

PASTOR'S NOTE

As I write this, Thanksgiving is still on the horizon. I have ordered my turkey dinner, fully cooked and complete with mashed potatoes, gravy, and pumpkin pie. All I have to do is buy some whipped cream and heat the turkey. From a culinary view – and I use that term loosely – this is one of my favorite times of the year. Beginning with Thanksgiving right through to New Years Day, there is an apparently unending river of delicious-ness. Turkey and stuffing, sweet potato casserole with marshmallows, creamed onions - an acquired taste – and pies, cookies, candy. Each taste better than the one before. And in my world, the holidays are the perfect excuse for over indulging.

As much as I enjoy the tastes and smells and abundance of the holidays, I am also aware that there are many whose tables will not be groaning after being loaded with too much food. Fortunately we live in a country and a community which is generous and caring. It does not take much urging for the people of Napoleon and St. Paul to open their hearts and their wallets to help meet the needs of those who are less fortunate. Through programs like Christmas Cheer, and the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, there is no reason for anyone to go hungry in Napoleon at the holidays. The various food banks, churches, and emergency services which are available try very hard to collaborate and make sure that no one in our area goes hungry.

There is another hunger, a hunger which sometimes gets overlooked by those of us who are already in the church. A hunger for God. As we prepare to greet the Christ Child at Christmas, sometimes we forget that not everyone knows the “real story” of Christmas. We can no longer assume or take for granted that everyone who drives by the church will recognize Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. In fact, some people will wonder why we are leaving that baby outside in the cold or snorting because there are cows and donkeys together, and in real life, you would never put cows and donkeys in the same area. Or so I've been told. What we in the church consider to be an integral part of celebrating and observing the season of Advent and Christmas, means nothing to people on the outside.

For far too many people, the “reason for the season” is to get and give presents. People anxiously prepare for the arrival of Santa Claus.

And the arrival of the three kings means the MasterCard, Visa, and Discovery bills are coming due. In fact, I sometimes wonder why saying “Merry Christmas” is still considered a “religious” saying, when so many people only associate it with over spending, over eating, and over committing.

This secular separation of Christmas and Christ, speaks to the hunger in our communities, in Napoleon, the hunger for God. As we are filling our shopping bags with canned goods and toys for those who are financially struggling, how are we working to satisfy their spiritual hunger? This is always the more difficult question.

People who are physically hungry, cold, or worried about what they are going to put under the tree for their children, recognize their hunger or their need. And it is easy to give a can of tuna, a blanket, or even a wrapped package to someone who can express their need. However, people who are spiritually hungry, frequently don't know that it is God that they are missing. They just know that they “need”, that something is missing in their life. That vacant spot, that emptiness which never quite goes away or gets filled, is a hunger for God.

This year, give a special gift to someone who is struggling. Share your faith story. Your faith story is how your life story is part of God's story. It's not your history of church attendance. Your faith story is the story of when you have experienced God's presence and activity in your life. It's when you have had an experience which can only be described as “a God thing” or a “God Incidence.” Introduce someone to your friend Jesus. Tell them how Jesus is making a difference in your life today. Not just an experience from childhood or several years ago, but today. And, now this is a big and, and if you can't tell someone how Jesus is making a difference in your life today, then you need to spend more time with Jesus yourself.

As a people of faith, let's commit to doing our best to making sure that Christ is in Christmas. For everyone.

With you on the journey,

Pastor Lindy

CHRISTMAS CHEER

*Christmas is just around the corner.
Henry County Christmas Cheer list of items
needed:*

Canned Vegetables

Fruits, Soups Stews, Meats

Macaroni & Cheese Mixes, Spaghettios

Spaghetti Sauces, Tomato Juice, Broths

Noodles, Macaroni, Rice, Spaghetti

Potato Mixes, Stuffing Mixes, Cereals,

Pancake Mixes, Syrups

Crackers, Peanut Butter, Jelly Pudding, Jell-

O, Cake Mixes, Frosting

Fruit Juices, Coffee, Tea, Kool-aid,

Chocolate Drink Mixes

Toilet Tissue, Facial Tissue, Paper towels

Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo

Bring in you items to the church office.

(Please no Microwave items)

THANK YOU

*Dear Pastor Lindy,
Thank you for everything.*

*Sincerely,
Peg Neuhauser*

*Thank you for sharing our sorrow.
Your kindness and thoughtfulness
are sincerely appreciated at this time,
and gratefully acknowledged.*

*The Family
of Paul Edward Neuhauser*

MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle

on Wednesday

December 11th, at 9:30 am

in the Flipside Room

Hosting:

Judy Gibson

The program will be given by Judy

As a reminder we will be doing our

Cookie Exchange

And yea, it's that time again

ladies, when we

draw for our new prayer partners.

