



# January 2012 United Methodist Newsletter

*St. Paul United Methodist Church*

*Alton United Methodist Church*

**Friends,**

A New Year is about to begin. Christmas time is coming to an end and the celebration of Epiphany is just around the corner. The New Year will bring many challenges for both congregations as we continue to grow existing ministries and begin new ones. And I am certain the New Year will also bring personal challenges for each of us. When those challenges arise, I pray that we will remember that our life in Christ is a sustaining force. Like generations of Christians before us, we are called to live out our faith as the people of God by loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

In the weeks and months ahead, I pray that you will find some way to engage the world with the love of Christ and follow the example he gave us to follow. I pray that as you reach out to others in love that you will build relationships that will allow you the opportunity to share your experiences of God's grace with someone else. I pray that you will be transformed as you grow in the love of Christ and join your sisters and brothers throughout the world as the Church fulfills its purpose to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

May this season bring new growth to you in mind and Spirit as God transforms the world; may the one who was born into humble beginnings guide and direct you in all that you do; and may you join with me as we continue to build on the opportunities that God places before us.

In Christ,  
Pastor Loren



*Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest  
Is a faithful messenger to those  
who send him,  
For he refreshes the soul of his masters.  
Prov 25:13 (NASB)*





### A St. Paul Family Christmas

The Christmas program at St. Paul UMC in Thayer was a night filled with fun and family. The acts included children and youth sharing their talents as well as stories, some of which were true, from Christmases past. The Christmas story was read and we learned the meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas. There were alligators and Santa down on the bayou. We followed Mary as she was set on her journey to become the mother of Christ in a play written by Shane Baker.

Afterwards we joined in fellowship and shared snacks as Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with everyone.



### Kid's Club & Tn'T

We finished off our first semester of school with song and fellowship. Both groups went to Shepherd's View to sing several Christmas songs. We really appreciated Doris coming along and playing the piano for us. We also received some great news from the Office of Creative Ministries. We have been awarded another \$1,200 grant to continue supporting our children and youth ministries of the church. The grant was written to purchase a portable projector and screen for the main church building. This will allow TnT, VBS, and the Scouts to have access to technology in the church as well as allow future portability.



### Capital Improvements

The Board of Trustees at St. Paul has been diligently assessing the needs of the facilities and has prioritized a list of building improvements. The priority for the Trustees is to make both levels of the building more accessible to all of their members and visitors. This includes installation of an interior platform lift (by the stairwell) and an automatic door opener for the front doors of the building. A church conference was held on December 18<sup>th</sup> for the Trustees to review their

plan with the members and to discuss their finance options. It was a unanimous decision to use up to 80% of the funds from the sale of the parsonage to cover the costs of the proposed improvements. A bid has been accepted for the lift and door opener to be installed and these items should be operational early in 2012.

## Chartering a New Future

Boy Scout Troop 102 received some sad news in 2011, the Lion's Club would be dissolving. For years the Lion's Club has been the chartering organization for the Troop. Without a chartering organization to sponsor a Boy Scout troop, the troop cannot exist. The Alton UMC already charters the Cub Scouts and has agreed to charter the Boy Scouts as well starting in

2012. In May the UMM teamed up with the Boy Scouts (and Cub Scouts) to sponsor a fund raising breakfast. All the scouts were involved when the new flag and flag pole were dedicated Memorial weekend. Recently at the Boy Scout Christmas banquet, Ed Roberts accepted the Boy Scouts Volunteer of the Year award on behalf of the Alton United Methodist Men. In turn, Ed presented the award to UMM president and vice president Pat Cotton and Larry Simmons. All of those involved with Boy Scouts are very appreciative of this alliance and look forward to a great future.



## Articles for the Newsletter

Articles for the monthly newsletter need to be submitted to the office no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Newsletters will be sent to the printers by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. If you have an upcoming event that needs to be on the Monthly Calendar or want to report about recent events, please be sure to have the information to the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. You can call Lucy with the information, or send her an email with an article to:

[stpaulumc@centurytel.net](mailto:stpaulumc@centurytel.net)

## On a Mission

The St. Paul mission yard sale in October brought in \$1250. \$300 has been given to support the Oregon County Food Pantry. \$900 has also been given to support a missionary through the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The Church will be supporting Helen Sheperd. Helen serves in Mongolia where she is actively working to establish a Hospice home care program. Prior to serving in Mongolia, she served in Korea for 9 years. Stop by and read her full biography on the bulletin board at church. As a covenant partner with Helen, the church is asked to pray for her and for her ministry.

### January Meal of the Month

Canned Chili  
Crackers  
Canned Mixed Vegetables

Bonus: Coffee



Alton / Thayer Newsletter

Alton & St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 241  
Thayer, MO. 65791  
*Return Service Requested*

U.S. Permit Paid  
Non-Profit Organization  
Permit #78  
Thayer, MO. 65791

Congratulations to the Alton UMC float. The judges placed the church 3rd and awarded them \$50. Thanks to all those who donated time and supplies. The float looked great in the parade!

**St. Paul Monthly Calendar** **Alton Monthly Calendar**

**Carry In Dinner** 1st Sunday @ month  
**Leadership mtg.** 1st Sunday, 1 pm  
**UMM Breakfast** 2nd Sunday at 7am  
**Choir Practice** Wednesday at 6 pm  
**Piecemakers** every Thursday at 9 am  
**Exercise Group**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11am



**UMM Breakfast** 1st Sunday at 7 am  
**Leadership mtg.** 2nd Sunday, 7 pm  
**Stitches & Prayers** Tuesday at 9 am  
**KIDs Club/ Tn'T** every Wednesday at 3:30  
**Choir Practice** Wednesday at 7 pm  
**UMW meetings** every 3rd Wednesday at 5 pm

*St. Paul United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 241, Thayer, MO 65791*  
*Alton United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 383 Alton, MO 65606*  
*Joint Charge Office (417) 264-3296*  
*Parsonage: (417) 778-6266 Cell: (573) 881-7785*  
*E-mail: stpaulumc@centurytel.net*

