

# St Paul Partners

# April 2010

**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.

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## Special Events for April

### Holy Week 2010 at St. Paul

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7pm

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday Service @ 7pm @ New Jerusalem

Saturday, April 3 – Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:30am at Mission Campus

Sunday, April 4 – Sunrise Service @ 6:45 @ New Hope Moravian

Community Breakfast @ St. Paul Lutheran

8:15 & 10:30am Easter Celebrations

### Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. More info on **p. 2**

### Confirmation Camp Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser

Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. More info on **p. 6**

### Annual Canned Food Drive

ends April 18<sup>th</sup>. More info on **p. 7**

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. More info on **p. 11**

### Youth Ministry Schedules

Check schedules on **p. 13**

### Read the Bible in 90 Days

Congregational Survey – **p. 15**

**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2010 - 9:30 A.M.**

The purpose of this called meeting will be to officially vote on issues surrounding the ELCA position statement concerning homosexual pastors in a committed, long term, monogamous relationship.

Members of St. Paul who are confirmed, communing and contributing will be allowed to vote. Due to legal challenges regarding the vote in other congregations, the Council will confirm the eligibility of each person to vote and ask you to register the day of the meeting to receive a voting card. The card will be held up at the time each ballot is presented for voting.

Following are the results of the Straw Poll Survey of members taken on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at our final congregational forum. Also noted is the Council vote on these issues taken Sunday, March 14, 2010.

You will be asked to vote on these same issues at the Called Meeting. Should you approve becoming a "bound conscience" congregation, we will ask you to vote on a Declaration of Policy to be included with our governing documents. This will clearly state our position on this issue. You may read this Declaration on the following page.

Should St. Paul remain in the ELCA?

Yes - 41                      No - 10                      Council: Yes (12 of 12 votes approved)

Should St. Paul leave the ELCA and join the new CORE Synod?

Yes - 11                      No - 43                      Council: (No vote taken due to first vote)

\*Should St. Paul change the constitution to become a "bound conscience" congregation?

Yes - 29                      No - 28                      Council: Yes (12 of 12 votes approved)

Should St. Paul continue to pay the North Carolina Synod portion of its benevolence? **(60% of budgeted amount)** Yes - 44                      No - 8

Council: Yes (12 of 12 votes approved)

Should St. Paul continue to allow a portion of its benevolence to be forward to the ELCA National Church? **(40% of budgeted amount)** Yes - 22                      No - 18

Council: Yes - 6                      No - 5                      Abstain - 1

\*"Bound conscience" indicates a congregation that chooses to remain in the ELCA but formally indicates its opposition to the new policy, and refuses consideration of pastors for call who are homosexual in a committed, long term, monogamous relationship.

*If, at the Called Congregational Meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup>, the congregation votes to become an ELCA "Bound Conscience" Congregation, the Council will then present the following declaration to the meeting for discussion and vote. This will be brought forward in order to establish and define the policy regarding the intentions and expectations of St. Paul Lutheran Church – Startown with the NC Synod and the pastors that St. Paul Lutheran Church – Startown will consider for such calls.*

*If at the Called Congregational Meeting, the congregation votes not to become a "Bound Conscience" Congregation, then this policy will not be considered.*

## **Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church - Startown (ELCA)**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church-Startown is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church-Startown, as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, understands that it has the right to call, or refuse to call, as a pastor or rostered lay leader any person who is on the roster of ordained ministers or lay rosters or any candidate approved for those rosters.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church-Startown, in accordance with the 2009 Churchwide Assembly which resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America "make provision in its policies to recognize the conviction of members who believe that this church should not call or roster people in a publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationship," declares that this congregation will not call a pastor or lay rostered leader who is or intends to be in such a same-gender relationship.

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church-Startown declares that marriages, civil unions, or blessings of persons in same gender relationships will not be performed in this church building or by pastors of this congregation.

## **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 - February 25, 2010**

#### **PROPERTY**

- Approved Property Committee to construct wall on the stage in the Fellowship Hall, with shelving behind it for storage. Fund from Property Maintenance.
- Approved to sell piano in Fellowship Hall, using sealed bid process.
- Approved replacement of lighting fixtures in Gethsemane window. Fund from Property Maintenance.
- Approved moving operable water fountain from third floor to second.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

- Accepted for review a proposed Bylaw amendment, establishing Communications Committee.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Approved Communications Committee placing a 2x6 board with stenciled letters under church sign with our website information. Funded by donation.
- Reviewed current utilization and effectiveness of telephone tree.

#### **FINANCE**

- Approved scholarship program to be managed by Learning Ministry. One \$500 scholarship provided yearly, funded from Gifts and Memorials. Guidelines and application available in church office.

