



# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

May/June 2012

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For an electronic version of THE EPISTLE, please visit our website at: [www.stpaulnch.com](http://www.stpaulnch.com)

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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

## FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

### A Post Resurrection Message

*By Pastor Will Stackhouse*

On the advice of a friend, I read a book titled *The Province Beyond the River* by Dr. Paul Jones. The book is a diary written during part of a sabbatical year he spent living in a Trappist monastery in the Rocky Mountains. As the months went by, he and members of the Trappist community became good friends. The last days before he left were spent alone in an isolated cabin high in the mountains. The monks planned a farewell gathering and late one afternoon leaving the cabin arrived at the monastery just in time for the party. Then the paragraph came that caught my eye:

“It was a very intimate gathering, a kind of revealing in friendship...small groupings, recollection time, with laughter constituting the litany of thanksgiving. It is interesting how with time one can laugh at almost anything...and redeem it. As people gathered, it was almost like a Eucharistic offering, with different monks bringing their own contributions to the party. It was Brother ‘H’ who did the royal act-thirty-three of the finest monk caught trout this side of the continental divide. Golden brown crust of cornmeal and egg. As we ate and shared and laughed, it was crazy but for a flash I recalled the resurrection fish meal of Christ and his disciples, when they could look back and laugh” ‘We did it!’”

That paragraph stimulated my imagination. I wonder if there is any chance it was really something like that at the resurrection “fish fry” that John describes in his Gospel? Do you think there was story telling around that charcoal fire on the beach that morning as they remembered? Looking back at the events of their lives together how different some of it must have seemed from this perspective.

In the diary entry I read, the writer spoke of how with the passage of time we can laugh at almost anything, and thus redeem it. I wonder if that is the way it will be when all of our time has passed? Do you think that might be part of what heaven is all about-that when we at last know everything we will be able to look back and laugh?

I am thinking of what happens when a little spurt of growth takes place in us and we can look back and laugh at a style of behavior that seems comic in retrospect. In Lyndon Johnson’s early years in politics when he would be walking down a street in Austin or San Antonio and would see someone coming toward him whose good opinion he valued...he would duck into a doorway of a store and using the store window as a mirror, would run a comb through his hair a few times, pat his suit into place and do other little primping bits, and then step back onto the sidewalk just in time to say, “Why Joe, what a surprise to bump into you like this!” Surely the time came when Senator or President Johnson looked back at that and laughed.

We would be very healthy people if we could look back at certain patterns of behavior or mannerisms and see the comedy in them. In a marriage, many of us can remember certain kinds of arguments that followed a pattern so programmed that they were like carefully choreographed dances-arguments that left both partners feeling hurt and misunderstood. Then one day, right in the middle of one of these arguments, one or both partners saw what they had been doing for all those years. Maturity looked at immaturity and in retrospect we could laugh.

One of life’s most important assets is a sense of perspective, to capacity to see in a larger frame of reference. One of my colleagues keeps an atlas of the sky, a map of the heavens in his study. He says he keeps it there to remind him as he writes to think wider thoughts than of the moment, this place, and this fragment of time. He said he cannot understand this time except in relation to the total purposes of God.

*(Continued on Pg. 3)*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Stepping out of your comfort zone

*By Rick Davis*

If you were in church several Sundays ago, you know we were definitely out of our comfort zone. It was definitely chilly! Our furnace was down and thanks to Paul Kluesener, once again, a quick fix was made and we were able to hold our service in the sanctuary.

We all have our comfort zones. We go to the same store, eat at the same restaurants, eat the same foods, and even sit in the same pew at church. My family is definitely guilty of that one. So much so, I don't remember ever sitting anywhere else.

Sometime we are forced to step out of our box and usually not by choice. We definitely stepped out of our box when we got Cooper. Cooper is our family dog. Our very spoiled family dog. I guess you could say we inherited Cooper. He actually belonged to my son Ryan. After he bought his first house, it didn't take long for him to get a dog. I remember the first time Ryan brought him over. He was kind of cute, but we couldn't quite make out his breed. "Is he a mutt?", I asked Ryan. "No, he's a Mountain Cur", replied Ryan. "Is that an actual breed? Cur means mutt.", said Cheryl. "No, he is an actual breed of dog", stated Ryan firmly. So, we did what everyone else does when they need an answer--we Googled it. Sure enough, he is a true breed of dog. Actually the story *Old Yeller* was written about a Mountain Cur. I'm sure by now you know what direction this story is heading.....

