



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

September-October 2012

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FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

High Expectations

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. God’s own people...” I Peter 2:9

In this letter Paul reflects high expectations of the gathered family called the church. They are being called “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...” As we start the fall season of our fellowship with God and each other it might be good to get in touch with our expectations – what we expect of the gathered fellowship.

The gathered family at its best is a fellowship of acceptance. It is not made up of people who think they are better than the rest, but those who know they can be better than they are. Because of this, and at our best, we are called to accept people as they are which sets a climate conducive to growth.

Next, the gathered family is at its best in a fellowship of encouragement. A place where we are accepted and encouraged in the process of becoming what we can be. It is a place where people share their RESOURCES (hint, hint) and insights that assist during all of life’s moments, both difficult and good. The gathered family is at its best when a member or friend loses a spouse, child or other family member. This displays our belief (faith) to those who have not seen and heard that our Lord’s presence makes a difference. We all have special gifts to share with each other that can make a significant difference.

Finally, the gathered family at its best is not only a fellowship of acceptance and encouragement, but a fellowship of the concerned. We are called to reach out beyond our walls at St. Paul and make a difference in the communities in which we live AND WORSHIP. Through acceptance and encouragement we are nourished at the center so we can get out and express our concern through our actions and witness.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Will

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Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

- 9:50 AM Traditional Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:00 AM Contemporary Service in Chapel

Tuesdays:

- 4:15 PM Bible Study in Library (Resuming 9/4/12)

Once again our nursery school is in session. As you arrive and depart during the school week, please use caution and be aware of parents and children, as well as the teachers and director Karen! Do please take time to say hello. Have a great year!



SPECIAL THANKS FROM LOIS SINGLETON

Dear Friends,

It is with a sense of excitement that I am writing this letter, as I am about to take the plunge into retirement, moving into the next chapter of life.

For the past year or so, my family and I have discussed the possibilities of retirement and when that might become a reality. Well, it is finally here! I am being given the opportunity to take the plunge, and I am more than eager to do so.

The flip side of retirement is that I will not have an opportunity to see with any regularity the wonderful friends I have made at St. Paul, and that is definitely a downside. I have enjoyed getting to know, and have felt honored to serve, the congregation of St. Paul. In so many ways, it has been a rewarding experience for which I will always be grateful.

Thank you for the beautiful set of earrings which were so graciously gifted to me, for the luncheon in my honor, and for the many cards and notes of appreciation I have received while a member of the St. Paul staff. Special relationships have been created for which I will always be grateful.

It is my continued prayer that the Lord will use the congregation of St. Paul in a powerful way. I will always cherish the memories that have been created at St. Paul, for the support and encouragement that you have given me, and for making the Singleton family a part of St. Paul.

SAVING POSTAGE AND COPYING COSTS -- BY E-MAIL AND BY HAND

Please know that as a way of saving printing and postage we have printed copies of "The Epistle" available only in the narthex and church office. Pick one up as you do your errands, or before or after worship Sunday. It is also available electronically! Please let us know your e-mail so that we can send it to you! We're saving for our future.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING!
NEIGHBORS IN NEED...**

*The United Church of Christ **Neighbors in Need** Special Mission Offering, one of the five annual UCC Mission programs, is coming to our congregation **October 7**. Please take an offering envelope, view the poster in the entry area, and read the bulletin insert. There is also an informational sheet on the offering with the envelopes in the narthex if you wish to read more.*

FROM THE CALVIN WORSHIP RENEWAL GRANT TEAM

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF the Drama and Arts offerings of our worship! We've had some great dramatic sermons and services in the past. And sacred dance is simple movements to a song or a psalm which is being sung or read.

If you are interested in being part of a short dramatic presentation or a psalm song presented with sacred dance on occasion during worship, please sign up in the narthex in the kiosk area under the video monitor.

All costs -- such as costumes, publicity, and outreach, are paid for by the Calvin Worship Grant we won for the congregation! Anyone can participate, ALL AGES!

Curious, or at least interested? Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, underneath the video monitor, by the kiosk.



