



# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL



January 2012

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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## FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

*By Pastor Will Stackhouse*

### New Beginnings

At the end of an old year and the beginning of a new one we usually become more aware of time. It is a time I always ask myself the question about how I am using the time and experiences of my life. Am I moving away from pettiness? Is my "ego" less touchy? Am I kinder and more thoughtful to others? What are the questions you can ask yourself that will give some indication of the direction your life is moving?

In a helpful book *A Touch of Wonder*, Arthur Gordon shared an experience that spoke to me. A decision had to be made involving considerable risk so sharing the struggle with a friend said, "I'd go ahead if I were sure I could swing it...but." Gordon said, "My friend looked at me for a moment then scribbled ten words on a scrap of paper and pushed it across the desk toward me. I picked it up and read in a single sentence the best advice I had ever had.."BE BOLD AND MIGHTY FORCES WILL COME TO YOUR AID."

To Gordon being bold was not an invitation to be reckless or foolhardy, but a deliberate decision to stretch and extend the self beyond where we have been before...beyond what we are absolutely certain we can handle.

From time to time the normal flow of life puts us in a position where we have to take what for us is a bold step. I saw a TV commercial once that reminded me of this reality. A mother was standing with her little boy at the bus stop on the first day of school. As they wait the mother holds her child's hand and begins imagining the child's future as images flash on the screen. Between scenes the camera returns to the bus stop as the bus is approaching and the mother is slowly letting go of her child's hand. Finally the mother lets go completely and the child boards the bus.

The parting is dramatized as being painful to both the child and the mother but a necessary stage in the life of each, one of many that is to come.

This breaking away, the releasing of ourselves from the security of the past, is a continual process throughout our lives. Woven into the changing season of our life, which usually comes on schedule, are the unscheduled events such as the loss of a job, a major illness or a broken relationship.

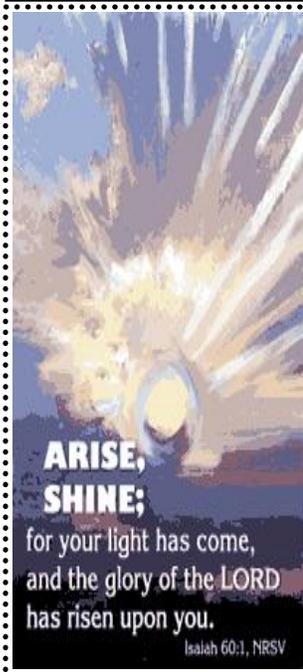
Often this breaking away from the familiar are growth points in life; they are times of risk and heightened vulnerability. They call us to "die" a little as we move from the safe, the comfortable, the familiar. They force us to take a second look at old certainties, to give up old freedoms and surrender old dependencies.

Through the seasons of change and uncertainty our faith (belief) can still bolster us. The uncertainties and anxieties may still be there, but underneath is that underlying confidence that we are not alone and will not be defeated. We may stumble and fall and make some wrong choices along the way, but our defeats are never final and our mistakes are never the last word.

I like the way Dr. Eugene Kennedy put it: "The Christian life is not a die-straight road into the future. It is more like a maze with wrong turns and dead ends, with surprises and difficulties. We make our way through it by always finding ourselves again, redeemed by the thousand resurrections of Jesus' Spirit through which we are healed and can move forward."

I hope the New Year is a good one for you. Whatever the days may bring it may be helpful to remember those lines of Arthur Gordon's friend: "BE BOLD AND MIGHTY FORCES WILL COME TO YOUR AID."

Grace and Peace...



**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

2012, A year of dig and delve

*by Rick Davis*

Well, here we are again. Another new year and another new beginning.

We will soon have a 2012 budget. Hopefully, this budget will be met with the approval by all. The theme of the past Stewardship Campaign was “BACK TO THE FACTS”. As you know, we are still operating with a deficit budget. Our finance committee will meet to finalize the budget for 2012. They will be reviewing the information compiled by our treasurer, Don Beresford.