One day I was over Ryan's house and he was reseeded his back yard. Every time Cooper went out, he was covered in mud. I offered to take him home until his grass came in. Just a couple of weeks.. or so I thought. Well, that was eight years ago. The rest is history.

We laugh about how lucky Cooper is. He is the only surviving dog from his litter. It was his lucky day when Ryan chose him over the other puppies. Cooper is the kind of dog that probably never would have been adopted if you would see him in a kennel or pound. We NEVER would have chosen him to adopt or buy. EVER. Not in a million years. Yet here he is, in our house, no less. Cooper is definitely out of our comfort zone. Cheryl and I have always had at least one dog in our household. Even growing up we both had dogs, but nothing came close to Cooper. He's pretty big, he sheds, and he's not very cute. Although, Cheryl and Chelsey think he's beautiful and so does he. He was aggressive when he was on a chain, so we learned to keep him off the chain in the yard. That seemed to pretty much solve that problem. He's very loyal and protective of us. He makes us laugh all the time. He truly has human characteristics. Whenever Cheryl vacuums, he comes running to her. He loves it when she runs the vacuum up and down his back. When she is finished, she simply says "OK" and he takes off like he's just spent the day at the spa.

He's the most loyal creature I've ever seen. He follows me wherever I go. He can't get close enough to me whenever I sit down and he thinks he's a lap dog. If he lays on the floor next to you, he has to touch some part of you. He will simply put his paw on your foot. If he has to go out, or he wants your attention--he takes his paw and pulls your hand. If he wants you to pet him, he takes his nose and flips your hand up and moves underneath it. He knows the sound of every truck we own. Between Ryan's business trucks and our business trucks, that is quite an accomplishment. He hears them before they even pull in the driveway and begins to whimper. When he hears Kyle's truck coming home from college, he goes crazy. One time I had Cooper chained in the back of my truck and I stopped for gas. I went inside to get something and when I came out, there he was. Sitting by the door of the store waiting for me to come out. He had jumped out of the truck and slid out of his collar and ran across the parking lot. By the way, did I say he was loyal? I don't even chain him in the truck now. He just stays there when I go in stores. However, if you see me in my vinyl interior truck, you may see me on the road with Cooper, looking strangely human, sitting upright in the seat next to me looking out the window. How this dog has wormed his way into our home and hearts is no mystery.

There's no doubt about it. Cooper definitely made us step out of our comfort zone and we are richer because of it. We could have missed it though, if we would have made our usual comfort zone choice. So I encourage you to step outside the box. Do something different. Try a new restaurant or food. Shop somewhere new or buy something you normally wouldn't. Start by trying our contemporary service instead of the traditional one. Learn something new or read a different type of book than you usually do. Listen to different kinds of music than you normally would choose. It might just give you a welcome change you didn't know you were missing.

Someday

*"Someday" is a snake whose tongue has mastered the talk of deception. "Someday," it hisses, "I'll take her on that cruise...we'll have time to sit and chat..."*

*But you know the truth before I even write it, don't you?*

*Someday never comes! Wise up! Invest the time. Send the flowers. Write the letter. Make the apology. Take the trip. Purchase the gift. Do it! The seized opportunity brings joy — the neglected one brings only regret!*

—Max Lucado, *And the Angels Were Silent*

**MESSAGE** (Continued from Pg. 1)

For Christians the resurrection gives us a sense of perspective; it enables us to face whatever life might bring with a sense of confidence and assurance that we can come out as victors. The resurrection was God's message to us that the future belongs to Him and, no matter what our circumstances in life might be, we are standing on solid ground.

On one occasion the historian Will Durant was asked to sum up the lessons of history. This person who had written many volumes on history paused for a few moments and said: "To see big things as big, the small things as small, and how they will be in the light of eternity."

