

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1
Youth Promise Event



May 2
Children's Day
Confirmation Sunday

May 3
First Monday Café

May 8
District UMW Meeting

May 9—Communion

May 15
Mother/Daughter Tea



May 16
Honoring
Graduates

May 19
Last Wonderful Wednesday

May 30
One Service Sunday
Youth Tubing

June 5
Young Adult Outing

June 7
First Monday Café

June 9
Wacky Wednesday

June 13 - Communion

June 18
Youth to Atlanta Fest

June 23
Wacky Wednesday

ONE SERVICE TIMES

Service Times for 5th Sunday of May
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Morning Fellowship
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Joint Worship

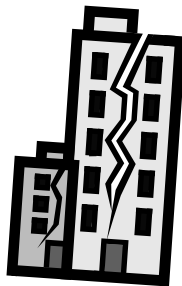
May Flowers

May is one of my favorite months. By May most of the pollen is gone...knock-on-wood and thanks to God I'm not an allergy sufferer! I just don't like the mess the pollen creates!

Also, by May, the Bermuda grass has turned green, the young new leaves on the trees look so wonderful with all the different tints of green and the flowers are beginning to bloom with all their array of color. May is such a beautiful month!

May is also a busy month! Here at St Paul, we celebrate **Children's Day** in May. On the National Calendar is **Mother's Day**, always celebrated on the second Sunday in May. We have **Confirmation Sunday**, when we receive into the church those young people who have been studying what it means to be a Christian and a member of the Christian Church. With May comes the end of another school year...and yes, **graduation!** In May we recognize and celebrate with those who have reached this mile-stone in life. We will have a special recognition for our high school graduates and recognize those graduating from college with undergraduate and advanced degrees.

Plan to be in worship each Sunday as we have so much to celebrate during May...one of my favorite months! - Calvin



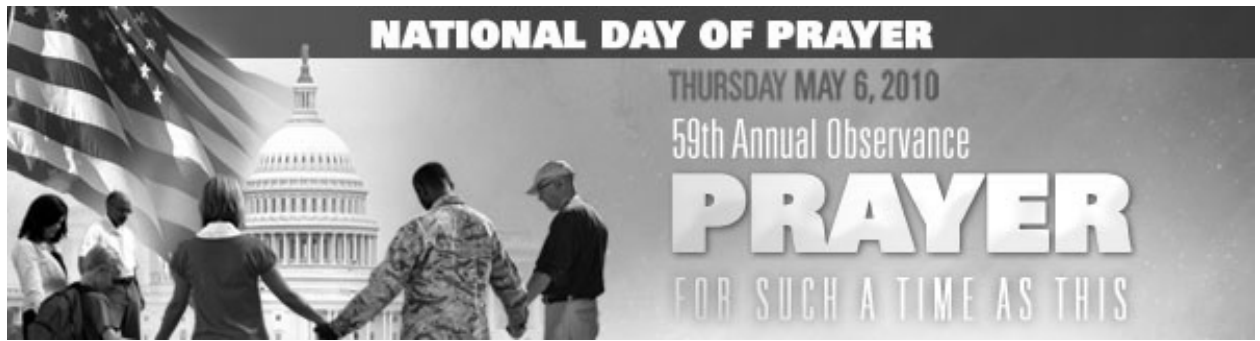
REACH OUT . . . DON'T FREAK OUT!

Haiti, Chile, Iceland, Mississippi and Georgia - earthquakes, volcanoes and tornadoes seem to be occurring more frequently than in years passed. Biblical prophecy foretells that the end times will be ushered in by these events. But Jesus said don't worry, don't be frightened. Just like He calmed the raging sea, He can calm the storm in you and me! Make sure you are right with God by trusting in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Live each day in the light of Jesus' promised return, which means loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and loving people as God loves them. Pass along the Bible's warnings about the last days and share the message of the Gospel as the only true 'end times survival strategy' and live His cause - THE CAUSE - of making disciples who make disciples. Keeping busy doing those three things leaves zero time to hide your head under the covers and hope that happy days will come back to stay. So reach out...don't freak out. People around you need the comfort of knowing that Jesus is the answer. Ask your friends if they think all the natural disasters are signs of the end times, then transition the conversation into what the Bible teaches about the return of Christ!



