

St. Paul's Church

of the United Church of Christ



"The Light" Newsletter
February 2017 Edition

To Savor and Cherish

By: Pastor Chad

One of the things I have learned about my eating habits over the years is that food is not just something to be consumed for the sake of appeasing the aches of hunger. The consumption of food is something to savor. To savor means to “delight in” and not just taste our food. It means to joyfully taste and revel in the moment where food is truly satisfying to us. I particularly find this to be true when I eat a rich dessert, a warm soup or a cup of hot tea on a frigidly cold day, or when just the right amount of herbs and spices dance together in a dish so delightful I will express “mmmm” regularly throughout the meal. A similar word comes to mind when thinking of the word “savor” and that is “cherish.” Each time I perform a wedding this word makes itself known in the liturgy: “To love and to cherish till death us do part.” I am so thankful the word cherish is in there because this suggests that it is not enough to simply say we will love someone, but the liturgy demands that words take us beyond themselves and into intentional action. When we vow to love and cherish someone we promise to intentionally make time to hold strong and dear the affection we have for the other. It is not a feeling entirely, but rather the intentional act of holding sacred the bond between two people. These two words are incredibly important acts of humanity because it is all too easy to eat our food without any awareness of its blessedness to our bodies and lives, it is all too easy to say we will love others, but to make that love be lived in action in the present moment is a powerful act of connection. We have lost sight of the power of savoring and cherishing.

My mother always used to say to me that we were never promised tomorrow so we ought to live fully today. Her wisdom reminds me of one of the more important lines in my favorite musical, *Hamilton*, “Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now.” These are wise words because all we have in life is what is right in front of us. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is unknown and not

promised. What we know and see and experience in this moment is where we find God and where we find hope and joy in one another. This past month I shared some news that I will be moving into a new position as Conference Minister for the Indiana Kentucky Conference as of May 1. I am deeply going to miss St. Paul's. In the wake of this news, I have shared in meaningful conversations with many of you about how this has made you feel, what is next for me and for St. Paul's, and how blessed we have been by God to share in our time together. These have not been easy conversations....likely not easy for either of us. However, they have revealed to me the strength of our sacred bond in faith and that is something that cannot be taken away no matter who comes and goes from our lives, either by death or by relocation. I am grateful for these connections we have formed, for the hope we have seen, and for the way in which God has formed us over these past 5 ½ years.

This is why I am going to listen to my mother's advice and spend my time in the final 2 ½ months together as pastor and congregation living out those two words that I began this article with: savor and cherish. I am going to savor each conversation I have with you and listen deeply for where it is that God is working in your life. I will cherish each drop of water on a baby's head, savor each ring put on the finger of another, hold dear each moment I walk through the door of your home to visit, and bless each youth who will be confirmed this spring. There is still so much left to be done in this short amount of time we have left together and I intend on showing up, savoring each moment, cherishing each relationship, and giving myself as fully as I can to the work of ministry still left.

What I am learning, however, is that savoring and cherishing is not just the work of saying farewell to a congregation or a pastor. These are acts of everyday living. Do I savor the presence of my children in our home? Surely I know deep down that I will blink and they will both be in college. Do I cherish my wife as I vowed to do so on our

wedding day? Am I eating my food with delight and awareness? Am I taking my most important relationships in life for granted? This leaves us directly in the middle of the present. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is never promised and as the scriptures tell us "it will have worries of its own." But today? Today we can make the choice to savor and cherish every moment that God has given us. I am making the choice to savor and cherish each moment that I have. What choice will you make?

COUNTY MARKET RECEIPTS

Since Women's Guild is no longer functioning, The Bell Choir is collecting County Market receipts. Please save them if you shop there and give them to any member of the Bell Choir or put them in the offering. They do expire in 6 months so don't save them too long before bringing them to church! Thanks!

"A Note from Connie Ballinger (Council VP and Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair)."

Life is sometimes defined as being divided this way: 20 percent of your life is occupied by what happens to you. This 20 percent is, for the most part, out of your control. The other 80 percent of your life is lived out by how you react to that 20 percent.

We now find ourselves-as a church-in a place where something big has happened to us (seems way bigger than 20 percent)

OUR BELOVED PASTOR, TEACHER, LEADER AND
FRIEND...CHAD...IS LEAVING US

We want to be happy for him. He has been presented with a tremendous opportunity to serve the wider church-to reach many congregations, who can only benefit from his awesome talents as a...

