



The Steeple



A Publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church
of Rosewood Heights, Illinois

JULY 2017

Bishop Frank Beard wrote these words as encouragement to follow up on our Annual Conference gathering under the theme of *“Let’s Get Fired Up! For Kids.”* I share these insights with you because we need to be reminded that ministry is far different today than in the past. I trust that you will find these words as thought provoking and challenging as I did. Bishop Beard’s ideas are timely for us as we change as a church to meet the challenges of our age. *Pastor Daryl*

“So, do you really want to be FIRED-UP? The cost of revival fire does not come cheap. Let’s be clear, grace is free. God’s love is an unrestricted gift given to us all. But if you want to be on fire and remain fired-up you will find that it is costly. I believe that God wants each Christian and every church to be a blazing light, on fire, for Jesus. The call and challenge of Jesus is clear in Matthew’s gospel, “you are the light of the world” so “let your light shine.”

It is becoming increasingly apparent that our darkened world needs the light of Jesus Christ. Our churches and communities are faced with a whirlwind of challenges on every side. Racism, sexism, poverty, division, threats of schism, decline, spiritual lethargy, and a failure to keep our focus on the great commission, are among the many problems confronting us. The good news is that we do have the answers to the problems that plague us. The Church of Jesus Christ, when yielded to the Holy Spirit, has proven time and time again that it can turn the world right-side up. Rev. Bill Hybels is correct when he says, “there is nothing like the local church when the local church is working right.” The other side of that coin is the fact that when the church fails to remain true to its mission and ministry the entire community suffers.

I remember what the Lord brought to my mind shortly after my assignment to the IGRC, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” Those words from Proverbs 14:34 have stuck with me. I believe God impressed them in my mind and heart as a reminder of the church’s obligation and responsibility to bring about change. One of the reasons we do not see the change that is needed is because too many Christians and churches are content with playing it safe. We are okay with being same, lame and tame. The problem is that as we willingly embrace spiritual lethargy we leave our communities and cities vulnerable to destruction. There is little doubt that our world is becoming darker the question is, “are we willing to do something about it?” God’s plan is for the light of Jesus to be visible through the church and its constituents.

So, what will it cost us to be fired-up? Here are a few things:

- 1. It will cost us our pride.** If we believe we can do it without being totally dependent upon Jesus he will allow us to flounder in our own strength.
- 2. It will cost us time in rebuilding and reestablishing our churches as a place of prayer.** There has never been a renewal movement in the church apart from a return to intentional prayer.
- 3. It will cost us a change in our preferences.** We will need to move beyond our personal zones of comfort for the sake of the inclusion of others.
- 4. It will cost us personal pain.** We will never rebuild that which we have not wept over (see Nehemiah).
- 5. It will cost us our power.** We will need to yield our desire for control and power to the Holy Spirit’s power and guidance for our lives and for the Church of Jesus Christ. I believe we are poised for the greatest revival the world has ever seen. The wood is dry the wind is blowing and all that we need is a spark from the Lord. The best days of the church and of Christianity are not behind us. The fire of God is available and can be maintained if we are serious about obeying the Lord.

Finally, I have not given up on The United Methodist Church. Years ago our denomination was called “a sleeping giant.” I believe God will ignite us with the love of Jesus Christ and our denomination will be used to bring about a great revival. I believe the enemy is fighting super hard against us because we pose a major threat. Jesus wants us to be lights in our communities so that folks dwelling in darkness will find him. Let’s get fired up!

