

# St Paul Partners

# January 2010

St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown  
[www.stpaulstartown.org](http://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.

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**This month's newsletter is sponsored by the Startown Senior Citizens  
In honor of all of the members of St. Paul Lutheran**

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## Blessed New Year!

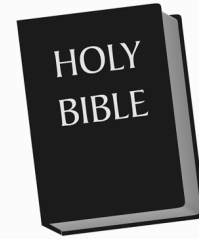
As we begin our 7<sup>th</sup> year together, we find before us a challenge as to how we understand Holy Scripture. This challenge comes to us as we try to discern a faithful course of action following the ELCA National Assembly's controversial decisions this past summer.

How do we understand Scripture? What does it say? What do we mean when we say "Law and Gospel"? Does the context of a saying tell us anything about its meaning? Does the Old Testament still hold meaning for us today?

Well, the first place to start to answer these questions is by reading the Scriptures themselves. In your newsletter each month, you will find reading guides to help you read the entire Bible, cover to cover, in 90 days (see pgs 13-15). We will also have them available for you to pick up at church and take home with you.

We also have other helps for you. Each Sunday's sermon will introduce the main characters and events in the coming week's reading. We will have inserts to help explain certain events and themes each week, and the Fellowship Hall will be turned into a Bible Center, with each week's readings illustrated and explained with charts and graphs, short biographies, a world history timeline, and pictures/diagrams. Also, the Fellowship Class will be studying the week's readings in their SS Class. And they invite you to join them for this 13 week study.

Parents of young children will have a reading guide that follows the course using the "Read and Learn Story Bible" that we have been giving to our children. Read this with them and to them. You will learn as much as they will. Elementary through High School Students have a reading guide which will take them through their "100 Favorite Bible Stories" book we have been using for the last five years. If you need either of these books, please see me. Whatever you are willing to commit to, please pray and make some commitment to deepen your faith. And any questions, please feel free to email me or call me. I am happy to listen to your questions and thoughts, talk with you about these faith matters. Excited about our journey together. **Pastor Chris**



## Book of Faith Activities for January 2010

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Bible Passages</b>	<b>Weekly Reading*</b>
1/3	Abraham	Genesis 15:1-21	Genesis 12-15
1/10	Moses	Deuteronomy 6: 1-12	Deut. 4-6
1/17	Gideon	Judges 8:22-27	Judges 4-8
1/24	Solomon	1 Kings 3:5-26	1 Kings 3-5
1/31	Nehemiah	Nehemiah 5:1-13	Nehemiah 1-5

**\*The Weekly Readings are found within the readings for the 90 Days Program.**

### **True or False**

- 1. God blessed Abram and the world is blessed because of it. (Gen 12)
- 2. Abraham was righteous because he trusted in God's promise. (Gen. 15)
- 3. The Commandments are numbered 1-10 in Deuteronomy. (Deut. 5)
- 4. God reminds the Israelites that they did not provide for themselves. ( Deut 6)
- 5. The Moabite army commander was killed with a tent peg. (Judges 4)
- 6. Gideon routed the Midianites with only 300 men. (Judges 7)
- 7. Solomon rebuilt the Temple that his father had begun. (1 Kgs 5)
- 8. Solomon had a child sliced in-two to settle a child custody case. (1 Kgs 3)
- 9. The King of Persia allowed Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem. (Neh. 2)
- 10. The bankers quit charging interest to help rebuild Jerusalem. (Neh. 5)

### **Archaeological Ages**

Archaeologists classify ancient civilizations according to a series of technological "Ages." By naming an Age by the common technology and objects of an ancient civilization, archaeologists describe how advanced that civilization was.

<b>AGE</b>	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE TIME PERIOD</b>
Stone Age	Making and using stone tools	2,000,000 to 6000 B.C.
Pottery Age (Late Stone Age)	Making and using clay pottery	6000 to 5000 B.C.
Copper Age	Making and using cast copper utensils	5000 to 3000 B.C.
Bronze Age	Making and using bronze (cast copper and tin) tools	3000 to 1200 B.C.
Iron Age	Making and using iron tools	1200 to 300 B.C.

