ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Newsletter Date:
January
2025

MESSENGER

Happy New Year!

We are entering the new year of 2025. I hope the new year will be full of hope and joy. In Korea, people have a habit of saying on January 1, "I'm one year older now." It doesn't matter when your birthday is. You're getting one year older as you enter the new year. There are good and bad things about getting older. One of the good things about getting older is that you become a more mature person with more life experience and wisdom, and the downside is that your body starts to give you little problems. When I was 40 years old, I was looking at my computer screen one day, and suddenly, I had trouble seeing the screen. I thought I was too tired, but I went to the eye doctor, and it turned out that I had presbyopia, so I had to get a new pair of glasses.

Getting old is a natural process, but we all fear getting old in the back of our minds. We don't mind wrinkles on our faces, but we hate getting old because we know we will have aches and pains, and the thought of enduring those aches and pains makes us hate getting old. I can finally understand the frustrations of the elderly when I was younger, but even so, I don't want to live in the past and be disappointed in who I am now because this is part of the journey to be with Jesus.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way. "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:16) It's so true. How can we prevent our outer man from wearing out over time? It's the inner man who matters, and if the inner man is renewed day by day, we need not be discouraged or disappointed if our outer man wears out because, after all, it's the inner man, not the outer man, who will enter heaven.

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 2nd Open our Doors Thursday
- January 4th—Church Yard Sale
- January 16th—Open our Doors Thursday
- January 20th—Martin Luther King Jr Day

ST. PAUL UMC VISION STATEMENT

"St. Paul United
Methodist Church is a
Christ-Centered family
that offers H.O.P.E., by
responding to God's
love and grace as
Christian disciples"



continued from page 1

What does it mean to be "worn out"? I looked up the original Greek, and the Greek word for "worn out" is the verb diaphtheiró ($\delta\iota\alpha\phi\theta\epsilon i\rho\omega$), which is a combination of the verbs diá, which means "thoroughly," and phtheírō, which means "corrupt." The outward man eventually becomes thoroughly corrupt, a truth we all know empirically.

Now, what does it also mean to be "made new"? The Greek word for this is anakainoó ($\Box v\alpha\kappa\alpha\iota v\dot{o}\omega$), where aná means "up," pointing upwards, and kainoō means "to renew. It's a step up to "that higher place," so to speak, and to do that, you can't try to hold on to the outer things that will decay. Instead, we need to keep laying them down, one by one, so that our inner man can take another step toward the kingdom of God.

Therefore, even the symptoms of growing old can become a condition of gratitude, depending on how we look at them, because they prove that the day we will see the Lord again is getting closer. It all comes down to where our perspectives are. If we set our eyes on this world and the past, we will be discouraged, but if it is the other way around, we will always live in praise of God and heaven.

What are your resolutions and expectations for the new year? May 2025 be a year that brings us closer to God, filling our lives with God's joy and hope so that we can endure and overcome everything.

May God bless you!

- From Rev. Myungha Baek



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE MISSY LAUBER, CHAIR

Thank you fo all who came out to this year's **Solomons Christmas Walk!**We were able to spread Christmas joy by handing out about **350 cups of hot chocolate**, inviting our community to celebrate the season with us, and enjoying the festive atmosphere. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and share the light of Christmas.

Upcoming Spring Event:

Easter Egg Hunt April 19th - Time TBD

We will be looking for help with eggs, candy and extra hands to assist.

More information to come!