*As always, all ladies are welcome
to come, and fellowship with us!*

*Always an enjoyable time
together in Christ!*

*Questions, contact person, Jan
Lanzer*

K – 5TH GRADE YOUTH

Our Wednesday Youth

K – 5th Grade

To share again what we do, with the kids. When we arrive, after school, we come together, downstairs. There's always a treat waiting for us. After this we get to go upstairs to the game room, for wind down time. (If they have home work to do, this would also be the time they can do it) Around 4:00 o'clock, we go to our room down stairs, where we do some games, or have a story.

We also learn more about the Bible stories, not only by reading scripture, we get to go to the room with a stage, and take part in drama, acting out, what our Scriptures is telling us, for the day. Special crafts are made as well.

There is also a workbook with pictures and questions, we can talk about. One that always gives us something to think about, is, "Where do you need God's help this week?" Then by 5:45, We go to the dining room, where we have a Prayer Circle, with all the Adults, as well as, the Jr./Sr. High Youth.

Our cooks always make something really special for us to eat, even desserts. We are done at 6:30.

Our Leaders are: Kristy Ranzau, Jan Lanzer & Jean Crawford

Submitted by Jan Lanzer

LUNCH WITH THE LORD

Won't you come and join us Tuesday's December 3 & 17, for lunch.

12:00 noon—1:00 pm

Take some time to spend with us share a hot meal and be apart of our open discussion of the bible.

We look forward to seeing you.



UM WOMEN

The United Methodist Women

will meet on

December 2, 2013

at 1:00 pm in the Flipside Room.

The History of the Salvation Army
Judy Gibson

Service Group Chair, JoAnn Hitts with
Lois Stites and Rose Gerken

A Bell is not a Bell 'til you ring it,
A Song is not a Song, 'til you sing it.
Love in your Heart wasn't
put there to stay. Love isn't Love
'til you give it away.

YOUTH

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ... The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ... Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Matthew 25:1-13, select verses

Advent. Who of you reading this know that the church is entering this special season of the church year? Even more importantly, who of you know what this season is about?

Advent is the season of the church year that immediately precedes Christmas and is about twice as long as Christmas! The actual number of days of Advent range from 22-28, though this year it is 24. The actual days of Christmas are 12, (December 25-January 6). We spend weeks, months even, preparing for the commercial celebration of Christmas. Advent is the time in the church year in which we spend deliberately preparing our hearts and souls for the real Christmas, the coming of Christ. Advent is not just about preparing to celebrate Jesus’ birthday, but about preparing to meet the bridegroom, to receive our King. Jesus will be returning. The season of Advent is to remind us to stay focussed on Jesus and prepare ourselves for His return.

The youth group will be leading it’s fourth annual midweek Advent service on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at 7:00 pm. Please join us for a service of readings and music. The offering collected on this night will be used to support the youth’s mission project for this year: The Lutheran Home.

Thank you for providing a safe place in which the

youth may learn to prepare for the return of Jesus Christ.

helena



ANGELS NEEDED

Jean Bremer and Joan Borstelman are in charge of our participation in the Historical Society’s Church Walk on December 14th. Starting at 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Angels will be used for decorations in the sanctuary.

Please bring in an Angels that you want to share with the public.

BELL RINGERS NEEDED

Salvation Army Bell Ringers are still needed.

The shifts are 2 hours each and we start at 10 am and finish at 8 pm.

You can call us at home or talk to me after the service. Bob & Mary Joseph at 419-592-4731 to volunteer.

COOKIE WALK

The 15th Annual Cookie Walk
SATURDAY – DECEMBER 14th,
10:00 am. – 1:00 pm.

COOKIE BAKERS!
CANDY MAKERS!

St. Paul's United Methodist Women
will sponsor their 15th Annual
Cookie Walk on Saturday,
December 14th.

We again will “ask” our
Church “family” for – “homemade”
cookie and candy donations.
Your donation is greatly appreciated!
As before proceeds will go to
Local and Out Reach Missions!
Jan Lanzer, Chairs



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School
Winter Session 2013-14
9:30 Flipside Room

(Books are available in the classroom)

JESUS and the Just Reign of GOD
Luke and James

Unit 1 GOD Sends JESUS

December 1 Jesus Birth Foretold
Luke 1:26-40

December 8 Mary's Song of Praise
Luke 1:46-56

December 15 Zechariah Prophecies
About His Son John
Luke 1:57-58, 67-79

December 22 Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-17

December 29 Jesus Is Presented in
the Temple
Luke 2:25-38

Questions, contact persons, Bob Joseph
and Wib Lanzer



Committees 2014

Administrative Council Chair:

