



roclamation

December 2014

Volume 1, Issue 9

THINGS THAT COME IN THREES (part 3 of 3)

By *Pastor Tim*

Three Musketeers. Three Stooges. Three Amigos.

My three ministry themes: 1) helping people connect with God; 2) with one another; and 3) with Southern Maryland.

1 John 4:9 is an excellent summary of what connecting with Southern Maryland is all about:

This is how God showed His love for us: God sent His only Son into the world so we might live through Him.

The nice thing about this passage is that the main idea is still in place, except some of the personnel has changed. God still desires to show His love to Southern Maryland except now WE are the ones who are sent so that others may live through Him.

You aren't living in Southern Maryland by accident. You are part of God's design and plan to occupy your neighborhoods and lanes as outposts of the Kingdom of God. You are in your part of Southern Maryland as a commercial for the Kingdom. You are here in order to help people connect with Jesus.

We aren't meant to be isolated from Southern Maryland but fully embedded within the culture. We are here as commercials for Jesus by our lives, words, and deeds. You might be a commercial for Jesus just in the way you shop at the grocer. You might be a commercial for Jesus by bring in food donations to St. Paul's. You might be a commercial for Jesus simply by waving hello to a neighbor each day. You might be a commercial for Jesus by explaining what it means to be a Christ follower. You might even be a commercial for Jesus by not joining in with the crowd but taking a step back from peer-pressure!

All of this goes back to the main thrust of the story of Christmas. At the right time, Jesus slipped into skin and came into our world to share the love of the Father with all of us. As a continuation of the Christmas story, at the right time you are in your skin, in Southern Maryland, to share the love of the Father.

As St. Paul's connects with Southern Maryland we help people to see always only Jesus.

Have a wonderful Advent Season.



From the desk of the Vice President

John Bowling

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is so hard to see how time could go by so fast. Here we are suddenly in the holiday season. Prayerfully, we will all remain focused on the amazing gift of God's Son to the world and not let the commercial world separate us from the gift of joy and peace that His birth should bring to each of us.

I want to say thank you to everyone who has worked with me over the years at St. Paul's. I truly feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful extended family of God and know that all of you will continue to support our new church Council in the coming months. There is a lot of work to be done here at St. Paul's and I urge all of you to volunteer to serve in any way that you can. Many areas need your help... the new building committee, meeting our budget obligations, supporting our pastor as he continues in work towards completing his SMP program, working with our Youth group and the Sunday school, helping to develop mission outreach opportunities into the community, offering to help keep our building and surrounding grounds in good repair, supporting our monthly coffee hour fellowships and joining St. Paul's newly formed LWML mission group. The list can go on and on, but the most important thing to remember is that God needs each and every one of us to serve in some way and work together for His good.

We thank those who have previously served on the church council and welcome the following newly elected officers. Please give them your support and keep them in your prayers.

President: Paul Mehrkam

Vice President: Lois Beverage

Treasurer: Marianne Hunter

Building and Grounds: Jason Reithmeyer

Youth Director: Jack McNutt

Mission and Ministry: Kelly Gray

Christian Education: Gene Bostwick

Additional Elders: Tony Ching, John Bowling and Gary Wollin

PS: Our church Christmas tree will be decorated on Friday, December 12th at 5:30 PM. If you would like to help out and enjoy some Christmas fellowship, please bring a snack of some kind to share and join us. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

John Bowling

Sunday School News



Greetings from the Sunday school!

As the holiday season approaches our students and staff are gearing up for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be celebrating with our annual Christmas Program, "The Promise," which will be performed by the children at the 10:30 worship service on December 14, 2014. After the service we would like to invite all our church families to join us for a pot luck lunch. For all who plan to stay for the fellowship we ask that you bring a main dish and a side or dessert to share and we hope all will attend. At the beginning of the Christmas season this a great way to support our children's enthusiasm for the true meaning and important of Christmas.

For the children who will be participating in the Christmas program, there will be a practice on the morning of December 13th from 9 AM to 11 AM at the church. This will give all the children a chance to rehearse the day before the performance.