## **A Time Before Abraham and Sarah from the Learning Bible**

The most important civilizations of the ancient Near East developed in great river valleys. In the east was Mesopotamia, located in the river valleys and plains between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. In the west was Egypt, which grew to be a strong nation beside the Nile River, the longest river in the world. In between lay the land of Canaan, west of the Jordan River. The Jordan River, fed by mountain streams, flowed past fertile land that could be used for growing crops. Perhaps even more important, Canaan was a kind of land bridge that connected Egypt and other peoples of the Mediterranean kingdoms to the people of Mesopotamia, Babylonia, and Assyria.

Discoveries at Jericho show that people lived in villages in Canaan, Egypt, and Mesopotamia even before 5000 b.c. However, the first true civilization arose around 4000 B.C. in southern Mesopotamia near the Persian Gulf. At that time, the Sumerian people moved into the area, possibly from south central Asia. The Sumerians built cities, made canals to bring water to their fields, and created hand-painted pottery. Around 3500 b.c. they invented a system of writing called cuneiform. From 2860 to 2360 b.c., the Sumerian culture was made up of a number of powerful city-states. Each city-state had its own ruler and another leader who was in charge of the city's temple, which was built to honor the god of that city. Sumerians worshiped many different gods. These gods formed a kind of heavenly council led by Enlil, god of the storm. When conflicts arose between city-states, they were thought to be a result of conflicts among the gods. The Sumerians were one of the first people to develop a legal code, laws that reflected their sense of right and wrong. They believed that earthly (human) laws should reflect the laws of the gods.

The Akkadian people also lived in Mesopotamia, just north of the Sumerians. Around 2360 b.c., the Akkadian rulers gained power and created a true empire in Mesopotamia. They built palaces, which replaced the temples as the centers of power. Gradually, their language began to replace the Sumerian language. While cultures were developing in Mesopotamia, Egyptian culture was developing in Africa. Before 3000 b.c., Egypt was divided into two main kingdoms, one in Upper Egypt (south of Cairo) and the other in Lower Egypt. (Though called "lower" because it is downstream in the Nile Delta, Lower Egypt is actually in northern Egypt.) The kind of writing known as hieroglyphics had already been invented. Around 2900 b.c., Egypt began to unite into one kingdom. This period (2675-2180 b.c.) is known as the Old Kingdom.

## **Notes from our Community**

### **Startown "Men on the Move"**

Several men from Startown Churches are planning a "Men on The Move" faith Strengthening event for January 9th, 2010 at 8:00a.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Paul's Reformed Church. Breakfast will be served and the event should end by 9:30 a.m. Men on the Move is hoped to be a quarterly event if the response is positive. All men in the Startown Community or beyond are invited to attend. A donation basket will be available to help cover food costs. The fellowship of Startown men is going to be awesome. For more information, please contact Carl Jenkins @464-1555.

### **Census 2010 Jobs!**

There are numerous 2-4 month temporary positions with the Census Bureau beginning now. If you are interested, please see Pastor Chris or Cheryl for contact information, or go online at [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov). You may also call 1-866-861-2010.

### **American Legion Project**

The American Legion is placing in each public school classroom in Catawba Co. a beautiful, framed picture of an American Flag with the words "In God We Trust" across the front. Each picture and frame costs \$5.00, and there are approximately 2000 classrooms. If you would like to help, you may contact: Bill G. Richards @ 828-428-4807, or mail your tax-deductible check to:

**American Legion 22<sup>nd</sup> District Commander  
105 East Pine St., Maiden NC 28650**

Make the check out to: American Legion "In God We Trust" Program

### **Good Sam Assistance**

Thank you for the Food Lion Gift Card and the help on our mortgage payment. Since I lost my job last summer, you have helped us a couple of times. You are a wonderful church family where Jesus love is real! Thank you from our whole family. Merry Christmas! - A Member

### **Good Sam Assistance**

We would like to thank you all very much for the gift you have given us in a time of need. God bless you all and a Merry Christmas. Love, Son and Daughter of a Member

## **2010 Leadership Ministry**

Council President: Otis Morton                      Vice-president: Steve Bumgarner  
Secretary: Martha Staley                              Treasurer: Jan Mitchem  
Council: Scott Bowman, Marty Coulter, Kathy Frye, Roger Frye, Frank Moxham, Howard Reinhardt, Lee Robinson, Barbara Sloop, and Vivian Scott.