The resurrection message was proclaimed in many different ways on Easter Sunday. In whatever way we choose, may it convey a message of hope, a message of victory, a message that will enable our people (all of our people) to see their life situation no matter what it might be, in a larger frame of reference, in keeping with the purposes of God.

Grace and Peace.

**THANK YOU!**

From Opal Howard:

*Thank you very much for the visit from Mrs. Reed and the flower which she brought. The flower was a breath of Spring and so much appreciated.*

*I appreciate that St. Paul continues to remember me.*

*Warm regards....*



From Ed Sharpshair:

*Dear St. Paul family,*

*Want to thank everyone for prayers, cards and visits in the hospital.*

*A special thank you to Pastor Will for his visits and prayers.*

*Also, a big thank you for my prayer quilt and card which Dot and Gordon delivered to the hospital.*

*With God's Blessings....*



From Fred and Charlotte Sess:

*Thank you for your prayers and lovely flowers. A special thanks to Pastor Will, Evelyn and Bill Osterbrock and Alice Graber for their hospital visits.*

*Fred is home now and doing fairly well.*

*Thanks again!*

**CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!**



**HIGH SCHOOL**

Amber Hancock

- Amber is graduating from William Henry Harrison High School. While a student there, she has participated in:

- Drama for 4 years (Crew Chief of Artistic Design for 2 years).;
- Sound and Lighting for 2 years (made Crew Chief of Stage);
- Prom committee;
- Key Club;
- Choir;
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters;
- Marching Band/Color Guard;
- Principles of Biomedical Sciences (Advisory Committee for 2 years).

Amber will be attending the University of Cincinnati's McMicken College of Arts and Sciences where she will participate in the Exploratory Program. She plans to join UC Color Guard, and is currently awaiting the results of her audition..

**COLLEGE**

Tiffany Bryant

- Tiffany is graduating from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in communications. She will explore employment opportunities within her chosen field.

Stephenie Fassnacht

- Stephenie is graduating from Xavier University with a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts. She will pursue a master's degree in Liberal Arts/Criminal Justice beginning in the fall.

Brittney Heitman

- Brittney will graduate from Northern Kentucky University with a degree in communications.

St. Paul will honor its graduating seniors of 2012 during the morning service on Sunday, May 20, 2012.

We are asking that our graduates be in attendance for recognition during the 9:50 AM service. Should attendance be other than possible, please leave a note for Lois Singleton in the church office.

We offer to each of you our congratulations personally and as a group, and applaud your accomplishments.

**ORGANIZATION NEWS**

**CRITTERS**

*By Diane Banker*

The Critters will not be collecting coupons during the months of June, July and August but will resume in September.

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**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

*By Jan Apro*

Your Endowment Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of St. Paul for the confidence you placed in our committee. You accepted our recommendation as presented to you in paying off our church mortgage at the last Congregational Meeting. This decision was not easy to come by as a lot of thought was given to what we had to do in the best interest of you the members and the church. Each member was asked to give their personal opinion of what we should do and after a lot of discussion a vote was taken and the committee voted unanimously to present our recommendation to the Church Council and as a well known minister once said, "You know the rest of the story." After the mortgage was paid off we still have a combined fund of \$232,880.92. I would like to thank Lynda Stegman, Louise Pitcher, Jim Gorsler, Mark Heitman and Marlene Sheward for the great job they are doing as your Endowment Committee.

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**Old Friends**

*By Ellie Reed, Coordinator*

Old Friends will be meeting again at 12:30 PM in the Chapel on the second Thursday in May, which will be May 10. The children from the St. Paul Preschool will be coming up to sing for us, which is always a great treat.

We enjoyed having Mildred Stephens bring in her books, photos and family tree exhibits. Made us realize it's time to put a lot of things down on paper that may be forgotten if we don't. It was a special treat to have her there.

If you can come, bring a little lunch with you, and we will share some good conversation, songs and probably a good story or two.

Heard from Vern and Verna Weis. They are holding their own but their son's cancer has returned, and they would appreciate prayers for him.

Also want to share news that Natalie Hagen, former member of St. Paul, died March 24, 2012 in Stuart's Draft, Virginia. She was a secretary at UC and a book editor at Rosenthal Publishing Co. in her earlier years.

