

# TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

September 2017

## **PASTOR'S PEACE**

A couple of weeks ago, there was a demonstration in Detroit calling for the dismantling and removal of a Christopher Columbus monument that has been in place for long decades. The demonstrators contended that Columbus wasn't worthy of celebration and honor. America was already "discovered" and inhabited by millions of native Americans who were decimated by European diseases that Columbus and those who followed him introduced to these shores.

As it turned out, the demonstration was small: reportedly, not more than two dozen people gathered for it. Media coverage was also limited. There's not much chance that the Columbus statue will go. But this more local episode brought home the kind of controversy that is currently afoot in the American South where there is loud clamor for the take-down of monuments glorifying the men and events of the Confederacy. Given the events in Charlottesville, Virginia where the pro-monument demonstration of avowed white supremacists and neo-nazis resulted in the death of a counter-demonstrator, the monuments business is shaking up our nation right now.

Truth be told, I consider myself a Polish Yankee—or maybe one of the German kind, given my own mixed ethnic immigrant heritage. I have never been sympathetic to Confederacy, which used an appeal to states' rights to buttress the institution of human slavery with horrible and lasting consequences for African-Americans. Those who signed on with the Confederacy were also traitors to the United States, precipitating a devastating Civil War, the bloodiest war in history up to that point. Then when the war was done—won by the North, lost by the South—some tried to ennoble the immoral purposes of their "Lost Cause" by cosmetizing the sin and degradation of slavery. Statues and monuments honoring the Confederacy were erected in place upon place after the Civil War even as parallel efforts were underway to try to keep black men and women restrained or enslaved under the legal rubric of "separate but equal."

I travelled through the South as a kid. Later, I worked as a pastor outside Baltimore, Maryland. I saw the different drinking fountains and the different schools (by then already closed or mothballed) which were anything but equal. It wasn't fair. It wasn't right. It wasn't moral. The spirit and effect of it all definitely wasn't "American," let alone Christian. Personally seeing all that, I understand why African-Americans find

virtually everything associated with the Confederacy—or at least anything that celebrates it—offensive. I would too. As a matter of empathy for fellow citizens who are black, *I do too*.

As anyone knows who knows me, I love art. I cherish history. I agree with the writer and moral philosopher George Santayana who once remarked: “Those who do not know history are condemned to repeat it.” In the United States today we do not study sacred and secular history enough. Many of our young people know next to nothing about the history of our Christian churches, the founding mothers and fathers of our own nation, and the events and persons who have shaped this last century. For all these reasons and more, I absolutely hate to see any statue and monument taken down. We could stand, I think, to erect more monuments and historical markers to remind us of the rich legacy entrusted to us as patriotic and faithful men and women.

Nevertheless, sometimes people whom we have honored, even for a long time, do need to be removed from their pedestal. We saw this in Russia and Eastern Europe, didn't we, as the Iron Curtain fell and the horrors that Lenin and Stalin perpetrated became even more crystal clear? And who begrudged the Iraqis who attacked with sledge-hammers their own statues of Saddam Hussein and then toppled over into the dust whatever remained? Given the brutal regime that slavery entailed for African-Americans, should we expect them to ask for anything less than the take-down of statues honoring Confederate president Jefferson Davis or even the commanding General Robert E. Lee who, cherished myths notwithstanding, has been revealed by historians as a less-than-humane slave master, rupturing much more benevolent practices maintained for generations by his wife's family on the same plantation?

During the first years of the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation when radical iconoclasts wanted to smash and destroy the image or icon of every Roman Catholic saint in sight, Martin Luther, who actually launched the Reformation, preached caution. It was, he said, okay to retain in “reformed” churches the statues and paintings of those formerly regarded as saints *provided* we could, using our God-given intelligence, relate to and understand their role and past service in a new way—i.e., as faithful men and women—without attributing to them special intercessory powers with God. On the other hand, he agreed, if the paintings and statues of the former saints remained for church-goers a temptation to slip back into old ways of thinking and believing, it really was better to have them gone.

On this score, I second Martin Luther. He was being both practical, charitable, and wise. Accordingly, when we are tempted to remove any controversial monument or memorial we need to assess whether there is anything about the person or event that might compensate for what we legitimately abhor—something positive which might persuade us to keep everything in place as it is, or to do so with some added notice or acknowledgment. At the same, we also need to make sure that we and others have whatever maturity is necessary to keep the monument on hand without injuring ourselves and stunting our own commitment to moral and spiritual growth.

As Christians, following Jesus' example, we believe in calling a sin for what it is. Yet we have respect and appreciation for sincere and genuine repentance that can redeem lives and even transform a sinner into a positive example. That goes for ex-Confederate “heroes” too. We also believe in forgiveness, albeit without continuing to glorify whoever has wronged us or others without regret or apology.

In time, every leader has to face the judgment of history. And in God's time, we are all going to have to face his supreme and eternal judgment. This should give us all pause about how we behave here and now--and for the future. What seems expedient now; what feels good, convenient, and gratifying, may be the worst thing in the world

for us long-term because it doesn't uphold God's values and purposes for our shared lives.

