



# The Steeple



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

**JULY 2018**

**REFLECTIONS...**

Greetings people of infinite worth!

I am so very excited to be joining in the ministry at St. Paul Rosewood Heights! So far, my experience with your members has been exemplary. As we work together to create a smooth transition, I have enjoyed great kindness and generosity on the part of the staff and leaders! Thank you!

Let's start with a confession; I am a book nerd, I may have taken 'book nerd-dom' to a whole new level. A couple of weeks ago at Annual Conference I spent some quality time in the prayer room, located in the conference center. I fell in love with a book I found there; I had never seen it before. It's called, "*The Book of Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.*" It was love at first glance; I had to have that book! It is a combination of a devotional, a prayer book, a song book, and a collection of interesting church history tid-bits. What's not to love? I contacted my good friends at Amazon.com and ordered a used copy. I was so excited about praying with this book; I could not wait for it to arrive, so I purchased the e-book version, too. It was instantly delivered to my computer. This book has not been a disappointment!

What I want to share with you from my short experience with the *BCP:LOR*, is the reading from June 17th. The reading speaks of John Wesley, and what a remarkable man he was. His vision of what the church ought to be was radically different from the culture in which he grew up. The gaping disparity between the two was so broad he couldn't reconcile his vision with the status quo. He began the Methodist movement in England and in the colony of Georgia. He lived a long and vibrant life. As he lay on his death bed and he knew he was soon to pass on to an eternity, his last words were these: "Best of all, God; you are with us."

Best of all, God; you are with us. Whether at the end of a journey like Wesley, or at the beginning of a journey, like we are; God is with us. He will guide and bless as we continue to serve him. God will be with us all the way!

Starting on **July 8th**, we are beginning a sermon series. We will study The Book of Ruth over a period of four weeks. The title of the series is: "**Road Trip.**" In it we will explore what God has to say about the spiritual journey of a group of ordinary, good-hearted people. They experience loss, bitterness, and uncertainty, but; despite their tragic circumstances, they find a way to be faithful and honorable as they walk with the Lord. The Book of Ruth has much to tell us about our relationship with God, relationships between men and women, and relationships with our neighbors.

One of the many reasons I love the stories from the Bible is that they are so relevant today. Culture changes, fashions change, modes of transportation change, and methods of communication change, but; human nature does not change. We are still a people who need to learn better ways to love and treat one another. At our worst, we are a broken people who deny our broken-ness and try to hide it. At our best, we are a broken people who lean on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. At our best, we seek to grow in our faith, and to serve Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessings! Pastor Debra



## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- **Congratulations** to **Melvin Johnson** who joined St. Paul by Profession of Faith on June 3rd! We welcome Mel as our newest member and give thanks for all that he and Lee, his wife, contribute to the church. They are willing workers at many meals: running the dishwasher or cleaning up.
- **Congratulations** to **Marlo Schiber** who received the Silver award from the Girl Scouts. As her project, she completed a video on her sister, Rachel. The video is available for viewing on Youtube.com.
- **Congratulations** to all of our graduates! **Graduate School:** Felicia Ernst, Kevin Rader, and Dani Wilson. **College:** Christian Cranmer, Lauren Cranmer, Meg Fansler, and Joy Miller. **High School:** Kelsey Foiles, Erin Hall, Brynn Huddleston, Luke Kasinger, and Sydney Martin. **Jr. High School:** Clayton Bunt, Tyler Cameron, Emily Hall, Payton Hartman, Piper Martin, Brynleigh Mormino, Peyton Mormino, Logan Oertle, Madelaine Ramirez, Morgann Ramirez, Marlo Schiber, and Taylor Scroggins. We try very hard to not miss any names but if we have, please contact the Church Office and let us know so that we may congratulate them in the next Steeple!
- We **congratulate** our Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship recipients who received their scholarships on June 10th. This year's recipients are **Angelle N. Henson**, daughter of Derek & Barb Henson and **Emily R. Richards**, daughter of Greg & Tammy Richards. May God Bless your life journey!
- **Thank you to everyone** who contributed to The Gideons International on Gideons Sunday in May! We have received word that a total of **\$527** was given. Your generosity is overwhelming!
- We celebrated the baptism of **Drake Thomas York** on Father's Day, Sunday June 17. **Drake** is the son of Robert & Cindy York. Our prayer is that we as the church will keep our commitment to surround Drake with God's love.

