



August 2011

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL



"The LORD is
my shepherd,
I shall not want."
Psalm 23:1, NRSV

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FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Dr. Will Stackhouse

Building Love That Lasts

"Live for the moment. Nothing lasts forever." This is the message that our culture offers us today. This is simply not what Jesus had to say. The mission of the gathered family of the church is to teach people how to live and love for a lifetime. If we are on the wrong road, we need to make a u-turn, for this is what Jesus is all about and the gift of a fresh start offered to us.

The first step taken in this u-turn is tenderness. When you read the Bible, it is amazing how many times Jesus touches someone's life. Jesus touched senior adults, young people, sightless individuals and those who society marked as untouchable. In the time of Jesus, people would cry out "TOUCH ME!" Jesus knew the power of touch and demonstrated God's love for all people. A short piece written by Radmacher-Hersey tells an interesting story about tenderness in the family (and a family is either nuclear or extended). *"May this be the place from which you launch your dreams. May this be the castle from which you go forth to conquer and return to celebrate and rest. May this be the dance at which you learn to craft a confidence and eased. In these rooms may you discover the tools to build your vision-or may you have the grace to seek that which you need so that your spirit may soar. May you always know your family as our safe and good home."* This is how Jesus deals with people over and over. The Bible says it in words far better than mine - *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has nothing to do with punishment* (I John 4:18a - NIV). Jesus never used fear to motivate people, neither did He use shame or duty. Shame says, "Aren't you ashamed that you have hurt me and broken my rules?" Duty says, "Don't you know you are supposed to obey me because I am the one

who has given so much for you?" Jesus refused to use that. He challenged people and gave them a vision to work towards.

Jesus also came to liberate us to what we can become. Have you ever looked at the variation in creation? We are all made differently, individually. No one of us is like anyone else and never will be. You are a unique creation and you are loved individually. To have real freedom means to be set free to be what Jesus created us to be. Society tells us that freedom is being set free from restraints, responsibilities and authority. That doesn't work and is false freedom. Jesus brings us the freedom to be what we were created to be. In our home, that means we can be free to use our gifts in an atmosphere where it's OK to fail - to mess up.

There is also the power of touch. Consider the power of a young psychiatrist in New York. This young man was such a rebel that when he graduated from his graduate program the only place he could find a job was in a home for senior adults who were sick and out of touch with reality. Soon after starting work, amazing transformations began to take place. Some people who had been there for years had recovered and were able to move back into the mainstream of life. When asked what he was doing, although initially reluctant to share, he finally relented. He would simply go in each day and pick up the residents and hold them like babies. When they did not know where to go, he gave them boundaries and corrected them gently like babies. These people had regressed back into childhood, some infancy. He began treating them on a level in which he found them and they began to move from there, through gentle and loving touch, to the state of wellness. This is the reason we have the greeting of one another during worship. This is where people touch each other and show the love and peace of Jesus.

(Continued on Pg. 2)

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fear in love.
But perfect love
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because fear
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I John 4:18a (NIV)

Building Love (Continued from Pg. 1)

Jesus came to bring tenderness because He knew the power of love lasted. We are encouraged to bring this same type of tenderness to others.

Jesus can take our lives, our homes, our church family, or place of work and offer each of us a vision and the challenge to succeed. Too many times, we think we can make people do well by making them feel bad. Jesus never did that. Be loyal to yourself for you are royalty. You were born a child of the king. We can live that way and help others to live like this because we know we are loved and accepted. We can pick ourselves up again and dust ourselves off and begin again for that is true freedom.

Hope is the most important thing that Jesus brings to us. In this post Easter Season, we can begin to feel and live this in our daily lives. Hope knows that you can change. Do you believe that? Jesus says, "YES!!" There are unfortunately many who live without that kind of hope. Jesus came to change all of that. Jesus brings us real hope!!

Tenderness, vision, liberty and hope. Everything that Jesus offers us is good for us. Jesus wants to make the place where you live and worship a place where those you meet can experience that wonderful and fulfilling love that Jesus offers. In this special season of Ordinary Time, give it a try. It will make all the difference.

