



Saint Paul's the Connection

Christmas Eve At Saint Paul's!

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If you would like to **serve** on Christmas Eve on a hospitality team or in the nursery, sign up on The Connection Form in the Sunday Program. Let's provide a very warm welcome to our guests and visitors!

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. These offerings will go specifically toward supporting our missions, locally, nationally and around the world—our generosity makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people! We have received the greatest gift of all in Jesus and this is simply an opportunity to give back to God!

Wed Night Live Starts January 12!

Do Life Better! WNL courses are for everyone! There is a course for you; the kids can go to CrossTraining and the youth head over to The Zone. All that, and we start off with a free dinner. Invite a friend to join you. Enrollment for many courses is limited. Register early through the WNL flyer in your Sunday program or by calling the church office at 623-7090.

Spiritual Life Courses

Starting Point. Jan. 12—March 16. If you have questions about your faith and are searching for a place to learn, START HERE. This course has ten episodes, ten stories and one timeless quest - to quench the thirst that burns in every human spirit. Join Pastor Ben in this journey. No curriculum cost.

THE COMPASS COURSE Jan. 12—March 16. (formally, Road Trip With Jesus) Christ gives us direction for our lives, and everyone of us, from time to time, needs a course correction. The Compass Course is aimed at developing personal strength and confidence in interpreting, understanding and applying scripture for an active faith and to deepen the joy of a closer walk with Jesus. The Compass Course will be led by Pastor Mark. No curriculum cost.

The Bible 101. Jan 12 —March 2. This 8 week group will introduce you to the themes, characters, authors and background of the Old and New Testament scriptures and give you tools for personal interpretation. No curriculum cost.

Live Like You Were Dying, Jan. 12—Feb. 9. OR Feb. 16—March 16.

This 5 week course was inspired by the song by Tim McGraw. It focuses on thoughtful reflections and discussions about what really matters and how to begin living out the life that really is life. Curriculum \$10.

The Joy of Living—Romans. Jan. 12—March 16. This course will study the 2nd half of the Book of Romans. It deals with how God, through Jesus Christ, has enabled human beings to move from a place of condemnation and sin to a place of reconciliation and righteousness. This is a thorough and systematic study with small group discussions. Curriculum \$19.

Faithful, Abundant, True. Jan. 12—February 23. This seven week Women's Bible Study is taught by nationally renowned teachers, Beth Moore, Kay Arthur and Priscilla Shirer via DVD. There is also daily homework (15 to 30 minutes daily). Curriculum \$14.

Crazy Love. Jan. 12—March 16. God is love; crazy, relentless, all powerful love. God is calling you to a passionate relationship with Him. The answer to religious complacency isn't working harder, it's falling in love with God., because when you're wildly in love with someone, it changes everything. Curriculum \$10.

Nooma. Feb. 16—March 16. Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now and anybody can be part of it. God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is a series of short films that are very engaging and invite you to search, question, and join the discussion. No curriculum cost.

Financial Life Course

Financial Peace by Dave Ramsey. Jan.12-April 6. Financial Peace University is a life-changing program that teaches and empowers you with practical skills needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace! The cost of \$93 per family may seem like a lot, but most people regain their investment in the first month of the course.

Relational Life Courses

Healing Hearts Seminar. Jan. 12—April 6. The Healing Hearts Seminar was created to help people draw closer to God by finding peace within themselves. Issues such as fear, anger, family dynamics and the inability to forgive, have a strong influence on our future. Through the use of informal games and exercises, participants learn simple life skills that help them find true happiness and purpose in their lives. Visit healinghearts1.weebly.com. No curriculum cost.

Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage. Jan. 12—April 6 Experience hilarious, practical, and no-holds-barred advice about relationships through this twelve week study. Laugh and learn as you explore the underlying dynamics of male/female relationships and practical solutions to common relationship woes. Curriculum \$13.

Love and War. Jan. 12—April 6. The video hosts, John and Stasi Eldredge candidly discuss their own marriage and the insights they've gained from their challenges. They acknowledge that marriage is hard, but the sooner you get the confusion of the fabled fairytale marriage off your back, the sooner you'll find your way to real love and happiness. Curriculum \$13.

The Caring People. Jan. 12—March 16. This new group is geared toward single moms. It is a study and encouragement group helping single moms grow together under the guidance of other women who have "been there, done that". No curriculum cost.

Have a New Kid by Friday. Jan. 12—Feb. 16. This DVD study by Dr. Kevin Leman is designed to help change your child's attitude, behavior and character. Curriculum \$8.00.

"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, Lead Pastor • Sunday Worship—8:15, 9:30, 11:00, 11:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. at the Salvage Yard



Give Blankets For Christmas & Win!

When you give a warm blanket you will get a warm feeling inside! The Youth in The Zone at Saint Paul's are competing with KidSpace to reach a goal to provide warmth and comfort to those in need. Full, Queen or King sizes are requested. **Our goal is to provide 150 blankets.** Please deliver your blanket or donation to The Zone by **December 25th.**

If you have any questions please contact The Zone at 417-623-7090.

The Zone is taking a short Christmas Break.....

There will be no activities December 22nd or December 29th.

Activities will resume January 5th.

Celebrate New Year's Eve At The Salvage Yard...

The Salvage Yard will be ringing in the new year in a way that you won't regret the next day. Come out and celebrate with friends and be entertained by Jackie Durbin and Dead American Radio. The festivities begin at 8:00 p.m. and don't end until the year does. The Salvage Yard is located at 1402 Main in Joplin and you can find it online at www.thesalvageyard.com.



A Few Words From Aaron...