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**THANK YOU:** Thank you to my church family for all of your cards, calls, and expressions of sympathy in the passing of David. These things make a difficult time a little easier to go through. Your caring that has been expressed in so many ways is appreciated by all of us. God Bless You - *Marjorie Hall and Family*

**THANK YOU:** Thanks to my St. Paul family for all of your prayers, good wishes, visits, cards, and calls during my stay at Eunice Smith and since I have come home. I have been truly blessed that my hip has healed so quickly! My special thanks to Pastor Daryl and Doug who lifted my spirits with their visits and reminded me that God is always with us during these trying times. I look forward to being back participating in all the events at St. Paul very soon. God Bless all of you. *Dotty Aitken*

**THANK YOU:** Words can simply not express how truly appreciative we are for our church family. From the inspirational words Pastor Daryl delivered at Mitch's memorial service, to the wonderful meal prepared for our family and friends by all of the lovely ladies, and to all of you who attended the service, we are deeply grateful. Your outpouring of prayers and messages of condolence have been of great comfort. Thank you. *Tom & Ruth Voorhees and Family*

**THANK YOU:** It is with profound gratitude that we extend our thanks to our church family for all the love, care, visits, and prayers from the congregation and Pastor Daryl that we received during the illness and passing of our precious Spencer. Much love, *The Bacus Family*

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS CONTINUE ON PAGE 3**



**OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS CONTINUE FROM PAGE 2**

**THANK YOU:** We would like to thank Jim Herndon and Don, Scott, Brad, and Jake Gwaltney for all of their hard work installing Ben Moore’s memorial bench in the park and the pavers under the bench. It is a beautiful addition to our wonderful park! *The Moore Family and the Memorial Committee*

**THANK YOU:** A big thank you to Pastor Daryl and Doug for their visits and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. Also, thank you to those who sent cards and lifted me up in prayer and to my family who has been a great support team during my recuperation. God is good all the time; all the time God is good.  
*Patsy Goss*



**ON SUNDAYS IN THE  
CHURCH AMPHITHEATER**

**at 8:15 a.m.**

**JUNE 3rd-AUGUST 26th**

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



**PLEASE  
HELP US  
HELP YOU!**

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

Whenever you or a member of your family enters the hospital, rehab/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!



**OUR New ADDRESS**

**Pastor Daryl, Debra, &  
Meg Fansler  
1852 Appleton Court  
Maryville, IL 62062**



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

*Our 8:15 a.m. worship service is held in the amphitheater in the park during the summer. Wear casual clothes; bring your coffee and lawn chair. In case of rain, the service is held in the sanctuary.*



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 are available on the entryway table. Communion is celebrated at the end of every service. The intent of both worship services is to connect, to reconnect, and to draw people into a closer connection with Jesus Christ. **“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.**



**1: Freedom Sunday. Communion celebrated in both services.** We welcome Pastor Debra & Joe Hoertel as they begin their ministry among us! We encourage you to come to the 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. services to meet them. A **MEET & GREET** Time will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor between the services!