Each and every day, let's put a commitment to God's love and justice first in all things so that we have no reason to fear what future generations will think of us, avoiding the way of those whose lives stand forever in the annals of infamy.

Shalom, Pastor Geoff Drutchas

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL**

"Every game is winnable if you change your mind about what the prize should be and your perspective about the players at the table."

— Shannon L. Alder

Rally Day kicks off a new year of teaching and learning in our congregation. It is an essential part of our life and mission. It is a time when we recognize and honor both those who teach and those who learn; all who nurture faith in others. Rally Day provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the partnership of parents and teachers and other congregational members in affirming a lifestyle that is Christ's style. It is a time for the entire congregation to rally behind God's intention that all Christians—children, youth and adults grow and learn. It is a day for our congregation to celebrate their ministry of Christian Education.

It is easy to get discouraged and tempting at times to throw in the towel in response to our chaotic lives and disorderly world. However, we were created to do all the good we could possibly do within it. Sometimes that is as easy as planting a seed and trusting God with the rest.

As we approach the beginning of a brand new school year let us not forget or neglect the One who has already won the battle for us. Through Jesus Christ, we reign victorious and have been granted eternal life. May we continue to celebrate that victory through worship, service and a strong and committed relationship with Christ.

Hope to see you on Rally Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

### **Christian Education Plans for Upcoming Events**

Be sure to check the list of "**Events You Won't Want to Miss**" for all church events including those events hosted by the Christian Education Ministry.

## **EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS**

### **Communion Sacrament Offered During First September Service**

If it's the first Sunday of the month, it must be communion time. That custom still holds as our St. Paul congregation begins a new season this September. A chancel communion will be offered on Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, September 3, at our single worship service, 9:30 a.m. Church members and friends will be invited to step forward to the front of the sanctuary to receive the wafer and cup, symbolizing Christ's body and blood sacrificed for us. Worshipers will be asked to tincture the wafer by dipping it in

the communion chalice. The dipped wafer can be consumed immediately afterwards before returning to your pew.

Our St. Paul congregation observes an open communion. Friends and visitors are invited to participate in communion along with members.

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Reads Gospel of Matthew—Newcomers Invited**

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will be resuming its weekly gatherings on Tuesday, September 5, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Open to all St. Paul Church members and friends, the ongoing study group is currently reading the Gospel of Luke, the third book of the New Testament. Our class will pick up where we left off—Chapter 9:10, where Jesus feeds the five thousand gathered to hear him proclaim God's word.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study follows a directed but open discussion format with opportunities to ask questions and to share mutual insights about the scriptures being read. Although participants may bring a bible from home, copies of the Serendipity Bible for Groups are provided for weekly use. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas leads the weekly study and discussion sessions. For more information, contact Pastor Drutchas (313-291-1221).

### **Family Rally Sunday Service Scheduled**

The kick-off for the "2017-2018" Fall Sunday School program will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition to a youth led service, the young people will be sharing their summer mission trip testimonies and slideshow during this special time. The service will culminate with the installation of the Fall Sunday School teachers and a special family prayer.

Prior to the Worship Service, parents, grandparents and church members are invited to the Sunday School Open House which will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in the upstairs Christian Education department. During this time parents will have the opportunity to complete and/or return registration forms and meet the Sunday School teachers. Please note that all forms can be found on the church's website.

We look forward to seeing you on Rally Sunday and at the Open House and hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer.

### **Double Sunday Morning Service Schedule Resumes on Second September Sunday**

It's back to school for kids and back to a double service schedule for all of us at St. Paul Church beginning the second Sunday of the month, September 10. Worship services will be held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. with nursery care provided in our Family Room at both services and church school for all other youth upstairs during the second service.

A fellowship period will be hosted in Fellowship Hall after the 9:30 a.m. services. However, due to rummage sale set-up during the third week of September, there will not be a fellowship period between services on September 24.

If you have questions about worship services times, contact the church office (313-291-1221). Our voice mail message will keep current with correct service times.

### **Chancel and Handbell Choirs Begin Rehearsals**

The St. Paul Chancel and Note-a-Bell Handbell Choirs will be finishing their summer hiatus and resuming their weekly rehearsals shortly. The first Chancel Choir rehearsal will be held Wednesday, September 6, 7 p.m. and continue thereafter each week. The

Note-A-Bells Handbell Choir will meet for its first seasonal rehearsal a week later on Wednesday, September 13, at 6 p.m. Both rehearsals will be led by our new Music Director Tracy Hoffman.

Newcomers are always welcomed to our church choirs. No auditions are required. You are invited to attend a rehearsal to experience first-hand the fellowship that choir members enjoy. For more information contact Director Tracy Hoffman through the church office (313-291-1221).

