

St Paul Partners

November 2009

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown
www.stpaulstartown.org

The Rev. Chris Christopher, Pastor
church office: 828-464-3853

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.

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Pr. Chris and Theresa Christopher
To the Glory of God and in the Love of Christ

Trunk - N - Treat

Saturday
October 31st
5-8 pm



Even If you have not registered, bring your car or your lawn chair, some candy, and have a great time at St. Paul's biggest Community Outreach Event of the Year

All Saints' Day

Sunday
November 1st
8:15 and 10:30 am

Special Worship Services to Remember our Loved Ones who rest in the arms of our Merciful Savior



And to Remember the Promises of our God to all of His Children

Community Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday
November 25th
New Star Church
(across from Big Red)
7pm



the preacher is
Rev. Adam Spaugh of
New Hope Moravian

Give Thanks
and
Celebrate with our
Neighbors
What God has done
for us!

Book of Faith Activities for November 2009

Date	Title	Bible Passages	Weekly Reading
11/1	The New Jerusalem	Revelation 21	Isaiah 55-56
11/8	Sampson and Delilah	Judges 16: 4-20	Judges 13-16
11/15	The Reluctant Prophet	Jonah 3:1-4:2	Jonah 1- 4
11/22	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	James 1-3
11/29	John the Baptist	John 1: 6-28	Malachi 1- 4

True or False

- ___ 1. The streets in the New Jerusalem are paved with gold. (Rev. 21)
- ___ 2. God's word sometimes doesn't accomplish God's will. (Isaiah 55)
- ___ 3. Sampson was captured because his eyes were gouged out. (Judges 16)
- ___ 4. Jonah did not think that certain people should be saved. (Jonah 3-4)
- ___ 5. The main characteristic of being a good neighbor is righteousness. Luke 10)
- ___ 6. Talk is cheap, faith requires action. (James 2)
- ___ 7. If you believe Jesus is Christ, you are a Child of God. (John 1)
- ___ 8. People of faith rob God. (Malachi 3)

John the Baptist – from the Learning Bible

John is sometimes called the last “Old Testament prophet” because of the warnings he brought about God's judgment and because he announced the coming of God's Messiah. Luke reports that John was born to an old couple named Elizabeth and Zechariah, who had learned from the angel Gabriel that God was going to give them a son. This son would have special work to do in preparing the way for God's Messiah (Luke 1.13-17, 57-66).

In the Gospels, John is described as a prophet who preached in the desert, warning people that they should get ready for the new thing God was going to do (Matt 3.1-12). John wore clothes made of camel hair (2 Kgs 1.8), and he ate grasshoppers and wild honey (Lev 11.20-23). He told the people of Israel that they could not count on being accepted by God simply because they were descendants of Abraham. They had to realize how they were disobeying God and how they could get ready to accept the new powerful messenger God was going to send to live among them (Luke 3.16).

John baptized people who were sorry for their sins and many people thought he was the Messiah (Luke 3.15). But John told everyone that the Messiah would be more powerful than he was (Luke 3.16,17). Jesus compared John with Elijah, the prophet who many believed would come back before God judged the world (Matt 11.14), and he said that John's work was to prepare people for the coming of God's kingdom (Matt 11.10). Herod Antipas, a son of Herod the Great, ordered that John the Baptist be killed (Matt 14.1-12).

Finance Ministry

Finance Committee Members are: Howard Reinhardt, Treasurer/Finance chair; Judy Hoke, Amanda Lowman, Martha Staley-Stewardship Chair, Jerry Sweet, and Dick Walker.