**8: Birthday Sunday. New Sermon Series—The Book Of Ruth: Road Trip.** Pastor Debra will help us explore what God has to say about the spiritual journey of a group of ordinary, good-hearted people. They experience loss, bitterness, and uncertainty, but; despite their tragic circumstances, they find a way to be faithful and honorable as they walk with the Lord. The Book of Ruth has much to tell us about our relationship with God, relationships between men and women, and relationships with our neighbors. Today we look at **The Book Of Ruth: Road Trip - Flat Tire ...Bitterness gets in the way of our walk with Jesus**



- 15: Sermon Series—The Book Of Ruth: Road Trip - Road-Side Assistance ...A little kindness goes a long way.**
- 22: Sermon Series—The Book Of Ruth: Road Trip - GPS ...Find where God is working, and partner with Him.**
- 29: Sermon Series—The Book Of Ruth: Road Trip - On the Road Again ...Honor and integrity can get you back on your way again. The series concludes today.**

# CAPTURE THE FLAG

## BATTLE OF THE CHURCHES!!

❖ We will be having a battle of the churches on Sunday, July 22nd at 2 p.m. We are challenging East Alton UMC to a game of capture the flag- with a twist!

Water balloons will be provided for extra fun

to ensue. We invite **ALL** church members to participate in this time of fellowship with other members of our faith, and ask that everyone please join us for an afternoon of fun. **Donations of bottled water and cold treats (ice cream, popsicles, etc.) are needed for fellowship following the outdoor games. Mark your calendars now and join us then!**



# THE "I WILLS" OF THIS DAY AND EVERYDAY!

### I WILL HELP OTHERS

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord.

COLOSSIANS 3:23

### I WILL BE THANKFUL

In everything give thanks.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18

### I WILL BE GRATEFUL

We give thanks in all things.

EPHESIANS 5:20

### I WILL LOVE

We love because He first loved us.

1 JOHN 4:19

### I WILL LAUGH

A cheerful heart is good medicine.

PROVERBS 17:22

### I WILL HAVE FUN

Rejoice in the Lord always.

JOHN 8:32

# THIS DAY

### I WILL BELIEVE

All things are possible with God.

MATTHEW 19:26

### I WILL TRUST

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

PROVERBS 3:5

### I WILL PRAY

Pray without ceasing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:17

### I WILL FORGIVE

Be kind to one another & forgive one another.

EPHESIANS 4:32





# JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

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

- 14-Jul Carter Hendricks
- 15-Jul Emma Harper
- 15-Jul Jaymie Voorhees
- 17-Jul Donna Redden
- 18-Jul Alysia Bailey
- 18-Jul Sarah Griffin
- 19-Jul Cathy Cameron
- 21-Jul Connie Martin
- 21-Jul Robin Uzzell
- 22-Jul Chris Challandes
- 22-Jul Cory Crandall
- 22-Jul Dell Demond
- 22-Jul Daniel Emerick
- 22-Jul Evelyn Hinkle
- 22-Jul Evan Spurgeon
- 23-Jul Kynlee Bunt
- 23-Jul Diane Ford
- 23-Jul Donovan Hale
- 24-Jul Kathy Bunt
- 24-Jul Chris Cameron
- 24-Jul Gretchen Henderson
- 24-Jul Anna McLain
- 24-Jul Tony Wood
- 26-Jul Kathy Crews
- 27-Jul Alice Burrows

- 27-Jul Joy Kissack
- 27-Jul Giuliana Sims
- 28-Jul Caleb Betts
- 28-Jul Ashlyn Birmingham
- 28-Jul Marie Brown
- 28-Jul Addison Lusicic
- 28-Jul Maddox Parker
- 28-Jul Adam Phelps
- 28-Jul Kristen Toner
- 29-Jul Randy McLain
- 30-Jul Tim Plummer
- 31-Jul Lindsey Williams



# JULY ANNIVERSARIES



- 01-Jul Matt & Christina Johnson
- 05-Jul Don & Vivian Franklin
- 06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard
- 07-Jul Tom & Ruth Voorhees
- 08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward
- 08-Jul Randy & Jan Williams
- 09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews

- 09-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 2018!

