



The Steeple

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

JANUARY 2018



Our mission statement at St. Paul is: **BE THE CHURCH, GROW IN CHRIST, SPREAD THE WORD.** During January, we will remind ourselves how important it is that we fulfill each of these commands.

BE THE CHURCH

When we remember whose we are, we know who we are. And, when we know who we are, we understand what to do: follow God's plan. We are Christ's. It is for us that Christ died. By His precious blood we have been snatched from a life of sin and set free to live for Him. It takes some of us longer than others to realize that we belong to Jesus. Once we remember whose we are, then we know who we are.

I Peter 1:9-10 is quite clear about our identity: *"YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE. YOU ARE ROYAL PRIESTS, A HOLY NATION, GOD'S VERY OWN POSSESSION. AS A RESULT, YOU CAN SHOW OTHERS THE GOODNESS OF GOD, FOR HE CALLED YOU OUT OF THE DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT."* God has saved us to **be the church**. We are called out of the crowd to be the Body of Christ. Like Peter and the other disciples, we are called to tell the story of Jesus Christ to a world hungering to hear it.

As Wesleyan Christians, often we pray this prayer of John Wesley's in the New Year:

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low by thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

As Wesley's prayer reveals, we believe that we are saved for a grand and glorious purpose. We are saved to take our place of service in God's kingdom. In this kingdom, there is a special place of service for us. Our aim should be to make this world a place where God's love governs all of our relationships, a place where God's wisdom directs all of our work, and a place where we live Jesus' life. Once we are living in harmony with God's will—as Jesus was—the world will be a different place, a better place, a truly transformed place.

When remember whose we are, we know who we are. And, when we know who we are, we understand what to do: follow God's plan.

GROW IN CHRIST

If we are to labor for a lifetime in the kingdom, we need to draw upon more than our own abilities. Jesus promises to give the Samaritan woman **living water to quench her spiritual thirst**. Jesus says to her: *"ANYONE WHO DRINKS THIS WATER WILL SOON BECOME THIRSTY AGAIN. BUT THOSE WHO DRINK THE WATER I GIVE WILL NEVER BE THIRSTY AGAIN. IT BECOMES A FRESH, BUBBLING SPRING WITHIN THEM, GIVING THEM ETERNAL LIFE."* **John 4:13-14 NLT**

In his song, *Alright Mama*, Bob Dylan sings: *"He not busy being born is busy dying."* If we are not busy being born in Christ—continually dying to our old sins and passions so we might be born anew—then we will lack the spiritual depth to persevere in our work for the kingdom.

ANYONE WHO BELONGS TO CHRIST HAS BECOME A NEW PERSON. THE OLD LIFE IS GONE; A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN. **2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT** This process doesn't happen by accident but through our intentional practice of what John Wesley called the *"means of grace."* Prayer, fasting, Bible study, communion, tithing, service to the poor, following the lead of the Holy Spirit...all these play a part in our growth as a Christian.

We are more likely to become and stay spiritually fit as part of a group—the church. Unlike those other groups, the church offers extra power by praying for us so we might have the perseverance to keep on growing as a new creation in Christ. As Methodists, we believe that it is possible to grow closer to God year after year. It is possible for us to experience more and more of His grace. Our goal is always to become more and more like Jesus so we might be better equipped to share more of Jesus with the world.

PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU'S!

- Thank you to the **Nurture Ministry Team** for organizing the Christmas Dinner and thank you to **Chef Bob Brown** for the delicious food! **Thank you to the children & youth** who presented the Christmas play, "Out Standing In Their Field." Congratulations to the cast: Piper Martin, Payton Hartman, Marlo Schiber, Rachel Schiber, Taylor Scroggins, Lucas Hartman, Will Garrison, Eve Kasinger, Raegan Martin, Kate Garrison, Lucas Kasinger, Destiney Spears, Gabriel Shaffer, Emily Hall, Tabatha Barclay, Lilly Shaffer, and Victoria Garrison for a job well done! A special thank you to **Noël Schiber & Katie Lair (Directors), Debra Fansler, Dave Schiber, Phil Tite, Alex Lair, Maggie Funke, Eli Kasinger, Erin Hall, Scott Gwaltney, parents, & grandparents** for all of your behind-the-scenes work on the play. Everyone who attended had a great time!
- Thank you to **Rhonda Griffin, all the members of the cantata choir** (Jeannie Huddleston, Jean Kainz, Karen Martin, Marlo Schiber, Iris Uzzell, Elinor Blacklock, Tracy Franks, Christina Johnson, Kathy Link, Lois Mitchell, Megan Parker, Noël Schiber, Dorothy Kasinger, Rick Rader, Mike Link, Randy McLain, Dave Schiber, Tabby Barclay, and Rachel Schiber), **narrator Connie Hickerson, sound man Mark Mayer, and anyone else** who helped them share the meaning of Christmas in song through "On This Very Night," our annual Christmas cantata. Every year you instill within us the wonder and awe of that first Christmas. Christmas is meaningless if it does not result in our worship of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has lost a loved one recently. This includes the family of **Adam Behrhorst**, friend of Jamie Gwaltney; the family of **Larry Miller**, extended family of Dot Elliott; the family of **Larry Wiseman**, father of Cassie Wiseman (she came to our 2017 Trunk or Treat); the family of **Stephen Tepatti**, son of Doug Pascoe's friend, Bob; the family of **Holly Meyer**, who was very involved in the Roxana Schools & Community; the family of **Karen Funk**, sister-in-law of Iola Ballard; the family of **the father** of Marina Lawyer, submitted by Connie Martin; and the family of **Marion S. Velloff**, father/father-in-law of Julie & Gary Brown. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.
- A baby boy, **Russell Dale Scroggins**, was born to Jim & Amy Scroggins on December 30, 2017 weighing 3lbs. 3oz. His siblings Logan, Madison, Jonathan, & Brooklyn are waiting for him to come home. His proud grandparents are Jayme Scroggins and Mitch Scroggins. Congratulations everyone!

