

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

November 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.



Leadership Academy Appreciation meal for Laity/Volunteers
Sunday, November 4: 5pm - 7pm
Please RSVP with Sheila.

2018 LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY

Laity and Volunteers will have an opportunity to listen to all of the upcoming events and ministry opportunities from church leaders. Nursery care will be provided.

The poster features a close-up of a tan military helmet with a red and white striped chin strap. A gold star medal and a red ribbon are pinned to the helmet. The text is overlaid on the image.

St. Paul's Salutes
Heroes!
Veterans Day — 2018
An Evening of Music, Drama and Inspiration
November 11 – 7:00 pm
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Guest Speaker:
Brig. Gen. Gregory Brady
Commanding General, WSMR

Missionary Rev. Martin Reeves will be at St. Paul's Sunday, November 18



One of our covenant missionaries, Rev. Martin Reeves, will be with us Sunday, November 18. He will be speaking at all three worship services and we hope there will be additional opportunities to meet with him. We will bring them to your attention as details are known.

Martin and his family have been serving through TMS Global Ministries in Trujillo, Peru since 2001. TMS (The Mission Society) is grounded in United Methodist beliefs and strives to mobilize the Body of Christ so that it will live and share the gospel incarnationally to more effectively

reach the least reached with the goal that we make disciple-makers who lead communities that do and proclaim God's mercy and justice.

Martin says of their ministry, "WOW - God is sooo Good. Having a blast with my wife and 7 kids serving Christ as missionaries in Trujillo, Peru!" For more information about this exciting ministry, check out the YouTube video from 2011 at [Reeves Mission in Trujillo Peru w commentary-YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD-VAByeqhg) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TD-VAByeqhg>. Let's give Martin a hearty welcome November 18!

Pastor's Report to Church Conference 2018



St. Paul's is a church with a great, positive attitude. This past year there has been a renewed emphasis on discipleship, leadership and reaching beyond the church building. With the addition of two staff members focusing on children and youth, we have begun to see fruitfulness in those areas. Because of the leadership of Sheryl Barham, the children's area has grown from one Sunday School class to four with plenty of volunteer teachers. The Easter Egg hunt and Fall Festival have both increased in size and scope {250+ and 600, respectively). The youth ministry led by Sheila Skinner has also seen fruit in the growth of students in a confirmation class with plenty of adult mentors to guide. This exploration of the Christian faith is taught by various groups of leaders including pastors, both active and retired, church staff, and lay leaders. The older students are exploring the text and theme of the sermon Sunday evening. They also have begun inviting friends to participate. They are currently raising funds for Youth19. Because of the generosity of the church, they have over 90% of the funds they need for the trip. I thank God for these staff leaders and their effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus and reaching beyond the walls of the church.

Worship attendance continues to increase slowly. The challenge is to connect with our first time guests in a meaningful way and provide them with an opportunity to connect with others to grow in their faith. There are many first-timers who try us out, but don't return. We want to increase the possibility of a return visit.

The Leadership Academy is in its second year and we are beginning to explore what it means to train, support and equip leaders for the work of ministry here at St. Paul's. This year we will conclude our Academy with an appreciation dinner for those leaders and our volunteers who work tirelessly to support our mission to make "new" disciples of Jesus who know and love God and transform our world.

Finances continue to be stable but have not increased with the growth in attendance. We continue to experiment with different ways to encourage generosity. The financial picture of the church is much better than when I arrived and the church continues to have adequate reserve funds while not hampering effective ministry.

For 2019, I plan to focus my preaching and leadership on three areas that I believe are essential to a growing congregation. CPR stands for "Connect," "Prayer," and "Reading." Connecting disciples with each other in significant and meaningful ways, teaching and encouraging prayer, and raising the level of Bible reading. Each of these will increase the discipleship of the congregation and mature them as disciples.

I want to re-emphasize our mission to make new disciples of Jesus who know and love God and send them out to transform our world.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

First Friday Fun Night is November 2, from 5:30-8:30 pm. We will have a paint party, games and a movie. \$10 per child, \$30 max per family.



Operation Christmas Child

On November 18th, we will be packing our Christmas Shoeboxes in the Fellowship Hall from 11-2 pm. Pizza will be provided! We need adult volunteers to help the kids pack!! Please let Sheryl know if you can help. All donations of toys and personal items are due by the 18th! We also need your change that you have been collecting for us! Bring it in ASAP, so we can use it to purchase plastic shoeboxes and items needed to fill them!