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



### JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 6/30/2018	<b>\$16505.00</b>
Designated Giving:	through 6/30/2018	<b>\$2745.00</b>
	Capital Improvements	80.00
	Loose Change	38.00
	Flowers	139.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	120.00
	VBS Offering For Brick	477.00
	VBS	25.00
	Youth	653.00
	Memorials	365.00
	Funeral Dinners	375.00
	Mid-West Dist. Center	18.00
	Helping Hands	400.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
	2018 Steeple Postage	5.00
Catch Up Offering		<b>2391.00</b>
Capital Campaign		<b>2600.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$24241.00</b>

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

#### Average Attendance for JUNE 2018

Early Service	47
Late Service	91
Sunday School	35
Visitors	10



**Capital Campaign money received as of 06-30-18: \$310,364.92**

### Nazarene Community Theater

FREE FAMILY MOVIE

#### "The Greatest Showman"

July 6 & 7, 2018

Friday, July 6 @ 7 pm

Saturday, July 7 @ 2pm & 6pm

**DEADLINE FOR  
AUGUST 2018  
STEEPLE, Fri.,  
JULY 20th!**

### 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 Croats 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!



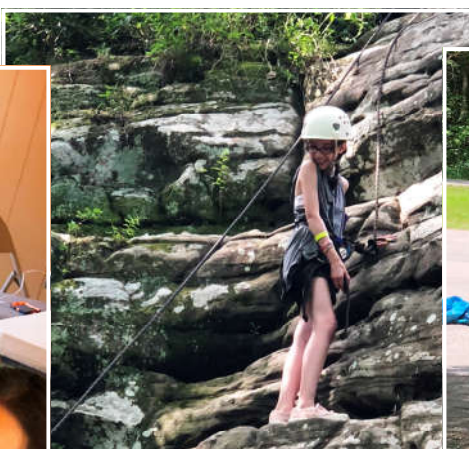


Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Your kindness and generosity helped send four young ladies to camp in the month of June. Each of them experienced God and His fullness in their own unique way. We participated in many activities, including rock climbing, hiking, swimming, and daily worship. We even found a little bit of Spencer Bacus while at camp, as the theme was "Let Your Light Shine." Marlo Schiber made it a point to leave several #ShineLike Spencer rocks around Little Grassy. We were so blessed and overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit and the love poured out on us over the

course of the week. Thank you, St. Paul, for supporting our youth on their journey of faith. They want to go back next year; keep praying that we can double the amount of kids we take next summer.

The youth will continue to work through their **Groove Bible Study** series this summer. We are currently focusing on dilemmas they face at this stage of life. We will be working on an outreach project in the month of August; details will be provided soon.

In Christ's Love & Kindness, Lauren



**CATCH UP**

**Thank You!**

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

A total of **\$2,391.00** was given so far to help us meet our financial obligations.







“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”  
 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”  
 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.  
 “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-31 )

I was offered an open door in another field of ministry. Answering God’s calling has been one of the most challenging, spiritually trying, and life-changing happenings that I have ever experienced. Sometimes listening in the still of the moment does not bring the answers we wish to hear. In an effort to make what I thought was the next big adventure for myself, I sent in my resignation to our church, St. Paul. Selfishly, my eyes were not fixed upon Jesus in this decision. I immediately felt myself begin to sink, drowning in an overwhelming sadness to leave a church and a ministry I am so deeply passionate about. My heart and my servitude lies right here in this place, in our church home- St. Paul UMC. I have since asked to withdraw my resignation.

So yes, I had to ask my God to call me out onto the waters. I believe God tests our faith in ways that can only help us deepen our growth and strength in Him. What seems like an opportunity for growth may just be a way to find ourselves back in God’s arms. I pray that we can all continue our spiritual growth when we are called onto the waters. We are, once again, in a time that God is calling us to put our faith over our fear. We have the opportunity to see what God has in store for our church under the direction of a new leader. Pastor Debra has been sent to us to help us continue this faith journey that we are on, and my prayer for our church is that we can continue to step out on the water, regardless of any storms we feel within us, and rest steady in the hands of God.

