



St. Paul's Epistle

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

AT THE GATE

Dear Friends,

As your new Pastor, there is a great deal I would love to say to each of you. I do invite you to seek me out. There is so much I want and need to know about you, about our church, about Tucson and everything in between!

It also occurs to me there might be a thing or two you want to know from me: where do I believe our church is headed in the future? What can I expect in the future? What changes can I look forward to? What is your vision for us?

I know I cannot answer all those questions quickly, easily, succinctly, but I can give you a few (14 *actually*) words, phrases, thoughts to help you to "get me":

Authenticity	Relevance
Inclusivity	Excellence
Passion	Beauty
Covenant	Mystery
Creativity	Fun
Challenge	Courage
Connection	Meaning

I am more about:

- Relationships than Rules
- People than Programs
- Progress than Institutions
- Function than Form
- Results than Appearances

My Vision for the Church is a people courageously committed to change:

- Changing the lives of broken and lost people into that of deeply committed

followers of Christ.

- Changing our community and world by offering up ourselves in service and witness to our neighbors.

Changing the Church by living out what St. Paul called "a still more excellent way" in our worship, service, stewardship, and fellowship.

I hope this will help you to understand me and the direction in which I hope to lead this Church. If you have any questions or concerns, or anything you think I need to know, please do not hesitate to contact me. The church phone number is 296.6149 and my email is: tony_dawson@stpaulsumctucson.net.

Grace Happens,
Pastor Tony

Upward Sports

Upward basketball and cheerleading for boys and girls, Kindergarten through 6th grade, will start the Fall 2014 session with practice beginning the week of Sept. 22, 2014. Registration for the Fall 2014 Session started August 11, 2014 and will continue through Sept. 6th 2014.

You can pick up registration forms in the office. Evaluations will take place on Saturday, Sept 6th, 2014, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Life Center. You can also sign up online at <http://registration.upward.org/UPW55366>.

We have numerous

volunteer opportunities available as we will need coaches, referees, snack bar help, people to run the time clock and keep score. Training is provided, no experience necessary. We would love to have you join the Upward team! Additional information may be obtained by contacting the church office at 296-6149.

Preschool

School is back in session and we are looking forward to another wonderful year! We would like to thank Vail Smith for her continued financial support and Sam Freeman and the Stretching and Strengthening class for providing scholarship sponsorships! Thank you for your generosity and kindness! Please join us for Family Night at Peter Piper Pizza (5925 E. Broadway) on September 18th from 5:00-7:00 pm. Mention St. Paul's at the time of purchase and the Preschool will get a percentage of the night's proceeds! Finally, the Preschool does have a couple openings remaining due to families moving. Please contact Director, Sheri Van Wormer (260-1350) to schedule a tour or get more information about enrollment.

Jenny Fletcher

Last Chance for Family Camp!

Family Camp will be held on September 12 (Friday) - Sept 14 (Sunday) at Pine Canyon Camp in the Chiricahua Mountains, one hour

south of Willcox in the cool pines. All ages are invited. First-timers and veteran campers welcome. Camp starts whenever you can get there on Friday afternoon/evening (no dinner) and runs until after lunch on Sunday.

Real cabins (no tents) with plumbing and showers. Hiking, basketball, 5 great meals, low ropes course, horseshoes, camp fires, songs, s'mores, crafts, ping pong, tetherball, snacks, mountain biking (BYO bike), relaxation, more. Youth & Adults \$80, Kids ages 4-10 \$40, Kids ages 0-3 free. Add \$10 for the lodge.

Sign up on the patio Aug 31st, in the office by Sept 7th or call 760-1439 (Bob & Debbie Kruse).

UPDATE ON JOHN DEAN TOWN

The Gretta Moffet School, located in John Dean Town, is set in a large clearing centrally located to several villages in the area. The building itself is rectangular in shape, one story, about 80 feet by 30 feet in size, and contains the principal's office, a teacher's office and 8 classrooms. It was funded by St. Paul's UMC. The teachers live on the site in thatched roof huts. There are no bathroom facilities, and don't ask the next question. The entire area was carved from the jungle by locals using machetes. The school has a large playground to the east and a large assembly area to the west. The 2013/2014 school year had 156 enrolled.....59 girls and 97 boys. The school had its closing program on June 28th. Four students graduated from 8th grade. 11 students graduated from Kindergarten. 132 students were promoted to the next grade. 24 students will repeat their grade. They are serious about their education and strict with discipline. When the St. Paul's group visited John Dean Town in early 2009, the oldest student was 31 (eighth grader) with several in their

twenties. The next session will begin in September. Currently there are no dormitory facilities, so all are day students. Some walk over an hour each way, through the jungle and over (or through) streams to get to class. Students must always wear clean uniforms, so in the rainy season they carry their uniforms wrapped in palm fronds and change before entering the school. St. Paul's provides the student uniforms, books and supplies plus the money for teacher's salaries. Although there are 29 ethnic languages throughout Liberia, English is taught in the schools and is the default language throughout Liberia. The local language is Bassa and John Dean Town is located in Grand Bassa County. Stay tuned for the continuing Saga.