### **Church Council Highlights – December 10, 2009**

- Approved Fermon Ramseur as our new employee for the sexton position.
- New officers for 2010: Otis Morton-President, Steve Bumgarner-Vice-President, Martha Staley-Secretary, and Jan Mitchem-Treasurer
- Amended the ministry chairs to include: Jan Mitchem-Finance Co-Chair.
- Approved donation to be used to purchase printer for Pastor's office.
- Approved accepting the inactive status of membership as presented.
- Approved one service for the Cantata to be held on December 20.
- Approved Learning and Youth to hold a Campfirmation fundraiser meal.
- Approved new members to be received on 12/27/09: Don & Jenny Brown, Jarrett Dale, Grayeson Brown. Harvey Frye was moved to Active Status.

### **2010 Leadership Retreat**

The 2010 Church Council, Council Officers, and Committee Chairs, will meet in retreat on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-4:00pm at Hospice House. The agenda items are as follows:

1. Review ReVision goals for Year 1, and plan for further implementation;
2. Review ReVision goals for Year 2 and develop a strategy and responsibilities and responsibilities for implementation;
3. Participate in discussion with 3 ELCA pastors regarding the ELCA National Assembly vote, seeking to articulate a direction/response for St. Paul;
4. Create a plan for sharing the ELCA discussions with St. Paul;
5. Hold the regular January Business Meeting.

The ELCA discussions will follow this format:

1. Each pastor is to prepare a short paper expressing his basic view of the issues, to be shared with the leadership team and read ahead of time;
2. Each individual pastor will meet with the leadership team for a 30 minute presentation, and a 20 minute question and answer period;
3. Each pastor will address the same set of three questions, as well as present the argument for their position on the ELCA vote;
4. Each discussion will be videotaped and shared with St. Paul at forums.

## Finance Ministry

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

### GENERAL FUND

	<b>November</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>
	<u><b>Budgeted</b></u>	<u><b>Actual</b></u>	<u><b>Budgeted</b></u>	<u><b>Actual</b></u>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Contributions	\$26,149.83	\$25,286.82	\$313,798.00	\$241,797.04
<b>MAJOR ACCOUNT AREAS</b>				
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Benevolence	\$2,542.67	\$2,201.00	\$30,512.00	\$25,661.00
Pastoral Support	\$9,487.00	\$7,159.93	\$113,844.00	\$88,000.62
Finance Ministry	\$129.17	\$0.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,070.66
Support Ministry	\$8,764.76	\$6,318.91	\$105,177.10	\$85,487.59
Property Ministry	\$2,859.16	\$1,911.03	\$34,310.00	\$28,931.57
Learning Ministry	\$715.41	\$261.11	\$8,585.00	\$5,071.98
Worship Ministry	\$512.07	\$643.09	\$6,145.00	\$1,965.31
Witness Ministry	\$322.90	\$417.55	\$3,875.00	\$1,606.89
Communications	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Welcome Ministry	\$166.66	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$310.83
Youth Ministry	\$400.02	\$413.17	\$4,800.00	\$834.46
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$26,149.82	\$19,325.79	\$313,798.10	\$238,940.91
<b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$5,961.03</b>		<b>\$2,856.13</b>
<b>November 30 Checkbook balance:</b>		<b>\$8,244.16</b>		

<b><u>GOOD SAMARITAN</u></b>	November 1, 2009	Balance	\$2,142.22
<b><u>FUND</u></b>		Contributions	\$ 626.50
		Paid out (Help given))	\$1,847.32
	Nov. 30, 2009	Balance	<b>\$ 921.40</b>

**As you can see, we have turned the corner and now YTD have taken in \$2856.13 more than spent (expenses) Let's pray that we can finish the year like this.**

## Learning Ministry

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

## Are you **CRAZY?** Read the Bible in 90 Days...

Have you ever tried to read the Bible from cover to cover? Most Christians want to, but are hardly ever successful. Join with your friends and neighbors as we read through it together. We will encourage each other, discuss it together, and St. Paul's will help us each week prepare for what is coming up next. We will start on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> and finish on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It takes an average reader about 45 minutes a day. We also have plans for children, youth, and young families. We will distribute reading plans, and commitment cards. Make this a New Year's Resolution that "we will help you KEEP!" Give yourself this gift. It will make a difference for YOU!