We give gifts on and around Christmas because we've received The Gift—Jesus. Makes me wonder what to give to the person who has "everything." The solution may be to give something in their honor to

someone who has next to nothing. Janet and I are giving water filters to the people of Haiti as they battle a cholera epidemic. We're also giving mosquito nets to people in Africa as they battle malaria. You can find out more by going to www.HydrAid.org or nothingbutnets.net. Yes, we are still giving gifts to our family and friends, but less than we used to as we try to be mindful of the bigger picture of human need and the blessings that we have.

Christmas Eve is right around the corner. Please make sure you're thinking about and praying about who you might invite to come with you. Many people begin their spiritual journey, or restart it, on Christmas Eve and it begins with a personal invitation. We'll have some cards available Sunday with information you can give to friends.

As always, our Christmas Eve special offering will go to help people locally and around the world. Some of it will help people in emergency situations right here, some will go to feed the hungry in war-torn countries in Africa, all of it will be helpful and be a gift of love to someone crying out for help.

I'll be wrapping up the current message series, *The Advent Conspiracy*, this Sunday by talking about love. Love-talk is everywhere in our culture. So much so that it makes us numb. We need to know what love really is and it all starts with God.

In January, we'll start a new series called "Wrestling With God." We're going to look at one of the Bible's main characters, Jacob. He wrestled with God and lived to tell about it. We often find ourselves doing the same. Is that bad? Good? What can we learn from this man who had a huge shift in his life because of his wrestling match?

See you on Sunday! And Christmas Eve! Aaron

2011 Building Use Forms

New Building Use Forms should be filled out by each committee, class or ongoing group for the new year of 2011. 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	Weekday Discipleship	Faith Offering
Nov 14	826	186	429	\$14,769
Nov 21	830	180	N/A	\$18,597
Nov 28	965	179	N/A	\$16,518
Dec. 5	957	141	N/A	\$30,820
Dec 12	801	162	N/A	\$16,028

Sunday Discipleship includes all children, youth, & adult classes & courses offered on Sundays. Weekday Discipleship includes children, youth & adult ministries on Wednesday evenings.

Kindermusik Now Enrolling for the Winter/Spring Semester!

Free Demonstration Classes Available!

"Mommy, is today Kindermusik day?" Those are the words you hear from little ones enrolled in Kindermusik classes here at Saint Paul's. Music is an awesome gift from God and we want children to experience it at a very young age. 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 24th and run for 15 weeks. Free Demonstration Classes will be held January 10th and 11th. This gives you a chance to participate in a class and see what Kindermusik is all about. Visit the Kindermusik display in the church lobby where you will find brochures with more detailed information regarding all of the classes for the next semester. You may also contact Janet Brown at 623-7090 (ext. 31) or email her at spumcmusic@gmail.com. Download an enrollment form by visiting our church website at www.spwired.com. Click on "Download Forms" then "Kindermusik."

Demonstration Class Schedule

Newborns-18 months 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Monday, Jan. 10th)

18 months-3½ years 6:30-7:00 p.m. (Monday, Jan. 10th)

3½ years -5 years 5:30-6:00 p.m. (Tuesday, Jan. 11th)



Prayer Concerns

Health & Healing

Lucille Clow

Cancer Treatment:

Pam Clifton

Bob Brewer

Michelle Whitmore

Rose Hymer

Easton Murdock

Joey Walker

Bob Benefiel

Other Concerns:

Peyton Dunn

Makayla Henson

Marcy Hayes

Victor Rawlings

Samantha Palmer

Tommy Comer

Tammy Hodgdon

Serving in the military:

We honor those serving in the military by placing their names on the Military Board in the east hallway after listing new names here for one week. Please check that board regularly.

Get Connected...



**Women's Retreat
Jan 28-29**

*"You Matter More Than You Think"
What A Woman Needs to know About the
Difference She Makes.*

Saint Paul's annual women's retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 28-29. Fun and festivities will begin on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. and conclude no later than 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon (after a scrumptious lunch!) Activities will include motivational speakers, devotions, breakout sessions, great food, movie-watching and all around fun! The total cost is \$20 per participant, and (for planning purposes) this fee will need to be paid at the time you submit your registration. Please watch for registration and scholarship information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters in January—we hope to have a great turnout!

Camino Weekends Are Coming in February...

If you are looking for a great way to strengthen or renew your faith, then Camino may be what you are looking for. Camino is a three day journey through the Christian faith that happens twice a year. It is hosted by various churches throughout Southwest Missouri and works with many different denominations. The next one is scheduled for February 2011 and will be in Monett, MO. The men's weekend is February 17th - 20th and the women's weekend is February 24th - 27th.

If you would like more information, or want to sign up to attend, please contact Pastor Ben Bainbridge at the church (623-7090) or email him at ben@thesalvageyard.com.



Blood Drive January 16

Saint Paul's will be having a Blood Drive on Sunday, January 16th, 2011. The Blood Mobile will be parked on the east side of the church in the parking lot.

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!...

A big thank you to Mandy Hood and Jerri Sargent for the exceptional job they did putting together the Holiday Art, Craft & Gift Expo which was held last Saturday. It was sponsored by the Saint Paul's youth and the proceeds will go towards youth camps and missions.

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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.

CrossTraining will Resume on January 12th 2011...

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.

Baby It's Cold Outside...



When you give a warm blanket you will get a warm feeling inside! Saint Paul's KidSpace is asking you to give a gently worn or new blanket to provide warmth and comfort to those in need. Full, Queen or King Sizes are requested. **Our goal is for our children to help provide 150 blankets.** Please deliver your blanket to KidSpace by **December 25th**.

If you have any questions please contact KidSpace at 417-623-7090 ext. 20.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE JAN. 17th