



# St. Paul Ministries

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403

937-252-4467 • FAX: 937-254-5227

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*St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...*



## The Right Fit

*by Elizabeth Heft*

As the middle of June approached, I became more and more excited. I would catch myself daydreaming about banana peppers and long country roads. I would play out in my mind what it would be like to be greeted by friends and family at the airport and catch myself wearing a much-too-cheesy grin while waiting in a checkout line. I had been living and serving in Bethlehem for ten months and was really looking forward to being back where I “fit.”

One of the hard things about being on the mission field is that I stick out like a sore thumb. My clothes are different, my language is different, and even the items in my grocery basket are different! More challenging than those outward differences, though, are the inward ones. Differences in opinions, values and beliefs create a bit more of a rub than does a difference in sneakers. Sometimes, as we all know, that rub is infuriating. Misunderstanding the reason behind an action or not knowing the pattern of thought that builds a belief often starts as frustration, but can quickly turn to anger. In these circumstances, I would time and again find my mouth forming the emphatic question “Why?”, but my mind and heart weren’t really interested in hearing the answer. Instead I would figuratively run back to my American colleagues where I could be surrounded in the comfort of their sameness; where I fit.

But, as I am sure you can imagine, I wasn’t even safe there. Even with the same religion and skin color, similar cultural backgrounds and common goals, we are still quite a diverse group of people. We can’t help but to be: That is God’s intention.

And so I had to learn. I had to acquire the skills not simply to bite my tongue when I didn’t agree, but also to force my mind and heart to be willing to listen to the answer to the “why” question. I had to train myself to hold my own opinions and thoughts a little more loosely in order to allow space for new ideas and information to add to and sometimes even alter them. I had to be willing not simply to compare and contrast, but to explore until I found the way and the place that all these thoughts and opinions and ideas and information fit together; the way WE fit together. Believe me, that is not easy. But in the midst of this hard work, I was able to see transformation. What was once infuriating diversity, when met with persistent open-mindedness and a recurring invitation to understand and accept, became beautiful diversity; the beautiful diversity God intended. It wasn’t an easily acquired nor always a comfortable fit, but it was the right one.

After almost a year of flexing these muscles of open-mindedness to, acceptance of, and learning from differences, I was really looking forward to returning home; to be surrounded once again by people who are like me in their culture, their thoughts, their beliefs, and their opinions. In our current climate, I am sure I don’t have to explain the great folly in those expectations!

And so I have no other choice than to continue to struggle to embrace diversity. To not simply tolerate it, but to really listen and work to understand. To struggle to find the ways and places that we all fit beautifully together.



# Camp Wesley and Mission u

July

was the month for some of our children and youth to get away for a spiritual and fun experience at Camp Wesley and Mission u. St. Paul was well represented with 14 children attending Camp Wesley in Bellefontaine, OH.

The St. Paul campers were:

- Geraldín Bello • José Bello
- Emily Bobo • Dominic Cardoso • Christopher Chadwell • Damien Chadwell
- Jeremiah Chadwell • Alex Mariscal • Karen Mariscal • Eric Marquez
- Ociel Marquez • Jack McCoy • Delfina Palma • Francisco Palma

St. Paul was also well represented at Mission u with the following adults, youth and children:

- Joan Johnson • Elizabeth Heft
- Bernarda Trejo • Beth Vanoli • Sue Whigham • Alayna Ankeney
- Caitlin Ankeney • Erika Ankeney • Laura Ankeney • Danielle Maney
- Daniel McCoy • Jimmy Ramirez • José Ramirez •

The adult Mission u participants studied The Bible and Human Sexuality and Climate Justice; the youth and children studied Climate Justice. Everyone came away with a sense of Christian community and connectedness. We are ready to do more mission education here at St. Paul!



Youth at Mission u



Children at Mission u



Holy Communion at Mission u

14 kids from St. Paul heading to Camp Wesley!





