



The Steeple

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

JUNE 2018



As Debra, Meg, and I complete our ministry at St. Paul, we are grateful for doing life together. We have shared happy and sad times, great and small times, but God has been present in it all! God is our faithful companion and forever friend.

As I thought about those people from whom gratitude exudes from every fiber of their being, I realized that they shared this in common: **they thanked God daily. They kept a running inventory of God's blessings in their lives.**

It is a cliché that some people see a glass filled with water to the midway mark as half empty while others see it as half full. Our attitude does shape how we see the world and how we live within the world.

Those who count only the big blessings will always have a glass that is half full. They will be waiting for more big stuff to fill the glass. Ah, but those who count all the small blessings of God don't focus upon what they lack but rather all they possess. Those who count all the small blessings start with their glass half-full. So whenever the big stuff pours into their lives, the glass will overflow.

Paul believes that we have a generous God who gives us more than enough, so we have extra to give to others. In 2 Corinthians he says:

GOD CAN POUR ON THE BLESSINGS IN ASTONISHING WAYS SO THAT YOU'RE READY FOR ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING, MORE THAN JUST READY TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. AS ONE PSALMIST PUT IT, HE THROWS CAUTION TO THE WINDS, GIVING TO THE NEEDY IN RECKLESS ABANDON. HIS RIGHT-LIVING, RIGHT-GIVING WAYS NEVER RUN OUT, NEVER WEAR OUT.

THIS MOST GENEROUS GOD WHO GIVES SEED TO THE FARMER THAT BECOMES BREAD FOR YOUR MEALS IS MORE THAN EXTRAVAGANT WITH YOU. HE GIVES YOU SOMETHING YOU CAN THEN GIVE AWAY, WHICH GROWS INTO FULL-FORMED LIVES, ROBUST IN GOD, WEALTHY IN EVERY WAY, SO THAT YOU CAN BE GENEROUS IN EVERY WAY, PRODUCING WITH US PRAISE TO GOD...

In his letters, Paul paints the picture of a generous God who has withheld nothing from us. This God did not even keep back his own son, but freely offered the Son to die so we might live. The only response to a God like this is to give thanks.

Whether we see the glass half-empty or half-full is more than mere character trait; it reflects our view of the very character of God. Do we worship a stingy God or a generous God? During our ministry, you have shared with us your time, your love, and your help. Whatever we accomplished was with your assistance and through the blessing of our great God. I know that you will give Pastor Debra and Joe Hoertel the same generous support you gave us.

The life that we have been given in Jesus Christ is so priceless that all the money within the world is insufficient to reimburse God for it. All that we may offer God in exchange is our lives...lived in thankful service. This hymn by Christina Rossetti that we sang at Awakening during the Advent season springs to mind.

**IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, FROSTY WIND MADE MOAN,
EARTH STOOD HARD AS IRON, WATER LIKE A STONE;
SNOW HAD FALLEN, SNOW ON SNOW, SNOW ON SNOW,
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, LONG AGO.
OUR GOD, HEAVEN CANNOT HOLD HIM, NOR EARTH SUSTAIN;
HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL FLEE AWAY WHEN HE COMES TO REIGN.
IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER A STABLE PLACE SUFFICED,
THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, JESUS CHRIST.**

**ANGELS AND ARCH ANGELS MAY HAVE GATHERED THERE,
CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM THROGDED THE AIR;
BUT HIS MOTHER ONLY, IN HER MAIDEN BLISS,
WORSHIPED THE BELOVED WITH A KISS.**

PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUES ON PAGE 3



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOU!

