



St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United Methodist Church – Tucson, Arizona

IT'S STILL NEWS!

Have you carefully considered making a Special New Year gift to the General Budget of St. Paul's United Methodist Church? Please do.

We are working hard to return to financial health after a couple of years of real struggle. As we near this landmark of faith it is vitally important that we begin 2012 in a strong financial position. **Why is this important?** Think with me about one simple matter...beyond Sunday School, worship, Upward Sports, Stretching and Strengthening, youth group, harp choir and all the programs of the church we exist to answer God's call to generosity. Before we can practice generosity we must carefully maintain the infrastructure that supports a vitally strong faith community.

Your gift to the General Budget will allow us to be the kind of community that has expressed unusual generosity between Thanksgiving and Christmas...read inside this edition of the *Epistle* to see what this looks like.

Thank you for giving generously as St. Paul's United Methodist Church continues to be a community of generosity and love where we invite others to join us in becoming disciples of Jesus Christ for the good of the world.

Happy New Year!

Billy Still

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

ST. PAUL'S IS HELPING THOSE IN NEED

Food Bank

Between 16,000-20,000 people are served annually with a disproportionate amount in November and December.

Thanksgiving and Christmas meal boxes

Each box provided food for about 10 days. Our meal boxes served 220 adults and 260 children. This project was carried out in cooperation with local elementary schools.

Operation Hospitality

In cooperation with the Salvation Army, homeless men were housed in the Life Center on December 9, 10, 17 and 23. We will also house men in January.

John Dean Town, Liberia, West Africa

181 children will receive a school uniform. It is usually their only change of clothes. 181 children will receive one year's school supplies. This is the only school in this part of Liberia.

Stop Hunger Now

One child dies of hunger every 6 seconds. There are 4.3 lbs of food per day for every person on the planet. **Hunger is a solvable problem. Our Christmas Eve offering funded no less than 20,000 meal packets.** Each packet is 6 meals and costs 25 cents. **On New Year's Day we prepared these meal packets.**

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Happy New Year!

Billy Still

St. Paul's Epistle is mailed the first Tuesday of the month by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 8051 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85710.

IN WORSHIP JANUARY

8

January 8 marks the one year anniversary of the tragic shooting of US Representative Gabrielle Giffords. On this day 19 people were shot and 6 died. One of those who died was Gifford's aide, Gabe Zimmerman. On January 8 Gabe's father, Ross Zimmerman, will join us by video as we reflect upon this shooting and its aftermath.

A GIFT FOR PEGGY JO!

After 4 and a half years as our youth minister Peggy Jo Harwick has decided that God is calling her to new horizons. While we are extraordinarily grateful for her service we are always glad when someone answers the call to something new.

All of our part time staff are modestly compensated and their work rises out of deep commitment. While the youth group will have a going away party for Peggy Jo the entire congregation would like to offer her a monetary gift of gratitude. We will give her this gift in worship on January 15.

Please mark your gift "Peggy Jo"

Thanks, Billy Still

The next *Epistle* deadline is Tuesday, January 31, at 10:00 AM. It will be mailed on Tuesday, February 7. Please submit all *Epistle* articles to Linda Kopp at linda_kopp@stpaulsumctucson.net.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY" COMING SOON!

Have you ever taken a close look at where your income goes? Being aware of how you spend your money is the first of many steps towards gaining independence from debt and building for a prosperous future! Classes run for 13 weeks, beginning on January 8. The cost is \$99.00/couple for the course (partial scholarships are available). Childcare will be provided. Contact Mark or Nancy Goforth at magoforth60@earthlink.net for more information.

DEVOTIONAL BOOK

We need more devotionals written by St. Paul's members for our St. Paul's devotional book. The ones that you have turned in so far are wonderful, but we need more. Please take a few minutes and write a devotional for our book. You can use the format found in the *Upper Room*. Drop your completed devotion off in the church office or email it to jim_moffett@stpaulsumctucson.net.

INVITATION TO STUDY THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

We invite you to join us for a 9-week study of this important New Testament letter. We will meet each Wednesday from 6-8 PM, starting January 11 and ending March 14, with no meeting on Ash Wednesday (February 22). Call Walt and Elaine Roberts (886-6080) for more information and registration. There is no cost, and babysitting services are available. Why study Hebrews? Hebrews contains timeless truths and practical applications for today's Christians as well as those to whom it was originally addressed. It presents Jesus as God's full revelation of Himself and tells how Jesus fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament scriptures.

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2012

Upward basketball and cheerleading for boys and girls, Kindergarten through 8th grade, will start the new session with practice beginning on February 13. Registration for the Spring 2012 Session will continue through January 20. Evaluations will take place January 17 through January 20. You can pick up registration forms in the office or sign up online at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/stpaulsums>. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Rick Hornback, at rgandjb@aol.com or calling 520-909-9564.

THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

The Mental Health Support Group at St. Paul's UMC welcomes people who have friends or family members dealing with issues of mental illness as well as people who are dealing with their own problems. We would like to diminish the stigma and false information about mental illness. The group meets on **Wednesdays at 1:00 PM in Room C1**. Contact: Virginia Shuman (296-9398).

OPERATION HOSPITALITY

We will host between 16 and 28 men each night. The dates are January 6, 7, 13, 14 & 28. Contact Linda Jones at bamajones6@netzero.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

Months of Saving! Storage available thanks to CoolBox - Donations are accepted year round for this spectacular youth fundraiser which funds the youth budget & youth mission activities. Please Call Angie McCarty at 296-6149 to schedule a donation pick up or with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!

YOUTH AND ADULT CONFIRMATION

In the United Methodist Church we practice infant baptism. In this sacrament, parents make a promise to raise their child in the church. At some point it is an important act of grace for the child to have the opportunity to claim his/her faith as his/her own. The classes that guide youth in this process are called Confirmation. Confirmation is open to all youth ages 6th grade and above. Confirmation at St. Paul's will begin on Sunday, January 15 from 11:00 AM -12:30 PM and will continue each Sunday until Sunday, April 1, when the youth are confirmed on Palm Sunday. Rick Hornback and Julie Brown will teach the youth confirmation class.

For the first time, we will offer a separate class for adults who would like to know more about the basics of the Christian faith. Using the same curriculum as the youth, Rev. Angie McCarty will meet with adults who long for a greater understanding of what makes us distinctive as Christians. The adult class is planning to meet at the same time as the youth class, beginning Sunday, January 15, from 11:00 AM -12:30 PM through Sunday, April 1. However, if interested adults would rather meet at a different time, there is flexibility available. Both classes require pre-registration. Please email Angie at angie_mccarty@stpaulsumctucson.net to register for either class.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The monthly UMW Unit meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 9:30, in Brummet Hall. Estralita Circle will host the meeting and present the program. There will be installation of the 2012 Officers. Luncheon will be catered by Mary Bian.

FLOWER CALENDAR

If you would like to have flowers on the altar for a special occasion or in remembrance of someone, please sign-up on the flower calendar located in the Narthex. The cost is \$27.00 per bouquet.

STRATEGIC TASK FORCE UPDATES (3-4 Task Force Groups will be highlighted monthly)

John Dean Town Christmas Ornaments – THANK YOU:

Your generosity made such a difference to students in John Dean Town, Liberia. We raised \$5420 which will provide school uniforms and school supplies for 181 students in 2012.

Most children only have one outfit and having uniforms allows them to feel better about themselves as they go to school. The added miracle of having school supplies helps them learn more effectively. Thank you for making a difference!

Christmas Community and Fellowship Opportunities were a Success!!

Thank you for attending our Christmas meals! We had 165 attend our Christmas Eve Dinner and a total of 95 attended our Christmas Day brunch. What a blessing it is to be able to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with our St. Paul's UMC family!!

Strategic Task Force Group Update

Have you been thinking that you would like to get more involved at St. Paul's? Have you been thinking about how wonderful it would be to build deeper relationships with those you worship with each week? Well it is a brand new year and we have eight task force groups that would love you to have you join them! Here are the details.....

Community Events Task Force

Leader: Linda Jones

Mission: This group would research the types of large community events that would be attractive to St. Paul's members as well as the larger community. They would design and promote these events with a goal of sponsoring one large community event monthly. At least four of these monthly events would be designed with the primary purpose of inviting and welcoming people who are not currently a part of the St. Paul's UMC community. The events will not be worship services and will take place outside of the sanctuary.

Adult Invitational Learning

Leader: Angie McCarty

Mission: We will research the kinds of learning events that will be

attractive to and meet the needs of people who are not currently involved in a church. We will design learning events that are intended to welcome people into our community. We will be intentional in scheduling these events in concert with larger community events as well as seasonal worship emphases' and will offer intentional invitations to faith and worship and a welcome to the broader St. Paul's UMC community.

Developing Relationships between Parents & Children

Leader: Jenny Fletcher

Mission: We will provide opportunities for parents and children in the same household to develop personal relationships. We will provide opportunities for parents and children to develop relationships with peers in the broader community.

Developing Relationships among Men

Leader: Jamie Harwick

Mission: We will provide opportunities to develop personal relationships between men. We will provide opportunities to invite men to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

A Welcoming Sunday Experience

Leader: Sam McCarty

Mission: We recognize that our campus and community presentation is not always welcoming to visitors. We will evaluate St. Paul's UMC first impression and redesign our greeting to be as warm and welcoming as possible. This will include identification of critical deferred maintenance.