God Bless, Bishop Beard



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- Congratulations to **Cara Carter & Matt Gwaltney** who were married on June 25, 2017 at Pere Marquette Park. May God give you a long and happy life together centered around Him.
 - We discovered that we did miss a Graduate on Graduate Sunday, June 4th. We also congratulate **Emily Wells** on her graduation from high school!
 - Congratulations go out to **Christian Cranmer**, the new Police Major Assistant Chief of the East Alton Police Department. Cranmer brings 13 years of experience with the department to the job as he worked his way up the ranks. May God bless and protect you, Christian, as you take on this promotional move!
 - Thank you to **Mike Tappy, Joe Huff, and Jim Herndon** who worked together to fix our sewer backups. We appreciate your work.
 - **Rev. Charles McKnelly**, son of Londa Weller, updated us on his work in Hong Kong and China during the worship services on June 11. His drug rehabilitation work in Hong Kong has gone so well that he received a grant to establish a Christian Rehabilitation Centre in Shantou, China, a city of 6 million! Please pray for their work. If you wish to support Rev. McKnelly you may do so by designating a gift on any offering envelope for him.
 - Did you know that we provide the preaching twice a month on Saturdays for a worship service at Bethalto Care Center? **Doug Pascoe**, our Parish Visitor, and **Pastor Daryl** take turns preaching.
 - Thanks to **Ann French** and **Julie Brown** who provided our music on Sundays while we were completing our search and hiring a new Music Director, Rhonda Griffin. We have been truly blessed by you both!
 - Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Vivian Badman**, mother/mother-in-law of David & Donna Badman; the family of **Amy Zimbelmann**, friend of Christina Johnson; the family of **Gary Lawyer**, cousin of Connie Martin; the family of **Janice Wold**, mother of Eldon Wold, Jr.; the family of **Jackie Harlan**, father/father-in-law of Jay & Sandy Harlan; and the family of **Rev. Billy Hahs**, father of Rev. Jame Hahs (former pastor of Main St. UMC & friend of Pastor Daryl). May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.
 - Thank you to **Benjamin Ayers** for his Eagle Scout project of a new fire pit out in the park! There is a lid that can be placed on it if so desired and there will be a small plaque that indicates that it is his Eagle Scout project. A wonderful addition to the park area! **(Photo on Page 3—thanks to Jim Herndon.)**
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- **THANK YOU:** Thanks for all the prayers, cards, calls, and visits while I was recuperating from my fall. God is busy healing me and I am feeling so much better! **Gerry Ward**
 - **THANK YOU:** My sister, Mary Dwyer, wants me to thank the congregation for taking the time to pray for her and her situation. She is better and she knows that your prayers are the reason. We all thank you for interceding for her. **Lee Johnson**



"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9)

Summer seems to be a time whenever everyone relaxes more than usual. I recently took a vacation with my husband and four children. We went camping and by the end of the week we decided that we needed a vacation from our vacation! The relaxed schedule of summer is very enjoyable, but I am trying to remind myself to not grow relaxed in my commitment to Christ.

As we enjoy the longer days and the ease of summer, let us not forget that we must not grow weary of our dedication and service to the Lord. Instead, set time aside to worship amongst your busy summer schedule. **Join us on Saturday evenings throughout the remainder of the summer at 5 p.m. for special events and speakers at Awakening.** If that time is not good for you, worship also happens every Sunday morning at the 8:15 outdoor service or at 10:30 in the sanctuary.

Looking ahead into July, we will be hosting a **CHRISTMAS IN JULY CONCERT on July 8th at 5 p.m.** Since our "Christmas-Sing-Along" was canceled due to bad weather, we will be celebrating a few months late (or is that early?!). During this time, we will also be collecting donations for the Riverbend Pet Food Pantry. They can use wet/dry pet food, leashes, collars, and kitty litter. This is to benefit the charity that we chose to collect for during "Paws In The Park," which also fell victim to the weather. "Paws In The Park" will be rescheduled for a later date, as we continue to work towards other exciting events taking place at St. Paul this fall.

Be blessed,
Lauren Cranmer - Awakening Worship Coordinator



HOLY SPIRIT CAR WASH A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

... but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,
- Titus 3:5,6 NIV



Saturdays at St. Paul in JULY 5:00 P.M. Service



Join us on SATURDAYS at 5 p.m. for Awakening - St. Paul's contemporary worship service in a family friendly setting. We hope you will join us (bring your family, friends, & neighbors) as we praise God & celebrate what the Holy Spirit has done!

Our JULY Speakers:

1st - HOLIDAY WEEKEND-NO AWAKENING THIS NIGHT

8th - CHRISTMAS IN JULY CONCERT! Come join us as we sing and enjoy Christmas carols! Wear your ugly Christmas sweater or shirt OR a Hawaiian shirt complete with sandals or flip-flops. There will be cookies & hot cocoa or something cold to enjoy.

15th - Andy Raines-Passion Painter! 22nd - Darcie Carr from Unity Hospice

29th - Pastor David Rose

Sundays at St. Paul in JULY 8:15 & 10:30 A.M. Services



The 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park. Wear casual clothes and bring your lawn chair. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is always held in the sanctuary. **"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.**



2: 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Freedom Sunday. Communion Celebrated. The Superheroes series continues with Pastor Daryl talking about *living as a kid with power*. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2, 7-13.



9: 5th Sunday after Pentecost. Birthday Sunday. The Superheroes series continues with Pastor Daryl talking about *living as an incredible family*. Read Mark 3:20-27, 31-35.