Treasurer's Report for September 2009

GENERAL FUND	September	September	YTD	YTD
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
INCOME				
Contributions	26,149.83	20,283.82	235,348.47	195,020.45
EXPENSES				
Benevolence	25,542.67	2,201.00	22,884.03	20,059.00
Pastoral Support	9,487.00	9531.5	85,383.00	73,418.82
Finance Ministry	129.17	117.75	1,162.53	957.76
Support Ministry	8,764.76	6,866.26	78,882.84	72,628.56
Property Ministry	2,859.16	1,604.09	25,732.44	25,245.06
Learning Ministry	715.41	197.41	6,438.69	4,848.87
Worship Ministry	512.07	63.94	4,608.63	1,349.83
Witness Ministry	322.90	75.25	2,906.10	1,060.59
Communications	250.00	0.00	2,250.00	0.00
Welcome Ministry	166.66	0.00	1,499.94	290.96
<u>Youth Ministry</u>	<u>400.02</u>	<u>186.60</u>	<u>3,600.18</u>	<u>421.29</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	26,149.82	20,843.80	235,348.38	200,280.74
INCOME - EXPENSES		-559.98		-5,260.29
September 30 Checkbook balance:		1,469.44		

<u>GOOD SAMARITAN</u>	September 1, 2009	Balance	2672.71
<u>FUND</u>		Contributions	685.00
		Paid out (Help given))	681.49
	September 30, 2009	Balance	2,676.22

We still need more contributions to match spending.

MAKE IT SIMPLE Stewardship 2009

The Stewardship Ministry extends our sincere appreciation to all members who taken the "next step" in your support of St. Paul. As of 10-24-09, we have received Time & Talent forms from 84 adults and 9 children and youth. Pledge receipts now total \$129,184 towards our 2010 budget of \$279,264.

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your Time & Talent and Commitment cards, we encourage you to bring them to worship in the next few weeks, or drop them by the church office - whichever is "simpler" for you. Extra forms are available in the narthex and the hallway outside the church office.

This is your church, and it needs your support to serve, thrive and grow.



Leadership Ministry

Council President: Otis Morton
Secretary: Gail Blackburn

Vice-president: Steve Bumgarner
Treasurer: Howard Reinhardt

Council: Dick Walker, Robin Rudisill, Glenn Hoke, Frank Moxham, Roger Frye, Scott Bowman, Martha Staley, Barbara Sloop, and Vivian Scott.

Highlights – October 2009 Council Meeting

- 1) Approval of Blood Drive to be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010.
- 2) Approved a "Rosebud Policy" to be printed in the newsletter
- 3) Approved a book fair from November 1 to 15 to display in Fellowship Hall.
- 4) Approval to discontinue soup & sandwich during Advent but continue for Lenten season
- 5) Approval to allow Thrivent matching funds for 2010 & 2011 be placed in a designated fund to be used to fund first and second year participants campfirmation.
- 6) Approval to allow Pastor Chris prepare a condensed version of material regarding the new ELCA Ministry policy for council use
- 7) Approved council request that Pastor Christopher attend the CORE meeting to be held in Salisbury along with any council members that may want to attend.
- 8)

"Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers." *Philippians 4:6*

Annual Meeting Highlights:

1. New Council Members elected for a 3 year term: Marty Coulter, Kathy Frye, Howard Reinhardt, Lee Robinson. They will be installed in January. Appreciation was shown for outgoing members: Gail Blackburn, Glenn Hoke, Robin Rudisill, and Dick Walker.
2. The 2010 Budget/Ministry Spending Plan was approved.
3. Discussion was held regarding the recent ELCA Ministry Policy, with Council studying the different options for response to bring to the congregation discussion.

Learning Ministry

The Learning Committee is staffed by Robin Fincannon, Linda Lutz, Linda Morton, Reba Reinhardt, Barbara Sloop, and Sharron Scronce, (and Pastor Chris).

First Communion

We celebrated with some of our young Christians as they and their families completed their first instruction in the practice of Holy Communion last month. **Karina Coulter, Natalie Lail, Savannah Lail, Macy Landis, Connor McNeil, Everly McNeil, and Brigman Potocki** studied with their parents and began their Lutheran theological training concerning the practice and understanding of Holy Communion. On Sunday, October 18th we honored their growth in faith by awarding each of them a beautiful, Children's Story Bible, and invited each of them with their families to the first table at Communion. We celebrate their growth in this means of grace and their introduction to the Lord's walk with them.