### **Confirmation Classes Get Underway**

As the fall season starts at St. Paul, so do confirmation classes for eighth and ninth graders. Led and taught by Pastor Geoff Drutchas and Mrs. Doreen Thompson on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, the classes are intended to equip our church youth to make informed decisions for Jesus Christ, affirming their earlier baptisms. An orientation program for parents and confirmands alike will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 7-8 p.m. in the West Room for all first and second year students. The first Sunday morning class will be held on September 10. The first Wednesday evening class will follow on September 13.

On Saturday, September 9, there will be a day-long class retreat on South Bass Island in Ohio. Our chaperoned confirmands will head to Catawba Point and board a half-hour ferry across Lake Erie to Put-in-Bay. The class will spend the rest of the day exploring the island on bicycle, stopping for prayer and scripture study at various points of interest along the way, including the Perry Peace Memorial, the third highest tower in the federal park system.

In event of rain the retreat will be rescheduled for a week later, Saturday, September 16. Cost of the retreat is \$25, not including lunch. This covers the island ferry, bike rental, and other incidental admission fees. Our island tour on September 9 will include a visit to the Ohio State University Marine Biology Laboratory on Gibraltar Island, a quick boat ride across from downtown Put-in-Bay. Another stop on Gibraltar Island will be Jay Cooke's 19<sup>th</sup>-century castle.

Confirmation classes are open to any interested youth. The classes conclude during Holy Week and Easter 2018 with the actual confirmation ceremony for second year students on Palm Sunday, March 25. For more information, contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

### **Last Chance to Join 'Women in Prayer' Fall Retreat**

There's still a place for you at the upcoming St. Paul Women's Retreat on Saturday and Sunday, September 9 and 10. Led by the experienced and spirited team of Debbie Case, Vickie Snow, and Laurel Plagens, and hosted by the Dorcas Society, this fall's theme is personal prayer—a topic always relevant for us as Christians. The retreat provides an opportunity for women of faith to share time together and reflect on how God is speaking to them today, particularly in the face of Christ's command to forgive. More than twenty women have already signed up for the overnight retreat which will combine both small and large group activities at the attractive Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, Michigan. In addition to group time together, participants will enjoy a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities. Count on lots of singing and shared laughter as well.

Owned and maintained by Spring Arbor University, Michindoh draws church groups from Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio to its beautiful 250 acre grounds, which includes a 27 acre lake surrounded by trails. The conference center offers hotel-style rooms for two to four persons with private baths and linen service in a completely smoke-free facility.



### **Will this be all formal and boring?**

*No, it will be laid back, welcoming, faith-based and a time to learn and grow; a spiritual planet fitness of sorts "a no-judgement zone."*

### **What if I can't make it all the time?**

*Come when you can. Readings and summaries of all gatherings will be provided. If you are away at school and would like to participate let Mrs. Schalm know. She will hook you up!*

### **Fish & Loaves Pantry Hosts 'Par for the Course' Golf Outing**

The Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry will be hosting its ninth annual 'Par for the Course' Golf Outing on Saturday, September 16, 2017. This year's golf outing will be held at the award-winning Lakes of Taylor Golf Club on Northline Road.

The Golf Outing begins with an 8 a.m. registration, followed by a 9 a.m. shotgun start for 18 holes of golf. Lunch will be served at the turn. Dinner will be served at the Clubhouse with bar service offered. Total cost including golf, cart, and meals is \$100 per person.

All funds raised by the golf outing support the non-profit Fish & Loaves Pantry, which annually distributes 1.5 million pounds of free food to Downriver families who are in need. Fish & Loaves also welcomes sponsors--\$100 to \$10,000. For more information and to register, call Fish & Loaves at (734) 992-6284 or check out the Events page at [www.DownriverFishAndLoaves.org](http://www.DownriverFishAndLoaves.org).

### **Caregivers Meet for Mutual Support and Learning**

The St. Paul Caregivers Group will be once again be meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The first gathering is scheduled for September 18. Every session starts with a quick-read article on a caregiving topic before we turn to conversation and discussion. Caregiving tips will be shared by participants who offer mutual support on a confidential basis. Pastor Geoff Drutchas leads the sessions, assisted by Parish Nurse Kathy Williams. The group is open to all St. Paul church members and friends.

### **Orientation for New Lectors Offered**

Ever consider reading scripture at Sunday morning services? A special class providing instruction on how to be a part of this important and wonderful worship ministry will be held on Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m., in the church parlor.

Pastor Geoff Drutchas will lead the orientation session which will provide an overview of the Bible and offer pointers on how to be an effective lector, helping God's word get heard. All materials will be provided. There will be opportunities for informal question and answer, plus discussion about the Bible—a chance to ask those things that have always been on your heart and mind.

No past experience is needed to serve as lector. For more information, please contact Pastor Drutchas.

**Sewing Guild -- Sew 'n Sews --** Please join us for a little sewing and a lot of fellowship at our next meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a sandwich for lunch, dessert and coffee is provided. P/S: No sewing skill required!

## **Red Hot Purple Angels**

**September 22–Friday –Trip to the Belle Isle.** We will tour the island, go to the Conservatory (glass garden house), Aquarium, possibly the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and eat lunch. We will carpool from church at 10 AM.