16: 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, "When We Pray..."

23: 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl continues the series on the Lord's Prayer, "When We Pray..."

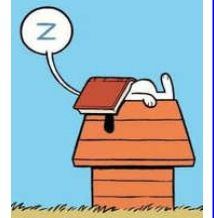
30: 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Daryl is on vacation today.
Our Special Speaker: Doug Pascoe, our Parish Visitor.

AUGUST 6: 9th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion Celebrated. Pastor Daryl continues the series on the Lord's Prayer, "When We Pray..."



Nurse's Notes for JULY 2017 from Parish Nurse, Eileen Cheatham RN, BC, B.S.N.

Think about all the factors that can interfere with a good night's sleep — from work stress and family responsibilities to unexpected challenges, such as illnesses. It's no wonder that quality sleep is sometimes elusive. While you might not be able to control the factors that interfere with your sleep, you can adopt habits that encourage better sleep. Studies show that people who don't get quality sleep or enough sleep are more likely to get sick after being exposed to a virus, such as a common cold virus. Lack of sleep can also affect how fast you recover if you do get sick. During sleep, your immune system releases proteins called **cytokines**, some of which help promote sleep. Certain cytokines need to increase when you have an infection or inflammation, or when you're under stress. Sleep deprivation may decrease production of those protective cytokines. In addition, infection-fighting antibodies and cells are reduced during periods when you don't get enough sleep. Your body needs to sleep to maintain health. Long-term lack of sleep also increases your risk of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.



How much sleep do you need to bolster your immune system? The optimal amount of sleep for most adults is seven to eight hours of good sleep each night. Teenagers need nine to 10 hours of sleep. School-aged children may need 10 or more hours of sleep. But more sleep isn't always better. For adults, sleeping more than nine to 10 hours a night may result in a poor quality of sleep, such as difficulty falling or staying asleep.

As difficult as it may be to stop watching TV, or using your cell phone or I-pad before bedtime, there's a good reason to make it happen. The **blue light** that's emitted from these screens can delay the release of sleep-inducing melatonin, increase alertness, and reset the body's internal clock (or circadian rhythm) to a later schedule. This is an especially big problem for teens whose circadian rhythms are already shifting naturally, causing them to feel awake later at night. The end result: sleep-deprived or poorly rested kids and adults who have essentially given themselves a mini case of jet lag. The reason that blue light is so problematic is that it has a short wavelength that affects levels of melatonin more than any other wavelength does. Light from fluorescent bulbs and LED lights can produce the same effect. Normally, the **pineal gland** in the brain begins to release melatonin a couple of hours before bedtime, and melatonin reaches its peak in the middle of the night. When people read on a blue light-emitting device (like a tablet, rather than from a printed book) in the evening, it takes them longer to fall asleep; plus, they tend to have less REM sleep (when dreams occur) and wake up feeling sleepier— even after eight hours of shuteye.

Power down those electronics- including the TV, an hour or two before bedtime so your body can start producing more melatonin. **Pick up a good book-** better yet, try reading your Bible before going to sleep. Could there be a better way to fall asleep than with the word of God in your lap and in your mind?

- **Set the right temperature:** A too-warm room makes you sweaty, while super cold temps leave you shivering. Opt for a range between 60 and 73 degrees F. A slightly chilly temperature helps decrease your body's internal thermometer, initiating sleepiness and ensuring you stay comfortable throughout the night.
- **Set the mood:** Dim the lights at least 30 minutes before bedtime. Turn off extra noises, lights and distractions. Turn on a fan, white noise machine, calming instrumental music or use earplugs to adjust your environment to be the most comfortable to you. Try to make this a routine to tell your body it's time to sleep and help it ease into a peaceful night's rest.
- **Use essential oils:** Incorporating essential oils, or aromatherapy, into your nightly routine is a safe, natural and therapeutic way to encourage your body to wind down- such as lavender or chamomile. It can be diluted with almond or coconut oils and spritzed on your pillow or add a few drops to a diffuser.
- **Skip late night sugar and simple carbs:** Avoid eating sugary sweets, chocolate, simple carbs, juice or high-glycemic fruit just before bed, as it can spike blood sugar, boost your energy and you can wake up feeling hungry. Instead, try a little bit of protein with vegetables or a small amount of complex carbohydrates with protein, which can boost melatonin and help you fall asleep fast!
- **Keep electronics out of bed:** Watching television in bed and answering late-night work emails trick your brain into thinking that your bed is just another spot to get things done and not the place to settle down after a long day. Watch your evening programs in the living room and keep that space sacred by eliminating electronics.
- **Maintain a regular sleep schedule:** Keep your circadian rhythm in check by adhering to a regular sleep schedule as much as possible-yes, even on weekends! As your body becomes used to getting into bed and waking up at the same hours, you'll find it becomes easier to fall asleep and wake up naturally. Aim for an average of eight hours of quality sleep a night.