FINANCE KAREN HILL, CHAIR

2024 - St Paul United	Methodist	Church										
ACTUALS												
Major Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	YTD Summary
Total General Income	20,715.64	28,283.52	32,646.49	27,146.08	21,734.68	29,446.29	23,435.84	18,750.90	37,502.67	33,573.60	17,996.04	291,231.75
Total Restricted Income	1,853.00	3,116.00	832.00	32.00	498.45	177.00	1,150.00	441.00	1,516.00	7,312.00	3,335.00	20,262.45
Total Income	22,568.64	31,399.52	33,478.49	27,178.08	22,233.13	29,623.29	24,585.84	19,191.90	39,018.67	40,885.60	21,331.04	311,494.20
Total Programming Exp	182.56	819.89	1,231.69	715.13	(1,891.53)	228.46	1,118.09	412.66	551.53	1,084.30	684.70	5,137.48
Total Operating Expense	28,679.62	28,628.46	30,774.80	27,009.20	26,552.67	20,919.55	35,410.89	31,459.52	22,384.84	28,407.58	29,538.66	309,765.79
Total General Fund Expenses	28,862.18	29,448.35	32,006.49	27,724.33	24,661.14	21,148.01	36,528.98	31,872.18	22,936.37	29,491.88	30,223.36	314,903.27
Total Restricted Expense	2,792.50	3,363.47	9,469.33	1,216.20	3,793.23	1,815.42	1,543.00	2,580.38	6,968.68	19,257.79	4,790.87	57,590.87
Total Expense	31,654.68	32,811.82	41,475.82	28,940.53	28,454.37	22,963.43	38,071.98	34,452.56	29,905.05	48,749.67	35,014.23	372,494.14
Total Net Income / (Loss)	\$ (9,086.04)	\$ (1,412.30)	\$ (7,997.33)	\$ (1,762.45)	\$ (6,221.24)	\$ 6,659.86	\$(13,486.14)	\$ (15,260.66)	\$ 9,113.62	\$ (7,864.07)	\$ (13,683.19)	\$ (60,999.94

2024 Finance Summary by month will be available upon request.

2024 BUDGET = \$348,825

As a non-profit, the budget assumes unrestricted income and expenses are equal for a net income of \$0.

Expenses continue to be higher than income each month.

2025 General Operating Budget was reviewed and approved by the Church Council during the December 2024 meeting.

Proposed General (Non-Restricted) Expense Budget = \$347,066

We are grateful to everyone who contributed during our

2024 Year-End Giving!

Your generosity makes a lasting impact and allows us to continue sharing God's love through our ministries. We are so grateful for your support!



PRAYER COMMITTEE BARB MACK, CHAIR

Our Pastor is a man that not only has visions for our congregation but likes to poke the bears. He invites you to come for a visit, shares a vision and challenges you to do something that you never gave thought to think you much less are the right person for the job. He gives you something to pray and think about, sends you on your way with an invitation to return with ideas. Then he shares the bigger vision, and you are sure he has picked the wrong person. You leave his office wondering how did this happened and why?

A year later you are looking back and surprised to see how Pastor's visions became yours and God provided.

God provided someone who loves the scripture right away. He provided someone who could design and build the Christmas stations rushed to put on the campus in late 2023. This was before the Prayer Committee was an official church committee.

In the last year, the Prayer Committee has grown to 13 members. God provided members with extraordinary gifts, different needed talents, and skills with a loving heart to serve. During the 2024-year projects included Lenten Eggs, Lenten Walk 2024, National day of Prayer, Dedicated Prayer Warriors established, share within our walls and outside our walls, Prayer Committee bulletin board and table, Prayer Hand with folders for adults and children, Mom to Mom, benches for the campus, Healing Service, Open our Door Thursday, Long Term Prayer, Prayer Box in the CLC, and Christmas Walk 2024. Thanks to our Communications Director the internet has become a wonderful tool for the Prayer Committee. With the discovery of QR codes the 2024 Christmas Walk shares beautiful music as well as verses this year. This website has also become a tool to share the Christmas Walk 2024.

The most important part of the Prayer Committee is our Call to Prayer. We receive prayer requests from many places now. We have prayers that come as emergency needs, prayers of joy, sorrow, pain, success. We recently had a request for a 4-legged baby preparing and crossing over the Rainbow Bridge. Our members are always alert for the Call to Prayer and respond promptly with prayers, blessing those with requests.

