

The Visitor

August 2011

St. Paul United Church of Christ



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

PandaMania is here! August 8th—12th the church will be filled with kids, ages 4 years—5th grade, having fun learning about how God created us, listens to us, watches over us, loves us no matter what and send good gifts to us. Boomer the Panda is host for the week's journey and will be making special appearances each morning to help us all learn!



Persons are needed to help set-up the VBS sets on Sunday, August 7th, immediately following worship. If you can help please call Lynn Minton at 847-842-8462.

You are invited to be a part of this wonderful week. Each day starts at 9:15 AM with in the sanctuary with a time of singing and learning the theme for the day. Please note that the parking lot will be closed between 8:30 AM and noon each day so the kids can go outside for games.

The VBS Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, August 12, at 7 PM. The festivities begin in the sanctuary, where you will have a chance to hear the VBS kids perform some of the songs they have learned throughout the week.

All members of St. Paul and their friends are invited to The Ice Cream Social! There will be plenty of ice cream and toppings for everyone. Please invite your friends to come and enjoy this fun-filled evening.

If you would like to donate any items needed for the event—vanilla ice cream, toppings, nuts or whipped cream—please contact Lynn Minton at 847-847-8462.



A Note from Pastor Jana



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In just a few days, St. Paul will be filled with numerous sounds, which when blended together creates the most beautiful symphony one has ever heard. It's a dynamic mixture of children laughing and singing and chattering and scraping chairs on the floor and stomping up stairs and banging on pews. If we could record this wonderful melody, it would simply be called Vacation Bible School #6.

Many years ago, when I first began to be involved in children's ministries, it wasn't easy for me to hear how each of these sounds could blend together so perfectly. For me, all of these noises, each competing to be the one heard over all of the din, was like listening to someone run their fingernails down a chalkboard—irritating and nerve-jangling. In those days, I could not have said I was listening to a joyful noise being made to the Lord.

And then I met Mary. At first, I was very intimidated to meet her because her reputation as a Sunday School teacher preceded her. (Let me just say—it is a well deserved reputation because she is gifted beyond measure when it comes to educating children.) One evening, when things were particularly noisy at VBS, and I was at my limit, I said to her, "I've got to leave. . . I can't take this noise anymore," and waited for her to become angry or disappointed that I was abandoning her in the middle of the program.

Instead, Mary looked at me and said, "Come with me, I want to show you something," and began to lead me to the corner of the Fellowship Hall where all of the activity was taking place. Once there, she instructed me to sit down and close my eyes. I was skeptical that this was going to be helpful, but after a few minutes, I began to hear a pattern in the noise and I could feel myself beginning to feel differently. When I finally opened my eyes, Mary was still standing there beside me, waiting, and simply said, "Better?" That night I learned a valuable lesson about how perspective affects us. My perspective was that the noise of VBS was just noise; Mary's was that it was a sweet melody that God gave us to listen to and enjoy.

Helping others to change their perspectives into God's perspective is where we find Jesus in the gospels. He challenged the rigid perspective of the religious authorities. He questioned the defeated perspective of the marginalized. He taught the liberating perspective of God's love. And he offered, to everyone, a life-changing perspective that can only be given by the Messiah.

Renowned psychologist, Abraham Maslow, once said, "*If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see all problems as nails.*" In other words, our perspective, the way we understand something or the belief we have about something, is quite often the thing that is getting in the way of us being able to see our life situations as God sees them. Kid-noise used to be quite a nail to me—that was until Jesus sent me a "perspective-changing angel" in my friend, Mary. I've often thought, *what if I had not listened to Mary that night?*

The Good News is that Jesus is still here to encourage perspective changing in our lives! Perhaps Jesus is calling you, right now, to sit and close your eyes because you need to gain a new perspective on something that is happening around you. *What might happen if you listen to that call?*

Summer Blessings -

Pastor Jana

RALLY DAY



Before we know it Rally Day and the kick-off of the fall programming season will be upon us! This year's Rally Day will be Sunday, September 11.

The morning will begin at 9:15 AM with a time of prayer as a special remembrance commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy.

The morning's worship at 9:30 AM will include a performance by the Reader's Theater, music from the Chancel Choir and the start of our *Blessed to be a Blessing* Commitment Season. After worship there will be an all-church potluck held in Memorial Hall. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall to indicate your participation in the potluck.

Mark your calendar now and invite your family and friends to join you for this wonderful day!



Make A Joyful Sound Unto The Lord!

The Music Ministry is looking forward to the upcoming church year and issues a sincere welcome to anyone who wishes to participate in music to glorify God. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings and we have a lot of fun making music! Chancel Choir and Praise Team are always welcoming new members, and the Handbell Choir always has needs for regular members and substitutes who love to ring handbells.