Grace and Peace!

LETTERS TO ST. PAUL

Excerpts From *One Great Hour of Sharing* Administrator, Susan Sanders' letter to St. Paul:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous gift to the United Church of Christ Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief fund. We recorded your gift of \$1000.00 on 5/26/11.

Our hearts ache for our sisters and brothers in Japan who have been impacted by the earthquake and tsunami which struck Northeast Japan in March 11. Even Japan, a developed country with among the most sophisticated disaster preparation and response systems in the world, needs the help of its world-wide neighbors in the wake of such a disaster.

The United Church of Christ is supporting the relief response of our partners the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ) and Church World Service (CWS).

Work focuses on:

- the distribution of requested relief items through 100 evacuation centers which include food, water, hygiene items, clothing and fuel.*
- stationary clinics and mobile medical services in Natori, Iwanuma and Rikuzentakata cities.*
- counseling services for pregnant women and women with young children to secure safe and private spaces for these women and children living in crowded sites.*

Thank you ...

From Rev. Virginia Duffy:

Dear St. Paul Friends,

Thank you very much for hosting the celebration of my 45th anniversary of ordination! What a day it was!

I only knew that I would be presented a certificate by SONKA Association Minister Rev. Ruth Brandon. There were beautiful flowers on the altar from you and a side arrangement sent by my former congregation, Philippus UCC. The Choir was there, although they're usually on hiatus on this day. Those present were so wonderfully welcoming from the time I entered the building, through the worship service and reception. Lots of hugs.

Rev Ruth Brandon told the congregation about some of my history, credentials and experience in ministry. I didn't know she was going to do that. Yes, I've been around a long time. Pastor Will, always welcoming to me, included me in his prayer for the day, and I am grateful. Prayer is very important to me. To pray for others and for others to pray for me brings me strength. Margaret Maybury referred to that when she presented me with the gift of a ceramic angel. On it were the words "I said a prayer for you today". Thank you.

In thanking the congregation for hosting the celebration, the warm and joyful welcome, and the gift, I told those gathered that I had come across a scripture a while ago which reminded me of you. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." (1:1-11)

Following worship we gathered in Fellowship Hall for a lovely reception. The Council members and friends had arranged for fruits, veggies and cheese, cupcakes and brownies, punch and coffee. It was an opportunity to catch up with people I hadn't seen since I left you in mid-November. More hugs and joy.

What a wonderful day! Thank you so very much. You have no idea how much this event meant/means to me. Thank you for this great gift. Thank you for your continued prayers for me. Please know you continue to be in my prayers as individuals and as a congregation.

From Mildred Stephens:

Dear Friends,

My overwhelming "thanks" are extended to the Good Friends Group that presented me with such a wonderful gathering. The lovely plaque FAITH-FAMILY-FRIENDS has a special place for viewing in my apartment. It's truly a TRI-F. The lovely card was also very much appreciated from my wonderful friends.

Also, I want to mention how appreciative I was that many of you helped celebrate at the Coffee Hour. St. Paul members are the "GREATEST". May God bless all of you.

Installation of Officers

On Sunday, August 7th, during worship, our elected church officers will be installed. Plan to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2011 GRADUATES



High School

Evan Heitman - Colerain High School, and will be attending Cincinnati State and Technical College in the fall.

Steven Krieger - Colerain High School, and will be attending the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering and Applied Science in the fall.

Megan Reed - Northwest High School, and will be attending the University of Cincinnati, majoring in either Secondary Education or Business.

College



Heather Page - University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a minor in Chemistry. Heather has received University honors and Departmental honors in Marine Biology.

Kristen Woods - University of Cincinnati with a Master in Art Education.

2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The recipients of the 2011 Patricia and Verna Zwoster Scholarship are:

Tiffany Bryant - University of Cincinnati, majoring in Communication with a Deaf Studies Certificate.

Jacob Cain - Miami University, majoring in Anthropology.

Kyle Davis - Bowling Green University, majoring in Environmental Science

Brittney Heitman - University of Cincinnati College of Education, majoring in Special Education.