Welcome to and Integration into the Community

Leader: Sue Rose

Mission: We will look for specific ways to track members' participation in the life of the St. Paul's UMC Community. We will pay special attention to new members. We will look for specific ways to recognize and welcome members of groups that already meet on our campus.

Stewardship Development

Leaders: Chris and Carla Ruhl

Mission: Instill a sense of joy and responsibility concerning stewardship across all age groups. Cultivate giving that strengthens church programs by providing an awareness of program needs, both financially and through volunteering. Take responsibility for designing and implementing an annual stewardship emphasis which encourages tithing

and other forms of generosity.

John Dean Town

Leader: Tommy Sanford

Mission: The mission statement will be developed in the new year. What an amazing time to join this task force and be part of developing the mission and plan for 2012!

If you would like to join one of our task force groups, please contact the leader or Nancy Walter at Leadership@stpaulsumctucson.net

or 520.296.6149.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SPIRITUAL SECRETS GROUP

Beginning Wednesday, January 11, at 6:00 PM, in the Life Center Covenant Room, the Spiritual Weight Loss Group will begin a DVD lecture study entitled "Nutrition Made Clear". In 36 lectures taught by dietitian and award-winning Professor Roberta H. Anding, we will explore the fundamentals of good nutrition and get a practical and personal guide to applying these fundamentals to our unique lifestyle. For more information on the scope of this lecture series visit the following website: http://www.thegreatcourses.com/tgc/courses/course_detail.aspx?cid=1950%20. The cost for the course book is \$10.25. Please register for the group by sending an email to karen_calfee@stpaulsumctucson.net or calling the church office at 296-6149.

ZUMBA and T'AI CHI CLASSES

Zumba classes meet Monday (Brummet Hall) and Thursday (Brummet Hall) at 5:45 PM and Saturday morning (Brummet Hall) at 8:30 AM.

T'ai Chi classes meet Thursday (A-Frame) at 4:00 PM for beginner level participants. For Beginning participants unable to attend the 4:00 PM class, Beginning participants/Intermediate level group meets at 5:30 PM. Both Zumba and T'ai Chi are continuously open for enrollment. If interested, or need more information contact Rick Hornback at 909-9564 or rgandjb@aol.com.

Youth News

ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS & RETREATS INFORMATION

CROSSROADS & JR.

HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Grades 6—8, **11:00 AM - Noon**, Shalom South, led by Betty Howard & Claire Bothwell. Join us to get connected to God's Word with an in-depth study of the life of Moses, encouraging us to get with God and engage in a life-changing encounter with Scripture. Don't forget to bring your Bible – or see Betty or Claire for a Bible.

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

For grades 9—12, **11:00 AM - Noon**, in the Life Center Loft, led by Jamie Harwick. A youth chosen, in depth class, takes a deeper look into scripture, what it means to Live Courageously.

UMYF - GRADES 6 - 12

ALL YOUTH WELCOME! Sundays 12:30 – 2:30 PM, in the Life Center. Believer, searching, growing; it's all good! Come as you are to worship, eat lunch, pray, play a game or two and have fun connecting with peers as we discuss "Topic Points for Teens." Bring your friends!

THANK YOU...

...for the food boxes that members of St. Paul's UMC donated. The families who received these items were so grateful for this thoughtful and caring blessing. Thank you for making a difference in the Three Points Community. ~ Dr. Nathan McCann, Superintendent

...so much to everyone who cooperated to give our family a wonderful dinner this holiday season. We hope you enjoyed yours like we did.

~Sincerely, Mendoza Family from Dietz Elementary

...to all of you who helped make the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays a little brighter by providing food and small gifts for families at Robles, Schumaker, Dietz Elementary Schools and our own church

community. We were able to feed more families than ever before because of your generosity. Whether you adopted a family, donated extra food, donated money, or prayed for the families and us as we organized this very important mission project, we really appreciated it all. Also, thank you to our husbands for helping with all of this, to John and Johnny, and to those who helped deliver the food to the schools. What a blessing you all are! ~Genita Salvagio and Cheryl Smith

...to everyone for your cards and prayers. I am home now and feeling better. ~Mac McDonald

Blood Pressure Clinic: Between services on Sunday, January 15, in Brummet Hall.

**CALLING EVERYONE
WITH THE FOLLOWING
CREDENTIALS:** RN, NP, LPN, CNA, EMT, PA, MA, certified caregivers and physicians. Your congregation needs your professional skills. Volunteers are needed to assist with the monthly blood pressure screenings. If you can help, please call the church office at 296-6149 and leave your name & phone number. Claudia Perry, RN, our volunteer Director for St. Paul's Health Ministry will contact you.