Rehearsals for this year begin on Wednesday, September 7. The schedule is: Handbells—6 PM; Chancel Choir—7 PM; Praise Team 8 PM—bi-monthly.

The schedule for worship performances is: Handbells—1st Sunday of the month; Chancel Choir—2nd & 4th Sundays of the month; Praise Team—3rd Sunday of the month. If you would like to join in the Music Ministry, please call Renee Kruper, Music Minister, at 874-516-3198 (home), 847-691-8876 (cell) or by email at rjkruper@gmail.com.

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There's something for you...

Women's Breakfast Bunch will meet for a delicious breakfast on Saturday, August 13, at 9 AM, in Memorial Hall. Karen Kalkbrenner will be the hostess for the day.



Meet
for
Breakfast

All women of St. Paul and their friends are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information please call Martha Duke, 847-381-9096.

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*47-381-4406.

And They're Off!

Social Fellowship is planning a trip to Arlington Park on Sunday, August 14, to enjoy a day at the races.

Everyone is invited to this fun activity. The group will leave from church immediately following the morning worship service. For more information please call Ruth Gregory at 847-381-4382 or Dee McCarthy at

DISCIPLE

If you are interested in discovering The Bible in new and unique ways, then Disciple Bible Study is for you!

Don't miss your opportunity to participate in this life-changing experience this year. Each week you will read The Bible and participate in some wonderful class discussions which help you claim your own theology.

Level One, *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*, reads 85% of The Bible throughout the course. Level One classes require a minimum of twelve students. If that number is achieved, class will be held on Thursday evenings, 7 PM, beginning in September. All members and friends are encouraged to join the class.

The advanced class for the year will be Level Four, *Under the Tree of Life*, which studies all of the Wisdom literature of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. This class is held on Monday evenings at 7 PM, beginning in September. Participation in Level Four requires that you have completed the Level One class at St. Paul or another church.

To register for a Disciple class, please call Pastor Jana at 847-381-0460.



You can help make VBS a great success this year by donating some of the most needed items! Please peruse the list to see where you can help.

Thanks!

Lynn

VBS Donations Needed:

- ◆ **Volunteers to lead the kids from one activity to another, August 8-12.**
- ◆ **People available Sunday August 7th to help decorate the sanctuary.**
- ◆ **Decorators of the hallways, memorial and fellowship halls in the weeks prior to VBS**
- ◆ **We need wood...I don't know the dimensions yet...let me figure that one out.**
- ◆ **Sponsors of items from Oriental Trading Co. You can find a list downstairs at coffee hour.**
- ◆ **Pink foam insulation board from Home Depot.**
- ◆ **Lots of colorful tissue paper.**

PROJECT PANDA

The giant panda is the rarest member of the bear family and among the world's most threatened animals. Out of all the bears species in the world it is the most universally loved.

The giant panda's future remains uncertain because its forest habitat, in the mountainous areas of southwest China, is increasingly fragmented by roads and railroads. Habitat loss continues to occur outside of protected areas, while poaching remains an ever-present threat.

This year during VBS, the kids will be collecting funds to help the endangered pandas of the world. You can help them by making a donation to their project. Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC, with the words PROJECT PANDA in the memo of your check. After VBS, a check from St. Paul will be sent to one of the agencies helping to save these wonderful creations of God. Thanks!



Missions

Missions

The Barrington Area will hold its 29th Annual CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 16. This year the slogan "Ending Hunger One Step at a Time" reminds us of the millions who walk each day for food and water. Hunger and poverty are rampant in our world, and escalating in the current economic conditions. Thousands are trying to rebuild after weather events have destroyed their homes. Something can and must be done about them.

Our local CROP Hunger Walk is a great place to start. Churches, civic organizations, and people of all ages are getting ready to fight hunger. For a few hours and a few miles, friends and neighbors will be coming together to, in the words of I John 3:18, "...love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

The Walk and all of its festivities will begin and end at St. Anne Catholic Community Church, 120 Ela Street, Barrington. There are many ways for you to be involved: be a walker, be a sponsor, provide chili, provide cookies, and pray for hungry people and those involved with fighting hunger throughout the world. Last year our church had 19 walkers and raised over \$3,500. We'd love to increase our participation in 2011! For more information, contact Lisa Blakeslee at 847-304-1377, Jason Maravelias at 847-217-6236 or Barrington Area contact person Chris Streed, 847-382-1321.



Contributions for July 2011

July 3	\$6,708
July 10	\$2,216
July 17	\$2,192
July 24	\$2,978

Total Month to Date: \$14,094
Average Attendance: 61

*"God is able to provide you with every blessing so that . . . you may share abundantly in every good work."
~ 2 Corinthians 9:8*



The Finance Committee offers its appreciation and thanks to St. Paul UCC members and friends for keeping up-to-date with pledging during the time of summer vacations.

Thanks so much!

