



The St. Paul Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Bellville, Ohio

July, 2010

What's Happening!

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Meet Ginger

Ginger Pflueger, our new Child Ministry Coordinator, begins her service July 4th. Please come and meet her at 9:30 in the Community Room. She will answer questions and discuss her view of ministry. The following Sunday, July 11th, she will be installed, and a reception in her honor will be held at 9:30 in the Community Room.

Vacation Bible School

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High Seas Adventure is the theme of VBS beginning July 25 -July 29 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Registration slips are available during the church service or by calling the church office at 419-886-3521.

There will be a Volunteer Training meeting on Tuesday July 20th at 7:00p.m. Any questions please contact Dawn Armstrong 419-886-9822.

BNOC in Need of Help

The Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center needs your help. Our new 9,000 square foot building at 84 Main Street in Bellville next to Hursh Drug needs some tender loving care before we are able to provide services for the community from this location. We need people able to do general cleaning and disinfecting. There is much painting which needs to be done. We will also be removing some walls in order to make our building more user friendly. We will be having work days every Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during July. We welcome any time you can give. You can show up anytime during those hours to help. If you have questions please contact Bill Smith at 419-886-8395 or Jeff Wright at 419-886-3301.

Financial Information

General Fund:

Income to date	\$94,541.78
Expenses to date	\$91,274.95
Budget to date	\$100,423.75

Building Fund:

Income to date	\$29,480.60
Expenses to date	\$22,671.79

Principal Balances 5/31/10

Original Loan	\$339,990.72
Parking Lot	\$53,069.65

Out Door Worship at Palm Park

this Summer will be
the last Sunday in July and
the first Sunday in August

Work Camp News

July is just around the corner and that means we will be heading to Midland, Michigan, July 17-24. There will be fourteen youth and adults heading to workcamp to help the elderly and less fortunate fix up their homes. Going this year are: Diane Hammett, John Harsch, Sara Rohm, Katie Lang, Eryn Littleton, Ashley Pierce, Cammy Barr, Hannah Wilson, Callan Pugh, Jack Harsch, Paul Harding, Jonah Albert. Mark Albert and Nick Hammett will be going as Site Coaches. Please keep us in your prayers!!

At our last workcamp meeting we learned how to hang and mud in drywall. Thank you to Mark and Nick for the demonstration. They had some "hands on" training in the do's and don'ts of dry walling.

Last year all the groups were asked to bring canned foods to the workcamp which we shared with the local food banks. We will be doing that again this year. Since transporting large amounts of canned goods takes up too much space, we are asking for monetary donations and will purchase the food in Midland. We will be collecting monetary donations the first two Sunday's in July.

We will be leaving Bellville on July 17th around 8:00 a.m. We would love to have you come send us on our way! The "send off" will be around 7:30.

Gift of the Month: Christmas in July

This month we are collecting toys, new or gently used, for under privileged children. Our donations will be given to the Toy Time project in Mansfield. Please help to bring a smile to a child this Christmas.

New Member Descriptions



Larry & Nancy Backensto are retired and busier than ever. Larry worked at Gorman-Rupp as a facilities electrician and Nancy was a dog groomer. Their children are Barry and Wendy, and they have three grandchildren, twin girls and a grandson. They enjoy gardening, riding their Harley, playing with their two Boston Terriers and their Dachshund, and spending time with their family.



Lowell & Jintana Barton live in Bellville in order to be close to his mother Betty Barton. Lowell is retired from the phone company, and in that capacity traveled and worked all over the world. While in Thailand he met his wife, Jintana, and they were married in 1978 in Florida, and then in Thailand by the Princess. Jintana is a university professor with a doctorate in the Chinese and a masters in the Thai language. Currently through the internet connections she is giving private language lessons to students all over the world. Lowell is an accomplished cook and a published author of the cookbook, *It's Hot!* which has been distributed in South East Asia and among friends. He is currently working on a series of travel adventures.