**October 26 –Thursday** ,- Halloween Bunco – 6:30 p.m., West Room. Bring \$5. Bunco is easy you don't have to know how to play ahead of time. Wear a costume or Halloween shirt. Potluck dinner, please bring a dish to pass.

**November 16** – Russian Tea Room, [The Royal Eagle], 18745 Old Homestead, Harper Woods, MI 48225 - 313.521.1894 Tea served between 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Approximately \$22 per person. Kathy Williams is the contact. Check the bulletin board for more info. There will be a sign-up sheet on the RHPA Bulletin Board for the above events. Kathy Williams is the contact.

## **Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship to Resume Full Schedule of Activities**

The "2017-2018" **Youth Fellowship Kick-Off** will take place on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. All 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents are invited and encouraged to join us for lunch and a planning meeting following the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Youth should also save the dates of November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> for the **Youth Fall Retreat** to be held at Michindoh Conference Center located in Hillsdale, MI. Canoeing (weather prohibiting), climbing wall, game room, basketball, volleyball, trolley ride and a campfire are but several activities to be included on the weekend's agenda. In addition to the immense amount of activities provided, the youth will also enjoy group games and worship.

## **Rummage Sale Donations Sought—Volunteers Needed**

The annual St. Paul Fall Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Friday, September 28-30. Rummage donations will be welcomed starting on the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 5, and can be deposited at the rear of Fellowship Hall. As in past years, shelves are being set up to store the donations. All donated clothing, household goods, and equipment should be **clean** and in a **good state of repair**.

Actual rummage sale set-up will begin Wednesday, September 20, with 'Blue Jean Sunday' on September 24. Church members are encouraged to come to church that morning dressed in work clothes, ready to pitch in to help sort and assemble items for sale.

The Fellowship Hall will be closed for all other activities until the rummage sale finishes. Help is needed to organize and host the rummage sale through the last week of September and the first week of October. To volunteer, please contact the church office (313-291-1221). All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

## **New Members Welcomed on Third October Sunday**

New members will be welcomed to our church on Sunday, October 15. Those interested in joining the church are encouraged to contact Pastor Geoff Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221) or to simply complete a 'Make-A-Wish' card in the church pews and add it to the Sunday morning offering plate. Pastor Drutchas is available to meet with newcomers and visitors who have any questions about our church and its ministries. Our church website at <stpaulucctaylor.org> also provides a good overview of our church life and ministries.

As part of the new member welcome, newcomers receive a white carnation, a membership certificate, and the right hand of fellowship—a ritual that goes back

hundreds of years in the rich and faithful history of the Christian churches. Please do your part to make our new members feel truly welcomed into the life of our congregation.

### **Congregation Hosts ChristNet Week for Homeless**

The weather's still hot. But with fall's arrival the temperature will begin to plunge, leaving homeless men and women out in the cold unless we help. To meet the need, the ChristNet shelter, founded in our own church rooms, will open its doors for another season of emergency shelter. Our church is the first host site on the new season's schedule, extending a nightly welcome to up to 30 men, women, and children for the week of October 15 to 22.

All guests will be accommodated overnight in our Fellowship Hall with mattresses and blankets that are transported week to week between host churches. Vicki Martinez will be coordinating our ChristNet week with backup support from others. If you are interested in serving as volunteer coordinator for our ChristNet week, please speak with Pastor Geoff Drutchas.

### **Christian Education Annual Trunk or Treat**

St. Paul's annual **Halloween Trunk or Treat** event will be held on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the circular drive. In addition to trunk or treating a light hot dog dinner will be served. Other activities will include; caramel apple making, youth sponsored haunted hallway and hay-rides. Plan now to decorate your trunk and to join your church family for an evening of fun and fellowship. Trunk decorating sign-up will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School Open House.

### **6th Graders to Receive Bibles**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should plan to be available on **Reformation Sunday**, October 29<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. During this special service, where the birth of the Protestant faith will be remembered, all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive a Good News Bible. Those receiving Bibles should plan to wear black bottoms and a white top. Watch your mail for additional information.

### **Annual Operation Christmas Child**

During the Sunday School hour on the same day 6th graders receive their bibles, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Christian Education will be kicking off their annual **Operation Christmas Child** campaign. Our goal will be to collect 125 gift-filled shoe boxes for children in need. All gift-filled shoe boxes must be returned by November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Angel Tree and Hat and Glove drive will kick-off in mid-November. Watch your Morning Tide for additional information.

**Christmas Pageant Rehearsals** will begin in November for the "2017" Christmas production, *"Candy Cane Christmas."* The pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> during the single 10:00 a.m. worship service. Following the program a luncheon, visit from Old St. Nick and youth sponsored cookie walk will take place in the Fellowship Hall. All interested actors/actresses should plan to sign-up for the pageant during the Sunday School Open House on September 10<sup>th</sup>. A mandatory rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Children not interested in speaking parts will serve the extremely important role of a pageant choir member. Anyone interested in helping with the production, rehearsals, props, costumes or luncheon should contact Lucinda Chavez or Pastor Schalm.