We are already looking ahead to 2025, carrying over projects and preparing for new ones. It is with the church families' support and encouragement that we can move forward with each project. Thank you so much!

We welcome new members. We have members who work or join us from home that are just as much a part of the team sharing wonderful gifts. Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Contact **mack2805170404@gmail.com**

May God bless you, keep you in prayer and know when the bear pokes it is a call to serve!

The Prayer Committee will meet again on Wednesday, January 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall.



SPPRC DONNA HOUSE, CHAIR

The SPPRC met on October 3rd to write the 14page Pastor Evaluation which was reviewed with Pastor Baek and submitted to the Baltimore Washington Conference prior to the due date of December 1st. The conference evaluation form asks for feedback and ratings on many areas for the Pastor including: Pastor's Goals for the Year, Worship Leadership, Congregational Care, Connecting Beyond the Local Church, Equipping for Discipleship, Servanthood, Evangelism, Worship Leadership, Financial Stewardship, Communication, Leading the Congregation through Change and many more.

The SPPRC will begin 2025 by reviewing Lay Staff Job Descriptions and developing Lay Staff Evaluation forms.

As a reminder, SPPRC meetings are closed as established by the <u>Book of Discipline</u>, and all information shared in the committee is confidential. The congregation may share any joys or concerns with the committee.

First meeting in 2025 will be January 2nd.

TRUSTEES JIM HOUSE, CHAIR

The St. Paul UMC Trustees meet on the first **Saturday** of each month for their business meeting and work time around the church campus. Items discussed include church projects, church maintenance and finances. Work sessions are scheduled as needed to maintain the facilities and complete projects.



<u>Completed projects in the months of October and November include:</u>

- 1. Repaired clogged drain in main bathrooms in CLC
- 2. Installed condensation pumps on two mini-splits in SPUMPS classroom
- 3. Installed room divider from "The Zone" to rooms 11 and 12
- 4. Installed new speakers in the sanctuary
- 5. Repainted parking lot lines and handicap spaces
- 6. Scrubbed, washed and waxed the CLC hallway floors
- 7. Scrubbed the CLC gym floor
- 8. Installed additional "Ring" cameras throughout campus
- Repaired the sanctuary furnace with new mother board and oil filter
- 10. Repaired CLC sinks in main bathrooms
- 11. Conducted ozone cleaning in SPUMPS wing

Upcoming projects include:

- 1. On hold: SPUMC Home Mission Project The Trustees are planning to rehab the current Fellowship Hall adjacent to the sanctuary. James Ritter is spearheading the project. Dates to follow to lend a hand with cleaning out the closets, drywall, insulation, flooring, ceiling tiles, etc... This is a facelift that is LONG overdue!
- 2. Paint the church office
- 3. Complete action items from 2024 parsonage inspection
- 4. Continue floor stripping, scrubbing and waxing classrooms in CLC.
- 5. Rekey locks for doors into the CLC
- 6. Schedule and inspect the fire suppressant system in kitchen asap

The trustees maintain a detailed list of projects across our campus and are working to complete them. Please inform a trustee if you see any area that needs repair and/or if you have an idea for improvement. We want St. Paul UMC to be an inviting, safe space for all to worship and fellowship.

LAY LEADER DONNA HOUSE

We are in the season of Advent, and I am so excited for the upcoming celebration of the birth of Jesus. The decorations are hung, the music is rehearsed, the play is practiced and we are anxiously awaiting the celebrations of His birth.

