

St. Paul's Newsletter

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

8:45 Contemporary Service

Reader: Kermit Hines

Nursery: Makaye Knopp & Charlita
Collins

Children's Church: Shirley
Marshall

**9:45 Adult Sunday School
Gleaners**

Devotions & Teacher: June
McKelvey

Richardson's Men

Devotions & Teacher: Randy
Bradford

11:00 Traditional Service

Reader: George Simmons, Jr.

From the Helm

January 6, 2009

Vol. 183

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When you realize you have to make an apology to someone, what would you like to hear the person that you apologize to say back to you? How about if they tell you: "Give me some time to think about it and I'll let you know if I forgive you or not." or, "If you do this or that, then, I'll forgive you." Geez! Who could ever really want to apologize to someone like that? Someone like that seems to want to make you wait or to grovel for forgiveness.

Now, suppose you apologize and they say to you: "Hey, thanks, forget about it, what's done is done." It may sound ordinary or dull but it gets the point across that the thing(s) we've done in the past have been put behind us and we have a fresh start. Now that's what I'd like to hear if I've already beat myself up over something I've done wrong and need to apologize.

When someone accepts your apology like that, it sure makes it easier for us to relate to the saying that 'today is the first day of the rest of your life'. You can start afresh. Now, that's exactly how God handles our sin when we humble ourselves and go to Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. No matter what you've done and no matter how unfaithful you've been to the Lord by pursuing other 'idols' in your life, God's saying to you, "Let's make a new start together and I'll make it possible because I love you!" That in itself is pretty good news isn't it?

But, the greatest news is yet to come...that, God doesn't just forgive us, He frees us from the guilt that comes with our sin. You know about that guilt and so do I. It's something that can haunt you like a ghost in your life. God removes that feeling of guilt and I know that seems impossible but He does it personally, through His Holy Spirit.

The prophet Isaiah explains it like this: ("Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations....") The identity of the servant is not clear: the prophet could have been speaking of his own vocation. Some think the nation of Israel was supposed to fulfill the role of freeing captives and bringing the people back to God. Perhaps a smaller group, a just remnant within the nation, was being called upon for the role of returning the people back to the practice of true religion and justice.

As we look to this scripture through the eyes of our Christian faith, it's not difficult to see that the servant God is speaking about is none other than Our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the one who will be a light for the nations. His life and ministry brought Our Heavenly Father's plan to fruition. God wanted to put an end to Israel's exile and disgrace.

Our Lord Jesus took that role and freed us from the separation from God because of our sin and more importantly, from the sentence of eternal death.

This Sunday, we'll read about the prophet and read Psalm 29 and the Gospel telling us about John's baptism that began to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy and in Jesus all nations will see God's rescuing and saving and forgiving love.

May God continue to bless you and your family as you live out God's plan for your life. May he bless you with abundance in body, soul, spirit and relationships.

Yours, in Christ,
Revfred+

Prayer List

Chris Browne	Mike Wingo	Unsaved loved ones	Those needy
Rev. David Rector	Dave Ryan, Jr. & family	Families	Our pastors
Margaret Barnes	Rose Andrew	Our Schools	Our church
Wanda Hurley		Our Service Workers	

Updates

Children's Church Needs Assistants

Children's Church is in need of adult helpers during the early worship service on Sunday mornings. Safe Sanctuaries requires at least two adults in attendance during any activities with children. Therefore, an adult will be needed to serve only as an assistant during Children's Church. Anyone interested in helping out is asked to contact Youth Pastor B.J. Smith.

Altar Flowers

St. Paul's Church is in need of Altar Flower donations. Flowers can be donated to honor a specific person or event, or just to celebrate the beauty of God's creations. Donors are recognized in our weekly bulletin, so be sure to sign your name. Please check the calendar on the sanctuary desk, and sign in for your chosen date.

