

St . Paul's News

January 2009

Food for Thought

Dear Friends,

Volume 9, Issue 1 Inside this issue:

Food For Thought

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Lectionary Readings

1 I have unofficially declared 2009 to be "The Year of the Visitor." I would like to see us be more intentional about inviting people to St. Paul's by spreading the word through the community of our special events and worship opportunities. Steve Wilmes, Marisa Castellucci and Bonnie Severson has agreed to work on Community Outreach for the purpose of identifying advertising opportunities, use of the web site, blogs, etc.

2 In addition, Joyce Erickson, Penny LaBaun, and Sharon Savage have volunteered to head up a Welcome Team. They will be looking at and defining what happens when visitors do come. Who will greet them? What will we give them? How will we receive them? Once they have defined a direction for our hospitality, we will be asking for each of you to help us in that effort. Stay tuned for more information along these lines.

3 Visitors are always welcome at our events throughout the year, but some events are geared to reaching out to the community specifically. For example, one of the new events is a VBS-type day for the children and youth to kick off the summer. Our team of experts will be organizing a one-time program that we can promote to the community as a day (or afternoon or evening) of fun, fellowship, and faith development. For a church like ours, a "real" Vacation Bible School is very difficult to accomplish, but this is a creative way for us to send our message to the children of our neighborhood. Plan to be a part of this special event by volunteering to help our team or by telling your friends, neighbors, and relatives to save the date.

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In October, we are hoping to engage our youth (and the LaBaun's) in staging a Halloween maze on October 30 that would be open to the community. By inviting our neighbors in, they will know where we are and we can distribute information about our Advent and Christmas events and worship.

We have so many opportunities and I am very excited about the New Year and truly appreciate your responsiveness to our meeting on Saturday and to your great ideas and excitement for our events for 2009. Now let's get out there and make it happen!

Blessings,
Pastor Cheryl



United Methodist Information Class ("New Member Class")

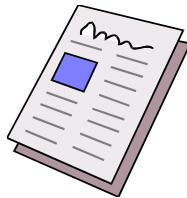
If you have been thinking about making a commitment to St. Paul's by becoming a member of the United Methodist Church, we will have an information class on Sunday, February 8 at 12:30 PM. Come for church, enjoy some fellowship time, and then stay for lunch (provided for you) and our class. We will talk about the beliefs and practices of St. Paul's and the United Methodist Church and offer you the opportunity to ask questions. Even if you are not currently interested in membership but would like to know more about the United Methodist Church, please feel free to attend the class. We will finish by 3:30 PM. Mark the registration form "New Member Class" or call Pastor Cheryl 310-370-4319.



BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

New deadline for Newsletter Submissions

If you have information for the newsletter, please get it to the church office by the **15th of each month**. Thank you!



Game Night

Saturday, January 24,
2009
6:00 PM

Bring your favorite
games!
Bring your friends,
neighbors, families!

Snacks provided!
Fun guaranteed!



LUNCH FOR PROJECT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS & BRIEF UPDATE

Don't forget to RSVP please! All welcomed.
Thursday, January 15th at 11:30 PM.
Steven's Hall
stpaulsprojectneeds@verizon.net
310-370-4319



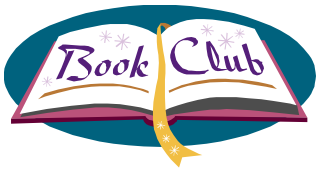
2009 Events Calendar

These are the events currently scheduled for the coming year. If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please contact the church office to find out who the team leader is. In some cases, the times and details are yet to be determined, but you can mark your calendars and watch for the details.

If you have other ideas to be included in our Events Calendar, send an email to Pastor Cheryl (spumcredondo@verizon.net) or Adriana (stpaulsprojectneeds@verizon.net).

We look forward to an exciting year here at St. Paul's and hope you will plan to join us for as many of these events as possible.