The four candles of our Advent wreath represent the Christian concepts of **hope**, **peace**, **joy**, **and love**. Each candle is lit on a different Sunday during the Advent season:

- **First candle**: Purple, representing **HOPE** and the anticipation of Christ's coming
- **Second candle**: Purple, representing **PEACE** and the preparation for Christ's birth
- **Third candle**: Rose-colored, representing **JOY** and the joy of anticipating Christ's return
- **Fourth candle**: Purple, representing **LOVE** and the message of God's love announced by the angels at Christ's birth

Many thanks for the 65 poinsettias given in honor or memory of loved ones and friends. Heartfelt thanks to all who have decorated the sanctuary and the CLC. Many thanks to those who have organized our weekly fellowship times. The music this season has been beautiful and the hymns perfect for this special season. And...we are blessed to have Pastor Baek and our lay staff of Nerissa, Cindy, Sherry and Missy who do so much for our church and congregation.

The Solomons Christmas Walk is Saturday, December 14 and St. Paul is participating for the very first time. We are handing out free hot chocolate and service information. There will be candy canes for the young and Dunkin' Donut gift cards for the adults. Many thanks to Nerissa for coordinating and for all the volunteers.

As a reminder, at our August "Wind in Our Sails" meeting, our congregation set three priorities for the upcoming year. In order, they were:

Continue with ONE service. It is such a joy having all of us together each Sunday. Morning worship starts at 9:15 with praise music and announcements are at 9:30 am. Fellowship time follows and Sunday School begins around 10:45 am.

We want our church to GROW so our second priority will be publicity through Facebook, flyers, community outreach and more. Each person is encouraged to bring someone new to worship or one of our monthly activities.

The 3rd focus area is financial stability. We have made positive changes in budget and for that we are grateful but our income thus far this year is still below the expenses. The 2025 budget is leaner than 2024 and we will continue to tighten our consider your giving now and in the future towards the general budget.

The Wind of God is blowing at St. Paul. We've checked the sails and have set the sails for the next year. God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.





WORSHIP COMMITTEE BARB MILLER

The Worship Committee met on November 21, 2024.

Sunday Service Attendance:

Oct. 6	57 + 5 on-line (World Communion Sunday)
Oct. 13	50 + 7 on-line (Pastor Appreciation)
Oct. 20	59 + 4 on-line (Laity Sunday)
Oct 27	60 + 4 on-line (Bible Presentations)
Nov. 3	60 + 7 on-line (All Saints and Daylight Savings ends)
Nov. 10	74 + 7 on-line (Veterans Day)
Nov. 17	59 + 6 on-line
Nov. 24	61 + 6 on-line
Dec. 1	61 + 5 on-line
Dec. 8	62 + 10 on-line
Dec. 15	67 + 8 on-line
Dec. 22	82 + 7 on-line
Dec. 24	41 (4 pm Christmas Eve Service)
	71 + 4 on-line (7 pm Christmas Eve Service)
	32 + 1 on-line (11 pm Christmas Eve Service)

Visitor Packets have been revised and are located in the rack at the back of the Sanctuary.

Recent Services:

- November 24: Sunday before Thanksgiving
 Our canned food drive for SMILE was a success! SMILE sends out a huge THANK
 YOU! to our congregation.
- November 30: Decorating of the Sanctuary: 1:00 pm
- December 1: Advent began

Upcoming Services:

- January 5, 2025: Epiphany Sunday-Blessing of 2025 Leaders and Covenant Renewal
- January 11, 1:00pm: Decorations to be taken down in the Sanctuary Volunteers needed
- January 12, 19, 26 Services: Discipleship Series
- February 9: Scouting Sunday

Next Worship Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2025 6:30pm

We will prepare for the Easter season beginning in March - Shrove Tuesday.





SUNDAY SCHOOL SUSAN BAKER, SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Paul UMC as Sunday School Superintendent. It is a joy to work with our teachers Barb Mack and Sherry Mervine. Thank you to Joan Sampson and Everett Baker for having facilitated the adult class.

Barb Mack will be taking over the position. Please give her your support and prayers. She has energy and many ideas.

During the month of November there has been no one to facilitate an adult class. I believe there are a couple folks that would be interested in a class if we had a willing volunteer to lead.