~Tommy Sanford

**FALL STUDY
BEGINS WEDNESDAY
EVENING, SEPTEMBER 17th
AT 6 PM
IN THE SERENDIPITY ROOM
IN THE LIFE CENTER
LED BY
PASTOR HAL COWART**

We will be using the text, "Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today" and video by Pastor Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the 18,000 member United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

The Bible is not just one book. It is a collection of 66 books, consisting of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. The Bible doesn't always speak with one voice. Pastor Hamilton says: "There are challenging passages in the Bible having to do with violence and suffering. It can be disturbing, wonderful, perplexing and inspiring. Yet it points to Jesus, God's Word for you and me that invites us to live life to the fullest."

The book can be purchased for your kindle on Amazon for \$10.99. Hardback from Amazon for \$17.99. They also list 46 copies for \$12.99. If you would like I would be glad to order a copy for any of you. Thus you can have a head start by the time the class starts. I would love to have you join us.

We ask that you sign up for the class by calling the office at 296.6149.

Thank you so much for the plethora of school supplies delivered to Dietz K-8 today! What a bountiful blessing our Dragon families received! I cannot express my gratitude enough to the wonderful parishioners of St. Paul's for looking out for our learners. Thank you again for thinking of us, for collecting the supplies, and taking the time to sort and deliver them with a smile. Some of the backpacks have already started to find new homes with very pleased Dragons.

Sincerely,

Principal Tiffany McKee (*one very appreciative principal*)

My sincere thanks to Pastor Tony for his visitation and all church members for their many cards and prayers during my recent surgery. ~Joan Menger

Our condolences to the families of:

Roger Closs who passed away on August 3, 2014. Roger and his wife Nancy Flesher were new members at St. Paul's and attended the 11:00 a.m. service.

Merle Beal who passed away on August 3, 2014. She and her husband Laurence (Larry) were members of St. Paul's and attended the 8:00 a.m. service.

ST. PAUL'S FOUNDATION NEWS

Consider naming the Church as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. If

you have named other beneficiaries, consider naming the Church as a secondary or backup beneficiary in case the first beneficiary is deceased at the time of your death. For more information, contact Frank Wight, 297-3865.

SAVVY SENIORS

Stretching and Strengthening

Class led by Sam Freeman, Jr. meets every Mon., Wed. & Fri. in the Life Center at 9:00 AM. Donation: \$1.00 per class. Class will not meet on Monday, September 1st due to the Labor Day Holiday.

The Bible Study Class led by Gene Kern meets every Monday in the Covenant Room at 10:30 AM. If you want to learn more about the Bible, this is the place to begin.

St. Paul's Watercolor

Class Another year will begin on Monday, September 8 at 10:30 AM in the A-Frame. We get together, learn from each other and create art and fun. Bring a snack or sack lunch, if desired, and enjoy the learning and friendship. Bring your watercolors and paper. Any questions - please call: Mayre Miller at 298-3690 or Nancy Anderson at 546-1533.

The Movie for Wednesday,

September 17th will be *Bonhoeffer – Agent of Grace*. What is a moral person to do in a time of savage immorality? This is the true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German clergyman of great distinction, who actively opposed Hitler and the Nazis. The heroic rebellion of Bonhoeffer, a highly regarded Lutheran minister, who could have kept his peace and saved his life on several occasions, but instead paid the ultimate price for his beliefs. The film will be

shown at 10:20 AM immediately after the exercise class. Popcorn and drinks are available for 25 cents. Bring a friend!

Blood Pressure

Clinic operated by St. Paul's Parish Nurses will resume on Sunday, September 21. You can have your blood pressure checked the third Sunday of each month between services in Brummet Hall.