THANK YOU'S

From the Senior Independence Hospice Team:
May God comfort you in this time of sorrow. In honor of the life and very peaceful death of your sister in Christ, Anna Shnee: Anna died peacefully on Aug. 1, 2012. Your love and prayers brought such comfort to Anna and her family. God bless all of you.

From Andrew Bierkan:
Members and friends of St. Paul Church, Thank you very much for your cards, notes, calls, and especially prayers in the last three weeks. I am slowly recovering my speech and ability to walk on my own. Though I am not yet driving I am able to be out and about whenever anyone chaperones me... sort of a "Driving Mr. Daisy" thing.

I look forward to a complete return to normal in another month or so. Your well wishes have lifted me up and your care has sustained me. Please keep praying... it's working!

My special thanks to Jan Apro for being my very first visitor other than family. His humor, quick wit and wide smile were just the medicine I needed that first day in the CVU! Peace and love.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever thought about helping kids with homework and reading, working as a guide for youth, providing games, snacks and prizes, cooking a meal, or getting community service hours for your school or work site by helping children and adults become more fluent in the English language? There is an opportunity you might be interested in, available both in Butler and in Hamilton Counties. Background check for volunteers 16 and over is required for serving with youth.

Deaconess Carmen Colon-Brown, outreach pastor at Vida Eterna~Iglesia Luterana (Eternal Life Lutheran Church) of Fairfield is holding a volunteer informational meeting on September 23, 2012. The meeting will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall at 4:00 p.m. at 6329 Tylersville Road, West Chester, 45069. Call Pastor Carmen at 513-503-0343 after 7 p.m. if you are interested!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SHOEBOX PROJECT

By Evelyn Osterbrock

It's that "Christmas in July" time of year again. Some shoe boxes have been quietly slipping through my office doors. Some of you have been shopping, spying sales here and there. Yes, we are going to participate in Samaritan's Purse, so buy yourself some new shoes and donate the box to St. Paul. Should you be doing "box fillings" remember hard candy only and forget the liquids.

Thanks much.



GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF JIM LAVALLEE

Paul and Lynn Kluesener

IN MEMORY OF MYRLEE SHEWARD

By Melitta Marx

Ann Way

Alice Blum

IN MEMORY OF GERTRUDE UHL

Jim Uhl

IN MEMORY OF KAY SHEPPARD

Edwin and Jean Rahn Jr.

Alice Blum

Why Some Things Are Different In The Bulletin

You have noticed that announcements are before we begin worship. Some have asked why? Hopefully this article will assist you in having an answer to this question.

Announcements help to define who we are and what we do in terms of pastoral care and missions (both inside and outside of the church building). While this helps us to understand who we are as “church” in needs to inform us in worship but not invade the arena of worship. With our concerns for people we ask God’s blessing and healing on them. When we talk about fundraising in the announcements this vital need is enacted when we share our tithes and offerings. When we talk about other matters we reflect upon their impact in the scripture and message.

You will also notice that the September Communion service was placed in the middle of worship as opposed to the end. It seemed to me that this close encounter with the living Lord gives us the opportunity to spiritually enrich ourselves before we read the scripture as we listen and learn what the scripture says.

Thanks to all of you for coming into the worship center a bit earlier than usual! Please help others remember that when the bell is sounded at approximately 9:50 AM, this is a call to enter the worship center and prepare our hearts for worship by listening to wonderful music. May we all enter joyfully, as in Psalm 100: *Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.*

Please bear with us as we try to improve as well as educate you about why some things are different as we find ways of becoming who our Lord calls us to be. ~ Pastor Will

+++

Keeping The Change



Most of us, at one time or another, have said to someone else: “Keep the change!” We never say: “Keep the paper money.” Here is the key to understanding this expression and to understanding ourselves as well. We don’t mind too much if we relinquish small amounts of change to another. “After all,” we say, “it is no great loss to me.”

That which is no great loss to us is also no great gain to the other person either. If we have not diminished ourselves to any degree, then we have also not enlarged the other person. In short, we have not done the person any great favor.

In the Kingdom of God we try to overcome thinking in terms of “small change.” Instead of asking: “What is the *least* I can give to get by with?” we should say to ourselves; “In the light of all that God has given to me, perhaps I should keep the change and trust God with the bigger part!”