Parish Nurse Continues on Page 9



JULY BIRTHDAYS

“Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work!”

07/01/17 Layne Chester
 07/01/17 Terry Poston
 07/02/17 Mark Bacus
 07/02/17 Steve Campbell
 07/02/17 Maggie Funke
 07/02/17 Taylor Rich
 07/04/17 Terri Fincher
 07/04/17 Brynleigh Mormino
 07/04/17 Peyton Mormino
 07/04/17 Pat Sullivan
 07/05/17 Colton Bourne
 07/05/17 Zoe Hart
 07/06/17 Phil Acton
 07/06/17 Luke Campbell
 07/06/17 Jim Hickerson
 07/07/17 Alex Ford
 07/08/17 Nate Ford
 07/08/17 Carol Russell
 07/08/17 Stella Sims
 07/09/17 Deb Mayer
 07/09/17 Carol Stamper
 07/10/17 Drew Standefer
 07/10/17 Ella Toner
 07/10/17 Emma Toner
 07/11/17 Clayton Bartony
 07/12/17 Matthew Hamlin
 07/12/17 Herrell Lewis

07/14/17 Carter Hendricks
 07/15/17 Emma Harper
 07/15/17 Jaymie Voorhees
 07/17/17 Donna Redden
 07/18/17 Alysia Bailey
 07/18/17 Sarah Griffin
 07/19/17 Cathy Cameron
 07/21/17 Connie Martin
 07/21/17 Robin Uzzell
 07/22/17 Chris Challandes
 07/22/17 Cory Crandall
 07/22/17 Dell Demond
 07/22/17 Daniel Emerick
 07/22/17 Evelyn Hinkle
 07/22/17 Evan Spurgeon
 07/23/17 Kynlee Bunt
 07/23/17 Diane Ford
 07/23/17 Donovan Hale
 07/24/17 Kathy Bunt
 07/24/17 Chris Cameron
 07/24/17 Gretchen Henderson
 07/24/17 Anna McLain
 07/24/17 Giuliana Sims

07/24/17 Tony Wood
 07/26/17 Kathy Crews
 07/27/17 Alice Burrows
 07/27/17 Edith Clark
 07/27/17 Joy Kissack
 07/28/17 Caleb Betts
 07/28/17 Ashlyn Birmingham
 07/28/17 Marie Brown
 07/28/17 Addison Lusivic
 07/28/17 Maddox Parker
 07/28/17 Adam Phelps
 07/28/17 Kristen Toner
 07/29/17 Randy McLain
 07/30/17 Tim Plummer
 07/31/17 Kyle Brueggeman
 07/31/17 Lindsey Williams



JULY ANNIVERSARIES



1-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
 5-Jul Don & Vivian Franklin
 6-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
 7-Jul Tom & Ruth Voorhees
 8-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
 8-Jul Randy & Jan Williams
 9-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews

9-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino
 11-Jul Ryan & Joanna Scroggins
 13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan
 15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon
 22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown
 23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp
 31-Jul Mike & Kathy Link

Be Sure To Pick Up A copy of the Church Directory for 2017!

Please be sure to contact the church office if you have a change of address, phone number, or email address! Thank you!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT



JULY's Loose Change Project is the **Lessie Bates Neighborhood House** in East St. Louis. The Methodist Church established this center to minister to the Croatsians

early in the last century. Since then the Neighborhood House has ministered to the new waves of immigrants and poor in East St. Louis. It is one of the few remaining institutions in East St. Louis offering social and health services. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

JULY Ushers (10:30 a.m.):

July 2nd: Anita Dawson, Tracy Franks

July 9th: Katie and Alex Lair

July 16th: FOLKS NEEDED!

July 23rd: FOLKS NEEDED!

July 30th: FOLKS NEEDED!

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you will be a greeter or an usher!