January	24	6:00 PM	Game Night in Steven's Hall
	31	8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	"How-to: Workshops" for Long Beach District
February	8	12:30 PM	New Member Lunch and Class
	21		Mardi Gras
	25	7:15 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
March	14		St. Patrick's Dinner
April	4		Easter Egg Hunt
	5	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship
	9	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship
	10	7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
	12	10:30 AM	Easter Worship (with breakfast before)
	17-19		Women's Retreat
May	2		Cinco de Mayo dinner
	10	9:00 AM	Mother's Day Breakfast
June	17-21		Annual Conference in Redlands
	20		Ordination Service in Redlands
	27		Special Event for Children
July	11		Bus Trip
	18-19		Relay For Life
August	8		Chili Cook-off
	29		Fabulous Follies V
September	26		Ice Cream Social and Talent Show
October	24		Octoberfest (Neighborhood Fair)
	30		Halloween Maze
November	22		Thanksgiving Potluck
December	24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship



Book Club News December 2008

Donna was our hostess for this month and did a wonderful job filling us in on the history of Truman Capote. She led the discussion of "A Christmas Story" a short memoir of a time in Capotes youth. As usual this triggered a lot of discussion this time about our Christmas's past.

Ratings 5 being the best: 5---5's 6---4's 2---3's

As of today with this book club we have read and discussed 6 books and one short story. We have had the opportunity through those discussions to learn a lot about each other and sometimes a little about ourselves. All in all this has been a very good year for our book club.

Our January book is "The Boy in the Stripped Pajamas" by John Boyne. We meet on Monday January 19th at 6:30 pm. Nora will be our hostess.

Partial Plot from Wikipidia

The book is about a young boy, Bruno, the son of a Nazi commander general. He has a head-strong sister, Gretel (called "the Hopeless case"). They used to live in a five-story mansion in Berlin but are one day suddenly transferred to a place called "Out-With", by his father's boss, the "Fury" Hitler (Out-With is really Auschwitz, and the Fury is The Fuhrer, but Bruno can't pronounce the words correctly). Bruno, angered and confused by his father's decision to move, and desperate to go home, spends his time in his room, without any friends to play with. He misses their old home. In such a small space, there isn't any room for exploration (a hobby of Bruno's), as there was in the house in Berlin.

From his bedroom window, Bruno spots a fence behind which he sees many people in 'striped pajamas'. These are Jews, and they are in a Nazi concentration camp. One day his parents come to an agreement that both Bruno and Gretel need a tutor for their education, so they hire Herr Liszt. To Bruno, Herr Liszt is the most boring teacher one could ever have; he teaches social science instead of reading and arts, which Bruno prefers. So, in boredom and confusion, Bruno wonders what is going on at "Out-With" (Auschwitz) and why people are always dressed in striped pajamas there. One afternoon, he goes exploring, and meets a Jewish boy called Shmuel, a name Bruno has never before heard but that apparently is quite common in the concentration camp. Shmuel soon becomes Bruno's friend and Bruno visits every afternoon to talk. Bruno is told that the people in the striped pajamas on the other side of the fence are Jews and that he and his family are "the opposite".



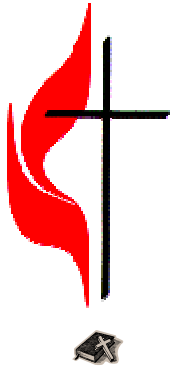
Jones-Harris Anniversary	4
David Borgeson	5
Bill Lloyd	11
Floyd Harris	15
Auguste Roberts	16
Marion Landvatter	16
Evelyn Witzman	24
Sharon Savage	26



JANUARY 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office closed	2 Office closed	3 Office closed
4 10:30 AM Worship Office closed	5	6 6:00 Project Needs Dinner	7	8	9 Office closed	10
11 10:30 AM Worship	12	13 6:00 Project Needs Dinner	14	15 9-11:00 AM Project Needs Pantry/lunch Last day for newsletter	16 Office closed	17
18 10:30 AM Worship	19 6:30 PM Book Club	20 10:00 SBAN 6:00 Project Needs Dinner	21 7:00 PM Finance & Trus- tees Meeting	22	23 Office closed	24 6:00 PM Game Night
25 10:30 AM Worship	26	27 6:00 Project Needs Dinner	28 7:00 PM Admin Council Meeting	29	30 Office closed	31 8:30 AM- 4:00PM "How to Work- shop"



St. Paul's UMC

2600 Nelson Ave
Redondo Beach, Ca 90278

Phone: 310-370-4319
Fax: 310-214-8508
spumcredondo@verizon.net
www.stpaulsrb.org

**Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open doors**

Staff e-mail addresses:

Pastor Cheryl	spumcredondo@verizon.net
Adriana Romero-Estrella	stpaulsprojectneeds@verizon.net
Richard Jones	piano88man@ca.rr.com



January Lectionary Readings

January 18

I Samuel 3:1-10
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
I Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 25

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalms 62:5-12
I Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20