PASTOR, TEACHER, LEADER AND FRIEND

However, we are human. We are hurting now, as a congregation and individually. Perhaps Chad has helped you through a crisis of some sort; maybe you're thinking now of that help he provided as well as the support and strength he gave you that helped get you through a difficult time. You can't help but think....what if something else happens to me...or my family....or our church..... who will help us then?

I don't think I need to remind you all-that God has never and will never leave us. He will be our CONSTANT...through all of the challenging times ahead. We will be leaning heavily on His Divine Provenance.

There will be practical matters to attend to

The Search Process for an Interim Minister

The Search Process for a permanent replacement

The planning of a proper 'Farewell' for the entire Abbott Family

The many other practical and business issues that we as a Council will need to address in the months ahead

We will be trying to figure out, as a Council and a Congregation, how to carry on without Chad as our leader. We have relied heavily on him for his guidance, support, help and spiritual leadership.

We, as a Council, have a lot of challenging work ahead of us. We also need a bit of time to absorb the reality of Chad's leaving. We cannot take too much time, however, to dwell on what has already happened.

WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD

We need to look ahead to what the future holds in store for us as a church. The work of the church does not stop....for anyone. Our work continues and will continue. We need to remember that. What the

future holds for St. Paul's, in very large part, will depend on how we handle Chad's leaving. We as a Council have a HUGE part to play in how the congregation handles his leaving as well as the new phase of our church's life.

WE ARE THE LEADERS OF OUR CHURCH

Again....

WE ARE THE LEADERS OF OUR CHURCH

(This is that 80 percent part of life; often the most difficult part of life)

We need to LEAD our congregation out of this difficult time into the next bright phase in the life of our Beloved St. Paul's.

How the congregation reacts to all of this can and will be determined-IN LARGE PART-by how we, as a Council handle it.

If we mope, weep, wring our hands and proclaim to all: "What are we going to do???"then the congregation may also do the same. Let me be very clear about something....I want to mope, weep and wring my hands as I'm sure many of you do as well. It's OK to feel that way. We all need to process Chad's leaving in our own personal, private way. However, for the sake of our church, we need to put our personal feelings aside. We need to reassure any and all members of our congregation that Chad is moving up and onward, serving God as he has been called to do.

Our church is stronger because of the leadership of Pastor Chad. We will be forever grateful to him for his time with us here and the awesome work he has done in helping us rebuild our church. Chad has us on the right path. We need to stay on that path. On our journey forward, we may feel-at times-that we are all alone on that path with no one to guide us. But God will be with us each and every step of the way. We can never repay our debt of gratitude to Chad. However, we can certainly honor his work here, all the lessons he has taught us and his time with us by continuing to move forward with the work that has already started- to grow our church, continue our missions to the wider community, provide for the growing needs of our children and to serve our God.

Our next challenge is ahead of us; we have a GIANT task to complete. But, we can and we will get through this, move forward and, with God's help, be stronger for it all.

We couldn't stop Chad from leaving; that was out of our control. However, we can and we will control how we react to it..

WE WILL STAY STRONG, WE WILL STAY UNITED, WE WILL STAY POSITIVE
AND WE WILL STAY COMMITTED TO THE WORK GOD HAS CALLED US TO
DO.

May God continue to Bless us all....Connie

CHURCH TIDBITS



St. Paul's Nursery

St. Paul's has child care for children ages infants to kindergarten during the worship service in the Nursery on the Lower Level. There is no adult supervision for children first grade and older. It is requested that these children remain with their parents/guardian in the sanctuary during the worship service.

Thanks, Church Council

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has put together a few activity bags for young school age children who are attending church services. The bags will be located in the vestibule and labeled by grade levels. These bags will be available Sunday.

Recycle Pill Bottles! In developing countries, medications (when actually obtainable) are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. We can help improve healthcare quality in developing nations by donating clean pill bottles to help the poor: medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Please bring your empty pill containers [prescription bottles, large & small, with and without child resistant caps, and over-the-counter pill bottles] for recycling to help others and keep thousands of bottles out of landfills each year! And, by placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each bottle helps with shipping costs. You can drop them in the collection box by the front door of the church. Thank you!