Average Attendance for JUNE 2017

Early Service	52
Late Service	47
Sunday School	32
Visitors	6
3 Awakening Service	41



Capital Campaign money as of 6-30-17:

\$253,372.74

**DEADLINE FOR
AUGUST 2017
STEEPLE, Wed.,
JULY 19th!**

JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 06/30/2017	\$20241.00
Designated Giving:	through 06/30/2017	\$1216.00
	Capital Improvements	70.00
	Loose Change	109.00
	Flowers	49.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	90.00
	Upper Room Donations	41.00
	Helping Hands	410.00
	Memorials	40.00
	Brad Fester/Wycliffe	100.00
	VBS	25.00
	Happy Bears	60.00
	Charles McNelly	100.00
(VBS Kid's Offering)	UM Children's Home	122.00
Capital Campaign		1825.00
Catch-Up Sunday Offering		3200.00
Total:		\$26482.00

Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

For several years we have collected new and used, serviceable coats and shoes for Riverbend Head Start & Family Services families in our area.



We begin this in the fall. The general guidelines they have given us are for *new* or *gently used* items:

- ▶ Coats and Jackets - sizes 2T to 7-8
- ▶ Shoes - infant sizes to children size 1

This is information to remind you that if you go to yard sales, have grandchildren with outgrown shoes and coats, go to Goodwill, or however you come across such items, you may want to buy them for the fall collection during the summer.



When the worker from Head Start picks the items up in early November they are distributed within the week to low income families in our area. Thank you so much!



~WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES ON SUNDAYS IN THE CHURCH AMPHITHEATER~

at 8:15 a.m.

JUNE 4th-AUGUST 27th

In case of rain, service is held in the sanctuary. The 10:30 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary.

Your talent is God's gift to you
What you do with it is your gift back to God

► If you would like to share your talent during the summer services, please call or e-mail the church office.

259-5210 or info@stpaulwired.org



Pastor Daryl will be on vacation July 10-12 and July 26-August 3. Doug Pascoe, our Parish

Visitor, and Eileen Cheatham, our Parish Nurse, will be available during this time. If you need greater pastoral assistance, please contact the Church Office, 259-5210, or Dave Schiber, 258-0831.

Matt Miofsky

happy?

what it is and how to find it

Our Summer Small Group Study begins on Sunday, July 9 at 5 p.m. We are using the book, *happy? what it is and how to find it* by Matt Miofsky, lead pastor of The Gathering in St. Louis. Copies of the book are available on the Welcome Table in the entryway. Please join us for this summertime study! We will meet twice in July and twice in August.



Parish Nurse Continues from Page 5

- **Pray!** Ending your day with prayer is a wonderful way to let go of stress and find peace through a "good night talk" with God before falling asleep. No matter what you faced during the day, talking to God through good-night prayers will renew your faith. Prayer also helps you see all the good things that happened in your day; all of the mercies and grace that He poured over you- even in those tough times. As you wrap up your day, may God grace you with an eternal perspective! Sleep well.



"In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." Psalm 4:8

May God richly bless you-
Eileen



By the **AWAKENING**
PRAISE BAND

at **St. Paul UMC, Corner of Airline
& Center in Rosewood Heights**

SATURDAY, JULY 8th

@5 p.m.



Wear your ugly Christmas sweater /shirt or Hawaiian shirt and flip flops or sandals! Cookies and Hot Cocoa will be served! (Cold drinks like water, soda, or lemonade will be on hand for those not wanting hot cocoa...)

We will be taking up a collection to benefit the Riverbend Pet Food Pantry this evening. Since Paws in the Park was rained out, we would like to continue the ministry outreach that we intended to share with them. Donations of wet/dry pet food, leashes, collars, or kitty litter will be gladly accepted.

St. Paul UMC Phone Notification Service

As announced some months back we have contracted with a company to provide phone notification services to church members / attendees when it is necessary to cancel services or to provide reminders of key events or activities in the church. The goal is to improve our communication system and to encourage all members / attendees of opportunities to participate in the ministry of St. Paul UMC. To accomplish this task we are asking everyone to provide us with a phone number(s) to be used to notify you when necessary. In addition, if you would please denote any church committees or church groups you participate in it will help us to make some very specific calls from time to time.

We have an agreement with the service provider that your name and phone number will not be sold or otherwise provided to other vendors for advertisement of a variety of services (i.e. robo calls). As noted in previous information this is a very inexpensive program that is based upon "connected" phone calls (live answer or answering machine) at a cost not to exceed 5¢ per connected call. **Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate on a Sunday or return to the church office by the end of August.** Your participation is greatly appreciated and will make this service more effective!