THANK YOU: Debra, Meg and I always appreciate your support for our ministry at Christmas and throughout the year. Your cards, notes of encouragement, cookies, and other gifts are always cherished. We wish everyone a Happy New Year! **Pastor Daryl**

THANK YOU: Thank you so much for the thoughtful and generous Christmas gift!! I really appreciate you thinking of me in this way. I have really enjoyed the first six months (already!) of my music ministry here on Sunday mornings, and getting to know many of you, although it has not been without challenges. But, that is to be expected when we are trying to lift high the name of Jesus Christ, and praise and worship our heavenly Father in Spirit and in Truth through the powerful gift of music. Thank you for allowing me to serve you as Music Director here at St. Paul. I ask for your prayers as I continue to seek God's will in all things. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for all of us in the New Year! God bless! In Christ's love and service, **Rhonda Griffin**

THANK YOU: Thank you so very much for thinking of & blessing me with your thoughtful gifts this Christmas. And thank you for all of the prayer support during my recent surgery and recovery. Working here is a true joy for me. **Joe Hanfelder**

THANK YOU: I cannot thank you enough in a written way that truly expresses how much my ministry with you means to me. The blessing of your generous Christmas gift and all the many cards & gifts received has been delightful. Thank you for each one of them. **Lois Mitchell**

OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

THANK YOU: To the St. Paul Congregation — Thank you for the lovely lunch, cards, and gift. It was very thoughtful of you and I felt very special & loved! But isn't that the way it is in the family of God? We are called and drawn together by His Love, and then can't help but be joyful and share that joy with others! Your church is so special — many hands eager to serve each other and the Lord, whether In the church or through outreach and mission! You are blessed to have a pastor who clearly loves and cares for his flock! I could never keep up with his visits! He taught me a lot through his example about the art of "presence." My prayer is that the Lord will continue to use the people of St. Paul in a mighty way — and that it will be to His Glory! You are forever in my heart! *Eileen Cheatham (Parish Nurse)*

PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**SPREAD THE WORD**

The church has the story of Jesus—his life, death and resurrection. A story that never grows old and never grows irrelevant, because Jesus is the savior—not of my generation or your generation—but of all generations.

The challenge becomes to tell the story in a way that connects with the mindset of every generation. In a recent speech at the Catalyst Conference, Charles Swindoll, the retired President of Dallas Theological Seminary and noted preacher, said: **"WE MUST BE WILLING TO LEAVE THE FAMILIAR METHODS WITHOUT DISTURBING THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE."** These words echo those of Paul in I Corinthians 9: *"When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law. When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ. When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings."* **I Corinthians 9:20-23 NLT** Our goal is to offer Christ in a way that people may respond as we have and follow Him!

Every year Beloit Colleges publishes a **mindset list for the entering class of freshmen**. The intention is to help professors understand how the students they teach have a totally different life experience than their own. From a list of 60 items on *"The Mindset List for the Class of 2021,"* here are a few that help us understand this generation:

They are the last class born in the 1900s, the last of the Millennials.

They are the first generation for whom a "phone" has been primarily a video game, direction finder, electronic telegraph, and research library.

There have always been emojis to cheer us up.

They have always been searching for Pokémon.

As toddlers, they may have taught their grandparents to Skype.

Justin Timberlake has always been a solo act.

I read the list each year to remind me how my preaching and my leadership of the church must change if it is to reach the next generation. I don't change the gospel; simply those ways that I seek to communicate it.

Years ago, in a central European town, the older townspeople could be seen making the sign of the cross as they passed by an ordinary looking wall. When a visitor asked why they were doing this, no one knew. The visitor's curiosity led him to begin chipping away at the layers of whitewash and dirt covering the wall until, underneath, he discovered a beautiful mural of Mary and the child Jesus. Generations before, the townspeople had had a reason for making the sign of the cross, but succeeding generations had learned only the ritual.

When we forget whose we are, we lose who we are. And, in the midst of all this, our practice of faith becomes muddled. We forget why we are doing what we do in the church. The practice of faith becomes all about us and our comfort instead of praising and glorifying God. We forget that we are called out of the crowd to tell the story of Jesus. A story that—if rightly told—never ceases to amaze, never ceases to save, and never ceases to change lives forever. Jesus came so that every knee would bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord.

During our worship services in January, we will remind ourselves why we are here and what we are to be doing.
Pastor Daryl



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

"More Jesus Time" for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Our 8:15 a.m. service is a traditional service with hymns played on our beautiful pipe organ by Rhonda Griffin. The Pastor leads worship clothed in a robe and stole. Communion is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

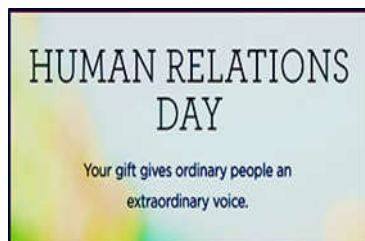


Our 10:30 a.m. service—*Awakening*—is based upon this verse from 2 Chronicles 16:9: "God's eyes range from to and fro throughout the Earth looking to strengthen the person that would bend their heart toward Him." The preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is played by a worship band. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or available on the entryway table. The Worship Choir and Hand Bell Choir provide special music. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service. The intent of both worship services is to connect, reconnect and draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ.



7: Epiphany Sunday. Baptism of the Lord. Communion

Sunday in both services. Pastor Daryl begins a new sermon series, *Rise Up*, which challenges us to respond to the call to be the church in the world. In baptism, we are changed from no people into God's people. This doesn't give us special privileges, but rather special responsibilities.



14: Human Relations Day. Birthday Sunday.

Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, *Rise Up*, which challenges us to respond to the call to be the church in the world. We are reminded that we are to see others as God sees them: His beloved children. All of us stand as sinners redeemed by God.



RISE UP

21: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, *Rise Up*, which challenges us to respond to the call to be the church in the world. It is so easy to become distracted—even within the church—so that we lost

our focus upon what is truly important. The shared trait of great athletes is that they are able to set aside distractions and focus upon the game or contest at hand. These athletes keep their eyes upon the prize which for us is eternal life. This life is not ours alone but intended to be shared with everyone.

28: 4th Sunday after Epiphany. Pastor Daryl continues the sermon series, *Rise Up*, which challenges us to respond to the call to be the church in the world. Although a few may be called to the monastic life, we are not. Each Sunday we go back out into the world doing our best to live out our faith. Some weeks we do this better than others. The good news is that we regroup every Sunday to be recharged and sent out once more to witness to others; telling of our great Savior.



KINDNESS HEALTH FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

KINDNESS IS TEACHABLE

"It's kind of like weight training, we found that people can actually build up their compassion 'muscle' and respond to others' suffering with care and a desire to help."

Dr. Ritchie Davidson, University of Wisconsin

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

The positive effects of kindness are experienced in the brain of everyone who witnessed the act, improving their mood and making them significantly more likely to "pay it forward." This means one good deed in a crowded area can create a domino effect and improve the day of dozens of people!

KINDNESS INCREASES:

THE LOVE HORMONE

Witnessing acts of kindness produces oxytocin, occasionally referred to as the 'love hormone' which aids in lowering blood pressure and improving our overall heart-health. Oxytocin also increases our self-esteem and optimism, which is extra helpful when we're in anxious or shy in a social situation.

ENERGY

"About half of participants in one study reported that they feel stronger and more energetic after helping others; many also reported feeling calmer and less depressed, with increased feelings of self-worth"

Christine Carter, UC Berkeley, Greater Good Science Center

HAPPINESS

A 2010 Harvard Business School survey of happiness in 136 countries found that people who are altruistic—in this case, people who were generous financially, such as with charitable donations—were happiest overall.

