Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast March 24

We are so happy to repeat this fabulous breakfast that's a wonderful time for everyone!

Start Holy Week off right with a Pancake Breakfast after church on Palm Sunday, March 24. The deliciousness will begin at 10:45 a.m., right after church. The Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will take place immediately following breakfast.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids under 12, but the Sunday School will pay for all students. Invite your friends to church and then to breakfast afterward.

Tickets are available in church now! See Mary Ann Jones or Denise Hosier.

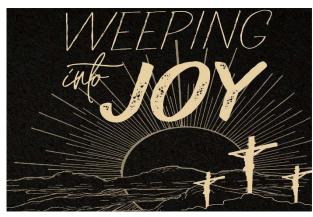
Menu: Pancakes, Breakfast Meats, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit Cup, Juice, Coffee, Tea, etc. Sponsored by the Community Relations Team [CRT]. See you there!

Community Relations Team (CRT)



Coralluzzo & Hartnett families enjoyed last year's breakfast.

Lenten Lunch Series



study the events leading up to the cross.

Lunch will be provided.

- February 21 11:30 AM Wenonah Presbyterian: PAIN
- February 28 11:30 AM Mantua UMC: LOSS

Weeping into Joy

Wenonah—Mantua—West Deptford—Woodbury Heights Ministerium presents

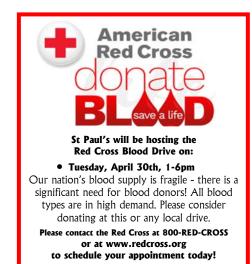
A Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays in March at 11:30AM. Join us at our ministerium Lenten Lunch series for food and fellowship as we

- March 6 11:30 AM St. Paul's UMC (West Deptford): DOUBT
- March 13 11:30 AM Woodbury Heights Presbyterian: FEAR
- March 20 II:30 AM Holy Trinity (Wenonah): DEATH

 Community Good Friday – 11 AM Holy Nativity (Wenonah)

All are welcome to join and we look forward to seeing you there.





ALL Prayers:

For our country For peace For the Ukrainian, Israeli, & Gaza people For all those in the world who are hungry For everyone who is ill Logan S pain & problems with leg Kathie S chemo Sharon R infusions Cameron always needs prayer श्च family Family & friends of Jeff L Gerry & Steve M Frank D hosp heart problems Princess age 5 Mike M possible mini stroke Bud V hosp aortic valve replacement Sandy D sick Kristen T praise not lymphoma Cathy H second back pain injection Nancy H fell in pain Barbara H in Shady Lane Hope T many serious health problems Carol M in pain after foot/ leg surgery Rosie P praise 96th birthday Ron R heart cath Donna R breast cancer treatment Denise M waiting for scan Kathleen B sick health issues Kelly & son Thomas both Shirley W fell now home on oxygen Pat B fell Evelyn D praise 90th birthday Tyler S Friend with depression Marge V lost partner Family & friends of Michele G Orianna missing praise found

Gloria L bad fall outside

Bailey & Ranch Hope

Family & friends of Rev. Dave

home

Family & friends of Marilyn Damianus & Josephin Sue G medical testing Mike D biopsy Rabbi Aaron & family lost Wayne S knee surgery S family many health issues Len H cancer treatment Sandi D taking care of Gloria Pat P praise back in church I family praise new baby boy Francis Ir. Rev. Tom M back surgery Gary H serious health issues श्र wife Sharon serious stress Family & friends of Robert A, wife Kathleen, two sons Heather H home but bad pain Tyler S travel mercies Tracy N recovery & wife Amy surgery Donna & Ritchie E need prayer Pat D concerned about daughter Pat B fell in hosp Kelly W new job & happy birthday!