St. Paul's UMC Lay Care

Workshop will be Wednesday, September 24th at 10:30 AM and held in Brummet Hall (take the driveway nearest Broadway on Maguire). Our presenter is Gladys Miller from Pima Council on Aging and she will provide the information on the various services provided by PCOA during the workshop: including the Area Agency on Aging (AAA), Eastside Neighbors Volunteer Program (ENVP), Outreach Coordinator for the Neighbors Care Alliance (NCA) and the Positive Aging for Women Conference. **Elsie Dixon will also speak about PCOA's Ambassador**

Program. A delicious luncheon will be served following the program. Please call the office at 296-6149 to make your luncheon reservation. There is no charge for the meal.

POSITIVE AGING FOR WOMEN

CONFERENCE will be Thursday, October 9 in the Billy and Ann Still Life Center from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The Positive Aging for Women Conference was formed to enhance the lives of women facing a new phase in life after retirement, the "empty nest" syndrome, or widowhood. These various phases can be transitioned smoothly with other women sharing same concerns. The conference is a wealth of information, suitable

for women looking forward to aging or in the process of aging. **Event Includes:** Education, Entertainment, and great Fellowship with women from all over Tucson, even visitors from the far reaches beyond Pima County. This event is sponsored by TMC's Senior Services, Pima Council on Aging, St. Paul's UMC and Broadway Proper will provide the buffet breakfast for the event. Our theme is *Living a More Resilient Life*. Speakers, workshops and displays by sponsors and vendors will be available. Brochures will be available in September on the patio on Sundays and in the church office (Monday – Thursday). The exercise class will have them delivered on Monday, September 8th. Registration information is in the brochures. **Cost \$10.**

Bring a friend!

THE BELLES OF ST.

PAUL'S invites ladies 50 years and older to join us for food, fun and fellowship. Here are the events for September:

Chapeaux Rojas will be going to the Relish Restaurant, 4660E. Camp Lowell on Friday, September 19 at 12:30 PM. Contact Barbara at 296-9792 by September 16.

Desert Roses will be going to The Hub Restaurant, 266 E. Congress Street at 11:30 AM on Thursday, September 25th. Contact Sandy at 298-1470 by Monday, September 22.

Glad Hatters will be going to Biscuits Country Café, 7026 E. Broadway on Friday, September 19th at 11:30 AM. Hostess is Trudy Stave at 777-8024.

Youth News

Junior & Senior High Sunday School

We are still in the process of restructuring the JR and SR High Sunday School Program. In the mean time, we will be combining JR and SR High Sunday School Lessons as part of the Youth Group time.

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 6th-12th are welcome. Now that summer is over and school is back in session for all our youth, we will resume meeting on Sundays after church service. Please check the epistle for the meeting times as we may be changing them to an earlier start time. If you would like to receive a weekly text with details about the youth group, please text Michael DeSchalit at 270-0183 and he will add you to the text distribution list.

Youth News That You Can Use...

Summer is over and school is back in session. The youth Group wrapped up another great summer filled with experiences that were educational, inspirational and transformational. After returning from our mission trip to Las Vegas, we began watching the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and studying how that story relates to the bible and our own spiritual journey. We have also started teaching the youth how to sew and cook and they have already made cute stuffed frogs and a fabulous Cobb salad.

The Youth Group Task Force held their first meeting and are well on their way to creating a mission statement and start

working on the objectives of the group. Just know that in the weeks and months to come, this group will be working diligently on helping the youth group grow and prosper for years to come.

As always, we are seeking folks who would love to volunteer to cook lunch for the youth group at their Sunday Meetings. If you are interested, please contact Betty Howard at 390-1664 for available dates.

CONFIRMATION AND CHURCH 101

Do you know the importance of the Wesley Quadrilateral? What about the role of history in today's worship? Pastor Janessa is offering a 'basics of Christianity' class that will help introduce those new to the faith, a little rusty on the basics, and our confirmation students to the fundamental pieces of Christian faith. We will meet Sundays at 12:15 beginning on September 14.

There will be a meeting for confirmation-aged kids (7th grade and up) and their parents on Sunday, Sept 7 at 12:15. Find out what we have planned for this year's confirmation class. It's going to be a fun experience, so I can't wait to get started!

ST. PAUL'S WATERCOLOR CLASS

Another year will begin on Monday, September 8 at 10:30 AM in the A-Frame. We get together, learn from each other and create art and fun. Bring a snack or a sack lunch, if desired, and enjoy the learning and friendship. Bring your watercolors and paper. Any questions, please call: Mayre Miller at 298-3690 or Nancy Anderson at 546-1533

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

United Methodist Women will meet Tuesday, September 9, at

9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in Brummet Hall. All church women are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker will be Brooke Nowak from TMM. A potluck lunch will be held immediately after the meeting.

