

## EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 4  
Epiphany

*Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the wise men to visit Jesus. They began a journey of faith to follow a star which took up to two years to find the promised Messiah. While the Jewish king tried to kill Jesus these three sought to worship him, symbolizing that the Savior was for all people. Though Christmas is over may we share the saving love of Christ to all we know and may we continue on our journey of faith in Christ.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 3-10**

Mission Trip to Texas

**Monday, January 5**

First Monday Café

**Tuesday, January 13**

Directory Make-ups

**Wednesday, January 14**

Wonderful Wednesdays Resume

**January 16-19**

Youth Ski Trip

**Monday, February 2**

First Monday Café

**Friday, February 13**

Sweetheart Banquet

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

10:00 a.m.

# — Calvin Comments — 2009 - Crisp and Clean!



This week I took out my new calendar for 2009. This calendar is "THE OFFICIAL UNITED METHODIST 2009 PROGRAM CALENDAR". I have used the Program Calendar published by United Methodist Communications for over thirty years.

As I looked at this new calendar I noticed how different it is from my 2008 calendar. My 2008 calendar is dirty and messy from the use throughout the year. I noticed that the corners of the pages are a little dog-eared from flipping through it to check on appointments or to add new ones. Some appointments had to be changed or canceled and therefore those dates look messy where I had to strike through those appointments. The pages are dingy from the oil in my finger tips, as I turned the pages several times daily. Some of the pages even have tea stains from a drip or an accidental spill as I sip on a cup of tea at my desk. Wow, what a messy calendar!

Then I looked at my new 2009 calendar. It is crisp and clean! There were no markings or stains. How different it looks compared to my 2008 calendar. As I compared the two calendars I thought, "This is the way life is." Life becomes dingy, dirty and stained by sin, but the Good News is that Christ came to make us clean. Isaiah the Prophet says, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18b)

As we turn the pages of the calendar from 2008 to 2009, let us leave behind the sins and disappointments of 2008 and enter 2009 knowing that we are entering a new year with new opportunities to be witnesses and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. I look forward to greeting you each week at the "witness and servant" place.

***"Life becomes dingy, dirty and stained by sin, but the Good News is that Christ came to make us clean."***

- Calvin

## *New Things at St. Paul*

*Change was the theme that won the Presidential election and change is coming. With a struggling economy and history-making events unfolding before us, we must decide to embrace the place and time that God has chosen for us to live. Change is hard for most people but sometimes necessary. With a new building and a new pastor, St. Paul has risen to the challenge and embraced change. We are primed and ready to explode in ministries that reach out to the community around us. **Good News at Noon** and the **Food Pantry** continue to meet the needs of the struggling and our new ministry **Angel Food Ministries** is in its third month, providing food to anyone that needs financial relief for just \$30 a month. Our **Council on Ministries** teamed up with our **Hispanic Congregation** to help provide a Thanksgiving Meal to over 200 people and they gave out over 1500 gifts this Christmas. This partnership of ministry together will continue in 2009. A **new directory** will be published early this year with a make-up day January 13. Directories serve as a great tool to see how much we have changed over the years. Homecoming Sunday, Older Adult Appreciation and a new **Puppet Ministry** are just a few examples of new things that happened in 2008. If you have new ministry ideas for 2009 contact Tim Atwood or Rita Collins by calling the church office.*



# The Meaning of the 12 Days of Christmas

The 12 days of Christmas refer to the 12 days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany which is when the three Wise Men or Magi arrived. Some families still practice the tradition of giving gifts to children on each day leading up to Epiphany which is similar to Hanukkah gift giving. The song—The 12 Days of Christmas can be interrupted as the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. The “true love” mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The “me” who receives the presents refers to every baptized believer.

On the **1st day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**A Partridge in a Pear Tree** which represents Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Christ is symbolically presented as a partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings. “How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks...” (Luke 13:34)

On the **2nd day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Two Turtle Doves**, the Old and New Testaments, which together bear witness to God’s self-revelation in history and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.



On the **3rd day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Three French Hens**, the three Theological Virtues: 1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love. (I Corinthians 13:13)



On the **4th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Four Calling Birds**, the Four Gospels: 1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God’s reconciliation of the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.

On the **5th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Five Gold Rings**, the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch: 1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which gives the history of humanity’s sinful nature and God’s response of grace in the creation of a people to be a light to the world.

