

St. Paul's Newsletter

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Scriptures: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

8:45 Contemporary Service

Reader: Dottie Griffith

Nursery: Makaye & Josh Knopp

Children's Church: Julia & John
Lloyd

9:45 Sunday School

Gleaners

Devotions & Teacher: Nancy Gale

Richardson's Men

Devotions & Teacher: Randy
Bradford

11:00 Traditional Service

Reader: Nancy Hebdon

From The Helm

April 19, 2010

Vol 199

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'd like to pass along this Story about a guy named Daniel: The author is unknown.

It was an unusually cold day for the month of May. Spring had arrived and everything was alive with color. But a cold front from the North had brought winter's chill back to Indiana. I sat with two friends in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town square. The food and the company were both especially good that day. As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief. We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways.

I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car. Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." And so, with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner. I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the storefront church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked, feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on.

The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor. "Looking for the pastor?" I asked. "Not really," he replied, "just resting." "Have you eaten today?" "Oh, I ate something early this morning." "Would you like to have lunch with me?" "Do you have some work I could do for you?" "No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch." "Sure," he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his things. I asked some surface questions. "Where you headed?" "St. Louis." "Where you from?" "Oh, all over; mostly Florida." "How long you been walking?"

"Fourteen years," was the reply. I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly.

He gave his life over to God. "Nothing's been the same since," he said. "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now." "Ever think of stopping?" I asked. "Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like?" "What?" "To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?"

"Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me."

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said, "Come ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground. "Could you use another Bible?" I asked. He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it 14 times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see." I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful. "Where you headed from here?" "Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon." "Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?" "No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next." He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back to the town square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet." I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, **"I know the plans I have for you," declared the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope."** "Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you. "I know," I said, "I love you, too." "The Lord is good." "Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked. "A long time," he replied. And so

on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed.

He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem." "I'll be there!" was my reply. He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?" "You bet," I shouted back, "God bless." "God bless."

And that was the last I saw of him. Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of -worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. I remembered his words: "If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will... *the end*

I pray that this story touched you, as it did me when I first read it. Share the newsletter with someone. Wont you? "I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again." Isn't it great that God uses stories like this to cause us to stop and think and want to know our Father a little bit more?

Blessings to you and your families. Hold on to that scripture from Jeremiah mentioned in this letter to you and please, remember to pray for our nation every day. Please do that and ask your friends to pray for our nation.

God bless and keep you forever and ever.

Yours, in Christ,

Revfred+

Prayer List

Chris Browne	Nancy Hughes	David Langrall	Our Service
Rev. David Rector	Suzanne Handy	James Fitzhugh	Workers
Margaret Barnes	Pauline Bradford	(upcoming surgery)	Those needy
Wanda Hurley	Charles Harp	Unsaved loved ones	Our pastors
Carolyn LeCompte	Patsy McWilliams	Families	Our church
		Our Schools	

Updates

Children's Ministries Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
5/2/10	Julia & John L.	Makaye & Josh K.
5/9/10	Shirley M.	Michelle S. & Allison J.
5/16/10	Rebecca R. & Sharon T.	Makaye & Josh K.
5/23/10	Mary Ruth B. & Heather T.	Cathy M. & Charlee C.

Be sure to use your contact list if you need to switch Sundays with someone.



Nursery Needs Assistants

The nursery 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* to the current nursery staff. Anyone interested in helping out is asked to contact Youth Pastor B.J. Smith.

Church Directory Update

Jay Harrington has been given the task of completing the church directory from the photos Olan Mills® took last fall. He has finally received the church member's photos that were taken at that time to use in formatting the directory. He needs your assistance to complete several of the pages. We have space in the directory to add photos of members who were unavailable at that time (i.e. shut-ins, in the military, new members, etc). We also have a few pages for photographs of the activities at St Paul's. If you would like to have a photograph considered for the directory, please contact Jay at jhrrngtn@verizon.net or the church office and he will contact you to provide the requirements for the photos. The deadline for submissions is Sunday, May 9th.

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

There are members of our church who have been out of work during this recession, a frustrating and demoralizing experience. They need to know that they are not alone and that their church family is in this with them. All of us are in contact with other people every day. If we made a serious effort to talk to others about job possibilities we just might be able to help one of our jobless members become employed. People who are job-hunting and want to be a part of this project would need to write their name or initials on a 3x5 card with phone number, skills and experience, and type of job sought. A list could be included in the bulletin and members could start helping with the job-seeking effort. And all of us could pray daily for each person on the list. Prayer is powerful. And so is the sense of being surrounded by a network of God's helpers.

2010 St. Paul's Memorial Fund "Humanitarian Scholarship"

WITHIN THE MEMORIAL FUND, MONEY HAS BEEN DONATED AND DESIGNATED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FOR DESERVING PERSONS IN DORCHESTER COUNTY WANTING TO FUTURE THEIR EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF "HELPING OTHERS", BE IT NURSING, POLICE, SOCIAL WORKER, OR MANY OTHER AREAS THAT WOULD HELP OUR COMMUNITY.

THIS CAME ABOUT WHEN C. LEON HURLEY PASSED AWAY IN THE SPRING OF 2005. HIS FAMILY WISHED THAT MONIES DONATED IN MR. LEON'S NAME BE IN THE MEMORIAL FUND, BUT SET ASIDE TO BE USED AS THE PRINCIPAL TOWARD A SCHOLARSHIP. THIS YEAR, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, 2 \$500.00 AWARDS WILL BE AWARDED.