Arline Bixler is retired and lives in the mobile home park close to her daughter Nancy Backensto. Arline's other two children are Nannette (Columbus) and Leonard (deceased). She has six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Arline enjoys reading, watching old movies, play cards, and walking.



Clare Clemens is retired and enjoys life to the fullest. She loves to cook, and has become a gourmet cook - which is a transformation from when she was first married and could not boil water. She loves going to the Renaissance and learning anything new. She is a widow, and has three children, Anna Duncan, David Duncan, Susan Gentile (and David Krenrick). She has three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Hilary Dotson is working and working out regularly in preparation for heading out on September 28 to basic training in the Air Force. She has two summer jobs, during the week at Gorman Rupp in Mansfield doing maintenance (mowing, painting, fixing up, etc.) and working the food service stand at Mid-Ohio on the weekends. When she has free time she enjoys reading, bike riding, and walking.



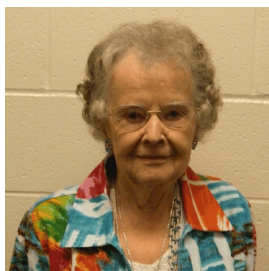
Steve & Elaine Dotson are looking forward to being empty nesters in the fall. Their oldest daughter Brittany is married to Tyler who is in the Air Force and stationed at Fayetteville, North Carolina. Hilary (see above) is joining the Air Force. Steve is retired from 22 years of Air Force Service in logistics. Now he works as a salesman for Gorman Rupp. Elaine is a dental assistant in Doctor Leech's office. Steve loves to golf, exercise, fish, and anything to do with motor sports; hence his working weekends at Mid-Ohio too. Elaine enjoys cooking and walking their Miniature Schnauzer, Hailey, with either Hilary or Steve.



Jerry Gallagher lives in Bellville with her daughter Liz and Liz's son Trayce, a renowned Clear Fork basketball player. In addition to Liz, Jerry has a daughter, Kathryn, in Michigan and a son, William, in Texas. Jerry is retired, and enjoys going to Trayce's games, volunteering at the Renaissance theater, being involved in church activities, and playing bridge. Jerry is Kim Harsch's grandmother.



Dave Krenrick & Susan Gentile were married here last July, and they have a home out in the country where they have plenty of room for their horses (Susan's passion and Dave's new found interest) and their four dogs. Dave is the chief clinical director of the Center for Individual and Family Services, and Susan is the assistant store manager for the Kohl's in Delaware. Dave has two children, and Susan has two children, and three grandchildren.



Lois McCullough is a retired English and history teacher from the Mansfield School System at the junior high, and a widow. She loves to travel, is a genealogy family history buff, and always enjoys a good conversation. She has three daughters, Robin, a pastor in Louisiana, Ellen, and Karen, both of Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has five grandchildren. Part of the reason she is joining St. Paul Lutheran Church is that her paternal grandparents were members here in the first part of the last century.



Roger & Eileen Miller are retired, but not really. Eileen taught in the Clear Fork School system for 33 years, mostly in the high school teaching home economics. Now days she can be found there substitute teaching. Roger continues to work at Shearer Equipment, even though his wife thinks he has worked long enough. They live at their home in Butler in which they raised their three daughters, Reva, Trudy, and Holly. Their home can now accommodate the husbands and their seven grandchildren all at once. They also enjoy biking, OSU football - live and in person as well as on TV, and traveling to be with their family.



Rod & Cindy Pearce have moved to Bellville so that Rod could be the camp director at Lutheran Memorial Camp. Cindy is enjoying NOT being the camp cook for a change, but she still enjoys cooking for a reasonable number of people. Rod is a roller coaster fanatic. They have two sons, Matthew (New Jersey) and Jason (North Carolina), and three grandchildren. They both enjoy gardening and playing with their two dogs, Pink and Floyd.