FINANCE

FINANCE

“Lift Us Up...As We Reach Out”

Thanks to everyone who joined in fun and delicious dining at our Dine and Share Day at Chessie’s in Barrington on May 25th! Many came for lunch AND/or dinner and enjoyed good food and wonderful camaraderie! Many blessings to Dee McCarthy for planning this scrumptious and profitable event! Dee has reported a profit of \$111.15 for the day. What a great way to earn a little more for our “Lift Us Up’ Elevator/Renovation Fund! Look for our next Dine and Share later this year! Dee is busy organizing another one soon.

In Peace,

Sue Schick
Chairperson



Council Update

As previously announced, the Council has retained the consulting services of Rev. Michelle McNamara, Fox Valley Association clergy member, to help our congregation in this time of transition. Rev. McNamara has 20+ years of experience in the ministry and specializes in the unique issues that arise when there has been pastoral change in a congregation.

One of the primary tasks that Rev. McNamara will be accomplishing is a series of “listening sessions.” Listening sessions are a vehicle for everyone—congregation, Council and clergy—to better understand the process that we have recently undergone. During these sessions, Rev. McNamara will act as a facilitator to listen to the thoughts and feelings of members who would like an opportunity to discuss and understand recent events. All members are encouraged to attend one of the scheduled listening sessions.

Care of Members Ministry is working with Rev. McNamara as she conducts her work at St. Paul. At this time, they are working to determine the schedule for the sessions, which will begin in August. Please watch the weekly Sunday bulletins for details about your opportunity to sign-up for a session.

For more information, please call Ruth Gregory, Care of Members Ministry, at 847-381-4406.



Blessed To Be A Blessing

Counting our blessings is a big hit! On Sunday, July 24, we celebrated a Blessings Sunday during our sermon series, Church Sign

Theology, by examining what the messages on church signs could teach us about the blessings we have. We learned that *We Are Too Blessed To Be Depressed!*

Currently there are nearly 200 hands of blessings, on which people have recorded the blessings that God has given to them, that are adorning the back wall of the sanctuary. The next Blessings Sunday will be held in worship on Sunday, August 21—and we will be celebrating a special blessing brought to us by one of St. Paul’s life-long members, Burt Wendt.

To record your blessings for August, look for the brightly colored hand inside your newsletter that says, “I am grateful for the blessing of...” in its palm. Write the blessings you are counting on the hand and either place it in the offering plate on Sundays or mail it into the church. And then, over the next few months, watch to see how blessed we are as our “Blessed To Be A Blessing” wall is filled with hands! And remember. . . *We Are Too Blessed To Be Depressed!!*

Prayer List

We are grateful for health and joy restored through God's abundant grace and powerful love. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers this month as they go through challenging times.



CELEBRATIONS & JOYS

August Birthdays
 Bonnie Smith's successful surgery
 Charlie Motley is home from Egypt
 Wonderful Life Partners
 Pete & Lauri's 19th wedding anniversary

Friends in Worship
 Family Visiting
 Wonderful Pie Sale
 Job Interviews

Vacation Time
 Having Electricity
 Ed Merritt has insurance again

PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

*Pat Gehrke	*Suzanne Hempenius	*Joan Greenwood
*Auli Hartikainin	*Bud Goodmonson	*Charles Gilly
*Ralph Gaulke	*Nancy Hamelberg	*Jeannine Moore
*Gregory, Ruth Vorel's son	*Barb Whistle, Sally Price's sister	*Maggie, Karen Harding's friend
*Christie Murphy, Megan Lavery's aunt	*Harold, Walt Hempenius' friend	*Steen, Duane Tompkins' friend
*Gene Randle, Judy Randle's husband	*Paul Wilson	*George Pezdirtz
*Mildred Gregory, Marty's stepmom	*Linda, Kirk Murdoch's friend	*Joann, Sue Schick's friend
*Darrin Kennedy, Betty Henriksson's nephew	*Sutton, friend of Mintons	*Jan and Bob Auckett
*Kristen Auckett, friend of Pam	*Frank Fosco, Kirk Murdoch's friend	
*Lori Gustafson, Lynn Minton's mother	*Ariana Heick, Lisa Blakeslee's friend	
*John Garris, Kathleen Bolger's cousin	*Christie Murphy, Megan Lavery's aunt	
*Kate, Emma, Julia Schick's granddaughters	*Michael's Family, Duane Tompkins' friend	
*Catherine and John Ullrich, Larry Breidenbach's & Tim Michelson's friends		
*Cheryl Thompson, Paul and Lorraine Thompson's granddaughter		

PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCES

†The Family of Marion Hubbard
 †The Family of Gloria Johnson

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

*People afflicted by Tornadoes/Storms

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our Troops abroad serving our country, and especially Staff St. Joseph Konieczny; Christopher Millonzi; Marcus Kuiper; Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Hempenius, Capt. Keith Katzenberger, Steven Floyd, Shawn Killinan, Andrew Miller, Gunnery Sgt. Adam Bendrud, LCP Michael Hempenius, Lt. Col, Geoff Crawford.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are not able to attend church; prayers, calls and cards are appreciated so much: Bill Altenburg, Lillian Ankele, Betty Bielke, Gladys Frick, Gladys Johnson, Ruth Lindburg, Wally Moeller, Henrietta Sturm, and Lillian Stangl.