THE CIRCUS TRAIN ARRIVED! WHOO-WHOO!

Thanks to the efforts of many people, the OLD CIRCUS TRAIN whistled into the station at St. Paul on Sunday, September 9th, just in time for terrific fellowship following our morning service.

Arriving in the big tent downstairs in the fellowship hall, all who participated were blessed. THANKS to the entire Circus Team, and the great Crowd who came, a great time was had for all with fellowship, fun and food. Batting the balls, meeting friends, pantomiming Bible stories, laughing and celebrating others, belting out some songs and eating a great lunch together. Take a deep breath, “grilled goodies” were enjoyed by all as we partook of “the circus chow” with lemonade and iced tea and desserts following.

Those who didn’t board the Old Circus Train, really missed a terrific time of fellowship!

Some ideas from other churches for fund-raising and fun:

We have set up a tent in the narthex and hung stars attached to envelopes over them. Each star has a number between 1-100. Whichever star the person selected gave that amount as a donation.

We have a part-time grant writer that does lots of research, and applied for grants for us.

We do a dinner dance which raises a significant amount of money and also allows for some amazing intergenerational fellowship. Themes we have done were prom (members from 18-60 wore their actual prom dresses, and we crowned a king and queen - a couple celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary!), Sadie Hawkins, Snowball, and Sock Hop.

What are your creative ideas? Let's brainstorm together at our committee and group meetings and bring on some ideas!



Celebrate Pastor Virginia Duffy!
Phillippus United Church of Christ will hold a "Pastor Emerita" installation during the worship service at 10:16 a.m., Sunday, September 16th! Come celebrate with her if you are able. After the worship service there will be a reception for Rev. Duffy to congratulate her and offer her best wishes. Phillipus UCC is located at 106 McMicken Avenue, Cincinnati, 45202

This conference is for people who are interested in ministries of further welcoming people of all ages with all kinds of disabilities mental, physical, developmental, emotional, and those acquired throughout our lives through aging, accident or circumstance.

Register at www.wideningthewelcome.com

Save the Dates!
Widening the Welcome 2012:
Inclusion for All
November 1-3
Columbus, Ohio

"Practice hospitality" Romans 12:13b
wideningthewelcome.com
 UCC Disabilities Ministry and Mental Illness Network



Are you wondering what the little coin counting jar in the narthex is for? It's for you to bring your pocket change, the kind that always builds up on the dresser top when you empty your pockets in the evening. It will go toward a special purchase for St. Paul to be determined by the Council

Giving as many of our small coins as possible will bring joy to the church. This parallels the parable of the widow and her gift... in Mark 12:41-44, and in Luke 21:1-4. In this story, the woman gave all she had, the two coins worth about six minutes of the average daily wage of that time. Give gladly and freely!



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Michael Chalfin	Sarah Sheers, friend of Al & Dolores Molter	Opal Howard
Naomi Blum	Nan Grow, friend of Roxanne Reed and the church sisters	Fred Sess
Danny Kelly	Imre Forbes	Gladys Elsasser
Shirley Stephens Resi	Laura Bierkan	Sue Ehrhardt
Jordan Ribariu, nephew of Jean Schmadel	Evelyn Kamleiter	<i>Dotty Sunnenberg</i>
Debbie Renfro	Joe Packer, friend of Lois Bates	Marty Schwartz, St. Paul Nursery School parent
Michele Nuckols	Cherrie Lowes	George Ellis, brother of Anna Bryant
Kim Caudell	The Osterbrock family	Ed & Jane Obermeyer, friends of Linda Woods
Dottie Mayer	Carol Sharp	Rosemary Kelly, friend of Lois Manifold
Ed Sharpshair	Elaine Perdue, cousin of Alice Blum	Cindy Mason, friend of Judith Lewis Combs
Stefani Stephens	Bill Eschenbrenner, cousin of Alice Blum	Ken Falhaber, friend of Del Yung
Cindy Fields	Charlene Bracker	Our servicemen and women
Bonnie Schwab	Ruth Kluesener	
Gary Engel		
Ruth Meissner		
John Payne		

We wish a very Happy Birthday to....

