

The Connection

May 19, 2011

A Few Words from Pastor Aaron...

I was interviewed today about the end of the world. It seems a man in California has been predicting that the end is coming on Saturday. It made me go back to scripture and see what Jesus said. In Matthew chapters 24 and 25 Jesus spends quite a bit of time talking about his return and the end of time as we know it. He actually begins by saying that no one knows the hour and day that will happen. Then Jesus talks about what's really important about the end and his return. That it could come at any time so be ready. He tells us that in the meantime we should use our time, talents and treasures wisely. He tells us that we don't wait passively for that time; we spend our time feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prisons.

The man who made this prediction said that he's spent thousands of hours working on finding the date of the end. I wonder if he had channeled those thousands of hours in another direction how many lives he could have helped, how many hungry people he could have fed, how many wounded people he could have lifted up.

I'm not bashing this man. For all I know he could be right, but that's irrelevant. You and I should be living lives that are ready any time. We should be living lives every day where we are loving God, loving others and serving the world. We should be living lives where we are building our faith and doing our best to follow Jesus. Jesus tells us to keep awake and alert, and be about his business.

Anyway, I'm planning on seeing you at church on Sunday! We'll be wrapping up the *Destinations* series by looking at the things that grab our attention and change the direction of our lives.

See you on Sunday, Aaron

Our Stewardship Tells of our Faith . . .

Week Of	Total Worship	Sunday Discipleship	Wednesday Discipleship	Faith Offering
April 24	1,748	206	N/A	\$38,574
May 1	868	145	N/A	\$25,763
May 8	1,015	204	N/A	\$30,760
May 15	948	200	N/A	\$22,034

Sunday Discipleship includes all children, youth, & adult classes & courses offered on Sundays.

Weekday Discipleship includes children, youth & adult ministries on Wednesday evenings.

Now Available in Soul Source Bookstore...

The Soul Source bookstore has gift cards for all occasions, i.e. graduation, Fathers Day and birthdays! Starbucks and Best Buy are available, among many other choices. Each one purchased gives money back to St. Paul's. New to the store are "Candy Bouquets" by Watered Gardens Worthshop. Prices start at \$10. Call 627-4829 to place your "Candy Bouquet" order!

Anna Jean Dye's Retirement Reception June 12

After over 30 years on staff at Saint Paul's Anna Jean Dye will be retiring as our Director of Caring Ministries. Her retirement reception will be held on Sunday, June 12th at 4:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend and celebrate all her hard work over the years. Watch for more details about a retirement gift.

Kindermusik Summer Fun!

We are pleased to be providing two unique summer *Kindermusik* classes. *Sign and Sing* is for children ages 6 months to 3 years of age. This class combines songs and playful interaction to help children learn some basic signs from American Sign Language. *Adventures* is a program designed for children ages 18 months to 4 years of age. In this class, children will sing, dance and play instruments. Both classes begin the week of June 13th and run for 5 weeks. Please stop by the Kindermusik display in the church lobby to pick up more detailed brochures and enrollment forms or contact Janet Brown (623-7090, ext. 31). You can also download an enrollment form by visiting our church web-site at www.spwired.com. *Kindermusik* is a wonderful way to bond with your child and strengthen his/her brain muscles at the same time! So...come join the summer fun!

Get Connected...

Get Connected to Serving Others--It's What God Calls Us To Do!

During the months of March and April our congregation reported a total of 1,415 hours of service given to our community. We served at several locations including Homebound Services, Crosslines, Watered Gardens, the Community Clinic, hospitals, nursing homes, Lafayette House, Life Choices, Meal Delivery program, Bright Futures and more! Please remember to record your "serving others" hours on the connections form in the Sunday program. To find a place to serve in the community, call our Director of Connections, Nancy Hampton at 623-7090.

Wednesday Night Live classes will begin on Wednesday, June 8. This 6 week series, *The Journey*, is designed to help you focus on Loving God, Loving Others and Serving the World. There is no childcare at this summer session, but we do offer dinner. Please sign up by calling the church or in the Sunday program.