Roger Latta

Recording Secretary

Rose Marie Cole

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Staff Parish Relations</u>		
Paul Heddaeus	Joan Bostleman - Chair	Briane Martin
Brenda Detmer	Sydney Ranzau	Anella Huff
<u>Trustees</u>		
Tom Baughman - Chair	Phil Johnson	Jan Heddaeus
Wib Lanzer	Duane Ressler	Doug Martin
<u>Finance</u>		
Marv Barlow - Treasurer	Jan Heddaeus	
Denise Iliff - Financial Secretary		
John Eddy		
<u>Worship</u>		
Judy Gibson	Jean Bremer - Chair	Joan Bostleman

Worship Assistants:

Phyllis Starkey, Linda Gerken,

Judy Pierce, Marlene Kigar

Education

Kristi Ranzau - Chair

All Sunday School, Youth, and Small Group Leaders

Lay Leadership

Pastor Lindy, Chair

Lay Leader Ellie Cichocki

Standing Committees

Scholarship

Roger Latta, Chair

Diane Ressler, Rose Marie Cole

Anella Huff, Phyllis Starkey & Bob Joseph

Farm committee

Steve Roby, Chair

Tom Baughman

Congregational Care

JoAnn Hitts, Chair

Anella Huff , Judy Gibson, Marlene Kigar, Karen Detmer

Jan Lanzer

Mission

Bob Joseph, Chair

Mary Joseph, Pat Degler, Anella Huff & Margie Neuhauser

FINANCIAL REPORT

St. Paul UMC
 Financial Update
 Operating Cash
 September 30, 2013

Six Months Ended Sept. 30, 2013	Six Months Ended Sept. 30, 2012
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Income/Available Funds

Account Bal. Jan. 1	\$3,648	\$5,629
Offerings	\$82,857	\$95,638
Support Accounts		
Parsonage Rent	\$12,126	\$11,526
Farm Rent	\$16,683	\$14,884
Missions	\$5,665	\$3,555
Total Income/Available Funds	\$120,979	\$131,232

Expenses:

Staff	\$71,341	\$69,708
Trustees	\$24,088	\$29,863
Missions	\$8,750	\$4,300
All Other	\$11,176	\$12,463
Total Expenses	\$115,355	\$116,334
Available Operating Cash	\$5,624	\$14,898

Notes:

- * Operating Cash - Funds used for the daily operations of the church plus Missions
- * Operating Cash has declined \$9,274 (63%) compared to the same period in 2012
- * Offerings are 13% less in 2013 than for the same period in 2012
- * Parsonage Rent is received monthly and Farm Rent is received in three payments during the year
- * Final Farm Rent payment for 2013 was received in October and is not reflected in this report
- * Total Expenses are nearly stable

Please contact Marv Barlow with any questions

December Birthdays

<i>Dean Hitts</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>
<i>Cindy Fruth</i>	<i>Dec 5</i>
<i>Marjorie Neuhauser</i>	<i>Dec 17</i>
<i>Roger Latta</i>	<i>Dec 25</i>

December Anniversaries

Janet & Donald Freeman Dec 16

January Birthdays

<i>JoAnn Hitts</i>	<i>Jan 12</i>
<i>Marv Barlow</i>	<i>Jan 22</i>
<i>Judy Gibson</i>	<i>Jan 22</i>
<i>Megan Cordes</i>	<i>Jan 28</i>
<i>Bonnie Eddy</i>	<i>Jan 28</i>

January Anniversaries

Jean & Charlie Bremer Jan 16

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>2</p> <p>United Methodist Women's Meeting 1:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am</p> <p>Lunch with the Lord 12:00 —1:00 pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm-8:00 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Girl Scouts meeting 6-7</p>	6	7
<p>8</p> <p>Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Mary Circle meeting 9:30 am</p> <p>After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm-8:00 pm</p> <p>Youth Advent Service 7:00 pm Congregation invited.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Girl Scouts meeting 6-7</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>15th Annual Cookie Walk 10:00 am - 1:00 pm</p> <p>Historic Society's Church walk 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am</p> <p>Lunch with the Lord 12:00 —1:00 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm -8:00 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Girls Scouts Meeting 6-7</p>	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service at St. Paul 7:00 pm</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am</p> <p>1st Sunday after Christmas</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am</p> <p>New Year Eve</p>				

**ST. PAUL UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

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Visit us on Facebook:
[stpaulnapoleon](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulnapoleon)



*In my Father's
house are many
dwelling places.
John 14:2*

COME WORSHIP WITH US:

Pastor Lindy Maurice-Saum invites you to
join us for the Children and Adult Sunday School
class at 9:30 am.

Our Sunday Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 am
check out our webpage.

[stpauldowntown@wordpress.com](http://stpauldowntown.wordpress.com)

You may contact us at: 419-592-0661 or at our email
address stpaulunitedmethodist@outlook.com or

visit us on Facebook: [stpaulnapoleon](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulnapoleon)