

Norrisville and St. Paul United Methodist Churches

Chapel Bells



January/February 2016

Pastor's Letter

Our Church family just amazes me. The care and understanding that we felt from you as we cared for Tom's mom in her last months, the support when she was near the end of her life, have been so meaningful to me, Tom and our whole family.

And it happens not just within our church circle, but we are willing to extend out arms wide to members of our greater community, whenever there is something we can do. You don't know how proud I am to be able to go to a family in need, one who doesn't have a church family, and say, "Oh, we'll help you." And I know you have my back, and will pour out your love without question.

But, sometimes, when it comes to being totally honest with ourselves, we hold back. I know I do it, and so do you sometimes. That's why this devotional struck me as important to all of us.

Most of the time when we come to worship or gather with other folks of faith we put our best foot forward. Someone asks the polite question, "How are you?" "Just fine," we answer with a smiling face. Some days that's the honest truth, but often it is not. Have you ever noticed that when something terrible happens in a person's life--maybe something in your own life--there is an almost automatic tendency to hide that truth from our faith family? People with broken lives mysteriously quit coming to church, crawling into their protective shells precisely when they need a community of faith the most. And we are left asking: "Where did Jim ever go?" "What happened to Maria?"

The book of James invites us to imagine a different sort of community, a place where we tell honest stories about ourselves and in so doing crack the doors wide open to invite others to do the same. "Are any of you suffering? Are any of you cheerful? Are any of you sick?" Then there is a place for you here around the table of Jesus. Here we can be in conversation about what's breaking us. Here we can come and be part of a new kind of community where we can be our needy old selves, fellow beggars of God's grace.

Gracious God, we bring our needy old selves to you again. We come with hands wide open and you fill our empty hands with every good gift. Help us to never cease singing and praying with one another. Through your grace may we mysteriously become what you call us to be, the Body of Christ. Amen.

(by David Jorstad, San Marcos Lutheran Church, San Marcos, Calif.)

Let's not only reach out to others, but be open to the care that we can provide as a church family to each other.

Blessings, Melissa



January Dates

- Tues. Jan 5:** Norrisville Church Council 7pm
- Mon. Jan 11:** St. Paul Church Council 7pm
- Sat. Jan 16:** Ayres' Chapel ASP Breakfast
7-10am, (Come to help & to eat!)
- Wed. Jan 20:** Grief Share begins again,
6:15pm for 14 weeks. All are welcome!
- Wed. Jan 20:** Norrisville UMW 7pm
- Mon. Jan 25:** St. Paul UMW 7pm



February Dates

- Sun. Feb 7:** Souper Sunday (bring a can, or
2, of soup and \$1 for a special offering
for our local food banks)
- Tues. Feb 9:** St. Paul's Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper 6pm
- Sat. Feb 13:** St. Paul's ASP Breakfast 7-10am
- Wed. Feb 17:** Norrisville UMW 7pm
- Wed. Feb 22:** St. Paul UMW 7pm

Don't forget, March isn't far away! Easter is early this year, so we'll be planning to make activities for Lent and Holy Week.



2016 St. Paul & Norrisville Upcoming Events

Please put these events on your calendars now -- don't wait and make other plans without realizing that there's a conflict. Make your church activities a priority in your life.

- Sat., Jan 16: All You Can Eat Breakfast at Ayres' Chapel, 7-10 a.m. to benefit our mission team (snowdate: 1-23)
- Tues., Feb. 9: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at St. Paul, 6p.m.
- Sat., Feb.13: All You Can Eat Breakfast at St. Paul, 7-10 a.m. to benefit our mission team (snowdate: 2-20)
- Sat., March 12: All You Can Eat Breakfast at Norrisville, 7-10 a.m. to benefit our mission team (snowdate: 3-19)
- Sat., March 26: St. Paul Spring Bazaar/Cupcake Walk/ Sandwich Sale, 9-2
- Sat., April 16: Norrisville Community Flea Market (raindate: 3-23)
- Tues., April 26: Primary Election Day FREE Spaghetti Dinner at Norrisville, 4-8 p.m.
- Sat., May 21: Norrisville Chicken BBQ, 3-6 p.m.
- Sat., June 4: St. Paul Strawberry Festival, 3-7 p.m.
- Sat., Aug. 20: St. Paul Peach Festival, 3-7 p.m.
- Sat., Oct. 8: Norrisville Fall BBQ, 3-6 p.m.
- Tues., Nov. 8: Election Day FREE Spaghetti Dinner at Norrisville, 4-8 p.m.
- Sat., Nov. 19: St. Paul Christmas Bazaar/Cookie Walk/Sandwich Sale, 9-2



Congratulations to Katie & Jared Smith (N) on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Marie Smith. Elizabeth was born on November 15, 2015 weighing in at 6 lbs. 8 oz. and 20 inches long.

All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast

This is the primary way we fund our annual mission trip to Appalachia Service Project, and we need your support! Each year, our team is growing, and we're trying to incorporate more churches and more teens and adults -- but we can't do it without your help (unless we win the lottery!). Come join us for prep, serving and eating. You'll have fun, make friends, and make a difference in a family's life in Appalachia.

Sat., Jan 16: Ayres' Chapel ASP Breakfast, 7-10 a.m. (snowdate 1-23)

Sat., Feb. 13: St. Paul's ASP Breakfast, 7-10 a.m. (snowdate: 2-20) Come prep Friday night at 6, and help on Saturday morning! Invite your friends to eat.

Sat., March 12 Norrisville's ASP Breakfast, 7-10 a.m. (snowdate 3-19) Come prep on Friday morning at 9 a.m., help on Saturday morning, and bring neighbors, friends, and even some strangers (they'll be your friends soon).

Tickets available at the door. \$8 adults, \$4 children 3-10 and under 3 are free.



Spring Bazaar

St. Paul UMC

Saturday, March 26

9 am - 2 pm

28 tables of local crafters

Cupcake Walk

Pit Beef, Turkey & Ham

Children's Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 am

For more information, call Dawn 410-692-4051

Does anyone have old legos? They're expensive to buy new ones, and sometimes your kids outgrow them. We could use some to keep at Norrisville Church for some activities we want to try.



We will be collecting plastic lids for at least a year. We would like to collect at least 500 pounds in order to have them recycled into a buddy bench. Here are some examples of what to collect: drink bottles, detergent bottles, peanut butter lids, coffee can, ice cream buckets, etc. Collection containers will be available at each church.

> > Thanks so much!

> Meghan, Audrey, and Ryleigh (N) and their Girl Scout troops

Melissa McDade, Pastor
Norrisville Charge
2434 Bradenbaugh Road
White Hall, MD 21161

Norrisville Charge Worship Times

St. Paul: Worship at 8:15 am, Sunday School for all ages following worship
Located at the corner of St. Paul Church & Telegraph Rds, off Rt. 136

Norrisville: worship at 9:30 am, Sunday School for all ages following worship
Located on Church Lane (west of Norrisville Rd), near Norrisville Elementary School