No Parent's Night Out or Children's Choirs on Wednesday, November 21

Fall Festival-We had around 550 people attend our Fall Festival, 50 volunteers from over 15 different NMSU and community groups, and close to 40 church member volunteers! We collected numerous addresses and email addresses from the guests at BOTH events to send follow up info from our church. Here is a list of the groups that participated in our Spooky Science Fall Festival! (NMSU: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Pharmacy, Computer Science, Chemical Engineering, Burrell College of Medicine Pediatrics Club, Astronomy, Arthropod Museum,) LCPD Ident-a-Child, Mesilla Valley Search and Rescue, Asombro Science Institute, Challenger Learning Center, Project NEO Robotics, Kona Ice, Boy Scout Troop 173, Mayfield and APECHS Honor Society Students, NMSU Wesley Center, Sierra MS Science Magnet and the more than 40 church members who volunteered their time.



November Events

4th: 4-6pm Confirmation. 4:30-6pm Sr. High. 6-6:30pm Meal
 11th: 4-6pm Confirmation. 4:30-6pm Sr. High. 6-6:30pm Meal. (New) Drama by Liz for Youth, meeting during Sr. High time.
 16th -18th: CCYM Service Camp- Fall Event November, 2018
 18th: No Evening Youth or Confirmation
 25th: No Youth or Confirmation- Decorating Church for Christmas.

December Events

2nd: 4-6pm Confirmation. 6-6:30pm Meal. 4-7pm Sr. High, shop for Angel Tree Gifts.
 9th: 4-6pm Confirmation. 6-6:30pm Meal. 4-7pm Sr. High, wrap gifts for Angel Tree Gifts.
 16th: 5-8pm Youth Christmas Party- All Youth and Adult Teachers and Assistants. Thieman's Home
 23rd: No Youth
 30th: No Youth





Hurricane Michael on the Gulf Coast and the St. Paul's Matching Giving Challenge

Thank you, St. Paul's, for donating in September over \$1000 to UMCOR Hurricane Recovery! Because of your giving, a generous St. Paul's family has matched the first \$500 of your giving! It is wonderful that we can provide over \$1500 to UMCOR during this time of hurricane and

now floods in Texas. Below is a bit of a report on what UMCOR is currently doing.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is proud to say that because of UMCOR's investment in disaster response training, UMCOR partners are better prepared to reduce risk and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. They have begun their local response in the Alabama-West Florida, South Georgia and Florida Conferences. Other neighboring conferences have provided assistance, and all were well prepared to respond quickly using UMCOR response training and the UMCOR supply network.

Affected Conferences are not yet ready to receive out-of-conference volunteers. We remind those wishing to provide aid to please not self-deploy or donate unsolicited items. Many areas are still engaged in emergency response efforts.

As information becomes available, we will let you know if there are additional ways we can help. Hurricane damage takes YEARS to repair or replace homes. **St. Paul's is organizing a second mission trip in March 2019 to Sinton, TX to help repair houses. We need a team of at least 10. If you are interested in going, contact Jan Archey, Global Missions Chair 575.640,6195 or archeyjan@gmail.com.**

GIVING TUESDAY-On this day, many donations to agencies are doubled. These agencies include United Methodist ones....like UMCOR, McCurdy, Lydia Patterson and others. It's a great way to have your donation increase! Go to their website on November 27. For more information go the Conference website: www.nmconfum.com.

The St. Paul's Reader:

I write to thank you for purchasing sixteen of my recent book at the last book sale and signing event here! Your purchases of A Passage to Iona: A Story of Ancient Scotland brought \$90.00 into the fold of the St. Paul's Church general budget. Again I say a resounding thank you!!



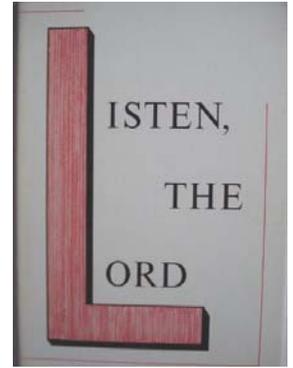
Now for the bad news: Up to now I have been using the web site "createspace.com" to self-produce the books I write. Createspace is owned by Amazon. In the last two months Amazon made the corporate decision to shut down this web site and only permit the self-production of new books on their Kindle Direct Publishing web site. This is good in part because it eliminates an extra step. One can produce a hard copy book as well as a digital book at the same time. The bad news is authors are no longer permitted to purchase their books to sell at the wholesale price! Instead if we want (say) twenty books to sell at a signing event we (the authors) must now pay the full retail price for that volume! So instead of being able to order twenty books for (say) \$90.00 I will now have to pay at least double that to stock up on books for sale.