Also after the practice, any interested Sunday school students can join us for an afternoon of visiting and taking some Christmas cheer to a couple of our shut in members. More information will be coming home with the students about special items we would like to collect and the exact times and itinerary of our afternoon activity so please stay tuned.

In addition there will be no Sunday school classes Sunday, December 28. Classes will resume Sunday, January 4th.

Thank you,
Melissa Chew

Thoughts on...Stewardship

By Dianne Nichols

Tis the Season for Giving....

Did you know that in the U.S. this Christmas season, spending on gifts is expected to exceed \$781 Billion? And that most parents spend \$271 per child on gifts? One in 10 parents spend over \$500 per child.

In Mississippi, the average MONTHLY income is \$1,722.50. In Uganda, the average ANNUAL income was \$510 in 2013. In Somalia, the average ANNUAL income was \$150.

Jesus was poor. He was born in a stable. His earthly father was a carpenter. He told a teacher of the law, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." (Matt. 8: 19-20)

In the book of Deuteronomy, Chap. 15, the LORD tells the Israelites "If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs. (v. 7-8) Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land." (v. 10-11)

On Christmas, God gave us His only Son. On Good Friday, Jesus gave His life so that ours would be redeemed. We can never "Out Give" God.....

But maybe we can give a little less to those who have much — and give a little more to those who have little this Holiday Season.

Stewardship....It's how we live.

Mission Building Update

Paul Mehrkam

As many of you may have heard from our November voters meeting, the mission building committee is offering an intermediate step to expand our outreach to the community. We are proposing to purchase two modular buildings for use as a large meeting room and classrooms. The proposed site would be between the cemetery and pole barn as shown on the Google map.

Just because we are taking this path doesn't mean that plans for a new building over. This is an intermediate step, because the need to expand St. Paul's Christian education and outreach is upon us now. The small chapel is no longer sufficient. Just one of these modular buildings is almost twice the space of the chapel. Two modular buildings is nearly equivalent to one level of the new building that we have been considering for over a year.

At this time, we are not financially healthy enough to take on a new mortgage payment (almost \$2,000/month). There is sufficient money in the building fund to pay in full for this intermediate step without the burden of a huge mortgage. We also want to make sure that there some building funds leftover to help out with the new building or renovations for the current building.

Towards the end of December, you can expect to receive a notice in the mail from St. Paul's Lutheran Church for a special voter's meeting in mid-January. The purpose is to go over the proposal and vote on the various options for the new mission buildings. The ground will also be staked out for new buildings.

Overall we are looking at \$40,000-\$50,000 for the basic set up and ready for use cost. This is the most important part to give us two large open buildings with one restroom. The work will be performed by a combination of paid contractors and volunteered contractor talents our in congregation. This is to give a quick turnaround to passed inspection and allow immediate use of the spaces. Such activities include setting up the buildings on footings, electrical, water and septic service, installing one restroom, decking, and skirting.

We did get one piece of good news from the county. We can use the existing septic line that is servicing the chapel. This saves us the expense of a new septic system (\$22,000-\$30,000).

Below are some options that the congregation will need to consider approving or committing to donate. Keep in mind that we need to divide one of the buildings into classrooms and make both of them new and welcoming in our outreach with the local community.

- Re-siding the exterior of the buildings.
- New carpeting.
- Walls to divide one of the buildings into four to six classrooms.
- Second restroom (most likely needed if we want to consider something like after daycare).
- Coffee Mess in the large meeting building.
- Demolition of chapel and paving new parking spaces.

Feel free to talk with me and the other building committee members. Please pray and consider supporting this effort in the upcoming special voter's meeting in January.

Dear Lord, Continue to fill us with the spirit of love and peace toward one another. Help us in extending Your kingdom so that Your salvation reaches every soul in southern Maryland. Amen..