- We celebrated the baptism of **Evangeline Claire Rader** on Mother's Day, Sunday May 13. **Evie** is the daughter of Kevin & Lindsey Rader, the granddaughter of Phil & Debbie Tite and Rick & Robin Rader. Her delighted uncle is Ryan Tite. Our prayer is that we as a church may keep our commitment to surround Evie with God's love.
- Godspeed to **Roy & Jackie Witthoft** who have moved to the Sunshine State. We wish them well as they establish a new life in Florida.
- Congratulations to **Felicia (Babcock) Ernst** (Certified Family Nurse Practitioner) who has joined SIHF Healthcare's team! "My goal is to help women lead their best life by helping them develop a plan to improve their overall health and well-being," Ernst said.
- Congratulations to **Emily Richards** of Roxana High School who received a certificate for the Meghan Hickerson Christian Teen Leader Memorial Scholarship. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Bethalto. She will receive her \$500 check on June 10th along with **Angelle Henson**.
- Congratulations to **Sydney Martin** who was awarded these scholarships on Honors Night at Roxana High School: \$500 South Roxana Dads Club Ladies Auxiliary, \$1000 Herndon Scholarship, and \$500 Roxana Booster Club.
- Congratulations to **Brynn Huddleston** who received the \$2000 Village of Roxana Municipal Scholarship.
- Congratulations to **Kelsey Foiles** who was awarded the \$500 Samantha Owsley Memorial Scholarship.
- Congratulations to our **St. Paul UMC Bowling Team**. This year's awards included: **Jim Funke** winning high average in the men's division, **Maggie Funke** winning high average in the women's division, and **Mark Mayer** winning high series (728) in the men's division. Maggie's son **Andy Mortland** bowled a 300!! And so he had the high game. Overall the team had a great time this year. And if anyone is interested in joining the team for the next season, speak to Mark Mayer.
- The **Sweet Sounds** held their season ending luncheon on May 30. In the fall, they will resume going to Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Sites with their entertaining music and comedy. If you would like to bring smiles to the faces of so many, we invite you to join them in September. Contact **Dorothy Kasinger (259-7255)** and she will see that you get your red vest and become an official part of the group.
- On Memorial Sunday, May 27th, we celebrated the lives of those from our church family who have joined the church triumphant since our last Memorial Sunday service. We miss you but rejoice that today you are in the presence of our Lord: **Phillip "Phil" Ford, Mary Herndon, Delores "Dee" Hancock, C. Patrick "Pat" Sullivan, Violet "Vi" Potter, Robert "Bob" Kissack Sr., Marilyn Cisler, Charles "Chuck" Toner, Priscilla Mathus, Stephen "Steve" Dunnagan, Eric Wood, Spencer Bacus, and Verda MacDonald**. We also dedicated our memorials completed during that time: Monies given to the Women of Worship, Happy Bears, and the Craft Ladies — in Memory of **Mary Herndon**; Monies given to Helping Hands — in Memory of **Mary Herndon and Marion Velloff**; Monies given to Funeral Dinners — in Memory of **Jerry Poore**; More chair racks for the Fellowship Hall — in Memory of **Phill Ford and Barbara Blaine**; An Outdoor Memorial Bench — in Memory of **Benjamin Moore**; Monies toward the Front Handicapped Parking — in Memory of **Barbara Blaine**; and Some or All Monies Transferred or Designated to the Capital Fund Campaign — in Memory of **Juanita Caldwell, George Tappy, Robert Moon, Robert Kissack Sr., Charles Toner, and Spencer Bacus**.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family and friends of **Michael Frye**; the family of **William "Bill" Michaels**, brother of Pastor Keith Michaels (EAFUMC); and the family of **Kenny Flowers**, friend of Jim & Jane Herndon. May you all know God's comfort and peace in the days ahead.

THANK YOU: Thank you for thinking of me with your prayers, cards, calls, and visits. My ankle is doing much better. May God Bless you with a safe and happy summer. **Beulah Moore**

THANK YOU: to our Church Family for the support during the loss of our son/nephew/brother, Eric Wood. We appreciate all the cards, visits and words of encouragement. Thank you to Pastor Daryl for his compassion and knowing the right words to say to ease our sorrow. Also, a big thank you to the Ladies of the Church for the wonderful dinner. **Joan Roberts, Jean Kainz, and families**



PASTOR'S CORNER CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

**WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM, POOR AS I AM?
IF I WERE A SHEPHERD, I WOULD BRING A LAMB;
IF I WERE A WISE MAN, I WOULD DO MY PART;
YET WHAT I CAN I GIVE HIM: GIVE MY HEART.**

When we gather for worship, we bring to God the gift of ourselves. We give God our heart saying this short prayer each Sunday: **"Thank you, Jesus for the blessings I have received this week. Thank you, Jesus, that I have new life in you. Thank you so very much. Amen."**

Fred Craddock says that when we surrender our lives to Jesus, we picture those situations where we are asked to make a whole hearted, one time commitment to him. We think of our commitment as a \$20 bill. Craddock says the truth is that Jesus sends us to the bank to exchange that \$20 for rolls of quarters. We spend our lives as Christians investing a quarter in this person, spending a quarter on this mission, using a quarter for Sunday School, another for food for the hungry or clothing for the naked. We start small. Every day we decide how we are going to spend our quarters. Every day we share God's blessings in small yet significant ways. As we leave you for new ventures in ministry, our charge to you is to keep spending your quarters in small, faithful acts of ministry.

Remember that Jesus says: **"THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED PLANTED IN A FIELD. IT IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL SEEDS, BUT IT BECOMES THE LARGEST OF GARDEN PLANTS; IT GROWS INTO A TREE, AND BIRDS COME AND MAKE NESTS IN ITS BRANCHES."** We say thanks for our lives—not through grand gestures—but through small acts of discipleship day by day. We trust that God will take our small acts and multiply them beyond our imagining. From our small acts, God grows the kingdom.

Our prayer is that from our small acts done throughout these years at St. Paul, God has grown the kingdom. God be with you all. Pastor Daryl, Debra, and Meg



**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.





Sundays at St. Paul in JUNE 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 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 available on the entryway table. 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. **“More Jesus Time” for Pre-school - 5th grade and Nursery is provided during the 10:30 a.m. service.**



3: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost. 8:15 a.m. service moves outside. Communion celebrated in both services. In his First Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln appealed to the better angels of our nature in an attempt to bind up the wounds of the nation. In his sermon, Pastor Daryl talks about how faith enables us to release those better angels living inside each of us.



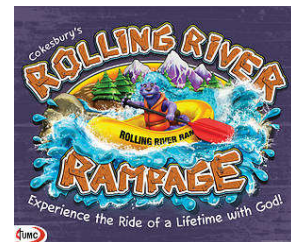
10: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost. Catch Up Sunday. Hickerson Scholarship Sunday. Birthday Sunday. Graduate Sunday celebrated during the Awakening Service at 10:30 a.m. 8th grade, high school, college, graduate school, etc. graduates are recognized and receive a gift.



Pastor Daryl talks about the importance of a foundation of faith to sustain us throughout this journey of life. *Those who are able are encouraged to bring a financial gift to help us catch up on our obligations. Everyone is asked to lift up St. Paul in prayer during this time of transition.*



17: 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Father's Day. Vacation Bible School program during Awakening Service at 10:30 a.m. All fathers present receive a gift. At the 8:15 a.m. Service, Pastor Daryl observes that what our children want most is more of us. During the Awakening Service, the children sing and share what they learned this week at VBS.



24: 5th Sunday after Pentecost. ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY. We gather to give thanks for the ministry of Pastor Daryl, Debra, and Meg among us these past 18 yrs. and to wish them well on the next part of their journey. A catered meal follows the worship service.

JULY 1: We welcome Rev. 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.



2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

NEEDED FOR VBS – We need to borrow undecorated artificial Christmas trees for VBS!...any size. Please let Jamie Gwaltney know that she may borrow yours and she will let you know when to bring it to the church (or maybe send someone to pick it up). Call her at 692-0898! Thank you!



The Healing Power of Forgiveness

As we age, things that we've done—or that were done to us—carry tremendous emotional weight. Let them go.

By Diane Cole

To forgive, or not to forgive? It is a question that we ask ourselves more, and that becomes more salient, as years pass.

As we grow older, it is “very, very common to review your life,” says Berit Ingersoll-Dayton, professor of the joint doctoral program in social work and social science at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. It’s a process that inevitably will bring up “things that we feel good about—and that we don’t.”

