



Proclamation

Why Ghana? Why Africa?

By Tim McNutt, *Pastor*

This past March I was invited to the ZERA Missions International annual fundraising banquet in Salisbury, MD. On the way there, I said to my wife Amy, I have a funny feeling that the Holy Spirit is going to bring something good out of this. ZERA is run by my ministry friend Lee Oxford. (You can search for ZERA Missions International on Facebook.)

During the dinner and the presentations, the Lord was tugging at my heart about my contributing to ZERA's Pastors' and Leaders' Institute. So, after the dinner I asked Lee if ZERA needed help in Biblical studies and I was immediately invited to come along this August and teach. My area of influence would be in the realm of the New Testament.

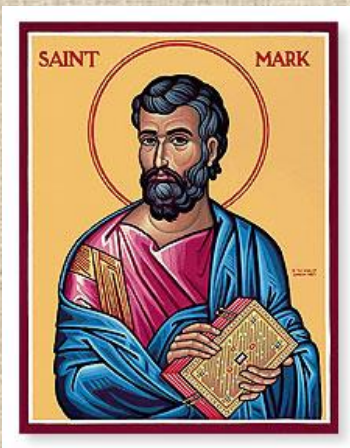
Making a long story short, this August I will traveling for ten days to Ghana to teach a New Testament survey class to the pastors. This will help the pastors (and their wives) with their own discipleship but also as they shepherd their congregations and/or plant new churches. Specifically the pastors will be able to see more clearly how our New Testament grew out of the Old Testament's promises of the coming of the Lord Jesus and what this means for them today. Better NT interpretation will mean better sermons and Bible studies and healthier, maturing churches. Better NT interpretation means more focused work for the Kingdom of God.

As I shared all of this with St. Paul's Council at our April 2015 meeting, the missions trip was met with great enthusiasm. As going on behalf of St. Paul's as a hands-on missions project, I feel very honored and excited to be taking part in this event. Already, our upcoming VBS has agreed to help support this effort as their 2015 missions project. Many thanks also go to those who purchased plants from the LWML Hearts in Mission plant sale which has also helped to support me. Big thanks to those who have already contributed in the Sunday offerings.

Specifically #1 – I need for all of you to pray for me and the entire ZERA team going to Ghana August 8-18 for traveling and health protection and enduring sustainable fruit from all of the training, educational, and outreach projects.

Specifically #2 – I need you to pray about financially supporting me in this effort. I need to raise approximately \$2725 more towards my budget (as of the end of April). For tax purposes, all gifts ought to be made out to St. Paul's with GHANA in the memo line. I need to raise \$1600 by the end of May and the rest by mid-July. Anything that you can give would be greatly appreciated and even more so by the pastors of Ghana.

Thank you for your consideration of this missions project. As I pray daily for you as the St. Paul's family, I ask that you continue to pray daily for me as well.



Get MARKED for 2015

Daily reading in the Gospel of Mark

| | | | |
|----|-------------|----|------------|
| 1 | 1:1-15 | 21 | 10:1-16 |
| 2 | 1:16-39 | 22 | 10:17-31 |
| 3 | 1:40 – 2:12 | 23 | 10:32-52 |
| 4 | 2:13-28 | 24 | 11:1-19 |
| 5 | 3:1-19 | 25 | 11:20-33 |
| 6 | 3:20-35 | 26 | 12:1-12 |
| 7 | 4:1-20 | 27 | 12:13-27 |
| 8 | 4:21-41 | 28 | 12:28-44 |
| 9 | 5:1-20 | 29 | 13:1-13 |
| 10 | 5:21-43 | 30 | 13:14-23 |
| 11 | 6:1-13 | 31 | 13:24-37 |
| 12 | 6:14-29 | 32 | 14:1-11 |
| 13 | 6:30-44 | 33 | 14:12-21 |
| 14 | 6:45-56 | 34 | 14:22-31 |
| 15 | 7:1-23 | 35 | 14:32-52 |
| 16 | 7:24-37 | 36 | 14:53-65 |
| 17 | 8:1-26 | 37 | 14:66-15:5 |
| 18 | 8:27-9:1 | 38 | 15:6-20 |
| 19 | 9:2-29 | 39 | 15:21-41 |
| 20 | 9:30-50 | 40 | 15:42-47 |
| | | 41 | 16:1-8 |



From the desk of the Congregational President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe we are already in the month of May.

I encourage everyone to attend our Semiannual Voter's Meeting after the 10:30 worship service on May 17. Each year, St. Paul's has two semiannual voter's meetings as required by our constitution to provide council and committee reports. In addition to these reports, we will give status reports on the building program and mortgage loan refinancing. This is also a good time to make suggestions in possible new outreach events or missions. Contact me, if you would like to add a discussion item to the agenda.

As some of you know, I have been working on a Master's degree in Leader and Management for the past couple of years. I am now finishing a marketing course where I naturally suggested St. Paul's as the team project. With my two team classmates, we plan to brief the council and congregational members on the marketing plan for St. Paul's. Once this is scheduled, the date and time will be announced after service and put in the bulletin. I can guarantee that this will provide a fair amount of thought provoking discussion.

If you haven't gone into the church office for the past couple of months, you might not recognize it. The total make over is thanks to the efforts of building and grounds, Jason Reithmeyer and Alan Hunter, along with congregational members who volunteered time and gave donations.

Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us the seasons of the year to remind us of Your creation of this world and Your resurrection. Help to continue revitalizing Your church here at St. Paul's so that we may outreach Your ministry to those in need. In the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Paul Mehrkam

Check out St. Paul's website:

Get the latest in Calendar Events and News! If you missed a Sunday, you can download the bulletin on the Services page.

Sunday School News



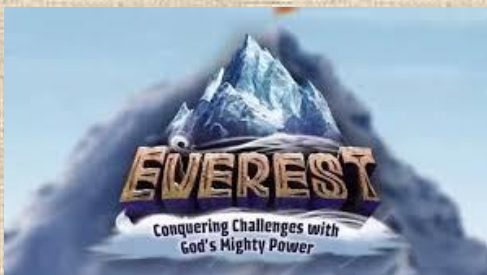
The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

The little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

The Sunday school year is winding down and will come to a close on Sunday, May 31st. This will be the last day of Sunday school classes until we resume in the fall. In addition the 31st is also Confirmation Sunday. The Sunday school children will be participating in the 10:30 worship service that will continue our celebration of yet another year of studying God's Word as well as honoring the rite of Confirmation. Our celebration will conclude with our annual closing picnic immediately following the 10:30 worship service. Please mark this day on your calendars and plan to join us even if you do not have any children in Sunday school. We will be providing fried chicken for the picnic and are asking all families to bring a side dish and a dessert to share. Every year the picnic has been a great culminating social gathering to reflect on another wonderful year of Sunday school. We hope everyone can join us.

Attention Sunday school teachers and VBS volunteers – We will be having a Sunday school meeting Tuesday, May 5th at 6:30 PM to discuss plans for the end of the year program as well as curriculum for next year. Starting at 7 PM that same night, we would also like to have all the VBS volunteers join us to discuss this upcoming summer's VBS plans. Hope everyone can make it.



Lastly, don't forget clear your calendar for this year's Vacation Bible School trek to EVEREST, where we will learn to “Conquer Challenges with God's Mighty Power”. This year VBS will be a little early, June 29th – July 3rd from 9 AM to 11:45 AM so that we can have plenty of time for the summer construction of our new Education and Mission Outreach Building. VBS is always a

wonderful time but takes a lot of hard work from as many volunteers as we can get. Please make sure to sign your kids up for the fun. Registration forms are on the bulletin board or call the church office. There are also donation tags on the bulletin board as well. Check them out and see if you might be able to help out by picking up some of the supplies we will need to make the week a success. Thanks for everyone's help.

In His Service, Melissa Chew



ELDER NEWS

In Memory of Jim Barry

On February 21st 2015 one of St Paul's long time members was called home to his Lord. Mr. James Barry had long served the congregation as an Elder, chairperson of the aluminum can drive, and an inspiration to everyone.

While a member of St Paul's, Jim could be counted on to greet all at the door on Sunday mornings with a friendly smile and a hymnbook! Always willing to be helpful, Jim could be counted on to be part of everything St Paul's did. Even when his health was declining Mr. Barry would make heroic efforts to get to church to serve and worship. When the time came that his health required him to move closer to his family, we knew that his heart would still be at St Paul's. As a current Elder I think often of those who taught us well: Bobby Moeller and of course Mr. Jim Barry. Rest well!

By Bob Beverage

The Stewards of St. Paul's Christ's Ambassadors



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Some people find it hard to believe in God because they cannot reconcile the evil and hurt in the world with a good and loving God. One person said, “If God were really good, all this misery would just break His heart.”

It is then that we faithful point to Christ, our crucified Savior, and answer, “It did.” The story of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ is truly the story of the breaking of God’s heart. It is broken because the same sin that brings evil and misery into this world has also estranged us from our Heavenly Father.

Thanks be to Christ! He has paid the price for our sins. He has bridged the chasm that lay between us and our Father. By His Resurrection from the dead, He has triumphed over sin, death, and the devil. He has reconciled us to the Father.

In 2 Corinthians 5:15 we read, *“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him Who died for them and was raised again.”*

Listen again to the words of the Apostle Paul: *“[We] should no longer live for [ourselves] but for Him Who died for [us].”* In light of what Christ has done for us, we stewards respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. Paul says that God, Who has reconciled us to Himself in Christ, has now given us this ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:8). *“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors,”* writes Paul, *“as though God were making His appeal through us”* (2 Corinthians 5:20).

We are Christ’s ambassadors. Every day He places opportunities before us to speak of the great love of God that gave His Son for the sins of the world. He has equipped and enables us through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be His representatives. Let us, with broken and contrite hearts, seek His forgiveness when we fail to represent Him as we should and ask for His continued strength and presence to help us to carry out this task.

As Christ's children who have been redeemed by His blood, we are so filled with joy and awe that we must share with others what He has done for us!

The men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus said, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us....and opened the Scriptures to us? (Luke 24:32)"

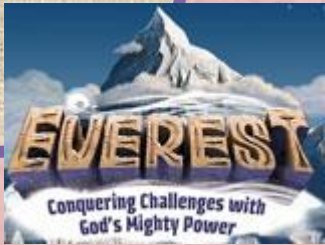


A Stewardship Thought

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us a very important principle for the handling of our material possessions which include any kind of financial assets and income. He taught the "God first" principle. *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Matthew 6:33). When we give first priority to God with our time and treasures, He is honored, and He will provide us with what we need. Are you using your time in reading God's Word and serving others? Is God receiving the firstfruits of your income? God wants us to seek Him first, and He promises that He will be found (Jeremiah 29:13).

The Joy of Giving

A pastor of a small, rural congregation was visiting a shut-in widow who lived in a rundown house at the end of a dirt road. Bedridden, sick and weak, she looked forward to the pastor's visit. On the occasion of his first call, she handed him her offering envelope with her tithe enclosed. He tried to refuse. She said, "Pastor, this is one of the only joys I have left. I can no longer attend church or be part of the fellowship. But I can give." The joy in her countenance demonstrated a spirit that loved to give.



2015 Vacation Bible School

Save the Dates!

June 29th thru July 3, 2015

9AM to 11:45 AM

The dates are set and plans are moving forward for another exciting week of Vacation Bible school this summer for all children ages 3 thru 5th grade. This year's program, "Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Almighty Power" will take us on an amazing mountaintop adventure where we will explore God's incredible power and love for all of us and learn to see evidence of God all around us in everyday life. It will be a week of team building Glacier games, surprising Bible adventures, cool Bible songs, tasty treats, sciency-fun gizmos and saying hello to old friends and also making new friends.

Registration forms are included with this newsletter and are also available along with a volunteer sign up sheet at the display on the bulletin board in the hallway. Kids in 6th grade thru adult are welcome to sign up to help out as crew leaders!!!

Spaces are filled on a first come basis so please send in your registration forms as soon as possible to assure your child doesn't miss out on the "Coolest Week of the Summer!"

This mission outreach of our church is free to all who attend and is possible only because of the many volunteers who are willing to dedicate their time to share their faith for one week during the summer. If you cannot physically be at the church during the week but would like to help in some way, "needed items" post-its will again be posted on the bulletin board after Easter, so keep checking out the bulletin board for more information in the coming weeks. We also ask that you keep our program and staff in your prayers!

