

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

February 2018 Newsletter

*All articles for the monthly newsletter must be submitted to
Barbara@stpaulslascruces.com by the 15th of the month.*

Our purpose is to lead
people to become
disciples of Christ, who
know and love God
and transform our
world from the heart of
Las Cruces.



Mountains Top Experiences

When I was growing up in the Permian Basin of Texas, I lived in an area that was fairly flat. No mountains around us only a gentle rise of the Cap-rock or Llano Estacado in the distance. Mountains were the place we would go to “get away,” a weekend vacation or sometimes the adventure of a weeklong trek into the mountains of New Mexico or Colorado. I have many fond memories of traveling with a StarCraft “popup” camper behind the vehicle. The mountains were always a place of adventure for us as a family. I have many fond memories of going to the mountains. I still enjoy the mountains today, only every morning I walk out my front door to see the beautiful Organ Mountains. It is a sight I try not to take for granted.

Mountains play a role in the Bible too. Sinai, Moriah, Carmel, Zion, Calvary all are significant places and tell us of important experiences in the life of Israel and Jesus. Starting February 11th, we will begin an exploration of the mountain top experiences found in scripture. We begin with the moment when Jesus is changed or transfigured on a mountain. From that mountain top we travel back in time to Moriah and Abraham’s dilemma with Isaac. Each mountain top experience will enable us to grow in our relationship with Jesus as his disciples.

To get to the top of the mountain we must be willing to climb. Where is God calling us to scale the next mountain? What will we see when we get to the peak? Each mountain has its own lessons and challenges. Join us in the climb to find God’s Mountain Top Experiences.

Lent will begin this year on February 14th. Yes, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day, doesn’t that sound romantic! We are preparing a unique worship experience at Noon and 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14th. Our Noon service will be in the Prayer Chapel and the evening worship will be in the sanctuary.

Holy Week this year will change from a luncheon program to an evening dinner Vespers service with our friends from the other three Methodist churches leading the service Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. There will be an evening meal prepared by Cooking for Christ. Look for more details coming later.

Easter this year will be another unique experience because it will be April 1st. Not since 1958 has Easter fallen on April “Fools” day. We will plan on a Sunrise service at Plaza De Las Cruces again. Look for more information to come as well.

I would challenge you to invite friends, family and anyone interested in coming to the Mountain Experiences as we grow as disciples of Jesus.

Blessings,

Darren

Thank you so much!

You are such a big part of Wesley and we are very grateful for your faithful service to our Wesley kids. You are in our prayers, may God Bless your new year!

Xavier and the Wesley kids

Thank you so much for all of the Angel Tree presents. Our students and families were delighted to receive such nice gifts! We appreciate your continued support. Thanks again for your generosity! University Hills staff.

Thanks to all of you that sent birthday cards for my 88th birthday. What a surprise to hear from all of you and you really did make my day special. Maryellen Connor.



We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Charlotte Priestley who passed away Sunday, January 21



RUTH ISAACKS/JESSIE LYNN CIRCLE

Susan English will be our hostess for the Tuesday, February 6 meeting of Ruth Isaacks/Jessie Lynn Circle. The 11:30am meeting will be held in Susan's home, and lunch will be served. All are welcome, and we hope many of you will come and be our guests. You can RSVP to Susan at 644-8396 and get directions to her house.

Our newest members



Dennis, Jane, and Danielle Gurnea



Yaling and Roger Hedrick



Judi Monet & Dick Lunsford



Congratulations Philip Skinner winner of the Chili/Chile Cook-off.



Congratulations to Margaret Beck, our Volunteer of the Year, Mike Hall, Marvin Henry and George Berger were our Star Volunteers. Thank you for all you do, we appreciate you.



First Friday Fun Night
February 2, 2018
5 pm to 8:30 pm

Pancakes and Pajamas



FABULOUS FEBRUARY



Youth Fundraiser

Lunch or Dinner, we gotcha covered for the Big Game on February 4th!

After the 1st service, take home a variety of Soups, Chilies, Stews & Skinner Posole.

All donations go toward our Youth 19 UMC Leadership Conference in Kansas City Missouri July 2019.

COMING SOON!



(Save the date!)

Spring Enchilada Supper Friday, February 23

The Flamingos are COMING!
April Fools
Sign up begins March 4!



PANCAKE SUPPER



What: Shrove Tuesday (by donation)

When: February 13, 2018 ~ 5-7PM

**Where: 2425 Jordan Rd.
Las Cruces, NM 88001**

Every year NMSU Wesley sponsors a pancake supper to celebrate Shrove Tuesday; a special day remembered all over the world. Come enjoy a delicious pancake supper, hang out with friends and see what's going on here at NMSU Wesley.