In the absence of forgiveness, an offense that was committed against us, or some pain that we caused others, can replay in our minds, causing continuing anger or remorse that is often a recipe for bitterness and bad health. A wealth of research has linked the isolation and loneliness that can result to increased health problems and higher mortality.

It is tantamount to “suffocating” yourself emotionally, says Amit Sood, a professor of medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. The effects on one’s health from bottled-up anger and resentment can range from anxiety and depression to higher blood pressure and increased risk of heart attacks, he says.

Forgiveness, by contrast, allows one to focus on more positive thoughts and relationships. “It allows you to free up the real estate in your brain” taken up by negative thinking, Dr. Sood says.

One study suggests that forgiving others may benefit women more than men in certain situations. Researchers at the University of Missouri found that forgiving others helped protect older women from depression, even when they felt unforgiven by others. Men, however, felt worse when they forgave others but didn’t feel forgiven. Ashley Ermer, the study’s lead author and a doctoral student, says more research is needed to tease out the reasons behind the differences.

Some experts say it isn’t always possible to forgive, especially when an offense is more severe, or when the offender shows no remorse.

“If the other person isn’t sorry and hasn’t made meaningful amends, the hurt party often can’t and won’t forgive. They are left not forgiving, and hurting and hating,” says Janis Abrahms Spring, a clinical psychologist in Westport, Conn., and author of “How Can I Forgive You? The Courage to Forgive, the Freedom Not To.”

Rather than be “entombed” in those raw feelings, Dr. Spring says, people in pain can find relief and resolution through an alternative stance she calls “acceptance.” This strategy entails moving forward from the incident on your own terms, recognizing the magnitude of the violation, but no longer allowing its unfairness to obsess you and choosing a level of relationship with the offender that serves your best interest.

“This can be accomplished by the hurt party alone, even if the offender isn’t remorseful or willing to make meaningful amends,” she says.

“When you forgive,” says the Mayo Clinic’s Dr. Sood, “it isn’t saying that the other person is right. It isn’t justifying or condoning what the other person did.” Forgiveness is acknowledging that you have decided to forgo anger and resentment, and that any future relationship with the offending party will be on your own terms.

Michigan’s Dr. Ingersoll-Dayton says she has helped run forgiveness-therapy groups in which participants often have found it helpful to write letters describing their struggles with rage and hurt. Rather than send the letters to the offending party, the group’s members read them aloud and discuss them.

For one woman in her 60s, this led to the realization that the person with whom she was most angry was herself. She began the program feeling angry at her emotionally abusive ex-husband, but after listening to the other group members, she realized she was most angry at herself for staying with him as long as she had. This insight allowed her to begin forgiving herself for not being able to leave sooner.

To seek forgiveness, or to offer it, requires being prepared to be rejected or rebuffed, warns Dr. Spring. But, she believes, “the healing that takes place... is more deeply cleansing and healing than anyone can accomplish by themselves.” She emphasizes the importance of “creating opportunities to make good” and “having the courage to address and redress old injuries in a constructive and healing way.” Taking a risk on forgiveness can yield unexpected benefits. That can be especially pertinent as we age because time is ticking, she says. If you take the hurts and misunderstandings to the grave, Dr. Spring says, “no one profits.”



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

01-Jun Jansen Helmkamp
 01-Jun Eric Scroggins
 02-Jun Sarah Campbell
 03-Jun Sarah Dawson
 03-Jun Patsy Goss
 04-Jun Jon Birmingham
 04-Jun Katie Lair
 04-Jun Karen Roberts
 04-Jun Jonathan Scroggins
 05-Jun Jennifer Sandbach
 06-Jun Donna Bailey
 06-Jun Ruth Champlin
 06-Jun Scott Cruthis
 06-Jun Myrna Duryea
 06-Jun Don Franklin
 07-Jun Joyce Brueggeman
 08-Jun Vi Huebner
 09-Jun Jimmy Bourne
 09-Jun J.J. Burt Jr.
 09-Jun Jacob Gwaltney
 09-Jun Tori Standefer
 10-Jun Aubrey Sandbach
 10-Jun Olivia Virgin
 11-Jun Gary Hart
 11-Jun Lindsey Jensen