Kristin Leist - Indiana University at Bloomington, majoring in Exercise Science with a minor in Medical Science.

Billy Page - Miami University, majoring in Finance and Accountancy.

Katie Reed - Wittenberg University, majoring in Education with a minor in Art.

Megan Reed - University of Cincinnati, majoring in Secondary Education or Business.

TRANSITIONS

Called home

Ruth Meier	06/03/11
Norma Schmid	07/11/11
Jan Frost	07/12/11
Ralph Miller	07/12/11

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In loving memory of
Virginia Fassnacht

Mrs. Ellie Davis

In loving memory of
Willis Kuhlman

TRI-F

In loving memory of
Ruth Meier

The Family of Robert and Dorothy Koerner

In honor of
Rev. Virginia Duffy

The Polypals

VOCALISTS AND MUSICIANS

Anyone interested in participating in the music program at St. Paul is encouraged to contact the church office or Rick Tallarigo. Choir practice will resume Wednesday evening August 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Chapel. Vocalists and musicians interested in performing are encouraged to contact Rick for available dates throughout the summer and throughout the year. Rick and the choir thank the St Paul community for all the support and encouragement throughout this past year.

Join the Movement

Widening the Welcome II

Inclusion for All

September 29 - October 1

Columbus, Ohio

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40

Register today!

Early registration
ends Sept. 9th.

Regular registration
ends Sept. 25th



At least one out of four families in your congregation is affected by a mental illness/brain disorder or disability.

Join the movement -- *Widening the Welcome: Developing the life of congregations to include persons with disabilities and persons with mental illness/brain disorders and their families.*

[It's a movement within the United Church of Christ!](#)



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Teri Stackhouse will be attending this event, and is encouraging as many as possible to attend. For more information, please contact Teri Stackhouse or the church office.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” - Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Vicki Prather	Debbie Holstagge	Kim Caudell
Michael Chalfin	Gladys Elsasser	Dianne Rogge
Alma Weimer	Dottie Mayer	Harold Varnau
Kay Sheppard	Ed Sharpshair	Alex & Will, twin great-grandsons of
Andy & Jen Elsasser	Cindy Fields	Marion Zeinner
Naomi Blum	Charlene Bracker	Sarah Krebs
Curtis True	Gary Engel, friend of the Klueseners	Mary Richter, friend of the Manifolds
Bob Jensen	Bill Osterbrock	Myrlee Sheward
Jim Rogers	Bonnie Schwab	Lee Suman
Maurice Jennings	Bob Samad	Ruth Purcell, friend of Lois Bates
Danny Kelly	Ann Reynolds, friend of Pat Sutton	Joan Swartz, mother of Teri Stackhouse
Joan Mohr	Sarah Sheers, friend of Al & Dolores	Adam Ballman
The Sess family	Molter	Marian Faller
Ann Schnee	Ina T. Ames	Imre Forbes
Wilma Madden	Jeanette Brunsman	Anne Timme
Nola Godfrey	Gay Steinhauer	Stefani Stephens, granddaughter-in-law of
Margaret, Jim LeVallee's sister	Anne Elsasser	Mildred Stephens.
Shirley Stephens Resi	Frank Lienhart, relative of Grace Lienhart	Laura Bierkan
Jordan Ribariu, nephew of Jean	Sue Johnson, friend of the Lucille Walters	Larry Hyer, friend of the Deans
Schmadel	family	The Merk family
Bill Lienhart	Carol Rhyner, friend of Judith Lewis	The Huff/Schmid/Woods families
Debbie Renfro	Combs	The Miller family
Betty Theders	Nan Grow, friend of Roxanne Reed and all	The Cornish family
Michele Nucklos	the church sisters	Our Servicemen

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Submitted by Carolyn Dykes

TRI-F will be selling 2012 Entertainment Books starting in mid-August. Price: \$30.00 each (with \$5.00 going to the church's General Fund for each book sold). For more information, please call Carolyn Dykes at 521-5606.

Don't forget the Rummage Sale scheduled for Saturday October 8, 2011. We are collecting now.