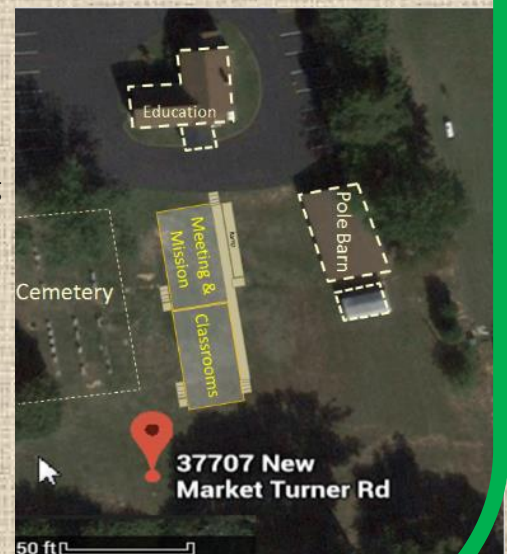


Figure: Propose Location of Modular

Miscellaneous Announcements



Hearts In Service at St. Paul's (LWML)

HIS -for God and each other.

Ladies, please bring in small sandwiches, soup, veggies, etc. for Sunday, December 7th for Coffee hour at 12pm and refreshments (cookies, cakes, snacks) for after the Christmas Concert at 3pm.

Mite Boxes will be collected on the last Sunday of each month.

Christmas Poinsettia orders are due on Sunday, Dec. 7th!

Christmas Tree decorating Party on Friday, Dec. 12th!

Angel Tree will be up in the Narthex.

Pick out your gift items and

Return them by December

Youth Lock in December 20 and 21st

starts at 5 pm on Saturday and ends

St. Paul's Youth

Group

In November we had our Annual Youth Group Bake Sale & Bazaar! We raised a great amount to go towards upcoming expenses! Thank you for all of your outstanding support! We greatly appreciate it! Your continued support is outstanding! Thank you!



St. Paul's Youth Group at the Bake Sale

UP AND COMING!

We have a lot of really great things coming up for the month of December!

December 7th we are selecting Angels from the Angel Tree.

December 14th we are going shopping for the Angels that we picked. This will be after the children's program. We will eat at the potluck then leave to go shopping.

December 20th starts our busy weekend. From **1:00pm-5:00pm** we will be hosting a fun day of activities for **Parents Day Out**. Parents can drop off their kids and go shopping or even on a date! **At 5:00pm starts our CHRISTMAS PARTY LOCK-IN!** We will stay in from **5:00pm until 8:00am** the following morning of **December 21st**. At 8:00am we will be distributing the Angel Tree gifts! PLEASE, feel free to call me concerning any questions!

All information will be handed on December 7th at a very important Youth Group!

December 7th: IMPORTANT Youth Group Meeting and Picking Angels

December 14th: Angel Tree shopping AFTER Potluck Lunch at Church

December 20th: Parents Day-Out (1pm-5pm), Christmas Party Lock-In (Starts at 5pm)

December 21st: Angel Tree Distribution at 8am (Waking up from Lock-In)

You have all been such a great encouragement since I started with the Youth Group! I look forward to all of the amazing things we are doing as a Youth Group!

Jack McNutt / Youth Director



Youth Group Events

December 14

- **Angel Tree Shopping**
 - o Leaving after the church potluck that follows the Children's Choir Program.
 - *THIS WILL BE OUR MEAL FOR THE DAY*
 - o If time permits we will come back to the church and wrap gifts. If it's getting too late, I (Jack) may ask some of you to help wrap during the week. (Distribution is following Sunday, 21st)

December 20 (Try to follow along. It's busy, but awesome fun!)

- **Parents Day Out**
 - o 1:00pm-5:00pm
 - o People will drop off kids to be watched during this time.
 - o Myself and one volunteer will supervise the doors where we collect all of the information needed about the kids.
 - o SERVE NO SNACKS THAT AREN'T SENT WITH THE KIDS
 - This runs an allergy risk
 - o Please notify me if anyone happens to be CPR certified. We will have someone there that is.
 - o Please feel free to bring in any board games or video games that you can use to entertain kids.
- **Christmas Party Lock-In**
 - o Starting at 5:00pm we will have our first lock-in!
 - o This includes: Worship, Games, Crazy Gift Exchange, movies, video games, etc.
 - o Crazy Gift Exchange:
 - Bring a gift that is 10\$ or UNDER. Silly gifts are encouraged. We will draw names at the lock-in then exchange from there.
 - o Bring movies, snacks, games, etc....deodorant.
 - o We will have pizza!
 - o There will be worship. Be ready to experience God! (BAM!)
- **Over night**
 - o The following morning is gift distribution at 8:00am.
 - Wake up call will be a bit earlier so we have time to eat breakfast and get ready!