THANK YOU:

The prayers, cards, calls and offers of help were overwhelming. It was all so humbling and yet uplifting. I appreciate the support from St. Paul's Church more than my simple words can say.

Thank you, Donna Mader

THANK YOU:

Thank you for the cards, calls and the Christmas caroling. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness.

Thanks, Betty Bihl

THANK YOU:

Mom and I would both like to thank our church family during our hospital stays and rehab. So many cards, prayers, well wishes, sharing of stories, phone calls, and transportation when needed were greatly appreciated. Surgery, illness, and physical therapy are each mentally and physically draining. The support from our family and our church family got us through most of it so far. Thanks to all of you and Pastor Chad for being here for both of us.

Shirley and Charlene

THANK YOU:

Dear Pastor Chad and the members of St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you for allowing us to have such a beautiful funeral service for my mom at your church. The flower arrangement and the lunch was so nice too. My mom loved St. Paul's and its members and was blessed to be a member for so many years.

Kind Regards, Beth Mills
Family of Carol Steffen

2016 --ANOTHER GREAT WHITE GIFT YEAR

As always, our young friends at Cline and Crossroads Elementary Schools provided 2301 canned and non-perishable foods for the 12 families in our White Gift Program in addition to the items members of our congregation provided and perishable items we purchased. We were also able to provide foods for Turfway, our soup kitchen pantry, and another local food pantry. 25 families in our congregation provided wonderful gifts for 11 boys and 13 girls this year as well as the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Phillips that provided pajamas and toys for many of our children.

We have teams of people who do various jobs in this program, some serving on several teams. It all starts with Kriste Swanson finding families for us to help. Teams pick up the foods from the schools, sort the foods, buy foods, set up boxes for foods and gifts, wrap presents, sort presents, box the foods and gifts, and help families load all of their food and gifts to take home.

Our whole church family, it seems, participates in this program in one or several ways. The elves that did the packing and loading of boxes this year were: Chad Abbott, Jackie Baker, Shirley Baldinger, Cammy Bezold, Cammy Burling, Lewis and Mindy Connell, Mike and Evelyn and Ben and Zac Dietz, Marion and Dorothy Gosney, Janie and Mitchell and Audrey Haddix, Wanda Hornsby, Donna Mader, Helen McAlpin, Zack Raney, Charlene Rogers, Cindy Schneider, Robin Stacey, Brenda Steelman, Audrey Thomas, Karey and Jack Thomas, Kathy Von Strohe, Diane Weber, Julie Weber, Anna Wheeler, and Debbie Yeager. Hope I didn't miss anyone.

The families we help are always so appreciative—some with hugs, some with hand delivered Thank Yous, some with tears, some with phone calls, some with God Bless You and Merry Christmas, and all with eyes opened wide with amazement at all they receive. I wish all of our church family could witness all that is done through this program.

God is smiling when we do his work!!!! Thank each of you who participated in this year's program. Bless you all with a happy and healthy 2017.

Charlene Rogers and the Mission Committee

THANK YOU:

Dear Holiday Helpers,

Thank you for supporting our families in need at Christmas time with gifts of clothing and toys and food! The Campbell County Family Resource Center was able to connect 25 families (52 children) with groups in the community to allow students and their families have a bountiful holiday. Our Cline and Crossroads students will come back to school with memories of a blessed Christmas.

The FRC is grateful for the help and hope you know how thankful our families are. Because of you the center can boast that no request for assistance was turned away. Again, thank you for your generous support of our mission of providing school-based family support.

**Best wishes for a happy, healthy, safe new year,
Sincerely,
Kriste Swanson, Coordinator**

P.S. Charlene, Mindy and all who helped, you are the major source of Christmas help to families of the center. Your impact reaches far in our community!

Letters from the families that we helped:

Thank you so much, my daughters would not have a Christmas at all this year. If it wasn't for truly caring people that you are. Thank you for blessing us.

Thanks to all that was able to help my son and I have a great Christmas. It is very much appreciated! I can't wait to see my sons face Christmas day. He is such a great kid. I will make sure that we pay it forward when we can. Thanks so much!

Thank you for organizing this event, for all of your contributions, and aid to my family! Mostly, thank God for your generous hearts! May God richly bless you all!

Dear members of St. Paul UCC Church,

I am so grateful and thankful for your help and generosity this Christmas season. It means so much to my family during this difficult and financially stressful time. You have helped make this Christmas a lot less stressful on me and my husband. And helped my daughter to not be disappointed. Thank you so very much! God Bless and Merry Christmas.

