

Special Mission Project: Sierra Leone Clinics

Sierra Leone has a great need for primary medical care. It is one of the poorest countries in the world and its people continue to suffer from numerous, preventable health issues. Poor infrastructure combined with a lack of resources and trained medical professionals severely limits access to healthcare. The 2014 Ebola epidemic further weakened the healthcare system and devastated families and communities.

In the midst of this outbreak Phebian Abdulai, a refugee from Sierra Leone living in Buffalo NY, took a medical team from Buffalo's Jericho Road Community Health Center to open



the Adama Martha Memorial Community Health Center, named after Phebian's mother. They eventually established a second clinic to serve the needs of the families there.

The clinics in Sierra Leone have no electricity at all. They now need three

or four solar storage batteries, which cost \$650 each. Pastor Dave told Phebian ... St. Paul's can cover that expense ... we will ask our friends and family members to help! Please mark your donations "Sierra Leone Clinics."

When you give through Paypal or Credit Card, we greatly appreciate it when you click the checkbox, "Add \$— to help cover the fees." If you don't add this amount, the church must pay the fee, so we don't receive the full amount that you donate.

Phebian's Story can be found on our website, stpaulsalive.org. She is a dear friend of Pastor Dave's from the Jericho Road Ministries in Buffalo.

Who Was that Homeless Man?

On March 22, 2023, St. Paul's hosted our session of the Ministerium's Lenten Study of the Parables, and our topic was the Good Samaritan.

As the good Christians, including several pastors, came to the church, there was a homeless man out on the front lawn, begging. How many passed him by?

One attendee invited the homeless man in for lunch, but he refused, saying, "I can't go in there. God is in there, and He knows."

So two people gave him money, and one pastor brought him out a bowl of soup.

And when the lesson was

over, Pastor Dave brought in the homeless man and introduced him as our Lay Leader, Dave Fish!

It was a real-life Bible lesson for our Ministerium. And the money Dave received was donated to the church.



St Paul's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on:

Friday, July 28

Our nation blood supply is fragile - there is a significant need for blood donors! All blood types are in high demand. Please consider donating at this or any local drive.

Please contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or at www.redcross.org to schedule your appointment today!



Ray back surgery & new issue
 Hope T many health issues
 Michele C chemo
 Cheney W stroke health affected
 Kathy M thyroid biopsy
 Cathy H injection for back pain
 Lori K heart issues
 Colleen surgery
 Megan catheterization for dialysis
 Andrew colon cancer
 Jacki W broken hip in pain
 Jody foot surgery very anxious
 Debbie H. cancer more tests
 Evelyn's family financial problems
 Tanya from Ky health challenges
 Sue T needs a job
 Michael bike accident broken tibia
 Bill D praise tumor has shrunk
 Family & friends of Jen P-C
 Paige S colon cancer
 Gloria L bad pain in hip
 Chantal & staff of Jericho
 Road Ministries near war in Congo
 Fred & Peggy M both health issues

Every week: All those in need, unspoken requests, all service men/women, our nation and leaders.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:
 Mary B., Joyce N., Hope T., Gerry M., Chris S., Janet B., Ruth S., Kathie S., Sharon R.

Serving in the Military:
 Caitlyn Um, Daniel Domeraski, Kailey Roller, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:
 Lil Q., Janet B., Rosie P., Mary B., Gloria L., Ruth S., Sue T.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1- Danielle & Frank Ferrara
- 2- Gary Rutter
- 2- Tyler Sierocinski
- 3- Blaine Zirbser
- 5- George Tait
- 6- Elaine Blair
- 6- Erin & Emil Vatsev
- 6- Jackson White
- 7- Ann Hamel
- 9- David Delaney
- 10- Sandy & Dick Wagner
- 11- Billy Blair
- 12- Connor Huesser
- 15- Carol May
- 16- Jennifer Blair Sattler
- 18- Marjorie Rowand
- 20- Rita Thomas
- 20- Vicki Cusack
- 21- Christopher Bailey
- 22- Sandi & Mike DiLeo
- 24- Jim Doerrmann
- 24- Ed Donisi
- 24- Denise Hosier
- 25- Mike DiLeo
- 26- Landyn Blair
- 26- Cody Huesser
- 27- Mary Budd
- 28- Charlie & Deanna Kyser
- 30- Izabella Reichert

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2- Makai Montgomery
- 2- Jennie Troxell
- 3- Heather Gibson
- 6- Carol Withers
- 7- Jason Houghton
- 7- Garry Purnell
- 7- Kristina Rutter
- 8- Collin Dechen
- 9- Steven Spellman
- 10- Steve Miller
- 12- Kali Dugan
- 13- Judy Brown
- 13- Kim Dechen

- 15- Claudia Ruggeri
- 16- Dave & Denise Hosier
- 16- Barbara Jones
- 16- Sue Todd
- 17- Amy White
- 18- Kathy Reitz
- 18- Jean Speakman
- 19- Joe Jones Sr.
- 20- Sharon Eichel
- 20- Madison White
- 24- Jordan Weems
- 25- Kelly Haase
- 25- Diane Wonsetler
- 25- Cathy & Leonard Hurff
- 29- Skylar Cooper

ALL Prayers:

For our country
 For the Ukrainian people
 For peace
 Logan S needs more surgery
 Cameron always needs prayer & family
 Len H surgery went well still needs prayer
 Officer Bobby S critically wounded
 Sherri T brain surgery setback
 Mary S double sprained ankle
 Family & friends of Bill R
 John M very ill
 Marianne T
 S family
 Jeff recovering still needs prayer
 Olivia 4-mo-old liver cancer
 Jeffrey stage 3-4 throat cancer
 Ida O in hosp recently lost husband
 Joann P back in hosp sepsis & pneumonia
 Katharine recent brain surgery
 Phil C many concerns
 Phebian in Sierra Leone
 Chantal in Congo
 Hope's brother-in-law bone infection
 Kathie S more tests
 Family & friends of Donna K
 Sherri brain cancer
 Dottie D pacemaker now home
 Nancy H treatment for health issue
 Samuel H asks for career help
 Dave F praise good appt
 Chuck pancreatic cancer & wife Irma
 Gabriel sports injury
 Kelly having a hard time
 Family & friends of Terry D
 Denise M praise chemo helping

SOUP SUNDAY

Due to some conflicts with other church events...



Next Soup Sunday: Aug. 6

Watch for an order form to be posted on the website in July to order online.

Family Promise returns June 11-17



• Help is needed providing meals, gift cards, and other items. Watch for a link to sign up online. Please sign up to help with this important ministry!

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086
 Pastor: Rev. Dave Delaney
 Phone (856) 845-6638
 E-mail pastor@stpaulsthorofare.com
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

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Stay Connected with St. Paul's

"What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop." 2 Corinthians 9:6

Spring is here ... farmers have plowed their fields and seeds are being planted. Many of you have already visited the garden stores to purchase plants to enjoy during the next few months. Flowers like the one in this photo are blooming, revealing to all of us once again the beauty of God's creation right in our very yards, gardens, and flower pots.

Many of you know I love going to Longwood Gardens. In fact, I often do my work there on Thursdays up in one of the "treehouses" on the Gardens' property. There is an incredible energy and good feeling that comes as you breathe in the fragrance of new growth while witnessing the trees beginning to bud.

Everything is in a growth mode ... everything is in a feel-good reality ... what is happening now will only produce great reward later in the season.

But what about church? ... What about God? ... We have entered into a season that I have never been able to understand, even back when I was a child. Church attendance begins to



shrink after Easter, and if you want to see sour faces of dismay just ask any church finance team about church between Easter and October. It's sadly the truth of St. Paul's as well.

As someone whose girls are "Jersey Girls" and as someone who has lived in New Jersey for about 40 years (yes, I know I am only 31 years old but ...) I totally understand the lure and magnetism of Jersey Shore weekends. We see the out-of-state plates in Smithville, and traveling on the Garden State Parkway to visit my daughter in Toms River becomes a challenge amidst the lines attempting to get to Long Beach Island and/or Point Pleasant Beach on Saturdays. Folks like spending their free time at the shore, and that includes church people.

But St. Paul's does not stop being a church that feeds the hungry, cares for the hurting, and pays our staff plus our utility bills. Our church does not stop coming to the rescue of strangers who approach us for help. We rush to provide care to

those in the hospitals and to law enforcement officials who have been impacted by their work. And our counters see fewer dollars each week to pay our bills. By the time we reach the month of October we begin to nervously worry as to whether all of our bills can get paid.

And so my pastor's message for this newsletter is asking you to consider automatic giving to the church you call your own, St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford. I know you want to keep the doors open, but why not actually make a commitment to share a financial offering/tithe/donation/gift, whatever you want to call it, automatically so that the church receives your support even when you are away.

Talk with Dave or Denise Hosier or Lori Brown or me about setting up an automatic transfer from your bank account to the church each month. Schedule it on a day each month that works best for you.

Remember that when you are away your church is as close as your smartphone, your iPad or your computer. We are doing our best to make sure you are always connected with your church. When you need St. Paul's, even if you have been away most weekends, we will be there for you and your family. But when you are away ... we are still paying the costs of being a vital church, actively serving Jesus Christ with joy and love!

I certainly hope to see most of you on most Sundays during Spring's remaining weeks and then throughout the summer!

Blessings, *Pastor Dave*



THE LAST SUPPER was celebrated with Jesus and his disciples on Holy Thursday.

Outreach

Summer Is Coming!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **May**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (May 1) will benefit United Methodist Communities, formerly United Methodist Homes.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (May 15) the offering is for Neighborhood Center Summer Camp.

United Methodist Communities has been providing care to seniors for over 100 years. Their values are compassion, respect, stewardship and service. They believe in maximizing each resident's independence.

- **June**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (June 5) is Peace with Justice Sunday.
 - ◇ Our third Sunday (June 19) we will be supporting our St. Paul's VBS.

The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace.

Don't forget to support these special offerings each 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Cheri Clement



Women's Spring Bible Study Complete



Our Women's Bible Study, led by Patty Fish, completed the book "It's Okay Not to Be Okay" by Sheila Walsh in April. The ladies were all thrilled with the study, and with our leader. They presented Patty with a gift card to thank her for a year of great Bible studies.

We averaged over 20 ladies per class and enjoyed spirited and spiritual discussions each week.

Watch for information about a Fall study for women. We will read Shannon Bream's "The Love Stories of the Bible Speak."

Chicken BBQ Dinner

Rode's Chicken! • Take out only
Sunday, May 21, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Advance Tickets: \$14

GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY!!

A few tickets at the door,
but no guarantees: \$15.

To be assured of your dinner, please
buy tickets **in advance!**

**Held at St. Paul's UMC
74 Church St.
West Deptford NJ 08086**

Menu:

Rode's Half-Chicken, Homemade
Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Corn,
Roll & Butter, Dessert



**Tickets: Sharon Rutter, 856-848-5021, shrutter2@gmail.com
or see Mary Ann or Denise in church.**

Checks payable to: St. Paul's UMC

The Ten Dollar Challenge



All too frequently as they come out of the Lenten season church folks decide it is time to take a break from church. They decide to disconnect from God and Christ for awhile; stop giving offering money, too. And frankly, they choose to focus in on self, because after all, many folks didn't get to eat chocolate for 40 days and nights during Lent.

Coincidentally, as Easter week began, I heard from an amazing man of faith and vision whom I had the privilege of working with before coming to St. Paul's. Dr. Myron Glick, the founder of the Jericho Community Health Center, checked in with me to see how I was doing and to see how "my church" was doing during these difficult times for churches throughout the world. He wanted to wish me Easter week blessings and to tell me that I have been in his prayers.

He told me about my friend Chantal who is in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the stress she is under due to the anti-democracy forces that are at war with the people in that African nation. Dr. Glick had planned to travel there, but it was not safe enough for him. I then asked about my friend Phebian, who is in Sierra Leone. Dr. Glick told me all about the wonderful work she is doing ... babies being born; Dr. Glick loves to deliver babies.

So I asked him if there was anything that St. Paul's could do for Phebian. Any need that she has right now. He

called her and then got back in touch with me. The Sierra Leone clinics desperately need to replace their solar batteries at the two clinics. They need three but could use four. I told him ... "ST. PAUL's will get it done!"

So after Easter was over ... I issued a simple but complicated challenge to all of you. Let's raise the money for these batteries by asking our friends and family members to donate TEN DOLLARS each. On the Sunday I introduced the challenge we estimated that amongst the folks in church together we had more than 3000 friends, family members and neighbors. THREE THOUSAND people we could potentially ask to donate \$10 to get Phebian her solar batteries. THREE THOUSAND people we could even invite to church with us.

We have been posting a visual "meme" on St. Paul's FACEBOOK page most days that everyone can copy or you can just share our message. A mere TEN DOLLARS ... not a lot of money but if just 1/10th of our friends and family members and neighbors donate \$10 we will raise \$3000 for the medical clinics in Sierra Leone. If just 5% of that group agreed to come to St. Paul's for church with their friends and families we'd have another 150 people in church on Sundays.

But we have to ask ... we have to care about those women giving birth in Africa ... those children needing

basic medical care ... men and women needing surgery who have no other health provider to turn to. And we need to have the courage to associate ourselves with St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

So I am asking you ... to give to the TEN DOLLAR CHALLENGE, but more importantly, to ask your friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors to give. Mail a check to: St. Paul's UMC, PO Box 125, West Deptford NJ 08086 marked "TEN DOLLAR CHALLENGE." Or go to the website and make a donation immediately using your credit card or PayPal, www.stpaulsalive.org.

THANKS!
Pastor Dave



The Merry, Busy Month of May

It's MAY and we have so much happening at St. Paul's!!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Merry Month of May because at St. Paul's there's so much going on to celebrate our faith and our church family!!

We kick off May by hosting the West Deptford Township celebration of the National Day of Prayer with an Interfaith program on May 4th at noon at RiverWinds. We will be streaming the program so if you miss it, you can always watch it again on FACEBOOK!

On Sunday May 7th our District Superintendent, Reverend Glenn Conaway, will be our guest preacher since I will be away for the week. Pastor Glenn is a wonderful



preacher and I know you will enjoy hearing him.

We celebrate Mother's Day by having women of the church bring the message of the day on Sunday, May 14th.

Sunday, May 21st is our Spring Chicken Barbecue, but it is also a double baptism at church, so lots of celebrating happening that day at St. Paul's. Later in the day Pastor Dave along with the Strocks will be headed to Wildwood to represent our church at the Greater New

Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Then it's time to get out your red caps with the Pentecostal P on them because May 28th we celebrate the birth of the Christian church with a joy-filled Pentecost service.

On Monday May 29th we will be parading along with our neighbors in the West Deptford Memorial Day parade.

Mix in Holy Communion every Wednesday morning at 7am ... Men's Breakfasts on May 13th and May 17th, and many more activities. We are one busy church, and it sure feels good knowing that we are alive and well!!!!

Pastor Dave

Do You Remember?

The Story of the Snake in Church

by Brenda Toppin

Sitting in the same pew as I always do, one Spring Sunday in 2015 I happened to look down by my feet. One of the black electrical cords was looking back at me!

I picked up my feet, feeling a little freaked out, hoping it would leave. I stood up and said, "Sorry, I have to move."

"It's a snake!" my granddaughter Aurora said.

We cleared the row and Pastor Eric

Helms, in the middle of his sermon, turned to Mark 16:17-18: "...In my name they will ... pick up snakes in their hands...."

Tim McLaughlin (RIP) tried to grab the snake, but it disappeared into a hole. So Tim went downstairs and found the snake in the basement ceiling and brought it up to show everyone.

And Pastor Eric was finally able to finish his sermon.

Yes, I know it was a friendly black snake, but I didn't want it wrapped around my leg!