Don and Mike Bartholomew, finance chair, have been diligently analyzing our age-old problem of dwindling financial reserves coupled with the fact that our mortgage reserve fund has been exhausted. Now, the mortgage, a little less than \$5000 per month, must be included in our 2012 General Fund budget.

The survival of our congregation and our many outreach programs depends on the generosity and sacrifice of our community. As you plan your 2012 budget, please consider increasing your giving if able. The following information taken from the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report from January through December 2010, displays our losses since 2007. Our estimated investment returns show promise but the market is just so unstable. How soon will the future come? This reality will be discussed in our spring congregational meeting.

We would also welcome your ideas as to how to improve our financial situation. It is of Christian service that we and others of past centuries have faithfully followed Christ, and dedicated themselves to work together for the same purpose.

Thank you for your service, and have a blessed New Year.

**St. Paul United Church of Christ  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January through December 2010**

	Projected Year 2013	Projected Year 2012	Estimated Year 2011	Year 2010	Year 2009	Year 2008	Year 2007
<b>Total Income</b>	205,819.96	205,819.96	205,819.96	221,647.21	225,547.75	256,812.72	377,607.49
	310,137.63	300,637.51	291,477.70	282,833.89	264,085.57	306,721.83	372,757.05
<b>Total Expense</b>							
<b>Annual increase/(decrease) of net assets</b>	-104,317.65	-94,817.53	-85,657.72	-61,186.68	-38,537.82	-49,909.11	

Love Offering 2012

*by Rick Davis*

Two weeks ago, Joan Allen spoke to the Contemporary group of the reason and purpose of gifting in this season. The wise men and many others presented gifts for their appreciation some 2000 years ago. As tradition has it, gifting has always been a part of our church family to one another and the community at large. Gifting has always been our way, in the form of a Love Offering, of saying “thank you”! for a service performed out of love for you and your church by our staff.

If you haven't done so already, I invite you to join me today by making a contribution to this year's Love Offering. Place it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail your gift to the church office by the close of this month. Please make checks payable to St. Paul United Church of Christ and mark if for Love Offering.

Let's all slow down and find love in our hearts, that love that a few first experienced through the hope that was and is promised with the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**MINISTRY PROJECTS**

Bible Study Invitation

*By Pastor Will Stackhouse*

For those who wish a Bible study series, please make sure that Pastor Will has your name. There will be a sign up sheet on a clipboard in the narthex shortly after this newsletter arrives. The days would be Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 – 4:45 PM for those wishing a daylight time, and for those who work the time would be 7:00 – 7:45 PM. If there is enough interest in this learning time, we will begin on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. We will continue with Bible study until Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. Lenten Studies begin the following Tuesday and run through Tuesday, March 27th. There is neither Lenten Study nor Bible Study the period of Holy Week. Bible study will begin again on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and run through May 29<sup>th</sup>. We will adjourn for the summer months, as there are those taking vacations. Bible study will then resume in the fall after Labor Day.

Contemporary Worship

*By Joan Allen*

Did you ever sit in church and think to yourself, Amen, to what was just said and was afraid to say it out loud. Or hear the minister, say something and you wanted to stop them and say “what?” How about having a song that touched you so and you looked around and felt that you were all alone when the spirit moved you. Maybe you need to try a different kind of service. Maybe you need to come into the Chapel on Sunday morning and join us in praise songs, prayers and Bible lesson. All ages are welcomed to our Contemporary Service, where you can stand or sit, speak or be silent, in hurt or happiness. We want you to join us as we praise God, and learn together God's Holy Word. We begin at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Come as you are, and be prepared to let God in.

Scholarship Notice

*By the Scholarship Committee*

Applications are now available for college scholarships for the year 2012-2013. These applications are open to graduating high school seniors (2012) and current college students.

An application needs yearly to be completed for each year a student desires to be a scholarship recipient.

