

## PASTOR'S NOTE

As 2013 winds down, I find myself feeling reflective, wondering where the year went. There were Sundays in worship and Wednesdays with the Youth. Time spent visiting, researching, reading, writing, and teaching. Meetings and preparing and dreaming and visioning. Planning, and praying. Walking the dog and making dinner.

2013 started with such promise. It was going to be the year I finally taught a Comparative Religion class, complete with field trips. It was going to be a year of getting healthy. Of moving beyond just reading the cookbooks to actually making some of the recipes. Now, 2014 is on the horizon, and for New Years Day I will probably spend some time doing research for my Comparative Religion class before I fix tuna and noodles for dinner.

Time is one of the great equalizers. No matter where we are in life, the very young, the very old, and everyone in between. Rich, poor, those with multiple college degrees and those whose formal education ended before high school graduation. No matter our gender, ethnicity, or station in life. We all get the same amount of time. No matter how many time saving devices I use, I can't generate more time or even stockpile the time I have saved to be used at a later date. The best I can do is try to be a good steward of the time I have, and one way I try to do that is by setting goals.

Goals and goal setting is a popular topic this time of year. Even if we don't reach our goals, they do serve to give us direction. Lewis Carroll said "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." This is true in our personal life, our spiritual life, and in the life of the church. And New Years is a great time to look at and evaluate our goals.

Granted, we can change up our goals any time. There is nothing magical about New Years. Unless you consider that it marks the beginning of the year. And with a "new" year, there is the idea of "new" possibilities, adventures, and opportunities.

When it comes to setting goals, thinking of the things I personally want to accomplish is the easy part. At any given time I have six or seven or twenty ideas floating around in my head. All things that I think I might want to do sometime.

So when the New Year rolls around, I don't have any problem coming up with goals. The problem is the follow through. Goals are easy to set, but without a plan to accomplish the goal, you really only have an idea.

In my personal life, I can set goals that are significant to me. Period. Starting an exercise program, committing to getting up earlier to read and pray, or setting aside time once a week to do something significant. Those are all things that only directly impact me. Oh sure, sometimes I think about my family and how what I want will affect them. I once set a goal of maintaining a vegetarian diet for one month. And being the chief cook at our house meant that everyone was basically a vegetarian for one month. We didn't make it past the first week. For some reason, tuna fish and noodles without the tuna just isn't as satisfying as one might imagine.

Time management and goal setting is also important for the church. Of course, in the church, setting goals is a little more complicated or tricky. First off, we usually don't call them goals. In the church, goal setting is known as "casting a vision". That's much more difficult than just setting a goal, because casting a vision mean getting the majority of the church members to buy into it, or believe in it. Casting a vision means realistically looking at where the church is today and dreaming or visioning about where **God** wants the church to be. That's hard work. Most of us are much more comfortable thinking about where we want the church to be. Or, nostalgically looking back at where the church used to be and wishing it could be that way again.

With the New Year on the horizon, it is time for us to begin thinking about casting a new vision for St. Paul. To help us do that, we will be having a Covenant Renewal Service during worship on January 12. This traditional service is a powerful time of self-examination and confession which leads to a renewal of commitment to discipleship. It reminds us of our commitment to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world, by the way we live and love every day. It is only when we are fully committed to Christ that we can hope to lead St. Paul in the direction God chooses.

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## A BIG THANK YOU!

*Thank you to the congregation for your generous gifts of blankets and afghans.*

*The Deshler Mission was able to give out 154 blankets to the children.*

*Thank you also for your gifts, we hope you had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a wonderful 2014.*

*Jan & Paul Heddaeus.*

## THANK YOU

*Dear Friends,*

*Thank you so much for your generous gift. It is a real privilege and blessing for me to serve with you. May you each have a joyous Christmas and blessed holy-day season.*

*Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Lindy*

## MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle Ladies  
Meeting will be  
Wednesday January 8, 2014  
at 9:30 am  
in the Flipside Room.  
Jan Lanzer is the host.  
The program will be given  
by JoAnn Hitts.  
All ladies are  
invited to join us for  
a fun time coming together  
in Christ.  
Questions, contact Jan Lanzer.

