

# **St Paul Partners**

**February 2009**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown**

**The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor**

**[www.stpaulstartown.org](http://www.stpaulstartown.org)**

## **Mission Statement**

We the people of St. Paul are called and empowered by God-

To **Witness** through Christ; To **Welcome** everyone through the Holy Spirit: to **Worship** with joy; and to **Work** with God to meet the needs of our community.

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This month's newsletter is sponsored by Dot Fisher in honor of our dedicated Church Staff at St. Paul.

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## **Souper Bowl Sunday – February 1st**

Members of both of our Youth Groups will hold soup pots at church doors on Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, February 1, 2009 . They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2008, over 14,000 groups participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring generating over \$10 million. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant. No money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. Organizers only ask that each participant report their collection so national totals can be determined and announced. Since the Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990, more than \$50 million has gone to help people in need.

**Last year St. Paul donated \$746.61** to the Corner Table Soup Kitchen. We have participated in this for 5 years, donating a total of \$2,326.61 to help feed the hungry. And with our Annual Canned Food Drive and Summer Crisis Appeal, we donated over 4 tons of food to ECCCM, making St. Paul one of the leading congregations in Catawba County in donations.

**Our goal this year is \$800!**

Eight hundred dollars will feed everyone at the Corner Table for 9 days! Our

Canned Food Drive in March will go to ECCCM. Please support the St. Paul Youth in this effort to “love our neighbors” by dropping your “love” in the soup pot on Sunday, February 1, and shopping for the Food Drive next month.

## **Book Of Faith Initiative Events for February**

### **Sermon Series – Getting to Know Elijah the Prophet**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Bible Passages</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Reading</u></b>
2/1	Elijah & the Widow	I Kings 17:8-16	I Kings 17: 1-24
2/8	Elijah & the Priests of Baal	I Kings 18: 25 -39	I Kings 18: 1-46
2/15	Elijah & the Sound of God	I Kings 19:1-13	I Kings 19:1-21
2/22	Elijah is Taken to Heaven	II Kings 2:3-15	II Kings 2:1-25

### **Elijah Quiz – How much do you know already?**

#### ***True or False***

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Elijah is a king of Israel . (I Kings 16:29 - 17:1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ahab was a just and faithful king. (I Kings 16:30 )
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jezebel was a wicked queen. (I Kings 21)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Baal is another name for God Almighty.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Elijah means “My God is Yahweh”.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A wadi is a river valley.

\_\_\_\_\_7. Elijah challenged the Prophets of Baal to a duel with wet cows.

(I Kgs 20-40)

\_\_\_\_\_8. God appeared to Elijah in the sound of rushing wind. (I Kings 19:11 -13)

\_\_\_\_\_9. Elisha is Elijah's son. (I Kings 19:19 )

\_\_\_\_\_10. Elijah was taken to heaven by a chariot of fire. (II Kings 2:3-15)

***Fill in the blank with the correct answer.***

I Kings 17

Elijah told Ahab that it would not \_\_\_\_\_ until Elijah commanded it.

Elijah lived in a wadi and was fed by \_\_\_\_\_ while he hid from Ahab.

Elijah lived with a \_\_\_\_\_ and her son after the wadi dried up.

The jar of \_\_\_\_\_ and jug of \_\_\_\_\_ did not run empty while Elijah stayed there.

When the son died, \_\_\_\_\_ laid down on him and he came back to life.

I Kings 18

Ahab ruled the country of \_\_\_\_\_.

Ahab and Jezebel worship the god \_\_\_\_\_ and Asherot.

Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount \_\_\_\_\_ .

Elijah called on God to light to fires for the \_\_\_\_\_ of bulls.

Elijah outran the \_\_\_\_\_ of Ahab and beat him to the city of Jezereel .

**Finance Ministry**

The Finance Committee for 2009 consists of Howard Reinhardt, Treasurer and Chair, Martha Staley, Chair of Stewardship, Amanda Lowman, Chair of Audit Committee, Dick Walker, Jerry Sweet, and Judy Hoke. The committee met on January 18 with everyone present except for Martha Staley to discuss several areas of finance.

A recommendation is being sent to the church council to approve the volunteers for counting Sunday offerings. A workshop is being planned for these members soon after they are approved.