Pick up is available for large items or loads.

For more information, call Carolyn Dykes at 521-5606.

We wish a very Happy Birthday to....

08/03	Harry Bowman	08/10	Melissa Dermody	08/23	Shirley Brown
	Adam Ballman	08/12	Madison Dermody		Melitta Marx
08/04	Katherine Sheppard	08/13	Jim LeVallee		Deborah Beresford
	Opal Howard	08/14	Charles Brown	08/24	Rachel Bierkan
	Allen Harman		Kyle Davis		Victoria Smith
	Don Beresford	08/15	Robert Kelsey	08/25	Frieda Bernhardt
08/05	Pete Amrein		Kelley Woods	08/26	Heather Page
	Vicky Ritz	08/16	Patricia Yung	08/27	Alexander Doty
	Kristin Leist	08/19	Joyce Seesing	08/28	Bonnie Reed
08/09	Naomi Blum	08/21	Don Dumford	08/30	Tommie Jenkins
	Kara Bray	08/22	Willard Maier		Ruth Hoeweler

Clergy

Senior Minister: *Rev. Dr. Will Stackhouse*

Church Council

Officers

<i>Rick Davis</i>	President
<i>Jan Apro</i>	Vice President
<i>Nancy Ballman</i>	Secretary
<i>Mike Bartholomew</i>	Finance

Members

<i>Ryan Davis</i>	Facilities Team Leader
<i>Marge Fassnacht</i>	Care Team Leader
<i>Lois Manifold</i>	Welcome Team Leader
<i>Vicky Ritz</i>	Worship Team Leader
<i>Linda Woods</i>	Nurture Team Leader



Organizations and Ministries

ACTS	<i>Lynn & Paul Kluesener</i>
Chancel Choir	<i>Rick Tallarigo</i>
Crafty Critters	<i>Diane Banker</i>
Handbell Choir	<i>Howard Page</i>
Health Ministries	<i>Linda Woods</i>
Hospital Callers	<i>Alice Graber</i>
Kitchen Team	<i>Sonya Heitman</i>
Old Friends	<i>Ellie Reed</i>
Prayer Chain	<i>Evelyn Osterbrock</i>
Pre-School	<i>Karen Rieman, Director</i> <i>Lynn Kluesener, Liaison</i>
Scouting	<i>Judith Lewis-Combs, Liaison</i>
Sunday Church School	<i>Evelyn Osterbrock</i>
TRI-F	<i>Carolyn Dykes</i>
Women of St. Paul	<i>Lois Bates</i>

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..." -1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Our Mission

What we are: A body of believers who worship and fellowship together, honoring and glorifying God, while seeking to carry forward the ministry and mission of our Saviour Jesus Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our mission is: To seek the fullness of our Creator's grace, to strive always to walk together in God's way, and to invite others to join with us in ministering to our community and the world.

We believe in:

- God the Creator of all that is and Jesus Christ as the sole Head of the Church and the Holy Spirit as our Guardian, Guide, and Stay.
- A ministry of all believers, one to another, in the spirit of love.
- Creative worship that praises God and lifts the human spirit.
- Education that is transforming – knowledge of the Bible, the human self and the world.
- Open communication, teamwork, and mutual respect.
- Fellowship that binds us together as we face the challenges and opportunities that lie before us.

Adopted by Church Council on September 18, 1995





THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL



St. Paul United Church of Christ
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E-mail: office@stpaulnch.com

Church Staff:
Dr. Will Stackhouse, Senior Minister
Evelyn Osterbrock, Minister to Children
Rick Tallarigo, Organist/Interim Music Director
Lois Singleton, Office Administrator
Jim Maybury, Sexton
Don Beresford, Treasurer

Office Hrs: 9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Mon.–Friday

Parish Nurses: Vicki Celenza, R.N., Coordinator
Roxanne Reed, R.N.

Nursery School Staff: Karen A. Rieman, Director
Christine Angst, Susan Ehrhardt, Judy Staudigel, Cheri Thinnes, Cindy Warman

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