Your name: _____

Phone number(s) at which you want to be contacted: _____

Church groups / teams /committees of which you are a member: _____

___ I wish to be notified of cancellation of the **8:15 a.m.**

Sunday Worship Service.

___ I wish to be notified of cancellation of the **10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Worship Service.

___ I wish to receive occasional, **general notification** of church wide events such as the time of special services like Christmas Eve or date & time of the Fall Festival, etc.

Thank you: St. Paul Trustees



Dr. Rev. Rose Booker-Jones

Welcome to Dr. Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, our **new Mississippi River District Superintendent**. A native of Kansas, Booker-Jones has served in a variety of ministry settings including three African Methodist Episcopal churches, working with the Kansas City and Wichita police departments as a program manager and director of police records; and has served churches in East St. Louis and Peoria over 11 years within the IGRC. She comes to us after three years as the Iroquois River District Superintendent.

A graduate of Perkins School of Theology, Booker Jones, was ordained an elder in the AME Church in 1985, with her orders recognized in 2003 by the former Kansas West Conference prior to transferring to the IGRC. She is a former chair of the IGRC Board of Ordained Ministry.

Dr. Rose has served congregations in Missouri, Kansas, and Illinois. She served as Chair of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference Board of Ordained Ministry; instructor for the Conference Course of Study; Chair of Programming for SBC21 (Strengthening the Black Church); Coordinator of SBC21 Collaborative Coaching Network. Elected Jurisdictional Delegate, 2008 and 2012. Served as Adjunct Professor at Lincoln Christian University, Lincoln, IL and Illinois Community College, Peoria, IL. She is featured in "Black United Methodists Preach!" edited by Dr. Gennifer Benjamin Brooks.

We look forward to working together with you in ministry!



Vacation Bible School 2017

I want to thank everyone for the vital role you have played in the ministry of the children of our church. To all who volunteered, thank you for participating in the amazing gift of God through the work you have done to make VBS such a success. You have demonstrated that God's Heroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power, just like our Hero Codes taught us throughout the week. To our church family, I want to say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, donations, money, service, and prayers. To our youth & young adult volunteers, thank you for your heroic commitment to leadership this week! The VBS program was an epic success!

We have had a wonderful time at the HERO CENTRAL: Discover Your Strength In God VBS. This year your children had a Super Sonic week as they experienced an interactive, Bible-based program that gave them the opportunity to discover ways to "Do good. Seek peace and go after it!"

After a high energy opening of praise songs, the Super Heroes made their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons focused on five key qualities that heroes have in God. Those are our "Hero Codes." Have heart, have courage, have wisdom, have power, and have hope.

We expanded on what the lessons from those codes by participating in a variety of activities: Crafts; Science; Recreation; Snacks; Puppets; and the Movies.

We were blessed with an average of 65 children per day and 30+ youth/young adults to help lead each group or station. We were also blessed with many adults who were able to volunteer their time this year. Throughout our week, we were able to raise approximately \$122 for our mission project, the "United Methodist Children's Home."

So until next year's Vacation Bible School, may God bless you as much as you have blessed our children and me! **Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director**