Tiffany and Mike praise expecting Evelyn D travel mercies Richard M health issues Michael M back problems Walt M hip replacement Michele C cancer and pneumonia

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, Erynn Plasket, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:

Janet B., Rosie P., Mary B., Gloria L., Barb H.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Darrin Brown
- 2- Don & Kate Black
- 3— Angela Houghton
- 3- Jim Clement
- 8 Daniel Panetta
- 11— Barbara Klinger
- 11- Lilly Melson
- 12- Adalynn Vatsev
- 14 Harley Sierocinski
- 15— Molly Coralluzzo
- 16- Madalyn Beidle
- 17 Glenda Steffee
- 18- Annissia Morrissey
- 19- Kevin Wonsetler
- 20- Julie Gonteski
- 24- Jim Verfaillie
- 25- Carla & Norm Branyan
- 26- Grant Dechen
- 27- Lindsey Huesser
- 28- Bev & Ken Betz
- 28- Michael Huebshman
- 30- Louise Heritage

- 30- Debbie Szovati
- 31- David Keegan

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Declan Hartnett
- 3— Jennifer Bailey
- 7— Zachary Beidle
- 7— Joe & Lynne Hoffman
- 8- Michael DiLeo
- 8— Nancy Palmer
- 11— Derek Toppin
- 13- Joe Wonsetler
- 14— Trevor Toppin
- 18- Ray Palmer
- 19— Joshua Panetta
- 21– Jeff Hartnett
- 22- Jacob Eichel
- 23- Janice & Ken Grassia
- 24- Rose Morgan
- 24- Marion Robbins
- 25— Mike Spellman
- 26- Cassandra Morgan
- 28 Thomas Walsh
- 30- Ed Schwebel

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...

Staff

Editor: Trista C Jones Assistant Editor: Denise Hosier

Regular Contributors: Pastor Dave, Carla Branyan, Mary Ann Jones, Elaine Luoma, Patty Fish, Carol Strock

Production: Trista C Jones

The Lamplighter is published bimonthly, in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more info contact Trista C Jones or email admin@stpaulsthorofare.com.

Chicken BBQ Dinner

..10:45 a.m.

Rode's Chicken! • Take out only Sunday, April 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 Checks payable to: St. Paul's UMC

Prepare your Hearts and Minds ...

"So then prepare your hearts and minds for action! Stay alert and fix your hope firmly on the marvelous grace that is coming to you through Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1: 13

It's early this season; in fact, the start of Lent on Valentine's Day caught me by total surprise. But here we are in a calendar season that

calendar season that to me is always a really positive way to start new calendar years.

Once the New Year's Eve celebrations are laid to rest and Springtime is in focus for many people, it is time to get closer to God. Truthfully, each day when we wake up breathing and capable of arising from our beds to enter into our world, it is the time to get closer to God. But somehow, we do not make that a priority.

I spoke with someone who was telling me about how hard he worked to get a promotion at work. He said that in his last job he worked extra hours each week and that he took on tasks that no one else at work would do. I asked him about the potential promotion, and he said it would mean about another \$100 a week in pay, but then he asked me, "Should I be coming to church or doing anything with God? Is it okay that I don't have time for church?"



Interesting that this young man felt the need to hold that conversation with me. No, he is not someone who we have seen attending church services, although he claims to stream our FACEBOOK from time to time. I wonder how many people we each know who do not have time for worship, prayer, reading Scripture, listening to music of faith, or just retreating away to be with God?

Lent is the season for each of us who call ourselves Christian to examine our schedules and calendars to make more time for God. Our excuse might not be the need to work more to get \$100 a week added to our paychecks, but as you examine your schedules do you have enough open time to schedule God in, just as a way of showing God that you actually consider God to be God and that you love God?

Some of us had ashes on our foreheads back on Valentine's Day... a sign of our limited existence. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Most of us will show up in church on Easter morning for our 9:30 worship service, and perhaps attend the sunrise service at

6:30am also. I know two church services in one day is an awful lot to ask of any person with a busy calendar, but why not try it?

So this Lenten Season I want you to consider the challenge from the New Testament found in First Peter, "Prepare your hearts and minds for action!" Be prepared as if you knew you were going to be face-to-face with God starting in April and will be asked how you showed your love of God. This time you will be answering God, not some friend or a pastor. What will your answer be?

The season of Lent ... a time to get closer to God so that you remain close throughout the year. Stay alert and be ready to be the light of Christ in the world we live in.

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Outreach

Happy Spring!

Upcoming Mission Projects 왕 Offerings

March

- Our first Sunday offering (Mar. 3) will benefit UMCOR Sunday, formerly One Great House of Sharing
- On the third Sunday (Mar. 17) the offering is for Red Bird Mission

Red Bird Mission is an outreach to one of the poorest, if not THE poorest, counties in the country. Our missionaries travel to Kentucky one week each year to help the community by doing projects for the people.