As the song *Oceans* says, “Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, let me walk upon the waters, wherever you would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger- in the presence of my Savior.”

**God’s endless love and blessings, Lauren Cranmer - Awakening Worship Coordinator**



I want to thank everyone for the vital role you have played in the ministry of the children of the church and our community. To all who volunteered, thank you for your adventurous spirit. The work you have done helped to make VBS a big success! To the church family I want to say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, donations, money, service, and prayers. To our youth and young adult volunteers, thank you for your commitment to leadership this week. Our VBS was a Raging Success!

**We have had a rolling time at the ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE: Experience The Ride Of A Lifetime With God VBS 2018.**

This year Rolling River Rampage invited our Rafters on a white water rafting adventure to experience this wonderful ride of a lifetime with God. Along the river our Rafters discovered that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise and that they can trust God to be with them through anything!

After a high energy opening of praise songs, our Rafters took a journey to several stations. Our story classroom introduced 5 unique Rapid Reminders: Find **ADVENTURE** – Find **ACCEPTANCE** – Find **JOY** – Find **REST** – Find **PEACE**.

We expanded on these lessons by participating in a variety of activities: Crafts, Music, Science, Recreation, Snacks, Puppets, and Movies. Each station activity had a purpose: to teach our Rafters to be closer to God. Each day was centered on our Rafting Ready Verse: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2

We were blessed with an average of **45** children per day and **25+** volunteers who made a commitment to provide leadership during VBS by sharing their day with our children. Throughout our week, we were able to raise over **\$200**. Our offering this year will purchase a Garden Brick in memory of Spencer Bacus. We said goodbye to Spencer this spring after a life-long battle against Giant Congenital Nevus. Spencer had been a part of VBS for at least 20 years. Our love & prayers are with his family as his light continues to shine through us.

We hope that you are looking forward to next year as much as we are! God is amazing!

**Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director (VBS PHOTOS IN THE AUGUST STEEPLE)**



## We Say Goodbye To Our Friend...



**David J. Hall**, 90, passed away at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at Integrity Health Care of Wood River. Born Aug. 12, 1927 in Bethalto, he was a son of Homer D. & Agnes M. (Gadville) Hall.

David was a veteran of both the U.S. Army and Navy. He worked for a time at Amoco Oil in Wood River, but spent most of his life as a self-employed contractor.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Gerald & Janet Hall of Rosewood Heights; a daughter, Connie Hall of Klondike, TX; 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 6 great-great grandchildren; and two brothers and their wives, Norman & Mary Hall and Jack & Cheryl Hall, all of TX; and his friend & former wife, Marjorie Hall of Wood River.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Bonnie Hall; a son, Dennis Hall; a granddaughter, Carrie Armendarez; and his sister, Alberta Blackard.

When I visited David on the day before he died, I read these words from Psalm 121:

**I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?**

**My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!**

During our darkest times, we are not left to muddle through upon our own. We are promised that God is with us as companion and guide. God is an ever present help in our time of need. In the book of Philippians Chapter 4, Paul offers these words of hope: **“I’ve learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I’m just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I’ve found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”** If you try to make sense of today on your own...if you try to get through today on your own...you will fail. We need help. We need God.

Paul understands this isn't a cotton candy world. He's already been through shipwrecks, beatings, and still he has survived. In fact, he is sitting in a prison cell in Rome as he writes to the church at Philippi. Paul understands that he will never see the great people in that church again for his death is quite near. Paul knows the score. No matter how strong our self-will...how positive our attitude, we cannot win on our own. Death will defeat us every time. It will destroy all we hold near and dear. It will eliminate all that infuses our life with meaning. Our only hope is if the Resurrection is true. If Christ was not raised from the dead, then death has won. And these words I read from Psalm 121 to David are false:

**“The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.**

**<sup>6</sup> The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night.**

**<sup>7</sup> The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.**

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.”**

If Christ were still lying stone cold in that tomb, then He could not watch over David or any of us. For a dead Lord is unable to penetrate the veil of death. As Paul proclaims in I Corinthians 15: **“But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised.<sup>21</sup> For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man.<sup>22</sup> For just as all people die because of their union with Adam, in the same way all will be raised to life because of their union with Christ.”** No longer do we live in the fear of death. Now, we live out of the living hope of the resurrection.

