

December, 2011

The St. Paul Epistle

A Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville, Ohio

Special Interest Articles:

- Gift of the Month has several possibilities. page 2.
- Captive Free comes to St. Timothy Lutheran Church, page 3.

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December Worship Schedule Change

There will be only one worship service every Sunday in December and on Sunday, January 1. It will be at 10:00. The Sunday School Hour will begin at 9:00. The first three Sundays in December are special theme Sundays, and the last two Sundays are holidays.

The schedule is as follows:

December 4	9:00 a.m.	Kid's Alive! Christmas Play Practice & Adult's Alive! Learning Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Financial Stewardship Sunday
December 11	9:00 a.m.	Kid's Alive! Christmas Play
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
December 18	9:00 a.m.	Kid's Alive! & Adult's Alive! Classes
	10:00 a.m.	Cantata Sunday
December 24	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship for Children
	10:30 p.m.	Traditional Christmas Eve Worship
December 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
January 1	10:00 a.m.	New Year's Day Worship

New Vision to Perform December 4th at SPLC

New Vision--a gospel music group consisting of Whitney Turner Smith, Trae Turner and Jeff Burton --will be presenting the music from their newest Cd, *Christmas*, on Sunday, December 4, 2011 beginning at 6:00 PM. Welcome and fellowship in the Community Room at St. Paul Lutheran

Church begins at 5:30. Holy Communion will be held following the New Vision program. Refreshments and more fellowship will finish up the evening.

Copy
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kq6lBUGZik0> to your

web browser to hear their music and see a short video of the group.

This is a gift being presented to the Via de Cristo Ultreya Community and their guests that evening. Come, enjoy and celebrate with us.

Gift of the Month for December:

Any of the Following:

• **A Needy Family**

Choose to help out a needy family through the News Journal Brighten-A-Christmas, a family you know, or the Bellville Police Department.

• **Toilet Paper Drive**

Thank you so much for all donations that were in the treasure chest this past month, especially a large bag of hand knitted hats; some of these will go to our school and some to Friendly House for their winter hat and mitten collection.

The Shelter is very low on toilet paper to provide to the outreach clients. As part of my final project as an intern I am contacting all of the churches in our area to ask their congregations to do a toilet paper drive sometime during the month of November to benefit the shelter. I know that we are coming into the holiday season when many churches are doing projects to help in the community, and we would feel very blessed to be the recipients of some of that help. My own church just did a toilet paper drive for the shelter, but the need for toilet paper is much more than what just one congregation can provide. If each family in your church would donate just one package of toilet paper it would be a tremendous blessing to a woman and her family that cannot afford to buy it themselves.

Sincerely, Vicki Sutter

• **Cheer Basket Recipients**

We will be packing Cheer Baskets at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16th. Please donate cookies, candy, small gifts, and other goodies for our shut-ins and nursing home friends.

Do you know a shut-in who would like to receive a cheer basket this holiday season? If so, please let us know by December 5, 2010. We need to know their name, address, phone number and any special dietary conditions such as diabetes or an allergy to nuts. We also need to know who will be responsible for delivering the basket to their home. They will be ready for you to pick up starting at 3:00 p.m. on that day.

Please have a Cheer Basket delivered to:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Known allergies or dietary restrictions: _____

My name _____

Name of person who will pick up and deliver the basket: _____

Phone _____

Please put this form in the collection basket or bring to the church office.

Sock-It-To-Me



Project "Sock-It-To-Me" is to collect new socks for infants, children, men, and women in need. All donations received will be given to the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center.

There are collection boxes at the Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center or put your donation in the chest.

This project is running now until December 15th, 2011.

Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Thanks for the support!

***Captive Free* at St. Timothy Lutheran Church**

Captive Free, a contemporary music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter, will be performing at 7 pm on Fri, Nov 25, St. Timothy Lutheran, 1262 Ashland Rd. People of all ages are invited to an inspiring program of Christian music, puppetry, drama and personal sharing. ***Captive Free***, a talented and engaging group of young adults from all over the country, offers youth and family oriented music ministry in churches, schools, hospitals and prisons. Bring a friend to

this faith encouraging program. A potluck with the band at 6 pm will precede the concert. Bring a dish to share; table service and drinks will be provided. A retreat for high school youth (grades 9 - 12) will follow it. Website info on ***Captive Free*** is at www.youthencounter.org.

