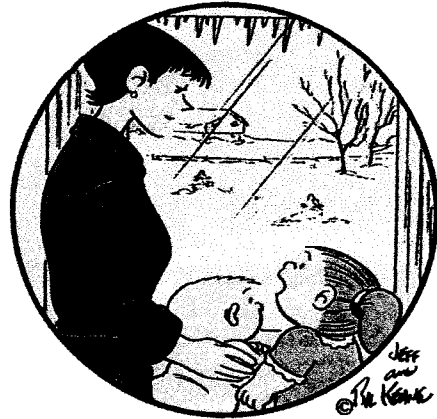


WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun, 8:00am Worship
9:00am Bible Study with Linda Clark
10:00am Worship
5:00pm Methodist Youth

Wed, 7:30am Men's Group, Carrow's
5:45pm Bible Study – the Wanderers
7:00pm Holy Macrels music practice

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bill Keane



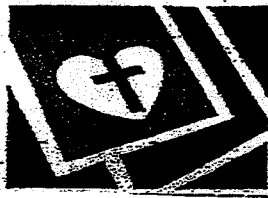
"Remember last summer when we
prayed for cooler weather, Mommy?
I think we overdid it."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane



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FEBRUARY 2010



FROM THE PASTOR

OFF ON A JOURNEY

Around January each year we send statistical information about the health of our church to the annual conference office. These forms contain information on membership numbers, baptisms, deaths, financial data and such. They, in turn, compile all this information from some 365 reporting churches to determine the overall health of our Annual Conference. You have heard me say that the mainline Protestant churches (*American Baptist Churches in the USA, the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church*) are rapidly declining across the nation.

At Annual Conference last June our conference statistician shared some shocking statistics with us. Conference wide our membership is dropping some 1000-1100 each year. Our church has approximately 100 in worship each Sunday; so if you play with the numbers, you could say we are losing approximately 10 one hundred member churches each year.

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years, but we as a church today cannot continue to wander the way we have for the last 20+ years.

I share this information with you not to alarm or put you in panic mode, but for you to realize that **WE** have a lot of work to do to make St. Paul's UMC the church God wants it to be. And that work starts with me. I will be heading off on a journey to Phoenix in February to attend a seminar entitled "*Keys to Leading in Our Shifting Culture.*" The keynote speaker is George Barna (barna.org). His group provides research and marketing expertise as a service to Christian ministries. You know and I know we are not bringing the younger generations into the church and that is a huge reason our numbers are dropping. We have to find a way to engage this group and let them know that the church is relevant to the world they live in today.

Another focus will be "*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*" by Bishop Robert Schnase. He will be in Reno on March 6th for an all day training, and I invite all of you to get involved.

Let me close with this observation. We can be pew-sitters or game changers. We can sit in the pews and let the church continue to slip away, OR we can get into the game and run the race for God.

Pastor Pat

GOD IS LIKE...

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some of the results:

God is like... Bayer aspirin. He works miracles

God is like Coke... He's the real thing.

God is like... Hallmark Cards. He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like... Tide. He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like... General Electric. He brings good things to life.

God is like... Sears. He has everything.

God is like... Alka-Seltzer. Try Him, you'll like him.

God is like... Scotch tape. You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like... Delta. He's ready when you are.

God is like... Allstate. You're in good hands with Him.

God is like... VO-5 Hair Spray. He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like... Dial Soap. Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

God is like... the U.S. Post Office. Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

God is like... Chevrolet..the heartbeat of America.

God is like... Maxwell House.. Good to the very last drop

God is like... Bounty. He is the quicker picker upper..can handle the tough jobs..and He won't fall apart on you..

LAY LEADER LITANY

Mike Clymer

What a great start to a wonderful new year! There are so many activities happening at St. Paul's that if all you do is attend the service on Sunday, you are missing half the fun! There are book club meetings, Comfort Food Friday meals, Financial Peace University sessions, Bunco, Bible Studies, Luncheons, Teas, Crafting, Cooking Classes, and on.. and on.. and on. So much that we are presented with a delightful problem, and that is booking the church for activities, as there seems to always be something going on. What a great way to use God's resources.

That brings me to what I want to cover this month, our Web site. Have you looked at it lately? There are constant changes made, usually on a weekly basis, with updates to meeting times and activities. The calendar is one of the most useful tools we have available to us. All the activities that I am informed about are listed. Sometimes, if I get more detailed information, it is added, too. Have you missed one of Pastor Pat's sermons? Almost all of them are on the site in an audio format that will play on any computer. They are usually added within a couple of days. Do you have a friend that has inquired about St. Paul's? Send them to the web site, as there are pictures and contact information. The newsletters for the Lay Reader team, as well as this one are included. There are videos, some of them funny, and testimonials from church members. There is some of the Holy Macrels music that can be downloaded, also. In short, the web site is a constantly changing source of information and resource of St Paul's. Visit it at [http://www. Stpaulsumcreno.com/](http://www.Stpaulsumcreno.com/) and let me know what you think!

Shalom!