Once upon a time it may have mattered to Paul whether he lived in luxury or poverty. It may have mattered whether his stomach was empty or full. It may have mattered whether he lived in Rome or Jerusalem. Once those things may have mattered but no more. Paul was not even concerned whether he lived or died. Whatever happened, Paul's life was securely held in the loving hands of his Lord.

**DAVID HALL CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



## We Say Goodbye To Our Friend...



**Mitchell “Mitch” Leon Voorhees**, 58, passed away Thursday, May 31, 2018 at his home. Born Apr. 3, 1960 in Alton, he was a son of Thomas & Ruth (Boker) Voorhees of Rosewood Heights.

He worked as a diesel mechanic for most of his life. He loved to fish and had a love for animals.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two daughters, Laura Voorhees & Tim Terrell of Belleville and Emily McCall & her husband Joseph of Kimberling City, MO; a granddaughter on the way; three sisters, Susan Chapman & her husband Rob of Alton, Jan Poore of Rosewood Heights, and Linda Voorhees of California; and two brothers, Steve

Voorhees of Wood River and Mike Voorhees & his wife Ricci of Rosewood Heights.

Mitch Voorhees died suddenly. Here is part of what I shared with those attending the Celebration of his life: None of us had planned to be here today, celebrating the life of Mitchell Voorhees. To be honest, we would rather be anyplace but here. Although Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for every purpose under heaven, we can't help but feel now is not the right time for this. We are still in shock.

As we gather today, I ask us to consider these three questions:

- **What gives us hope?**
- **What gives us help?**
- **Where does our hope and help come from?**

**WHAT GIVES US HOPE?** Many people in this world find hope in the circumstances of their life. If things are going well, they are filled with hope. If things are falling apart, they are plunged into despair.

Paul lifts up the example of Abraham who despite his aging body believes in God's promise that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the grains of sand in the desert. Paul lifts up Abraham as an example for our faith, saying: **Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations...Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. HE WAS FULLY CONVINCED THAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO WHATEVER HE PROMISES.** Abraham's faith was rewarded by the birth of their son, Isaac, to Sara in their old age.

What I appreciate about our faith is its realism. In Hebrews it talks about the saints, how some were delivered from the lions, given strength to defeat their enemies in battle. There were others who were jailed, persecuted, stoned to death. For whatever reason, these saints were not given deliverance from the tough circumstances of their life. Instead, it says: **THEY PLACED THEIR HOPE IN A BETTER LIFE AFTER THE RESURRECTION.**

A faith centered around a crucified Messiah understands there are times of defeat as well as victory. Times when we remember Jesus told his disciples: **Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.** Today is a time when our hope arises not out of the circumstances of our life but only out of the reality of the resurrection.

**WHAT GIVES US HELP?** There are times in our life when we wonder whether God is listening to our cries for help, when we wonder whether He cares about the distress of His people. In Psalm 28, King David laments: **I pray to you, O Lord, my rock. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you are silent, I might as well give up and die. Listen to my prayer for mercy as I cry out to you for help, as I lift my hands toward your holy sanctuary.**

Even the most devout among us sometimes feels separated from God. We need the assurance of God's love and care for us. On the night when Jesus would be arrested and tried, He understood how scared and alone the disciples will feel when this happens.

**MITCH VOORHEES CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**

**DAVID HALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10**

Paul became the Lord's the moment Jesus called to him out of the blinding light on the road to Damascus. Jesus had found him and now he was found in Jesus. Jesus was his constant companion and friend. Nothing would ever separate him from Jesus.