Also at St. Timothy, beginning at 3:30 pm on Wed, Nov 23, a ***Kids Against Hunger*** Event will package 6000 individual meals to be distributed around the world. A soup supper will

follow at 6 pm. During the event, the ***Captive Free*** band will lead discussion and games addressing world hunger. With the help of the community and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the St Timothy youth have raised \$1500 to pay for the food and supplies. A Soup Supper will follow at 6 pm. (Our Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held on either side of this event—at noon and 7 pm.) You are invited to be part of these events.

A Community Christmas Concert

featuring the cantata
Shine on Us

will be performed at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 at Eastview Elementary School (Madison area). The cantata, directed by Craig Green, re-tells the wonderful story of Jesus' birth with beloved and new carols. *All That Jazz* from Madison Comprehensive High School will also provide special music. The concert and hospitality are sponsored by St. Timothy Lutheran Church; a free will offering will be received.

Thank You Notes Received

St. Paul Church,
Thank you so much for my care package. I felt so loved and spoiled by all the yummy cookies. My roommates also enjoyed them very much. I appreciate everything you do. With lots of love.
Sincerely,
Sarah Laux

Thank you for the box of snacks. They were all very good any my roommates loved them too.

Luke Jolin



Words can hardly express my joy when I think of my church family. Your prayers for me are helping, and have given me promising news for my health issues. Thank you very much for the prayers, love and support you give me on a daily basis. God bless you all.

Josie

Communion

Assistant Training

will be held Sunday, December 18th at 9:00 in the sanctuary for anyone interested in becoming a communion assistant in 2012.

Worship Services for December

December 4 10:00 only! Second Sunday of Advent

Leviticus 7:11-18 Psalm 66 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Luke 21:1-4

Out of the Abundance of the Heart

Stewardship Sunday

We depart from our usual Advent themes to focus today on Stewardship themes. On this day we will offer to God our Estimate of Giving cards. We do so out of a spirit of abundance for we focus, not on what we do not have, but on what we have received. Our giving is out of our abundance with a spirit of gratitude and thankfulness.

December 11 10:00 only! Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Luke 1:46b-55 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Great Exchange

Endowment Fund Temple Talk

Isaiah speaks of the "Great Exchange" when he speaks of what God brings to us in exchange for what we bring to God. This is certainly an unfair exchange, on God's part, for it would seem that he gets the worst end of the deal. But God does not see it that way for he gets us, and that to him is priceless.

December 18 10:00 only! Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cantata

The center of our worship today is the praise of God's incarnational work as expressed by the cantata, *Glorious Impossible*. A special Christmas Cantata Choir, under the direction of Denise Lang, will direct our whole attention to God.

December 24 Christmas Eve - 7:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

7:30 – **What the Animals Saw** 10:30 – **Joy Increased**

With carols, communion, and candlelight we celebrate the birth of Jesus at these two special worship services. The 7:30 PM worship service is designed especially to appeal to families with young children while the 10:30 PM worship service has extra musical presentations.

December 25 10:00 only! Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-14

Grace upon Grace

The nativity of Jesus is grace. God is before the beginning, and God is at work in all of creation and all of history. All God's work was focused upon the moment that he could bring about the biggest explosion of all. Bigger than the Big Bang, the birth of Jesus brought into the world the most incredible change that humanity has ever known. It is all grace upon grace.

News from Children's Ministry Coordinator - Blessings

Over the months of 2011, I have come to realize the many blessings that occurred, in a year full of heartache. On my father's side of the family we lost his sister and brother to cancer. Although there was much sorrow that occurred, I did see many blessings in the births of two very special baby boys. Two of my closest friends were given the gift of a baby boy and they have helped changed their lives in a special way. Here are their stories.

Jen and I grew up on the same street in Galion. In fact, our parents still live there today. In January of 2011, Jen was seven months pregnant with her second child and was preparing to say goodbye to her mother, who was in the last stages of cancer. Hospice was called in around Christmas and she knew it wouldn't long. Jen called me one day and said, "I just don't think I can do this." By "this" she was meaning that she didn't think she was strong enough to deal with all that was going on. A co-worker of Jen's had gotten up in a meeting that day and had thanked everyone for their support because the co-worker's father had passed away. Jen knew she was next. She was picturing herself having to get up and do the same thing. She just couldn't face that she was losing her mother. Jen said to me, "I can't do this." I knew Jen would be just fine, and God would give her strength. The truth is, I had never seen anyone in my life have more strength than Jen. Only a year before I watched her stand strong when her first child, Sam, was born with Down Syndrome. She had to stand strong when Sam was only 3 months old and had to have open heart surgery to correct the two holes in his tiny heart. Jen was

such an encouragement to me. I would think I had problems and then I would think about what Jen was enduring.