Pastor's Honor Roll

Congratulations to **Ambria Duncan, Joseph Duncan, Gracen Hoyle, Rachel Hoyle, Faith Kanipe, Natalie Lail, Connor McNeil, Caroline Morton, Mikaela Simmons, and "Kit-Kat" Stulpin** for working hard and making the October Pastor's Honor Roll. They grew in their knowledge of Scripture and relationship with the Lord, and earned ONE POUND of CANDY and for their efforts.

To make the Honor Roll, they must accumulate 90 or more points each month. They earn points by: Sunday School Attendance, Worship Attendance, Bible Story reading and completion of a weekly worksheet, memory work, and Youth Group attendance. Pray for them and give thanks for their parents who help and support their efforts to **Grow in the Lord and His Word.**

Christmas Play – Practice begins in November! Watch the bulletins for details.

St. Paul Lutheran Reads the Bible in 90 Days: - See Page 9

Women of the ELCA - (WELCA)

The Sisters in Spirit will not host a meeting during November. Instead, our Circle members will visit their list of Shut-Ins.

The Sunshine Circle's October Meeting will meet on Monday, November 9th at 10am in the Fellowship Hall for a regular meeting. If you are at home during the day and are not part of a Women's Circle, come and check us out.

Welcome Ministry

The Welcome Committee is chaired by Jane Bumgarner. Those on the committee are: Rita Bass, Steve Bumgarner, Jeanette Coulter, Kristi Grimes, Judy Hoke, Gloria Lentz, Laura Lutz, Glenda Shook, and Linda Sweet.

- The **Seekers and Fellowship Sunday School** classes will be providing sandwiches for those coming to or working at the Trunk or Treat. Welcome Committee is getting volunteers to sign up to provide the food.
- There will be **no soup and sandwich meals** prior to the service during Advent this year, as this is a hardship on those who prepare and serve.
- **The Living Nativity** is Dec. 5 at the Mission Campus from 5-8:00 pm. Committee members will be working to purchase and serve a hot beverage and cookies for those attending. Committee members are to bring their coffee makers or urns to help in preparing the hot beverage.
- The **Church Council and Committee Chair Retreat** will be held Jan. 9 at Hospice.
- The **next meeting** will be Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Special Events and Communications

Keith Frye chairs the Special Events Sub-Committee of the Witness Committee
Frank Moxham chairs the Communications Sub-Committee.

Operation Christmas Child – The Shoebox Ministry

We will be collecting your shoe boxes starting Sunday November 1 until Sunday November 22. We will need all boxes to be in the fellowship hall by 12:00 pm on Sunday November 22. We are asking that each family bring in at least one or more filled shoe boxes and \$7.00 per box for shipping to help make this ministry a success here at St Paul. Last year, we collected 80 shoeboxes. This year our goal is 100 boxes. **See p. 10 for more details.**

Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Paul will host another Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, November 21st, from 10am -3pm. Our goal is 30 units of blood. Come and “Give the Gift of Life”.

Living Nativity

Walk in the brisk evening air on Saturday, December 5th at our Mission Campus, while taking in different scenes that tell the story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The event begins at 5:30pm, with each walking tour taking about 20 minutes. We will have golf carts available for those unable to walk well. This is a great event for all ages. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors and come join us!

Limestone College Choir Christmas Concert

Enjoy an afternoon concert by the Limestone College Concert Choir as they perform carols and songs that lead us joyfully into the Christmas Season. The concert, on Sunday, Dec. 6th, begins at 3pm and will be followed with a reception. Invite all the music lovers you know and join us for a wonderful afternoon of great music.

December Newsletter deadline

The deadline for newsletter articles or calendar information for the December Newsletter is November 22nd. Email your copy to Pastor Chris ***and*** Cheryl for inclusion in the newsletter. Please honor this deadline so the office staff and volunteers can communicate the news in a complete and timely manner.