12-Jun Debbie Bowman
 12-Jun Cheryl Champa
 12-Jun Deb Fansler
 12-Jun Bill Sullivan
 14-Jun Harper Herndon
 14-Jun Dave Schiber
 15-Jun Autumn Betts
 15-Jun Ashley Sheppard
 16-Jun Trista Liedtke
 17-Jun Brianne Bourne
 17-Jun Jenny Spurgeon
 17-Jun Glenda Stucker
 18-Jun Nicole Barnes
 18-Jun Madelynn Cranmer
 18-Jun Samantha Hermens
 18-Jun August Suermann
 18-Jun Xavier Vore
 18-Jun Zoe Vore
 19-Jun Dustin Caldwell
 19-Jun Sydnie Yates
 20-Jun Karen Martin

20-Jun Annie Redden
 20-Jun Amie Tillery
 20-Jun Abigail White
 21-Jun Lawson Bell
 22-Jun Ethan Virgin
 23-Jun Wanda Graves
 23-Jun John White
 25-Jun Caden Clark
 25-Jun Summer Standefer
 25-Jun Steve Voorhees
 27-Jun Jamie McLain
 27-Jun Kaden Sandbach
 28-Jun Deb Link
 30-Jun William Lair
 30-Jun Sharon Szegedy
 30-Jun Jeri Williams



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



June 01 Redden, Darin Sr. & Chandra
 June 07 Myers, John & Laurie
 June 07 Burt, J.J. Jr. & Jackie Beth
 June 08 Huff, Joe & Sherry
 June 08 Eyster, Brian & Chris
 June 09 Inman, Terry & Sharon
 June 10 Huebner, Richard & Vi
 June 10 Boeshans, Cory & Jackie
 June 11 Huddleston, Rick & Jeannie
 June 11 Brueggeman, Randy & Joyce
 June 14 Natsch, Steve & Julie
 June 15 Cheatham, Douglas & Eileen

June 16 Gwaltney, Don Sr. & Kay
 June 17 Bentley, Jay III & Tracy
 June 20 Herndon, Neil & Jade
 June 22 Champa, Larry & Cheryl
 June 24 Ballard, Larry & Iola
 June 24 Lewis, Herrell & Bettie
 June 24 Hinkle, Bob Sr. & Evelyn
 June 25 Gwaltney, Matt & Cara
 June 26 Demond, Richard & Dell
 June 26 Toner, Mike & Teresa
 June 28 Toner, Matt & Kristen
 June 30 Hughes, Steve & Janet

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!



MAY Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 5/31/2018	\$22170.50
Designated Giving:	through 5/31/2018	\$6111.50
	Capital Improvements	130.00
	Loose Change	73.50
	Flowers	175.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	110.00
	Reimbursement	1000.00
	VBS	25.00
	Upper Room Donations	10.00
	Memorials	3089.00
	Funeral Dinners	100.00
	Endowment	49.00
	Helping Hands	1350.00
Capital Campaign		1695.00
Total:		\$29977.00

VBS requests that you save your small TP rolls when they are empty. We need 200 of them!

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

Average Attendance for MAY 2018

Early Service	39
Late Service	70
Sunday School	30
Visitors	5



Capital Campaign money received as of 05-31-18: \$305,344.92



"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE"
FREE MOVIE AND CONCERT

Bring Your Friends and Family!

\$1 Concessions!

June 9:
Free Movie at 6pm

June 10:
Free Movie at 6pm
Free Worship
Concert Before

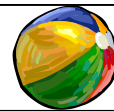
ROXANA COMMUNITY THEATER
400 NORTH CENTRAL
ROXANA, IL 62084
(618) 254-4026

DEADLINE FOR
JULY 2018
STEEPLE, Wed.,
JUNE 20th!