Jen's mother passed away on January 15, and God gave Jen the strength to make it through. Jen's mother, Mary Ann, was a fantastic sewer, and at the funeral home, over every chair hung one of her quilts. It was such a joy to see all of her works on display. Jen and Mary Ann had a special bond, and I can see a lot of Mary Ann in Jen. Jen is a wonderful mother and the birth of her second son, Daniel, was a great blessing for her in 2011. Daniel was a blessing because he brought Jen's light for life back. Daniel was born in March and he helped Jen to regain her spirit back after losing her mother. Although Jen and her husband, Francisco, were mourning, Daniel came at just the perfect time when they needed the hope.

In January of 2011, my best friend since the 5th grade, Andrea, decided she and her husband, Tom, were going to adopt. After many years of tests, infertility treatments, and pain they were ready to be parents. They knew that God had called them to be parents so they began the process of adoption. They knew they wanted to adopt a baby from the United States and said they would start first by word of mouth. Telling everyone they knew that they were interested in adoption. They hired a lawyer and began making a portfolio about themselves to share with birth mothers.

Just three months into the process they got a call from a friend. The friend said a coworker of hers had a young daughter who was pregnant and interested in adoption. Andrea didn't waste a minute and drove to her friend's house and dropped off their portfolio. Andrea had worked hard on the portfolio and in it were

Thank you!

Thank you to all who
donated money, items,
and volunteered to
make this year's
Harvest Party a success.

We had a fun time
bobbing for apples,
playing games and
doing crafts.

pictures, stories, and why Tom and she wanted a baby. Andrea's friend shared the portfolio with the family and a meeting was arranged with Tom and Andrea on April 9th. At the meeting was the family of the young girl, as well as, the young boy's family. Tom and Andrea answered lots of questions about themselves and felt good about the meeting. Andrea shared her pain in not being able to conceive her own child, and I know it was a hard day for her.

The next day, Tom and Andrea went out and bought a crib. Andrea had her eye on one special crib. They knew that they would need a crib eventually, but that day they didn't know just how soon they would be using it. On April 13, they got the call from the family they had met, and they wanted Andrea and Tom to be the baby's parents. The mother of the young girl stated after their meeting, "We liked Andrea and Tom after seeing their portfolio, but we fell in love with them after we met them."

Family and friends rejoiced with Tom and Andrea and were pleased to learn the baby would be here in August. Tom and Andrea were invited, by the young girl, to come to all the doctor's appointments with her. Tom and Andrea were able to hear the baby's heartbeat. They were there when the first ultra sound took place and learned they were having a boy. Then on August 15, at 3:28 in the morning, Andrea and Tom became the proud parents to Kaiden Thomas. Andrea was in the delivery room when he arrived and in a matter of minutes she and Tom were in their own hospital room. Andrea and Tom were moved to their own room to bond with their baby. What a blessing from God!

As this Christmas approaches I can't help but thank God over and over for the lives of these two precious baby boys. The births of these babies have brought such joy to two people I love very much. Even though I dealt with a lot of death in 2011, I am reminded of the verse from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to

refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace." Did you experience an event this year that you just know God was right there? If so, give thanks for the blessing. I just love seeing God's miracles at work.

Peace,



Ashley DeFrancisco,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Calling all Youth Groups!



All Youth Groups: 4th/5th grade, Middle School, and Senior Youth Groups are invited to come and deliver Christmas presents to the residents at Country Meadows.

When: December 18th

Time: Meet at the church at 2 PM and get picked up at 4 PM

We will visit with residents and sign a few Christmas carols.

Hope to see you then!

Pastor Doug's Letter: November 22, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from Father, Jesus, and Spirit. In this month we see all three of them at work. The Lord God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, reveals his compassionate, tender, parental nature when he sends his Son Jesus to earth. It is the Holy Spirit who "over shadows" Mary so that divinity becomes humanity. The Son of God becomes the Son of Man and the work of our salvation begins.

God shook up the world and its understanding of God when Jesus was sent to the world. Beliefs and practices that were sure and certain were challenged and changed. God was bigger than they ever imagined.

