

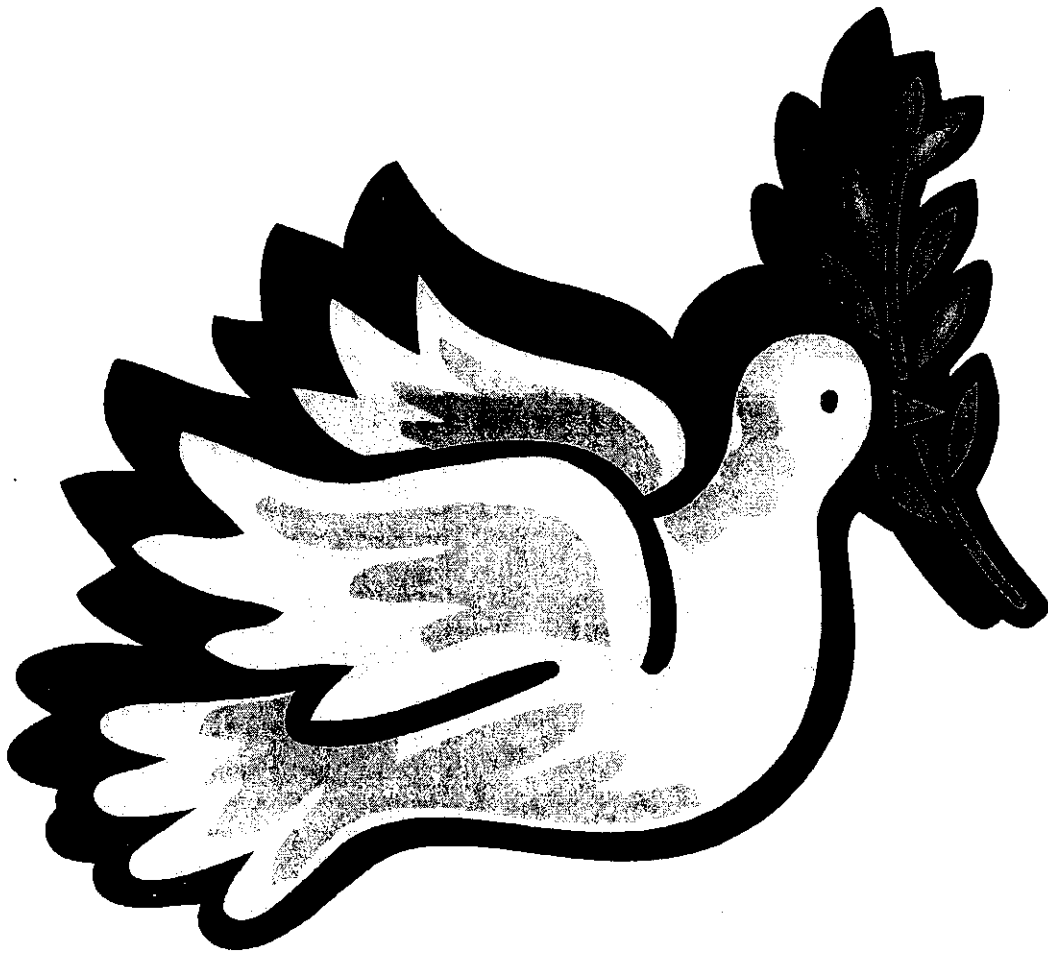
July 2008



St. Paul's Lutheran

MESSENGER

Season of Pentecost



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Rev. Louise Mollick, *Pastor*
Cindi Paulsen, *Music Director*

Vince Jacobson, *Congregation President*
Linda Dundas, *Secretary*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Seeds and Seedlings of Faith

Have you ever thought about where faith comes from? For me, the obvious answer is that faith comes from faith. Faith is nourished and grows in and as a result of living in faith. So, if faith is the chicken, where is the egg? Hmm ... except for the obvious expression of dichotomy, this metaphor doesn't work very well. In most of the scripture I read and recall, faith starts as a seed and grows. I find a farming metaphor to be very rich for me.