If you believe this, then you can say like Paul does: **“Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”** The key is to know the Risen Lord. For apart from Jesus there is no hope, no faith, no life.

Our separation from David and all whom we love is not permanent, but only for a little while. Soon we shall rejoin them in that grand family reunion in heaven. Then death will be no more for all that is painful and harmful is cast out of heaven by God. Heaven is a place filled with perfect peace where the wounds of this world are bound up and cast aside. It is a place where we reconnect with each other and settle in to enjoy each other's company for eternity. It is a place where we know beyond all doubt that Jesus loves us and Jesus died for us that we might have abundant life in His name.

I recently learned that David & Margie sang with the Sweet Sounds. The Sweet Sounds sing this song:

***This world is not my home; I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore! Oh Lord you know I have no friend like you; If heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do. The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore!***

Today we shed tears because we miss David in our world, but this world is not our home; we're all passing through. Our true home is with God, the Creator of heaven and earth. God who gives us eternal life through Jesus the Son. God who promises never to abandon us, but to be with us forever. This God loved David even more than we did and has given him eternal life. That is the good news of our faith that gives us comfort.

David's suffering has ended. Please pray that his family might experience the presence and the comfort of Christ who is the Resurrection. Pastor Daryl

**MITCH VOORHEES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11**

So He tells them He is sending a Helper—the Holy Spirit—who will never leave them. While Jesus cannot be with them in the flesh, He will be with them in Spirit. He promises: **No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. WHEN I AM RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN, YOU WILL KNOW THAT I AM IN MY FATHER, AND YOU ARE IN ME, AND I AM IN YOU.**

As with hope, our ultimate help is not within ourselves but solely in the resurrection. In life, we need to lean upon a power greater than our own and that power is the Resurrection.

**FINALLY, WHERE DOES OUR HOPE AND OUR HELP COME FROM?** Psalm 62:5-6 says: **Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.** Psalm 121:1-2 announces: **I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

Dr. Arthur John Gossip, a Scottish minister, was shaken to the core of his being by the sudden death of his beloved wife. When Gossip returned to the pulpit, he spoke these words of hope and help out of his pain. Gossip said: **“I do not understand this life of ours. But still less can I comprehend how people in trouble and loss and bereavement can fling away peevishly from the Christian faith. In God's name, fling to what? Have we not lost enough without losing that too?”** Later he explained, **“You people,”** says Gossip, **“in the sunshine may believe the faith, but we in the shadow must believe it. We have nothing else.”** Today in the shadow of the valley of death, we must believe the faith, we must believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. That those who die in Him yet shall they live. We have nothing else. Nothing else that will offer the comfort, the hope, and the help we need. And, we have nowhere else to go except to Jesus.

Please keep Mitch's daughters, Laura and Emily, and his extended family in your prayers. Pray especially that God will comfort them in the days ahead. Pastor Daryl



## LET'S GET FIRED UP...MOVING FORWARD BY PAUL BLACK

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered around the theme, Let's Get Fired Up: Moving Forward, June 7-9, 2018, at the Peoria Civic Center.

A fairly light legislative agenda enabled conferees to focus a great deal of time on the Our Conference, Our Kids campaign for the spiritual care programs of the five child welfare agencies – The Baby Fold, Chaddock, Cunningham Children's Home, Lessie Bates Davis

Neighborhood House and Spero Family Services. The campaign's chair, the Rev. Dr. J. Keith Zimmerman and the chaplains and staff responsible for spiritual life at each agency told stories of children being impacted by this vital ministry.

An offering of \$51,906.21 was collected during Friday's Morning Manna, pushing the campaign to nearly \$400,000 of its \$2.5 million goal. The campaign was approved by the 2016 Annual Conference session and officially launched at the 2017 Annual Conference.