**TRI-F**

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, TRI-F held their annual "Game Day" in Fellowship Hall following coffee hour. A good time was had by all as they played "Crazy Bridge" while partaking in a barbecue lunch.

Everyone is welcomed to participate in all events sponsored by TRI-F. Please contact Carolyn Dykes at 521-5606 for additional information.

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**St. Paul Preschool**

*By Karen Rieman, Director*

Our 42nd school year is coming to a close. Where does the time go? It just seems like it was September and the children were just coming to school. Every year goes by faster and faster but we always have a year of fun and learning.

St. Paul Nursery School has grown over these 42 years. When the Nursery School first started, it was upstairs in two small classrooms (where the Chapel and meeting rooms are now located) with two teachers. We are now downstairs with four classrooms and six teachers. I am so thankful to be working with a wonderful staff. With this year, Mrs. Sue Ehrhardt has been teaching at St. Paul for 25 years.

Thank you, St. Paul congregation, for letting us teach in this beautiful facility. We are so blessed to have a wonderful job and to love what we do everyday.

God Bless you, and have a wonderful summer. See you in the fall.

~~~~~

**Women of St. Paul**

*By Evelyn Osterbrock*



On Tuesday, May 8, we enjoyed a presentation by Kenneth McMillen from the Cincinnati Museum Center, who spoke and showed slides of the 1937 flood as well as other floods affecting our area. The well-versed speaker invited our comments and memories. Following the program, everyone was invited to share in dessert. Our next meeting:

June 22, 2012 (Tuesday)

**"It's a Picnic"**

At the Osterbrocks

**12:00 PM**

(To carpool, meet at the church at 11:30 AM)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

St. Paul will be in the Memorial Day Parade, May 26, 2012 here in North College Hill. We need walkers (to hand out candy and registration forms for VBS). We will be meeting at the old Thriftway Store (corner of Goodman and W. Galbraith Road) at 10:00 am. We would like to have as many people as possible represent our church.

This parade is in honor of our Veterans and will end with a flag raising at the City Hall.

If you can be a part of this wonderful event, please contact Joan Allen, 407-2321 or call the church office 931-2205. What a great honor show our support for Veterans and St Paul's.

**ALL CONGREGATION EVENT**

*Sunday, June 3, 2012*

Mark your calendars for "Circus", an all-inclusive congregational event sponsored by the Nurture Team.

"Circus" will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, June 3, and will include a luncheon.

Please consider coming on June 3 and joining in on the fun.

Look for more information to come.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR**

**"Fishing with Jesus"**

June 11-13, 2012

Dinner 5:30pm/Opening at 6 pm, Closing at 8 pm

**CRAFTS-GAMES-MISSIONS-STORIES**

**Everyone is Welcome.**

**Please invite, family, friends, neighbors to share the word and be a fisher of men.**

**Call the church office to registrar.**

All hands on deck for this line casting event. We will need guilds, registrar's, and craft helpers.

If you can't come and still would like to help, donation are always welcome. Our missions collation will be going to our partners at the Rubate Health Centre in Kenya, to help with building water wells for clean water.



**ST. PAUL ALIVE!**

*Sunday, July 8, 2012*

Please, mark your calendars!!

Don't forget!! Invite people!!

You don't want to miss this opportunity!!

We are having a special guest for worship on Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>!!

Jim Oates, Church Development/Congregational Renewal Coach for the Ohio Conference will be here to share his message for St. Paul. Following worship we will adjourn to the fellowship hall for lunch and then Jim will share with us how to create/renew vitality at St. Paul.

Jim works with congregations throughout Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia, helping to create a culture of vitality, growth and evangelism across the conference. He also works to gather networks of leadership from new and renewing churches to help apply training, accountability, and resources to settings where there is a passion for vitality and growth. His passion is in seeing a congregation begin to reach its potential once again and to reconnect with the community.