Summer Session Of Wednesday Night Live Begins June 8

This session of WNL will be six weeks long and will feature light meals but no children's programming (Youth can still go to "The Crossing). This session will feature **3 brand new classes** centering on *The Journey*. Join us as we explore what it means to live out an active faith by **Loving God, Loving Others, and Serving the World**. Sign up this weekend in the worship program or by calling the church office at 623-7090.

20's and 30's Group

This group will begin on Thursday, June 9th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Saint Paul's. Sign up for this group on the Connection Form in the Sunday brochure. If you would like more information, please call Brian Harter at 623-353.

Single Mom? The Caring People Ministry is for You!

The Caring People is an organization specifically for single moms and their kids. The Caring People helps establish relationships that single Moms and their children need by hosting weekly "Care Groups" and events for Single Moms. The groups provide a safe place that Single Moms need to lean on for support and friendship. It literally changes lives! The next session of the Caring People will start on Wednesday, June 8, 6 – 8 p.m. Call the church to sign up.

Ruby's Circle

The Ruby's Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 25th in room 30. All ladies of the church are invited to come. If you have questions, please call Patty Lauener at 623-1579.

Missions...

"Fill It Up Cups"

Thanks to Saint Paul's Congregation, we collected \$3180.00 from the "Fill It Up" cup – clean water campaign! WOW! That money will go to purchase water filtration systems for approximately 90 families in Haiti. A big thank you also goes to Don Wolfskill for collecting and depositing all that change!

Star Shop

Thank you, Saint Paul's! With your help, the Star Shop (a clothing resource for foster-parents) assisted 15 families in April. 48 outfits and 44 clothing items were distributed for 24 children ranging in age from infant to 13 years old. Thank you also to Brandie Hoagland and our Star Shop volunteers! If you'd like more information about the Star Shop or to get involved, please call the church office at 623-7090.

Ascent Recovery Residences Golf Scramble

Saturday, June 4th, Schifferdecker Golf Course

8:00 am Shotgun Start, 4 Person Scramble

Merchandise prizes for 1st and 2nd Place - 3 Flights

\$50 per person includes lunch, green fees & cart for 18 holes. \$25 per person for lunch & ride along. \$10 for lunch. For information on how you can sign up, or how your business can help sponsor the event with a tax-deductible contribution, call Mike Miller @ (678) 772-6217 or Ted Garver @ (417) 438-6436. You can pick up a sign up sheet in the church lobby.

(Ascent Recovery Residences provides support during substance abuse recovery in a faith-based environment. We are changing the lives of young men right here in Joplin by developing interpersonal and vocational skills, self-discipline, integrity, work ethic and attitude to become productive members of society.)

Field Day at Cecil Floyd

The annual Field Day at Cecil Floyd will be held Tuesday, May 31st from 9:00-2:30. Students move from station to station where they will participate in many activities. We have stations at a "bounce house", ladder ball, frisbee target, bean bag toss, scooter relay, etc. There will be lots of volunteer opportunities in a wide variety of roles. If you are able to donate 1 hour or any amount of time, we would greatly appreciate it. Please call the PTA president, Tara Schneider at 385-8723 and she will explain the schedule and rotation of events.

Student Ministries...

Parents, please plan on attending a Youth /Children's summer camp informational meeting on Sunday morning, May 22, at 10:35 a.m. in The Zone. You will want to attend if your child is going to Camp Galilee or Sky Ranch

Christ In Youth Move Conference, Elizabethton, Tennessee, June 12-18

Move is a conference specifically designed to **move** youth to becoming Kingdom Workers for Christ. During this week students will experience Christ and feel His presence. We are also going **White Water Rafting!!!** If you are going into 9th – 12th grade sign up NOW, before it is too late!!

Youth Mission Trip Mescalero, New Mexico, July 22–31

On this Mission Trip, you will experience Christian service on the front lines of the real world- and grow closer to Jesus. It's a faith-building adventure you will never forget. Hurry and sign up, and hold on for the time of your life!!!



Join Us at Camp Sky Ranch & Make Summer Count! Register by May 31

Camp is about community, friendship, and fun in one of the most beautiful examples of God's creation. Both Camp facilities are located on acreage with many buildings located throughout the camp. The camps have a dining hall, cabins, bunk houses, showers, swimming, creeks, worship centers and a retreat center. They also provide other activities such as fishing, Zip Line, boating, basketball, volleyball, hiking, the blob and an open field for many other games and activities. Kids will experience God during all the activities offered during their camp experience. **June 25 -29 – Students entering 6th and 9th grade (\$100.00 Registration Fee)**

Sign up now. Limited spots are available. Registration fee holds their spot. Information available in The Zone or contact Brandon Hawkins @ 623-7090. Fundraising Opportunities are available! Contact Brandon Hawkins at 417-623-7090 for more information!!!