In an extremely small way I am initiating a small shake up in our routines and worship practices. As I hope you know, all the Sundays in December and the first Sunday in January we will have only ONE worship service and it will be at **10:00**. It is with some fear and trepidation that I made this suggestion, for I remember my internship pastor telling me that "the single biggest change you can make in a congregation is to change the worship times." I also distinctly remember one Sunday we had only one worship service, and a visitor come in just as the worship service was ending. He never came back again. I know I am worrying when I find myself saying, "We'll see whether I still am called to be the pastor in January."

The purpose of the change is to facilitate each of the special events during those weeks.

On Sunday December 4th we will be having our Stewardship Sunday. Financially we are at a significant juncture in our congregational history. How we respond this year will determine the shape of the ministry for the next decade. It is important for everyone to be a part of this decision making. I hope that you will make the time and effort to be there.

On Sunday December 11th we are having our Children's Christmas Play at 9:00, followed by the worship service at 10:00. Previously we had always held the Christmas Play in the evening, and it was the parents, the grandparents, and a few others who attended. It is harder to come out again in the cold night. I hope that you who would not normally come would make the effort to see our children express their faith through music and drama. This is a big deal for them. I hope it is for you too.

On Sunday December 18th the Christmas Cantata will be performed, and one of the challenges the singers have always faced is having their voices warmed up early in the morning. For some it is a strain to have to sing twice. For their sake, and our listening enjoyment, I suggested doing it only once.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, which both happen to be on Sunday this year, I anticipate less persons in attendance than normal since most of us have holiday traditions that we observe. Hopefully, this year you will take advantage of the fact that these feast days fall on a Sunday and make worshipping God a priority.

"Spiritual masters teach novices to pay attention to what surprises them and to what disturbs them."

Besides these reasons, only some of us attend worship at a time other than our "normal" time. Only those people know the rest of the congregation. One of the benefits of this minor change is that you will have the opportunity to meet and greet members whom you do not know well or perhaps do not even know at all. This will come about when you find someone else sitting in "your" pew. Try to find this to be a good thing rather than an intrusion.

Sadly, a few people absolutely refuse to worship if the music is not just their particular style. I suspect they will choose not to come. Others will refuse to come because it is not at "their" time, and they are unable or unwilling to change. And others, no matter how hard we try to communicate the time change, will not remember and will come at the wrong time. Some of them will probably be very angry about this. Most unfortunate, however, are those who have to work on Sunday and the time change will prevent them from worshipping God with the whole congregation. Those are the folks about whom I am most distressed.

(Continued on next page.)

Disruption, however, can be a good thing. It certainly was for the world when God disrupted the marriage plans of Mary and Joseph. Luke describes Mary fleeing the presence of Gabriel to seek out her Aunt Elizabeth to find out if God really was in the midst of this disruption. Matthew, in a few terse sentences, reveals Joseph's inner turmoil as Mary proves not to be the wife he thought he would be marrying. The surprise for him was that Mary was more than he ever dreamed (pun intended) and not the lesser that he feared she was. The disruption the shepherds experienced was the privilege of hearing the most profound announcement that any messenger anywhere has ever brought. The magi were certain that the birth of a king would be in a palace, and they were astounded to discover God's child living in a small house in a tiny, forgotten village. For the people in that town, however, the disruption was not good. The

paranoid, murderous king was so distressed by the disruption that he caused infanticide on a massive scale.

When we find ourselves disrupted by circumstances that make us uncomfortable or upset, it is good to ask, "Why am I upset? Is it me? Or is it the circumstances? Who is at work here? Is it God? Or is it the enemies of God." Spiritual masters teach novices to pay attention to what surprises them and to what disturbs them. Frequently that reveals something in them that needs attention and further growth.

In particular, here at St. Paul Lutheran Church we have enjoyed the benefits of the continuity of a long pastoral relationship with a long established staff. Things that don't work are discarded. Things that do are kept, refined, and improved. We have not experienced a major shake up in a long time. So a minor change

can be good for us. We can discover where God is, and where God is not, in our routines.

As you prepare for Christ's coming this Advent season, and as you worship at a different time than normal, may Jesus come to you in surprising and blessed ways. As you worship God this Christmas season may that worship shake out of you anything that is not of God. May God fill you with more of the presence, the power, and the peace of God than you ever thought possible. May joy tingle your toes and set your feet to dancing.

Peace,
Always, in all things and forever,
Peace be with you,

Pastor Doug

Ministry Leader's Meeting Minutes: October 20, 2011

The Ministry Leaders met on October 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Marilyn Baker, Chris Laux, Nancy and Paul martin, Janis Marhenke, Norbert Peiker, Pastor Doug and Barb Hoover.

