \$20.00 per person. You may register on the Friendship Form in the Sunday brochure or at the Information Center. Please register by January 16th. If you have questions or need scholarships contact Bernice Robinson at 417-623-0174.

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:	Hannah Cranor
Jason Lewis	Luke & Britany Cranor
Eric Larson	Bill, Bobby Joe, Mary & Jeanette Lyerla
Michell Kent	
Hospitalized:	Edna Dill & Ervin Dill
Andrew Howard	Patrick Hamilton & Family
Cancer Treatment:	Betty Comstock
Tom Gibson	Mario Soriano & Family
Other Concerns:	Mandy Hood
Aunt Pat, ill	Heather Howard

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)

From the Mailbox

Dear Saint Paul's,



Thank you for letting us use the church for our graduation ceremony.

W.T.I. - Joplin Campus

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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(417) 623-7090

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Just a reminder.



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 PM

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

11:00 PM

At Saint Paul's

10:45 PM at the Salvage Yard
1402 Main St



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 last minute cancellations.

Awesome Adventure Preschool...

A new class is forming for three year olds beginning on Monday January 7th, 2008.



Your child must have turned 3 years old by July 31, 2007. Preschool will be available from 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon or for an extended day, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If interested, please call 623-7090, ext. 20. Limited enrollment.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JANUARY 24

The Sock and Underwear Tree

Picture a world where kid's needs are met. Your support will help to sustain this vital mission. During the power outage some of the socks brought in for the children of Nicaragua were used for the kids staying at the shelter located at Saint Paul's. Thanks for the need that was met here in Joplin, but some more socks and underwear are still needed in Nicaragua.

The children of Las Rosa, Nicaragua need new underwear and socks. What a great way to let your kid's get involved this Christmas. Bring in your donations and place them under the tree located in KidSpace.

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

CrossTraining will Resume on January 9, 2008...

Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Children, 3 years old through 5th grade, can be part of an exciting and active environment. Each lesson uses a variety of teaching methods to create a fun learning atmosphere while impacting the children spiritually. Lesson includes stories, object lessons, activity reinforcements, memory verses and a large group message in the Worship Center. CrossTraining helps 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.