



St. Paul's Epistle

FEBRUARY 2012

Chocolate Tasting
February 13!
See inside!

Church UNDER CONSTRUCTION ~~38th St.~~ God's



**Building a Future
for St. Paul's
through Prayer,
Fasting, & Commitment**

We discovered a few weeks ago that one of our larger financial donors for the ministry and mission of St. Paul's was unable to continue giving. The person I'm referring to didn't get mad at the church or anything like that. They simply had a change of life circumstance, and that kind of thing happens sometimes. All is not bad news, though. In fact, our church is not in dire financial straits. There is money in the bank and the bills are getting paid. But if we want to continue to provide the kind of excellent ministry we are used to providing to our members, our visitors, our children and youth, and to the community as a whole, then we will need to step up our commitment to St. Paul's. Our church's leadership is asking that all of us prayerfully consider stepping up our level of commitment to St. Paul's so we can continue being the healthy, mission-oriented congregation that God has made us to be.

But more than that, we are wanting to look to the future, to all that God wants to be doing through St. Paul's to be a blessing to Lawton and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. I truly believe that St. Paul's is poised to experience growth—spiritually, numerically, and every other way—but that's not something we can do on our own. Only God can take our church and move it into the future that he has planned for us. All of the great revivals and seasons of growth that the wider church has experienced throughout history were

grounded in prayer, fasting, and commitment. And that is what we as the leaders of the church are asking that each of us do during the month of February. We're committed to doing this, and we're asking you to be committed to doing this, as well.

1. Prayer: We will have prayer guides for you to take home each Sunday. They will also be posted on the website and Facebook. These guides will have us all praying throughout the week, agreeing in prayer for God's blessing and guidance for our future. We will also have good old-fashioned prayer meetings on Tuesday nights at 7:00. If you come to these "Prayer Gatherings," we will be praying for our church's future, for the lost, and for many other things. I hope you do come, because you certainly don't have to be an expert at prayer, and the practice of prayer will help you—as well as the church—to grow in faith.

2. Fasting: We are asking you to try fasting of some kind. Early Methodists as well as the early Church practiced fasting 2 days a week until 3:00PM. In other words, they skipped breakfast and lunch every Wednesday and every Friday. You can also fast for as little as one meal or for 24 hours or more. If for health reason it is unsafe for you to fast (for example, you're pregnant or diabetic), then try fasting from certain foods, or fasting from cell phones or the internet or TV. You need to do whatever it is that God calls you to do for your fast. I can tell you that I plan to do a minimum of the twice a week fasts until 3:00PM. *If you would like more information on fasting, ask the church office for a copy of the Jan. 22nd sermon.*

3. Commitment: And of course, we are asking for greater commitment from all of us in our attendance, our prayers, our witnessing, our service, and our giving. Take the time to fill out the commitment card on the next page, cut it out, and post it somewhere you will see it often. Let's commit ourselves to all that God is planning to do in and through us at St. Paul's!

**My commitment to
St. Paul's Month of Prayer,
Fasting, & Commitment...**

- ___ Pray daily using the prayer guides given by the church.
- ___ Attend the weekly Prayer Gatherings on Tuesdays at 7:00PM as long as I am free.
- ___ Practice fasting by
 - ___ giving up _____ (TV, cell phone, internet, etc) _____ times per week.
 - ___ giving up this kind of food: _____
 - ___ fasting _____ meal(s) each week.
 - ___ fasting every Wednesday and Friday until 3:00PM.
 - ___ Other _____
- ___ Be committed to my relationship with Christ by
 - ___ praying intentionally.
 - ___ attending worship each week.
 - ___ giving a portion of my income to God.
 - ___ serving God by helping others in some practical way.
 - ___ witnessing for Christ when I find appropriate opportunities.

I understand that I make these commitments trusting in God's grace to help me follow through on them.

Name _____



Women's Groups

*Alpha Circle: Mon, Feb 6th @ 11:30a @ CG's
MOMs: To be announced
Sarah Circle: Mon, Feb 20th @ 6:30p*

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

- ◆ Thank you to those UMW members who attended our Christmas party, bringing items for our J. Roy Dunning tubs. I appreciate everyone's care and compassion; these supplies are always needed and appreciated.
- ◆ Alpha Circle will meet on February 6th, 11:30a at CG's.
- ◆ MOMs will not be meeting on February 13th due to the Chocolate Tasting. A new date and time will be announced.
- ◆ Sarah Circle meets on Monday, February 20th at 6:30p. Please bring a potluck dish to share. Hope to see you there!