## UM WOMEN

The United Methodist Women  
will meet on  
January 6, 2014  
at 1:00 pm  
in the Flipside Room.  
We look forward to seeing  
everyone in the new year.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School

Winter Session 2014

9:30 Flipside Room

(Books are Available in the Classroom)

Jesus and the Just Reign of God

Luke

Unit 2	Jesus Ushers in the Reign of God
January 5	Honoring the Sabbath Luke 6:1-11
January 12	How to Live as God's People Luke 6:17-31
January 19	Jesus Teaches About Relationships Luke 14:7-18a,22-24
January 26	Jesus Teaches Compassion for the Poor Luke 16:19-31

Questions, contact persons,  
Bob Joseph and Wib Lanzer

## LUNCH WITH THE LORD

Won't you come and join us  
Tuesday's January 7 & 21, 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.

### *PASTOR'S NOTE*

Following this service, we will continue to pray Wesley's Covenant Prayer every week, as a way of asking for God's direction for the church.

I pray that you will join on this journey, by including this powerful prayer in your personal prayer life. But be warned, when we actively yield ourselves to God, there is no telling where God will take us. Or the church.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Lindy*

#### Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

## COOKIE WALK REPORT

“God’s blessings” and a big thank you to all those who helped in any way to make our 15th Annual Cookie Walk a success!

We couldn’t have done it with out you.

The time given in prayer, baking, candy making, donations, set-up - all are greatly appreciated! Just coming together in fellowship, is truly a blessing when we serve our Lord!

At this time we have over \$691.40. Money is still coming in and will be used for the local and out-reach Missions of the United Methodist Women.

Again, thank you.  
Jan Lanzer, Chair



## YOUTH

The members of the youth group would like to thank you for worshipping with us in celebration of the coming of our Messiah and for your generous support of the Lutheran Home with the offering collected that evening. Thank you!!!

If you are reading this message before January 6, we are still in the Christmas season in the Church. For some reason, thinking of the Christmas season this year has often brought to mind the popular song, “The 12 Days of Christmas.” The list of gifts is quite numerous and they are unique. But there is no gift as unique as the gift we receive in Immanuel, God with us; God walking among us in flesh. Outside of his sacrifice, there is no greater gift that we can receive.

Yet, God’s gifts neither begin nor end with the birth of Jesus. God had been gifting the people for centuries. God continues to give us gifts to this day. The Lord has given St. Paul a very special gift and I encourage you to cherish it and nurture it with all that you have. The Lord has blessed you with the presence of young people, youth who are hungry for the Lord, who desire to worship Him and live lives that please Him. They are very much aware of the gift that you give them by opening up your building to them and providing a warm, delicious, and nutritious meal for them. Teia Zimmerman, one of our youth, created a church winter scene as a Christmas gift to the congregation. You are encouraged to go up to the youth wing and take a look at this marvelous creation.

The youth have several other special activities planned for the remainder of the program year. Please feel free to visit with them on Wednesday evenings anytime between after school and supper which is about 5:45 pm. You are always welcome to worship with us in the flip-side room around 6:30 pm.

Praising the God with us!

*helena*



**Gregory V. Palmer**  
Resident Bishop | Ohio West Area



## *Testifying With Mary and Others in Advent*

On the second Sunday of Advent I had the opportunity to worship with one of the congregations of our conference. It was a joy and privilege. One of the pastors appointed to serve the congregation preached from Luke 1:26-56 and as you might expect focused on the unique angle of view that Mary brings to the God who is with us in Jesus Christ. The text for preaching includes what we have come to call the Magnificat (see verses 46-55). Mary has quite a story and quite a testimony to the activity of God and the invitation to her to be a big part of God's saving action.

The preacher also made great use of the stories of real people in real time. By prior arrangement and with her permission and blessing some of the story of one of the women in the congregation was shared. The intent was to point to the power of redemptive community. This particular woman's story included addiction, imprisonment and poverty. But when asked to share how long she had been sober she enthusiastically jumped to her feet and shared in years and days the length of her sobriety. She is a leader in this particular congregation and a visionary entrepreneur. She testifies to the power of the risen Christ and the community formed by him to make a difference in the lives of people.

On this same Sunday morning in this same church I attended a Christian formation group for men. The group was warm and welcoming and newcomers and visitors could fit in easily. As the men went around and shared about their week I heard not a few of the men point to the power of God and the ministry of this particular church in their lives. They spoke freely, honestly and openly about the past, the present and the future. They too were testifying.