Your Everest VBS Directors,
Melissa Chew and Brenda Bowling



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
Church # 884-5184/Fax# 301-884-2063

REGISTRATION FORM (One per child)

If you would like your child to attend our **"Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Almighty Power"** Vacation Bible School program this summer (June 29th thru July 3th, 2015 - 9AM to 11:45 AM), please fill in a registration form and return it to the church office. Completed forms can also be placed in either Melissa Chew's or Brenda Bowling's mail box in the hallway across from the kitchen. Looking forward to another exciting summer at St. Paul's! Classes are available for kids ages 3 through 5th Grade.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School Grade Going Into This Fall: _____

Name of Parent (s): _____ Home Telephone#: _____

Parent/Caregiver's Cell Phone #: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Home E-mail Address: _____

Other Siblings Attending VBS this Week: _____

Home Church: _____ I will be picked up each day by: _____

Allergies or Other Medical Conditions:

In Case of Emergency, Contact: _____ Relationship to Child: _____

Crew Name/Leaders: _____

_____ (for church use only)

Please call Brenda Bowling (301-373-8256) or

Melissa Chew (301-481-2427) if you have any questions.



St. Paul's Youth Group

Hey all! The Youth Group has a lot going on in the next couple months and we are very excited to share our ministry with you! Here is what we are up to!

On June 6, we will be at the St. Mary's Fairgrounds for Relay for Life! We are raising money for this cause and we need your help! All through May, after the 10:30 Service, members of the Youth Group will be outside with lemonade and iced tea for a free-will donation. All proceeds from the lemonade and iced tea will be added to our Relay for Life fundraiser total. So far we have reached a total of \$73.00.

On June 26, we are going for a day trip to King's Dominion's Kings Fest for a day of roller coasters, Christian music, and fun!

With the summer approaching, we will not be as busy, but will still be planning things to do! Keep an eye out for upcoming activities like a car wash, lock-in, and a cook-out/pool party!



Remember in your Prayers

SHUT-INS: *Pat Gardiner*

MEMBERS:

Health Concerns: *Chicchina Bailey, Elin Cramer, John Fuchs, Melva Fuchs, Sally Gheen, Carletta Cyrus Parmes, Kathy Lewis, Lucy Price and Kathe Vachalek*

Serious Health Concerns: *Dale Bittner*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Dennis Beverage for recovery from eye surgery

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Elaine Byrnside, Rochelle Byrnside's mother, she has a broken leg.

Mark Racey, Jack McNutt's friend, had his identity stolen.

Suzanne Phillips, friend of Stephanie Boyer, extended illness from surgery complication

2nd Lt. Jackie Mozingo, Air Force, Kim Mozingo's daughter, who is deployed in the middle east

Kim Mozingo and Family, pray for God's wisdom and deliverance

Anita Allard, Kelly Gray's mother, recovery of mild stroke

Donovan Gheen, Fred and Sally's young grandson with cancer.

Harry Maxey, Bob Maxey's father, living with Parkinson's

Tammy Nichols, Dianne Nichols daughter-in-law, recovery

Aunt Edna, Dianne Nichols, serious health concerns

Austin Knarr, Gene Bostwick's nephew, health concerns/chron's disease

Madeline, Health concerns

Rebecca Athenason, Dianne Nichols daughter, serious illness

Alan Burch, friend of Karin Beall & former pre-school parent, cancer

Wee Davis, friend of Alan Hunter, brain cancer

Alma Stowers, Stephen Stowers Great Grandma, Breast Cancer

Johanna Fortney, daughter of Elin Cramer, cancer

Joe Fuchs, son of John Fuchs, bone cancer

Edward DeMarr, nephew of Lucy Price, brain tumor

For safety of all our military personnel & for their families.