Jerry Shasky is retired from Gorman-Rupp in Mansfield as the Chief Administrative Engineer. He is a widower, and his children are Laurie Leedy and Steven. He has four grandchildren. His passion is flying, and he loves anything to do with airplanes. He also enjoys working around the home and volunteering with local veterans' groups. Currently he is the secretary of KWVA Chapter 51 and editor of its newsletter. He served in the Marine Corp during the Korean conflict.



Craig & Tami Sprang, Grant and Ben, live in Bellville but come from Loudonville where Tami returns to teach fourth grade every day. Craig travels to Columbus where he works nights as a sheriff's deputy. Craig also coaches and is the Clear Fork Major Boys Baseball Commissioner. Tami enjoys reading, when she can snatch it from delivering boys to games. Grant, an eighth grader, loves to play football, track, basketball and swim team.

Ben, a seventh grader, enjoys soccer, basketball, baseball, and swim team. As a family they enjoy watching movies, canoeing, white water rafting, and camp fires in the moonlight.

Thank You

Dear Ms. Hartley,

The mission of The Domestic Violence Shelter is to provide an alternative to living in a violent situation and to offer education/resources by providing services and programs to protect and empower. Thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission.

Your donation of nite-bags and blankets is deeply appreciated by the staff of The Shelter. Your contributions help us better serve the women and children who ask for our help.

The Domestic Violence Shelter has served victims of domestic violence in Ashland, Huron and Richland Counties for over twenty five years. We could not do it without the support of our friends and neighbors in the community.

Peace on Earth begins at home.

Sincerely,

Katherine Ezawa, Executive Director

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle **Bearing the Responsibility**

“Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the mighty waters....”

Psalm 107:23-24

Humans have done business on God's mighty oceans for millennia, using it for transportation, taking its fish for food, and more recently drilling under the ocean floor for oil and gas.

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded, killing eleven workers and injuring dozens more. In the weeks that have followed, millions of gallons of oil have continued to gush into the Gulf of Mexico from leaks in the damaged well.

The oil spill has now reached wetlands along the Gulf Coast, and many on the coast wonder how long this economic and environmental disaster will continue. Fisheries managers have closed some state waters, and much of the federal waters in the Gulf are closed to fishing. Those waters are not likely to re-open soon, and it may be some time before consumers trust the quality of seafood from the Gulf. The economies of the Gulf Coast communities, many of which were only just beginning to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, will likely feel these impacts for years to come.

"And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth'" - Genesis 1:20-22

God's creatures will also suffer as the oil inundates their habitats. Endangered sea turtles, migratory birds, fish, shellfish and marine mammals such as dolphins will suffer as their habitats are coated in thick oil. State and federal wildlife officials are working to mitigate the damage, but many will not survive.

Fragile coastal wetlands, already disappearing at an alarming rate, will take another hit. These wetlands not only provide habitat for birds, fish and other wildlife, they also provide critical flood protection for coastal cities during the hurricanes and other storms.

The devastating news we see on television and in the newspapers may make us wonder. What can we do to help the people and places of the Gulf Coast to weather this disaster and begin to recover? We can look for opportunities to help in the clean-up effort and provide assistance to those who are suffering the economic consequences of the oil spill. We can pray for the Gulf, its communities and all of God's creation. We can advocate for better safety standards for offshore oil drilling rigs, more liability for oil companies that fail to meet them, and long-term economic aid to help the Gulf Coast survive this disaster and begin to rebuild.

But each of us bears some responsibility for what is occurring on the Gulf Coast. Each of us, when we drive a car, take a plane, or throw away a plastic bottle, makes up a small part of our nation's massive consumption of, and dependence on, oil. We can see the consequences of that addiction in the images on our television screens, and we can pledge now to try and change our patterns of consumption, to think before we buy a bottle of water or take an unnecessary trip to the grocery store.

And as the disaster continues to unfold, you can keep asking yourself, "Am I doing all I can to ensure that this never happens again?"