How about the faith of a child? Many of us are blessed to have had the seeds of faith planted in the spring time, when we were children, before we had a chance to develop much cynicism. The spring time (the heart of a child) is fertile ground that allows faith to grow to a seedling and become rooted quickly.

The Lutheran tradition is a pretty efficient grain farming operation. We work the ground, plant seeds in the spring, fertilize and cultivate, just enough, through the growing season. Farming has always been hard work, but nowadays, we have big tractors with air conditioned cabs, and all of the other resources that we need to reduce the manual labor and be more efficient. We have been called to be stewards of these established grain fields and we do it pretty well.

But what happens when we find ourselves having to move? We may find ourselves in a wilderness with unimproved land or perhaps in a market that demands fruit or vegetable farming. Or what happens when we are beset by climate change and all of a sudden, after many years of blissful ignorance we discover that our fields have all changed and we haven't and grain farming is no longer practical?

From a distance, it is pretty clear that we have two choices; we can change careers, but that isn't really a choice because we have been called to plant seeds; or we can adapt our farming methods to work better in our current situation.

From close up, it is much less obvious. We have a huge investment in grain farming machinery that we just **have to** put to good use. We have gotten accustomed to our labor saving methods and, frankly, going back to labor intensive farming is not very appealing. Probably most importantly, we really know how to raise grain well, but these other crops are new to us ... and what if we do it wrong?

It may help to remember that all of these changes ... these **new** things ... are really **old** things. In the early days of farming, there was no machinery. Everything was manual labor. There was no such thing as improved ground; ready for grain farming. Much of the farming consisted of raising vegetables for personal use. The land was inhospitable for farming. There was no such thing as just planting and harvesting. Seeds often had to be planted in protected little starter beds and transplanted to fields as seedlings after they had sprouted their initial roots.

Which of these situations apply to us? Well, we need to look over our fields and see what God is up to in them. Yes, we could be being called to be vegetable farmers or to clear land in the wilderness. The important point is that we cannot continue blissfully planting grain every season and continue expecting a bountiful harvest without confirming that grain farming is still supported by our fields.

It is clear to me that our fields are not the same as the ones where my faith was first planted as a youth, and that my planting and nurturing methods are not working as well as they did in those fields at that time. I need to learn new/old farming methods and accept that I will have to invest more of myself into nurturing the seedlings.

Pray for each of us to discern where we are being called to plant seeds and to nurture seedlings, and pray for us to learn what we need to be good stewards of these fields.

Blessings,
Vince Jacobson

St. Paul's congregation is pleased to send you this newsletter. However, if you prefer not to receive it, please call the church office at 952-938-4683 or email us at StPauls@saintpaulslutheran.org.

COUNCIL NEWS

Highlights of Spring 2008 Congregational Meeting

Thirty-seven (37) people attended the 50-minute Spring Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 8.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 A.M. Minutes of the January 28, 2008 Winter Congregational Meeting were approved. The congregation voted to discontinue spring congregational meetings in the future. One annual meeting will be scheduled each year in January.

Phil Eckhert, Council Treasurer, reported that the \$22,000 capital deficit has not decreased, although operational giving has continued to be strong.

Newly-elected adult council members for 2008-2011 are Connie Hessevick and Kathy Powers. Youth member for next year is Kristen Campbell. Due to the still vacant 2-year term council position, the congregation authorized the council to appoint a 2-year-term council member, who will be approved by the congregation at the January 2009 Annual Congregational Meeting.

Vince Jacobson shared information about St. Paul's possible increased involvement with Agora Ministry (A bridge between cultures), which would require congregation approval. There will be two training opportunities for all those interested. The fall (6-week) session will be at St. Paul's (How to be welcoming), and the second session (12-weeks) will be at Central Lutheran (Discipleship).

