

The Lamplighter

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
West Deptford, NJ

July-August
2024

St. Paul's Vacation Bible School July 28-Aug. 1



**Knights of North Castle
Vacation Bible School
Sun. thru Thurs., July 28-Aug. 1
6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Registration is open! Visit our website - stpaulsalive.org. Our program invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by

opening the King's Book. Each day, they'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters. They'll explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to “armor up” and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever.

VBS is for age 3 through 8th grade. The children will spend five evenings at our Castle, hearing

Bible stories, playing games, singing songs, and making crafts. Even our snacks will be Knight themed.

Put Thursday, August 1 on your calendar and plan on being at St. Paul's with the whole family for our Closing Program. The children will sing for us and show us what they've learned. Refreshments will follow.

We'll need lots of help, so parents and teens, see Elaine Luoma or Mary Ann Jones and let them know you can help. Volunteers may also register on the VBS website. Please pre-register the children online so we can be prepared for everyone!

- Elaine Luoma

Red Bird Mission Hoagie Sale

Our Red Bird Mission Team is sponsoring a Hoagie Sale to support the Red Bird Mission Trip. It has begun, so purchase your Heritage's Dairy Hoagie Certificates from Jim Clement, Mary Ann Jones, or any Red Bird Team member.

The certificates are \$9 and are good for two months so you can go to any Heritage's store whenever you want and get the regular hoagie of your choice.


Recycle Your Metal With Us!
In addition, your metal and your



cans ... and your neighbors' metal and your neighbors' cans ... can help us raise money for the Red Bird Mission Trip. Donate your soda cans and heavy metal items to the church. Call Jim Clement or the church office for details.

Thanks!

- Red Bird Mission Team



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

- Friday, July 26, 12-5pm
- Friday, September 27, 12-5pm

Our nation's 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!

Prayer REQUESTS

ALL Prayers:

For our country
 For peace
 For all those in the world who are hungry
 For everyone who is ill
 For those affected by war
 Logan S praise good appointment
 Kathie S infection delaying chemo
 Sharon R infusions side effects
 Elaine W chemo starting soon
 Hope T serious health issues
 Cameron always needs prayer & family
 Barbara H on hospice
 Pastor Dave
 Jake S young boy infusions for cancer
 Doug S cancer surgery
 Lorraine H on hospice
 John B health issues
 Cyrus T fever after spine tumor surgery
 David K brain tumor surgery
 Gerry's friend's husband leg amputated
 Carol D knee surgery
 Len & Cathy H
 Denise emergency chemo
 Sandy D vertigo & high bp
 Family & friends of Elton S
 Ruth T fell head injury
 Julie G meeting w oncologist
 Bill L brain tumor & cancer
 Family & friends of Tom B
 Mike in rehab for drugs
 Kim biopsy kidneys
 Praise for confirmation class
 Linda waiting on biopsy results
 Family & friends of Ken F
 Sue N heart valve replacement
 Family & friends of Rev. Bill D
 Gloria lost husband
 Harley S medication issues
 Mary, Tyler Donna S stress
 Wayne S knee problems
 Trina husb business or find a job

Erik V praise home from hosp
 Confirmation kids
 Red Bird Mission Team
 Traci S ovarian cancer & MS
 Family & friends of David B
 Bela loss of good friend
 Family & friends of Lynsey D
 James R at hosp
 Carol M still recovering foot surg
 Family & friends of Janet T
 Don & Jennie T loss of sister
 Elizabeth M procedure needs chemo
 Mike M not feeling well
 Family & friends of George P
 David frontotemporal dementia
 Tony quadruple bypass
 Sharon E health & Jake
 Graduating Seniors
 May Prayer Requests
 Rev Harold G hosp health issues
 Gloucester Co Prosecutor's Office
 Joyce N covid not feeling well
 Family & friends of Michele C
 T family sudden passing of wife/mother
 Jaime D bypass surgery
 Dave H bad fall multiple injuries
 Family & friends of Keith S
 Sharon E cancer treatment

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

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Joyce N., Hope T., Gerry M., Janet B., Kathie S., Sharon R., Elaine W., Cindy F., Logan S.