"When you hear of wars and revolutions ... or earthquakes and famines, ... do not be frightened."
- Luke 21:9-11

"Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed ... the night is nearly over, the day is almost here ... put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."
- Romans 13:11-12



Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength even before we were a nation. The Pilgrims relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection - through prayer. For Christians, prayer is "communion with God". The quality of our prayer life then determines the quality of our relationship with God. Prayer is talking with God, listening to God and enjoying the presence of God. It can take many forms: worship, confession, thanksgiving, praise, petition and silently waiting. Prayer is not simply saying words or repeating formulas. God is looking for heartfelt relationship. God hears the prayers that come from one who has repented of his sins and who walks by faith. **WHY PRAY? 1.** We pray because we love God. We spend time with God in prayer and communion because we love Him. Just as a man and woman in love desire to be together and communicate, so we - if we love God - will desire to be with Him and to fellowship with Him. **2.** We pray because we depend on God. God is our source. He is our life (Col. 3:4). Through prayer we receive the comfort, the strength and all the other resources that we need in life - both naturally and spiritually. Prayer - relationship to God - is as necessary to the spiritual life as air to the natural life. **3.** We need to pray in order to resist temptation. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Mt. 26:41). Much sin is the result of the sin of prayerlessness. Through lack of prayer, Satan gains the advantage in our lives. **4.** We need to pray because it is necessary for men to invite God to act in salvation. God gave the earth to Adam and his descendants. We must invite God to work here. If no-one invites God to work here, Satan will dominate the affairs of men. By inviting God often and specifically, multitudes can be saved that would otherwise be lost. **5.** We need to pray because God commands us to pray. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Col. 4:2). "Then He [Jesus] spoke a parable to them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not lose heart." (Lk. 18:1). The need to pray is as great as the authority of God which commands us: "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess. 5:17). Prayer is so vital to all that God wants to do on earth, and so essential to us, that God commands us to do it all the time. We should even deny ourselves sleep and food at times in order to pray more with greater power. (Mt. 6:16; Lk. 6:12; Lk. 21:36; Col. 4:2; 2 Cor. 11:27).

"Dear Jesus, I realize that I often come asking for favors. Today, I'd like just to be in Your presence and let my heart respond to Your love." - **Marcia Howell**

"God, we thank You for the opportunity St. Paul offers us to study Your Word together in so many ways. May Your Word lead us to greater service in Your Kingdom." - **Tom Davis**

"Father, thank You for Your comfort, thank You for showing me that sharing that comfort is a way to tell others about Your love for us." - **Mary Bosco**



DAY OF PRAYER-May 6

The Sanctuary will be open and available for prayer - 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for those who would like to come by and lift up personal, church, national and global concerns.

ST. PAUL PRAYER GROUPS

Currently we have a prayer group meeting on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. If you would like to be a part of another prayer group at a different time—talk to Sue Tibbetts 770-535-1490.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Submit concerns to the church by using the prayer box outside the church office or call the church—770-532-2977.

PURITY . . . A Priceless Commitment



The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. - I Timothy

This past month our youth group has been focused on a commitment to being pure. Purity—it's much more than just saving yourself for marriage. It's a way of life. The Apostle Paul instructed Timothy, the young preacher, to strive for purity in all areas of his life—including speech, conduct, love, and faith—so that Timothy's ministry would not be despised by his hearers. (I Tim. 4:12-16) Today's generation of young believers desperately needs to be inspired to live pure lives—to be a remnant of purity in their generation and bring glory to their Creator and Savior. Today, young minds are pounded with explicit images and messages at every turn—television, movies, magazines, and even cereal boxes. Sexual flirting (with words,

the eyes, clothing, and body movement) and sexual participation before marriage are glamorized and presented as the norm. Meanwhile, parents have become desensitized to the impact this behavior has on their teens.

"We're gradually getting used to more and more ungodly and unhealthy stuff, and we don't even realize how gravely ill we are," says Julie Hintz, founder of Happily Ever After (an organization encouraging teens to strive for purity). Even the most committed Christian experiences pressures to trade purity—of thoughts, media choices, conversations, and actions—for popularity. The extraordinary Christian can feel quite alone and begin to question his or her convictions. Without a strong vision and support, the pressure to compromise Godly standards is intense.

If we live life God's way, we will be blessed, but if we stubbornly insist on living it our own way, sin will have its way with us. The story of Esau illustrates the ability to look ahead and anticipate the consequences of our actions. Esau "despised his birthright" as a young man and deeply regretted it once he understood that he could not regain it. In the same way, adolescents often "despise the concept of purity because they do not understand how precious it is until after they have squandered it." (Genesis 25-27)

Our youth spent time learning that God cares about every detail of our lives and that God's best for us is to live in a pure and holy way. As Christians we are called to walk in the ways of Christ and shine His light to others. To shine the light of Jesus, everything we say and do should be a 'pure' example to others. If we make mistakes forgiveness comes through the cross. At our Youth Promise Event each youth will have the opportunity to make a commitment to be pure. Along with their parents they will sign a contract to strive for purity and holiness. For parents and teens to have this opportunity to make a commitment to put Christ first in all they do . . . is priceless.

"To me purity means being true to yourself and to God. To find your true relationship with God and Jesus. Also to stay pure in all things—don't do drugs or drink and keep pure till marriage." - Sydney Simonton

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things." - Philippians 4:8

Youth PROMISE Event

Saturday, May 1

Youth Room - 6:00 p.m.