Men's Activities

*Men's Breakfast: Sat., Feb 11 @ 7:30am
Men's Movie Night: Mon., Feb 20th @ 6:30pm*

DISCIPLE

Feb 5: Class @ 12:30p (bring a sack lunch!), Chapter 20, *The Hidden Messiah*

Feb 12: Class @ 4:00p, Chapter 21, *God Seeks the Least, the Last, the Lost*

Feb 19: Class @ 6:00p Chapter 22, *Lifegiver*

Feb 26: Class @ 6:00p. Chapter 23, *Advocate*

What is a "Prayer Gathering"?

- It is Christians praying together as the disciples did in the early Church (Acts 1:12-14; 4:23-31)
- It is people believing Jesus' promise: "*Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*" --Matthew 18:19-20.
- It is amateur pray-ers learning to pray together.
- It is a group of Christ-followers who want to seek God's will for their church.
- It is a time to pray for lost sheep.
- It is an opportunity to get real before God.

No one will have to pray out loud if they aren't comfortable doing so.



- ◆ **Feb 7**— Lay Leadership/Nominations Committee@ 6:30p
- ◆ **Feb 13**— Finance Committee @ 6:00p, Trustees @ 7:00p
- ◆ **Feb 19**— Missions AND Family Life/ Fellowship @ 2:30p, Children’s Council AND Evangelism Committee @ 3:30p, Admin Council @ 4:30p
- ◆ **Feb 26**— Art Show Committee @ 3:00p

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Feb 1** Devon Alicea, Lorne Bellofatto
- Feb 2** Bob Martin
- Feb 6** Tony Reese
- Feb 7** Conner McKenzie, Brodie Barker, Frederica Grant
- Feb 8** Jack Amyx, Melinda Forrest
- Feb 10** Ronnie Gardner
- Feb 11** Caitlyn Couch
- Feb 12** Kimberly Grossman, Chris Musslewhite, John Naberhaus
- Feb 14** Iris Brown
- Feb 16** Karen Helsel
- Feb 18** Jeremy Wagner
- Feb 23** Avadell Sexton
- Feb 25** Vicki Spurgeon
- Feb 27** Lani Mendez-Hightower, Wydon Warren

Youth & Children’s News

Attention... Youth!

- Feb 5** Youth @ 12:30p
Super Bowl Party @ 5:00p at Talor Alicea’s
- Feb 12** Youth @ 6:00p
- Feb 18** **WINTER JAM—leaving at 12:30p**
- Feb 19** Youth @ 12:30p
- Feb 26** Youth @ 12:30p

Attention... Tweens!

- Feb 12** Tweens @ 6:00p
- Feb 26** Tweens @ 12:30p

VBS Workday!

- Feb 3** VBS workday @ 5:00p

BEAUTIFUL PROMISES

An Event for 6th thru 12th grade girls
March 9-11, 2012

Held at First United Methodist Church
of Frederick, Oklahoma

“Dating Mr. Darcy: A Smart Girl’s Guide
to Sensible Romance”

Ask Mr. Rich for more information!

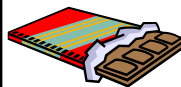
Registration Deadline: February 15th



Volunteers in Mission: Haiti & Bolivia

Haiti VIM team members Dennis Clippinger, Emma Bellafatto, Elizabeth Bellafatto, Casey Conners, Patty Swietek, Linda Kahley, Jeni Kahley, and Vicki Spurgeon made it back safely! They will present pictures and stories from their trip on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 6:00PM. Invite your friends to come!

Also, this is the last call for anyone who might be interested in going on one of our Law District VIMs to Cobija, Bolivia. June 17-24 or July 8-18. Talk to Pastor Lisa as soon as possible if you would like to go!



HEY, CHOCOLATE LOVERS!

The UMW is having a Chocolate Tasting on Monday, February 13th @ 6:00-8:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 for 5 selections from many homemade delectables. This is a fundraiser for local missions and our playground. Please join us for this festive evening by getting your tickets from any UMW member. Hope to see you there!

Debbie Stewart



OUR PRAYERS

Ongoing Needs

Leta Baker, Paula Crosson, Grace Gorthy,
Phil Grant, Ed Hunt, Madison Hunt,
Ragyn Lynn, Jean Michener, Joy Russell,
Francis Sheets, Larry Stewart

Military/Civilian Personnel

Serving away from Home

Jon Harper, Matt Birkinbine, Cale Drumm,
Troy Heffner, Andrew Hopewell, Johnny Mangum,
Mark Marcella, Kevin Phillips, Ryan Pospel,
Jon Sandor, Sky Siemers,
John Sklaney, Art Torrey

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 910 NW 38th Street, Lawton, OK 73505
 Phone: 580-355-5757 / Fax: 580-355-5794
 Email: Office@StPaulsLawton.org
 Return Service Requested

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS

(changes to this schedule will be specified in the right column)

Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM Rise and Shine Worship
 9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:45 AM Celebration Worship
 12:30 PM Youth
 12:30 PM Tweens (2nd & 4th Sundays)
 6:00 PM Disciple Bible Study