Another recommendation is that a special fund be established in regards to the future replacement of the roof on the Sanctuary. It is understood that the roof will need to be replaced in the near future and that it will be rather expensive. It will be good if we have the money set aside for this when we need it. This fund will be for church members to designate contributions. If approved, the 2010 offering envelopes can have a special line for this.

Another main item of discussion centered on how to keep ministry committee chairpersons aware of their budget area in an effort to keep expenses within what has been budgeted.

All church members are encouraged to give as much as possible to the Lord's work in our church.

Howard Reinhardt, Treasurer

## **Leadership Ministry**

The St. Paul Constitution describes the responsibilities of the Church council members as such:

### **8.12.03 Council member responsibilities are:**

- a. To commit to attend monthly and called council meetings and the annual planning retreat.
- b. To agree to serve on a committee.
- c. To attend worship regularly and partake of the sacraments frequently.
- d. To give financial support to the church as God may prosper.
- e. To support the Pastor and other staff members in our mutual ministry.
- f. To be an example to others by good works and good words.
- g. To work with other council members in a spirit of willing co-operation to achieve the mission and goals of this ministry.

### **Council Members for 2009:**

Gail Blackburn, Glenn Hoke, Robin Rudisill, Dick Walker, Otis Morton, Frank Moxham, Scott Bowman, Roger Frye, Steve Bumgarner, Vivian Scott, Barbara Sloop, Martha Staley

## Treasurer's Report

### **Leadership Ministry, continued**

#### **ReVision Update**

At the 2009 Annual Retreat held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, our Church Council and the 2009 Committee chairs reviewed the ReVision Initiatives developed by our congregation last spring. They were challenged to look back over the last 8 months and see what had been accomplished towards meeting our objectives. Here are their observations:

## **The First Year Initiatives for St. Paul to work on and develop are:**

1. Evaluation of current Youth Ministries, addressing issues, and developing strategies to facilitate vibrant growth for the future.
2. Improve communication w/in St. Paul and in the greater Startown community.
3. Existing ministry committees to look for and promote new and exciting ministries in their areas of responsibility.

### ■ **Youth and Family Life**

- Budgeted new position
- Budgeted for Family Events
- Youth Involvement at Corner Table, ECCCM, & Summer Mission
- Expanded Children's Music Ministry w/Musicals and Jr. Hand Bells
- New Sunday School Curriculum for Fall 2009
- Adult/Parent Educational classes/seminars planned

### ■ **Improve Communication w/in Congregation and in Community**

- Communications Committee is forming
- Phone Tree Ministry is in process of development
- Web Site is in process of development
- Marquee Announcements tell of Upcoming Events
- Living Nativity registered guests and handed out Upcoming Events
- Trunk-n-Treat registered guests and handed out Upcoming Events
- Invitations to Special events for members to distribute

- Digital Picture Frame in Hallway
- Instituting reporting formats and procedures for Committees to Council

■ **New ministry programs or facilities improvements**

- Movie Nights at both campuses
- New Playground Equipment at both campuses
- New Lounge on Main Floor of church building
- Children's Music Room in basement of church building
- Special Concerts at both campuses
- Prayer/Education Workshops planned at both campuses

## **Learning Ministry**

**Congratulations** go out to Julie Coulter Nester for earning her Master's Degree in Elementary Education this past December from Appalachian State University. Julie teaches in the Catawba County School System.

### **Adult Catechuminate Classes**

The Adult Catechism Classes begun with Pastor Chris in Fall 2007 will resume on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Fellowship Class. Those who have been participating will receive their mailing with materials the first week of February. The classes will conclude in April.

### **Confirmation News**

We have 4 confirmation students involved in learning and growing in the faith this year. Spencer Travis, Maggie Kanipe, Beth Robinson, and Daniel Robinson meet weekly with Pastor Chris in a rigorous examination of Scripture. Each week, they have daily homework of reading and answering questions from Scripture, a test on the previous week's material,

and lecture/discussion. They also have unit tests every 8 weeks on everything they have covered. They have been quite faithful in their work and are doing quite well. Continue to encourage them and pray for them.

### **Confirmation Camp**

This summer, we will have 3 students attending Camp Lutherock for a week of fun, making new friends, and learning and experiencing new and different ways of knowing our Lord. We will be leaving on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and returning on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Maggie Kanipe, Beth Robinson, Daniel Robinson, and Pastor Chris in your prayers.

