

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

July 2018 Newsletter

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.



Thank you for the kind words of encouragement this past Sunday. Sheila and I read through your care notes and felt your love and appreciation. I want you to know how much we appreciate you and your compassion. We plan on staying in ministry here in Las Cruces for the foreseeable future.

So what is next for us here at St. Paul's? What are the next steps for us as disciples learning to know God and love God more? First, let me tell you July is a month of rest and planning. Over the next two-three weeks, Sheila and I will be resting from a busy spring and VBS. Second, there will be a time of prayer and planning for the fall. There are several things on the horizon that we are looking forward to.

1. Anatomy of Peace Series is an all church study (4 parts) that begin in September. This series is based on the book by the same name and will help us see each other differently, the way God sees us. You will have opportunities to join study groups to talk about how you can grow to see people like "people" and not "objects." If you are interested in hosting a small group or using the curriculum for your Sunday School Classes, let me know.
2. Connecting with God series will be the next sermon series and study which will be on the Lord's Prayer. We pray it every Sunday, but sometimes we take it for granted. The series will have videos and curriculum available and begins in October.

The first Leadership Academy 2.0 will be August 12th and is designed for all who are currently serving on teams, boards or committees. The three monthly sessions will help us grow as leaders in the church and equip us to be more effective in fulfilling our mission to make disciples and transform our world. If you are a leader or serving on a committee your participation is required. Those who are interested in serving are also invited to participate. In addition to the August date, September 9th and October 14th are the other session dates.

Finally, I want you to be praying for our United Methodist Church as we wrestle with the subject of human sexuality. There is a helpful email prayer meditation that can guide you to pray for the church as we prepare for the special called General Conference 2019. (<https://us7.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=1b5f1dafac8900da3ef72c04d&id=ec0cf42ab5>)

If you are interested in the current discussions regarding the Commission on Way Forward and the human sexuality debate within the United Methodist Church, please follow this link (<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-news-and-updates>) for more information and the current news.

I would encourage you to keep yourself informed about this issue. I will provide resources and information as it becomes available.

Blessings,
Darren

The UM Bishops in Texas issue a statement regarding the policy of separating families: <http://www.nmconfum.com/tx-bishops-launch-write-reunite-campaign/>



First Friday Fun Night is July 6 from 5:00-8:30 pm. We will be having a Summer Splash Party. \$10 per child, \$30 max per family.

There will be no Parents Night Out on July 4.

We will be starting our “Fill a Backpack” for students at Central Elementary School Sunday, July 8. You will find on the rolling board in the Commons small backpack cut outs in three different colors. Pick the grade you are interested in, purchase a backpack age appropriate, then fill it with the supplies attached. You are asked to return the backpack to the church by Sunday, July 29 so we can bless them on Sunday, August 5.



Confirmation



Sheila is in need of help for confirmation classes beginning August 19-March 31. Needed, are volunteers to assist confirmands during the class period and also to be mentors. We have a few signed up but need more. We also need help with meals for Sunday evenings. Sign up in the front office.

Thank you, Sheila

Thank you so much for everything you've done to help me feel welcome at St. Paul's, from encouraging my music, to inviting me to be a part of the youth group, to putting together Senior Sunday. I really appreciate the gifts and my senior basket. Kira Cunniff

Thank you so much for the graduation gifts, I'll put them to good use at Tech! Garrison



Dear friends,

Thank you for your donation of \$2,050.00 to the Mesilla Valley? Community of Hope. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness in helping us help people in need. Your generosity makes our job easier.

Nicole Martinez/MVCH Executive Director

Do you enjoy cooking? Do you enjoy great fellowship? If so, you need to join our “Cooking for Christ” group. “Cooking for Christ has lost two of their wonderful ladies moving out of Las Cruces. They will certainly be missed. The best to Carol Macklin and Catherine Powers and may God bless you both. So, please come see what “Cooking for Christ” is all about. They will start back up in September. If you are interested call Kamme at 644-6607. Also, please contact Kamme if you know of a service person overseas that would like to receive home-baked cookies



Mission groups enjoying their stay at St. Paul's



LOVE Singers from St. Stephen's UMC Amarillo



Central Texas Mission Group



Wesley FIESTA & Silent Auction

St. Paul's UMC Las Cruces | 225 W. Griggs

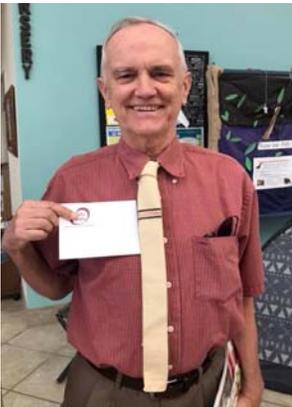
Saturday August 18th | 6-9pm

RSVP by Saturday August 11th to
nmsuwesley.org/fiesta or 575-571-5910

\$25 per person
\$40 per couple



Ed Aylesworth,
winner of the ugly tie
contest, early
service.