On the **6th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Six Geese A-laying**, the six days of creation that confess God as Creator and Sustainer of the world. (Genesis 1)



On the **7th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Seven Swans A-Swimming**, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1) prophecy, 2) ministry, 3) teaching, 4) exhortation, 5) giving, 6) leading, and 7) compassion. (Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-11)

On the **8th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Eight Maids A-milking**, the eight Beatitudes: 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, 2) those who mourn, 3) the meek, 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) the merciful, 6) the pure in heart, 7) the peacemakers, and 8) those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. (Matthew 5:3-10)

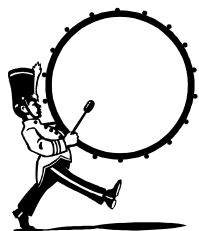


On the **9th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Nine Ladies Dancing**, the nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit: 1) love, 2) joy, 3) peace, 4) patience, 5) kindness, 6) generosity, 7) faithfulness, 8) gentleness, and 9) self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

On the **10th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Ten Lords A-leaping**, the Ten Commandments: 1) You shall have no other gods before me; 2) Do not make an idol; 3) Do not take God’s name in vain; 4) Remember the Sabbath Day; 5) Honor your father and mother; 6) Do not murder; 7) Do not commit adultery; 8) Do not steal; 9) Do not bear false witness; 10) Do not covet. (Exodus 20:1-17)

On the **11th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Eleven Pipers Piping**, the eleven Faithful Apostles: 1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. (Luke 6:14-16). The list does not include the 12th disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

On the **12th day of Christmas** my true love sent to me...**Twelve Drummers Drumming**, the twelve points of the doctrine in the Apostle’s Creed: 1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. 2) and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. 5) On the third day He rose from the grave. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father. 6) He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the holy catholic Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10) the forgiveness of sins, 11) the resurrection of the body, 12) and life everlasting.



## Disaster Recovery

Texas Conference  
The United Methodist Church

A team of 8-10 members of St. Paul will be traveling to east Texas to participate in the recovery efforts after the devastation of hurricane Gustav last October. The team will help with reconstruction in the Golden Triangle northeast of Houston/Galveston in the towns of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange, Texas. Our mission team will leave January 3 and return January 10. “We praise GOD every day for all HE has accomplished through so many precious volunteers; however, there is still much work to be done after hurricanes Rita and Gustav,” explained Beverly Antilley, Volunteer Coordinator for Disaster Recovery of the Texas UMC Conference.

# MEMBERS IN MINISTRY CLASSIFIEDS

## ANGEL FOOD JANUARY MENUS

Are located on the side table at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. To order a box call the church office.

ORDER A BOX OF FOOD FROM ANGEL FOOD & GIVE IT TO A NEEDY FAMILY AS A GIFT

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
January 1-2  
January 19

## INSPIRATION 2009 CHURCH CALENDARS

This year we will be selling church calendars that highlight different ministries in the church. Look for these mid-January.

**DIRECTORY MAKEUPS**  
If you were not able to get your picture made for the directory we are having a make-up day on **Tuesday, January 13.** Please call the church office to sign-up.

## SUPPER WITH SANTA THANKS

Thanks to Tim Atwood, Rexann Hulsey and her kitchen crew, Charlotte Crow and the puppet team, Sydney Simonton for being an Elf and of course a big thanks to SANTA!

### *The Contagious Witness*

Lenten Bible Study coming Wednesdays in March.

**Wonderful Wednesdays**  
**Resume: January 14**  
**Supper—5:15 p.m.**  
**Classes for Adults**  
**Children & Youth**  
**6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Volunteers needed for**  
Welcoming Church Certification. Contact Rita Collins to help with the paper-work & process.

**MISSED A SUNDAY?**  
Listen to sermon podcasts on our website at [www.st-paul-umc.org](http://www.st-paul-umc.org) or ask for a DVD copy to be made for you.

## SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES

Coming to St. Paul Time and Location to be announced soon.

## JAMAICA OPEN

Twenty tickets have been purchased. The total cost for this trip is \$900 before fundraisers. Men & Women are welcome to join the youth group on this mission trip. We will be doing construction work in the mornings and VBS activities in the afternoons. Contact Tim Atwood to sign up.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Will begin in March after the Confirmation Retreat at Camp Glisson.

## PECANS

We still have a few more pecans left if you would like some for after holiday baking!

## 5K RUN

Linda Pittman is planning a 5K Run Fundraiser to support our youth in Jamaica. Details coming soon.