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers."- Psalm 24:1-2

Written for the monthly Living Earth Reflection Series, May 2010, by Mary Minette, ELCA Director for Environmental Education and advocacy

Oil Spill Update, June 10, 2010, Elca Disaster Response

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We continue to monitor the devastating oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and pray fervently for all those who have been affected. Indeed, while the long-term effects of this tragedy will be felt by all of us, for those whose lives and livelihoods have been directly impacted, the needs for help are acute and overwhelming.

We have received numerous inquiries from Lutherans around the country about volunteering in some capacity along the Gulf Coast. At this moment, only people who are being specifically trained and equipped by BP are being permitted to work directly in the clean-up process. This has much to do with the health and safety risks of handling the crude oil. In the future, opportunities may emerge for other types of volunteer roles, and each state in the area - Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama - is receiving names of volunteers who are interested in helping.

Several questions have been raised about whether a national funding appeal should be launched in response to this tragedy. Our commitment has always been that we will find the most efficient ways possible to use financial contributions to meet unmet needs that arise from disaster. At this time, BP has pledged that it is their responsibility to pay for all costs related to clean-up as well as to reimburse those who have experienced a loss of income as a result of the spill, and anyone seeking to file a claim can do so directly through the BP Website. Given the unique nature of this situation, we will not be seeking funding for this response.

Instead, we lift up the unfolding needs of those in the many states affected by flooding and tornadoes so far this spring, most recently in Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois, and I ask you to consider giving a gift to support the responses underway in Yazoo City, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee.

In the meantime, we will continue to listen for emerging unmet needs along the Gulf Coast and for meaningful ways that we might engage there. As we do, I ask for your continued prayers for the beautiful land and people of the Gulf Coast as they struggle to overcome this continuing tragedy.

In service
Rev. Kevin A. Massey

July Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

5 Pamela Pretorius	15 Bob Myers	23 Duane Maxwell
6 Heather Bing	16 Susan Kanz	23 Laura Riddle
6 Madelyn Strickling	16 Andrew Tenison	27 Judy Harding
7 Dick Shafer	17 Amy Sharp	27 Steve Strickling
8 Cindy Beckel	17 Robyn Wade	27 Jerry Rhea
8 Troy Miller	18 Maja Seibel	27 Valerie Golden
11 Dixie Gehrisch	20 Lois Oyster	28 Melanie Rhea
12 Nancy Bletner	20 Michelle Hartley	28 Tiffany Johnson
12 Steve Leedy	22 Bill Worner	29 Troy Hammett
		30 Ryan Bing

July 5, 1986	Paul & Mary Ann Garn
July 7, 2007	Troy & Kristi Miller
July 11, 1964	Fred & Alwine Stull
July 15, 1965	Richard & Dixie Gehrisch
July 21, 1973	Doug & Rosemary Shirk
July 22, 2006	Andrew & Pamela Pretorius
July 23, 1950	Van Ross & Shirley Wade
July 26, 1980	Rob & Justine Fellure
July 29, 1995	Skip & Sara Hursh
July 31, 2009	David Krenrick & Susan Gentile

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.

Country Meadow Care Center
 4910 Algire Rd., Bellville, OH 44813
 Ruth McKinnon, Ed Mazur

Homebound Church Family:
 Rubert Hill, Marsades Mast

Winchester Terrace Nursing Home
 70 Winchester Rd., Mansfield, OH
 44907
 Marilyn Au

If you know of someone who needs added to the list, please contact the church office at 419-886-3521.

Ministry Guardians Meeting of June 10th, 2010

This was a mutual meeting of the Ministry Guardians and the Ministry Leaders. Those present as Guardians: Mike Bing, Lisa Brooks, Michael Murray, Chris Laux, Nancy Snyder and Pastor Doug. Those present as Ministry Leaders: Janis Marhenke, Jeff Hammett, Dawn Armstrong, Ruth Lindsey, Marilyn Baker and Barb Hoover.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional exercise based on Ephesians.