God listens when we pray

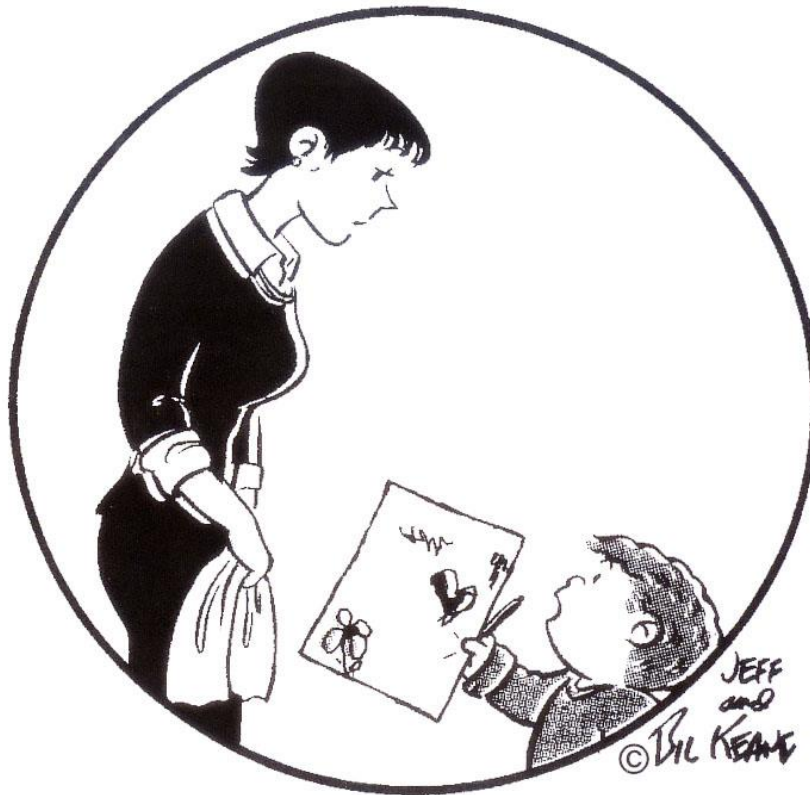
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:6-7








| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Program Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Dylan Vogt | 4 | 5 Sunday School Teachers Mtg 6:30 pm VBS Volunteer Mtg 7:00 pm | 6 Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm | 7 Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm GS - Daisy Troop Mtg 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 8 | 9 Scheduled Pickup for Plant Fundraiser in the am. |
| 10 MOTHER'S DAY Program Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am Coffee Hour – 12 pm Acolytes 8:00 Danielle Hoffman 10:30 Jacob Gray | 11 | 12 | 13 Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm | 14 <div>Southeastern District Conference LCMS Greensboro, NC. Pastor Tim out of the office</div> GS - Daisy Troop Mtg 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 15 | 16 Armed Forces Day |
| 17 Voters Meeting Program Times: 8:00am 10:30am Sunday School – 9:10am Semiannual Voters Meeting after 10:30 pm Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Lisa Curtis | 18 | 19 | 20 Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm | 21 GS - Daisy Troop Mtg 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 22 <div>Pastor's Graduation for Master of Theological Studies in Pittsburgh, PA Pastor Tim out of the office</div> | 23 |
| 24 Program Times: 8:00am Sunday School – 9:10am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Justin Vogt | 25 | 26 | 27 Wednesday Night Service 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm | 28 GS - Daisy Troop Mtg 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Confirmation & Picnic Program Times: 8:00am <u>10:30am – Confirmation</u> Sunday School – 9:10am Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Melissa Werth Last Day of Sunday School and Picnic after 10:30 svc. | MAY BIRTHDAYS 2 Pastor Tim 2 Joey Willet 8 Joanne Piphoo 9 Dianne Nichols 11 Jason Beall 18 Thomas Chew 20 Anita Bowling 20 Jeanne Willett 30 Ted Mueller | | | MAY ANNIVERSARIES 7 Joe & Jeanne Willet 10 Rick & Kristina Lacey 12 Jim & Diana Hiller 17 Chris & Megan Green 27 Mark & Kathy Lewis | | |

Funnies and Coffee with Jesus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



"Mommy, will you write 'Happy Mother's Day' on here? But don't look at it!"

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>RFB</p> <p><i>The Original</i> COFFEE WITH JESUS</p>  |  <p>What can I do for you today, Jesus?</p> |  <p>Well, that's refreshing, Lisa. Keep your eyes open. You'll know it when you see it.</p> |  <p>Oh, this is exciting! It's like I'm on a secret mission! Who knew following you could be such fun?</p> |  <p>I never intended it to be drudgery, Lisa</p> <p>CoffeeWithJesus.com</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Proclamation

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicville, MD 20659-3075
Sunday Services 8:00 and 10:30 am
Sunday School and Adult Classes 9:10 am
Wednesday Connections Service 6:30 pm
Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: 301.884.5184

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: stpaulsicsmd@netzero.net

Behold, now is the favorable time;
Behold, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:2

Mission Trip – Pastor Tim

Help Pastor Tim get to Ghana, Africa to teach a New Testament class to regional pastors in August 2015.

You can help in two ways:

First – Prayers for Pastor Tim's safe travel and teaching in Africa and for Amy and the children here at home.

Second – You can make a donation to his mission trip, by either putting a check in the offering on Sunday (earmarked Ghana mission) or go online to donate at:

gofundme.com/PrTimGhana2015