- Pancake supper by donation
- Plenty of sweet syrup
- Proceeds go towards God's work at NMSU/DACC
- Warm pancakes & sausages right off the grill
- Hot coffee ready to enjoy
- Top your pancakes with fruit or chocolate

ASH Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm in the Chapel
6:00 pm in Sanctuary

Becoming the Hands of Christ in Sinton, TX

Hurricane Harvey Recovery



On August 25 Hurricane Harvey left in its wake hundreds of destroyed homes, businesses, roadways, churches and schools. Anything in Harvey's path was doomed for destruction. The Rio Texas Conference of the UMC have made a pledge to help those in need for the next 2-5 years. How? **Through willing hands and hearts like the mission team from St. Paul's UMC.**



SPRING BREAK ~ MARCH 17-MARCH 24 or 25

Cost is \$175 for the first 14 St. Paul's people to sign up.

Our mission site will be in **Sinton, Texas** about 28 miles from the Gulf... YES! there will be trips to the beach!!! Lodging will be in the volunteer village and we will prepare our own meals. We know we will be doing clean-up and construction (dependent on the skills we bring) and doing what they need us to do. **We have room for 14 servants** and priority will be given to individuals who attend St. Paul's - 9th grade and above.

Expected of team members is a **heart willing** to serve.

Attendance at **team meetings** to build team community and to prepare us to serve.

Attend the **Emergency Response Training all day** on Feb 24.

DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP! Fill out the form on the Commons bulletin board or contact
Jan Archey archey@gmail.com.

It is quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously-take God seriously.

Micah 6:8

United Methodist Disaster Response Training

FEBRUARY 24 8-5 Coffee, Goodies & Lunch Provided

The United Methodist Church, through UMCOR, relies on Early Response Teams (ERT) as part of their disaster response approach~

"To be a caring Christian Presence in the Aftermath of Disaster"

Important facts about ERT:

- ERT are called out starting just after the emergency (fire, flood, storm, etc.) has been made safe. The ERT mission is to help the survivors of such emergencies to stabilize their situation and know the presence of Christ's love in their lives.
- ERT are composed of you and me, local persons who are willing to give up 3 to 5 days, normally 3, to help their neighbors in need.
- In New Mexico, we are just getting started in growing our disaster response capability. To be able to respond to a disaster and provide rotating teams of people anywhere in New Mexico (and Texas, and beyond, as needed), our conference needs more trained individuals. We have an equipped equipment trailer and thus far, 50 persons trained to be members of Early Response Teams.



It is imperative for St. Paul's to have trained servants in our midst. To meet this goal, St. Paul's will host a ERT event **February 24 from 8-5**. Registration is \$40 and includes course materials, snacks and lunch. **Reserving your space by February 20, Global Missions & Local Missions will pay all of St. Paul's participant's fees. There is space for 30.**

Two additional ADVANCED COURSES are also offered. No charge....

SUNDAY 2pm - 2-hour course - On-Site Management. This class is necessary should we need to 'run' a recovery event.

MONDAY 7pm - 2-hour course - Site Assessment. This class will help evaluate the needs of the people and how UMCOR can help them.

Please note: To take the ADVANCED COURSES, you must have taken the ERT class

To register, please contact Jan Archey at 575.640.6185 (call or text) or at archeyjan@gmail.com. You may also leave your name with Barbara in the church office.

What Does a Way Forward Look Like for the NM Conference?

Dear Friends and Colleagues in Ministry,



As you are likely aware, our denomination is facing uncertain times as we struggle through debates over human sexuality-essentially how and whether we are going to include gay and lesbian persons in ministry and the life of the church and how and whether we might maintain unity in the face of such diverse opinions, preferences, and practices.

The task of navigating us through this time has been taken up by our Council of Bishops and a specially appointed Commission on a Way Forward, which is a special, called session of the General Conference scheduled for February of 2019. While the Commission continues their work, the Council of Bishops has asked annual conferences to foster "listening sessions" for preliminary feedback on the proposed way forward (currently summarized in three loose "sketches"). We have scheduled four such listening sessions with members of our delegation throughout the New Mexico Annual Conference for this spring:

