

the Cornerstone

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. PAUL'S UCC | SEPTEMBER 2017



Christian Education

The Christian Education team has been hard at work preparing for another year of Sunday School, and we are very excited for the upcoming season!

This year Sunday School will begin September 10th, kicking off with a special sending ceremony during worship. Children from Pre-K to 9th grade are welcome, and there will be three classes so each child will have lessons specifically designed for their age group.

This year we are also introducing online registration. Please visit the church website www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org to access, complete, and submit your child's registration (Paper registration forms will also be available at the church).

We are very excited to teach all children who are interested in attending and look forward to nurturing a rich, creative, faith environment that grows a living, lifelong discipleship to Christ!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rachel Flanagan or Star Gunn.

Church Events

- Sept 4** Labor Day
- Sept 9** Helping Hands Soup Sale
- Sept 15** Newsletter Articles Due
- Sept 15-16** Griffith Coaching
- Set 29-30** Hoagie Sale
- Oct 8** Special Congregational Meeting
- Oct 9-12** Shoo Fly Pie Sale
- Oct 22-28** Pastor Joe Continuing Ed
- Oct 31—Nov 3** Bazaar Prep
- Nov 4** Bazaar



September 27th, 2017
following worship

Mark the date!

Please be sure to come to worship **September 17th** and stay for a St. Paul's only special workshop entitled, "The Six Wows Every Guest Should Experience." It is important to stay for this two-hour presentation and workshop by Griffith coaching. This dynamic program will be your opportunity to personally hear and meet Griffith consultants Paul Nickerson and Jim Griffith. Additionally, at the end of the presentation time, the Griffith Coaching team will make clear recommendations for our congregation, leaving us with an action plan to further discuss and evaluate.

With a special congregational meeting scheduled in October to discuss and vote upon the potential benefits of engaging in a coaching relationship with Griffith Coaching, meeting Paul Nickerson and Jim Griffith face to face on **September 17th** will be key to making an informed decision. (Please note that the grant funding we have received from the PSEC is able to be applied toward the cost of individualized coaching with Griffith).

So that we can be sure to feed everyone who will be participating in the Sept. 17th workshop, that will follow worship, please sign up by September 10th. *There are a number of ways that you can sign-up for this special workshop... a sign-up sheet (yellow) is posted on the bulletin board at the church side door entrance, you can call or email the church office, and you can also respond to the "The Six Wows Every Guest Should Experience" E-news announcement that you receive.*

If you have any questions, please contact Stuart Wells, Sherry Hunter, or the church office.

CROP Walk 2017



It will be here before you know it... Last year's walk was so successful, bringing in over \$10,000 for Church World Service, 25% of which (\$2500) was returned to us for our own SEBM emergency fund, food pantries and Hopewell Love services.

CROP WALK 2017 at Daniel Boone Homestead

October 8th 2017

Community Picnic 12:00 PM

Walk registration 1:30

Walk begins at 2:00 PM

Books for Ghana

St. Paul's UCC, Fleetwood is currently collecting various types of books for their "Books for Ghana" book drive. If you would like to donate books, please make sure there are in very good condition. St. Paul's, Fleetwood will provide you with the boxes that you will need to box up your books and they are willing to pick them up once they are ready. If you are interest and would like further information, please call 610-944-0406 and ask for Pastor Pat.

Seminary and Religious Books

School Text Books (editions that are from 2000 and newer)

Children and adolescent books

Vocational Training Text Books (both instructor and student books)

Organist Search

The search is continues... The personnel team, along with Wanda Druzba have made contact with local colleges, posted a position description on Craig's List, and have run an ad in the Reading Eagle advertising the search for an organist. They have also contacted Allen Organ expressing interested in an organist.

There has been some interest, but no definite leads. The goal is to fill this position by the end of the year. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please have them contact Wanda Druzba or a member of the personnel team (Sherry Hunter & Stuart Wells).

****UPDATE TO PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT****

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the Christmas Bazaar will return to the first weekend in December, Saturday the 2nd instead of the previously announced November 4th.

Please make sure that you mark your calendars and help spread the news. Further information about the event preparation will be made available closer to the event.



• SAVE THE DATE •

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Birdsboro

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday, December 2nd, 2017
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Home Improvements

You've seen the improvements to the outside of the sanctuary: seasonally decorated wreaths at the front and side doors; a beautiful new awning; two large planters of grasses, small shrubs, and annuals. All this has been possible through a generous bequest made to St. Paul's.

And by the time you receive this newsletter, the plan is for the front of the sanctuary to have been planted as well, also thanks to this bequest. Two hydrangea shrubs will flank the sanctuary doors, and a variety of perennials grace the area around the sign. Note that while much care and research has gone into the plants' selection, due to a variety of circumstances, some of the work will be ongoing.

Beautifying the outside of our sanctuary is one way we extend holy welcome to all who enter. It also expresses our joy in God's creation, as well as demonstrating our love for our community!

A New Call to Service

Over the years at St. Paul's, various people have been ordained as **Elders**, a role within the Christian Church that dates back to biblical times. The current Elders have sensed Spirit's strong pull to live more fully into our ministry, and so in early June we met for conversation concerning our shared ministry and its relation to the congregation in this time and place. After much fruitful discussion, we believe that the Elders are called to several ministries: congregational care and upholding the church's mission; supporting the spiritual health of the congregation and its pastor; assisting in visitations and with our confirmands; following up with inactive members; offering conflict resolution, and over all and above all, engaging in prayer.

We plan to meet every other month and so gathered again in mid-August. As we undertake to both flesh out and live into these goals, please share thoughts, questions, or concerns with any of St. Paul's active Elders: Mary Jane Doaty, Anna Oister, John McQuate, Wanda Druzba, Barb Kerper, Pat Babel, Steve Flanagan, and Janeen Adil (ministry team leader).

St. Paul's UCC Leadership

Ministers of the Gospel of Christ

All Members

Consistory

Stuart Wells, President · Sherry Hunter, Vice President · Dawn Fear, Secretary · Lizzie Reppert · Jeff Baker · Star Gunn · Bonnie Frankhouser · Steve Flanagan

Ministry Team Leaders

Richard Wolf & Sherry Hunter, Personnel · Dee Christman, Special Events · Rev. Joseph Motz, Worship, Touching 1,000 Lives, Mission Trip Birdsboro, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education · Anna Oister, Helping Hands · Richard Wolf, Opportunity House Meals · Eloise Stevens, VBS · Sherry Hunter, Hoagie Sales · Wanda Druzba, Organist Search · Janeen Adil, Elders

Supporting Ministers

Rev. Joseph Motz, Pastor · Janeen Adil, Minister of Christian Spirituality · Luwaina Baker, Administrative Assistant · Barbara Kerper, Sexton · Richard Wolf, Treasurer · Rachel Flanagan, Bookkeeper · Tim McGee, Financial Secretary

To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.