Parents will serve their youth a special steak and shrimp dinner as vows are taken to live pure lives.

YOUTH TUBING



**Sunday, May 30
Noon—7:00 p.m.**

Susan Miller will be hosting the youth at Big Canoe in Dawsonville. Bring \$\$ for lunch and modest swimwear for a fun-filled day of swimming and tubing and a hot-dog cookout for supper. Youth families are welcome!

ATLANTA-FEST

Friday & Saturday, June 18 - 19

Youth outing to enjoy the rides at Stone Mountain, listen to Christian concerts and stay for a Lock-in at church and a Car-wash too!

YOUTH MISSION

SAIL10 - July 24-31

Our youth will be serving stateside this year on a mission trip to the Golden Isles of Georgia with TeamEffort. We will be helping with community service projects and facilitating VBS activities for under-privileged children.



Youth Spotlight

Thanks to Elizabeth Pittman for serving in the office helping with projects for youth and children's ministries, during her busy senior year.



MEMBERS IN MINISTRY CLASSIFIEDS



Church Work Day THANKS

Thanks to Gregg Johnson and Richard Little for planning and facilitating our spring work day. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped accomplish many projects! Thanks to:
 Tim Atwood
 Kathleen Boswell
 Bob Briscoe
 Trey & Barb Cely
 Tom & Jo Davis
 Jean Ferris
 Calvin Haney
 Jack & Lois Hurt
 Jay Jackson
 Richard & Pat Little
 Mary Mills
 Dick & Lee Moeller
 Olivia Morley
 Minnie Nelson
 Diane & Kathrine Pearce (Katherine's Girl Scouts)
 Jerry Penland
 Pam Roberts
 Jim Sapp
 Nancy Sunderland
 Roger & Kathy Thomas
 Katy & Sarah Thomas
 Richard Williams

First Monday Café May 3 & June 7

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 All you can eat—\$5

St. Paul Goes GREEN

Thanks to Jay Jackson our sound booth is using re-chargeable batteries and thanks to Debbie Loveless there are baskets in the back of the Sanctuary to recycle your bulletin each week.



From our Famine Fund-raiser and your contributions our youth successfully raised enough money to send a shelter to a needy family in Haiti which includes room for a family of 10 to sleep, blankets, a plastic cistern to collect rainwater and a BioSand filter to make drinking water safe. This shelter was purchased from Samaritan's Purse.

MUNCHING METHODISTS

Our Adult Ministry Committee has re-birthed our Supper Group Fellowships. Groups will consist of 8-10 people divided randomly every 3 months. Groups will meet in homes or restaurants with the purpose to get to know others in our church that you might not otherwise have a chance to meet. Contact Doris Bradshaw 770-535-8969 if you want to join a group.

VBS 2010—High Seas

Where Kids will Explore the Mighty Love of God
 July 18-22

stpaulcommentary.wordpress.org

Explorers Sunday School Class led by Chris Strickland is commenting online on the verses of the Bible they are studying. Check it out!



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council on Ministries

Tuesday, May 18
 7:00 p.m. (CR)

YOUNG ADULTS

Bowling & Pizza!

June 5—5:00 p.m.

ANGEL FOOD MAY

Deadline: May 11-noon
 Distribution: May 15
 8:00-9:30 a.m.

JUNE

Deadline: June 15-noon
 Distribution: June 19
 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Mother/Daughter & Friend Tea

Saturday, May 15
 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
 Fellowship Hall
 \$10 Ladies/\$5 Girls

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmands will be highlighted in the Children's Day service, Sunday, May 2:



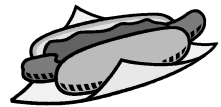
David Atwood
 Andrew Gale
 Michael Kline
 Rachel Kline
 Mic Panda
 Katherine Pearce
 Sammy Rush
 Kristin Wedegis

Thanks to **Lisa Martin** for facilitating our Confirmation Class for the past two years and thanks to **parents** for loving and leading their children in the ways of the Lord. Thanks to **St. Paul UMC** for giving our youth a safe place to grow in their faith.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Sunday, May 2
Noon—2:30 p.m.

Children will sing in both services. 3rd grade Bibles and OREO Awards will be highlights. Entire church is invited to a Hot-Dog lunch at the Pavilion.



WACKY Wednesdays



Fun activities for families with children will include swimming, putt-putt, fun jumps and usually pizza!
 Mark these dates for summer fun:

June 9, June 23,
July 7, August 4

Return Service Requested

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor—Calvin Haney
 Director of Ministries—Tim Atwood
 Choir Master—Tim Gale
 Accompanist—Terry Sapp
 Administrative Secretary—Susan Page
 Financial Secretary—Frances Steedley
 Hospitality—Rexann Hulsey
 Building/Grounds—Ralph Moore

Rev. Calvin Haney, Pastor

Church Website: www.st-paul-umc.org