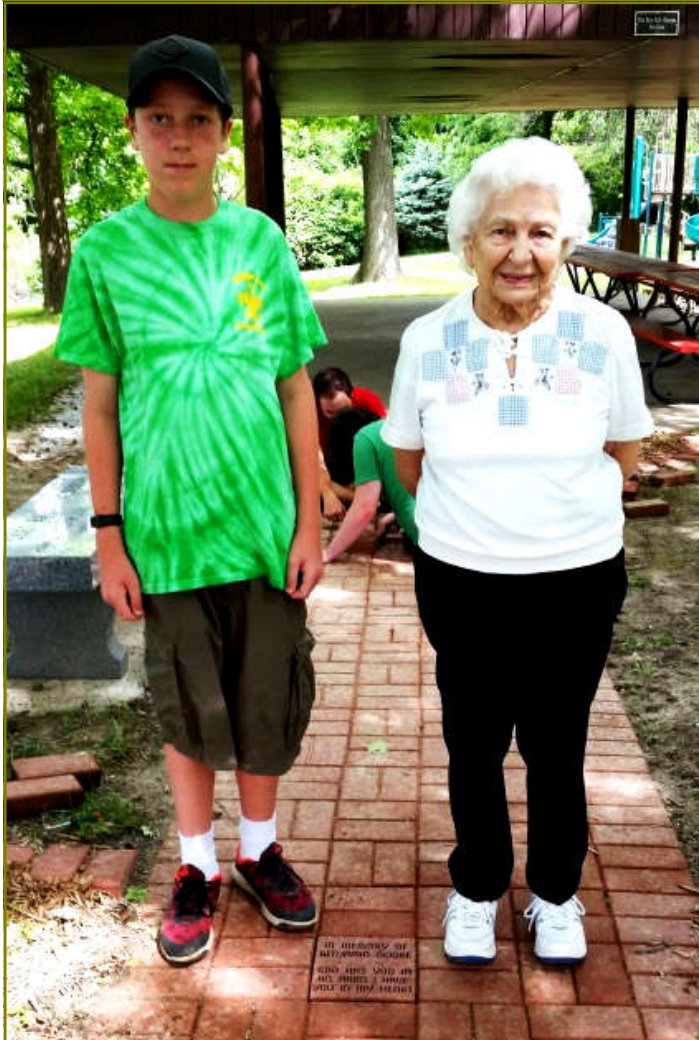


Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who was able to give of their finances and of their prayers during our **CATCH UP SUNDAY** in June.

A total of **\$3,200.00** was given to help us meet our financial obligations.

Beulah Moore and her son stopped by to check out the new Memorial Prayer Walkway at just the right time. Kaleb Smith (Eagle Scout whose project this is) and others were placing more of the engraved bricks and had just placed the one Beulah had purchased in memory of Ben. She is standing next to it and Kaleb. God is good.



PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU!

*Hospice...
Hospital...
Nursing/Care Center...*

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, care/nursing center, or hospice, you need to call the Pastor or the Church Office. **None** of the area institutions will notify the church when you enter their facility due to privacy laws. We want to reach out to you at a time when you and your family may need it the most. Your call may be the only way for us to know of the situation. Thank you for your help!

CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING

Pick up *Renewed*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available on the tables and on the wall in the church entryway. Camps for all ages are available at Little Grassy near Carbondale, East Bay near Bloomington, Beulah in Eldorado, and Epworth near Greenville. College students and adults might consider serving as counselors in our camps. Everything you need to know about being a camper or counselor is found in *Renewed*.



Give thanks to the Lord. For He is good.

HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

Psalm 136:1-6, 26





Hello!! My name is **Rhonda Griffin** and I am very excited to be the new Music Director here at St. Paul. Worshipping God through music and leading others to do so is my joy and passion. I have already been serving here for two and a half years as the keyboardist/vocalist for the Awakening Praise Band, as well as playing once a month for the Sweet Sounds group. Because of this, I already know many of you, which is wonderful. I am looking forward to getting to know the rest of the church family in the coming days.

I have a BA in Music from SIUE which I earned as an adult in 2010 by using my Illinois Veteran's Grant (USN, 81-85), after choosing to be a stay-at-home mom of three kids until my youngest was in high school. I am also a piano teacher with a studio of 40 students whom I teach here at St. Paul during the week. I have been serving as a church musician in some capacity for most of my life, as I was blessed to be raised in a church (Brown St. Baptist, Alton) which allowed and encouraged me to play for Sunday School classes, Awana Club, various choirs, and soloists from a young age. I have been in many different churches since that time and have enjoyed serving and learning at each one. I believe God has used all of these experiences to prepare me for this position, and I look forward to seeing what He has in store for all of us as we work together to **worship and glorify Him**.

It was decided that in keeping with the style of the new contemporary service starting in September, the choir will also be singing contemporary music. If you have ever thought about joining the choir, September would be the perfect time to start!! Also, if you would like to share your talents by doing special music for the summer services, please let me know as soon as possible. I'd like to start a list of all those who would be willing to share their talents in this ministry :o)

Here are a few of my favorite verses:

Romans 12:4-8 New International Version

⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.



MISSION PROJECT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conferees brought 2,129 pounds of supplies & \$3,024 in monetary gifts for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, as well as underwear, onesies, and socks for Fair Hope Children's Ministry in Danville. Thank you church for your part in helping the ministry of the Center with the gifts you gave!



2017 ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT BY PAUL BLACK (AND JOANN HILL)

PEORIA – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered around the theme, “Let’s Get Fired Up...For Kids,” June 8-10, 2017, at the Peoria Civic Center.