Central Texas Mission Youth Team had lots of leftovers from June 20th brisket dinner. They blessed the Missouri/Telshor Fire House Station with a meal.



Ken Boykin, winner
of the ugly tie
contest, late
service.



We are looking at another Church wide El Paso Chihuahuas Baseball Game July 22 @ 7pm. Before we can get it scheduled, Sheila needs to know before July 8th, how many people would want to go. We would also go out to eat before the game. Please email Sheila at sheilacashskinner@gmail.com if you are interested. To get the special rate, we need 20 people to commit to going.

FOCUS ON PRAYER

“Listening to God”

With this article, we are beginning a new series with the emphasis on how we can listen to God and discern his will for us. I will be sharing with you from a devotional book which was inspired through a group of devoted “listeners to the Lord.” The next is a quote from the flyleaf of the book.

“In the early 1950’s a group of seven men and women devoted themselves to growing in Christ and listening to his guidance in prayer. They asked questions about individual needs and group concerns, and they recorded the answers faithfully. For nearly five years they did this together, practicing the discipline of asking, listening, and recording Christ’s guidance. The variety of age, background and needs of the seven listeners makes for a broad range of listening, with many facets of life reflected. The dedication and discipline of the group are evident. The answers have an authentic ring. It is astonishing how pertinent the reader will find the guidance for his particular needs.” (Note: The questions which were asked are not indicated, only the answers.)



I have selected choice readings from this little book entitled ***“Listen, the Lord, Instructions in Spiritual Awareness and Interior Prayer as Given to even Listeners.”***

January 1 - “The whole process of creation is nothing compared with the longing of God for the soul of man. Listen. Listen to the silence of eternity. This is the dawn of a new day. Listen for my will and want my will more than anything else. Want only my will.”

January 2 - “The surrender of the will, my child, has nothing to do with desire or emotion. It is the yes of your spirit, of the inner core of *I am the Light* your being, that gives your will to me.”

I will not force you into my will. The choice is yours. You may be a weather vane at the mercy of each wind, or you may set your sail to be moved only by the wind of God. It is not my way to force my will. The door must be opened from the inside. I wait. . .”

January 4 - “*I am the light*. You have been going from person to person seeking me. Now seek the light instead of the lamp! Be willing to submit yourself to whatever disciplines our Father has for you so that your eyes may not become veiled to the light.

I long to have all men know me as the Son of Man, as the Son of God, as friend, partner, co-worker. I long to have man accept me and work with me.

You are persuaded by too many. You have forgotten me in running to this one and that one. You have scattered your spirit. Come! Come to me. I am the way, the truth, the life. O my child, not my teachings, but I myself: I am the way, the truth, and the life. Let me be with you. Center upon me, forgetting all else until your spirit is mature enough to ask and receive my word first.”

(I suggest to you who read this column to save each one and put it in a notebook. This book is out of print so there is no other way for you to have a copy of the material, which will be limited at best.)

Ruth Moorner

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

St. Paul's Services

8:00 am - Traditional

9:30 am - Modern

11:00 am - Traditional

Thanks once again to the people of St. Paul's United Methodist Church!

Your purchase of my recent book, "Lead Us Not Into Temptation: When Love Returns" earned \$80.00 for our general budget. While that doesn't sound like much every little bit helps our basic operations budget, and especially during these summer months. But don't worry! And if you like what you've read so far, I am pleased to announce my newest novel will be available here on Sunday August 5. I'll be featuring "The Secret Queen: The

Girl No One Knew." This is a fantasy novel I wrote in part to criticize the rampant slave trade that is going on right now in many countries of the world (far worse than in the nineteenth century). But I think it'll be a good story for anyone even if you are not interested in this larger international issue. Purchase your copy on August 5 for only \$12.00 and support your local church!