Other special offerings included: \$6,396.69 by conference laity for the John Kofi Asmah School in West Point, Liberia; \$7,165.24 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College; and \$8,113.79 for the Bishop's Ordinands Trip to England that will benefit 2017 and 2018 ordinands embarking on a Wesley Heritage pilgrimage.

The General Board of Global Ministries presented two awards to the Conference. The IGRC was in the Top 10 among U.S. annual conferences in 2017 in two categories – giving for missionary support and giving for international disaster response.

A Mission Fair was held on Friday evening following the conclusion of business, spotlighting the missions and ministries of the annual conference with several interactive experiences.

Legislatively, the conference approved an increase in the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors from \$15,000 to \$17,500 to help offset premium increases projected for 2019. In addition, the conference set minimum clergy salaries for 2019 at \$43,382 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$39,809 for full-time local pastors.

It was reported that all three conference pension funds are fully funded and no increase was needed in the Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP) contribution for 2019 due to good financial returns. No change was also needed for the defined benefits portion of the CRSP plan, which stands at \$5,700 per year for full-time pastors; \$4,275 for  $\frac{3}{4}$  time pastors; \$2,850 for  $\frac{1}{2}$  time pastors. Pastors at  $\frac{1}{4}$  time are not eligible.

Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 percent increase to \$778 per active year for 2019.

The 2019 budget of \$12,141,878 was approved – a decrease of \$94,897 or 0.78 percent.

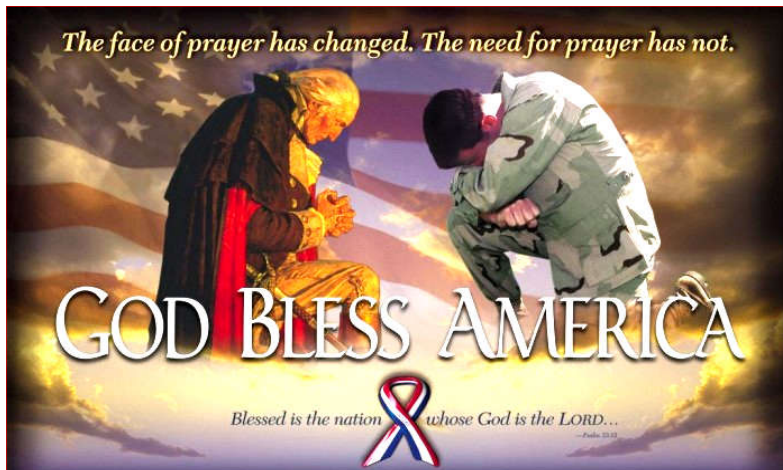
The conference approved the discontinuance of six congregations – Bath UMC; Cisne UMC; Clay's Prairie UMC; Hamburg UMC; Jacksonville Brooklyn UMC; and Nye Chapel UMC – with a combined 893 years of ministry.

Four elders and a deacon were ordained. Seven provisional elders and one provisional deacon were commissioned.

A total of 30 pastors with a combined 933 years of service retired.

Membership stands at 122,522 in 2017, down 1,288 from 2016. Worship attendance is 53,295, down 265. Church school attendance stands at 17,034, up 191. Attendance in other small groups and ongoing classes are at 2,636, up 91. Professions or reaffirmations of faith for 2017 is 3,464, up 2.

The 2019 annual conference session will be held June 6-8, 2019, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL.



## Requesting Help

Please look at home and see if you have any old agendas and minutes from **Trustee meetings** for the years: 1985, 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1979, 1978, 1977, 1976, 1975, or 1972 plus any from the 1960s. Please contact Jim Herndon if you do. We are trying to keep an accurate accounting of Trustee meetings that we can refer back to from time to time when necessary. If you have them to give to Jim or will allow us to copy it would be greatly appreciated! Thank You! **Jim Herndon, Trustee, chairman**



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 **October 2015 Mission Possible Commitment Weekend** was the kickoff to our fund raising campaign. One can still participate. This is how to give 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.**