#### **WITNESS**

- Approved Witness Ministry to take responsibility for Home Communion Program.

#### **LEARNING**

- Approved 2010 V.B.S. Directors Sharron Scronce, Sara Scronce and Jenny Brown.

#### **GENERAL**

- Approved transfer of Ed and Joyce Folger to St. Stephens LCMS.
- Finalized plans for third video forum and discussion forum, to be held 3/7 at 2pm

## Finance Ministry

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

### February 2010 Financial Report

<b>MAJOR ACCT. AREAS</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b><u>Budgeted</u></b>	<b><u>Actual</u></b>
Contributions	\$23,288.66	\$21,202.29	\$46,577.32	\$43,244.16
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Benevolence	2,729.17	2,387.50	4,775.00	4,775.00
Pastoral Support	7,828.83	6,616.28	15,657.66	15,806.54
Finance Ministry	83.33	0.00	166.66	0.00
Support Ministry	8,509.82	6,741.68	17,019.64	14,098.97
Property Ministry	2,650.83	2,798.44	5,301.66	5,030.43
Learning Ministry	473.75	92.00	947.50	143.37
Worship Ministry	427.07	342.82	854.14	617.82
Witness Ministry	81.66	55.00	163.32	110.00
Special Events	120.83	0.00	241.66	0.00
Welcome Ministry	116.66	176.66	233.32	176.66
Youth Ministry	266.69	-350.00	533.38	-305.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	23,288.64	18,860.38	45,893.94	40,453.79
<b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b>		<b>2,341.91</b>		<b>2,790.37</b>
<b>2/28 Checkbook balance:</b>		<b>\$4,629</b>		
<b><u>GOOD SAMARITAN</u></b>	Feb. 1, 2009	Balance	\$1,712.71	
<b><u>FUND</u></b>		Contributions	643.00	
		Paid out (Help given)	1,256.09	
	Dec. 31, 2009	Balance	<b>\$1,099.62</b>	

**Lenten offerings taken in are to be applied to our budgeted amount  
for the Corner Table**

## Learning Ministry

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

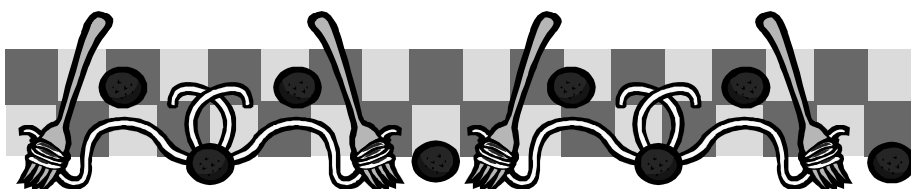
### Read the Bible in 90 Days Challenge

***"Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done."*** 1 Chronicles 16:8

We have read the **ENTIRE Bible**, from **Cover to Cover**. Good work! We will survey the congregation to ascertain how many have participated in this wonderful challenge. Doesn't it feel great! Congratulate each other! Celebrate a bit with each other, and say a prayer of thanks, because, don't you know, something exciting is coming of this.

**VBS will be held from Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please put these important dates on your calendar now and plan on attending.

**New Church Scholarship:** Do you have a high school or college student who will graduate this spring? Please call the church office and let them know. A scholarship is now available through the church, check on the details.



The St. Paul Confirmation groups will hold a Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

Funds collected will be used to send the group to Campconfirmation this summer. Please mark you calendars and plan to join us for lunch immediately following second service.

## **Witness Ministry**

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

### **Startown Senior Citizens**

The Startown Senior Citizens will meet on Monday, April 5th, at 1:30pm for a program. Hope to see you there!

### **Annual Canned Food Drive for ECCCM Food Bank**

Our annual canned food drive for ECCCM began on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and will run through Sunday, April, 18<sup>th</sup>. Our goal once again is 4000 pounds. There will be collection points in the narthex and the Fellowship Hall. There is great need in our community, so please consider this very worthwhile ministry of our congregation for our community. As of March 30<sup>th</sup>, we have collected 2200 pounds.

## **Agape Summer Day Camp**

**For rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders**

At the Mission Campus

**July 19-23, 2010**

Cost: \$125/camper

Watch for further details

# St Paul Lutheran Church

*Startown Road, Newton*

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 am - 3:30 pm

Log on to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an  
appointment.

Refer to Sponsor Code #14075.

or

schedule an appointment with the witness committee  
reps after service each Sunday,

or

**JUST SHOW UP AND GIVE!**

## Special Events and Communications Ministries

Keith Frye, special events chair, Bradley Scronce, communications chair

For any member that would like to be added to the Prayer Net and receive the prayer requests via the **phone tree** may do so by contacting the church office at 464-3853 or Bradley at 381-4037 and you will be added to the list. You **will not** be responsible for calling anyone after receiving the prayer request. Just Pray!