### **Some examples of how St. Paul will help you achieve your commitment:**

- The Fellowship Sunday School Class is going to be teaching lessons on upcoming readings for the coming week. Join them for this Challenge!
- The Sermons each Sunday will focus on characters and events in the upcoming week's reading.
- Families with young children have a reading guide that follows our Children's Story Bible – read that with them each day!
- Upper Elementary, Middle School, and Sr High Youth have reading guides that follow the "100 Favorite Bible Stories", and takes about 5-10 minutes a day.
- The Learning Committee will transform the Fellowship Hall into a Weekly Learning Center, with Timelines, Maps, Drawings, Pictures, Short Articles and Wooden Models highlighting each week's reading. The Display will be added to each week, until at the end, we will have a visual model of the Characters, places, and events of the Bible.

### **February Newsletter deadline**

The deadline for newsletter articles or calendar information for the February Newsletter is January 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## Welcome Ministry

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

**The Welcome Committee** worked behind the scenes at the Live Nativity providing and serving hot refreshment to guests. Following a brief respite and some time off celebrating Christmas, we will be back busy planning and serving a meal at the council retreat January 9th and organizing the Soup and Sandwich meals during Lent.

We would like to say a special "thank you" to the ladies and gentleman who served on Welcome in 2009. You are dedicated and willing workers with each project that comes our way.

## Witness Ministry

Sharron Scronce, Chair; Helen Bowman, Eugene Lentz, Roger Frye Sharon Frye, Bradley Scronce, Keith Frye.

### **Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministries** **- ECCCM**

#### **WINTER CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED**

The ECCCM Thrift Store is in need of winter clothing for children, teens and adults. Now would be a good time to do some closet cleaning and share your good fortune and blessings with others. As you know we provide free clothing to those who qualify as well as offering most items for sale from twenty-five cents to four dollars per item. The funding generated from the thrift store helps to offset some operational cost of the ministry.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

ECCCM has a place for regular volunteers; men or ladies who could work in our thrift store, food or clothing sort area. If you have a few hours weekly or monthly we have a special place for you. Give our staff a call and discuss the possibilities. If you have computer skills we can use you also. We hope you'll give this some thought and prayer. Please give the staff a call to see how you can make a difference in lives today!

## Youth Ministry

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

### **Sr. Youth Schedule (Pastor Chris – advisor)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Activities</u></b>	<b><u>Time</u></b>	<b><u>Meeting Place</u></b>
Sunday, 1/3	Bible in 90 Days	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 1/10	Servant Project	6:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 1/17	Dinner and a Movie	5pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 1/31	TBA		

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

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

## Reading Guide for the 90 Days Program For Using Your Bible

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
3-Jan	1	Ge 1:1	Ge 16:16
	4	Ge 17:1	Ge 28:22
	5	Ge 29:1	Ge 40:23
	6	Ge 41	Ge 50:26
	7	Ex 1:1	Ex 15:27
	8	Ex 16:1	Ex 28:43
	<u>9</u>	<u>Ex 29:1</u>	<u>Ex 40:38</u>
10-Jan	8	Le 1:1	Le 14:57
	11	Le 15:1	Le 27:34
	12	Nu 1:1	Nu 8:26
	13	Nu 9:1	Nu 21:35
	14	Nu 22:1	Nu 32:42
	15	Nu 33:1	Dt 7:26
	<u>16</u>	<u>Dt 8:1</u>	<u>Dt 22:30</u>
17-Jan	15	Dt 23:1	Dt 34:12
	18	Jos 1:1	Jos 14:15
	19	Jos 15:1	Jdg 3:31
	20	Jdg 4:1	Jdg 15:20
	21	Jdg 16:1	1 Sa 2:36
	22	1 Sa 3:1	1 Sa 15:35
	<u>23</u>	<u>1 Sa 16:1</u>	<u>1 Sa 28:25</u>
24-Jan	22	1 Sa 29:1	2 Sa 11:27
	25	2 Sa 12:1	2 Sa 22:51
	26	2 Sa 23:1	1 Ki 7:51
	27	1 Ki 8:1	1 Ki 16:34
	28	1 Ki 17:1	2 Ki 4:44
	29	2 Ki 5:1	2Ki 15:38
	<u>30</u>	<u>2 Ki 16:1</u>	<u>2 Ki 25:30</u>
31-Jan	29	1 Ch 1:1	1 Ch 9:44