Following Mary Hromatka's outdoor presentation and explanation of plans for a south patio, the congregation voted, with one dissenting vote, to complete the entire patio project. The plan consists of some much-needed painting, adding gutters, possible tree removal, and adding a 30' patio. A rain garden would be planted along the east side of the patio along the west wall of the fellowship hall. Approximately \$2500 is still needed to complete the project, and Eric Campbell has volunteered to help with the fundraising. Total cost of the materials for the entire project is estimated at \$6500. All labor will be provided by volunteers. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Darla Gilbertson
Council Secretary



Special thanks to out-going council members:

Financial Secretary – Ryan Foss and
Co-Liaison for Outreach & Social Ministry

Secretary – Darla Gilbertson and
Liaison for Worship & Music

Communication – Jan Guetschow and
Co-Liaison for Outreach & Social Ministry

Youth Liaison – Britta Moe

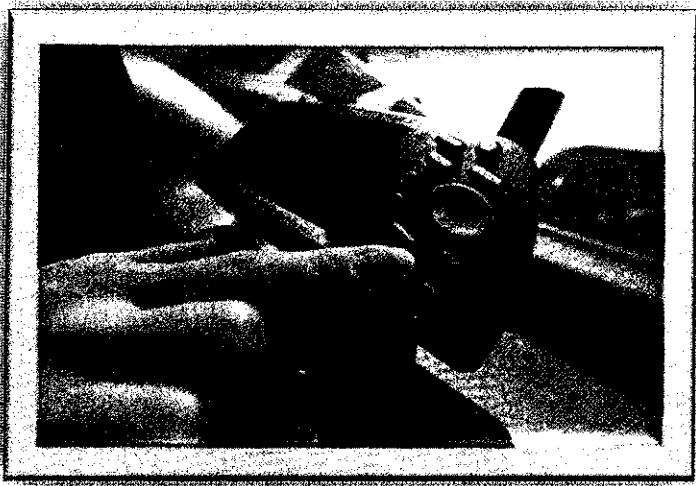
Welcome newly elected council members:

Connie Hessevick
Kathy Powers
Kristen Campbell

*Thank you for your willingness
to serve!*

St. Paul's Phone Tree is included in this month's issue of *The Messenger*. It will be activated when important information needs to reach each member within a very short time frame. Please keep it with your church directory.

Congratulations Britta Moe for
receiving the Glen Lake Optimist Club
"Owinski Award for
Community Service - 2008"
Britta received a \$1,000 scholarship.
Way to go Britta!



Positioned for Mission

Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study

To our Friends and Partners in Mission at St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church,

This month, when your congregation offered a gift of Mission Support totaling \$750.00, you supported a movement to engage each and every member of the ELCA in the dynamic, life-changing Word of God revealed in the Bible. In scripture the transforming Word of God positions its hearers for a vital life of meaning and purpose. **Thank you!**

Your generosity placed *Opening the Book of Faith: Lutheran Insights for Bible Study* in the hands of every synod assembly voting member. This slim and useful little book has been called "the GPS (Global Positioning System) of the "Book of Faith" initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). A GPS receiver determines its location on Earth through transmissions from a series of orbiting satellites. This "satellite" resource guides congregational leaders help their people engage the Word in distinctively Lutheran ways. Dr. Diane Jacobson of Luther Theological Seminary heads up the Book of Faith Initiative. At last month's Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly she said, "We have is a vision and a calling to let Scripture be more central to our life as church and in our individual lives."

Opening the Book of Faith is the first of several resources supporting a church-wide effort to renew the engagement of believers with the Bible. Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA, will soon launch an "Introducing the Bible" curriculum, following it up with a study Bible and an adult Bible study curriculum in spring 2009. Your Mission Support is what makes it happen.

For all you do in Jesus name,

Pastor Heather Hammond, Bishop's Associate

Minneapolis Area Synod +122 West Franklin #600 + Minneapolis, MN 55404

COUNCIL NEWS

St. Paul's Church Council meets at 7:00 PM the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Congregation members are welcome to attend and/or submit items for the agenda by contacting one of the council members.

Highlights of June Council Meeting

St. Paul's Church Council met on Tuesday, June 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Staff Support Ministry: Carolyn Carpenter reported that the staff support group has been active.

Finance: Mary Hromatka and Phil Eckhert reported that the operating fund is as we originally budgeted, but the capital fund continues to be behind, however, because we passed a deficit budget. The search continues for replacing Ryan as the Financial Secretary.