The cut-off date for filing an application is May 1, 2012.

An application form can be obtained in the church office between 9:00 AM and 4:00, Tuesday through Friday.

Should you have any questions, please contact a member of the scholarship committee: Sandy Blevins, Marlene Sheward or Evelyn Osterbrock.

TRI-F Shoe Project Update

*By Evelyn Osterbrock for the  
TRI-F shoe coordinators*

Our Christmas shoe program for North College Hill Elementary students had a rather unusual beginning this year. When our usual source of supply was contacted, we learned the source was being liquidated in a matter of days.

Therefore, the school was notified of the urgency, the quantity and sizes of shoes needed quickly rounded out in sizes and numbers, the shoes pulled from the shelves, packed and immediately delivered to North College Hill Elementary school.

The end result was 34 pairs of sturdy, beautiful shoes at a cost to St. Paul of \$370.31. This was a savings of \$232.50 over original retail price.

We are grateful for the services of Sherry, our contact over many years and the Payless clerks who prepared and packed the shoes. May God bestow His blessing on each of them.

To each of you and your neighbors and friends who contributed their aluminum cans and other aluminum materials, a big thank you and added blessings.

To Paul Kluesener who became “Can Man”, replacing the Original, we owe gallons of gasoline and our eternal gratitude.

We love you ALL. Please keep saving those cans in 2012.

Needed

Great Soup Recipes, specifically, “Vegetable Soup”  
Please send or bring your recipe to the church office  
as soon as possible.

Nut/Candy Fundraiser

A big thank you to everyone who pre-ordered nuts and candy, and to those who continue to buy nuts every week. Thanks also to Margaret Maybury and Steve Rogers for their help with the nut sale. We will have a final profit total this month.

Top Sellers:

Judith Lewis Combs	\$ 778.50	Nursery School	\$ 338.75
Melitta Marx	\$ 601.25	Cynthia McGinnis	\$ 327.75
Robyn Thompson	\$ 437.50	Bonnie Rogers	\$ 255.75
Louise Pitcher	\$ 338.75	Jenni Frost Cornish	\$ 171.00

Thanks again!

Your Nutty Committee,

Nancy Ballman, Judith Lewis Combs, Lynn Kluesener  
Bonnie Rogers, Sandy Schneeman

## WIDENING THE WELCOME

## Disabled Persons in the Church Community in Action

By Teri Stackhouse

Disabled persons are invited and included in any progressive and transforming work of the church. Nancy Eiesland reflects:

*The church--made up of all of us--is beautiful and broken, impaired but powerful, complex and gifted. It is this body, the church, which incarnates the disabled God for our world. It is this body which is called to follow in the liberating ways of Jesus Christ the disabled God, who embodied a commitment to justice, and who challenged all structures, social codes, and rituals of degradation that deny the full personhood of marginalized people. This liberating mission is only possible when sisters and brothers with disabilities are integral to the life of the community--when our voices are heard, our experiences honored, and our gifts allowed to flourish. [1]*

One does not have to have any specific characteristics to participate in the life of the church, nor mental, emotional, or physical perfection to participate. When Jesus rose from the dead, he was not physically perfect; he had nail scars in his hands and side, and other scars and markings from his Holy Week experiences. [2] After the Resurrection, he continued to minister, preach, teach, and commission disciples, [3] and thereby to transform living itself. Burton Cooper writes in "The Disabled God,"

*Christ-centeredness leads us to a very different story of the nature of God's life and a very different understanding of perfection, dependence, and limitation. ... In Christological vision, ... God's perfection becomes the integrity of steadfast love, especially to the weak and scorned. [4]*

Cooper also states, "Jesus on the Cross is God disabled, made weak and vulnerable to worldly powers because of the perfection of divine love." [5] Eiesland reflects deeply on her own experience with her being, which includes her acquired disability, and the gift of who she is as a differently-abled person:

*This was my epiphany. The resurrected Christ is a disabled God—one who understood the experience of the others in my Bible study in the rehab center, as well as my own. Encountering this disabled God became for me the source of a "liberation theology" of disability. Jesus Christ, as a living symbol of the disabled God, shares in the human condition; he experiences in his embodiment all our vulnerability and flaws. In emptying himself of divinity, Jesus enters the arena of human limitation, even helplessness. Jesus' own body is wounded and scarred, disfigured and distorted.*

*In his ministry, Jesus builds community and experiences human solidarity with those who are disabled, socially stigmatized, and denied their full human dignity and capacity. Jesus Christ the disabled God is consistent with many images of Jesus in solidarity with all those who have struggled to maintain the integrity and dignity of their bodies in the face of injustice and bodily degradation. [6]*

Jesus builds hope by, with, in and through the community of all believers. Within Eiesland's comment, "In his ministry, Jesus builds community and experiences human solidarity with those who are disabled, socially stigmatized, and denied their full human dignity and capacity" [7] is the core of hope for the church and for the individual in the church.

~~ Blessings and Peace,  
Teri Stackhouse

[1] Eiesland, *The Disabled God: Towards a Liberatory Theology of Disability*, 78.

[2] John 20:19-28.

[3] John 21:15-17; Matt 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-35, 36-53.

[4] Burton Cooper, "The Disabled God," *Theology Today* 49:2 (July 1992) 175- 176.

[5] *Ibid.*, 176.

[6] Nancy L. Eiesland, "Encountering the Disabled God," *The Other Side Online*, accessed on April 14, 2006.

Duplicate of *The Other Side* 38:5 (September-October 2002).

[7] *Ibid.*

**ORGANIZATION NEWS**

Old Friends

*By Ellie Reed, Coordinator*

Old Friends will meet on January 12th at 12:30 in the chapel, winter weather permitting it. If it's snowing or icy check in with the church office. Most of us know to stay put at home if the weather is bad. We were lucky in December to have a lovely day to visit with our friends. The children from the nursery school sang their Christmas songs with gusto. We loved watching them.

Had the chance to stop in and wish John Payne a Happy 95th Birthday. His daughter Cindy had her home decorated for Christmas. He had many friends drop in to celebrate with him. He was looking happy and was obviously enjoying the day.

Had a nice note from Betty Klug to her St. Paul UCC Family.

*Just a note to let you all know I think of you the 2nd Thursday of each month and wish I could be with all of you. Thanks for all the pretty cards you sent this past year. You'll never know how much it means to me to be remembered.*

*Things are going real good down this way. I enjoy each day-but miss all my friends back home.*

*I hope you all will have a Happy, Healthy New Year and a Merry Blessed Christmas.  
Love to you all. Betty*

We had a card from Fred and Charlotte Sess thanking their church family for the cards they receive and wishing all the blessings of Christmas.

Hope to see you in January. Don't forget to bring a friend.

Women of St. Paul

January 10, 2012 (Tuesday)

12:00 p.m.



**“Movie and Refreshments”**

Meet in the Chapel

Devotions

St. Paul Pre-School

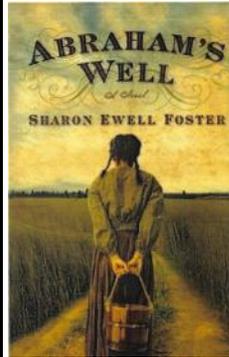
*By Karen Rieman, Director*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!** On January 18, the Nursery School will be holding an information night at 7:00 PM to learn more about the Pre-K program. On January 26, they will be having an Open House from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Help us spread the word. At the Open House, we will be holding registration for the coming school year. (2012-2013).

