



# October

United Methodist Newsletter

*Alton United Methodist Church* *St. Paul United Methodist Church*

## Witnessing Takes Planning

If you missed the workshop last month at St. Paul, you missed a great opportunity to sharpen your witnessing skills. There are many who think witnessing is somebody else’s responsibility. After all, we have a witness team. They can take care if it, right? In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19). This is Jesus’ final instruction before he ascended to Heaven and it is directed at all of us, without exception.

It is common to confuse witnessing with evangelism and most folks I know are even more afraid of evangelism. But there is a difference. Evangelism involves sharing about the consequences of sin and God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. It includes inviting people into a relationship with Jesus. Witnessing is more personal. It is sharing your story about how you came to know Christ or why being a Christian makes a difference in your life. Everyone has a personal story to tell. One of the biggest obstacles to sharing our story is we don’t know how to tell the story. We don’t know where to begin. At the workshop we learned that it takes a little bit of planning. Take time to write out or think through your story, so when the opportunity to share arrives, you are not tongue-tied. Think through three questions:

1. What was my life like before I knew Christ?
2. What happened at the moment of your conversion? (How did you come to know Christ?)
3. What has my life been like since then?

Many lifelong Christians have experienced special moments when they feel closer to Christ. There may not have been a time when Christ felt especially near. It may have been a crisis or an illness or an especially challenging time. That type of story also is good for a witness. However you find your story, use the three questions above to organize it, and then write it down. It should be no more than three to five minutes.

We are often shy about sharing our stories because we have not practiced them. Sunday school or with family is a good place to practice with each other. I am looking for a few brave volunteers who would like to share their witness during an October worship service – one person each Sunday. When we practice among friends, we gain confidence in our stories and others may be inspired to share their stories. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall to pick your Sunday.

Once we have shared in the safe confines of the church, then it is time for the next step – sharing with people you encounter in your everyday life. We learned a great deal about how to be intentional about our sharing, but that will have to wait for another time. For now, think about your story, and then think about sharing it among your friends this month.

Blessings, Pastor Pam







Congratulations to Katherine Cicigoi; this year's recipient of UMW Special Mission Recognition.

Left to Right as pictured:  
Betty Garrison, Katherine Cicigoi, and Sherry Fohey

**Congratulations**

**Like Us on Facebook!**

We are on Facebook. Both St. Paul UMC and Alton UMC have their own Facebook page. "Like" the page and share it with your friends. If you have ideas for items to share or post on Facebook, contact Pastor Pam. Old or historic photos are nice. Photos of current events are wonderful. One photo posted on the St. Paul page was seen by over 1,300 people in just four days. She also is looking for volunteers to help maintain the pages. No technical knowledge is needed.

**2016 Church Conference**

The 2016 Church Conference will be held on Sunday, October 9th at 2 pm. The location has changed and will now be held at Mountain View UMC. Leadership team and members of the church are all encouraged to attend.



Mountain View United Methodist Church  
609 E 5th Street  
Mountain View, MO 65548

**We hope to see you there!!**

**October Meal of the Month**



**Spaghetti  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Sugar or Flour  
Bonus: Cleaning Solution**



**Bread Breakers will now meet on Tuesday instead of Wednesday. The time will remain the same. The next Break Breakers meeting will be October 18th at 12:30 p.m.**

Q: Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark?  
A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.



**Thayer UMW will meet on Thursday, October 20th. There will be no Thayer UMW meeting in November.**

**Food Pantry Item of the Month**

Stuffing Mix





October is Popcorn Sales for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. All local popcorn sales stay in our council for our local scouts! So please support your Alton Cub Scout Pack 102 and Alton Boy Scout Troop 102 by purchasing some popcorn. If anyone is interested in buying popcorn see a Scout or contact Carl Fraley at [417-264-3997](tel:417-264-3997). Thank you for your continued support!

*Members and friends of the Alton UMC are invited to coffee with the Pastor at 3 pm Sunday, October 23rd in the fellowship hall. This is your opportunity to get to know the pastor and ask any questions you may have!*



### Teens N Tweens

We began our year with a visit to Shepherd's View. We met several residents and delivered rice socks to anyone who wanted one. We would really like to go back, just to visit. We have selected four kits to take to Festival of Sharing. Two of the kits require cloth bags and we have sewn several ourselves. YouthFest begins Friday, October 14. If all goes well, we will be moving beans, rice and/or potatoes on Saturday, the 15th.

October 31st from 4:30-6:30 pm will be Couch's Trunk or Treat. It will be held between the lunchroom and high school building.



Alton / Thayer Newsletter

Alton & St. Paul United Methodist Church  
P.O. Box 241  
Thayer, MO. 65791  
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*“What matters most is how well you walk through the fire” -Charles Bukowski*

**St. Paul Monthly Calendar**

**Alton Monthly Calendar**

**Leadership Mtg.** 1st Sunday at 12 pm

**UMM Breakfast** 2nd Sunday at 7 am

**Trustees Mtg.** 2nd Sunday at 12 pm

**UMW Meeting (every other month)**

**Piecemakers** every Thursday at 9 am

**Exercise Group**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11 am

**UMM Breakfast** 1st Sunday at 7 am

**Leadership Mtg.** 2nd Sunday at 7 pm

**T’n’T** Every Wednesday 3:30–5 pm

**Choir Practice** Every Sunday 8:15 am

**UMW Meeting** 3rd Tuesday at 6 pm



**St. Paul United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 241, Thayer, MO 65791**

**Alton United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 383 Alton, MO 65606**

**Parsonage: (417) 778-6266 Pastor Pam Cell Phone: (573) 281-9367**

**Joint Charge Office (417) 264-3296**

**[www.stpaulthayerumc.org](http://www.stpaulthayerumc.org)**

**[www.altonumc.org](http://www.altonumc.org)**

**E-mail: [stpaulumc@centurytel.net](mailto:stpaulumc@centurytel.net)**