# SWEETHEARTS

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SWEETHEARTS



Decide who you want to represent your class this year for the annual Sweetheart Competition. Vote on Sunday, January 4.

Voting for our **2009 Church Sweetheart** will begin on the following Sunday. Donation jars will be placed around the church for you to make sure your class sweetheart takes the prize!

Our annual **Sweetheart Banquet** is scheduled for Friday, February 13. A delicious meal will be followed by live entertainment and the announcement of our new Church Sweetheart.

*Tickets are \$25 per couple.*

# YOUTH TRIPS



**SKI TRIP**  
**January 16-19**  
Mountain Home of the Dick & Lee Moellers  
\$75

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT**  
**February 20-22**  
Camp Glisson  
\$75



**JAMAICA MISSION**  
**May 30-June 6**  
\$900 before fundraisers

**RINGGOLD MISSION**  
**July 5-11**  
\$350 before fundraisers

# CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor—Calvin Haney  
Director of Ministries—Tim Atwood  
Members in Ministry—Rita Collins  
Choir Master—Tim Gale  
Accompanist—Terry Sapp  
Admin. Secretary—Susan Page  
Financial Sec.—Frances Steedley  
Hospitality—Rexann Hulsey  
Building & Grounds—Ralph Moore

**Church Website:**  
[www.st-paul-umc.org](http://www.st-paul-umc.org)

Let's end the Masquerade...  
Will you be my Valentine?!



**MASQUERADE**  
**SWEETHEART BANQUET**  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
February 13, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

Rev. Calvin Haney, Pastor

*Return Receipt Requested*

To volunteer, get involved or join a class at St. Paul UMC call the church office at 770-532-2977 ask for Tim Atwood or Rita Collins.

# Be still and listen...

Guest Speaker, **Rev. Bridgette French**, shared her testimony at the UMW Christmas Luncheon. She shared about being raised in a Methodist Pastor's home in Denmark to her years of service as a missionary. At a conference a young girl named Olsa told her on three occasions that God wanted her to go to Africa. Bridgette's first response was disbelief wondering why God didn't just tell her instead of telling Olsa. After the third time, she went to her father and shared her emotions with him. He asked, "Bridgette, do you read the Scriptures?"

"Of course, you know I do," responded Bridgette.

He then asked, "Do you pray?"

"Of course, you know I pray?" she answered getting a little frustrated with her father's questions.

"But do you listen?" he asked.

How can we know what God has for us if we don't stop and listen. It's easy to pray for the world but it takes extra discipline to be still, quiet and listen for that still small voice. Maybe most of us are afraid to hear God's will for our lives because we feel we might have to go to Africa too! But it is not about what God will do for us because He's already done it—its about what we will do for God. He will lead, guide and direct us, comfort us and be with us in everything He calls us to do but we must first learn to hear His voice.

*and make  
meaningful  
resolutions...*



It's that time of year again. Time to evaluate your life and make decisions to bring change in areas ranging from diet and exercise to putting a stop to certain vices. Most of these decisions are based on a need to fill a void or to create a sense of meaning and happiness in our lives. Instead of making a list and making vows we know we can't keep...take time to listen to God. What resolutions would He have you make this new year?

The first change we all need to make is to spend more time in devotion, thanksgiving and praise to God. If we are in constant communication with the God that created us and sustains our lives then that void for happiness would be filled. Then other resolutions could be added that bring Christlikeness to our lives.

Choose to visit a shut-in or a nursery home once a month. Worship with our Hispanic congregation. Take a meal to Good News at Noon or buy a needy family a box of food from Angel Food Ministries. Choose to smile more and say kind words. Sing louder and more joyfully in worship. Volunteer to pray at meal times or at your next Bible Study. Choose things to do that take the attention off of self and onto others so Christ will be seen in you. ***"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."*** (Galatians 5:24-25)

## SPOTLIGHT

**THANKS TO  
EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE  
OUR 'HANGING OF THE GREENS'  
AND 'CHILI COOKOFF'  
A WONDERFUL TIME!**

*Tim Atwood, Barb Cely, Laura Gale, Children's Choir, Calvin Haney, Debbie Haney, Rexann Hulsey, Marianne Mills, Mary Mills, Janet Morley, Frances Patterson, Barty Simonton, Carolyn Simonton, Sidney Simonton, Youth Servers*