WHAT: READ THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS

Why: We are People of the Book and therefore should read the Book

How: We will provide materials, classes to help understand what you have read, sermon series that highlights the current readings, and encouragement along the way.

Who: Everyone at St. Paul, yes, even our children. The children will have different, age appropriate materials, but should be included in the challenge.

When: The Challenge begins on Sunday, January 3rd and its completion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 4th

Just 12 Pages a Day - about 45 minutes a day.

The Bible in 90 Days' Whole-Church Challenge provides everything that's needed to help a church encourage its members to read through God's revelation to his people for the ages. In less time than it takes to read 4 pages of the USA Today, your church can read the entire Bible, from cover to cover, in 90 days. It's a big challenge with big rewards. Imagine the powerful transformation of your church as you read every page of God's Word. Accomplish it in 13 short weeks - with benefits that will multiply for the rest of your lives.

The Learning Ministry and the Worship Ministry are jointly sponsoring this Challenge. Watch for further details.

Operation Christmas Child – The Shoe Box Ministry

Again this year we are very excited to be participating in Operation Christmas Child. Last year this was a big success we collected 80 shoe boxes to be sent around the world to reach children with a clear presentation of the Gospel! This was very good for our first year. **This year our goal is 100 boxes.**

We will be collecting your shoe boxes starting Sunday November 1 until Sunday November 22. We will need all boxes to be in the fellowship hall by 12:00 pm on Sunday November 22.

We are asking that each family bring in at least one or more filled shoe boxes and \$7.00 per box for shipping to help make this ministry a success here at St Paul. For more details on how to pack a shoe box and what items can go in a shoe box check out the Operation Christmas Child brochure. Be sure to pick up extra brochures for family and friends to also be a part of this exciting opportunity to share God's love with a hurting child.

There is a collection box in the narthex for the \$7.00 check made out to Samaritans purse, with a note on the memo line that the gift is for Operation Christmas Child to cover the cost of shipping each shoe box. Any other donations to Operation Christmas Child can also be placed in this box.

If you have any additional questions about this ministry please contact Chad or Amy Landis.



**Everyone doing a
little can
accomplish a lot!**

Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry is chaired by Karen Bowman. Members include: Kathy Frye, Jan Mitchem, Sissy Moxham, Charlene Scott, Vivian Scott, Trish Scronce, Denise Sigmon, Kathy Simmons, and Nancy Walker.

New Rosebud Policy - This policy for the placement of rosebuds on the altar was received by the church council as a recommendation from the Worship Ministry committee, seconded and approved October 8, 2009:

“The church will be responsible to purchase and place a rosebud in honor of the baptism of a new member. In the event of a baptism of more than one person from the same family at the same service, one rosebud will be placed in honor of the entire family. Rosebuds will be placed for a baptism and *not* at the time of the birth of a child. The Altar Guild will be responsible for the purchase of the rose bud and will be paid for from the flower budget. Members may place a single rose for the birth of a child at their own expense. Arrangements must be cleared with the office in advance.”

Wednesday Night Advent Services - In order to simplify the activities surrounding Christmas it was recommended by both the Worship and Welcome Committees and approved by the Council that we would not have soup and sandwich suppers precede the **Wednesday night Advent services** this year. Our cooks and dishwashers may use their time spent cooking and cleaning to thoughtfully prepare their hearts for a sacred worship experience.

FLU SEASON PRECAUTIONS! **Do not be dismayed! Your church family still loves you!** However, as a precaution in this flu season, the practice of hugging and shaking hands will be suspended due to the increased risk of spreading the cold and flu virus. Still greet your “Pew Neighbors” with smiles, nods and good wishes but please do not practice close encounters for the next few months.

Thanksgiving Eve service – This will be held at New Star Church of God at 7:00. Pastor Adam Spaugh of New Hope Moravian Church will deliver the message.

Book Sale – Consider the purchase of religious books which will be on sale at cost for Christmas gifts. Books to appeal to every age have been selected and may be ordered, with prepayment, and will arrive in time for gift giving. See page 16 for more details and a partial list of books and prices.