Transformational Ministry: Mary Hromatka reported that the next meeting will be on July 10 at 6:30 p.m. Lydia Kilm, director of Teens Alone, will be speaking. Pat Tollefson, Ruth Johnson and Mary will be attending an event on homelessness in June.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Louise provided a written report detailing the many activities, meetings, events and contacts with members over the past month. Besides the regular weekly events and activities, she participated in the following: IMAT (synod team); NCD Coaches workshop; wedding; funeral; Festival of Homilectics (preaching workshop); summer Wed. evening supper/worship; follow-up meeting with Agora Ministries' Pastor Cherian; visited Hopkins/Mtka Family Resource Center; met with Chaplain Jan @ Chapel View.

Upcoming plans: Add prayer walk after Sat. morning Bible Study; last Sunday of each month ministry at Chapel View; become a supporting congregation of Chapel View; addressing teen homelessness; July 2 follow-up of "Revitalizing Your Congregation Through Worship"

Filling in for Pastor Louise in her 2-week absence will be the following worship leaders: Pastor Dixie Johnson, Pastor Karri Anderson, Pat Tollefson,

Jim Uden and Darcie Rodman. Pastor Glen Floe will cover for pastoral care.

Summer Wednesday evening service: Vince Jacobson reported that attendance at the first two weekly services were 30 people and 18 people. Those attending are enjoying the good food and the informal service. More help is needed for set-up each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Patio Project Update: The Council voted to sell engraved pavers for the walking path and plants for the rain garden as a fundraiser for the project.

Darla Gilbertson
Council Secretary

St. Paul's existing Congregation Council

President – Vince Jacobson and
Liaison for Property

Vice President – Mary Hromatka and
Liaison for Youth & Family Ministry

Secretary – Darla Gilbertson and
Liaison for Worship & Music

Treasurer – Phil Eckhert and
Liaison for Finance

Communication – Jan Guetschow and
Co-Liaison for Outreach & Social Ministry

Financial Secretary – Ryan Foss and
Co-Liaison for Outreach & Social Ministry

Staff Support Liaison – Carolyn Carpenter

Youth Liaison – Britta Moe

Pastor – Rev. Louise Mollick

Assisting Council

Associate Treasurer – Bernie Johnson



Comparison of
January –April of
2007 and 2008 Emergency Financial
& Food Assistance

<u>Jan.- April, 2007</u>	<u>Jan.- April, 2008</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
<u>Emergency Food—Pounds</u> 122,061	191,614	57%
<u>Emergency Food—Households</u> 1,692	2,227	32%
<u>Emergency Financial Assistance</u> \$46,398	\$71,254	54%
<u>Emergency Financial-Households</u> 107	202	89%

Get into Gear and Volunteer!

Dear Partner Congregations
and Representatives,

The 3rd Annual Tour de Tonka
is coming soon—
Saturday, August 2!



ICA is promoting this 15, 33, or 65-mile ride sponsored by Minnetonka Community Education, as Minnetonka Community Ed. has designated ICA as a recipient of food and monetary donations made during the ride. In the previous two years ICA has received over \$10,000 in donations to assist our neighbors in need.

**You can register for the ride at
www.tourdetonka.org, or
call ICA at 952-938-0729 Ext. 107
to volunteer on August 2.
Riders and volunteers are welcome!**



The Minnetonka Millers are also collecting food and money for ICA at the following home games at Veterans Field: July 19, 20 and 27 and August 2 and 3. These are Family Fun nights with each night having a sponsor and special giveaways.

ICA accepts food and monetary donations Monday – Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM at 12990 St. David Road in Minnetonka. During the summer months, the food needs increase with the children at home and our donations decrease as people go on vacation. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Thank you St. Paul's for the 53 lbs. of food during the month of May. Our 33 member congregations play such an important part in assisting ICA in continuing our mission each day. There are many neighbors in need, and your support is invaluable to ICA and the people we serve.
Annette Poeschel

Cemetery Lots for sale –

Former members, B (Berniece) and Roger Olson, who retired and moved to Bemidji, are selling two cemetery plots in Groveland Cemetery. The cemetery is located on Minnetonka Blvd. east of County Rd. 101. The going rate for a plot there is around \$1500. B and Roger are asking \$750 for each of their two plots. Please contact them at (218) 586-2883, or **new e-mail address** bnrolson@paulbunyan.net.