Mondays

Emmaus 12 noon

Wednesdays

REMiX 5:00 pm
 Choir 6:15p
 Praise Team 7:15p

Tuesdays

Emmaus 6:30p
 Prayer Gathering 7:00p

Thursday

Made to Crave 6:30p

Our Church Staff

Rev. Lisa Beavers Senior Pastor <i>Pastor@StPaulsLawton.org</i>	Frederica Grant Organist/Choir Director
Barbara Harris Administrative Assistant <i>Office@StPaulsLawton.org</i>	Cindy Martin Pianist
Rich Sweazy Program Dir. Youth & Children <i>ChildrenAndYouth@StPaulsLawton.org</i>	T.J. Seymour Praise Team Leader
Janet Jones Nursery Coordinator	Bob & Maurine Wiseman Directors of Prison Ministry
Kim Grossman	Ronnie Gardner Custodian
Mary Ann Weber Child Care Providers	Russell Cannon Sunday School Supt.
Maurine Wiseman Director of Care Ministries <i>CareMinistry@StPaulsLawton.org</i>	Joe Rough Media Operator
	Kim Hall Web-site Administrator

Check us out! www.StPaulsLawton.org



www.facebook.com/stpaulslawton

Mark

Your Calendars!

Jan 29 Reignite @ Centenary UMC @ 1:30p
 Jan 30 Staff-Parish Relations Committee @ 5:00p
 Feb 3 VBS Workday @ 5:00p
 Feb 5-11 FAMILY PROMISE WEEK
 Feb 5 Disciple Bible Study @ 12:30p
 Super Bowl parties (in homes) @ 5:00p
 Feb 6 Alpha Circle @ CG's @ 11:30a
 Feb 7 Lay Leadership/Nominations Meeting @ 6:30p
 Prayer Gathering @ 7:00p
 Feb 8 NO REMiX
 Feb 9-11 Beautiful Promises in Frederick (Girls 6th-12th)
 Feb 11 Men's Breakfast @ 7:30a
 Feb 12 Disciple Bible Study @ 4:00p
 Haiti VIM presentation @ 6:00p
 Youth/Tweens @ 6:00p
 Feb 13 UMW CHOCOLATE TASTING @ 6:00-8:00 pm
 Finance Committee @ 6:00p
 Feb 14 VALENTINE'S DAY - SCHOOL ELECTION DAY
 Prayer Gathering @ 7:00p
 Feb 16 OK Food Coop Distribution @ 4:30p
 Feb 18 WINTER JAM
 Feb 19 Missions @ 2:30p
 Family Life / Fellowship Committee @ 2:30p
 Children's/Tweens Council @ 3:30p
 Evangelism Committee @ 3:30p
 Admin Council Meeting @ 4:30p
 Feb 20 Sarah Circle @ 6:30p
 Men's Movie Night @ 6:30p
 Feb 21 Prayer Gathering @ 7:00p
 Feb 22 St. John's Feeding Program @ 9:30a
 Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30p
 Feb 26 Art Show Committee Meeting @ 3:00p
 Feb 28 Prayer Gathering @ 7:00p



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2010

Jesus Paid It All!

A Worship Drama in Five Acts

Palm Sunday (March 28) 8:15 & 10:45 AM Services With waving palm branches and cries of “Hosanna,” this act begins on a note befitting the arrival of a king. But since Jesus is a ruler with a kingdom like no other, cheers turn to jeers. So this service ends on a thoughtful note, a reminder of the trials which lie ahead.



Maundy Thursday (April 1) 6:00 PM By sharing in a “covenant meal,” this worship event recaptures something of the flavor and spirit of what the “last supper” was like. “Maundy” is from a Latin word which means “mandate”—so-called for the “new commandment” to “love one another” which Jesus demonstrated so clearly on that last night with his disciples,



Good Friday (April 2) 7:00 PM On a day which can be seen as “good” only through the eyes of faith, we recall how God’s best was given in return for the worst that people could do. In this service, we experience through scripture and song, silence and sound Jesus’ death on a cross and the disciples’ great loss.



Holy Saturday (April 3) 7:00 AM—7:00 PM As Jesus’ body rested in the tomb, the disciples were filled with longing and questions. So we offer a “prayer vigil” with time to come by the church and spend time in prayer and meditation. A printed prayer guide is available for your use, or you may pray in any way you desire as we “watch and wait” with the disciples.



Easter Sunday (April 4) 8:15 & 10:45 AM Services
9:30 AM Easter Brunch Potluck



The beauty and power of the hymns, the sight and scent of the lilies, choir anthems, an Easter message, sharing a meal together—in so many ways we will celebrate God’s victory through Jesus Christ over sin and death.

Together, all the services and events provide an extended meditation on the end of Jesus’ earthly life and the beginning of his risen one. Set aside the time now to be part of this central drama in our Christian faith.