WELCOME SPRING

What's Happening



WHAT A GREAT BREAKFAST! We served about 100 people pancakes and all the trimmings on Palm Sunday. Thanks to Mary Ann Jones for organizing and Peggy Pagano for buying the food. The men cooked, and we all ate! It was a fun time of fellowship.



DAYTONA 500 WATCH PARTY:
A group met at Piston's to watch the Daytona 500 and enjoy a meal. Fun times!

TAKE NOTICE of our new banners hanging in the sanctuary next to the large stained-glass window at the altar.

Thanks to: Carla, Bev, Dave & Patty Fish, and the Worship Team for getting them. Also thanks to Jim Clement and Dave Fish for hanging them. They are a beautiful addition to the sanctuary and will change with the seasons.



WANDERLUST,
celebrating folk songs from around the world.
The Gloucester County Flute Ensemble entertained us in April.



FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS
are an amazing bunch!
Twice a month they're outside, loading cars with food as part of our drive-through food pantry.

Special thanks to Carol Strock, our Pantry Coordinator. Carol also serves on the Board of the Food Bank of South Jersey.

Thanks also to her husband Don, who does whatever she tells him! He's a big help with the pantry.
And a million thanks to the volunteers that make it all possible.



Children's Ministry



ST. PAUL'S KIDS have had a busy couple of months, with a Parade of Palms and then an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. They also sang in church on Easter morning and had children's sermons every week. We are so lucky to have a great bunch of kids!

Memorial Day Parade, Monday May 29th

I LOVE A PARADE ... and WE ARE THANKFUL FOR ALL WHO SERVED



I am thrilled that West Deptford Township has reached out to ask the faith-based

community to join in the Township's Memorial Day Parade on Monday May 29th!! Of course I said ST. PAUL's will be marching or walking or riding. We will not miss



this opportunity to showcase our church while remembering those who gave their lives for our freedom!!

As the newsletter is being published the details are sort of sketchy about the day of the march but we will definitely be

providing rides for anyone who wants to parade but really does not want to "march."

We can shout Hosannas during the parade! We can hand out invitations to church and to VBS!! We can show our neighbors that yes, St. Paul's is alive and well!!! But we need to each decide that it is worth our time to be in the Memorial Day Parade with smiles on our faces and joy in our hearts!!

More details to come but PLEASE KEEP Monday May 29th free on your calendars for our first PARADE APPEARANCE. Who knows, maybe I will do some gymnastics along the parade route!

Red Bird Mission Support

Can You Ask Someone You Know to Help?



These are images of the front and back of last year's RED BIRD T-SHIRTS. You may have seen Jim and Cherie or Pastor Dave or Mary Ann wearing them around town. These T-shirts are one of our many opportunities to showcase the mission work that we carry out at St. Paul's. They also celebrate our community partners who provided us with funds to help us take on the mission projects.

Last year we published a booklet about St. Paul's thanks to these sponsors. They have their names mentioned on the webpage and on FACEBOOK in addition to literally being on our backs whenever we wear our shirts.

It's time to renew some friendships

and develop some new ones. We are asking you to ask the business owners you know to see if they will help support our work by making a special donation to St. Paul's. This year we are asking for a donation of \$100 from businesses to support our mission work, especially at Red Bird. For their \$100 they not only get the satisfaction of knowing that they helped St. Paul's help others, but their business name will show up on our Red Bird T-Shirts, on our webpage, on our Facebook page, and on a special insert in our Christmas Eve and Rally Day bulletins.

So the next time you get a pizza from that pizzeria that knows you by name or visit your local hardware store or deli, ask to speak with the manager to see if they are willing to support our work. You can tell them about RED BIRD, the FOOD PANTRY, FAMILY PROMISE, and how we help people who contact the church when they are struggling.

Contact Pastor Dave, Mary Ann or Jim Clement if you have any questions.



PREACHER IN THE MAKING?

Zach Beidle gave an incredible children's message one Sunday in March. His message was about forgiveness, using the illustration of the yellow and red cards used in soccer. And soccer is something Zach is very familiar with as a star player for WD. Great job, Zach!