# August 2016

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1	2 WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.  LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Union UMC	3 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon  Las Amigas 6:45 p.m.	4 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.	5	6 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont UMC
7 GATHERING 9 a.m.  WORSHIP 10 a.m.  Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.	8	9 WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.  LUNCH – 12 noon Served by New Madison UMC	10 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon  Las Amigas 6:45 p.m.	11 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.  YPC Parents' Meeting 5:30 p.m.	12	13 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Aley UMC
14 Gathering 9 a.m.  WORSHIP 10 a.m.  Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.	15	16 WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.  LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Phillipsburg UMC	17 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon  Las Amigas 6:45 p.m.	18 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.	19	20 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Korean UMW
21 Gathering 9 a.m.  WORSHIP 10 a.m.  Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.	22	23 WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.  LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Tipp City UMC	24 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon  Las Amigas 6:45 p.m.	25 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m.	26	27 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont Youth
28 Gathering 9 a.m.  WORSHIP 10 a.m.  Spanish Bible Study and Worship 5–7 p.m.	29	30 WORSHIP 11:30 a.m.  LUNCH – 12 noon Served by Sugar Valley UMC	31 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.–12 Noon  Las Amigas 6:45 p.m.	<b>Office Hours:</b> M–F: .....9 a.m.–3 p.m.  <b>Food Pantry:</b> M, W, TH: .....10 a.m.–2:45 p.m.  <b>Stuff Shoppe:</b> M, W TH: .....10 a.m.–2:45 p.m. T: .....12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.		<b>June Worship Attendance</b>  <b>6/5/2016 30</b> <b>6/12/2016 46</b> <b>6/19/2016 47</b> <b>6/26/2016 32</b>



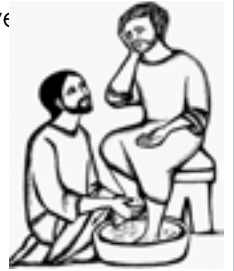
# volunteer spotlight

*...another story of the importance of relationships!*

**Linda Daniels** is a faithful volunteer from Normandy United Methodist Church who works with Young Peacemakers' Club after school program. She shared her enthusiasm with a co-worker who works with students at Holy Angels Church School near the University of Dayton. Linda's friend explained that Holy Angels School has an annual mission fundraiser in the form of a Mardi Gras Festival, with proceeds going to selected projects that benefit children and youth. This past school year, Children's Hospital and St. Paul's YPC program were chosen as recipients. Tuesday, February 9 [Fat Tuesday] ended up being a snow day with schools closed so the Mardi Gras Festival was postponed until St. Patrick's Day. As a result of all the hard volunteer work of the Holy Angels School PTO and the students, St. Paul recently received a check in the amount of \$1772! This is an extraordinary example of a great partnership for improving the lives of children in our community.

## Servant Opportunities

- People to be a part of a team to organize and improve the Stuff Shoppe
- People to work on bikes at LEC
- People to maintain the St. Paul landscaping



## School Supplies Needed:

- Pocket folders
- Colored pencils
- Wide ruled notebook paper
- Washable markers
- Crayons
- Pens
- Permanent markers
- Highlighters
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper towels
- Yellow #2 pencils
- 5 tab dividers

- Pencil eraser tops
- Backpacks
- Rulers
- Glue sticks
- Tissues



## At a glimpse . . . . .

**During May and June 2016, with your support, St. Paul UMC**

- served 2583 delicious hot meals at Tuesday lunch and Saturday breakfast;
- provided groceries for 1227 individuals and food for 18,405 meals; 1236 lbs. of donated food; 2363 lbs. of donated bread and pastries through the Emergency Food Pantry;
- placed 600+ pieces of clothing in the hands of many grateful people and made \$317.00 for the Outreach Ministry.

## YPC REGISTRATION

Registrations are currently being accepted for Young Peacemakers' Club for the 2016–2017 school year. This after school program is open to children in grades Kindergarten through Six. Components of the program are homework help, large and small motor skills activities, socialization and a nutritious snack and supper. Registration forms are available in the church office.

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