Jim has served churches in both SONKA (Southwest Ohio Northern Kentucky Association) and NWOA (Northwest Ohio Association), helping to successfully "turn around" two congregations that were on the verge of closing. Prior to coming to the Ohio Conference staff in 2010, Jim was the pastor of Faith Christian Church in Lima, OH. Jim lives in Sidney, OH with his wife Diane and children Dustin and Kelsey. Together they enjoy camping, sporting events of all kinds, and climbing the chimney's in Gatlinburg, TN.

**SONKA STEWARDSHIP EVENT**

*Wednesday, July 25, 2012*

St. Paul has the honor of hosting SONKA Stewardship Summer Program. It will be on July 25, 2012 at 7:00 pm. YOU WILL WANT TO COME TO THIS ONE, open to all. Jim Rickey of Sebaly Shillito & Dyer, Attorney at Law to be our guest speakers with Michael P. Moloney, director of the estate planning department. They will be discussing: wills, living wills, and other important documents that we need in today's world.

If you have any questions, you can see Joan Allen, SONKA Stewardship representative.

**REMINDER**

**Annual reports are due in the church office no later than Friday, May 25th.**

**ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NORTH COLLEGE HILL,  
RECEIVES A CALVIN GRANT FOR A WORSHIP RENEWAL PROJECT!**

St Paul United Church of Christ, North College Hill, has received a worship renewal grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship (CICW) in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The grant will fund a year-long project for worship and the arts. St. Paul will offer workshops for churches and individual participants from all over SONKA and Cincinnati churches, here on our campus to enjoy learning about how to integrate various kinds of chancel drama into worship, introduce beautiful sacred dance, and enrich St. Paul's contemporary worship that has begun.

This grant is one of 31 grants totaling more than \$300,000 awarded by the CICW to churches, schools, and seminaries across North America. Through this grant St. Paul will enjoy the development of arts teams, beginning by hosting the workshops, meeting with people from all over the area and learning from leaders who are the best in their area.

People of all ages and abilities can enjoy participating in presenting and receiving the Gospel through these additions to our worship. Some of St. Paul's younger and older members alike have commented on the power, hope and inspiration they have received through the recent dramatic presentations involving Pontius Pilate, our Christmas Eve service, and the Shepherd Voice from the field, who have witnessed to the story of Jesus!

"These projects have much to teach us," said CICW director John Witvliet," and we are eager to learn from them. But we know too that worship renewal is not something that human ingenuity or creativity alone can produce or engineer. It is a gift of God's Spirit, a gift for which we pray, rather than an accomplishment we achieve. So even as we announce these grants, and as we look forward to the work these recipients will do in the coming year, we also pray."

The grant team of St. Paul's new "Power of Expression" project is grateful for the prayers and eager to get started. "We have many talented people in our congregation and in the nearby community who know a lot about music and the arts! Many have realized the talents of some of our members, as well as the talents and need in the community that surrounds the church. We believe this connection has happened and will happen in mutual sharing of all kinds of music, visual arts, and performing arts," says Rev. Will Stackhouse, pastor of St. Paul.

"The power of expression – also the title of our proposal – can be instrumental in bringing the loving message and power of God in the Gospel through music, visual arts, and performing arts. This is not for entertainment, but to spread the Gospel in ways that touch our hearts deeply and help us to grow spiritually! People of all ages and abilities can participate – for I have seen people involved in sacred dance in wheelchairs that has changed my life," says Rev. Teri Lynn Stackhouse, project director.

The CICW's Worship Renewal Grants program is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and has seen more than 500 projects funded since its inception. "This year," said Betty Grit, manager of the Worship Renewal Grants program, "the CICW received proposals from 15 denominations, 25 states and two Canadian provinces."