### **Vacation Bible School**

The dates for St. Paul's Vacation Bible School are: June 21 – 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be classes and activities for all ages, nursery through Adults. So put the dates on your calendar and plan on attending another great week of fun, fellowship and growing in our faith. If you would like to help with VBS, please see Chantae Lail, Reba Reinhardt, or Barbara Sloop, or call the church office and we will relay the information to them.

## **Fellowship Ministry**

### **Valentines Dinner**

The Fellowship Sunday School Class is hosting a Valentines Dinner honoring those in our church family who are widows or widowers. This special event will be Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Invitees may bring a guest. Members of the Fellowship Class will provide transportation as needed. In addition to the meal, there will be entertainment and of course good fellowship.

### **Mid-Week Lenten Meals**

Mid-Week Lenten Soup and Sandwich dinners will begin on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm . Lenten services will begin at 7pm . Please plan on joining us for great food, fellowship, and worship opportunities.

## **Congregational Beach Retreat**

Our annual Retreat at Kure Beach Lutheran Retreat Center is set for Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. We have kept the costs the same as last year, but added an extra meal to the package. We are also willing to set up payment plans for those who would like to do so. So, reserve the dates, make your plans, start digging out your old swim suits, and look for bargains on suntan lotion. Fill out the registration form on the next page and plan on joining our brothers and sisters for a great weekend at the beach.

## **Worship Ministry**

### **Worship Schedule for Lent and Easter**

+Ash Wednesday, February 25 @7pm.

+Mid-Week Services begin on Wed. March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

+Mid-Week Soup and Sandwich Suppers begin on March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15

+Holy Week Services

-Maundy Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

-Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

-Stations of the Cross – here – open from 12-3pm

-Community Service – here @ 7:30pm

+Easter Sunday Celebrations @ 8:15 and 10:30am

-The Community Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast - TBA

**“Sun, Fun, and Friendship...”**

**What:** Fun and Fellowship

**When:** Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Kure Beach Lutheran Retreat Center, Kure Beach, NC

**Cost:** \$115/person, includes lodging and 6 meals

\$45/child, 12 years old and under

**Worship:** Yes

**Bible Study:** "Does God Have a Sense of Humor?"

**Group Activities:** Yes

**Free Time:** Lots and Lots more!

**Deposit:** ½ due by Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Balance:** due by Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

**Set up a payment plan?** Sure, see Pastor Chris

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**Reservation Form for Kure Beach Retreat**

Yes, we would like to attend the Kure Beach Retreat on July 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\*if under 12 years old, please identify

Deposit is attached: Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

## **WELCA NEWS**

### **Seminary Auxiliary Sunday**

Our St. Paul Women of the ELCA will be collecting donations for the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Auxiliary beginning on February 22 and running through March. These funds are used by the Seminary Auxiliary to buy things which are not in the Seminary's budget such as welcome baskets for new students, summer camp scholarships for children of Seminary students, and room furnishings for overnight guests of the Seminary.

If you would like to donate \$100 or more, you can make someone a life member of the Seminary Auxiliary. Anything you can afford to give will be much appreciated by the men and women who are training to be leaders in our ELCA.

Please place your donation in an envelope, mark it Seminary Auxiliary, and put it in the offering plate or give it to Barbara Sloop, treasurer of our St. Paul WELCA. Checks should be made to St. Paul WELCA with “Seminary Auxiliary” written on the memo line. Thanks for your support of this worthy cause.

### **“Stewards of Children - Darkness to Light”**

On Sunday, February 8, from 2-4:30pm , St. Paul will host this national program that teaches adults to recognize, react responsibly, and report sexual abuse of children. It is an *evidence-based educational tool* for sexual abuse prevention. The program believes and teaches that child safety is an adult’s job. It is lead by the Children’s Advocacy Council of Catawba County.

“Stewards of Children” is motivational and compelling. It is designed for organizations such as schools, churches, youth organizations, camps, and after-school programs that serve children, tweens, and/or teens, providing prevention training for staff, volunteers, parents, and other interested adults.

We invite you to join us as we seek to provide safe environments, and compassionate, well-informed hearts as we teach and care for the children of our community.

To register, or for more information, please call the Children’s Advocacy Council of Catawba County @ 465-9296. Please ask for Adrienne Opdyke

## **Boy Scouts Troop 398 News**

Senior Patrol Leader     Jonathon Jarrett

Scorpion Patrol Leader     Luke Setzer

Viper Patrol Leader      Jonah Temple

During October the troop attended the District Camporee. The scouts participated in events against other troops in the district and brought home eight ribbons, five of which were first place.