December 21

- **Angel Tree Distribution**
 - o We will be assisting Ms. Lois with Angel Tree distribution.

DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL ME CONCERNING ANY OF THIS! I'M A PHONE CALL AWAY!

Jack McNutt: 724-674-8673



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

2014

Thank you to all the members of St. Paul's who put so much of their time and effort to bring this event into happening. Those of you who made crafts, baked goods for the Youth Group, set-up and tear-down workers. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

You helped us raise a little over \$2,400 for the Building Fund, LWML, and the Youth Group.

We still have a few items for sale.....

**World Gym 2 month Free membership,
The Bug Company-Free Indoor Quality Air Test-valued at \$300,
and Pizza Hotline gift cards \$10 ea or 6 for \$50.**

We want to say a special thank you to Mr. Bob Maxey. Without his tireless efforts to visit the businesses mention in this brochure we would have had a less than stellar turnout. We really appreciate all your work on behalf of St. Paul's. Thank you so very much.

Thank you to our Chairwoman, Dianne Nichols, who started this adventure and continues to amaze us average women/men on how to give unceasing to our Church and the world at large. Thank you Dianne Nichols!

Thank you to all the Businesses and Individual's that donated the items for our Silent Auction. Without your generosity and kindness, our bazaar would not have been so successful.



Lorrie Ching,

Hearts In Service (LWML) HIS at St. Paul's



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, Barbara Gheen*

Serious Health Concerns: *Jim Barry and Dale Bittner*

SPECIAL REQUESTS

New LCMS Church Plant in Brandywine/Upper Waldorf region

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

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

Nancy Ching, Tony Ching's mom, kidney failure and Alzheimer's

Tammy Nichols, Dianne Nichols daughter-in-law, brain surgery Nov. 26

Aunt Edna, Dianne Nichols, serious health concerns

Carol Dakai, Lorrie Ching's mom, yearlong bladder infection

Debbie Schoenbauer, Alan & Marianne Hunters friend, brain cancer

Robbie Hutchinson, Kelly Gray's friend, heart attack

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

Terry McClintock, friend of Judy Rogers, serious health concerns

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

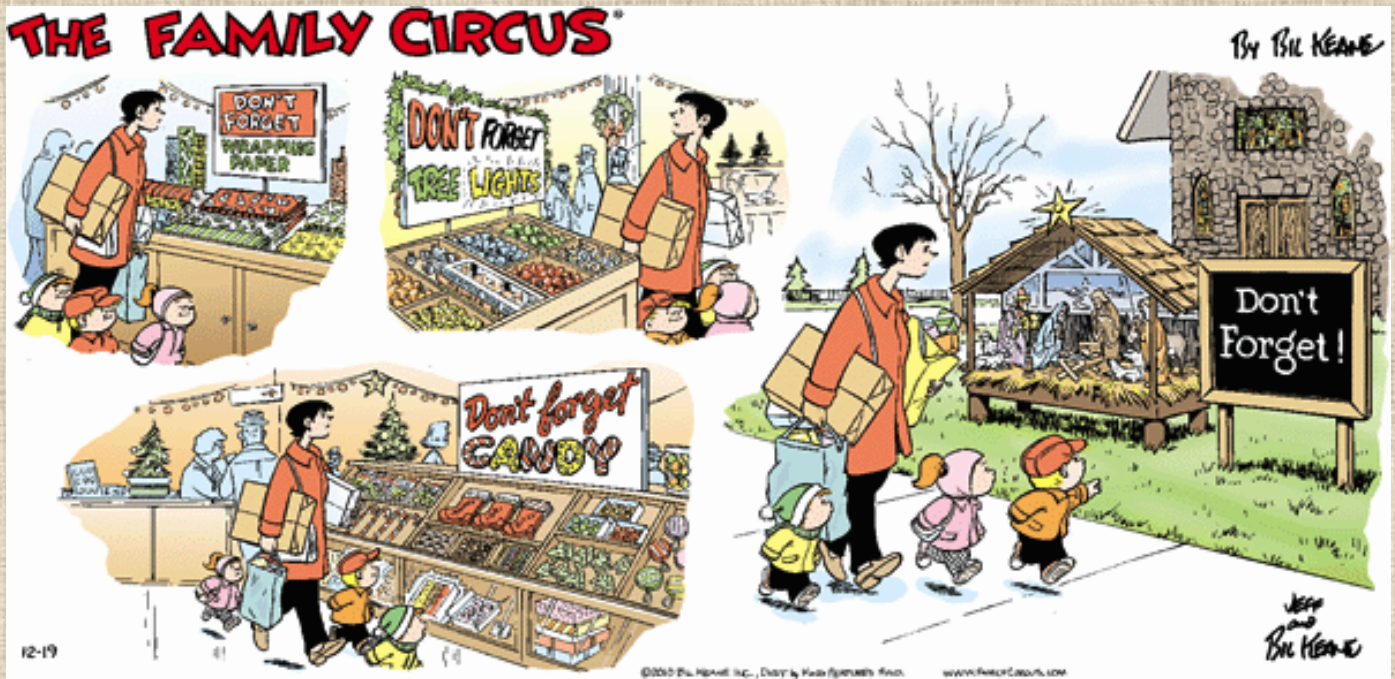
"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