On January 31, 2012, Sandy Kaiser will be speaking in the Chapel on the topic “Time IN when Time OUT isn’t working”. Everyone is invited, and it is free. Hope you can join us from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

*Reviewed by Evelyn Osterbrock*



ABRAHAM’S WELL

Author Sharon Ewell Foster

Prior to reading this book, I met a kindergarten youngster who had been in his school’s Thanksgiving play. In our conversation, I asked him if he had been an Indian. “I don’t know what an Indian looks like”, was his reply. “You must have been a Pilgrim”, I suggested. His response was he had worn a hat with a few feathers on it.

My thought was - are Indians no longer part of history?

Abraham’s Well is a novel. Reading it seems to make the story real life in the pages as they unfold. The story is that of a Cherokee Indian girl, a member of the Deer Clan. She is black. Her name is Armentia. She is a survivor of the “Trail of Tears”, the movement which forcefully uprooted her family to Indian Territory. During her life span, she has experienced personally both being a slave and freedom.

Bible stories, sayings, and songs have infiltrated into her story. I was personally entranced by chapters 37 and 38 which dealt with the story of Joseph, son of Jacob. It presented another slant for me on the story.

Incidentally, there are also “the three sisters” who play a part. Possibly, they are still playing a part in our lives! Our present push on nutrition might help you to recognize them. This story gives much food for thought.

**THANK YOU!**

A BIG THANK YOU to Sandy Schneeman for so aptly coordinating our gift card fundraiser. This past Advent season has been extremely busy for gift card sales, and Sandy has worked tirelessly to ensure that all orders were placed and cards received in a timely manner. Thanks so much, Sandy, for a job well done!

## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COUNCIL MEETING October 17, 2011

Present: Rick Davis, Rev. Will Stackhouse, Linda Woods, Don Beresford, Lois Manifold, Jan Apro, Mike Bartholomew, Marge Fassnacht, Nancy Ballman

Council President, Rick Davis, called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. and Rev. Stackhouse offered an opening prayer. The minutes of the September 19, 2011, meeting were reviewed by Council. A MOTION was made (Manifold/Apro) to approve the minutes. The MOTION PASSED and the minutes were approved as printed.

### Treasurer's Report (Don Beresford)

- Council reviewed the latest Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement (Budget vs. Actual). Council discussed where we are running high and low. The bottom line, after explanation of the various numbers, is we are running about \$40,000 over budget. A lot of it is a matter of not knowing what to budget.
- Don reported that he is still working on cleaning up various fund accounts. Things are not perfect yet but they are still working on it.

### Executive Committee Report (Rick Davis)

- Rick reported that we have wrapped up Pastor Will's contract. After this meeting, he will set up a date with Pastor Will to sign it.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Don, Mike, Rick and Nancy met to discuss finances. Our situation is getting progressively worse every year.
- Regarding the Zwoster Scholarship, the definition of "member" is up to our church and not SONKA. After brief discussion, it was decided by Council to attack this issue after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, as we are busy with financial matters now.

### TEAM REPORTS

#### Minister's Report (Rev. Will Stackhouse)

- Pastor Will briefly spoke about his talk on "Spiritual Gifts" yesterday and coming up next week. He and Teri will list St. Paul's spiritual gifts, and how they may be used, on the web page. He will also print out a hard copy and have them distributed by hand.
- The list of costuming needs have been given to Vicky Bryant and she will be assisting in costuming of individuals for the Fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve.
- He has begun work on the 2012 Lenten Study which will be on Tuesdays with the 1<sup>st</sup> session from 4-5 P.M. and a second session from 7-8 P.M. (with the Community Dinner available in Fellowship Hall from 5-6:30). It will begin on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and run through March 27<sup>th</sup>. Five video topics have been chosen for this year's journey back in time to the Land of the Bible. He will place an article in the January Epistle with the topics, dates and times, as Lent begins the later part of February.

#### Care Team (Margie Fassnacht)

- Marge reported that her team met today. The budget for Missions is not included in the General Fund. She would like to sit down with Don to go over things.
- Brief discussion re: World Wide Communion.
- Community Dinner numbers are growing dramatically – 130 to 190 people a week. The same people work all the time. We either need more help or cut back to every other week.
- We did a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner this past Wednesday for the Mt. Healthy Alliance. It was successful.