George Krabbe	8/3	Sharon Leach	8/16
Barb Neal		Al Ward	8/18
Tammy Vorel		Burt Wendt	8/21
George Schmidt	8/6	Shelley Carlson	
Tony Mann	8/7	Ralph Merritt	8/24
Harry Overton	8/8	David Chidley	8/26
Bill Roessler	8/9	Don Rubino	
Katja Stonebraker	8/10	Lorraine Thompson	
Walt Hempenius	8/11	Gladys Johnson	8/28
Elizabeth Rieke	8/13	Hazel Willey	8/30

St. Paul Ministry Support

Greeters

August 7 Jeff & Linda Mann
August 14 Fred & Sue Schick
August 21 Jeannine Moore
August 28 Mike & Ruth Vorel



Ushers

August 7	Marion Miller Sue Schick	Dorothy Lange Sue Robertson
August 14	Mary Krabbe David Holtermann	Ralph Gaulke Jason Maravelias
August 21	Youth Jeff Mann	Tim Michelson Dick Price
August 28	Ron Hamelberg Bill Bishop	Paul Thompson Kirk Murdock



Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Hosts

August 7	Heather Hernandez
August 14	Open
August 21	George & Mary Krabbe
August 28	Open

Lay Liturgists

Lay Liturgists

August 7	Kathleen Bolger
August 14	Kirby Drayer
August 21	Ruth Gregory
August 28	Jason Maravelias

Help is always needed for Sunday Servers. Please call:

Marty Gregory for ushering	847-381-4382
Ruth Gregory for greeting	847-381-4382
Sally & Dick Price for coffee hosting	847-359-1358
Jason Maravelias for lay liturgists	847-217-6236



The deadline to purchase gift cards for August is Sunday, August 7. Your purchase helps the Women's Fellowship group support various ministries of St. Paul UCC. An order form is included for you in this newsletter.

Borders cards are no longer available as they have gone out of business.

For more information about the MANNA program, please call Dee McCarthy, 847-381-4406.

Words Of Thanks



Please accept these funds in memory of Helen Kalland. Helen would say she had a blessed life and that St. Paul Church was one of the things in her life that made her feel blessed.

—Michael Kalland



I hope everyone had a great day on the 4th of July weekend!

The Slice of Pie on the Fourth of July sale made \$320. Thanks to all who baked pies and cookies, and to everyone who helped with set up and sales, and to everyone who purchased pies. When you have great help, things get done! Thank you, Thank you!

*~from
Dee McCarthy*



Thanks to Madisen and Alison Blakeslee for raising \$156 for the Elevator Fund by selling lemonade and their artwork.

Custom artwork is still available, just let the girls know!



FLAG RETIREMENT

Thank you for the many flags that were brought to the church to be respectfully retired. And the service recognizing 'Ole Glory was touching for us all.

—from Burt Wendt



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30 PM AA	3	4 8:30 AM Weight Watchers	5 Office Closed 4:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal	7 7:30 AM Weight Watchers 3:30 PM Wedding
7 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Decorate for VBS	8	9	10	11	12	13 7:30 AM Weight Watchers 9 AM Women's Breakfast Bunch
9 AM—noon VBS						
14 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Day at the Races	15 <i>Articles due for next issue of The Visitor</i>	16 7:30 PM AA	17 <i>Council Reports due to Sue Schick</i>	18 8:30 AM Weight Watchers	19 Office Closed 7 PM Ice Cream	20 7:30 AM Weight Watchers 1 PM Branches of the Vine
21 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Christian Ed & Worship Mtg	22	23 7 PM Council Mtg 7:30 PM AA	24	25 8:30 AM Weight Watchers	26 Office Closed	27 7:30 AM Weight Watchers
28 9:30 AM Worship	29	30 7:30 PM AA				

Our Mission: Welcoming all people and transforming all of our lives through Christ's gospel.

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Inside this issue:

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St. Paul United Church of Christ

St. Paul UCC Visitor

Contact us anytime at:

St. Paul United Church of Christ
Tel/847-381-0460
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Rev. Jana Chwalisz—Pastor

Martin Gregory—Church Sexton

Renee Kruper—Music Director

Deb Weaver—Office Manager

Tiffany France—Youth Director

Church email
stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com

Worship/Church School
9:30 AM Every Sunday



We Are Too
BLESSED!
To Be Depressed