STRATEGIC TASK FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Contact: Nancy Scott -
leadership@stpaulsumctucson.net
or 520.296.6149

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

NOTE: Please read the weekly Sunday Bulletins for Strategic Task Force Groups meeting dates, times and locations.

✓ **Sundays in September: Coffee Table** - (Sponsor: Boy Scouts)

Note: Please read bulletins for all Strategic Task Force meeting dates, times and locations.

✓ **Sunday, October 5: Commitment Kick-Off – All Worship Services**

✓ **Sunday, October 5: Fall Festival & Silent Auction** - Silent Auction proceeds provide Scholarships for Fee Based Programs at St. Paul's (Sponsor: Stewardship Development in partnership with St. Paul's Foundation and Community Events) 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Billy and Ann Still Life Center

✓ **Sunday, October 26: Halloween Daze – 4th Annual** - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Billy & Ann Still Life Center (Sponsor: Community Events)

✓ **Sunday, November 9: Commitment Sunday – All Worship Services**

TASK FORCE UPDATES

Strategic Planning 2014 - NEW TASK FORCE OPPORTUNITIES

Inclusion for ALL (Chair: Jenny Fletcher) **Primary Focus:** Education; Inclusivity and Acceptance. **Results/Next Steps:** The kick-off meeting was

held in early July. The mission statement is almost complete and will be announced soon. Once the mission statement is complete, key priorities and actions to address will be determined.

Contact: Jenny at [520.405.9060](tel:520.405.9060).

Community Outreach (Chair: [Shannon Turnage](#)) **Primary**

Focus: Community Outreach Initiatives and Continuity.

Results/Next Steps: The kick-off meeting was held in June. The mission statement will soon be finalized and announced. The group will then determine key priorities and actions for implementation.

Contact: Shannon at [520.990.6736](tel:520.990.6736).

Church Growth (Chair: [Jaclyn and Ryan Mahlstedt](#))

We are delighted to announce that we have six members and will have our kick-off meeting at the end of July; please watch bulletins for the date, time and location.

Primary Focus: Growth including spiritual, generosity, volunteerism and membership.

Next Steps: Schedule the kick off meeting and develop mission statement. **Contact:** Jaclyn or Ryan at [520.760.8775](tel:520.760.8775).

ON-GOING TASK FORCE GROUPS

Stewardship

Development (Chair: Rich Revis, [520.971.5500](tel:520.971.5500))

Fall Festival & Silent Auction:

Silent Auction proceeds provide Scholarships for Fee Based Programs at St. Paul's.

The Silent Auction on Sunday, October 5 is our primary annual fund raiser for scholarships, i.e. Upward Sports, Youth Group, Preschool, Harp Choir, etc. We hope you will contribute; please bring "NEW" items or Certificates for Services, i.e. haircuts, yard work, etc. to the church office (attn: Nancy Scott) during business hours.

This event has something for everyone! In addition to our

wonderful silent auction, there will be a wonderful church supper (\$1/person), entertainment featuring our own Michael DeSchalit, Youth Group Director and Magician Extraordinaire who will not only be our Master of Ceremonies, he will also treat us to a wonderful magic show. This will be fun for all ages!!

Are you looking for a short term commitment to get involved, have some fun and make a difference?

We are looking for additional volunteers to join the Stewardship Development Task Force to help plan the Fall Festival & Silent Auction and the Stewardship Campaign. Meetings will wrap up mid-November

Community Events (Chair: Linda Jones)

HALLOWEEN DAZE - Thank you to Julie Brown and Rick Hornback for stepping in as Co-Leaders with Linda Jones this year!! Sign up tables will be available between services in September for volunteer sign ups and to collect trick or treat candy donations. We are looking for volunteers to help with games, crafts, decorating doors in the Life Center for trick or treating and trunk or treat. Our St. Paul's Youth Group will be preparing The Haunted Maze which is always a big hit. Thank you Youth Group!! *Light meals will be available for only \$1/person.* Last year over 500 attended this event with many from nearby neighborhoods who do not regularly attend church. What a blessing that we can be a loving Christian community!

Coffee Table: Thank you to **Kairos Inside** for handling the coffee table in August.

The deadline for the October Epistle is Thursday, September 11th, at 5:00 PM. It will be mailed on Tuesday, September 22nd Please submit all Epistle articles to Leslie Daniels at lbd0714@msn.com.

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