An advisory board of pastors and teachers from a variety of backgrounds assisted in the grant selection and the 31 proposals being funded represent congregations and schools from 12 denominations in 18 states and one Canadian province. The project directors of the grant recipients will gather on Calvin's campus in Grand Rapids, Michigan, at the end of June to dialogue not only with CICW staff, but also with the recipients of the 2011 grants who will come to the campus to share the results of their year-long worship. "The getting together of both old and new grant recipients is intentional," said Grit, "and fruitful. It is an opportunity for learning and conversation that encourages and provides resources for worship renewal. It is a wonderful time together for the grant recipients."

The Worship Renewal Grants program is generously supported by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, Inc. Founded in 1937, the Endowment's major areas of concern are community development, education, and religion. The next application deadline for the Worship Renewal Grants program is January 10, 2013. For more information on this program, including a complete list of this year's grant recipients, please see: [www.calvin.edu/worship](http://www.calvin.edu/worship).



*The arts in worship are important to members of St. Paul. Here, prior to the chancel drama in which members of St. Paul presented "Visitors to the First Christmas," Bell Choir members present a musical selection accompanied by Heather Page, clarinetist, and under the direction of Howard Page.*

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In Loving Memory of Vernon Bernhardt

Mrs. Frieda Bernhardt

In Loving Memory of Mel Eberlein

Mrs. Frieda Bernhardt M/M Howard Heineke

M/M Paul Kluesener

In Loving Memory of JoAnn Sharpshair

Ms. Megan Jungkunz

In Loving Memory of Leon Summerlin

Mr. Ron Siereveld

In Loving Memory of Gertrude Uhl

Mr. Louis (Jim) Uhl

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Vicki Prather	Stefani Stephens
Michael Chalfin	Laura Bierkan
Kay Sheppard	Paul Nuckols
Naomi Blum	Trish Richards
Bob Jensen	Evelyn Kamleiter
Danny Kelly	Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn
Joan Mohr	John Kluesener
Ann Schnee	Joe Packer
Margaret LeValle	Baby grandson of the Hahns
Shirley Stephens Resi	Cherrie Lowes
Jordan Ribariu	The Osterbrock family
Debbie Renfro	Carol Sharp
Michele Nuckols	Elaine Perdue
Kim Caudell	Bill Eschenbrenner
Dottie Mayer	Ruth Kluesener
Ed Sharpshair	Ruth Meissner
Myrlee Sheward	John Payne
Cindy Fields	Donna Jee
Charlene Bracker	Brad Smith
Bonnie Schwab	Opal Howard
Gary Engel	Fred Sess
Sarah Sheers	The Gladys Elsasser family
Sue Johnson	Ruth Tasset
Nan Grow	Our servicemen and women
Imre Forbes	

## We wish a very Happy Birthday to....

### May

05/01 Bob Dickman	05/21 Anne Elsasser
05/03 Betty Klug	Mildred Stephens
Ethan Overholts	Brandon Smith
05/04 Robert Samad	05/22 Hod Heineke
05/05 Pam Leist	Charlotte Sess
Mildred Mueller	05/23 Mike Cornish
05/06 Linda Stegman	05/24 Nancy Maier
Marion Zinner	05/25 Tyler Ballman
05/07 Megan Reed	Robert Dean
Anne-Marie Timme	05/26 Jack Reule
05/08 Alice Graber	05/27 Thomas Bryant
05/17 Linda Woods	Scott Gorsler
05/18 Gordon Kahle	05/28 Eleanor Reed
Madyson King	05/29 Robin Keller
05/19 Alexis Mittler	05/31 Evelyn Kamleiter
05/20 Ryan Davis	Judith McIlhane

### June

06/01 Misti Cornish
Chris Hoeweler
06/06 Mark Heitman
Wayne Schleutker
06/07 Vivian Ehlers
06/11 Sarah Jester
06/12 Bradford Bryant
06/17 Robert Gorsler
Lucille Walters
06/18 Elvera Berger
06/21 Herman Stahmer
06/22 Jordyn King
06/23 Pastor Will Stackhouse
06/26 Jan Apro
06/27 Roger Kolde
06/30 Bill Lowes
Jesica Overholts

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**ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
COUNCIL MEETING  
April 16, 2012**

Present: Jan Apro, Rev. Will Stackhouse, Linda Woods, Don Beresford, Lois Manifold, Mike Bartholomew, Vicky Ritz, Nancy Ballman

Guest: Joan Allen

Council Vice President, Jan Apro, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. Pastor Will offered an opening prayer. The minutes of the March 19, 2012, Council Meeting were reviewed by Council. A MOTION was made (Bartholomew/Manifold) to approve the minutes. MOTION PASSED. The minutes were approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report** (Don Beresford)

- Don reviewed the Balance Sheet with Council. He explained that the Endowment and Christian Vocations Funds have not been adjusted yet, as well as the loan from First Financial Bank (mortgage). Balance Sheet should be adjusted correctly by the end of April.