## **Fish & Loaves Pantry Celebrates Tenth Anniversary with Reception**

A reception is in the works for Thursday, November 2, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry. The event will be held at the Crystal Park Banquet Center on Champaign Road in Allen Park.

A special program is planned with the support of the Downriver areas, including St. Paul United Church of Christ, which have been instrumental in organizing and sustaining the pantry. More information will be shared in the weeks ahead on the Fish & Loaves web site and through our church's *Tidings* and *Morning Tide* bulletins.

## **ChristNet 'Harvest for the Homeless' Dinner Upcoming**

Church members launched the emergency shelter program twenty-five years ago. Today, more than fifty churches participate in the program which serves men, women, and children in dire need of shelter. ChristNet also maintains a daytime program in rented space at the Church of Nazarene on Eureka Road in Taylor. Currently, ChristNet is rehabbing a building on Eureka Road that will offer expanded support services to the homeless to help them achieve greater self-reliance and transition into permanent, secure housing. But the rotational night time program hosted by churches will continue even after the move to the new building sometime in 2018.

To raise additional funds for the rehabbing of the ChristNet Services building, the second annual "Harvest for the Homeless" dinner will be held on Saturday, November 18 at the Orlando Familia Banquet Center next to the Riverview Highlands Golf Course on Sibley Road. St. Paul Church members interested in attending the event can call the church office to join our church's table or order tickets directly at [ChristNetTickets@yahoo.com](mailto:ChristNetTickets@yahoo.com).

## **Save the Dates**

In the spirit of Christmas, ladies should set aside Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the annual **Advent by Candlelight** program. Additionally, families should plan now to set the date of Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> aside for the annual, youth sponsored **Holiday Coffee House and Family Fun Night**. Please watch your morning worship bulletin for additional information.

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

**Shalom** – Chronic disease group meeting. We usually meet the 2nd Monday in each month at 1PM. Our next meeting is September 11, at 1 PM. Check the Morning Tide for additional information regarding topics and/or speakers.

**Exercise Classes** - Exercise is important to our health. Exercise can be done while sitting in a chair or standing. Delessa Hampton will be our instructor. We will meet from 2–3 PM, on Monday & Wednesday Sept. 6, 11, 13, 18 & 20. Ten persons must sign-up to hold class. The donation to the instructor is \$5 per meeting. All are welcome to participate. The Enhance Fitness (4) Sampler Class held in August was fun and well attended. Delissa continued the exercise three additional times for free. Thank you Delissa. We had 20 people participate with 12-15 persons per session.

**Matter of Balance** – The next 8 week session class for those having problems with balance or fear of falling is scheduled to begin Monday, October 2 at 12:45-2:45. The last session was well received. Please make out a make a wish card, contact the office or

Kathy Williams if you are interested. You need to register prior to class. Flyers are available in the West Lobby.

**Health/Medical supplies** –If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact our parish nurse or the office.

## **BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES**

### **September St. Paul Member and Friend Anniversaries:**

Happy Anniversary to the following couples: Conrad and Nancy Heidt (57 years), Dennis and Susan Bennett (46 years), Douglas and Janet Staffeld (43 years), Tom and Eleanor Smith (35 years), Christopher and DeAnna Frazier (21 years), Cheryl and Eugene Kincaid (20 years), Peter and Brandy Ochab (20 years), Howard and Shelly Wilson (20 years), Frank and Arlene Wolfram (16 years), Ryan and April Kulhanek (10 years), Ellen and Douglas Ludlam (10 years), Dwayne and Heather Evison (7 years), Megan and Ricky Barnosky (5 years), Christopher and Erin Logan (4 years), Rebecca and Roy Kronemann (4 years) and Courtney and Ian Burk (1 year).

### **September St. Paul Member and Friend Birthdays:**

Happy Birthday to the following members and friends: Catherine Koths, Esther Perry, Sara Kaufman, Shirley Gratrix, Lisa Wild, Jackie Vandercook, Muriel Baxter, Conrad Heidt, Irene Church, Nancy Heidt, Robert Robinson, John Caufield, Judith Nieman, Barbara Brewer, Mary Lou Staffeld, Rev. William Kren, Arlene Wolfram, Howard Wilson, Loretta Bullock, Shelly Wilson, Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Drutchas, Michael Natzke, Kathy Peters, Curtis Buzo, Diane Poet, Eleanor Smith, Cheryl Stewart, Sandy Armstrong, Tami Lee, Brenda Buzo, Russell Walker, Darla Barbee, Brandy Ochab, John Dykowski, Christine Rogers, Sean Maher, Michael Staffeld, Janice Kessler, Tonya Staffeld, Nicole May, Bridget Stephens, Veronica Flomo, Shawn Block, Eric Grant, Kourtney Blanchard, Naomi Rice, Amber Ostrowski, Lexi Mellin, Austin Ostrowski, Bradley Winter, Benjamin Durisin, Daniel Newton, Joshua Ochab, and Jacob Miller.