This year’s conference officially launched a \$2.5 million **Our Conference, Our Kids** campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five IGRC child welfare agencies – The

Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children’s Home, Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House, and Spero Family Services (formerly the United Methodist Children’s Home). The campaign already has received \$75,000 in gifts prior to the official launch. The five agencies have had to rely upon benevolent giving as the Illinois General Assembly has yet to pass a state budget since July 2014.

The conference also centered on prayer as the conference welcomed its **new bishop, Frank J. Beard**, who was elected and assigned to the Illinois Area Sept. 1, 2016. Bishop Beard expressed his gratitude for the welcome he has received and that he felt since he has made it to the first Annual Conference here, it is now official; he is truly a bishop. Conferees responded with a standing ovation. Bishop Beard seems good natured with a sense of humor and is filled with the fire he wants to spread throughout the conference. He reminded us that God’s fire can sustain us in life and beyond.

The conference spent a great deal of time wrestling with a *proposal from the conference’s Board of Pensions* to enlist Wespeth (formerly the General Board of Pensions) for a private exchange in which to provide clergy health insurance for 2018. The plan would have been mandatory for clergy but optional for spouse and dependent coverage. Instead of paying a taxable health insurance allowance of \$13,200 to the pastor, the plan would have allowed the allowance to be paid directly from the local church to the conference tax-free. In the end, the proposal was referred back to the conference Board of Pensions for further work on assisting those clergy who are in crisis under the current plan. In related legislation, **the health insurance allowance was increased to \$15,000 for 2018 – up from the current \$13,200.**

We heard committee reports and voted on several IGRC legislative items which were discussed and amended if found necessary. Sadly, eleven (11) church closings in IGRC were approved. The 2018 budget was approved at \$12,202,213, an increase of 0.50 percent over 2017 levels.

The conference laity collected **\$5,645 for the John Kofi Asmah School in Liberia** for furnishings. Other special offerings included **\$8,504 for the 2018 Wesley Pilgrimage** for this year’s newly ordained pastors, and **\$8,195 for the Tom Brown Scholarship** at Wiley College, one of the church’s historically Black Colleges.

A special ordination service was held Saturday morning for eight elders and a deacon. They joined two whose elder’s orders were previously recognized as full connectional members. Six provisional elders and a provisional deacon were commissioned. A total of 31 pastors with a combined 894.75 years of service retired.

Communion was served after each worship service. This is impressive and meaningful to witness communion being served to hundreds of people all at once.

Membership stands at **123,810 in 2016**, down 3,282 from 2015. Worship attendance stands at 53,560, down 4,114. Church school attendance stands at 2,632, down 78. Attendance in other small groups and on-going classes are at 2,202, up 177. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2016 are 1,897, down 183.

More details and photos are included in the July issue of THE CURRENT and are also available online at <http://www.igrc.org/current>.

The 2018 Annual Conference session will be held June 7-9, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL.



The face of prayer has changed. The need for prayer has not.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD...



ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVING THE PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AS A FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY



Mission Possible

“THROUGH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE” MATTHEW 19:26

UNDERSTANDING & GIVING TO MISSION POSSIBLE

The following information is provided to clarify information about our Mission Possible campaign and to further clarify how one might give to the cause. **Mission Possible** is a campaign to provide funding above and beyond our normal operational costs to address much needed maintenance and renovation work at St. Paul. The primary target of the campaign is the replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning system (HVAC) as well as other needed items for our church building and senior parsonage. We do this in large part as we consider the future of the ministry of St. Paul UMC and the over 50 diverse ministries that radiate from our church home, and as we consider the role our church building will play in future ministry.

The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. There is still time to participate. **In order that we can know where we stand with pledges, we ask that you fill out a commitment card (which is available in the church office) if you plan to give to the Mission Possible Campaign.**

Providing your gift(s):

- If you are interested in a one-time gift, send the donation to the church or place it in the Sunday offering, **but please be sure to note Mission Possible (or CFC for Capital Fund Campaign) on your check memo line and offering envelope.**
- You can also give online through our website.
- You can give using your credit card when you provide that information to the church office.
- You can give by cash or check.
- You can also provide financial contributions via securities, real estate, personal properties, or an estate gift by contacting the church office or Jim Herndon.

Beginning **January 2016**, you were able to place the designated amount for “Mission Possible” gifts on the Capital Campaign line on your offering envelopes. Donations toward the expenses of our Church Operations (i.e. the General Budget) would go on the **Undesignated** line as always. What was Capital Improvements, funds meant for unexpected major expenses, is now labeled **Building & Grounds Improvements** on the 2016 –2018 envelopes. **If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.**