[Philippians 4:6-7](#)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BIRTHDAY'S	1	2	3	4	5	6
3 – Rick Lacey 4 – Dylan Otte 5 – Elizabeth Bostwick 6 – Jack Guntow 7 – Melva Fuchs 9 – Paul Mehrkam 9 – Lucy Price 11 – Christopher Curtis 15 – Sherry Maack 16 – Elin Cramer		J	ADVENT SVC. 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm	Building Committee Mtg 6:30 pm		Christmas Poinsettia Orders are due tomorrow Sunday, Dec. 7 th
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship Service 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School Classes 9:10 – 10:20 am Coffee Hour: 12 pm Acolyte: Nicole Williams Christmas Concert 3 pm At St. Paul's "The Acappella Ensemble"		Council Meeting – 7 PM	ADVENT SVC. 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm		 Christmas Tree Decorating Party at St. Paul's 5:30 pm	Sunday School Christmas Practice 9-11 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship Service 8:00 and Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 am Sunday School Classes 9:10 – 10:20 am Acolyte: Dylan Vogt			ADVENT SVC. 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:15 pm		James & Wendy Gates Wedding Anniversary	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship Service 8:00 and 10:30 am Sunday School Classes 9:10 – 10:20 am Acolyte: Lisa Curtis			No Confirmation Class <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>Services:</u> 12 pm – light lunch provided 7:00pm – Lessons & Carols 9:00 pm Reflections Service	Christmas Day Service 10:30 am		
28	29	30	31			
Worship Service 8:00 and 10:30 am No Sunday School Classes Acolyte: Russell Watson		Tom & Barbara Youngson Wedding Anniversary	New Year's Eve	Happy New Year!!! Blessings for safe travel		

Funnies and Coffee with Jesus



<p>COFFEE WITH JESUS</p>	<p>Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul.</p>	<p>Frosty the Snowman was no such thing. He was made of snow, Lisa. Then he melted.</p>	<p>NO, Jesus! He was alive as he could be! And the children say he could laugh and play just the same as you and me!</p>	<p>But he waved goodbye saying, "Don't you cry, I'll be back again some day," right, Lisa? Wow ... wonder where he got <i>that</i> line.</p>
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Facebook.com/RadioFreeBabylon



Proclamation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road

Mechanicsville, 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: stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net

Behold, now is the favorable time;

Behold, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

Save your Aluminum Cans!

Your donations to the Building Fund are adding up! The amount collected as of 11/23/14 is: \$262.15

Thank you Alan Hunter for your dedication in turning in the cans for cash! Be sure to save all those cans from your holiday parties!

Holiday Bazaar items for sale.....

World Gym 2 month Free membership,

**The Bug Company-Free Indoor Quality Air Test-
valued at \$300,**

and Pizza Hotline gift cards \$10 ea or 6 for \$50.

Any of these would make wonderful Christmas gifts!