Serving in the Military:

Michael Nahas, 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., Sue T., Bernice N.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

1— Dave Fish
 1— Charlie Kyser
 1— Don Strock
 2 - Susan Speakman
 2— Peg Purnell
 2— Carter Weber
 3— Pat Haase
 3— Mary Ann Jones
 3— Chris & Charlie Taylor
 6— Avaleigh Vatsava
 9— Gloria Lee
 10— Sharon & Jacob Eichel
 11— Bob & Marge Rowand
 12— Elaine Luoma
 14— Hope Hooley
 15— Hermine Morgan
 15— Peggy Pagano
 20— Sharon Rutter
 20— Wayne Sierocinski
 21— Vikki Gibson
 22— Erin Vatsava
 23— Jaye Hamel
 23— Grant Dechen
 23— David & Leisa Keegan
 24— Chris Bailey
 25— Kate Black
 25— Janice Grassia
 25— Nicole Martz
 26— Matt & Kim Dechen
 26— William & Elaine Walsh
 26 - Rich Gibson

28— John Pagano
 28— Logan Sierocinski
 31— Bev Betz

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

1— Ken Betz
 1— Cameron Kovack
 2— Dave Hosier
 2— Everett Vatsav
 3— Marc Coralluzzo
 3 - Kaiden Grassia
 3— Charlie Taylor
 4— Bill & Elaine Blair
 5— Jane Felder
 7— Cameron Houghton
 8— Jeannette Branson
 8— Bernice Nolte
 9 - Jim & Cheri Clement
 10— Barbara Hoffman
 13— Leia Eller
 14 - Luca Rizzuto
 15— Mary Ellen Felder
 16— Gerrie Lynn Dyal
 16— DixieLee Leonardo
 19— Melissa Thomas
 24— Merrilee & William Chappell
 24— Austin Gittinger
 26— DixieLee & Jim Leonardo
 29— Jack Keegan



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
 St. Paul's United Methodist
 Church, PO Box 125, West
 Deptford, NJ 08086

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Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

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In Need of Green Candle Prayers

“Light one candle for the strength that we need.”

On our “Healing Sunday” I shared the news that I wish I didn’t need to share. I told those gathered together that morning that since March I have known that I have cancer. During these months when people asked me how I was, truthfully I wasn’t “fine” or ok. Frankly, I have had my moments of being very self-focused since that doctor’s appointment notice and I have slipped more than a few times in my relationship with others.

We started lighting the green candle for individuals with cancer many months ago because our congregation, like many other collectives of humans, had far too many people battling that evil word cancer. We have kept those individuals in our prayers. We have prayed for their family members and their health care providers. We have prayed for a cure. During all those months I was the last person who I ever envisioned being in need of the “green candle prayers.”

As I noted in church in June, my prostate cancer is treatable and controllable. I am already taking medication to reduce my prostate while receiving the hormone therapy that will help me win this battle. I am so happy to have a Fox Chase team working with me. I have been assured that the impact of the treatment will be minimal and that I will be able to pretty much maintain a full work schedule. But ... there may be times when I am unexpectedly



tired. There may be times when I am irritable. The worst impact on me is that there may be times when I experience ‘hot flashes’ and this boy from Buffalo hates the heat. I am asking that my medical team act aggressively on my behalf, and that’s what they are doing.

We have church members and friends of the church who are dealing with cancers that are significantly worse than mine, so I do not want to be treated any differently that you were treating me before June 30th when I shared my condition. When I light the green candle, I will be thinking of them and their families.

I also want to urge every man to make sure you get tested for cancer! Every woman too but men are stubborn when it comes to taking care of ourselves! I should know because both my heart issue and cancer might have had easier treatment regimens if they had been caught earlier.

I also am doing my best to find the “still waters to restore my

soul” and to focus on being happy rather than just allowing life to swallow me up. As one friend noted when they found out, “Your faith has helped you,” and they are right. I have been holding tightly onto God these past few months.

In one of their songs, R.E.M. sings “When your day is long and the night is yours alone; when you’re sure you’ve had enough of this life, well hang on! Don’t let yourself go, ‘cause everyone cries, everybody hurts sometimes.” I have played the song numerous times but then I go back to Philippians and remember, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, REJOICE!”

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

SOUP SUNDAY

1st Sunday of every month



No Soup in July

Next Soup Sunday: Aug. 4

Flavor: TBA

Order online or by calling or seeing Mary Ann Jones.

Thanks to Ish & the PISTON Diner for the delicious soup!

Outreach

Thanks for your Red Bird support!

Thanks to your donations of money and metal for recycling, we have a Mission Team of 12 going to Red Bird in July. This is a major outreach mission and your donations have been greatly appreciated. Red Bird Missionary Conference, renamed now to Central Appalachian Missionary Conference in the mountains of Kentucky, is one of the poorest areas in the country. Our members will be helping out the residents there from July 7th to 12th.

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

• July

- ◇ Our first Sunday offering (July 7) will benefit Native American Awareness Sunday, one of the UMC's Six Special Sundays.
- ◇ On the third Sunday (July 21) the offering is for Seeds of Hope Ministries in Camden.