#### Nurture Team (Linda Woods)

- Nurture Team met on October 3.
- Evelyn wants to try something different than the Back Door Halloween, as the numbers have dropped. She would like to possibly distribute treat bags at the Community Dinner the Tuesday before Halloween.
- Thanks to all who signed up for 40 Days of Prayer.
- Nursery School – License renewal for Nursery School is coming up. 2 families requested assistance from the N. S. Scholarship Fund money. The Stop & Shop is coming up in November. The cookie dough sale made a profit of about \$7,500.
- Discussed having someone in the crib room for the very young ones.

## Welcome Team (Lois Manifold)

- The Basket Raffle is coming up.
- Gloria is doing well getting greeters.

## Worship Team (Mike Bartholomew reporting for Vicky Ritz)

- The Usher Schedule is set for next year.
- November 20<sup>th</sup> is the Ingathering Sunday (Thanksgiving). Nancy and Vicky will decorate the altar the Thursday before (after the Stop & Shop). Most of the food goes to Mt. Healthy Alliance.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is November 27<sup>th</sup> and Hanging of the Greens is December 4<sup>th</sup>. Vicky will post sign-up sheets for Advent readings and to participate in “Hanging of the Greens”.
- We are looking into purchasing new candle holders for X-mas Eve Service (paper vs. plastic) as there were problems with wax leakage last year. Also discussed aisle candles. Vicky is looking into all the options.
- Brief discussion re: moving Communion Table and Baptisms back up to the top of the steps so everyone can see. (It was moved down because Virginia had hurt her leg). It should be at altar level so everyone can see.

## Finance Team (Mike Bartholomew)

- To answer concern of Alice Blum from last month’s meeting, Don Beresford compiled the memorials for Paul Blum into a statement for Alice, and Mike discussed it with her to her satisfaction.
- Don Beresford established a 2011 through 2013 Profit/Loss Projection for presentation to the Endowment Committee for the purpose of reviewing our mortgage issues. We are moving forward on these and will meet with Executive around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year with a solution.
- He met with Margaret and Don to complete the Stewardship Drive theme and information. The theme is “Back to the Facts”. Mike went over the dates of the Stewardship Drive tasks. The Kick-off was Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, and posters with facts were on the walls in Fellowship Hall for Coffee Hour.
- Switched monthly fee from “GoToMyPC” (so Don can work from home) to annual to take advantage of the over 20% savings.
- He is looking into UCC electronic giving and will report back to Council when he gets all the information on it.
- A Building Use Fee Schedule is still in the works. He gave Jan a sample from several other churches’ policies for his review.
- Still working on review/clean-up of the various fund accounts.
- Next Finance meeting is Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, after Coffee Hour.

## Facilities Team

- Nothing to report

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussion regarding Contemporary Service. They were prepared this past Sunday but didn’t have any kids. Need to advertise more.
- MOTION was made (Ballman/Fassnacht) to approve Mark Heitman to replace Wayne Schleutker on the Endowment Team. MOTION PASSED. The current Endowment Team and when their terms expire are as follows: Jan Apro, 2012; Lynda Stagman, 2012; Marlene Sheward, 2013; Louise Pitcher, 2013; Jim Gorsler, 2014; Mark Heitman, 2014.
- A “thank you” from Lynda Stagman for the use of the parking lot during NCH’s Alumni Event.
- Rick reported that school Superintendent, Gary Gellert, called him a few weeks ago re: parking lot issues. A camera is now in place and on the alley. Any vandalism will be recorded.
- Margie reported that the church had a call from NCH re: bread on the field after the dinners. Margie told Lois to tell them that is the school’s problem.
- Pastor Will suggested inviting the art teacher to have students do a mural on the wall in the alleyway to foster something positive with the school.