What's that mean for me here? I'll only be able to afford a few book sales per year (either here, at Coas, or some other location). And I will have to sell the books at slightly above the retail cost. Which for you is a real bummer! Got an opinion? Got any feedback? Lay it on me. This isn't going to keep me from writing because 1.) I love doing it, and 2.) I still get a trickle of international sales here and there. But it makes it very hard for a guy on a limited income to sell them directly to my favorite public. So there it is! My next sale here will be February 24, 2019 by the way Pastor Paul

FOCUS ON PRAYER 6th Series #5

“Listen, the Lord” Number 5

The Lord Jesus speaks to each of us, but most of time we are not paying attention because we are listening to all the voices around us. Reading “Listen, the Lord” can help you to tune in on your own each day to discover the message the has for you personally. Try it and trust what you hear.



February 10 - The body is only the house, not to be worshipped or glorified. Some of you are misguided. You place too strong emphases upon long life, upon food. Your lives are in my hands. Let your food and drink be to do my will. Then physical food and drink will not seem so important. Whatever you take into your body with joy, whatever feels comfortable, whatever nourishes and sustains, that eat and drink. The sin lies in indulgence in eating or drinking to satisfy the greed of the body.

Do not concentrate so much on the body. Those obsessed with the body only increase its needs. Your bodies are my temples indeed. Glorify me in your bodies, concentrate upon me, not upon the body.

February 13 - In our Father’s plan for the human race, as well as for every other kind of life, he gave a reproductive system. And he made man so that the act which leads to new life can be the highest and most beautiful of any act which includes the use of the body. Men have written poetry, books without number, describing the ecstasy of this act. Yet man has desecrated this experience designed by your father for the ongoing of the race and for joy.

O my child, Let me govern your body as well as your mind and spirit. The sharing of your body is for one person, for one only. And I hope that you will let me help you find her. In the mean time, before you is a great challenge: learning how to know your girl classmates intellectually, socially, spiritually, how to enjoy them without the sordidness of pre-marital sexual experimentation. I tell you, my child, it can be done and its rewards in your future marriage will be joyous beyond describing. Be willing to give me your body now.

February 16 - You grow by living to the fullest what you already know. Read my words. Live them. You hear and do not obey. Beware lest your hearing be taken from you. The ability to know my will disappears if you do not follow my will when you know it.

Hearing requires obedience. You have learned a little of the joy of immediately doing what I tell you to do, and a little of the terrible sin of not doing what I tell you to do.

February 17 - Healing was never the primary purpose of my life on earth. My first purpose was to show men that God is our Father who loves each of his children. There is healing in his love, however, so that many were healed then and many are healed today. I could heal you this moment if you would be willing to give me your will. Give me your will now and I will increase your willingness to be mine. You suffer so much unnecessary pain. I need you free and strong for my kingdom.

Prayer coordinator/Ruth Moorer

We express our sincere sympathy to the family of Mary Helen Romig who passed away September 28, 2018 and to the Hurdis family. Tom passed away October 11.

Children's Development Center is having their annual Thanksgiving dinner for staff and parents on November 19th at 5:30 pm. They are in need of 5 turkeys and 3 hams. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

For many years St Paul's has donated funds to provide Thanksgiving meals to families in our community who need assistance during this special holiday. We will again be partnering with Casa de Peregrinos food pantry to accomplish this incredible ministry. As a reminder from last year, Casa de Peregrinos works with the Rio Grande food bank, which purchases food by the trainload and has access to federal commodities and major corporation donations. This allows our funds to help 2-3 times more families than us purchasing food ourselves. We trust that God will continue to bless these funds and families that will receive them. Your Local Missions Team thanks you for your generous donations. Please return your gifts to the church by November 11th so we can give the funds to Casa de Peregrinos before Thanksgiving.



Cooking for Christ has been a part of St Paul's Methodist Church for many years. It has supported several activities within the church and our community to include donating cookies to our active duty military both stateside and overseas. CFC has also donated baked goods to support fall festival, La Casa for their fundraising efforts and most recently to the NMSU band. Further, CFC has prepared meals for those attending Holy Week services and the UMC Regional Conference. We have also made ourselves available to assist in preparing meals for those returning home from the hospital and rehabilitation. CFC's primary fundraiser is selling pumpkin bread for donation during the fall season; the money used to purchase ingredients for what we prepare throughout the year.