TELECARE MINISTRY— IMPORTANT

We need a few volunteers to serve as callers for our Telecare Ministry. This is an easy way to provide discipleship and serve members of St. Paul's community who cannot always come to church. Contact Jennie Dodd at 751-3749.

FRIENDLY VISITORS

We are looking for about three people to increase the number of our Friendly Visitors. We would particularly like to have at least one

additional retired nurse volunteer to become a Visitor. If you can help, please call Jim Moffett at 296-6149.

YOGA TO BEGIN AGAIN AT ST. PAUL'S

Jacquelyn Rafferty, is offering 4-week hatha yoga sessions. Bring your yoga mat, a friend and a fun attitude. Cost is \$40 for the 4 week program. All **evening classes** will be held in the **A-Frame**. **Morning classes** are in the **Life Center Shalom Room**. Please contact Jacquelyn at 991-6712 for more information. Hope you will join us.

Tuesdays 6:00 PM - January 10, 17, 24, 31

Wednesdays 9:30 AM & 6:00 PM - January 11, 18, 25, February 1

OUR SYMPATHY...

... to Margaret Welt on the death of her husband, Bill Welt, on his death on November 17, in Nova Scotia, Canada.

.... to George Allen on the death of his wife, Pat Allen, on Decemember 10.

...to Judy Settlemyre on the death of her sister, Edie, on December 25.

SAVVY SENIORS

▶▶ STRETCHING AND STRENGTHENING

CLASS We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 AM in the Life Center Activity Room. Our leader is Sam Freeman. A donation of \$1 per class is appreciated. The perimeter of the gym has a walking track so come early and walk – it's safe! New T-Shirts are available for \$11 each.

▶▶ ST. PAUL'S

WATERCOLOR CLASS

Our class meets Mondays from 10:30 – 1:30 PM in the A – Frame. Bring your lunch or a snack. Please call Nancy Anderson at 546-1533, or Laree Freeman at 749-3537 for more information.

SAVVY SENIORS (CONTINUED)

▶▶ THE BELLES OF ST.

PAUL'S welcoming ladies 50 years and older to join us for fun, food and fellowship.

Chapeaux Rojas will be going to Ric's Café, 5605 E. River Road on Friday, January 20 at 1:00 PM. Make your reservation with Sue at 795-3952 by January 18.

Desert Roses will be going to Ric's Café, 5605 E. River Road on Thursday, January 19 at 11:30 AM. Contact Sandy at 298-1470 by Monday, January 16, for reservations and carpooling.

Glad Hatters will be going to Millie's Pancake Haus, 6530 E. Tanque Verde Road, on Friday, January 20 at 11:30 AM. Hostess is Betty Ott at 886-2276.

Sassy Sisters will be going to Sam Hughes Championship Dining at the corner of 6th Street and Campbell Avenue for lunch on Saturday, January 14 at 12 noon. Please contact Loraine White at 855-6626.

▶▶ RODEO

DAZE

Mark your Calendars for our Savvy Senior's Rodeo Daze Luncheon on **Thursday, February 23**, at 11:30 AM in Brummet Hall. Entertainment by The Rincon Country Gentlemen. Watch for more information in the next Epistle.

▶▶ WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE MOVIES

Our movie for Wednesday, January 18, will be *October Skies*. This is the true story of one of America's pioneer rocket scientists and the challenges he faced growing up in a West Virginia coal mining town. It will be shown at 10:20 AM in the Covenant Room - Bring 25¢ for refreshments.

▶▶ **BIBLE STUDY** The Bible Study Class meets Monday mornings in the Covenant Room at 10:30 AM. Lee Harter leads the class.

▶▶ **JANUARY HIKE:** Our hike for Wednesday, January 11 is an easy and fun hike of a little over 3 miles. We'll hike to Lime Falls through the Cactus Forest in Saguaro Nat'l Park - East. This is a mostly

level hike through a beautiful cactus forest. Bring 2 liters of water, a snack and dress in layers. We will leave from Brummet Hall promptly at 9:00 AM. Van Fee \$2.00. Please call the office at 296-6149 to sign up. Be sure to leave your phone number.

▶▶ CANCELLED CHRISTMAS SHOPPING TOUR:

The weather forced the cancellation of our shopping trip to Phoenix. A shopping tour to the Phoenix area will be scheduled for sometime during the spring. Watch for the announcement.

▶▶ LAY CARE WORKSHOP:

On Wednesday, January 25, Dr. Earl Surwit will present a workshop on the topic of "Incontinence". The talk will be held at 10:30 AM in Brummet Hall and lunch will follow. Please RSVP to the church office by January 23.