A MOTION was made (Apro/Manifold) to adjourn. MOTION PASSED. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M. with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Ballman, Secretary

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In loving memory of Janet Dean

M/M Scott Leist      Mrs. Lyndelle Murphy  
M/M Willard Maier    M/M Sharpshair-Sloan

In loving memory of Ruth Keilen

Mrs. Alice Blum      Mrs. Helen H. Mason  
Dr. Mary Case        D/M Don Metz  
Mrs. Betty Hays      M/M Wilton Raabe  
M/M Gordon Kahle    St. Paul Critters  
Mrs. Del Yung

In loving memory of Henry Reed

Ms. Karen Albrecht    Mrs. Helen H. Mason  
M/M Peter Amrein      M/M William Mayer  
M/M Jan Apro          Mrs. Charlotte McCauley  
M/M Bruce Banker      M/M Jesse McIlhaney  
Mrs. Frieda Bernhardt   M/M Will Meissner  
Mrs. Alice Blum        Mrs. Jo Miller  
M/M Michael Chalfin    M/M Alfred Molter  
Ms. Ruth Cramer        Ms. Carol Molter  
Mr. Robert Dickman    M/M Steve Rogers  
Mrs. Ellie Davis        M/M Leroy Pryse  
M/M Robert Gilson      M/M Wayne Schleutker  
M/M Howard Heineke    M/M E. Sharpshair-Sloan  
M/M Gordon Kahle      Mrs. Kay Sheppard  
Mrs. Carolyn Kemper    Ms. Marlene Sheward  
M/M Paul Kluesener     Mrs. Myrlee Sheward  
M/M Charles Kolar      Mr. Ron Siereveld  
M/M Keith Kolar        Mrs. Shirley Stephens  
M/M Donald Lerch       M/M Lee Suman  
M/M William Lowes      Mrs. Lucille Walters  
M/M Willard Maier      Mrs. DelYung  
M/M Richard Manifold   Mrs. Marion Zeinner  
M/M John Marx

In loving memory of Betty Theders

M/M Willard Maier  
M/M E. Sharpshair-Sloan

In loving memory of Alma Weimer

Mrs. Frieda Bernhardt    M/M Richard Otte  
M/M Henry Huber        M/M E. Sharpshair-Sloan  
M/M Scott Litwin        M/M Dale Sunderhaus  
M/M Thomas MacFarland   Mrs. Lucille Walters  
M/M David McCoy        M/M Robert Weeks  
White Oak Christian Church