We have a Middle School class lead by Sherry Mervine with 2 students. They will be sharing their musical talents in the cantata. Thank you, girls and Sherry. We need a second teacher here for safe sanctuary. We have made compliance by keeping the hall doors open. Please consider stepping forward.

The Elementary class has 2 teachers with 2-3 students. Our students are very enthusiastic. We will be seeing more of one as she is going to be reading scripture during worship. Both girls will also be singing as part of the cantata. They are learning about service. We have seen growth with their prayers. We have learned about sharing, loving one another and respect for each other by taking turns.

We have a couple substitutes who add so much when they share class with us. Thank you for your willing hearts.

Please continue to pray for the growth of our Sunday School Ministry. Keep Barb covered in prayer. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

- Susan Baker



01/01 Billy Langley

01/01 Mark Wright

01/01 Evan Schmidt

01/02 Ann McCready

01/08 Myrna Mackiewicz

01/14 Benjamin Carver

01/15 Jim Snyder

01/17 Mindy Bazyk

01/19 Jennifer Lewis

01/25 Sessaly Boyd

01/26 Kenneth Cave

01/26 Naomi Carver

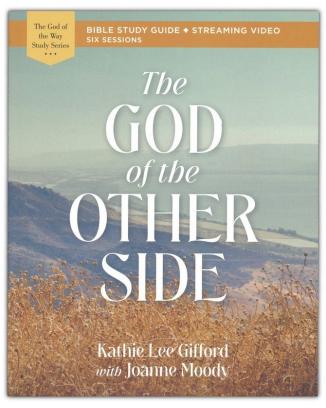


Monday's Women will be starting a new study January 6th.

We meet in the library on Monday evenings at 6:45 p.m. The first 45 minutes are a time of sharing and is followed by a facilitated style Bible Study. This study includes a video presentation. Contact Becky Grover (410-474-8866) or any member of the group. We have room for more and would love to have you join us. ZOOM is available for those who cannot attend in person.

The GOD of the OTHER SIDE

In the Gospels, we often read of Jesus telling his disciples to travel to the "other side" of the Sea of Galilee. What we don't often realize is what this other side represented. It was the region of the Decapolis, where many pagan religions were practiced. The disciples, under Jewish law, would have been considered unclean even to step foot there.



In this six-session video Bible study, Kathie Lee Gifford and Joanne Moody reveal how Jesus broke through social barriers and reached those on the "other side" whom society had abandoned. Through the stories of the Demoniac, Samaritan Woman, Prodigal Son, four friends of the paralyzed man, and Cornelius and Peter, you will discover the incredible lengths to which God will go to reach those who are lonely, lost, and left behind. You will be challenged to follow Jesus' example and daily go to the other side for those who need his love.

Sessions are:

The Other Side. The Demoniac, The Samaritan Woman The Prodigal Son, Cornelius and Peter, The Power of Unity

How can the Arc help you?

- * Advocacy * Autism Waiver
- * Behavioral Support Services
- * Day Program and Community Learning Services

- * Residential Program * Vocational Support * Worships and Training

For more information, please contact:

Stacey Warner at swarner@arcsomd.org









COMMUNITY YARD SALE RUMMAGE SALE

Out with the Old! In with the New!!! January 4th 9AM-2PM

St. Paul UMC- Lusby 11000 HG Trueman Rd.

410-326-4475

cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org



CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

INDOOR RENTAL SPACES AVAILABLE



GIFT CARDS

Every Sunday, food cards for Giant and Weis are available to purchase in the CLC.

This assists in our operating budget.





LOST and FOUND

SPUMC has a "Lost and Found" basket stationed in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Food Drop Lusby is the 3rd Friday of every month at Middleham Parking lot by SMILE, starting at 9 AM. The Maryland Food Bank provides fresh food for packing and distribution. If you can grocery shop you can enjoy a morning making a difference.

Distribution Drivers are also needed.

Non-perishable grocery items are collected each month from our Christian Life Center (CLC).