- Don went over the various numbers on the Profit & Loss Statement (January through March). We are under budget for giving by \$5,500 but with Easter in April, it should be better. Facilities are pretty much right on budget. Gas and electric is running high, however. Our gas cost is suppose to go down, according to Duke.

**Executive Committee Report** (Jan Apro)

- Nothing new. Executive had a short meeting to brainstorm ideas for St. Paul's financial future.

**TEAM REPORTS****Minister's Report** (Rev. Stackhouse)

- Memorial Day is planned with our flag raising during the first hymn and the Pledge of Allegiance following the flag raising. Again, we will ask our veterans to stand (if able) and will recognize their gift of service with applause.
- Both Memorial Day and Pentecost fall on May 27<sup>th</sup> this year. We will celebrate the Gift of the Spirit on this Sunday as an anniversary celebration of the first coming of the Spirit on the church in Jerusalem found in Acts Chapter 2.
- Bible Study resumes this Tuesday in the library and continues until the last Sunday in May. It will recess for the summer and resume in the fall.
- Summer is planning for the fall session from Fall Festival until Christmas. This work should be done by early September.
- Spring Meeting for SONKA is scheduled for Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at Oak Creek UCC in Kettering.
- The Stewardship Team from SONKA would like to hold a stewardship event at St. Paul on a Wednesday, either July 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, if agreeable with Council for the church to host this event. All we need to furnish is the building (most likely the sanctuary), somebody to open the doors and lock them afterward, and someone to run the sound system. The program is open to all SONKA churches and will deal with wills, living wills and endowments. Usually about 30-50 people show up for these events. Mike agreed to run the sound system and open and close the church. Joan said she would sponsor the coffee hour. A MOTION was made (Bartholomew/Ballman) to host this event for SONKA at St. Paul, either July 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. MOTION PASSED.
- Pastor Will and Joan decided to have her Installation during worship. That way, everyone could be there and she could be presented her certificate in the presence of her church family. The dates will have to coincide with the availability of the person representing SONKA on that Sunday. They are meeting tonight and Pastor Will should hear from them in the next few days.

## Nurture Team (Linda Woods)

- Evelyn is planning another congregational program in fellowship hall after a short service. It will probably be a circus theme on June 3. It is in the beginning stage of planning.
- Graduation Sunday is May 20<sup>th</sup>. As of now, Tiffany Bryant (college) and Amber Hancock (high school) are the only two. There will be a notice in the Epistle.
- Joan Allen will be handling VBS again this year. It will be June 11, 12, 13 and will be 6-6:30 dinner, and 6:30-8:00 program.
- St. Paul will be in the NCH Memorial Day Parade to advertise VBS with kids handing out literature from the back of Jim Gorsler's truck.
- The N. S. carnival made \$2,188 for the Elaine Payne Scholarship Fund.
- Nursery School would like to put a temporary, non-permanent sign out front to advertise Nursery School Enrollment. Council agreed.
- Cheryl Thinnis (teacher) resigned from the Nursery School. A substitute will cover the rest of the year.
- Nursery School is working on next year's budget.
- Nurture Team is going to plan something for Mother's Day.
- The topic of childcare during holidays was discussed. In the past, Worship Team was in charge of childcare for the X-mas Eve Service. Pastor Will said we probably need to have childcare on more heavily attended services like Easter, and possibly Mother's Day and Father's Day.

## Welcome Team (Lois Manifold)

- The letter that went out regarding church membership was read to Council. 31 letters went out and we received 7 responses. Lois went over the responses that we received and Council discussed.

## Worship Team (Vicky Ritz)

- Choir Robes – Vicky talked to Lynn Wise from SONKA regarding selling our choir robes. They need to be in good or excellent condition which they are. Jan suggested starting at \$200 a robe. We bought them for around \$400. Jan also suggested giving the hymnals away.