THANK YOU:

I would like to thank everyone for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers during my surgery and recovery. I appreciate all of the thoughtfulness.

Pat Schuchter

New Address:

**Shirley Baldinger
Coldspring Carespring, Room 1105
300 Plaza Drive
Cold Spring, Ky 41076
Phone 905-1759**

Mailings from Church Office

Friends, there have been several mailings sent out to the entire congregation recently and in doing so we have come across the possibility that some of you are not receiving mailings from us. If you are not receiving them, please contact Darlene in the main office to let her know so that we can be sure that we get you added to our list. The office phone number is 859-635-9394. Thank you for helping us update all of our records.

PLASTIC BAGS

We are collecting plastic grocery bags again. The bags can be left in Fellowship Hall on the table provided.

Super Bowl Sunday collection for the Backpack Program



2/5/17

Cast a vote for your team by donating to the Backpack Program fund and we can feed kids in our Campbell County Schools in May (we take turns with other local churches to feed local kids all school year) Let's see if St. Paul's can predict the winner!

Upcoming Christian Education Events

2/5 Super Bowl Sunday Collection for the Backpack program

2/7 CE meeting 6pm in conference room

2/12 Lenten devotions due. Send Word documents to lesters@fuse.net

2/12 Valentine's Day skit – 9:50 rehearsal 

March Movie night TBA

4/16 Easter Egg Hunt 10am



4/30 Packing up the food for the Backpack program 9 am in Fellowship Hall



VBS June 12-16 (tentative, depending on last day of school)

News From Family Promise:



With all of the hustle of the Holiday Season I am just getting the GOOD NEWS out to all of you! Cynthia's Family has graduated and was able to spend Christmas in their NEW apartment! Cynthia's family is the first family to enter the NEW program in Covington thru the Lincoln Grant Scholar House (LGSH). The LGSH is a program for single mother's that want to go back to school. This program will house families in apartments, provide child care; as long as the mother is in school. The program will allow participants to stay from Associates to Bachelors all the way thru Masters Degrees. The mothers do have to participate in community service on the grounds of the apartment complex. We are very proud of Cynthia for following her dreams and believing in herself enough to chase her dreams! If you are interesting in helping, contact Sarah Lester or Teresa Knauer.

Relay for Life of Campbell County

Friday, May 12-Saturday, May 13

6 pm-6 am – Ft. Thomas Tower Park

Website: RelayForLife.org/campbellky

For Team information, contact Sandi Wilder @859/630-4295 or Jackie Baker @441-7903

For Sponsorship and Donation opportunities, contact:
Lisa McCord @859/991-0822

THOSE WHO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

Liturgist

Feb. 5 Debbie Fowee
12 Amity Kukla

19 Roger VonStrohe
26 Karey Thomas

Coffee

Feb. 5 Linda Krebs
12 Debbie Yeager &
Jackie Baker
19 Amy Meyer
26 Tim Ash

Acolyte

Feb. 5 Lexi Nicholson
12 Cole Johnson
19 Kennedy Johnson
26 Shae Weinel

Communion Set-up: Feb. 5 – Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Ushers:

Feb. 5 10:30 Asbury Turner, Cameron McDonald,
Kayla McDonald and Jessica McDonald

Feb. 12 10:30 Debbie Fowee and Cammy Bihl

Feb. 19 10:30 Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Feb. 26 10:30 Leah McDonald and Shawn Hayslette

**IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ASSIGNED DATE, PLEASE
TRADE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE
KNOW.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE
ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!**



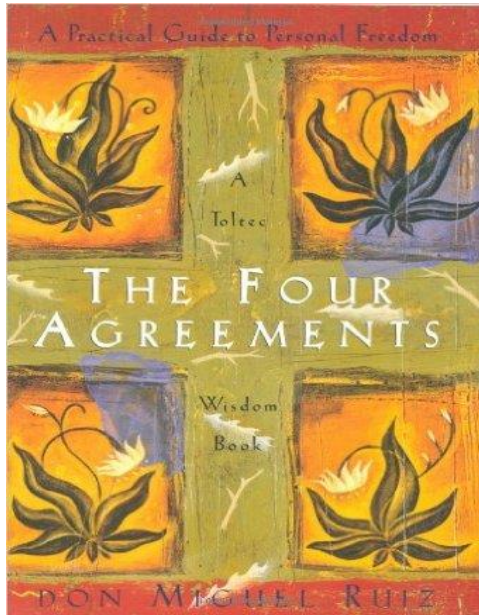
Do we have your email address? St.

