

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

January 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.



Finding True North



Sunday, I began a new series about how to make decisions that matter. How do you make the right decisions in your life? The decisions we make sometimes however small have a lasting effect upon our lives and our future. Our future is not written yet and what we decide can make the difference between a life-story that pleases God or one that only pleases ourselves.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are dedicated to following him. Our decisions should reflect what Christ wants to happen in our world. We have the ability to be those who promote or hamper the kingdom goals. Each Sunday, we will challenge each other to make the decisions that will enable us to make wise and God honoring choices.

There are also small groups and Sunday School classes that are discussing each sermon topic. If you want to grow and mature in your relationship with Jesus then a small group is a must. Connecting with others in a class or group will encourage you to make the lasting changes and develop those habits that benefit you. Here is a listing of the classes or groups you can join:

Sundays: Discover Class, Library @ 9:30 a.m.

20/20 Vision Class, Room 202 (across bridge 2nd floor) @ 9:30 a.m.

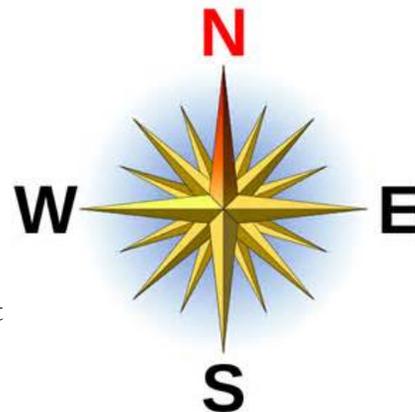
Tuesdays: Mike's group, Room 107 @ 5:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: Paul's group, 1620 Elder St. @ 7:00 p.m.

I hope this series will be a challenge and encouragement to write the next chapter of your story the way Jesus would write it.

Blessings,

Darren



Title of the next four sermons: Sunday, January 14 - Wisdom to Discern
Sunday, January 21 - Invest in Disciplines
Sunday, January 28 - Trust the Process
Sunday, February 4 - Faith to Start



Thank you to those who participated in the parking lot cleanup on December 23!
Sincerely, Jim Fredrickson/Trustees



We express our sincere sympathy to the families of Paula Smith who passed away November 20, Ed Duke who passed away December 20 and Clyde Barlow who passed away December 31.

Altar Flowers for Sunday services...

Sunday morning Altar Flowers are a great way to honor a family member or friend that has passed or is having a birthday or anniversary. Please consider purchasing one or both Altar Flowers for a special occasion. The cost is \$50 each and you may sign up on the Flower Calendar Chart on the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall door. If you have any questions please call Barbara at 541-3179 or email at Barbara@stpaulslascruces.com.

We Love our Volunteers

We have MANY volunteers at St. Paul's that we appreciate. The staff would like to say thank you. Please let us pamper you with a "Volunteer Appreciation" dinner on Tuesday, January 22 at 6 pm. If you volunteer in any capacity we ask that you be a part of this celebration but We need you to RSVP with Barbara at 541-3179 or barbara@stpaulslascruces.com by Wednesday, February 17.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP TO PROVIDE HURRICANE RECOVERY AIDE

St. Paul's Global Missions team has made a commitment to travel to an area in Texas to provide help in an area ravaged by Hurricane Harvey. Our work will be near the Corpus Christie area, so trips to the beach are certainly in the plans! Plans are to leave on Saturday, March 17 and return on Sunday, March 25. Fund-raising through the TATOR LUNCHEONS and the youth BURRITO SALES, will make this trip extremely affordable. All we need is for you to make a commitment. Applications will be available late January. Expected of team members will be participation in team meetings prior to leaving. This is a perfect opportunity for families with older children to participate, teachers, college students and others who would want to journey with the mission team and help those in need and it WILL BE FUN!!! Needed are people with a desiring heart. Skills needed are varied and include cooking, construction, painting and clean-up.

Supporting the Educational Endeavors of our Young People

St. Paul's has a long history of supporting our own young people through scholarship awards. Long ago member, Leta Stroben, established a scholarship fund for those going into a church vocation, Seminary Fund is for those in seminary studies. Currently our own, Ryan Weeks, is attending Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. Our general Scholarship Fund is for graduating seniors. A new fund, established in memory of Marian Ebert Wolle, has recently been established for students pursuing an art degree with an interest in church work. This spring we will have another great group of graduates. Donations to any of the above may be made at any time during the year. On behalf of the many St. Paul's young people who have received scholarships, we thank you for supporting our youth. Applications for scholarships will be available late January.

Drivers needed for Lambs' Class



For over forty years, St. Paul's has provided a class for adults with developmental disabilities. Recently, caregivers from the different agencies in town have had caregivers bring their clients to Sunday school and church but there are at least 4 students who depend on St. Paul's drivers to pick them up and take them home. We have a new van donated by the Bullock brothers and it is in excellent order.

Some of our past drivers are ageing and they have been faithful for many, many years. We are in need of 2 more drivers and you would not need to be on duty more than once a month. A short orientation will be provided. The students are generally quite content and entertaining and transporting them has not created any real issues in the past.



St. Paul's Vocal Youth Choir performing at the 9:30 am service.



132 Angel Tree gifts were delivered to Alameda, Central, Conlee and University Elementary Schools for Christmas. Thank you Kim Boykin, Denise Briggs, Marvin Henry and of course St. Paul's Congregation.





Children's Choirs are resuming on January 10th. Cherub Choir is for 3-5 year olds and meets from 5:30-6:00 pm. Kids 4 Christ is for Kinder through 5th grade and meets from 6:00-7:00 pm. We would love to have you join us!