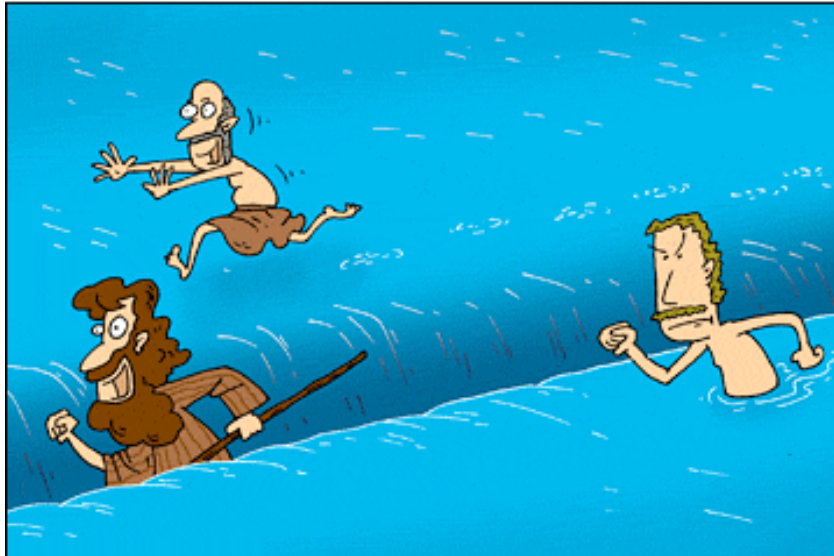
Acolytes Wanted

St. Paul's Church is currently in need of acolytes for the 11 a.m. worship service. Each acolyte performs the "lighting of the candles" on only one Sunday per month. Anyone interested, or wanting more information, should call the Church Office at 410-228-1424.

News from the Basement of St. Paul's Church

Are you planning to start your "spring cleaning" early this year? Please keep St. Paul's Church Basement in mind while you clean out your closets, attics, etc. Your donations of household items and small furnishings help to keep our basement stocked with affordable items during these difficult times. Plus, all of the money collected from our "basement yard sales" goes straight back into the church. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday during regular office hours, or call to make arrangements for a time that is good for you.

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Thanks to Colin Nelson

12-14-2009

HOZEKIAH FOUND THIS RACE WITH MOSES AND
PETER TO BE GROSSLY UNFAIR

Upcoming Events

Lady's Prayer Breakfast

The next Lady's Community Prayer Breakfast is scheduled to be held on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 8 a.m. The location of this prayer breakfast is the Salvation Army, 200 Washington Street, Cambridge. Everyone is asked to please bring a canned goods donation. For more information, please phone 410-228-2442.

Methodist Men Meeting

The St. Paul's United Methodist Men will be having their monthly dinner meeting on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. An accurate head count is needed to make sure there are enough dinners prepared. Please contact Dick Hargis or the church office before noon on Monday, January 11th, if you plan to attend the January meeting.

Upcoming Calendar

3 11a Holy Communion	4 5:30p Relay For Life Meeting	5 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	6 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	7 1-6:10p Blood Bank in Fellowship Hall 2:30p St. Paul's Singers @ Mallard Bay 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	8	9 4p Baptism
10	11 1:30p Mary Circle Meeting at Betty Dennis' home 7p Martha Circle Meeting at Elizabeth Harp's home	12 6:30p Finance Committee Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting	13 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	14 2:30p St. Paul's Singers @ Chesapeake Woods 6-8:30p CCA PTO Meeting in Parlor 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary 6:30 Methodist Men Dinner Meeting in Fellowship Hall	15 8:30-9:05a CCA Donuts with Dad	16
17 11a radio	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19 SOUP DAY PREP. 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	20 SOUP DAY 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	21 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	22	23

24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	5:30p Relay For Life Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Church Council Meeting	6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	5p Lloyd's VFC Spaghetti Dinner 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	6p CCA PTO Pot Luck Dinner Meeting in Fellowship Hall	5:30p CSD Sports Boosters Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall
31	Feb 1, 2010 8:45a Holy Communion 5:30-8:30p Relay For Life Meeting in Fellowship Hall	2 Groundhog Day 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	3 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	4 1-6:10p Blood Bank in Fellowship Hall 2:30p St. Paul's Singers @ Mallard Bay 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	5	6
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14	St. Valentines Day	15 President's Day	16 SOUP DAY PREP. 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	17 ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP DAY 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice	18 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	19 20 wedding
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<p>14</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins "SPRING FORWARD"</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>SOUP DAY PREP.</p> <p>6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SOUP DAY</p> <p>6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting</p> <p>7:30p Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>