• August

- ◇ Our first Sunday offering (August 4) is Shared Ministries, for the outreach of the United Methodist Church.
- ◇ Our third Sunday (August 18) we will be supporting St. John of God School for Special Children.

Thank you all for your faithful support of our mission projects. We remain a community of love for all.

Cheri Clement



Did You Know? International Dinners

Did You Know?



Way, way back in the 1980s under Pastor John Morrison we used to support our mission projects by holding an International Dinner each year.

It was potluck, but everyone made a donation to come, and the donations were used toward mission projects and missionary support.

I wish I had a photo of all the children. In order to drum up



attendance at the dinners, the children's choir used to sing. They would get dressed up in costumes from various countries and sing a couple songs.

Does anyone else remember this?



CLAP YOUR HANDS!

"Dance, Sing, Clap your Hands" was one of the first songs the choir learned under our new music director, Bela Debreceni. It was upbeat and fun, and the congregation clapped with us. Thanks, Bela!

Young People Finding Joy in the Lord

“Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him.”

Solomon in Psalm 127 makes a declaration that children are a gift of God. Jesus later verifies this statement when he tells His disciples to let the children step forward and be included as the faithful in that moving Gospel story. Jesus also teaches us we need to turn our lives around and have the faith of a child to see the Kingdom of Heaven.

On Father’s Day we celebrated the Confirmation of eleven young people. Truly a day of celebration as shown by Luke Wright and Collin Dechen as they pulled the balloons out after all the vows were spoken and the church welcomed these young people who had stood up to declare that ‘YES, we believe in Jesus Christ! YES, we will do all we can to build the church of Jesus Christ here on earth!’

We began Confirmation with the young adults creating a visual image of God. Some were incredible works of art, but each teenager invested thought into putting something special on paper. Little did I know during that first week, but art would play an important role in the class members’ verification of their faith and commitment to Confirmation!

The class members were required to choose a Psalm that hopefully they will hold onto in the coming days. We did a quick overview of Scriptures and dug into some Wesleyan theology. The three simple rules for life: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay in Love with



On Sunday, June 16, Pastor Dave brought into church membership ten young people, and the 11th on June 30. The kids, ranging in age from 13 to 18, attended class with PD for months and learned about what it means to be a Christian and a Methodist. Shown are: (inset) Zack Beidle; (front) Luke Wright, Mikayla Wright, Pastor Dave, Logan Sierocinski, Mary Sierocinski; (back) Collin Dechen, Olivia Ferrara, Cailyn Houghton, Scarlett Hartnett, Ellie Luoma, Harley Sierocinski.

God. And the class members learned from an online video.

These young people enjoy being competitive and we flew paper airplanes to celebrate Pentecost, determined to prove who had the best airplane design. And during perhaps the essential moment of the class, the boys competed against the girls to create a “work of art” on the floor of Hickman Hall that represented my favorite verse. “Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say rejoice!” Their creative work was judged by a friend of mine who was online, but the class was surprised when each one of the class had to explain why they find joy in the Lord. It was such a moving moment as these kids were caught off guard, but they responded in a way that affirmed to me that they each were ready to

be confirmed into the United Methodist Church.

It was an honor to confirm this group of young people whose ages ranged from 7th grade to high school graduate. These young people are now members of the United Methodist Church and of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church; they are the foundation for our future.

Congratulations to all our our Confirmands, and to St. Paul’s for embracing faith in our young.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave

Let's Make 2024 VBS a Priority!

We Sang, "Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter"

Ok, so it wasn't a song of faith that I remember most from my Vacation Bible School days, but I do remember the days when the church bus picked us up in front of our house to take us to Vacation Bible School at my church, which is pictured above. The kids on the bus, like my brother and I, were all excited about this one very special week of our summertime ... yes, kids do get excited about Vacation Bible School when their parents make VBS fun, and volunteers make it intriguing and memorable.

Every year since I have been the pastor of St. Paul's I have been thrilled with our Vacation Bible School numbers. I have loved to see the kids energetically charging outside for 'recreation,' but I also have enjoyed watching them study God's Word and discovering that going to church can be fun!! The kids don't know it yet, but going to VBS creates memories they will never forget.

I still remember Miss Heckel and Mr. Lewis, who were two of my VBS teachers. I remember Pastor Will's smile and laughter as he



has used her teenage years to volunteer every year at VBS ... a teenager who values younger kids getting the basics of faith and a teenager who could be doing almost anything else, yet there she is. So are you able to give up a few nights to help? Perhaps you and your spouse could come together and help. It would be so

awesome to have some men volunteering, but then again it seems that men just don't want to volunteer at VBS. Perhaps they are too busy watching the Phillies on TV.