The November camping trip was hosted Todd Lutz. The scouts made camp on his farm and work on merit badge requirements appropriate for their rank advancements. They had a great time working and playing together.

Novembers projects were Scouting for Food and removing the leaves from the parking/walking areas at the church and Mission property. Scouting for Food produced 950 lbs. of canned and dried goods for ECCCM. Thank you for your donations.

December's outing was hiking and exploration of the Guilford Courthouse and Battlefield. The scouts hiked 6 miles of trails thru and around this Revolutionary War Battlefield. They completed the museum's questionnaire by researching the museum and ground and earned the National Historic Trails badge. Popcorn was also delivered in December and, thanks to your help, the scouts earned enough for eleven scouts to attend a week of summer camp.

During December's Court of Honor, five new scouts joined your troop. Four scouts earned rank advancement: Jonathon Bell – Life Scout, Jonah Temple and Daniel Robinson – First Class Scout and Jonathon Heffelfinger – Tenderfoot Scout.

Respectfully Submitted;

The Leaders and Scouts of Troop 398

## **Youth Ministry**

### **Sr. Youth MLK Service Day**

On Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Senior Youth of St. Paul spent the day together in fellowship and service to the “least of these.” We printed, folded, and mailed a letter to all of the churches in Catawba County inviting them to the workshop that St. Paul is hosting next month, “Darkness to Light”, concerning sexual abuse of children. We think that this workshop is important and wanted to help get the word out. Then we visited the Corner Table and spent a couple of hours cleaning and disinfecting the whole place. We thought that many of these people who eat here don’t have the money for good medical care and by cleaning and disinfecting, we are helping them to stay healthier. Then we discussed, designed, and designed a program we are going to present to Witness Committee to help collect canned food for ECCCM. Following all of that, we relaxed and went to the movies to see “Mall Cop” and then had dinner at Cracker Barrel. We know that God is motivating us to help others. We know that God loves us, and we know, that as Lutherans, Pastor Chris continually reminds us that “everything we do is a response to God’s love.” So, Thanks God for all that you do for us, and in us.

It was a great day.

### **Souper Bowl Sunday – Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**

All Youth, Jr. and Sr. are invited to help in the collection of offerings following each Worship Service on Souper Bowl Sunday. Please see Sandy Robinson if you attend 1<sup>st</sup> Service, or Michelle Potter if you attend 2<sup>nd</sup> Service, for your instructions. All of the offerings, 100%, that you collect in your soup pots will be given to the Corner Table Soup Kitchen.

### **Senior Youth Schedule**

- 2/1 12-2pm – Souper Bowl Sunday – Lunch at El Paso following Worship- \$10
- 2/8 6:30-8 – Mystery Trip – Bring \$ for a milkshake on the way back
- 2/15 6:30-8 – Servant Sunday – In-house Servant Project at St. Paul

2/22 6:30-8 – Dinner and Miniature Golf at Udderly Delicious - \$7

### **Jr. Youth Schedule – Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**

We will meet for Lunch and many, many games and activities on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm. If you would like to invite friends, please do so, just let Pastor Chris know, if possible, so we can plan for lunch. You will need to bring \$5 for lunch and activities.

## **Youth Ministry, Continued**

### **Pastor's Honor Roll**

All Jr. Youth (grades 2-6) are invited to participate in a new ministry called Pastor's Honor Roll. It involves participation in activities at St. Paul, Bible reading at home, and memory work. Those who surpass the minimum goals for each month will receive awards and prizes. If you are interested, you may find out about it at Jr. Youth meetings, or Wednesday Night KFC, or just call Pastor Chris.

## **Agape Day Camp News**

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to 3pm – Camp Agape will bring their Summer

Staff here to St. Paul's Mission Campus for a **free** day of PreCamp. Invite your friends and come and have some fun with your friends and the Agape Counselors! (for rising 1<sup>st</sup> through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders only)

**Monday, July 20** through Friday, July 24 -**Agape Day Camp** here. Registration materials will be in next months newsletter. The cost will be the same as last year, \$125/child.

### **Scholarship Assistance**

There is scholarship money available. Also, for all St. Paul children who participate in the *Pastor's Honor Roll* and complete at least eighty percent of the requirements, they will receive *a \$100 scholarship* to camp.