LIFESPAN

"People who volunteer tend to experience fewer aches and pains. Giving help to others protects overall health twice as much as aspirin protects against heart disease. People 55 and older who volunteer for two or more organizations have an impressive 44% lower likelihood of dying early, and that's after sifting out every other contributing factor, including physical health, exercise, gender, habits like smoking, marital status and many more. This is a stronger effect than exercising four times a week or going to church." Christine Carter, Author, "Raising Happiness: In Pursuit of Joyful Kids and Happier Parents"

PLEASURE

According to research from Emory University, when you are kind to another person, your brain's pleasure and reward centers light up, as if you were the recipient of the good deed—not the giver. This phenomenon is called the "helper's high."

SEROTONIN

Like most medical antidepressants, kindness stimulates the production of serotonin. This feel-good chemical heals your wounds, calms you down, and makes you happy!

KINDNESS DECREASES:

PAIN

Engaging in acts of kindness produces endorphins, the brain's natural painkiller!

STRESS

Perpetually kind people have 23% less cortisol (the stress hormone) and age slower than the average population!

ANXIETY

A group of highly anxious individuals performed at least six acts of kindness a week. After one month, there was a significant increase in positive moods, relationship satisfaction and a decrease in social avoidance in socially anxious individuals.

University of British Columbia Study

DEPRESSION

Stephen Post of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine found that when we give of ourselves, everything from life satisfaction to self-realization and physical health is significantly improved. Mortality is delayed, depression is reduced and well-being and good fortune are increased.

BLOOD PRESSURE

Committing acts of kindness lowers blood pressure. According to Dr. David R. Hamilton, acts of kindness create emotional warmth, which releases a hormone known as oxytocin. Oxytocin causes the release of a chemical called nitric oxide, which dilates the blood vessels. This reduces blood pressure and, therefore, oxytocin is known as a "cardioprotective" hormone. It protects the heart by lowering blood pressure.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jan Calvin Gowan
 03-Jan Ronald Bishop
 03-Jan Ashley Groshong
 03-Jan Kathy Hamlin
 03-Jan Mike Link
 05-Jan Heather Decker
 05-Jan Piper Martin
 05-Jan Samantha Shewmake
 06-Jan Joyce Tappy
 07-Jan Glenn Bowman
 07-Jan Lana Cox
 07-Jan Chris Fincher
 07-Jan Christina Johnson
 07-Jan Shay Poore
 07-Jan Laura Jo White
 08-Jan Becky Balzaine
 08-Jan Avery Huddleston
 08-Jan Jim Scroggins
 09-Jan Mary Lou Dorsey
 09-Jan Beulah Moore
 09-Jan Marsha Weston-Fiss
 09-Jan Janet Williams
 10-Jan Emily Voorhees
 11-Jan Riley Eyster
 11-Jan Paula Hubbard
 11-Jan Stacy Lyons
 11-Jan Norma Shaffer

12-Jan Lindsey Mayer
 12-Jan Nathan Rain
 13-Jan Aiden Napp
 13-Jan Mylie Ramirez
 14-Jan Dottye Aitken
 14-Jan Scott Gwaltney
 14-Jan Gregg Liedtke
 18-Jan Amy Hale
 18-Jan McLain Oertle
 19-Jan Eileen Cheatham
 19-Jan Julie Hobbs
 19-Jan D.J. Redden Jr.
 21-Jan Scott Aitken
 21-Jan Annabelle Chester
 21-Jan Russell Wheat Jr.
 22-Jan Clayton Bunt
 22-Jan William Garrison
 23-Jan Ken Gimmy
 23-Jan Tamera Martin
 24-Jan Ryan Groshong
 25-Jan Lindsey Cameron
 25-Jan Jan Poore
 26-Jan Sandy Moore

27-Jan Janet Hughes
 27-Jan David Sheppard
 27-Jan James Sheppard
 28-Jan Duane Moore
 29-Jan Gail Hansard
 29-Jan Mychal Voorhees
 30-Jan Raymond Shaffer
 30-Jan Logan Sims
 30-Jan Tom Voorhees
 30-Jan Londa Weller
 31-Jan Jessica Barnes
 31-Jan Geno Hartman
 31-Jan Marlo Schiber
 31-Jan William Sullivan
 31-Jan Miranda Walters



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

5-Jan Kelly & Rachel McPheters
 20-Jan John & Rita White
 27-Jan Dan & Tammy Davis



Help us keep the church directory information current!

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

**DECEMBER Stewardship**

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Budget Offering: | through 12/31/2017 | \$25726.00 |
| Designated Giving: | through 12/31/2017 | \$6522.53 |
| | Capital Improvements | 130.00 |
| | Loose Change | 121.03 |
| | Flowers | 300.00 |
| | Hickerson Scholarship | 80.00 |
| | Upper Room Donations | 5.00 |
| | Helping Hands | 2680.00 |
| | Charles McKnelly | 200.00 |
| | Brad Fester/Wycliffe | 100.00 |
| | UMCOR | 500.00 |
| | Memorials | 1300.00 |
| | 2018 Newsletter Postage | 8.50 |
| | Salvation Army-Alton | 50.00 |
| | Funeral Dinners | 300.00 |
| | Christmas Dinner Donations | 748.00 |
| UM Student Offering | | 60.00 |
| Thanksgiving Offering | | 110.00 |
| Christmas Offering | | 2622.00 |
| Capital Campaign | | 2270.00 |
| Total: | | \$37310.53 |

Call the Church Office (259-5210) if you would like to be a Greeter for either Sunday service!