Currently we are in need of volunteers to help make pumpkin bread for donation and replenishing our supply of cookies. We currently meet every other Tuesday at 9am in the church kitchen. If anyone has questions or is interested in helping in this very important ministry; reaching out to our community and supporting our Church functions, please contact Kathy May at krmay56@msn.com.

Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

With the build season beginning on October 1st, 2018 and running through April 31st, 2019 we are in need of volunteers to help build homes. These volunteers can be anyone age 18 and up, no experience is necessary because we have experienced builders for them to work alongside. Our build days are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays. We can schedule individual volunteers or we can schedule build days for groups and/or organizations. A group build day would be a great way to get members of your congregation to bond over working towards a common goal while helping to enrich the community and showcase your church's good works in the community. Additionally we are always seeking donations of furniture, fixtures, cabinetry, and construction materials as well as tools and hardware to sell in our ReStore located at 2301 S Main St. All proceeds from these sales go towards our mission.

I hope that you will consider a partnership with us in the future as we work to enrich our community. Please feel free to contact me using my contact information below if you would like to schedule a meeting or if you have any questions.

Thank you very much, Jeff Dray/Community Outreach Coordinator/**Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity**
Office: 575-525-0475 Mobile: 575-993-9925

ENTRUSTED

New . . . Ladies Bible Study
of 2 Timothy

“What Has God Entrusted to You?”

Wednesday, November 7 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Room 107

For info. Contact Mariann at marnvck@aol.com





Thank you all for your donations to the Refugee Mission Project. Your kindness will assist families on their final leg of their journey to join their sponsors here in America. Your support is very much appreciated. Sincerely, George Miller, Pastor El Calvario UMC



Today we held our Fall Festival dance at Central and we were able to collect food donations to hopefully make a difference for St. Paul's UMC and Casa de Peregrinos. Thank you Junior Optimist International (JOI) Club and Student Council for your leadership! Go Mustangs!

The Las Cruces Chapter of the American Guild of Organists has scheduled its fall Members' Recital: Sunday, November 4 at 3:00 pm St. Paul's United Methodist Church The program will feature a variety of French and Belgian organ music. Admission is free, and the recital is open to the general public.



Diabetes Expo/Southern New Mexico Diabetes Outreach 14th Annual
Saturday, November 3 from 8am to 2:30pm
Lunch provided/\$12 per person
Alma D'Arte High School
402 W. Court Ave.



Making diabetes more affordable; Focus on Type 1; Food Friendly: Cooking demonstration; Neuropathy Treatments; The Science of DM for the Patient Perspective. Screenings, exercise breaks, CHO counting, and much more. For Questions and Registration call 575-522-0289 or www.snmndo.org



A Matter of Balance
Do you have concerns about falling? Many senior adults experience concerns about falling and therefore may restrict their activities.

This 16 hour course includes fall prevention strategies, goal setting to increase activity, and an exercise program to increase strength, flexibility and balance. Classes are held twice a week for 4 weeks for 2 hours each. Please plan to attend all 8 sessions.

Fall schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, November 5, 2018 to December 10, 2018 (1:30 - 3:30) NOTE: We will not be meeting the week of November 19 - November 25 due to Thanksgiving holiday or Veterans Day Registration is required. Class sizes are limited so register early. Please register with one of the following: mobmary2017@gmail.com; cmilyard@msn.com; norrisk224@gmail.com.

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.STPAULSLASCUCES.COM

St. Paul's Services

8:00 am - Traditional

9:30 am - Modern

11:00 am - Traditional

Upcoming Activities for November

Friday, November 2: First Friday Fun Night - 5:00pm - 8:30pm

Sunday, November 4: Angel Tree will be up for sharing

*American Guild of Organists Recital - 3:00pm (Sanctuary) Reception to follow
Final Leadership Academy and Volunteer session - 5:00pm - 7:00pm (FH)*

Saturday, November 10: Veteran's lunch - 11:00am - 1:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, November 11: Veteran's Program - 7:00pm (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, November 14: Children's Advent Workshop 6pm - 7:30pm (FH)

Thursday and Friday, November 15, 16: Picacho Hills Art Show - (Fellowship Hall)

*Sunday, November 18: Missionary Martin Reeves to preach at all services
Children Packing Shoe Boxes - 11:00pm - 2pm (Fellowship Hall)*

Wednesday, November 21: NO PARENTS NIGHT OUT!!!

Thursday, November 22: Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)

Friday, November 23: Office Closed

Sunday, November 25: Decorate the Church for Christmas - 12:00pm (Youth to serve lunch)