### AWARD WINNING CHILI

**Best Overall** - Lee Moeller  
**Hottest** - Susan Miller  
**Heartiest** - Barb Cely  
**Sweetest** - Laura Gale

**Most Creative** - Harriet Briscoe

**Most Quantity** - Calvin Haney

**Empty Crock Pot Award** - Linda Pittman,

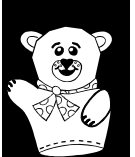
*Jim Roberts, Charlie Robocker,*

*Kelleigh Strickland, Kathy Thomas*

**Honorable Mentions** - Harriet Briscoe, Shirley Denny, Lois Hurt, Debbie Loveless, Lisa Martin, Donise Moore, Terry Sapp, Carolyn Simonton, Betty Wright

## PUPPETS

Our new **Puppet Ministry** made it's official debut at our Supper with Santa program last month with a musical rendition of "Born in a Barn!"



Our 6th graders have taken the challenge to learn to operate the puppets under the guidance of some very faithful adults. Their goal is to perform regularly during Children's Church, at special events and travel to nursing homes.

## LENT BOOKS

*Writers for devotionals needed. This will be our third year to produce a Lenten Devotional Book written by our very own church members. Contact the church office if you would like to submit a devotional this year.*

# January Birthdays

Rebecca Panda.....	1/1
Maura Whitaker.....	1/1
Mildred Lothridge.....	1/2
Nell Holbrook.....	1/3
Harry Rue.....	1/6
John Collins.....	1/7
Donise Moore.....	1/8
Spencer Rush.....	1/8
Sammy Rush.....	1/8
Mary Martin.....	1/9
John Law.....	1/9
Catherine Brown.....	1/10
Joyce Hope.....	1/11
Kyle Loveless.....	1/12
Louise White.....	1/13
Brian Patten.....	1/13
Sarah Casper.....	1/15
Emily King.....	1/15
Michael Berglund.....	1/16
Joyce Taylor.....	1/17
Barb Cely.....	1/17
Ed Johnson.....	1/19
Rob Honeycutt.....	1/19
Anne Martin.....	1/21
Hannah Patten.....	1/22
Nancy Sunderland.....	1/23
Patti Martin.....	1/24
Julius Freeman.....	1/24
Dianne Brown.....	1/25
Steve Gurr.....	1/25
Trey Cely.....	1/25
Lee Moeller.....	1/27
Natalie Wheeler.....	1/27
Kiersten Sapp.....	1/27
Jack Hurt.....	1/29
Boyce Edwards.....	1/30

## GOD'S SUNDAY SERVANTS

### January 4, 2009

**USHERS:**  
 8:45 Gene Whitley  
 11:00 Barty Simonton  
**GREETERS:**  
 8:45 Richard Little  
 Pat Little  
 11:00 Bob Briscoe  
 Harriet Briscoe  
 Barb Cely  
**WELCOMERS:**  
 8:45 David Martin  
 11:00 Barb Cely  
**ACOLYTES:**  
 8:45 David Atwood  
 11:00 Maggie Moore  
 Sydney Simonton

### January 18, 2009

**USHERS:**  
 8:45 Tom Davis  
 11:00 Yale Moore  
**GREETERS:**  
 8:45 Betty Wright  
 Judy Wright  
 11:00 Dave Syme  
 Joe Whitaker  
 Shirley Whitaker  
**WELCOMERS:**  
 8:45 Chris Mundy  
 11:00 Sue Castner  
**ACOLYTES:**  
 8:45 Katherine Pearce  
 11:00 Olivia Morley  
 Ruby Shafer

### January 11, 2009

**USHERS:**  
 8:45 Mickey Robertson  
 11:00 Jack Hurt  
**GREETERS:**  
 8:45 Pat Kilgore  
 Angie Whitley  
 11:00 Bob Denny  
 Shirley Denny  
 Donise Moore  
**WELCOMERS:**  
 8:45 Robert Mills  
 11:00 Liz Smith  
**ACOLYTES:**  
 8:45 Andrew Gale  
 11:00 Sarah Thomas  
 Rachel Crow

### January 25, 2009

**USHERS:**  
 8:45 Robert Mills  
 10:30 Darryl Crow  
**GREETERS:**  
 8:45 Jo Davis  
 Tom Davis  
 11:00 Ouida Clayton  
 Laura Eberhardt  
 Joe Wang  
**WELCOMERS:**  
 8:45 Carol Evans  
 11:00 Chris Strickland  
**ACOLYTES:**  
 8:45 Elizabeth Gale  
 11:00 Will Cely  
 Rachel Kline