Poinsettias – Orders will be taken until Nov. 30th for Christmas Poinsettias. The colors available are Red, White, Wine, and Jingle Bells. They are \$10 each, prepaid to church office.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Committee is chaired by Steve and Amy Morton. The members are: Marty Coulter, Adam Fincannon, Robin Fincannon, Judy Herman, Chantae Lail, Amanda McKinney, Michelle Potter, Christine Price, Trinity Price, Robin Rudisill, and Charity Stewart.

November Youth Committee meeting is November 22nd at 4pm in the Library.

Sr. Youth Schedule (Pastor Chris – advisor)

Date	Activities	Time	Meeting Place
Sunday, 11/1	Game Night	6:30 - 8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 11/8	TBA	6:30-8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 11/15	Serve Event/Corner Table	6:30 – 8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 11/22	Scavenger Hunt	6:30-8pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 11/29	Youth Progressive Dinner	6pm-8pm	Fellowship Hall

JJJ - Jesus, Justice, and Jazz Concert at Lenoir Rhyne University.

Our Senior Youth attended the JJJ Concert at LRU on Sunday, Oct. 25th. The Lutheran Musical Artists Rachel Kurtz, Agape, and Lost and Found performed and led us through a great evening of music, laughter, tears, and fellowship. They are touring the US to raise money to help the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Their 26 stop tour has a goal of \$50,000. We were the 13th stop on the tour, and gave the largest offering of all stops so far, with \$5,135 in offering from over 20 ELCA youth groups from NC. With NC's offering, they have raised almost \$30,000.

Jr. Youth (grades 5-8) –Michelle Potter, leader

The Junior Youth Group (grades 5-8) will be holding a fundraiser to raise money to attend a Faith Alive weekend later this year. The youth have been working very hard creating homemade holiday cards and will be selling them before and after both services from October 25-December 13. There are several different designs and will be sold in sets of 5 for \$7.50. Please support our junior youth & buy a set of cards! Thank-you!

TLC – The Little Christians (grades 1-4)- Amy Morton, leader

Thank you to Dennis and Sharon Lutz for hosting the October's youth meeting. The group visited the farm for a hayride, devotions and outdoor activities. A great time was had by all. November 14, 2009 - We will meet at the church at 7:00pm for movie night with pick-up at 9:00pm.

Visit Our Website to see the Youth Leading Worship on Sunday, October 25th and their presentation of the drama, "God Loves you Martin Luther!"

www.stpaulstartown.org

Community News

Residential Household Hazardous Waste/Electronics Collection

When: Saturday, November 7th (*Rain or Shine*)

Where: LP Frans Stadium Parking Lot – Hickory

How: Just pull up, and they will offload for you.

What : Electronics: computers, monitors, TVs, cell phones ,VCRs, stereos, calculators, fax machines, etc. Household Wastes: batteries, paint, solvents, shellacs, wood sealers, wood preservatives, cleaners, drain openers, etc. Automotive: car batteries, oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, starter fluid. Miscellaneous: pesticides, insecticides, poisons, weed killers, acids, bases, kerosene, pool chemicals, gas cylinders, metallic mercury

Volunteer Ops

The Salvation Army is in need of volunteers to help with their upcoming Red Kettle Campaign and Bell Ringing Season. Times and dates are flexible. For more info or to volunteer, please call 828-322-8061.

Job Openings

St. Stephens Lutheran – ELCA: 2 part time positions

1- Administrative Secretary – 28 hours/week, M-F

2- Financial Sec./Bookkeeper – 10 hours/

Deadline for applying is November 15th.

***Details on the bulletin board outside of the St. Paul Church office.**

FedEx Home Delivery - Temporary Delivery Drivers – 21 or older

clean driving record; drug screen & background checks; physical required; Customer Service skills; one year commercial driving experience preferred. No equipment necessary – Bring work history documentation for immediate consideration to:

FedEx Ground and Home Delivery

1936 Amity Street

Newton, NC 28658

***Details on the bulletin board outside of the St. Paul Church office.**

STARTOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

Tim Brown Ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry!