### **September St. Paul Youth Birthdays:**

Happy Birthday to the following youth: Faith Vignola, Tyler Staten, Evelyn Hard, Scott Dreaver, Hayley Swain, Josie Lamore, Madisyn Gorbe ad Allison Contratto.

We apologize if we missed your Anniversary or Birthday, but it's because our records don't include all your personal information, please feel free to contact the Church office at 313-291-1221 and we will gladly update your personal information for you.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Building and Grounds Update**

As many of you many have noticed the Parsonage now has a new roof, the old roof was installed in 2001 and has served us well over the past 16 years, but over the years the wind and weather have taken their toll on the old roof requiring that it be replaced. You will also notice that the kitchen has been cleaned and looks great. A special THANK YOU to the following people who helped make the 2017 Annual Kitchen Clean-up an enormous success: Diane Poet, Jim Poet, Pam Lange, Dave Lange, Ron Cornwell, Robin Walker, Thelma Poet, Dorothy Evison, Dan Evison, Jennifer Ruffner, Janet Enesey, Julius

Enesey, Fred Miller, Bob Barley, Harold Fick, Kathy Williams and Dan Case. New window treatment has been ordered for the West Room and should be installed in the next three weeks. The trees around the property have been trimmed creating a beautiful view of our church from Goddard Road. Anyone wishing to join the Building and Grounds Ministry or help on our upcoming projects should contact Gary Staffeld or Dan Case for more information.

### **Michindoh Youth Retreat Throwback**

Christian Education sponsored a youth retreat throwback for all post high school graduates. Many of these young people participated in the youth group fall retreats held at the Michindoh Camp and Conference Center while in youth group. Now graduated from High School, they are employed full time or are attending college. The weekend served as a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old pals, to worship together and to spend a night where so many wonderful memories were made. Thank you to all the young people who participated. Always stay connected, shine His light and represent Him well!

### **Daily Devotional Books**

We have been using "These Days" as our Daily Devotional booklet available in the narthex for many years. I have had a few people tell me that they prefer "Our Daily Bread. I looked into the possibility of changing. The results were: 1) "Our Daily Bread" comes in both large print and regular print ("These Days" only comes in regular print; 2) there is not a set cost for Our Daily Bread, but there is a set cost for "These Days" We will be trying out "Our Daily Bread" for the remainder of the year. We did receive the July -Sept. copies of "These Days" We also have regular print and large print sample editions of Our Daily Bread. Please try the sample copies until the dated copies are available. Copies are available in the narthex. Contact Kathy Williams with your feedback.

### **Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving**

As St. Paul begins to prepare our budget for 2018, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our members and friends. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.



To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.stpauluctaylor.org/giving](http://www.stpauluctaylor.org/giving), locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. St. Paul also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smartphone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR reader. If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact Gary Peters, our Treasurer or Dan Case, Auxiliary Trustee.

### **How can I Help?**

When men and women feel a genuine sense of belonging to the body of Christ, they inevitably hear Christ calling them to care, share, and help. There are many different ways in which you can make a difference in the life of our congregation. Are you ready to Volunteer? New Volunteer forms are now available online to send your interests

directly to our various group leaders needing help in our worship services and various upcoming events. This is simply in addition to filling out a "Make a Wish" card or contacting the Church office with your wish to be placed on our volunteer lists. The electronic form can be accessed by clicking on the volunteer button on our website homepage. Printable forms are available on our "Church Forms" website page or within the office. Volunteer to be added to the appropriate volunteer listings and we'll help you find the right opportunities for your passions and talents! Become a part of a volunteer group and, in serving them, serve Christ.

### **Volunteer needed for St. Paul Sign Board**

The Building and Grounds Ministry is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to maintain our large St. Paul advertising sign, located to the West of the Church on Goddard Road. Responsibilities would be to update the sign as events are happening at St. Paul (ie: Fish Dinners, Rummage Sale, Blood Drives, etc), training will be provided. Anyone interested in volunteering to take over the responsibility for updating the advertising sign should see either Michael Isaacs, John Smith or David Badarak, our St. Paul Trustees.

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

### **B.O.F FUND -**

In Memory of: *Leland Prill* From: Mary Prill, Steve & Debbie Wilkerson

In Memory of: *David Walker Sr.* From: Richard & Beverly Parks

### **MEMORIAL FUND-**

In Memory of: *Irene Anthony* From: John & Julia Cabaniss

In Memory of: *William Schwab* From: JoAnne Owen

### **HEALTH MINISTRIES FUND-**

In Memory of: *David Walker Sr.* From: Cindy Romas

In Memory of: *Mary Magyar* From: Cindy Romas

### **GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND-**

In Memory of: *Mary Darty* From: Debbie Hamilton

### **FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND-**

In Memory of: *David Walker Sr.* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

### **TREE OF FAITH LEAF-**

In Memory of: *Jim & Pat Ennis* From: Jim & Tricia Nault

**THE 2017 ALTAR FLOWER CHART** Altar flowers are a very special way to honor or memorialize that special someone in your life or even a special occasion (anniversary, birthday, graduation, etc.). The cost for altar flowers is \$30.00 (2 vases) or you may purchase a special side vase for just \$15.00. Please contact the Deacon after the service for assistance in getting your altar flowers or side vase. Please check the flower chart for availability of Sundays or other occasions. Please use envelopes found in the pew racks to request altar flowers. You may also contact the church office at 313-291-1221.