April

- Our first Sunday offering (Apr. 7) will go toward our Easter Offering.
- Our third Sunday (Apr. 21) will be supporting our Shared Ministries.

Shared Ministries are sent through our Conference to support global missions of the United Methodist church such as the World Service Fund, Black College Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, and Africa University.

Many thanks to all our church family for your continued dedication to our Outreach Projects.

Cheri Clement



Did You Know?



When our son, Brandon, was two years old, Denise Hosier invited us to attend her Church. She knew we were unchurched at the time and thought St. Paul's would be the perfect place for us. We decided to give it a try, and now, 35 years later we still call St. Paul's home.

When Brandon was in one of his early Sunday School Classes, they made crosses and were instructed to go into church and give the cross to one person there. Brandon went straight to Lillian Quillin, even though he didn't really know her, and gave her his cross, and that was the start of a lifelong friendship between them.

Lillian followed Brandon through school, college, and his singing, even after Brandon moved away, got married and had his daughter, Evelyn. Lillian followed the pictures of Evelyn on Facebook and always had a sweet comment to make. And Brandon searched out Lillian every time he returned home and went to church with us.

We recently lost Lillian, but we were lucky enough to bring Evelyn over to meet Lillian in

person a short while before she passed away. We are so lucky to have had such a wonderful Christian woman to be an influence on two generations of our family.

> Sharon and Gary Rutter

SOUP SUNDAY



Soup Sundays: March 3 April 7

Delicious soup made just for us by Ish at the Piston Diner.

Watch for an order form to be posted on the website. Thanks to Ish and to Mary Ann for this yummy fundraiser for St. Paul's.

Sunday School Easter Egg



Palm Sun. Mar. 24 after Pancake Breakfast Bring an Easter basket or bag for your treasures!

Lots of Fun!

Food, Glorious Food!

"Food Glorious food!
We're anxious to try it. Three banquets a day — our favorite diet." OLIVER

Yes, the lyrics from the musical OLIVER come to mind when I think of all the delicious varieties of foods we can enjoy. Well, since my heart situation I am more limited than before because I have strict orders to limit 'table salt,' but that doesn't mean I can't still enjoy food.

At St. Paul's, we celebrate food by eating with each other on a regular basis, and in the coming weeks we have two very important fund raisers that are directly related to our love of food.

On Palm Sunday please make sure to join us for the "limited seating" (that means buy your tickets early) PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST. This breakfast will satisfy your hunger pangs AFTER church and put a big smile on your face. In addition, you will be eating with your friends from St. Paul's! This is just an awesome time to eat together and enjoy each other while using your breakfast moneys to support St. Paul's rather than your local diner.



On APRIL 21st we will be having our SPRING CHICKEN
BARBECUE. Absolutely delicious food, which you can plan to eat with friends, and an awesome fund raiser for St. Paul's! Are you telling your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, and even strangers about our CHICKEN
BARBECUES? The money that we raise from the two barbecues is ESSENTIAL to our making our budget each year.

And then there are our **SOUP SUNDAYS**. The first Sunday of each month you can purchase soup at bargain basement prices from the winner of WMMR's BEST SOUP in the DELAWARE VALLEY SOUPER BOWL contest! \$4 a pint and \$7 for two pints. Feed an older neighbor. Share with a neighbor you haven't gotten to know. Or enjoy it yourself!

The third Sunday of the month is PRETZEL SUNDAY, which raises some money but is just plain fun! Our Megan decided last year to fund PRETZEL SUNDAY when she heard the person who had been paying for the pretzels chose to stop supporting that ministry. Get a bag of pretzels, especially if you are going to watch the Phillies game in the afternoon!

Finally, every Friday morning at 9:30am I stream 'IN THE KITCHEN' on our FACEBOOK page. Since 2020, I have shared more than 150 recipes that are easy to make on that video stream. So you can get adventurous with food that I enjoy. In March I will be making a couple of Irish dishes for St. Patrick's Day, and I am probably going to share another dandelion recipe this Spring. You can scroll back to see past recipes, including several Chinese dishes for this year's Lunar New Year.

And whenever we have a potluck supper it's always great, because the people of St. Paul's love being together. When you can eat delicious food and be together, your time is even more well spent!