THERE ARE 6 CHURCH MEMBERS ON THE COMMITTEE THAT DECIDES WHO RECEIVES THESE SCHOLARSHIPS. ALLAN GORSUCH, CHAIR. CHURCH COUNCIL, PHILIP MCKELVEY, LAY LEADER, CHARLES WEBER, CHAIR. OF FINANCE, NANCY GALE/SARA STACK, PRES. OF U.M. WOMEN, DON KINNAMON, PRES. OF U.M. MEN, AND SCOTT DANIELS, TREAS. MEMORIAL FUND.

APPLICATIONS FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP CAN BE PICKED UP IN THE CHURCH OFFICE. ASK TONI INSLEY MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, 9 a.m. TILL 4 p.m. PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS MAY APPLY AGAIN.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 18TH; WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT:

**Scott Daniels
Memorial Fund Treasurer,
Scholarship Chairman
410-228-7830**

Upcoming Events

SPPRC Meeting

There will be an SPPRC Meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 3, 2010. All current SPPRC members are encouraged to attend.

Parking Lot Update

The parking lot at St. Paul's UMC will be closed to all vehicles on Saturday, May 15, 2010. The parking space lines are to be re-painted, and there will be no vehicles permitted on the lot until Sunday morning. Curbside parking is available in front of the church, if you need to enter the church on Saturday. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



Senior Cookout!!

Our next Senior Luncheon will be a cookout in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's UMC. On Tuesday, May 11th at noon, all seniors and guests are invited to join the fun and enjoy the good company at our Senior Cookout. Jim and Nancy Harvey will be handling the grill, and Howard and Carol Chow are taking care of the sides, so just bring yourself, and maybe a friend, and have a great time.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids zip, zap, and zoom at Planet Zoom. They ZIP into VBS and ZAP into God's Word. They help each other learn with memorable activities, confess that they BELIEVE in Jesus, our Savior, and then ZOOM out to share Jesus' love in the world. *Planet Zoom* registration is open for ages 3–11 who will attend VBS from August 2-6, at 6:00pm. Kids meet friends, explore Bible stories, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, and eat snacks. We expect a great response, so enroll your child today. To pre-register, visit the VBS/CCA table at the Flower Fair this week or call BJ at the office.

Methodist Men Meeting

The final Methodist Men dinner meeting of the season will be held on Thursday, May 13th. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Richard Hargis or the church office at 410-228-1424 if you plan to attend. A head count will be needed to determine how much food to prepare.

Graduate Recognition

St. Paul's UMC will be recognizing this year's graduates at the 8:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 23, 2010. If you know someone who is graduating this year, and would like them to be included, please visit the youth link at our website, www.stpaulscambridge.com, or contact the church office to register, and plan to attend that Sunday. There will be a gift for the graduate and a small reception afterwards. Please register by Sunday, May 9th.

Upcoming Calendar

25 8:45a Holy Communion	26 6:30p Methodism 101 in Fellowship Hall	27 FLOWER FAIR 12n CCA-Early Dismissal 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	28 FLOWER FAIR 4:30 Flower Fair Dinner in Fellowship Hall 7:30p Choir Practice in Chapel	29 FLOWER FAIR 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	30 FLOWER FAIR CCA - School Field Trip	May 1, 2010
2 11a Holy Communion 11a Blessing of the Bikes	3 6:30p Methodism 101 in Sanctuary 6:30p SPPRC Meeting in Fellowship Hall	4 8:30-9:30a Mom & Me Tea in Fellowship Hall 6p Dor. Technology Awards Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting	5 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice in Chapel	6 1-6p Blood Bank in Fellowship Hall 2:30p St. Paul's Singers at Mallard Bay 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p CCA Finance Meeting in Nursery	7	8 St. Paul's Family Night
9 Mother's Day	10 5-7p Relay For Life in Fellowship Hall - Bank Night 6:30p Methodism 101 7p Martha Circle Covered Dish @ Beverly Gorsuch's home	11 12n Senior Cookout in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	12 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice in Chapel	13 2:30p St. Paul's Singers @ Chesap. Woods 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary 6-8:30p CCA-PTO Meeting in Nursery 6:30p Methodist Men Dinner in Fellowship Hall	14	15 Church Parking Lot Closed for Re-Painting
16 11a radio	17 6:30p Methodism 101 in Fellowship Hall 6-7p CCA Open House	18 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	19 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice in Chapel 4:30p Lloyd's VFC Dinner in Fellowship Hall	20 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	21	22

23 8:45a Graduate Recognition	24 6:30p Council Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Methodism 101	25 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	26 CCA Field Day 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting 7:30p Choir Practice in Chapel	27 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary 6:30p CCA Spring Program in Fellowship Hall	28 CCA - Last Day of School Pool Party @ Ches. Hyatt	29
30 8:45a Holy Communion	31 Memorial Day	June 1, 2010 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall	2 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting	3 1-6p Blood Bank in Fellowship Hall 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	4	5 wedding
6 11a Holy Communion	7 Dor. Co.Fireman's Association Dinner in Fellowship Hall	8 6:30p Cub Scout Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:30p Worship Committee Meeting	9 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting	10 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	11	12 wedding
13	14 Flag Day 6:30-8:30p Relay For Life Meeting in Fellowship Hall	15	16 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting	17 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	18	19 wedding
20 Father's Day 11a radio	21 Summer Begins	22	23 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting	24 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	25 Rev. Bahr - Vacation	26 Rev. Bahr - Vacation
27 Rev. Bahr - Vacation 8:45a Holy Communion	28 Rev. Bahr - Vacation	29 Rev. Bahr - Vacation	30 Rev. Bahr - Vacation 6:30p Four:12 Youth Meeting	July 1, 2010 Rev. Bahr - Vacation 1-6p Blood Bank in Fellowship Hall 6-8p Praise Band Practice in Sanctuary	2	3