The theme that seemed to tie the whole morning together for me was testimony: Mary and Elizabeth's testimony and the testimonies of women and men at this particular local church. I happen to believe that testifying and bearing witness to the activity and power of God in our lives is freeing and healing. Testimony empowers individuals and communities.

*Practicing Our Faith, A Way of Life for a Searching People* is a 1997 book edited by Dorothy C. Bass. It contains essays on twelve practices of Christian communities. I found the book and study guide useful in the late '90's. I turn to it now and again to refresh myself on these important practices that have formed, shaped and sustained Christian communities over time. One of the essays in the book is entitled "Testimony." It was written by Bishop Thomas Hoyt, Jr. a bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, who joined the church triumphant about six weeks ago. Bishop Hoyt says "In testimony, people speak truthfully about what they have experienced and seen, offering it to the community for the edification of all." He further points out "In different ways, testimony happens in every vital Christian community."

So in these Advent days of watching and waiting what about the activity of God in your life:

- Fills you with the Holy Spirit? (v. 41)
- Makes you blurt out blessings with a loud voice? (v. 42)
- Causes you to rejoice in God your savior? (v. 46)

On the way to Bethlehem with you I am,

Yours in Christ Jesus

Gregory V. Palmer



## Committees 2014

Administrative Council Chair:

Roger Latta

Recording Secretary

Rose Marie Cole

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

## Committees Continue

### 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

### Missions

Bob Joseph - Chair

Mary Joseph, Pat Degler, Anella Huff & Margie Neuhauser

## Taxes

# Free Tax Preparation

**AARP Tax-Aide** is the nation's largest volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service for low- and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those ages 60 and older.

The Napoleon branch will be preparing tax returns at St. Paul United Methodist Church from February 5 through April 9.

Most individual Federal, State, and School District tax returns can be prepared and e filed. There is no charge for the service, no age limit and AARP membership is not required.

If interested, please call the Henry County Senior Center at 419-599-5515 to make an appointment. Preparation days will normally be on Wednesdays with some exceptions.

## *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*

## *February Birthdays*

<i>Howard Gable</i>	<i>2 Feb</i>
<i>Karen Detmer</i>	<i>6 Feb</i>
<i>Charlie Bremer</i>	<i>9 Feb</i>
<i>Wib Lanzer</i>	<i>13 Feb</i>
<i>Elaine Harmon</i>	<i>14 Feb</i>
<i>Jean Chase</i>	<i>20 Feb</i>

## *February Anniversaries*

*Ellie & John Cichocki 25 Feb*



# St. Paul United Methodist Church

Making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World

## January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  No After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm-8:00 pm  New Years Day	2  No Girl Scouts meeting	3	4
5 Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am  Epiphany Sunday  Administrative Council meeting after service	6  United Methodist Women Meeting 1:00 pm	7  Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am  Lunch with the Lord 12:00 —1:00 pm	8 Mary Circle meeting 9:30 am  After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm-8:00 pm	9  Girl Scouts meeting 6-7  Tax training class 9 am — 2:30 pm	10  Tax training class 9 am — 2:30 pm	11  <b>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b>
12 Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am	13  Tax training class 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	14  Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am  Tax training class 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	15  After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm -8:00 pm  Tax training class 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	16  Girls Scouts Meeting 6-7	17	18
19 Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 am  Ecumenical Sunday	20  Martin Luther King's Jr. Birthday Observance	21  Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am  Lunch with the Lord 12:00 - 1:00 pm	22  After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm -8:00 pm	23  Girls Scouts Meeting 6-7	24  Pastor Lindy on vacation Denise on vacation	25  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation
26 Children Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 Gideon Speaker—Worship 10:30 am  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation  9	27  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation	28  Men's Prayer Breakfast at Hill's Restaurant 7:00 am  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation	29  After School & Youth Program 3:00 pm -8:00 pm  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation	30  Girls Scouts Meeting 6-7  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation	31  Pastor Lindy & Denise on vacation	

**ST. PAUL UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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

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*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 new webpage at [stpaulum.com](http://stpaulum.com)**

You may contact us at: 419-592-0661 or at our email  
address [stpaulunitedmethodist@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulunitedmethodist@outlook.com)

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