Average Attendance for DECEMBER 2017

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Early Service | 39 |
| Late Service | 82 |
| Sunday School | 32 |
| Visitors | 4 |



Capital Campaign money received as of 12-31-17: \$286,326.30

FOR YOUR INFORMATION -
If bad weather requires the cancellation of worship services, we will:

- ✦ **ACTIVATE OUR NEW PHONE TREE CALLING SYSTEM!**
- ✦ **leave a message on the office answering machine**
- ✦ **contact TV Channel 5**
- ✦ **post a notice on our website www.stpaulwired.org (if possible)**
- ✦ **contact those on the e-mail & phone prayer chain (if possible)**

**MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT**

January's Loose Change Project is the **SPERO Family**

Services in Mt. Vernon, IL. Funds will go for youth programs on campus, independent living programs, transitional living, or community based programs. The Chaplain's ministry may also be a recipient of the funds. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

Resolution One:

I will live for God.

Resolution Two:

If no one else does, I still will.

~Jonathan Edwards~

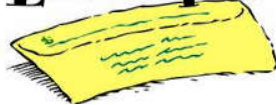
DEADLINE FOR
FEBRUARY 2018
STEEPLE, Fri.,
JANUARY 19th!



2018 NEWSLETTERS:

It is time to be thinking about the 2018 Newsletter (The Steeple). The cost to have the newsletter mailed directly to you at home will be **\$8.50**. Of course we will still email the Newsletter, place it on the website, and have copies at the church for you to pick up, to have extras to give to friends you invite to church, and for visitors to take. Send your request to have it mailed to you to the Church Office and your check for **\$8.50**. Any questions...call 259-5210.

Offering Envelopes



The 2018 Offering Envelopes were handled differently than last years.

ALL remaining 2018 Envelopes have been mailed. Let the church office know if you do not receive yours!

PLEASE, be sure to use these and not leftovers from other years.

If you would like some envelopes or to trade weekly envelopes for monthly or vice versa, call the office as soon as possible. Thank you!!



Thank You to all of our Salvation Army Bell Ringers who rang on

Friday, Dec. 8th between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. and thank you to everyone who stopped by and put a donation in our kettle! It is great to be a part of this huge ministry to so many in need.



PECANS:

The costs are:

\$10.00 for the 1lb. bag of plain and
\$8.00 for a bag of the chocolate covered.

The pecans being sold are a Fundraiser for the Women of Worship missions.



Have you been away too long? Start 2018 off in the right way; reconnect with God!

CAP 'N MITTEN TREE

Your efforts to cover the **Cap 'N Mitten Tree** brought these results: 45 pairs of gloves, 29 sock caps, 37 girl's underwear, 16 boys underwear, 30 pairs of girl's socks, and 6 pairs of boy's socks for a total of **163 gifts** on the tree! Your generosity will bring warmth and comfort to many people this winter. Thank you and God bless you for your gifts!



**HUMAN RELATIONS DAY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH**

It is more important than ever that we celebrate our common humanity and oneness in Jesus Christ on **Human Relations Day, Sunday, January 14.** There is only One Faith, One Baptism, and One Lord. United Methodists take up a special offering for Human Relations Day. Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Service, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation programs benefit from our gifts.

When Donna, an active participant at Solomon Community Temple United Methodist Church in Milwaukee became pregnant as a teen, she found herself enfolded in *Blanket of Love*, a Christ-centered ministry working to improve birth outcomes of African-American babies by teaching prenatal care, infant care and parenting skills. Director Julia Means, R.N., says “*The first thing I teach them is—as a mother—you must teach your children to pray. Children need to be brought up in church.*” Donna is just one of many who received support at a critical point in their life because you cared.

You can use any offering envelope in the pew for this special offering, marking your gift for *Human Relations Day*, or designate an amount on your regular offering envelope for *Human Relations Day*. We offer this opportunity for you to support ministries that make a difference in the lives of our youth. Thank you for those moved to support these vital programs.

WOMEN OF WORSHIP 2017 REPORT

The Women of Worship met on December 7th following a potluck luncheon. In lieu of a gift exchange, children’s underwear and socks were donated by the members to be distributed along with the caps, mittens/ gloves, and scarves from the Cap ‘N Mitten Tree by the 3 area school nurses.