The meeting was opened by prayer led by Janis Marhenke and devotions by Nancy Martin.

The meeting was started off with discussion about the retreat that took place the last weekend in September. All that attended felt it was beneficial and they came away from it feeling uplifted.

Nancy Martin informed us of new teams that are being formed. They are John Harsch for Work Camp and Clint Knight for Sr. Youth. They still need to form teams for fund raising for work camp and for the 4th and 5th grade youth.

Barb Hoover asked Nancy Martin to find somebody to replace her to schedule for pray-ers. Barb will finish out this year.

Norbert Peiker reported that the roof can wait another year. We are also going to wait until after the first of the year to scrub the carpet and wax the floors.

The next meeting will be January 26th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was closed with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Hoover

Barb Hoover

Bishop Eaton's Letter: November 10, 2011



Ah, Reformation Sunday! We deck the church with red, sing the fight song, chant Romans 3:28, maybe order up some extra brass for the choir anthem and celebrate being true descendants of the Great Reformer. Having grown up in the Mighty Fortress I was stunned when my Episcopalian husband not only did not observe Reformation Sunday, he had never heard of it. With great condescension I pitied those who could not spend one glorious Sunday a year exalting in the recovery of the true gospel and the return of light to the church's darkness. And the appointed texts, *our texts* – Jeremiah 31:31-34 the word of God written directly upon our hearts (Lutherans don't need intermediaries), Romans 3:19-28 justification by faith (fie on your good works!), and John 8:31-36 we know the truth (we suspect others do not). How can we keep from singing?

This year however, the story of Jesus' interaction with the Jews who believed in him (John 8:31-36) made me take a closer look at what it means to be Lutheran

in America today. Many of our Lutheran ancestors came to this country in waves of immigration in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. They settled in ethnic enclaves where English was a second language and outmarriage was rare. They were not part of the Calvinist, revivalist, deist Protestant majority. The doctrine of the Two Kingdoms prevented Lutherans from buying into the doctrine of American Exceptionalism – the legacy of the Puritans that understood America to be in a new covenantal relationship with God. Lutherans were aliens in America.

There has been a long and gradual assimilation of Lutherans into American Protestant culture and American civil religion. We are quite at home in America now. In Jesus' encounter with "the Jews who had believed in him" you can feel the tension as Jesus challenges the people's assumptions about truth and identity. Did I recognize in Jesus the incarnate I Am and the implications of a soon to be *crucified savior*? When offered freedom they denied they had ever been in bondage and claimed Abrahamic ancestry as proof. Are we the Jews in the story? Have we, like the Jews who had believed in Jesus, come to rely on an unexamined heritage? It is interesting that Sukkoth and Reformation Sunday are both celebrated in October. Gerald Sloyan in his commentary on John's gospel states that being a slave to sin is not "moral fault in general but boasting in peoplehood rather than committing to the truth about Jesus' origins." Is that what Reformation Sunday has become?

The great themes of the Reformation – justification, grace, law and gospel, the theology of the cross, two kingdoms, the Lutheran scriptural hermeneutic – need to be

reclaimed in our teaching, preaching and living. We are not generic American Protestant citizens in the land of American Exceptionalism. We are a theology of the cross people in a culture of glory. We are a two kingdoms people who would never claim a covenantal status for America or any other earthly government. We understand that the quest for holiness and purity – the works righteousness of the religious right – and the attempt to bring in the kingdom through social programs – the works righteousness of the religious left – is vanity.

We are sinners utterly dependent on the crucifixion, which not only destroyed sin and death but put to death the false hope of good intentions and human agency. We are saints made righteous by the cross and joined to the resurrected life of Christ which makes it possible for us to bear God's creative and redeeming word to the world.

We need to become aliens in America again!

□
A special thank you to Bernie Bresson, Tom Green, and Mark Spademan from our synod's Lutheran Men in Mission group for their hard work around the synod office recently. In addition to some needed landscaping work, the synod office building exterior and sign were brightened by a good power-washing. The men's group will return again on November 19 to replace the roof on the synod's storage garage. Willing hands are welcome to join them beginning at 8:00 a.m.!