Pastor Dave

Easter Flowers



We Thank Thee

Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with beautiful flowers! Each year the Guiding Lights Class sponsors Easter flowers that you can purchase. This year we will have a pickup date or you can leave them to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and pick them up afterward.

Lilies, tulips, daffodils, and azaleas are available in the usual colors. Order forms are available on the church website or for pickup at the church. All orders are due March 17 (March 10 to be sure). Money is due by Palm Sunday, March 24.

For flowers that bloom about our feet; For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet; For song of bird, and hum of bee; For all things fair we hear or see, Father in heaven, we thank thee!

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Job Well Done



A few months ago, the community relations team started an outreach program to help the children of

the West Deptford schools who are unable to pay their lunch bills.

People who wanted to help had to count the coats, sweaters and jackets in their closet. They gave one dollar for each item, and then thanked God that they had more than one.

In January, Carla Branyan met with the head of the cafeteria, Ms. Nichole Pote, who keeps all the records of the children's bills, and presented her with a check for \$600. She was extremely appreciative. As Matt Dechen said, "St. Paul's is amazing." He will go to the board meeting in February to talk a little bit more about St. Paul's and how we help people.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Carla Branyan



Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

Worship with Palms, 9:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, March27 Holy Communion, 7 a.m.

Thursday, March 28 *Holy Thursday*Communion Service, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

Leading Up to the Cross Worship 11 a.m. Mount Zion-Wesley UMC Tenebrae Service of Darkness St. Paul's, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 31 *Easter*

Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m. Red Bank Battlefield Easter Worship 9:30 a.m. (one service only)

Bible Study Wrap-up



The
Women's
Bible
study
wrapped
up its
fall/

winter study at the end of January.

We read and studied "Love Stories from the Bible" by Shannon Bream. We had an average attendance of 22 women at each study. We read our chapter at home each week and then held an open discussion about what we had read.

We have learned from each other and learned especially about the women of the Bible. We also hold a time of prayer at the end of our session. It's been great!

At our last session, we all went to Ciconte's for a nice lunch. There were 26 of us at lunch. It was

good to just sit down and talk with each other. I would like to thank all the ladies for their devotion to reading and coming out to our study. I love our time together and look forward to our next study.

Many thanks to Gary Rutter who made sure the heat was on for us. We will resume meeting sometime in September with a new book. I will keep you posted on our start date and new book. All the ladies of the church are welcome to join us! We have a great time together! Thank you and God bless the praying women of St. Paul's!

Patty Fish





WE LOVE TO EAT! The men meet for breakfast twice a month, on the first Saturday and the third Wednesday at Piston's (above). All men are invited to join them! See Pastor Dave. And (right) our Lay Leader Dave Fish absolutely loves waffles with LOTS of whipped cream. The Guiding Lights, open to all the ladies of the church, met for brunch at the Telford in January (below). Any interested ladies, see the president, Bev Betz.







What a pleasure it was to have one of our nonagenarians in church in January. Janet Brown read the scripture for the week on January 14. It was a pleasure to see her, and thanks to her daughter Debbie Richman for bringing her!









Children's Ministry



JONAH AND THE WHALE: The children's messages are always a fun way to learn about the Bible. Dave Fish taught them about Jonah and the whale by putting them in the belly of the whale, complete with the smell (tuna fish in a container)! The kids love the children's messages and they love to sing, too. Be sure to be in church on Easter morning to hear them!

Being Social on Social Media — Like, Share & Comment



215 comments • 163 shares







"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; because it is the power of God that brings salvation to EVERYONE who believes." Romans 1:16

If you are on FACEBOOK, you have seen the image above after every single posting on your FACEBOOK page, including everything you post. As part of the "social" part of "social media" we are invited to like, comment, or share the messages from our friends or even strangers. It is amazing sometimes how many strangers feel that they have to comment on some of my postings.

The creators of FACEBOOK have made it so easy that those of us with non-technical minds can easily just click on whichever activity we want to engage with and voila, it happens.

Clearly the easiest way to jump into the world of social media might be the LIKE button. Take a FACEBOOK posting featuring Romans chapter 1 verse 6 as an example. If that was posted to a friend's FACEBOOK page and you were happy to see the verse on FACEBOOK all you need to do is click LIKE, thumbs-up, and the world would know you liked it.

