Fall Bible Study begins Sept. 20

Prayer DOES make a difference!

On September 20 make plans to join us either at lunch time (12:30pm) for the BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY or for our EVENING BIBLE STUDY at 7pm as we take on Philip Yancey’s PRAYER. The workbooks are $9.00 and if you’d also like to read Yancey’s book PRAYER during our study it costs $13.00 ($7.99 for Kindle edition from Amazon).

Award-winning author Philip Yancey probes the very heartbeat—the most fundamental, challenging, perplexing, and deeply rewarding aspect—of our relationship with God: prayer. What is prayer? How does it work? And more importantly, does it work?

All ages are welcome ... you don’t have to attend St. Paul's to be part of the study. It’s all about digging into God’s Word with friends.

For more information contact the church at admin@stpaulsthorofare.com.

Rally Day & Backpack Blessing Sept. 10

Calling all Sunday School students!

We’ll be back in session on Sunday, September 10th. We’ll start at 9:30 a.m. during worship service by blessing your backpacks, asking the Lord to be with you through the school year. Then our first Sunday School class for the fall will meet at 10:45 a.m.

Online registration is available to all students, new & returning, at our website: www.stpaulsthorofare.com

AT LEAST ONE TEACHER STILL NEEDED! See Elaine Luoma if you feel called.

Mark Your Calendars!
Sunday School Pumpkin Party, Friday, Oct. 27th
Prayers: Prayers for Bert & Barbara T. (Joyce); Prayers for Texas & all people there; Prayers for family travelling and those starting new jobs (Sandy); Tina & Cathy with AA, God please help them be strong; Larry & Theresa W. & family; Robert C. & Family (Jennie & Ednamae); Friends & family of Kevin F.; Family & friends of Jim W.; Donna D & mission team in Guatemala; C. family on loss of daughter Katharine in fatal car accident; Peg & Garry P. and family son needs job & health insurance; Family of Butch R. who passed away.

Health Concerns: Prayers for a friend, Marie D., in hospital for observation (Sandy); Prayers for Ann for headaches to stop & good tests for me (Nancy); Prayers for good results this week; Nick K., very badly injured foot (Lillian); Friend Kathy very sick due to foot surgery with complications (Sandy).

Praise: Praises for grandson and baseball team, West Deptford 14/15-year-olds won regionals and went to World Series in South Carolina; Praise for Bob Platt and all he does for his family & the church (Meghan); Praise for Judy & Paul, settlement on new home.

Every week: All those in need, unspoken requests, all servicemen/women, our nation and leaders


Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents: Jean K., Jackie Z., Bertie C., Harriet H., Dottie D.
They are back ... the days when ‘reading, writin’, and ‘rithmatic matter. The children no longer have free days and frankly they no longer have many free nights with all of the homework kids get these days.

St. Paul's seems to be about numbers lately ... first there were those large red SEVENTY FIVES that were posted around the church. A challenge to each of us to spread the word about our Vacation Bible School program, THE SURF SHACK.

When I randomly decided on 75 as the number of children I hoped to see at our VBS it represented an increase from last year's numbers of about 17%. In these days of churches abandoning VBS programs and of parents being so busy that their kids never make it to church I wasn't sure if we could get to 75 but still I wanted to challenge all of you.

Well, St. Paul's Family ... you have met the challenge and shot right past 75 kids into the 80s! While the numbers mean a lot it is the impact for a lifetime that really matters. Our church has provided more than 80 children with God's Word and Jesus’ love. They will remember their week here for the rest of their lives.

My next number is ONE but actually it is connected to the number FOUR. This involves another challenge but one whose results I will never know. On Sunday August 20th, I challenged those in worship to read FIRST JOHN. I pushed and prodded and cajoled the more than 120 seated in the pews to give up just a little time for God by reading the FOUR pages that make up this important letter from God's Word. John’s words provide an essential set of directions for living as Christians. In fact, John Wesley used First John chapter 3 and verse 9 as the source of his sermon entitled, “The Great Privilege of Those That Are Born of God.” If we are to grow as a church and experience God’s vision for us we have to be digging into God’s Word!

So what does this all add up to? I think we are a church on the move! We have had more baptisms than I can count during this past year and we are seeing new faces in the pews almost every week (eight new members this spring and more coming this autumn). We went on our first Red Bird Mission trip in a number of years and next year's is already planned for August 5 to August 11. More kids ... more families ... more older folks ... a time to be praying to God for God’s vision where we go next.

This summer we have had people sharing worship with us via Facebook in Italy, Kenya, the Carolinas, New York, Florida, and even in New Jersey. We even received an online offering from someone watching our services live.

Be the light ... be a child of God who reads God’s Word ... be a missionary who invites someone to worship with us live or online ... Bible studies are about to start on Wednesday (12:30 & 7) and Thursday (11am). Join one! Stay for Sunday School after church ... pray to God for where God wants you to go next!

Most of you know that Chris Bailey and I have an agreement. The Sunday morning when our church is filled with people will be the Sunday morning that Chris will dump a bucket of Gatorade over my head after church in celebration. Make sure you are in church that week and have brought a guest with you!

Blessings!