□

Peace,

Bishop Northeastern Ohio Synod,
ELCA

Celebrations

Happy Birthday

1 Jeff Gottfried
 2 Jean (Drew) Dill
 5 Jill Squires
 6 Donald Shaffer
 7 Preston Boyd
 7 Ian Metcalf
 7 Marjorie Balliett
 9 George Ridenour
 10 Jamie Price
 11 Ashley DeFrancisco
 14 Debbie Bing

14 Richard Brenneman
 15 Robbie Lang
 15 Jamie Woodward
 15 Darlene Lee
 15 Gayle Kanz
 16 Judy Snavely
 17 Doug Pretorius
 17 Emily Beal
 18 Seth Stoner
 19 Marty Banks
 19 Ethan Fry

23 Larry Barr
 23 Cleo Craw
 24 Daniel Shaffer
 24 Doug Shirk
 27 Fred Stull
 27 Max Anderson
 28 Caroline Worner
 28 Linda Albert
 31 Abby Bramlage
 31 Meghan Strickling
 31 Joyce Myers

Happy Anniversary

December 1, 2007	Matt & Sarah Nickoli
December 2, 2000	Marlin & Marge Armstrong
December 5, 1992	John & Kim Harsch
December 12, 1994	Jim & Samme McKain
December 16, 1995	Jim & Robin Klenk
December 18, 1993	Joel & Janis Marhenke
December 19, 1959	Paul & Janet Frontz
December 20, 1991	Mark & Dawn Armstrong
December 22, 1962	Bob & Judy Coppersmith
December 24, 1993	Steve & Heather Strickling
December 27, 1969	Irene & Fred Ammons
December 29, 1957	Bert & Nancy Bletner
December 30, 1989	Jerry & Melanie Rhea
December 31, 1969	Robert & Lynn Hull
December 31, 2008	Clint & Carrie Knight

Please Pray for and Remember Our Shut-Ins

Please remember people in our congregation who have not been able to worship with us. Your cards, letters, and visits give them much joy. It is important that we help them remember they are part of our church family.

If you know of someone who needs added to the list, please contact the church office

Country Meadow Care Center
 4910 Algire Rd., Bellville, OH 44813
 Ed Mazur, Ethel Dudley

Lexington Court Care Center
 250 Delaware Ave., Lexington, OH 44904
 Marsades Mast

Homebound Church Family:
 Rubert Hill
 Marlin Armstrong

Guardian's Minutes: November 3, 2011

Present for the meeting were: Lisa Brooks, Chris Laux, Stacy Wright, Mindy Wood and Pastor Doug. Paul Martin was present to give the financial report.

Mindy Wood opened the meeting with devotions. After reflection and discussion, the devotional time was ended with prayer.

REPORTS:

- The Treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2011 was reviewed. Lisa Brooks moved to accept all, Mindy Wood seconded and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Paul Martin gave a report from the Tech Team Committee. A donor gave \$10,000 to be used specifically to update the church's computer technology. The Tech Team met to determine the best use of the money and it was decided that they will be replacing both of the office computers, getting a laptop for Ashley De Francisco and another laptop for general use. Paul reported that the biggest change will be a separate server and remote access. The plan is for this to be in place by December 1. Paul reported that no extra costs will be incurred by the church for the new technology and for the monthly access; the donation will cover all costs.
- Paul Martin and Chris Laux gave a report from the Finance Committee. Paul reported a projected loss for 2011 in the general fund and building fund. He also stated that next year may be challenging financially.
- Pastor Doug moved that: "Anyone requesting money from the general fund do so as a covenant team." Lisa Brooks seconded the motion. Pastor Doug explained that each team would get a line item, budgeted amount after teams submit a budget or request with exact figures. Covenant team leaders would present to the finance committee how much is needed and why it is needed. The plan is to then give the teams a monthly statement of spending and amount left in their budget. The motion was approved. The plan is for this to begin happening in December of this year.
- Chris Laux and Pastor Doug reported that they met with Ashley DeFrancisco to do her 90 day evaluation. They agreed that Ashley has been a great addition to our Ministry Body, that her enthusiasm, initiative and optimism have positively impacted our children's ministry program and that she is well on her way in learning the dynamics of her role, responsibilities and relationships of church members. She fits well within our Ministry Body and continues to grow and learn. Chris and Pastor Doug recommend that the Guardians keep her as Children's Ministry Coordinator. Ashley agreed that it is going well and she would like to continue to be called as the Children's Ministry Coordinator. She deeply appreciates the welcome extended to her and her family. She has no issues or problems that need to be addressed. Pastor Doug moved to continue Ashley's employment, Lisa Brooks seconded and all were in favor.
- The Sound System Policy and the status of the roof and kitchen projects were tabled until the next meeting. Pastor Doug stated that both dishwashers are broken and that Norbert Peiker was addressing it.
- The service plan on the church copier will expire on December 31. The Finance Team recommends a color copier and information is being gathered regarding whether to lease or buy the copier. This will need to be completed by the end of November.
- The Building Use Policy was revisited and Pastor Doug asked for any additional feedback regarding this. There have been no additional responses, however, one family has chosen to decline participation in any church activities since.
- Chris Laux reported that Marilyn Baker is working on nominations for the Guardian /Lay Leader position. This position is currently held by Chris Laux.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Guardians discussed the Leadership Retreat that they attended on 9/24/11 with the Ministry Leaders. All were in agreement that it was a worthwhile event where new ideas were generated as well as new appreciation of all the good things already happening at St. Paul. The one accord prayer was a powerful closing to this one-day event.
- Pastor Doug and Lisa Brooks shared their reflections from the Guelph, Canada retreat, both agreeing that it was a wonderful time of worship, prayer, spiritual reflection and much-needed relaxation for Pastor Doug.
- Pastor Doug discussed an amendment of his call regarding the way he has been doing his taxes. He requests that \$3,678 of his cash salary be designated as reimbursable/ professional expenses and that his contract for 2011 be amended to reflect that. Chris Laux moved to accept, Lisa Brooks seconded and the motion was approved.
- Pastor Doug moved that Ashley DeFrancisco's contract be amended so that the church pays 100% of her medical insurance up to \$500/mo. for 2011. This will be re-evaluated in the next budget period. Mindy Wood seconded and all were in favor.
- Staffing of the nursery was discussed. Judy Harding has been in charge of this but would like to step down from doing so. It is currently a volunteer situation and we may possibly need a team to address the staffing of it. Ashley DeFrancisco and Nancy Martin will look in to this.