Of course if you want to add your personal insight, you would need to click on COMMENTS. So if this verse was posted on FACEBOOK and you really liked it you could click first on the LIKE button, which would register that you liked it. Then you would have to CLICK on the COMMENTS button, which would open up a "dialogue" space where you can type

in your own words reflecting on how you think about the subject. You could type, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel! I am thankful for God's love through Jesus Christ," for example.

Now comes another easy button but apparently it is the hardest button for so many people to click on. It's the SHARE button. People SHARE FACEBOOK posts that they obviously agree and believe in. They want their friends and family to be connected to them through the posting. It might be a video of puppies or kittens. Perhaps it is a story about one of their favorite sports teams or celebrities. Many SHARE stories that their children or grandchildren have posted about their lives. SHARE is just as easy to click on as is LIKE and COMMENT but for some reason it seems to be really difficult to SHARE posts from St. Paul's United Methodist Church on FACEBOOK.

We stream our Sunday and Wednesday worship services live on FACEBOOK, but they remain on FACEBOOK forever. If you click on the SHARE button, your friends and family on FACEBOOK will be able to watch those services and connect with our church. Almost every morning at 9:30am I stream a live FACEBOOK message of 15 minutes, hit SHARE and everyone sees it. We post messages about the CHICKEN BARBECUE, about the FLUTE ENSEMBLE, and even stream Celebration of Life services. All of these could be reaching so many more people if every member of St. Paul's merely hit the SHARE

button on their FACEBOOK pages.

I would hope all of you have LIKED St. Paul's FACEBOOK page, but now in this Lenten Season I am asking each of you to sacrifice a little time and effort by boldly SHARING St. Paul's FACEBOOK messages onto your social media. No need to be embarrassed to share, because we all love this church and I would hope we want more friends and family members to be connected to God, Christ, and if they don't have a church, with St. Paul's.

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; because it is the power of God that brings salvation to EVERYONE who believes."

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



BISHOP John Schol was kind enough to record a sermon for all the churches to use in January so the pastors could have a week off. We enjoyed the Bishop's inspiring message of "Comfort and Joy."

St. Paul's Calendar March-April 2024

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday	Saturday	
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4:00pm "My Favorite Things" GloCo Flute Ensemble Concert 2nd Sun in Lent		7:00pm Guiding Lights (HH)	9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	12:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive	29	March 1	8:00pm AA meeting	2
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Soup Sunda UMCOR Sunday: One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 3rd Sun in Lent		4	5 10:00am Deptford Designers	7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	7:00pm Choir prac	7	8	8:00pm AA meeting	9
Daylight Saving Time begins 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4th Sun in Lent	10	11	9:00am Food Pantry setup HH 6:30pm Woman's Club of West Deptford	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	1	14	15	8:00pm AA meeting	16
9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 10:45am Sunday School 5th Sun in Lent Mission offering: Red Bird Mission	17	18 7:00pm Leadership Team	19 10:00am Deptford Designers	7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	7:00pm Choir prac	21	22	8:00pm AA meeting	23
Palm Sunday 10:45am Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 1:00pm Hickman Hall (Rutter)	24	25 7:00pm Guiding Lights (HH)	9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Last Supper Service	7	29 Good Friday 7:00pm Tenebrae Service	Holy Saturday 8:00pm AA meeting	30
Easter Sunday 9:30am Resurrection Celebration Service 9:30am Worship	31	April 1	2 10:00am Deptford Designers	7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM		4	5::30pm Girl Scouts Flower Bed Clean-up	8:00pm AA meeting	6
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Soup Sunda 2nd Sun of Easter 2nd Offering: Easter	7	8	9:00am Food Pantry setup HH 6:30pm Woman's Club of West Deptford	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	7:00pm Choir prac	11	12	8:00pm AA meeting	13
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School	14	15 Tax Returns due	16:00am Deptford Designers	17 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	1	18	19	8:00pm AA meeting	20
9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 10:45am Sunday School 3rd Sun of Easter 2nd Offering: Shared Ministries	21	7:00pm Guiding Lights (HH)	9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM	12:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm Choir prac	25	26	8:00pm AA meeting	27
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 4th Sun of Easter	28	29	30	7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study ZOOM		2	3	8:00pm AA meeting	4