As we continue to use the Phone Tree I hope that things are going well and everyone is receiving the information. For those that may be having problems here are some tips that may help you.

- When you answer the phone just say "hello" that will let the system know to start playing the message.
- If your message starts in the middle press 1 to start the message over from the beginning.
- If there are any loud noises in the background it may cause some problems with the system playing the message.
- If you have a pause in your outgoing message on your answering machine or if there is a pause between the message and the beep this may cause the system to start playing the message and before your machine is recording and you miss the first part of the message.

### **Phone Tree**

To establish better communications with our members we have started to use a Phone Tree service. The phone tree can be used by any Ministries or groups to send out information. The cost of the service is \$55.00 per month. Individual members of the Church Council are sponsoring a month at a time. The service will be used for the first 9 months of 2010 to evaluate it.

### **May Newsletter deadline**

The deadline for newsletter articles or calendar information for the March Newsletter is Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Email your copy to Martha Staley **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.

## Worship Ministry

Kathy Frye, Chair, Karen Bowman, Sissy Moxham, Charlene Scott, Vivian Scott, Trish Scronce, Denise Sigmon, Kathy Simmons, and Nancy Walker. We meet at 6:30 pm on the Second Monday of each month. If you wish to be a member and have not already been contacted, please see Kathy.

### Please note upcoming dates:

- ❖ Maundy Thursday service will be held at St. Paul, 4/1 @ 7pm
- ❖ Good Friday services will be held at New Jerusalem, 4/2
- ❖ Easter Sunrise service will be at New Hope Moravian, 4/4
- ❖ Easter breakfast will be at St Paul Lutheran
- ❖ Labyrinth Retreat at Mission Campus on May 15<sup>th</sup> (new date)

## 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>Date</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>
Saturday, 4/3	B'fast and Easter Egg Hunt	8:30am	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/11	No Senior Youth this week		
Sunday, 4/18	Food Drive @ Food Lion	5-8 pm	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 4/25	Disc Golf	6:30 pm	Fellowship Hall

**The Senior Youth Mission Trip** is scheduled for the Week of July 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Details are still being worked out, so keep your eyes open for further news.

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

Jr. Youth will meet at the church on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> (note change in date) at 5:15. We will work on the puppet ministry for an hour with Sara and then go to Pin Station for bowling at 6:30. Parents will need to pick up at Pin Station at 8pm. Please bring money if you'd like to eat dinner or have a snack at the bowling alley. See you then & keep working on your Old Testament memorization.

### **TLC – The Little Christians (grades 1-5)- Amy Morton, leader**

# Congregational Beach Retreat

This cold weather has many of us thinking about summer, and quite longingly, the beach. The crash of waves... the **hot**, baking sun... the smell of salt in the air... laughter on the boardwalk... Yes, the beach is a great place to relax and get away from it all. So, join us at the Beach, Kure Beach, this summer for 4 days of fun and fellowship, laughing together and relaxing together. The dates are Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$115 per adult, and \$45 per child 12 and under. This includes your room and 5 meals... and all the fun you can stand! Start planning now! The registration form is below.

## “Sun, Fun, and Friendship...”

**What:** Fun and Fellowship

**When:** Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

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

**Cost:** \$115/person, includes lodging and 5 meals  
\$45/child, 14 years old and under

**Worship:** Yes

**Group Activities:** Yes

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

**Deposit:** ½ due by Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

**Balance:** due by Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

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## Reservation Form for Kure Beach Retreat

Yes, we would like to attend the Kure Beach Retreat on July 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*if under 14 years old, please identify

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

## **“Read the Bible in 90 Days Challenge” Congregational Survey**

(Please circle the correct response)

Did you participate in the “Read the Bible in 90 Days” Challenge?      Y   N

Did you finish reading the Bible from Cover to Cover in 90 Days?      Y   N

If you did not finish, do you intend on finishing reading cover to cover?   Y   N

Which book was your favorite to read? \_\_\_\_\_

Which book was the most difficult to read? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Sermon Series helpful in understanding your reading?      Y   N

If not, what would have been more helpful? \_\_\_\_\_

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Were the Newsletter articles helpful to you in your reading?      Y   N

Would you like to participate in a more in-depth program?      Y   N

Are you glad you did this, or was it a terrible chore?      Glad    Chore

Is there anything that would have been more helpful for you in your reading and understanding? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please complete** this survey and drop in the offering plate or mail to the church office by the end of April. Thank you for helping us improve our programming ministry.