Please place your donations in the box labeled for SMILE.

Project Echo and CareNet also have donation boxes to support the needs of those they serve.

More information is available in the Christian Life Center Thank you for supporting our community missions.

St. Paul United Methodist Church

11000 H G Trueman Rd, Lusby, MD 20657

Phone: 410-326-4475

E-mail: stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

Web: stpaulumc-lusby.org



Submissions for the February Messenger are due January 20th.

Thank you.

Office Contacts & Information:

Senior Pastor	Myungha Baek PastorBaek@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Children and Youth Leader	Sherry Mervine cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Office Manager	Nerissa Curtin ncurtin@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Finance Managerfina	Cindy Shippert ncemanager@stpaulumc-lusby.org
Church Custodian	Missy Garber missy.garber73@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

	4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall	4.30pm - OL SS Basketball/AC @ Activity 7pm - Cub ScoutsiRms 10,11,12,13,14,	Sam - HeartFeitiFH @ Fellowship Hall 5:30pm - SMRT Baseball/AC @ Activity 6:15pm - Praise Team 7:30pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall	4.30pm - OL SS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6.30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS TroopiFH @ Fellowship Hall	4.30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6.45pm - Women's Bible	9:15am - Worship (Service) @ Sanchuary 10:30am - Fellowenip 10:45am - Sunday School Classee/CLC
	Spm - CS Pinewood Derbylac @ zadwity cents 8pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall	4.30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity	Sam - HeartFeltiFH @ Fellowship Hall 5:30pm - SMRT Baseball/AC @ Activity 6:15pm - Praise Team Rehearsal/Room 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanchuary @ 7:30pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall	4pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS TroopiFH @ Fellowship Hall	Treamsietter Autocs DUS Umbs: Clossed - MARKTIN LUTHER KUNG JIK SPUMP'S Clossed - MARKTIN LUTHER KUNG 6:45pm - Women's Bible	9:15am - Worehip (Service) @ Sanchuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classee/CLC
18 10am - Giri Scouts MgFH @ Fellowship	8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall	8am - Open our Doors Thursday @ 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity	Sam - HeartFeitiFH @ Fellowship Hall 12pm - Prayer Committee MigiFH @ 5:30pm - SMRT Baseball/AC @ Activity 6:15pm - Praise Team 7:30pm - AAIFH @ Fellowship Hall	10:30am - Faith Circle(Monthly)/Library 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - CS Committee Mitg/Rm 10 @ CLC.	4.30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6.45pm - Women's Bible	9:15am - Worehip (Service) @ Sanchuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classee/CLC
1pm - Church Christmas	4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowehip Hall	4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 5:30pm - Finance Mightbrary @ Library 6:30pm - Council Mightbrary @ Library 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms 10,11,12,13,14,	Sam - HeartFeltiFH @ Fellowship Hall 5:30pm - SMRT Baseball/AC @ Activity 6:15pm - Praise Team Rehearsal/Room 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary @ 7:30pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall	4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6:30pm - Biblie Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS TroopiFH @ Fellowehip Hall	SPUMP'S - SCINOVI REOPERS 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ Activity 6:45pm - Women's Bible	9:15am - Worehip (Service) @ Sanchuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classese/CLC
3am - Community Indoor Yard SaleiAC @ 10am - Girl Scouts MitglFH @ Fellowship	3pm - OLSS Bæseiball/4C @ Activity 8pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall	8am - Open our Doors Thursday @ 6:30pm - SPRC Meeting/Library @ 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms 10,11,12,13,14,	Cmps 0.088d - NEW YEAR'S URY 7.30pm - AAFH @ Fellowship Hall 7.30pm - Scout Leaders Meeting/Rm. 10			
8am - Trustees/FH @ Fellowship Hall						SPUMPS Closed - WINTER BREAK
	3				8	29
Sat	T.	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	SU

St Paul UMC - Activities