September & October

09/01 Matthew Cooper
 09/02 Dawn Page
 09/03 Jessica Combs
 Carson Bray
 09/04 Joseph Stuard
 09/06 Timothy Ballman
 09/07 Robert Richards
 09/08 John Allen
 09/09 Janet Dean
 Brayden Bierkan
 09/11 Elizabeth Kuhlman
 Amanda Dula
 09/14 David Bock
 09/15 Mary Lou Heiden
 David Allen
 09/16 Louise Runta
 09/17 Rebekah Tholking
 09/19 Carl Heitman
 Stephenie Fassnacht
 09/20 Joan Allen
 09/21 Lynn Kluesener

09/22 Louis Uhl
 Darwin Yung
 09/23 Howard Page
 Jacob Cain
 09/25 Virginia Fassnacht
 Matthew Allen
 09/27 Stephanie Borg
 Robert Reed
 09/30 Jo Miller



10/02 Ruth Meissner
 10/03 Ann Brummet
 Jennifer Cornish
 10/05 Samuel Stuard
 10/06 Judith Lewis-Combs
 10/07 Jeffrey Smith
 Linnea Forbes
 10/08 Esther Stahmer
 Eric Reed
 10/09 Wanda Painer
 Fred Sess
 10/11 Shirley Resi
 10/12 Carolyn Push
 10/14 David Schleutker
 10/17 Robert Mohr
 10/18 Evelyn Osterbrock
 Gladys Elsasser
 10/19 Melissa Jensen
 10/19 Evan Heitman
 10/20 Kate Eberlein



10/22 Diane Farlow
 Joseph Jester
 10/25 Richard
 Manifold
 Craig Blevins
 10/29 John Allen
 10/30 Heather Kelsey
 Scott Leist

A Multi-Faith Presentation in Word and Song: One Light, Many Candles.

WHEN: Friday, October 19, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Lakeview UCC, Maineville, OH

COST: \$25 per person



You are invited to two exciting events coming this October.

One Light, Many Candles, An Evening In Word and Song, features the famous Noel Paul Stookey of Peter, Paul and Mary! His wife, Rev. Betty Stookey, a United Church of Christ ordained minister, will be reading from sacred texts of world religions. Noel Paul will give a musical response with his voice and 12-string guitar!

Says Betty, "There is a spiritual hunger that is no longer being fed by our loving and comfortable places of worship. We need a way to overcome our differences and see our commonality without fear of losing our spiritual integrity."

Find that spark of the Divine that lives in each of us. Come and experience this unique night featuring an icon of justice and peace of our ages: Noel Paul Stookey! Bring your family and friends. Ticket holders will be treated to a Meet and Greet Reception after the show!



Here's the other event!

An Intimate Evening with Noel Paul Stookey

WHEN: Saturday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lakeview UCC, Maineville, OH

COST: \$45 per person

Noel Paul will perform some of his amazing original songs and a few from his days with Peter, Paul and Mary! This will take place in the intimate setting of the church sanctuary, first come, first served. But you'll get a great spot no matter where you sit. Come and experience this master musician whose music has inspired four generations. Order early, seating is limited!

Here's what the Salem (MA) Evening News wrote about a recent appearance, *"Stookey is the same brilliant impressionist, the same gangling comedian and the same smooth vocalist he has always been. But outside of the group, (PPM), that made him famous, his versatility has expanded."*

ATTEND BOTH EVENTS AND SAVE \$10!

Come to both events and your ticket price is reduced by \$10! So, check out the link below to Lakeview United Church of Christ in Maineville. Proceeds from both events will go towards future similar events and the support of the missions of Lakeview UCC.



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Office Hrs: 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Mon.– Friday

Church Staff:

Dr. Will Stackhouse, Senior Minister

Evelyn Osterbrock, Lay Minister to Children

Joan Allen, Lay Minister

Rick Tallarigo, Organist/Interim Music Director

Volunteers / 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, Carrie Josche, Judy Staudigel, Amy Miller

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

God is still speaking.



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