The Guardians next meeting will be December 1, 2011. Stacy Wright volunteered to do the devotions. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Wood

	-----October-----			-----January 1 through October 31, 2011-----			Annual Budget	Remaining Budget	November Budget
	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)			
Giving									
General Fund	\$ 20,233.88	\$ 19,841.85	\$ 392.03	\$ 181,602.55	\$186,520.78	\$ (4,918.23)	\$ 230,974.33	\$ 49,377.56	\$ 20,854.67
Building Fund	\$ 5,320.90	\$ 4,704.69	\$ 616.21	\$ 53,678.70	\$ 58,464.42	\$ (4,785.72)	\$ 70,466.40	\$ 16,787.70	\$ 5,752.31
World Hunger Fund	\$ 1,159.34	\$ 1,468.00	\$ (308.66)	\$ 14,146.30	\$ 14,680.00	\$ (533.70)	\$ 17,616.00	\$ 3,469.70	\$ 1,468.00
Love Fund	\$ 952.52	\$ 1,388.87	\$ (436.35)	\$ 10,868.25	\$ 13,888.67	\$ (3,020.42)	\$ 16,666.40	\$ 6,116.15	\$ 1,388.87
Scholarship Fund	\$ 229.00	\$ 425.67	\$ (196.67)	\$ 2,780.00	\$ 4,256.67	\$ (1,476.67)	\$ 5,108.00	\$ 2,328.00	\$ 425.67
Endowment Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ 170.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total*	\$28,045.64	\$ 27,829.07	\$ 216.57	\$ 263,245.80	\$277,810.53	\$ (14,564.73)	\$ 340,831.13	\$ 78,079.11	\$ 29,889.52
Expenses									
General Fund	\$17,218.27	\$17,269.07	\$ (50.80)	\$ 188,040.31	\$192,346.07	\$ (4,305.76)	\$ 230,951.33	\$ 42,911.02	\$ 16,229.01
Building Fund	\$ 4,978.87	\$ 4,293.20	\$ 685.67	\$ 55,788.70	\$ 42,932.02	\$ 12,856.68	\$ 51,518.42	\$ (4,270.28)	\$ 3,542.35
World Hunger Fund	\$ 1,159.34	\$ 1,468.00	\$ (308.66)	\$ 14,146.30	\$ 14,680.00	\$ (533.70)	\$ 17,616.00	\$ 3,469.70	\$ 1,468.00
Love Fund	\$ 1,103.72	\$ 1,388.87	\$ (285.15)	\$ 9,031.44	\$ 13,888.67	\$ (4,857.23)	\$ 16,666.40	\$ 8,034.96	\$ 1,388.87
Scholarship Fund	\$ -	\$ 425.67	\$ (425.67)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 4,256.67	\$ (2,756.67)	\$ 5,108.00	\$ 3,608.00	\$ 425.67
Endowment Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total*	\$24,460.20	\$ 24,844.80	\$ (384.60)	\$ 268,506.75	\$268,103.42	\$ 403.33	\$ 321,860.15	\$ 53,753.40	\$ 23,053.89
Fund Summary									
	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance			Projected November Month End Income	Expense	Ending
General Fund	\$ 11,744.23	\$ 20,524.34	\$ 17,218.27	\$ 15,050.30			\$ 20,854.67	\$ 16,229.01	\$ 19,675.97
Building Fund	\$ 23,309.45	\$ 5,320.90	\$ 4,978.87	\$ 23,651.48			\$ 5,752.31	\$ 3,542.35	\$ 25,861.44
World Hunger Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,159.34	\$ 1,159.34	\$ -			\$ 1,468.00	\$ 1,468.00	\$ -
Love Fund	\$ 4,303.82	\$ 952.52	\$ 1,394.18	\$ 3,862.16			\$ 1,388.87	\$ 1,388.87	\$ 3,862.16
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,638.03	\$ 229.00	\$ -	\$ 2,867.03			\$ 425.67	\$ 425.67	\$ 2,867.03
Endowment Fund	\$ 42.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 192.00			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 192.00
Designated Funds	\$ 18,233.35	\$ 534.08	\$ 2,862.26	\$ 15,905.17			\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,905.17
Total	\$ 60,270.88	\$ 28,870.18	\$ 27,612.92	\$ 61,528.14			\$ 29,889.52	\$ 23,053.89	\$ 65,304.74
General Fund October 2011		\$ 20,233.88	\$ 17,218.27	\$ 3,015.61	YTD	\$ 181,602.55	\$ 188,040.31	\$ (6,437.76)	
Building Fund October 2011		\$ 5,320.90	\$ 4,978.87	\$ 342.03	YTD	\$ 53,678.70	\$ 55,788.70	\$ (2,110.00)	