**MEMBER NAME TAGS** are kept in the Welcome Center – the brown wooden cabinet located on the wall in the Narthex of the church. Please remember to wear your name tag. They let visitors identify you. If you do not have a name tag, need to replace your name tag, or need to update it, please contact any usher on Sunday morning or the church office. Each name tag is magnetic so that it won't damage clothes. **Caution: name tags are magnetic and should be worn with caution if you have a pacemaker.** Cost is \$9.00.

**PETE'S PLACE DINER REWARDS** program benefits St. Paul. The program runs off a phone number. When you settle your bill let the cashier know you want to participate in the Diner Rewards program. Leave St. Paul's phone number (313-291-1221) and for every \$50.00 spent, Pete's Place will donate \$5.00 to St. Paul. The program is available at both restaurant locations. For more information, please speak with your server or contact the church office. Enjoy a wonderful meal and benefit St. Paul!

**THE ST. PAUL WI-FI PASSWORD** was changed in accordance with our IT Policy. Please contact the church office to get the new Password or contact Dan Case, Michael Isaacs, or Gary Peters during Coffee Hour or after worship services. St. Paul IT Ministry.

**AUDIO COPIES OF ST. PAUL SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** are available for your listening pleasure. Just log onto the St. Paul Web Site "stpaulucctaylor.org", select the "Our Worship Together" tab, then the "Worship Services (Audio)" tab. Directions are given on the Service page. Services are also available on the Mobile application as well. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs or Dan Case.

**OUR NEW E-MAIL SYSTEM** is now functional, and as a member you can now receive your Church related e-mails from "stpaulucctaylor.org". Please make sure you add us to your contact list to ensure that you are receiving all the Church announcements. If you have any questions about the new system, please contact Gary Peters or Dan Case.

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **Christian Education Extends Their Gratitude to Summer Volunteers**

On behalf of all the Sunday School children and members of the Christian Education Ministry, I would like to thank all those who gave so freely of their time to teach a summer Sunday School class, to help with Vacation Bible School, to assist with the children's games at the church picnic, and who chaperoned the "2017" summer youth mission trip. Your servant's hearts are deeply and sincerely appreciated. THANK YOU!

**Thank You to the July/ August Merry Mailers:** Jamie Dowell, Arlene Felske, Karen Hill, Toni Hill, and Fred Miller.

**Thank You to all** the volunteers who helped make this year's Annual Summer Picnic such a huge success. There are just too many people to list all the names. A fun time was had by all who attended. There were many different activities for all ages, a vendor arcade and great food. St. Paul Cabinet.

**A sincere Thank You to the Howe-Peterson Funeral Homes** for providing the large tent and chairs used for our Picnic Sunday worship service and activities on Picnic Sunday, July 30, 2017.

**A special THANK YOU** to Tom Tank and Eddy Brainard for their help in setting up tables, chairs, and tents for the Vendor Arcade at the All Church Picnic, July 30th. Also **THANK YOU** to Pastor Cheryl and Gary Staffeld for the use of their tents. The vendors were very appreciative and I definitely couldn't have done it without your help. Most of all I want to thank everyone who visited the VENDOR ARCADE and purchased items. The vendors were very pleased with their day. For those who don't know, the Vendor Arcade is a big supporter of the All Church Picnic. Thanks again, Sharon Leonard, Vendor Arcade Coordinator.

**My heart filled Thanks and Appreciation**, from when I fell is long overdue. So, thank you to Rev. Geoff, Kathy Williams, our Parish Nurse, and the congregation for all you've done for me and all your prayers over the last two years. I'm truly blessed. Velma McGee.

**Congratulations to our St. Paul Co-ed Softball** team's second place finish in the league! Thank you to all the fans who came out to cheer them on. See you next May!

**United in Marriage:** Anthony Rogers wed Christine Mink Thursday, July 17, 2017. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

**Rose on the Pulpit** celebrates the birth of Maxim Lazar Sterlin, born Friday, June 30, 2017. St. Paul Grandmother is Brenda Murphy.

**Condolences to the family & friends of Lois Linske-Thayer**, who passed away on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the age of 84 years. Memorial Service was Thursday, August 17, 2017. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated.

**Condolences to Tom & Kathy Williams, family & friends on the loss of Hubert L. Williams**, father of Tom, who passed away August 22, 2017 at the age of 92 years. Memorial service is Saturday, September 23, 2017 at noon at Madison Heights Fellowship Baptist Church, 215 West 11 Mile Road, Madison Heights, 48071.