The St. Paul Women of Worship are happy to report another financially successful year and we were able to donate **\$9,600** to various charities and missions. This was made possible by many busy hands helping with **ALL** of our projects. Fundraising projects this year included: the Chicken/Noodle Dinner in February, the Retired Teacher’s Luncheon in March, the Rummage Sale in April, the Bowling Banquet in May, the Fall Festival in October, Pecan sales in November & December, and the Christmas Boutique in December. Service projects included: 18 Easter Baskets for Community Hope Center and Operation Blessing, 20 Happy Bears each month for children seen in the AMH Emergency Room, 42 coverlets made by Elinor Blacklock and Beulah Moore delivered to the Oasis Women’s Center, and 9 funeral dinners. At the December’s meeting the following funds were voted to be dispersed:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------|--|
| School Nurses: Roxana - | \$ 1,400 | UMCOR | \$ 500 | * Bethalto and E. Alton have other sources of income for these expenditures that Roxana does not have, thus the varying amounts. |
| Bethalto - | 400* | SPERO Family Services | 600 | |
| East Alton- | 600* | St. Paul Help. Hands | 1,500 | |
| Salvation Army | 300 | Lessie Bates | 750 | |
| Oasis Women Ctr. | 200 | St. Paul Gen. Budget | 2,000 | |
| Hope Center | 150 | Ethiopia Girls Project | 100 | |
| Operation Blessing | 150 | Cub Scouts | 150 | |
| Boy Scouts | 150 | Capital Campaign St Paul | <u>500</u> | |
| Venture Crew | 150 | | \$ 9,600 | |

The Women of Worship would like to thank all the church wide volunteers who helped in any way to make these events a success. We appreciate your help and support and would welcome you to our planning meetings for your input. God Bless you and Happy New Year!!

→ NOTE: A planning meeting for 2018 will be held on January 23rd to finalize 2018 dates and to elect officers. A Potluck Lunch will begin at NOON and the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. Crafts should resume in February – we would really appreciate any of your ideas for items to make and directions on “how to make it.”



The KIND youth group has been participating in several activities over the past few months. In November, we served at the senior dinner, and in December we rang bells with the Salvation Army and then delivered cold weather care packages to the local police and fire departments to disperse to people in need.

We would love to have more youth share in our efforts to share the love of Jesus with others. Youth- please consider joining us on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 4-5:30pm in the youth room. YOU have the ability to make a difference, in our church and community!

In Christ's Love and Kindness, Lauren Cranmer - Youth Leader



**The DYSART FAMILY concert
will be on Sunday, February 11
during the 10:30am Service.
Plan now to come!**

Biography

The Dysart Family, based out of Macon, Missouri, have had the privilege of sharing the stage with *The Gatlin Brothers*, *Legacy Five Quartet*, *The Mark Trammell Quartet*, *The Talley Trio*, *The Lesters*, *Gold City Quartet*, *Jeff & Sheri Easter*, and *Tribute Quartet*.

The Dysart's approach to their music ministry incorporates a serious focus on personal relationships with Jesus, their love for each other in the home, and just plain hard work on their music. What they end up with are blessed times of worship in concert, complimented by a tight family blend that is distinctive to The Dysarts.

TRAINING

District Training Event!

The Mississippi River District Training Event is scheduled **Saturday, January 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Trenton First UM Church.**

Our theme this year is “#See All The People,” a movement of UMC Discipleship Ministries focused toward disciple-making instead of fixing churches.

Guest presenter will be Rev. Vance Ross, Director Discipleship Ministries. Additional training opportunities will also be available:

Financial Affairs with Rev. Ed Weston, **Spiritual Formation** with Rev. Rebecca Williams, **Trustees and the Local Church** with Rev. Dennis Price, **Peacekeeper** with Rev. Dr. Steve Heitkamp, and **Discipleship Ministries** with Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross.

If you are interested in attending, contact the Church Office either by phone or email. Please tell us which workshop you wish to attend.

The church is willing to pay the **\$10 cost** which includes our lunch for all leaders wanting to attend. If enough people sign up, we will take the church bus for your convenience.



"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus..."
~Philippians 2:5~

It always amazes me how fast a year can slip through our fingers. We spend so much time waiting for this day or that day that sometimes we forget to live each day in the moment. In 2017 we saw many changes take place: new leadership for our country, people supporting people who feel that they have been ostracized throughout history, and even in our own church, with trying a new worship service on Sunday mornings.

Beginning on January 1 we have the chance to put our best foot forward in the New Year. We make resolutions to lose weight, make amends with those who we are estranged from, but do we ever really make the most important resolution of all? This year, in 2018, let's make our resolution to grow a closer relationship with God. Let's resolve to invite others to church, to share the good news, and openly display our faith for all to see. Whether we are at church or in a restaurant, or even on social media- let's resolve to put Christ first in our lives.

My prayer for the New Year is that our church can continue to grow a stronger ministry, opening our hearts and doors to reach more people through the word of God. Please continue to pray for the ministry that our church has to offer to the people in our surrounding communities.

Love and Peace in the New Year,
Lauren Cranmer -- Awakening Worship Coordinator

Church Leadership Meeting!

We welcome our **District Superintendent, Rev. Rose Booker-Jones** for a meeting with the leadership of our church on **Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m.** The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm creative ways in which we may address our shortfall in meeting our apportionments. Apportionments are the way that we pay our fair share of the operating and program expenses and the benevolence support of the Annual Conference.

When we fail to meet our fair share it hurts those people and programs that provide training and support for our churches. For example, Rev. Mike Crawford, head of Congregational Development, has provided personal counsel and training events that have benefited our Awakening Service. Spero Family Services (UM Children's Home) in Mt. Vernon, Alton Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Program, Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis, TWIGS in Granite City, UMCOR, and a myriad of other benevolence programs we care about are affected by the failure to meet our annual commitment to our benevolence apportionment.

With the guidance of Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, we will begin developing a plan to move forward toward paying these commitments in full during 2018.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE TRAINING!

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Rose Booker-Jones, is facilitating special training for Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee on two separate dates:

Saturday, January 27, 2018,
10 a.m. – Noon at Belleville
Union UMC and

Sunday, January 28, 2018,
2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Granite
City Nameoki.

All members of the committee are encouraged to attend.

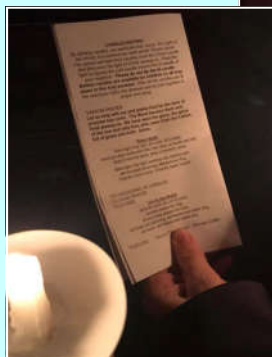
Please contact the Church Office by phone or email so we may sign you up for one of the sessions.



Christmas Joy!!



2017 Christmas Cantata, "On This Very Night!"



7 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**We made
Gingerbread
Houses on Dec.
17th after the
Christmas Cantata
and some lunch!
Everyone had a ton
of fun!! One picture
here and more on
Page 13.**



**The Holy Family
for the 8:15
March To The
Manger: Chris,
Stephanie, and
Anika Richter.**



**The Holy Family for the 10:30
March To The Manger: Kelly,
Rachel, and Grace McPheters.
Also, see Rachel as the baby
Jesus when she was 2 weeks
old at the first March To The
Manger, 12/16/1979!**



Poinsettias 2017



ADULT BIBLE STUDY CLASS in honor of teacher, Joyce Tappy
 LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of our Family
 LARRY & IOLA BALLARD in honor of Children & Grandchildren
 CARLEEN BALZRAINE in memory of her husband, Homer
 BETTY BURNS in memory of her parents, Robert & Geneva Stein
 ALICE BURROWS in memory of her mother, Goldie Kieninger
 JIM & ANITA DAWSON in honor of our Family
 DOT ELLIOTT & FAMILY in memory of Keith Elliott
 DARYL & MEG FANSLER in honor of Debra Fansler
 DARYL, DEBRA, & MEG FANSLER in honor of Wayne & Marge Detmers
 DARYL, DEBRA, & MEG FANSLER in honor of Anika Richter
 DANIELLE & TIM FRANCIS, KINSEY FRANCIS, RILEY FRANCIS, ERIN MAGARY, CHRISTOPHER & HEATHER FEYERABEND, DEANA & NICK KELLER, DAGAY KELLER, & PAUL KELLER in honor of their Grandmother/Great-Grandmother, Alice Burrows
 TRACY FRANKS in memory of her parents, Lute & Doloros Taulbee
 MARJORIE HALL in memory of her son, Dennis Hall
 JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of Sam & Mary Herndon
 JIM & JANE HERNDON in memory of Ed & Emma Sidwell
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Meghan Hickerson
 THE HICKERSON FAMILY in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Norman Taylor
 RICHARD & VI HUEBNER in memory of their Parents
 RICHARD & VI HUEBNER in honor of their Children
 STEVE, JEAN, & STEPH KAINZ in memory of Bill & Janet Pullen and Bob Kainz
 DAVID & LORI KAMP in memory of Jim Hill
 DAVID & LORI KAMP in memory of Marilyn Hill
 DAVID & LORI KAMP in memory of Ed Kamp
 DAVID & LORI KAMP in honor of our Family
 DOROTHY KASINGER in memory of her parents, Victor & Beulah Strohbeck
 DOROTHY KASINGER in honor of her Children and Grandchildren
 TOM & KAREN MARTIN in memory of George & Jean Tappy
 TOM & KAREN MARTIN in honor of our Grandsons: Maddox, Hunter, Wyatt, & Colton
 RANDY & MINDY McLAIN in honor of our Grandchildren
 KEITH & JUDY MOORE in memory of James Rains
 JAYME SCROGGINS in memory of her parents, Jim & Eva Lee Nunn
 MIKE & LINDA SCROGGINS in memory of Mike's Parents
 MIKE & LINDA SCROGGINS in memory of Linda's Parents
 RICHARD & GRACE SKIFF in memory of Grandpa Skiff
 JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in memory of her dad, Dr. Norman Taylor
 JILL TAYLOR-SULLIVAN in memory of her mom, Mrs. Carole Taylor
 MIKE & LORI TAPPY in memory of George & Jean Tappy
 PHIL, DEBBIE, & RYAN TITE & LINDSEY RADER in memory of Charles & Alice Tite
 PHIL & DEBBIE TITE & FAMILY & JANET HUGHES in memory of Arthur & Viola Stock (Parents of Debbie Tite & Janet Hughes)
 TOM & RUTH VOORHEES in honor of their Children and Grandchildren
 PAUL & GERALDINE WARD in memory of Family Members
 CAROL WARNER in memory of her husband, Dean & her daughter, Terri Lynn
 JOHN & RITA WHITE in memory of her dad, Ben Moore, in honor of her mom, Beulah Moore