AMC Summer MovieCamp – AMC

Theatres offer \$1 tickets at 10 AM on Wednesdays from June 25 through August 6 to benefit Variety - The Children's Variety and the Will Rogers Institute. Tickets may be purchased at participating theatres or online starting June 18. Movie titles are geared towards children's entertainment and include such movies as "Alvin and the Chipmunks" on July 9 and "Bee Movie" on July 23. For program information, visit AMCTheatres.com/smc.

Host families needed! – AFS (American Field Service) is seeking host families for the 2008-2009 school year for high-school aged students. Lisa and Ryan Foss hosted a student through AFS in 2004 and had a terrific experience. If you are interested in hosting a high school student for the year, please contact Lisa or Ryan for more details at 952-401-8044.

Discussion on the writings of Bishop Spong



Admirers of retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong acclaim him as a teaching bishop who makes contemporary theology accessible to the ordinary layperson. Come join in this discussion group Tuesday, July 1 at 5:00 pm in the church library. A light supper will be provided. Please RSVP to Jim Uden ASAP, 763-553-9209 or juden@nonprofitrx.com.



Each one bring one!!

Our Wednesday evening supper/worship is off to a great start! We have even had some guests!! Everyone is encouraged to come and bring a friend – perhaps your friend is someone who missed worship on Sunday morning because they were at their cabin or a neighbor who doesn't have a community of faith. We have good food, good fellowship, and good worship. You don't want to miss it!!! Here's a thought – bring a friend on Sunday too!



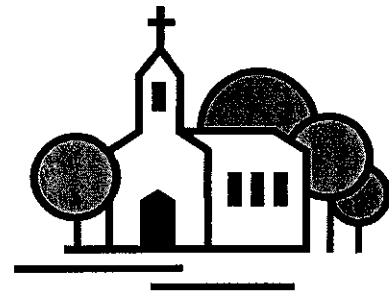
Bible Study and Prayer Walk

Beginning June 28, a Prayer Walk will be added to our Saturday morning activities. At 9:30 we have Bible Study with ample opportunity for faith conversation. Then at 11:00 we will take a 30-45 minute prayer walk through the neighborhood. We will pray for children playing, folks doing yard work, those who are working at or shopping at garage sales and people driving by... perhaps we will even have a chance to talk to some of our neighbors and find out their reasons for celebration, concern and need. In the event of rain we will visit a coffee shop. Let us know how you think we can be a presence outside these walls and please consider joining us for both or one of these special opportunities.

Hear us, O God, your mercy is great



- † With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- † Lord of all life, open our eyes to the beauty and diversity of your works, that we may join them in thanking you for life itself.
- † Too often, Lord, we think it's all about us. Remind us, today, that it's about you.
- † Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. Amen



St. Paul's worship schedule at Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins

Beginning July 27, our congregation will provide worship to residents and friends of Chapel View Care Center on the last Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. This is a marvelous opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus out in the community. Please consider being present for one or more of these services. You can serve as a reader, musician, usher, greeter or helper to residents who have difficulty finding pages. Simply contact Pr. Louise to let her know you want to participate.