Pastor Dave
WORSHIP ON THE RIVER began and ended with a picnic. We are going out into the world, as Jesus instructed us, worshipping and witnessing about our faith.
New Beginnings Meal
On October 15th we will be continuing an ongoing Mission to support fellowship with neighboring UM churches. Members of our church family will plan, organize, prepare and deliver a meal to New Beginnings UMC in North Camden. We are looking for folks who enjoy the craft of good meals to join our team. The committee will meet on Saturday, Oct. 14th for meal prep, and delivery will occur on Sunday, following services. All those interested in pitching in, please contact Ruth at (856) 845-3829.

Wendy's Night Fundraiser
Thursday, October 19th will be our annual Wendy's Night fundraiser. St Paul's UMC earns 15% on all sales from 5-8pm, including drive-thru orders. Be sure to join us for a fun night of food

Welcome Back Fall - a New Season & New Happenings
Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings:

September —
* Our first Sunday offering (Sept 3) will be for TX & LA Storm Relief
* On the third Sunday (Sept 17) our offerings will benefit Hope for Liberia

Last year we had a visit from Eli, who leads this mission; we hope to have a visit from him again this fall.

October —
* Our first Sunday offering (Oct 1) will benefit World Communion Sunday
* The third Sunday offering will benefit Ranch Hope.

Woodbury’s Greatest Athletes Finalist
Elaine (Jordan) Blair, Class of 1970, was all-conference in field hockey for three years and also an all-South Jersey diver and a member of the Colonial Conference championship tennis team. She went on to become the second all-time goal scorer in Catawba College field hockey history. Elaine is very active in the church, working in our food pantry, helping with after-church socials, and doing many other volunteer jobs. She is a member of Guiding Lights.

Angel Wreath Leader Needed
Thinking ahead to the holiday season - our Angel Wreath will be here before you know it. Outreach will collect names and wish list items from a local elementary school nurse. Those names & wish list items (clothing, shoes, toys, games, etc.) will be placed on paper angels and hung on a special wreath in the sanctuary — interested folks select a name and grant wishes for the little angels.

Our faithful Dottie Davenport has been head of this committee for years, and is looking to pass the torch to a new church member. Please consider taking part in this important mission to help our most needy children in our area.

Thank you for all you do,

Ruth Schultz

Donations Needed!
Handcrafts
Holiday decorations
Baked Goods
Deli items
Boutique Items
White Elephants
Breakfast & Lunch
Homemade Soup

Saturday, Nov. 4
Bring items in October!
Proceeds benefit Sunday School.
St. Paul’s Sunday Service Reaches Overseas

Live interactive social media has arrived at St. Paul’s this summer as our Sunday services are now being broadcast live over FACEBOOK. The really cool thing is that we have already had people watching our worship services in Italy, Kenya, Canada, New York, the Carolinas (both North and South), Virginia, Florida, and even here in New Jersey.

Our Sunday morning services are reaching new people, young and old! When the church sings the hymns of praise there may be strangers throughout the world listening and watching. We have even received our first offering donation from a Facebook worship attender.

This summer has been our practice run but soon the I-pad will have a location along the back wall, which means we will begin a major push to get viewers/listeners (Several of us have listened to the service while driving.).

If you are on Facebook or have friends and family members who are on the world’s most popular social media site we need you to help publicize our broadcast. The live and recorded worship services can be viewed through our Facebook page which is StPaulsUMCThorofare. (You have liked our Facebook page haven’t you?)

It is really easy to view our services from that page, which also features news about St. Paul’s and photos of our ministry.

Help us reach a new congregation that might not be able to attend our church on Sunday mornings but is really searching for a way to worship God!

PD

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, October 16
2—7pm
For an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS
or go to www.redcrossblood.org

DOING GOOD: A number of our members donated blood here at St. Paul’s on August 19. Shown are Samm Smith, Norm Branyan, and Don Strock. We know that Elaine Luoma, Ed Schwebel, and Denise Hosier donated as well, and probably some other members. Our next blood drive is MONDAY, OCTOBER 16. Please sign up to give!
RED BIRD MISSION: Pastor Dave went with a group from two other churches to do mission work in one of the poorest areas in our country, the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. Several members wanted to go along but were unable. Plan to go next year. It’s a great blessing to do God’s work among the poor.

HOPE FOR LIBERIA: This guitar once played music in West Deptford New Jersey. It travelled the Atlantic Ocean to find a new owner who is blind but who can express his love of God through the music he is already playing on his guitar—a gift from Charlie Taylor from St. Paul’s Praise Team. Also shown is the founder of Hope for Liberia, Eli Gbayee, who visited us in the spring and we hope to see again this fall. St. Paul’s is a proud supporter of this mission work! We are one world with the people of Africa!

NO HATE, NO FEAR! There are moments in life when you must step off the curb to declare THIS IS OUR STREET! Pastor Dave took those steps on August 16, joining in the “Philly is Charlottesville” March and Rally hosted by POWER (Philadelphians Organized to Witness Empower and Rebuild).

SPECIAL MUSIC: We enjoyed music from several of our talented members over the summer. Shown are Rich Favretto, Stephe Miller and Norm Branyan.

CHOIR PRACTICE BEGINS on Thursday, September 21 at 7 p.m. If you like to sing, join us!
SURF SHACK VBS 2017 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS: So much fun for our Vacation Bible School end-of-summer celebration held from Aug. 20-24th. With a grand total of 88 children in attendance, we far exceeded our goal and shared the Word of God with so many glorious children!