## Finance Team (Mike Bartholomew)

- Mike thanked everyone for their input and support on the 2012 Budget and the work put forth on behalf of St. Paul for the pay-off of the mortgage. Also, thanks to Pastor Will for his prayers on these issues. Thanks to the congregation for their forward thinking and stewardship on these tough issues we have all faced together.
- Huntington Bank is now the only bank we use for checking services.
- The Gift Card checking account from First Financial has been closed by Jan Apro. Huntington and Great Lakes Scrip Center are now working together and all future purchases of gift cards will run normally again.
- Mike will meet with Jill at Huntington to get their final cost on the e-Giving fees and policies and present them at the next Council meeting.
- He is still working with Dawn Page on putting together a list of active envelope giving accounts.

## COMMENTS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:

- The mortgage is paid off as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. It still has to go through Hamilton County Court House. It should be 30-60 days before we get the Satisfaction of Mortgage.
- A total of \$232,880 is left in both funds (Endowment and Christian Vocation).
- Mortgage Burning Party – Lois Manifold will get a committee together to handle this. Pastor Will suggested having a service in conjunction with this.
- Lois Singleton would like for each committee to give her a short paragraph for the Epistle.
- Jan asked how we go about getting another church to merge with us. Pastor Will suggested he contact Ruth Brandon regarding this.
- Council Terms – who goes off? Nancy will check with Lois.

A MOTION was made (Manifold/Ritz) to adjourn. The MOTION PASSED and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Ballman, Secretary

## 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>
Contemporary Service	<i>Joan Allen</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



## MAY 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; website: www.stpaulnch.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 TBA - Mt. Healthy Alliance Volunteer Recognition Dinner @ St. Paul	4 8:00 PM AA	5 9:00 AM Nursery School Cleaning Day 8:00 PM AA
6 <i>Communion</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr. 7:00 PM Scout Pack Mtg	7 6:30 PM Scouts	8 1:00 PM Women of St. Paul 4:15 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Community Dinner	9	10 12:30 PM Old Friends	11 8:00 PM AA	12 8:00 PM AA
13 <i>Mothers' Day</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	14 10:00 AM Critters 5:30 PM Nurture Mtg. 6:30 PM Scouts	15 4:15 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Community Dinner 7:00 PM NS 3s PM Concert	16 7:00 PM NS Pre-K AM Graduation	17 10:00 AM Staff Mtg 7:00 PM NS Pre-K PM Graduation	18 8:00 PM AA	19 8:00 PM AA
20 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	21 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Council Mtg. 7:00 PM NS 3s AM Concert	22 4:15 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Community Dinner 7:00 PM NS 3s PM Concert	23 7:00 PM NS 4s AM Graduation	24 7:00 PM NS 4s PM Graduation	25 8:00 PM AA	26 8:00 PM AA
27 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> Office Closed 10:00 AM Critters 6:30 PM Scouts	29 4:15 PM Bible Study 5:00 PM Community Dinner	30	31		

## JUNE 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 8:00 PM AA	2 8:00 PM AA
3 <i>Communion</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship/ Congregational Event 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Scouts	5 12:00 PM Women of St. Paul 5:00 PM Community Dinner	6 12:00 PM Luncheon	7 12:30 PM Old Friends	8 8:00 PM AA	9 8:00 PM AA
10 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	11 VBS 5:30 PM Dinner 6:00 PM Program 6:30 PM Scouts	12 5:00 PM Community Dinner VBS 5:30 PM Dinner 6:00 PM Program	13 VBS 5:30 PM Dinner 6:00 PM Program	14	15 8:00 PM AA	16 8:00 PM AA
17 <i>Fathers' Day</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	18 6:30 PM Scouts 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	19 5:00 PM Community Dinner	20	21	22 8:00 PM AA	23 8:00 PM AA
24 <i>Kick-off Event</i> 9:50 AM Trad. Worship 10:00 AM Contemporary Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal Coffee Hr.	25 6:30 PM Scouts	26 5:00 PM Community Dinner	27 Hoffner OES Dinner Mtg.	28	29 8:00 PM AA	30 8:00 PM AA



# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
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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, Carrie Josche, Judy Staudigel, Cindy Warman

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