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

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. The **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. One can still 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.**



Happy
NEW YEAR

Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.



Into year three...

As our Mission Possible projects draw to a close the pictures reveal our most recent projects. The front parking area was moved three feet closer to church to enable drivers to exit their vehicle away from the busy highway and sidewalks were extended and added to provide better access for car passengers. The "truncated domes" at the end of the walkways are provided for those individuals with limited or lack of sight as a reminder that they have reached the end of a walkway. This project was completed by Gillihan Concrete contractors and was listed as one of our second level goals in our Mission Possible campaign.



The pictures of the new windows highlight an add-on project that we discovered a need for in the course of all our work. We replaced

windows in the fellowship hall, kitchen, basement rest rooms, and choir practice room. We now have energy efficient windows that will add to our

heating and cooling savings. The window project was completed by Stumpf Construction.

The only remaining task from our original Mission Possible plan is the front sign. This project would be to replace the lighted message board with an LED board and would not involve the unique brick work. At this point Trustees have tabled this action in order to determine if the money is available (\$26,000) without increasing our existing debt of \$159,000 (\$71,000 to our own Endowment Fund).

St. Paul throughout the years has taken great pride in being a debt free church. Unfortunately, the needs of our facility were so great that in order to meet those needs it was necessary to accumulate debt. A fact that is obviously contrary to our long standing philosophy. Therefore, it is important for all of us to prayerfully and diligently continue to focus on reducing our debt. In order to accomplish this we will continue to count on your generosity, as demonstrated since Mission Possible began in October 2015, and your continued vision of making sure St. Paul is a viable ministry to our area.

God bless and thank you once again to all for your generosity and prayers in accomplishing this work.

Sincerely, *St. Paul Trustees*



Additional Benefit of Mission Possible Projects.....

The Mission Possible projects have been an obvious and noticeable improvement to our church facility. However, recently, because of our three-year evaluation of our church facilities by Church Mutual Insurance, we have received additional benefit from our Mission Possible efforts. Because of the work that we did and especially in regards to our security improvements (video access, panic buttons, monitoring system), heating and cooling improvements (to the church and parsonage), the parsonage roof, bell tower roof, and window work our insurance firm is rewarding St. Paul with a **\$430 annual reduction in our insurance premium**. In addition, the insurance consultant was impressed by all the work that we had accomplished and the beautiful church that we currently call St. Paul. Thank you; because of your diligence and generosity all of this has been possible. *St. Paul Trustees*



"It Takes A Village...."

Perhaps an overused phrase but appropriate to our Mission Possible projects this year has been the hard work and generosity of many people in this church above and beyond their campaign financial commitment. As of December we had received \$7,297.48 donations from fundraisers involving at least three groups within the church. We also received two designated memorial gifts totaling \$3,539.16, an insurance rebate of \$885, an Eagle Scout donation of \$747.58, a donation on behalf of the bus by Sweet Sounds in the amount of \$500, and another \$500 from the Women Of Worship as they dispersed their earnings at the year's end. All totaled these gifts above and beyond campaign commitments **amounted to \$13,469.22**. The unselfish generosity and hard work of so many within our church has helped St. Paul to meet our facility goals. Thank you for 2017! *St. Paul Trustees*