**Condolences to Arlene & Phill Felske** on the loss of Arlene's Uncle Jack Jones who passed away August 24, 2017 at the age of 87 years. Funeral service will be held in Corning, Ohio.

## **WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN – PRAYER LIST:** Prayers are requested for the following church members and friends: Megan Barnosky, Nancy Cady, Olivia Drapeau, Phill Felske, Sharon Ferguson, Toni Hill, Ruth Kenosian, Rev. Bill Kren, Ilene Krogman (Beaumont, Dearborn), Velma McGee, Joe Mayfield, Murl Nieman, Bev Parks, Cleora Pattenaude, Alex Pedersen, Kathy Peters, Shirlen Powell, Kevin Staffeld, Tom Williams, and Carol Wioncek. *Please contact the church office if your family member or friend needs to be listed longer than three weeks or their health has been restored.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION'S EXTENDED FAMILY:** Justin Collins (son-in-law of Gerri King), Roy DeBolt (father Michelle Vignola), Andrea Gunther (wife, Mark Gunther), Lynn Harbin (sister, John Smith), Tamsey Hoffman (friend, Sue

Mrowka), Dennis Koschnitzke (brother, Cheryl Kincaid), Courtney Matthew McEachern, Kim McEachern (daughter-in-laws, Helene & Neil McEachern), Nicki Pappas (friend, Velma McGee), Brian Reid (friend, Sue Mrowka), Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Cookie Robinson (sister, Bob Robinson), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Joyce Smith (sister, the late Harry Thompson), Aaron St. Louis, in hospice (nephew, Marjie & Charlie Barnard), Nicholas Surre (great- grandson, Helene McEachern), Paul Tetreau (nephew, Kathy & Gary Peters), Anna Thompson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS' PARENTS:** Michael Bailey (father of Christie Smart), Jan Filpus (mother of Julia-Joy Miller), Carol Kuhn (mother-in-law of Lori Kuhn), Stella Ludlam (mother-in-law, Ellen Ludlam), Bill Pinage (father of Brenda Buzo), Cheryl Schwab (mother of Mary Hard & Christine Schwab), and Frank Small (father of Chris Chavez).

**CHURCH MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN NURSING OR REHAB CARE:** Mary Dubke (Marywood Nursing Care Center, W Five Mile Rd, Livonia, 48154), Melva Haglund (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193), Helen Parrish (9637 Janet, Taylor, 48180), Eleanor Rossi (Maple Heights, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, MI 48101), Melissa Rossi (17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125), Vernagene Schafer (Borgess Gardens, 3057 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, 49048), Ben Scherf (904 E. Lake Mitchell Dr., Cadillac 49601), Betty Steinhauer (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd. Riverview, 48193) Grace Torango (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193), and Lisa Wild (Anestic Care Residence, 21071 Tiffany Dr., Woodhaven, 48183).

#### **REMEMBER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN OUR MILITARY**

President Donald Trump, John DeGroat (friend, Don Gardner), Brandon Felske (Air Force, Grandson, Phill & Arlene Felske), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Tyler Gillespey (Army, Tacoma, Washington, grandson, Murl & Judy Nieman), Jeremy House (Army, nephew, Ennis & Ostrowski families), Ens. Elizabeth Huntoon (Italy, friend, Jackie Jacobs), James Hurst, Ryan Jernigan (Marines, nephew, Cindy Romas), Kevin Johnson & Stephen Johnson (Navy, grandsons, Patricia Olson), PFC Mitchell Kaczmarek (Marines, nephew, Dan & Lisa Childress), Ryan Klimek (son, Troy & Sheila Klimek), Shawn Laque, Jeff Lassa (Air Force Reserve, son, Evelyn Lassa), Kyle Lassa (Korea, son, Evelyn Lassa), Michaela Lassa (Indiana, Air Force Reserve, daughter-in-law of Evelyn Lassa), Brett Lubic, Chuck Lundine (Nebraska), Brian McCleary (Iraq, brother, Michael McCleary), Jaden Maus (Air Force, Guam, grand-daughter, Dave & Pam Badarak), Michael Olsen (friend, Richard Williams), CPL Michael Ounanian (Marines, Afghanistan, Grandson, Barb Williams, Volunteer, Fish & Loaves), Dain Runyan (Marines, nephew, Cindy Romas), David Schafer (grandson, late Muriel & late Harold Schafer), Nick Sell (friend, Don Gardner), Sam Smith (nephew, Jeanne & Gene Edwards), Lawrence Stephens (Air Force, New Jersey), Gary Szekely (nephew, Will Tank), Garrett Waggoner (Navy, son, Heidi & David Waggoner), Jason Warner (step-son, Wendy Warner), Christopher Wendt (Navy, Florida, nephew, Cindy Romas), and Brandon Williams (brother, Heather Williams Dykowski).

Link to our online: [CHURCH CALENDAR](#)