In loving memory of Vernon Bernhardt

Mrs. Frieda Bernhardt

In loving memory of Paul Blum

Mrs. Alice Blum

In loving memory of Janet Frost

M/M E. Sharpshair-Sloan

In loving memory of JoAnn Sharpshair

Adam Ballman  
Tyler Ballman  
Megan Jungkuz

In loving memory of Mary Weber

Mrs. Julia Weber

## TRANSITIONS

### Called home:

Ruth Keilen    11/24/11  
Henry Reed    11/29/11

*Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:*

Vicki Prather	Ed Sharpshair	Marian Faller
Michael Chalfin	Myrlee Sheward	Imre Forbes
Kay Sheppard	Cindy Fields	Stefani Stephens, granddaughter-in-law of Mildred Stephens.
Naomi Blum	Charlene Bracker	Laura Bierkan
Bob Jensen	Gary Engel, friend of the Klueseners	Trish Richards
Jim Rogers	Bill Osterbrock	Paul Nuckols, brother-in-law of Carolyn Dykes
Danny Kelly	Bonnie Schwab	Vicki Sweat
Joan Mohr	Bob Samad	Evelyn Kamleiter
The Sess family	Sarah Sheers, friend of Al & Dolores Molter	Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn, daughter of Rev. Gerald and Barbara O'Connor
Ann Schnee	Gay Steinhauer	John Kluesener
Margaret, Jim LeVallee's sister	Anne Elsasser	Joe Packer, friend of Lois Bates
Shirley Stephens Resi	Frank Lienhart, relative of Grace Lienhart	Elizabeth Kuhlman
Jordan Ribariu, nephew of Jean Schmadel	Sue Johnson, friend of the Lucille Walters family	Baby grandson of the Hahn's, friends of Judith Lewis Combs
Bill Lienhart	Carol Rhyner, friend of Judith Lewis Combs	Cherrie Lowes
Debbie Renfro	Nan Grow, friend of Roxanne Reed and the church sisters	Donna Schlegel
Michele Nuckols	Lee Suman	Wayne Schleutker
Kim Caudell	Ruth Purcell, friend of Lois Bates	Our Servicemen
Debbie Holstagge	Adam Ballman	Rev. Rick Shonkwiler
Gladys Elsasser		
Dottie Mayer		

**We wish a very Happy Birthday to....**  
January

01/02 Ruth Koenig	01/15 Mary Heineke	01/26 Charles Rogge
01/05 Amy Wolfenbarger	01/16 Amy Mayer	01/27 Ron Sierelveld
01/07 James Mueller	01/17 Joseph Allen	Ed Worland
01/09 Vivian Wegert	01/18 Roy Push	01/29 Betty Hays
01/10 Billy Page	01/20 Harold Varnau	Amber King
01/11 Nola Apro	01/21 Leonard Cooper	01/30 Paul Kluesener
01/12 Deena Robinson	01/23 Marlene May	01/31 Sharon Stuard
01/13 Christopher Strecker	01/25 Rick Davis	Katherine Reed
	01/26 Helen Mason	

**LETTERS TO ST. PAUL**

From Evelyn Kamleiter:  
*Dear members of St. Paul,*  
*Thank you for the cards, calls, prayers and remembrances this past year.*  
*I can no longer get to church because of physical limitations, and I miss you all very much.*  
*Thank you again.*

**REMINDER**

Articles for inclusion in the February issue of the Epistle are due in the church office no later than Tuesday, January 10th.



"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"

## 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

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



# JANUARY 2012

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**  
**6997 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45231**  
**513-931-2205/telephone; 513-931-2206/fax**  
**email: [office@stpaulnch.com](mailto:office@stpaulnch.com); website: [www.stpaulnch.com](http://www.stpaulnch.com)**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Comunion 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. - None	2 6:30 PM Scouts	3 Nursery School Resumes - 3s 5:00 PM Community Dinner	4 Nursery School Resumes - 4s 6:30 PM Scouts	5 Epiphany	6 Epiphany	7 8:00 PM AA
8 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. - J. Allen	9 Nursery School Resumes - Pre-K 6:30 PM Scouts	10 12:00 PM Women of St. Paul 5:00 PM Community Dinner	11 12:30 PM Old Friends 6:30 PM Scouts	12 No Nursery School - 4s	13 No Nursery School - 4s Scouts Klondike Derby (Union, Ky) through Sunday, 1/15	14 8:00 PM AA
15 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. - H. Heineke	16 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> No Nursery School 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Council	17 5:00 PM Community Dinner	18 6:30 PM Scouts	19 10:00 AM Staff Mtg.	20	21 8:00 PM AA
22 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. - Care Team	23 6:30 PM Scouts	24 5:00 PM Community Dinner	25 Pre-K Information Night 6:30 PM Scouts	26	27	28 8:00 PM AA
29 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. - L. Kluesener	30 6:30 PM Scouts	31 5:00 PM Community Dinner 7:00 PM Nursery School Special Event in Chapel				



# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
6997 Hamilton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

Phone: (513) 931-2205

FAX: (513) 931-2206

Website: [www.stpaulnch.com](http://www.stpaulnch.com)

E-mail: [office@stpaulnch.com](mailto:office@stpaulnch.com)

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

#### 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

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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