SPECIAL EVENT CALENDAR

February:

Thur, Feb 4 Financial Peace University, 7:00-9:00pm

Thur, Feb 11 Financial Peace University

Fri, Feb 12, Comfort Food Friday
Bunco, Thurman Hall

Fri, Feb 13, Valentine Day Tea, Thurman Hall

Wed, Feb 17, Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent

Thur, Feb 18, Financial Peace University

Thur, Feb 25, Financial Peace University

March:

Thur, Mar 4, Financial Peace University

Sat, Mar 6, District Leadership Training Day
Bishop Robert Schnase, Author of "Five Practices of a
Fruitful Congregation"

Thur, Mar 11, Financial Peace University

Fri, Mar 12, Comfort Food Friday
Bunco, Thurman Hall

Sun, Mar 14, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Thur, Mar 18, Financial Peace University

Thur, Mar 25, Financial Peace University

Sat, Mar 27, Mystery Dinner

Sun, Mar 28, Palm Sunday

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February:

5 Charlie White Eagle
9 Ali Schulte
9 Oneita Gwaltney
10 Hannah Ally
12 Daniel Lyons
13 Howard McMaster
20 Laurie Hillin
23 Tim Iveson
23 Susan Doctor
28 Bill Strohschein

March:

2 Jake Schulte
2 Sheila King
4 Amanda Shepherd
5 Jan Lyons
6 Joe Scurry
6 Chris Scoufos
12 Troy Hillin
15 Pearl Cartwright
17 Jay Stone
19 Evie Vice
21 Edith Green
21 Melody Rail
24 Brent King
31 Linda Havens

!!!!!!!

MYSTERY DINNER

Like mysteries? Here's your chance to help solve one.

On March 27, Murder Mystery Nite will be held in Thurman Hall. Each table will have a different theme with all participants joining together as partners.

A sit down dinner served by the youth is planned, so make your reservations now! Tickets are \$25. See Linda Clark or Jackie Fisher for tickets or additional details.

BOOKWORM CLUB

The Bookworm Club continues to meet the second Wednesday each month. The selection for February is "Heart of Darfur" by Lisa French Baker, a review of the author's six months in Sudan as a nurse with Doctors Without Borders. The six months she spends on the mission will be the toughest of her life, but will teach her some fundamental truths about what people are capable of, both good and bad.

In March, the selection is "My Name Was Judas", by CK Stead. Judas name is synonymous with betrayal, but is that how he saw it himself? Forty years after the death of Jesus, Judas tells the story as he remembers it. Looking back, he recalls his friendship with Jesus, their schooling together, their families; the people who would go on to be disciples and followers, their journeys and their dealings with the powers of Rome and the Temple.

Join the group as they discuss these two books.

#####

WE WELCOME YOU TO OUR ST PAUL'S FAMILY

In December four new members were added to our fold:

Georgia Cunningham (now Clymer)
Susan, Danny and Ali Schulte

And, on January 31, the following were welcomed:

Roger and Chris McCuen	Kathy McKee
Mary and Richard Pond	Deni Kreeck
Brent and Sheila King	Bill Green

COMFORT FOOD FRIDAY

February 12, 2010

Comfort Food Casserole (Vegetarian available)

March 12, 2010

Taco Fiesta – Build your own

**Take out or Eat in
\$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children**

**Reservations requested
Sign up on Sunday or call Church office
747-1431**

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The Girl Friends of the Church

*at St. Paul's United Methodist
Church*

Cordially invite you to our

Annual Valentine Luncheon

Saturday, February 13, 2010

11:30am to 2:00pm

RSVP by February 8, 2010

To Penny Harrison at 626-1932

Invite a friend and join us

Tickets: \$8.00

LETTER FROM ST. PAUL'S MISSION TEAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The mission team that is going to Dulac, Louisiana, is excited to be able to help others that have been devastated by four hurricanes in the last four years. We are looking forward not only to use our muscles, skills, and talents to rebuild houses, but even more to learn about the owners and learn about the different lifestyles, interests, and stories of these future friends. By reaching out to others, we can let them know that God is alive and cares about them through us.

There are nine of us going from St. Paul's UMC, Pastor Pat, Mike and Georgia Clymer, Susan Doctor, Joyce Garcia, Mary Law, Brent King, Nichole Schober and Richard Schendel. We will be teaming up with 15 other missionaries from the host church, First UMC Reno. We are taking a week's worth of time out of our busy lives, tightening our belts, dusting off our skills, and trusting in God that we will be a helpful and positive influence on the small town of Dulac.

We are also asking for your help. First and foremost, pray for our mission. We know that prayer works. Second, starting February 7th, there will be a Money Tree in the back of the church and near the snacks after church. Here are some "Financial Facts":

Total Costs (approximate)

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • 5 minivan rentals for team transportation | \$2500 |
| • Gas for above | \$500 |
| • Home Depot cards | \$400 |
| • T-shirts for the team | \$240 |
| • Sunday activities (meals and activities at \$40 each) | \$960 |
| • Donation to the local church | <u>\$500</u> |

Total: \$5150

\$5150 divided by 24 = \$215 each during our stay

Team fee: \$225

Airplane tickets: \$400

Total: \$840

We pray that you will partner with us through your support and donations to our mission. Empty the Money Tree! Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated, as it will reduce the amount each of us will be giving.

Thank you and God bless from your Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team:

Pat, Mike, Georgia, Susan, Joyce, Mary, Brent, Nichole, and Richard,