Children's Ministries...



Vacation Bible School! Join us for PandaMania!

Ready for the adventure of a lifetime? **July 18-22 from 9am – Noon Ages 3 - 5th Grade**
At **PandaMania**, kids discover that God is wild about them—a fact that will change them forever! Kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that he crafted each of us with his own loving hands. **PandaMania** is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the **PandaMania** activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Your kids will also participate in a hands-on mission project, through our program called Kids-Helping-Kids, this will let the kids show God's love to kids in our community.

Interested volunteers please contact Todd Taylor or Becca Headen at 623-7090.

Kids' FBI Day Camp!

Summer is right around the corner, and at Saint Paul's we are gearing up for Day Camp. Our session will begin Monday, June 13th, and runs through Friday, July 15th. This year's program is designed for children Kindergarten through 5th grade.

We will run a five week session of three days (Monday- Wednesday- Friday) or five days Monday thru Friday. Each regular day will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:30 PM. Day campers must bring a sack lunch and drink each day. *We will refrigerate all lunches and drinks.* 7:30 AM early drop off is also available

Costs for Day Camp 2011 will be...

MWF - \$265 per child. \$305 w/early drop off.

M thru F - \$440 per child. \$500 w/early drop off.

\$50 registration fee. Multi-child discounts will be available.



We are looking forward to seeing God do a great work in our children this year! If you are interested in this program please call Todd Taylor or Carissa Holcomb at 623-7090.

SAINT PAUL'S
Movie Night
DOUBLE FEATURE
HELP SEND A KID TO CAMP!

DESPICABLE ME Friday, May 27 at 8:00
TRON: LEGACY Friday, May 27 at 8:00

Admission: \$5.00 adults / \$3.00 children (children under 3 are free).
\$20.00 MAX for families of six or more (IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY).

The Youth & Children at Saint Paul's invite you to attend this special night at the movies with a double feature "Despicable Me and Tron."
Come help Saint Paul's raise money to send kids to camp this summer at Camp Galilee and Sky Ranch!

Contact Saint Paul's at 623-7090 to purchase your tickets. Advance ticket purchase will secure your seat.

Spring Yard Sale
FUNDRAISER!

Start your spring cleaning now.
PLEASE START BRINGING YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS FOR THE SALE.

This year's yard sale will be
SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH
from 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

All proceeds will go to support Children's and Youth Summer Camps this year.

Items needed: Household items; furniture - indoor and outdoor; appliances, tools; camping gear; toys; baby gear; etc.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING CLOTHES!
Please drop off your items at the church. (A room trailer will be available for storage.)

Mark Your Calendars!

June 25th - 29th - kids entering 5th and 6th grade - Sky Ranch, Cave Springs, Oklahoma

June 30th - July 2nd - kids entering 3rd and 4th grade - Camp Galilee

July 18th - 22nd Vacation Bible School - PANDAMANIA 3 years thru 5th Grade

June 13th - Day Camp - FBI Summer Day Camp begins.

Join us at Camp and Make Summer Count!



Join Us at Camp Sky Ranch & Camp Galilee and Make Summer Count! Register by May 31st!

Both Camp facilities are located on acreage with many buildings located throughout the camp. The camps have a dining hall, cabins, bunk houses, showers, swimming, creeks, worship centers and a retreat center. They also provide other activities such as fishing, Zip Line, boating, basketball, volleyball, hiking, the blob and an open field for many other games and activities. Kids will experience God during all the activities offered during their camp experience.

June 25th -29th - Older Elementary kids entering 5th and 6th grade (\$100.00 Registration Fee).

June 30th – July 2nd - Middle Elementary kids entering 3rd and 4th grade (\$50.00 registration fee). Sign up now. Limited spots are available. Registration fee holds a spot. Information available in KidSpace or contact Todd Taylor @ 623-7090.