Spirit
Energy, Mission
Friendly, inviting, gathering
Giving, receiving, Spiritual,
fulfilling
Community

By Deb and Eric Campbell and Shirley Waltz

Sunday Bible Readings

July 6 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12
 Psalm 145:8-14
 Romans 7:15-25a
 Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 13 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13
 Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13
 Romans 8:1-11
 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 20 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8
 Psalm 86:11-17
 Romans 8:12-25
 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27 – 11 Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12
 Psalm 119:129-136
 Romans 8:26-39
 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Prayer & Bible Study

- ✝ **Bible study with Pastor Louise** is held each Saturday morning at 9:30 – 11:00 am in St. Paul's Library. Please check the monthly calendar for occasional conflicts.
- ✝ **St. Paul's Prayer Line** is activated by calling the coordinator, Maxine Rieman at 952-238-8516, cell 763-807-7682, or calling the church office when she cannot be reached.
- ✝ **ELCA radio ministry**, *Grace Matters*, is on Sundays at 6:30 am KSTP 1500 AM and 10:30 pm WFMP 107.1 FM.
- ✝ **Daily devotional booklet**, *Christ in Our Home*, is available on the entryway table.
- ✝ **ELCA online Bible study**, *Daily Discipleship* is based on the lectionary and online at www.elca.org/evangelism/daily-discipleship.
- ✝ **Other prayer resources** are available at www.elca.org/prayer.



Tuesday Grief Support Group

West Metro Grief Support Coalition invites all persons experiencing grief due to a death. Grief support groups offer hope and healing through education, listening, sharing, prayer and fellowship.



Tuesdays 4:30-6:30pm
 Minnetonka Lutheran Church
 16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
 Minnetonka, MN 55343
 (952) 935-3419

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
July 1	Video	Beyond Death's Door
July 8	Lois Wilder	Journaling through Grief
July 15	Dawn Miller MME, MT-BC	Music in Grief Expression
July 22	Pr. Tom Mundahl	God's Presence in Grief
July 29	June Sand, RN	Wellness during Grief

For more information, please call the coalition co-coordinator,
 Darcie Rodman at (763) 546-4404

July Acolytes

7/6
7/13
7/20
7/27

Sammi Anderson
Jack Powers
Nora Bonner

July Assisting Ministers

7/6
7/13
7/20
7/27

Connie Hessevick

July Lectors

7/6
7/13
7/20
7/27

Lisa Foss
Ryan Foss
Connie Hessevick

July Service Team

Anderson – Doug, Terri, Cory, Sammi
Campbell – Eric, Deb, Kristen
Crossley – Chris, Mary Jo, Laura, Claire
Erickson – Muriel
Foss – Ryan, Lisa, Kristian, Sawyer
Hessevick – Connie
Jacobson – Vince, Kris
Johnson – Bernie, Ruth
Johnson – Regina
Moe – Rick, Jeanne, Britta, Erik, Kris
Nelson – Steve, Wanda
Olson – Ray, Jean
Ramsden – Roger, Joyce
Rutzen – Doris
Thompson – Ruth
Uden – Jim, Nancy

August Service Team

Carpenter – Marshall, Carolyn
Eckhart/Brenden – Phil, Sheri, Emma
Peaslee, Sarah Eckhart
Falk – Grace, Ron
Hanning – Elsie
Hanson – Darold, Diane
Larson – Tom, Rachel
MacNaughton – Jenni, Katie, Zach
Madson – Annette, John
Mikulay – Mike, Beth
Rodman/Rudolph - Darcie, Chuck, Peter
Schaller – Shirley
Schmitz – Matt, Shari, Maggie, Heidi,
Haily, Kelsey, Riley
Streater – Kim, Dylan, John



July Birthdays

3	Kristen Campbell
4	U. S. of America
6	Vince Jacobson
8	Ben Larson
13	Erick Moe
16	Kyle Smith
17	Irma Willde,
22	Robert Lubarski
24	Cindy Werner
25	Terri Anderson, Kristian Foss Lois Lindquist

Please continue to check the Service Team Calendar on the office door each week for available opportunities.

**Get ready -
August 5th is
National Night Out**

**Happy & Safe
4th of July!**



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
13207 Lake Street Extension
Minnetonka, MN 55305

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Please deliver within 5 days
of July 1, 2008**



SUMMER AT ST. PAUL'S

ALL OUR NEIGHBORS

(old and new, young and old, from near and far)

ARE INVITED

Wednesday evenings May 28 – August 27, 2008

6:30 p.m. Dinner on us!

7:00 p.m. Informal worship

7:30 p.m. Community time
(getting to know each other)

Everyone is expected !!!!