## Reading Guide for the 90 Days Program For Using “Read and Learn Story Bible”

		Start	Page	✓
1	Jan 3	The First Seven Days	13	
2	4	God's Garden and The Snake in the Garden	22	
3	5	The Flood and the Rainbow	30	
4	6	The Tower of Babel	36	
5	7	Abraham	42	
6	8	Three Visitors	47	
7	9	A Bride for Isaac	53	
8	Jan 10	Esau and Jacob and God Comes to Jacob	62	
9	11	Esau Forgives	66	
10	12	A New Name for Jacob	68	
11	13	Joseph the Dreamer and Sold!	76	
12	14	Joseph and His Brothers	81	
13	15	The Baby in the Basket	85	
14	16	The Burning Bush	91	
15	Jan 17	Let the People Go	97	
16	18	The Tenth Plague	101	
17	19	Out of Egypt	107	
18	20	Food in the Desert	112	
19	21	God's Laws	117	
20	22	God's Holy Place	121	
21	23	A Big Mistake	126	
22	Jan 24	Into the Promised Land	130	
23	25	A Brave New Leader	135	
24	26	Gideon's Army	139	
25	27	Samson	144	
26	28	Naomi and Ruth	147	
27	29	A Prayer is Answered and Samuel the Prophet	153	
28	30	The First King and the Future King	158	
29	Jan 31	David and Goliath	165	

**Reading Guide for the 90 Days Program  
For Using “100 Favorite Bible Stories”**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Pages</b>	✓
1	Jan 3	1 & 2	8-11	
2	4	3 & 4 & 5	12-17	
3	5	6 & 7	18-21	
4	6	8 & 9	22-25	
5	7	10 & 11	26-29	
6	8	12 & 13	30-33	
7	9	14 & 15	34-37	
8	Jan 10	16 & 17	38-41	
9	11	18	42	
10	12	19	44	
11	13	20	46	
12	14	21	48	
13	15	22	50	
14	16	23	52	
15	Jan 17	24	54	
16	18	25	56	
17	19	26	58	
18	20	27	60	
19	21	28	62	
20	22	29	64	
21	23	30	66	
22	Jan 24	31	68	
23	25	32	70	
24	26	33	72	
25	27	34	74	
26	28	35	76	
27	28	36	78	
28	30	37	80	
29	Jan 31	38	82	

**The Work of the People Offered Unto God  
The Month of January**

**ALTAR GUILD:**

Jan Mitchem, Laura Lutz

**ACOLYTES:** (8:15) Blake Stewart  
(10:30) Katie Morton

**USHERS:**

(8:15) Linda & Jerry Sweet  
(10:30) Roger & Sharon Frye

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:**

(8:15) Rita Bass, Glenda Shook  
Reba Reinhardt, Amanda  
McKinney  
(10:30) Steve & Jane Bumgarner  
Otis Morton, Michelle Potter

**LAY READERS:**

3 – (8:15) Kathy Frye  
(10:30) Gena Poovey  
10 - (8:15) Howard Reinhardt  
(10:30) Martha Staley  
17- (8:15) Reba Reinhardt  
(10:30) Libby Wells  
24 – (8:15) Richard Helton  
(10:30) Barbara Sloop  
31 – (8:15) Keith Frye  
(10:30) Otis Morton

**PRAYER LEADERS:**

3- (8:15) Glenda Shook  
(10:30) Linda Morton  
10 - (8:15) Herb Travis  
(10:30) Martha Staley  
17 - (8:15) Frank Moxham  
(10:30) Steve Bumgarner  
24 - (8:15) Keith Frye  
(10:30) Jane Bumgarner  
31 – (8:15) Carolyn Sosebee  
(10:30) Kathy Simmons

**NURSERY:**

3 - (8:15) Gloria Lentz  
(10:30) Jan Mitchem  
10 – (8:15) Laura Lutz  
(10:30) Almeita Helton  
17 - (8:15) Reba Reinhardt  
(10:30) Amy Morton  
24 - (8:15) Gloria Lentz  
(10:30) Daphna Robinson  
31 – (8:15) Laura Lutz  
(10:30) Myrtle Urcinola

**SENDERS:**

3- (8:15) Keith Frye  
(10:30) Danny Southers  
Trish Scronce  
10 - (8:15) Gail Blackburn  
(10:30) Linda Morton  
Otis Morton  
17 - (8:15) Richard Blackburn  
(10:30) Almeita Helton  
Reggie Helton  
24 – (8:15) Eugene Lentz  
(10:30) Forney Huffman  
Willie Huffman  
31 – (8:15) Gloria Lentz  
(10:30) Jesse Duncan  
Debra Webb

**MONEY COUNTER:**

Richard & Gail Blackburn

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TELLER:**

Glenn Hoke