Feb. 18 - Western Hills UMC in El Paso at 3:00 pm

March 4 - First UMC in Odessa at 3:00 pm

March 18 - First UMC in Clovis at 3:00 pm

April 22 - Central UMC in Albuquerque at 3:00 pm

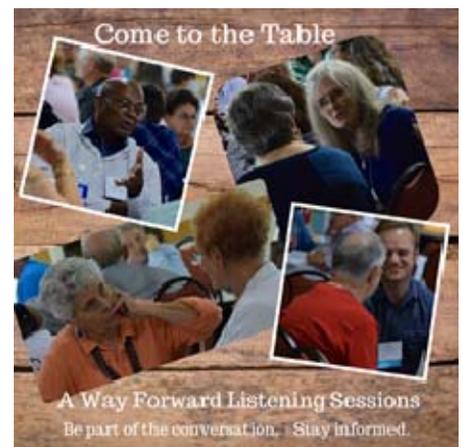
While this divisive topic can raise anxiety levels, I believe it is right and fitting for us to gather for some further conversation and "conferencing" in the spirit of our on-going sharing that began last year at Annual Conference and the conversations from Bishop Bledsoe's Fall Itineration. As I shared at the Annual Conference session, part of what makes a conference a conference is that we talk, we discuss, we interact with each other (even when it is challenging).

One word of caution, however: because the work of the Commission is as-yet unfinished, our time together this spring will not be a debate, nor will we conclude our time together by taking votes or registering preferences. Our objective will simply be to share the information about where we are and where our denomination is in this process, learn more about the "sketches" currently being developed and proposed for a Way Forward, and discuss (together and with our delegation) how and where our values, our hopes, and our fears lie as the people called Methodist in New Mexico and far West Texas.

I ask for your fervent prayers for the Commission's work, for our delegation members, for our Bishop, and for all who would lead us. I hope you make plans to join one of our listening sessions and I look forward to seeing you there.

As always, I am grateful to be in ministry with you all!

In Christ,
Randall
Randall Partin, Provost



FOCUS ON PRAYER 5th Series # 5
From “A Diary of Private Prayer” By John Baillie #5

“A Morning Prayer”

Almighty God, who are ever present in the world without me, in my spirit within me, and in the unseen world above me, let me carry with me through this day’s life a most real sense of Your power and glory.

O God without me, forbid that I should look today upon the work of Your hands and give no thought to You the Maker. Let the heavens declare Your glory to me and the hills Your majesty. Let every fleeting loveliness I see speak to me of a loveliness that does not fade. Let the beauty of the earth be to me a sacrament of the beauty of holiness made manifest in Jesus Christ my Lord.

O God within me, give me grace today to recognize the stirrings of Your Spirit within my soul and to listen most attentively to all that You have to say to me. Let not the noises of the world ever so confuse me that I cannot hear You speak. Let me never deceive myself as to the meaning of Your commands; and so let me in all things obey Your will, through the grace of Jesus Christ my Lord.

O God above me, help me to take refuge in the thought that You are utterly beyond the sweep of my imagination, beyond the reach of my mind, and Your ways are past finding out. But You, O merciful Father, are not beyond the reach of my heart for Your love ever covers me and draws me close and I can never be alone. May Your kingdom be reflected in my life today. Amen.

“An Evening Prayer”

O God in whose boundless being are laid up all treasures of wisdom and truth and holiness, grant that through constant fellowship with You the true graces of Christian character may more and more take shape within my soul:

The grace of a thankful and uncomplaining heart:

The grace to await Your leisure patiently and to answer Your call promptly:

The grace of courage, whether in suffering or in danger:

The grace to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ:

The grace of boldness in standing for what is right:

The grace of preparedness, lest I enter into temptation:

The grace of bodily discipline and of strict truthfulness:

The grace to treat others as I would have others treat me:

The grace of charity, that I may refrain from hasty judgment:

The grace of silence, that I may refrain from hasty speech:

The grace of forgiveness towards all who have wronged me:

The grace of tenderness toward all who are weaker than myself:

The grace of steadfastness in continuing to desire that You will do as now I pray.

And now, O God, give me a quiet mind, as I lie down to rest. Dwell in my thoughts until sleep overtake me. Let me rejoice in the knowledge that, whether awake or asleep, I am still with You. Let me not be fretted by any anxiety over the lesser interests of life. Let no troubled dreams disturb me, so that I may awake refreshed and ready for the tasks of another day. And to Your Name be all the glory. Amen.

Ruth Moorer/Prayer Coordinator

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225 West Griggs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526-6689
Change of address requested

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSLASCRCUCES.COM

"DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD?"

That, dear friends, is the question I will ask (and hopefully answer) in my next book. It's titled 'Back When I Was Young: True Stories of Growing Up.' The stories are all taken from my childhood, but I write them as devotional lessons to help you think about your own childhood.

I hope to offer those for sale at St. Paul's Church between services on Sunday, February 25. The book will go for \$10.00, and half of your donation will go directly to this church's general budget. By the way, you raised about eighty dollars with your purchase of my other recent book, 'Beyond the Far Country.' Thanks a bunch! And may God bless you in your reading.

Pastor Paul