Chris Laux then turned the meeting over to Dawn Armstrong and the Ministry Leaders agenda:

1-After discussion, it was noted that better communication was needed between the Guardians and the Leaders and that they should meet together two to three times a year. It was also decided that the Ministry Body needs to be made aware of who is on each group and what the duties and responsibilities are. Future newsletters will include a section each month that explains to the Ministry Body some aspect of the Church structure so as to help educate the members about how the structure works and who they should contact with any questions, comments or issues.

2-How are we going to welcome and integrate Ginger? It was resolved that everyone at St Paul is excited about Ginger joining us and the all the Guardians and Ministry Leaders will make an effort to assist her in any and all ways necessary to help her and make her feel loved and wanted. A reception will be held at 9:30 am on Sunday July 11th in the community room. The purpose of this reception is to allow more members to meet Ginger for the first time. Mike Bing will be in charge of the reception.

3-A retreat for the Guardians and Leaders will be held on February 18th and 19th 2011 at a site to be determined. Some discussion was held on what the agenda will be for that retreat.

4-Ruth Lindsey gave an overview of the Church's financial status. Ruth's conservative estimate was that we will finish the year in the black, but possibly with less carry over than in 2010.

5-Discussion was held concerning how more team ministry can be started and encouraged. Dawn will continue to explore this issue and one avenue will be to publish ministry opportunities in the bulletin and newsletter for the members. Pastor Doug reported that he and Janis Marhenke as Faith Encouragers have come up with a design for faith teams and hope to have the program rolled out by September.

6-Discussion was held concerning how the Church Leaders should resolve large issues. It was noted that communication is still the key. It was also decided to assist any Ministry Leader with any large issue by having at least one Guardian involved to help and support the Leader.

After praying the Lords Prayer, the Ministry Leaders left the meeting and the Guardians continued.

Pastor Doug moved to accept the minutes from the May 6th Guardians meeting, Nancy Snyder seconded and the motion was approved.

Mike Bing moved to accept the treasurer's report for May, Pastor Doug seconded and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Michael Murray is still gathering information about the kitchen remodel. It was decided that Michael and Jeff Hammett would meet to go over the project and then have one or two open meetings open to all members interested in the project. After all members have the opportunity for input, an initial draft of the proposed remodel will be brought back to the Guardians.

The purchase of an AED with memorial fund money was approved by the Endowment Committee and the unit was ordered.

The remaining staff evaluations will be completed by Pastor Doug and Chris Laux, hopefully before Pastor leaves on vacation.

The ministry team in charge of the 125 year celebration will be meeting soon.

It was reported that both the meet and greet for Ginger and her family and the Meet the Family event were very well done and received by those attending.

Michael Murray has reported that to this date he has had one member volunteer to help with the Church's web site. Michael was given permission by the Guardians to use the lap top left from the Saturday Night Alive worship service to help in updating and maintaining the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Doug mad a motion that the following persons be accepted as members of St Paul Lutheran Church:

Arline Bixler	Rod and Cindy Pearce	Pete and Lindsey Anderson
Jerry Shasky	Roger and Eileen Miller	Jerry Gallagher
Claire Clemens	Larry and Nancy Backensto	
Hilary Dotson	Steve and Elaine Dotson	
Lois McCullough	Lowell and Jintana Barton	
Dave Krenick and Susan Gentile		
Craig and Tami Sprang, Grant and Ben		

Mike Bing seconded the motion and it was approved.

Pastor Doug brought the motion to pay 50% of Ginger's health insurance premium up to \$400 per month. Mike Bing seconded and discussion ensued.

Pastor Doug then moved to amend the motion to: For 2010, St Paul Lutheran will pay 50% of Ginger's health insurance premium up to \$400 per month. Nancy Snyder seconded and the motion was approved.

The next Guardian meeting will be on Wednesday August 25th from 7 till 9 pm; Nancy Snyder volunteered to do the devotional.

The meeting was ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Bing
Secretary