Paul's is continuing to work on our communication and social media outlets so that we can best communicate with as many of you as possible. If you are not receiving our weekly Constant Contact emails about events and the sermon preview, please write your email on the line below and return it to the office or put it in the offering plate.

Thank you!

The Church Office

Wednesday Night Class



Pastor Chad will lead his Wednesday night class @ 7pm. We are doing a 6 week journey into the book The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz. Even if you have never attended Chad's class before, you are more than welcome. See you in the parish house on Wednesday at 7pm.

Second Sunday Feast



On Sunday, February 12th we will continue our tradition of the Second Sunday Feast immediately following worship. This will be a potluck luncheon shared by all members of the congregation. If you would like to bring a side dish, main dish, or a dessert to share with others, come get to know newer members, enjoy laughs with friends, and share some of your best recipes with one another. Each month we will always meet down in the fellowship hall for

a potluck feast on the Second Sunday. See you then!

FEBRUARY
Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Carl Schuchter | 11 Gary & Wanda Mulligan |
| 2 Helen McAlpin | 23 years |
| 6 Jessica Coplen | |
| 10 Barb Fausz | |
| 10 Dakota Schweitzer | |
| 11 Shirley Baldinger | |
| 12 Tanner Clos | |
| 12 Taylor Clos | |
| 14 Allison Steelman | |
| 14 Sarah Steelman | |



- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 15 Patty Buecker | |
| 15 Mindy Connell | |
| 15 Michael Pohlman | |
| 16 Richard Barton | |
| 16 Abigail Davis | |
| 16 Fred Losey | |
| 17 Donna Mader | |
| 19 Leah McDonald | |
| 21 Dennis Zimmerman | |
| 22 Robin Stacey | |
| 23 Sherry Bihl | |
| 24 Don Nelson | |
| 26 Julie Behymer | |
| 26 Josie Meyer | |
| 26 Kenneth Racke | |

28 Keith Behymer

28 Connie Gunning

28 Stefan Steelman

St. Paul's UCC

Lenten Devotional Booklet

- Available/Handed out to every family in attendance the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.
 - Written by members of the congregation
 - Those choosing to be involved will select a scripture from the Common Lectionary for Lent (Chad will provide a list of these verses)
 - Person writing the devotional will pray for focus and enlightenment, read the selected scripture, reflect and/or pray and then write what comes to mind. What might it be? Good question - perhaps a personal story or some insight. It will be different for each of us.
 - The reflection should be to-the-point and no longer than ½ to ¾ pf a page.
 - After writing the reflection please close with a brief 2 to 3 line prayer.
 - All of the reflections will be edited prior to printing.
 - All submissions should be turned in no later than Sunday, February 12.
- Sample Submission: Scripture for today, December 13, 2016: Psalm 42
" . . . Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Reflection: This Psalm always reminds me of my grandmother. No matter what happened she always praised God.

Whenever we were at her house we would go for "Sunday drives." On these drives the radio was never turned on; we would sing hymns from church and quote scripture. To this day those hymns and scriptures are part of who I have become. When I feel overwhelmed or lost, I can hear those songs . . .

"Amazing Grace", "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", "How Great Thou Art", and many, many more. I can hear the words to the 23rd Psalm, Joshua 24:15, Matthew 11:30, and many, many more. By focusing on God. . . His words and songs of praise to Him, whatever difficulty I am experiencing seems not so big. I think that is what the Psalmist is trying to say.

Prayer: God of the universe, help me to not only feel your presence today but also to share your love with those I encounter.