Congratulations to the Rev. Timothy James Brown, who was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, October 17th, 2009. He was ordained at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL. and is called as pastor to serve the LORD at Luther Memorial Church of Chicago. Pastor Tim is the son of our former pastor, Rev. Peter Brown, who served here from 1994-1999.

ECCCM Thrift Store needs

We are in need of clothing for teen boys and girls. As your teens outgrow their clothing would you consider donating them to families who can't afford to go to the mall or clothing stores and buy for their children? We also need men's clothing; pants, dress and casual shirts, sports jackets, suits and shoes. Please make sure the clothing is clean and usable. We can also use good baby cribs. Remember, anyone may shop in the ECCCM Thrift Store for his/her families.

We're also in great need of volunteers to work in the thrift store, ladies or men who can work a morning or afternoon one day per month or as you're available. Some volunteer for a full day. Please contact Mary in the Thrift Store to find out how easy it is to get involved. **Plastic grocery bags needed.** We urgently need your plastic grocery bags to provide free food to families who qualify. Just drop them off at the food/clothing covered drop off location at the back of the building. Please recycle them to ECCCM instead of sending them to the landfill. Thanks.

Startown Community Thanksgiving Eve service

When: Wednesday, November 25th

What Time: 7pm

Where: New Star Church – across from Big Red

Who: Rev. Adam Spaugh from New Hope Moravian - preacher

Why:

Because God is good to us!

A Journey to Bethlehem

“LIVING NATIVITY”

Presented by St. Paul Lutheran Church / Startown

Saturday, December 5, 2009

5:30-8 PM

St. Paul Mission Campus

Walk the path to Bethlehem where you will encounter Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Innkeeper's Wife, Gabriel, live animals and baby Jesus.

We need volunteers for speaking parts, musicians, guides, donations, assist with set-up, etc. If you would like to be a part of this community outreach program please contact Robin Rudisill at rrudisill@charter.net or (704) 462-4027 or drop by the New Beginnings Class on Sunday.

Items needed: instant packages of hot chocolate, bottled water, 500 white bags for luminaries, costumes or fabric remnants. Drop off in New Beginnings, located in Church Library.

Dates to Remember

Nov. 1 st	All Saints' Day
Nov. 7 th	Church Work Day Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, p. 13
Nov. 8 th	Bible Book Sale begins, p. 16
Nov. 21 st	Red Cross Blood Drive, p. 8
Nov. 22 nd	Operation Christmas Child Collection Day, p. 10 December Newsletter Deadline, p. 8
Nov. 25 th	Community Thanksgiving Service, p. 11/17
Nov. 30 th	Last day to order Christmas Poinsettias, p. 11
Dec. 5 th	Living Nativity, p. 8/15
Dec. 6 th	Limestone College Choir Christmas Concert here, p. 8
Dec. 13 th	Sr. Youth "Santa's Helpers" Servant Event
Dec. 20 th	St. Paul Choir Christmas Cantata St. Paul Youth Christmas Caroling
Jan. 3 rd	Congregational Challenge "Read the Bible in 90 Days" begins, p.9
Feb. 17 th	Ash Wednesday

Religious Book Sale - Fellowship Hall

Sunday Nov. 8- Nov. 22

Bibles

The Message	\$15.00
The Message (Large Print)	\$40.00
The New Revised Standard Version	\$25.00
The 90 Day NIV Bible	\$16.00
Children's Story Bible	\$14.00

Audio Bibles (on CDs)

The Bible Experience	\$70.00
The Message	\$60.00
The NIV	\$25.00

Reference Books

Strong's Concordance	\$20.00
Student Bible Dictionary	\$ 8.00
Who's Who and Where's Where	\$15.00
What's in the Bible and Where to Find It	\$10.00

Many Wonderful Children's Books \$3.00-\$20.00