First Friday Fun Night has been moved to the second Friday this month. It will be held on January 12th from 5:00-8:30 pm. Join us as we explore a Winter Wonderland with snowflakes and penguins! \$10 per child, \$30 max per family.

Sunday School Teacher has been found! Thank you Tobi O'Brien for answering the call to minister to children!



Our children participated in many wonderful Advent activities throughout the month of December! They made nativity cookies with Mrs. Beverly, learned about Christian symbols while making clay ornaments with Mrs. Jan, and got to make awesome wooden decorations with Mrs. Sheila! Thanks to all our volunteers for making the Advent season meaningful to the kids!

St. Paul's Lego Clubs

Our two St. Paul's Lego teams, Team Hydro and Team Lego Robo Unicorn met at the church during third service for 12 weeks! They created Aqua Adventure themed lego models, while learning about water's journey to us. They presented at the First Lego League Jr. Expo on December 9th at Early College High School. Team Hydro won the Little Einstein award for being able to describe what they had learned so well and Team Leo Robo Unicorns won the Cooperation award for the teamwork they displayed. They were also here at the church on Sunday, December 10th demonstrating their models to our church members. They did a great job, and St. Paul's is proud of them!

SAVE THE DATE - Camp Sunday and our Camp Chili Cook-Off will be on January 28th. We are encouraging all of our children to try out kid's camp up at Sacramento this year. We will have a special Camp speaker in all three services. The Chili Cook-Off will be a fundraiser to raise money for camp scholarships. You are invited to enter your best Chili recipe for a chance to win prizes, or just to come partake of some delicious chilis after 2nd or 3rd service and vote for your favorites. Watch for the sign up and advertising!



Youth Corner

Upcoming opportunities for youth to be involved within this year at St. Paul's:

- CCYM & R.O.C. - Weekend Camps for students
- Mission in Motion- Investing in El Calvario UMC
- Fundraising for Youth 2019 in Kansas City Missouri- Cost per Student \$2000.00.
- May graduation celebration.
- Youth Week End of May
- Youth Group in from Central Texas Conference in June to do mission work in Las Cruces.

Where members can help!

- UMC wide (Available for all three churches) Confirmation classes in the fall. I need volunteers to be on a support team for the confirmands. Pastors and laity will be teaching the classes.
- Find a friend and provide meals for the youth on Sunday evenings at 6pm. Sign-up sheet in the commons on the Youth board.

FOCUS ON PRAYER, 5th Series #4
 From “A Diary of Private Prayer” by John Baillie #4
“A Morning Prayer”

O God who dwells in our poor and shabby human life, lifting it now and then above the dominance of animal passion and greed, allowing it to shine with the borrowed lights of love and joy and peace, and making it as mirror of the beauties of a world unseen, grant that my part in the world’s life today may not be to obscure the splendor of your presence but rather to make it more plainly visible to the eyes of my fellow men.

Let me stand today

for whatever is pure and true and just and good:

for the advancement of science and education and true learning:

for the redemption of daily business from the blight of self-seeking:

for the rights of the weak and oppressed:

for the conservation of the rich traditions of the past:

for the recognition of new workings of Your Spirit in the minds of the people of my own time:

for the hope of yet more glorious days to come.

Today, O Lord

let me put right before interest: let me put others before self:

let me put the things of the spirit before the things of the body:

let me put the attainment of noble ends above the enjoyment of present pleasures:

let me put principle above reputation: let me put You before all else.

O God the reflection of whose transcendent glory did once appear unbroken in the face of Jesus Christ, give me today a heart like His - a brave heart, a true heart, a tender heart, a heart with great room in it, a heart fixed on you, for His name’s sake. Amen

“An Evening Prayer”

Gracious God, I seek Your presence at the close of another day, beseeching You to create a little pool of heavenly peace within my heart this night. Let all the day’s excitements and anxieties now give place to a time of inward recollection, as I wait upon You and meditate upon Your love.

Give me tonight, dear Father, a deeper sense of gratitude to You for all Your mercies. Your goodness to me has been wonderful. At no moment of the day have I lacked Your gracious care. At no moment have I been called upon to stand in my strength alone. When I was too busy with my petty concerns to remember You, that You with a universe to govern were not too busy to remember me.

Give me faith now to believe that You can be all in all to me, according to my need if only I renounce all proud and self-dependence and put my trust in You.

Show Your lovingkindness tonight, O Lord, to all who stand in need of Your help. Be with the weak to make them strong and with the strong to make them gentle. Cheer the lonely with Your company and the distracted with Your solitude. Prosper Your Church in the fulfillment of her might task, and grant Your blessing to all who have toiled today in Christ’s name. And as I lie down to sleep this night, I commit all my loved ones to Your unsleeping care, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
225 West Griggs Avenue
Las Cruces, NM 88005
575.526-6689
Change of address requested

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.STPAULSLASCRCUCES.COM

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

A New Thursday Bible Study ("TBS")

Thursdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m.

January 18 through May, 2018

IN THE LIBRARY

BUY PAUL'S NEWEST BOOK! SUPPORT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH!

I want to thank everyone who purchased a copy of the book I published late last year: "The Minco Diaries: A Homeless Man Comes Home." Your donations brought a \$66.00 check for the general budget of your favorite church in the world (St. Paul's United Methodist Church, of course!).

ON JANUARY 21ST of this new year I'll be offering my latest work: "Beyond the Far Country: Tales of Fantasy and Wonder." This collection of twenty (or so) original fairy tales will offer a new and happy 'twist' on that genre. Included in the book are short novels (about a princess kidnapped by an ogre and about a childless couple who receives a wolf puppy one stormy night). I wrote several of these stories for my children when they were small. I'm asking for a \$10.00 minimum donation, and of course half of all proceeds will support our St. Paul's budget. See you the 21st!