Finally, we need kids ... St. Paul's is always a kid friendly church. Since Pentecost we have baptized three babies and confirmed 11 teenagers. But the foundation comes from Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. Sadly, our Sunday School numbers just like most churches have gone down ... I wonder who is inviting kids to church these days. For the sake of your children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and neighborhood kids ... will you do some asking and inviting this month? Tell them to go to the website (<https://stpaulsalive.org>) or perhaps you can sign them up yourself.

I know we don't have a church bus so the kids won't be riding the bus to church singing the latest popular song. (I can still sing that Hermans Hermits song all the way through.) But let's create some special memories by making this our best VBS in years!!!

demonstrated to my friends and me that he also enjoyed being in church and had an amazing faith. We played games, we did crafts and we learned about God. Who knows, perhaps the seeds that were planted in my very soul during VBS led me to become a pastor one day.

So here's the truth. We need YOU! We need each and every person who is reading this newsletter to make St. Paul's 2024 VBS a priority! There are only days until we open our doors, and we need adult teachers and leaders. So is that you?

Barbara Hoffman, that beautiful special woman, was still volunteering last year, not worried about her age or the impact of age on her because of the kids!! Barb won't be at VBS this year ... her health won't allow it. Olivia Ferrara



Blessings,
Pastor Dave

WHAT'S HAPPENING



FATHER'S DAY was wonderful, with special music provided by our Men's Choir.

Thanks so much to our Music Director Bela Debreceni for pulling these guys together and practicing with them.

What a joyful noise!



SPECIAL MUSIC is something we enjoy during the summer when the choir is on hiatus. We have a wealth of talent and have special music almost every week. It's worth coming to worship to hear our awesome musicians!



WE ALL SCREAMED for ice cream! Especially PD, who visited Ice Cream Love **THREE TIMES!** It was a delicious fundraiser for the church! We don't know how much we made, but the ice cream was totally worth it!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

What a great day in worship celebrating Pentecost on May 19! Red is the color of Pentecost and most everyone wore red and their red "Pentecost" hats. We celebrated the birth of the church with red balloons. Such joy!

Children's Ministry



CHILDREN'S DAY was June 2, and oh, what a wonderful day it was! We heard from some of our talented musicians, and the children sang for us. Then everyone had a blast at the all church family picnic, complete with bouncy house! Next up: Vacation Bible School, July 28th - August 1st. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

It's time to step up to the plate with St. Paul's!! The Philadelphia Phillies play the Washington Nationals on Saturday August 17th, and we'll be there!

The game starts at 6:05p but we hope to have a tailgate party before the game. Watch for more info on that.

We have tickets for \$42 each, which includes a small donation to the church, plus you will have to pay for parking, about \$25 in the stadium lot, credit card only! We need your reservation (and money)



transfer your e-tickets from her account to yours. She'll help you if you need help.

This is a perfect game ... mid-summer and a Phillies team that is definitely outstanding! But the main thing is having fun!

Sponsored by the CRT, the Community Relations Team. Thank you all for being part of the essential ministry of our church!!!

now! Please see Kathy Reitz in church or call her. NOTE tickets are not paper this year! Kathy will

Game On!

Community Relations Team



DOUBLE BAPTISM was the JOY keeping Pastor Dave's arms full on June 23rd. St. Paul's welcomed Arabella Murphy & Francis Jabathy Jr. into the family of GOD!



June 9, 2024. Joe Hoffman and Carla Branyan were our ministry of music. Norm Branyan our liturgist.



St. Paul's Calendar July-August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Worship	July 1	2 10:00am Deptford Designers	3 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg	4 Independence Day	5	6 8:00pm AA meeting
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Red Bird Mission Trip						
9:30am Worship Native American Awareness Offering		9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm NA Mtg			8:00pm AA meeting
14 9:30am Worship	15	16 10:00am Deptford Designers	17 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg	18 6:00pm Council of Women Realtors	19 12:00pm Community Listening Session with Food Bank and Clients	20 8:00pm AA meeting
21 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday Mission Offering: Special Project Sierra Leone	22	23 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	24 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg	25	26 10:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	27 8:00pm AA meeting
28	29	30	31	August 1		2
Vacation Bible School						
9:30am Worship			7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg			8:00pm AA meeting
4 9:30am Worship 11:00am Soup Sunday Shared Ministries offering	5	6 10:00am Deptford Designers 3:00pm Woman's Club use HH	7 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg	8	9	10 8:00pm AA meeting
11 9:30am Worship	12	13 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	14 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 6:00pm Trustees Meeting 7:00pm NA Mtg	15	16	17 8:00pm AA meeting
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