*Total Does not Include Designated Funds

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2011</h1>						
				1 4:00 Painter's Alive 4:30 Health Screening 5:00 Community Dinner	2 1:30 Bible Study	3 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M CR in Use
4 Advent 2 Consecration 9:00 Generations Alive! 10:00 Worship 6:00 Ultreya	5 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 D. View Bingo 7 th & 8 th Grade Cat. 8:00 AA	6 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group	7 CR In Use 6:00 Children's Choir 6:15 Catechism 7 th 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	8 4:00 Painter's Alive 7:00 Hanging of the Greens	9 1:30 Bible Study	10
11 Advent 3 9:00 Kids Alive Christmas Program 10:00 Worship	12 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	13 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Finance Team	14 10:00 Elderberries 6:00 Children's Choir 6:15 Catechism 7 th 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	15 4:00 Painter's Alive	16 1:00 Pack Cheer Baskets 1:30 Bible Study	17 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M CR In Use
18 Advent 4 9:00 Generations Alive! 10:00 Cantata 12:00 Lunch at Dutch Heritage 2:00 Jr. & Sr. Youth to Country Meadows	19 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	20 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group	21 6:00 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir	22 4:00 Painter's Alive	23	24 7:30 Family Christmas Eve Service 10:30 Traditional Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day 10:00 Worship Merry Christmas	26 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	27 7:00 Reunion Group	28 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir	29 4:00 Painter's Alive	30	31 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Church Street
Bellville, OH 44813

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Worship Time Change

The five Sundays in December and the first Sunday in January there will be only one worship service at 10:00 AM. In part this is to accommodate the special worship services which are being held each week. However, it will also give us an opportunity to meet and to know the other members of our Ministry Body who worship at a time that is different from the time that we normally worship. Please make a note of the time change. The adult and children's learning classes will be at 9:00. More details are inside.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Pastor Doug Pretorius

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419-886-3987

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.splc-bellville.org

Sunday Worship Services – For December Only ...

**9:00 AM
Adult & Kids Learning**

**10:00 AM
Worship Service**

**Holy Communion
Weekly**

Handicapped Accessible

OUR MISSION:
Living & Sharing God's
Love

OUR VISION:
We live & share our faith
in Jesus Christ by:

Trusting God with all our heart.
Learning God's desire for us.
Telling others about God's love,
Caring for others using the gifts
God gives us.