By: S. Lester



**Welcome back to our own,
Melinda Schamer!!!**

**Today Melinda will officially take
her position back as our Music
Director. We are so glad to see you
and may God richly bless your
ministry of music with our
congregation.**

Bible Wordsearch

Proverbs Chapter 31

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Puzzle #124

J	H	E	S	Y	U	B	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H
U	U	L	E	T	A	G	E	E	Y	S	E	L	L	S
M	I	D	L	U	N	C	N	T	A	U	G	H	T	V
R	I	E	G	A	R	A	I	T	Y	G	A	N	D	A
E	A	R	N	E	D	N	L	L	F	I	E	L	D	L
H	N	S	E	B	G	T	U	P	H	E	E	R	F	U
T	E	S	R	I	A	F	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E	E
O	E	E	D	E	H	T	O	L	C	P	B	B	R	A
M	D	S	L	T	S	K	R	O	W	R	D	S	O	D
O	Y	I	I	D	R	P	L	A	E	O	E	T	G	N
D	A	A	H	R	N	O	E	A	D	V	F	R	I	E
S	F	R	C	A	A	I	D	C	N	I	E	O	V	P
I	A	P	M	W	F	T	P	H	T	D	N	N	O	S
W	R	O	E	E	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	G	L	D
O	W	R	S	R	E	L	U	R	D	S	D	R	O	L

AFAR	LAND
AFFAIRS	LINEN
ARISE	LORD
BEAUTY	MOTHER
BLESSED	NEEDY
BREAD	NOBLE
BUYS	PLANTS
CHILDREN	PRaise
CLOTHED	PROVIDES
DECREES	RESPECTED
DEFEND	REWARD
DIGNITY	RULERS
EAGER	SELLS
EARNED	SPEND
ELDERS	SPINDLE
FAITHFUL	STRONG
FAMILY	TAUGHT
FIELD	TRADING
FOOD	VALUE
GATE	VIGOR
HUSBAND	WISDOM
JUDGE	WOMAN

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

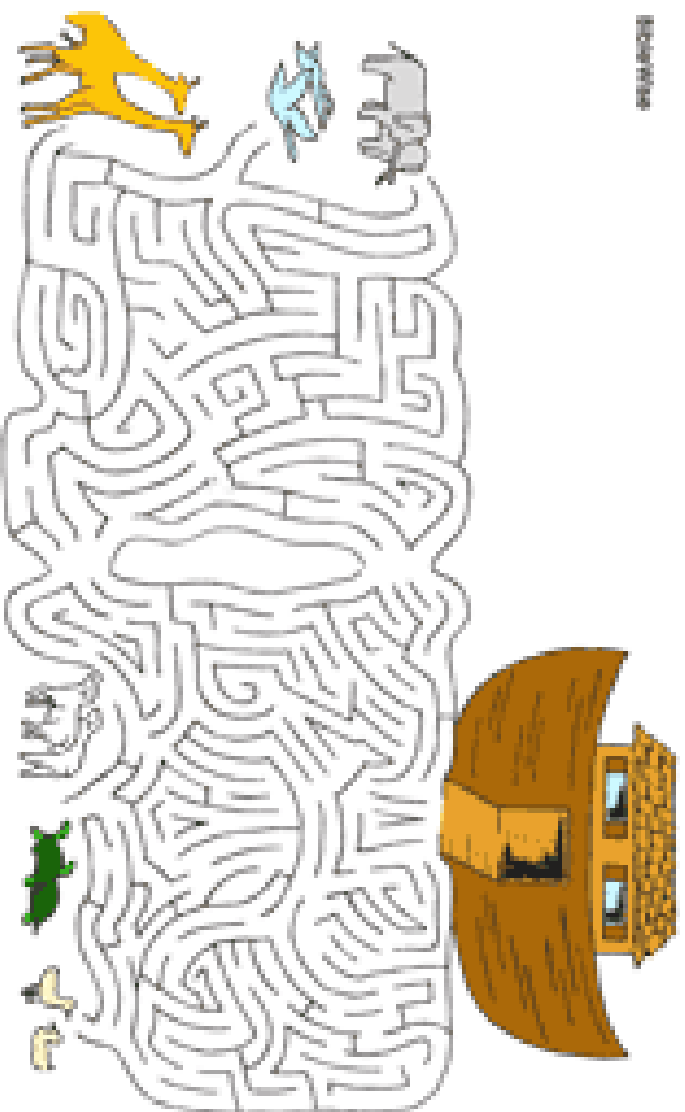
MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

COPYRIGHT 2005 PEACEFULL PUBLICATIONS



Reveries



Reveries: A collection of stories by John and Mary. Copyright 1998 and published by New York: Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.

St. Paul's Church

1 N. Jefferson
Alexandria, KY 41001
Phone: (859) 635-9394