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

June's Loose Change Project is the Happy Bear Project for our church. Members of the church make bears that are given to Alton Memorial Hospital. These are then offered to children in pediatrics and/or coming through the emergency room in time of crisis. The bears provide security and comfort for the children. May God bless your gifts!



MISSION PROJECT FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Attendees to 2018 Annual Conference are urged to have their congregations collect items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center. A truck will be at the Peoria Civic Center to accept those donations during the Annual Conference. *Tornado totes include the basic necessities for persons whose homes have been affected by tornados or floods. The items needed for each tote include the following:*

- \$9 Donation for 2 Totes**
- 2 pairs of work gloves**
- 2 boxes of gallon-size plastic bags**
- 2 permanent markers (i.e. Sharpie)**
- 1 roll of duct tape (prefer colored) (to label household items)**
- 2 dust masks (no surgical)**
- 24 heavy duty trash bags rolled (33-45 gallon) (more for trash removal)**
- 24 clear trash bags (20-33 gallon) (for larger, personal items that need containment)**
- 1 canister disinfectant wipes**

Those wishing to help with the cost of shipping and/or the purchase of supplies in bulk can make checks payable to **MMDC** and mail them to: **MMDC, PO Box 56, Chatham, IL 62629**

You may continue to bring your items through Tuesday, JUNE 5th.



Thank you to everyone who helped support the KIND t-shirt project. If t-shirts were ordered by May 20th, they will be printed and shipped.

To help ease the cost of camp for our campers, we are also hosting a car wash on Sunday, June 3rd during the 10:30am service. Donations will be accepted in exchange for a car wash. You can also pick up a frog envelope on the table in the hallway if you would be "hoppy" to help with the cost of camp.

We have four youth going to camp this year- PRAISE GOD!! Praise God for the youth who continue to come to youth group and for His unfaltering Word being taught to the young people of St. Paul. We ask that you continue to pray that we grow in His Spirit, and that the impact we are making on the five youth that faithfully come to youth group will help reach others, as well. Your prayers and support are always appreciated.

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

Our campers are off to camp June 17-22 and they need your **prayers**. Campers love to receive **mail** and often have to complete silly tasks to receive it. Please consider sending them a note of encouragement while they are away:

Little Grassy United Methodist
1 Methodist Camp Rd
Makanda, IL 62958
Fax: (618) 529-2244
Email: littlegrassy@iqrc.org

June 17-22 AIR Camp

Addison Burns
Madelynn Cranmer
Marlo Schiber
Rachel Schiber

Camp Mentor: Lauren Cranmer



Special Celebration Service on Sunday, June 24th, at 10:00 a.m.

Please note we will have **only one** worship service on June 24th, and it will be at **10:00 a.m.** We will be celebrating Pastor Daryl, Debra, and Meg Fansler's ministry among us.

If you want to **share your musical talent** at this special service or **speak** for a few minutes, please let me know and I will coordinate with the appropriate people.

We will be **taking group pictures** for those who were **baptized** or **confirmed** by Pastor Daryl during his 18 years of service. Help spread the word so we can have as many as possible present for these group pictures.

A **catered meal** will follow the worship service. To help us prepare for this meal, please sign up by calling the church office at (618) 259-5210, or by completing the insert in the Sunday bulletins. We also need dessert donations.

We hope to see you on **June 24th**, at 10:00 a.m., for this special service! We **will** have **Sunday School** at 9:15a.m. on June 24th; however, we will **not** have **More Jesus Time** on this day.

Dave Schiber,
Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee

CAMPING Pick up *Unplug & Reconnect*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available on the table 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 *Unplug & Reconnect*.



ALL GRADUATES & THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO A BRUNCH AT 9:15 A.M. IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10th. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THIS TIME OF FELLOWSHIP HOSTED BY IRIS UZZELL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS.





HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Deuteronomy 31 v8

APPRAISER A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

THIS IS MY RIGHTEOUSNESS! I MADE IT MYSELF OUT OF GOOD DEEDS! WHAT DO YOU RECKON IT'S WORTH?

I WOULDN'T GIVE A FILTHY RAG FOR THAT THING! BUT, I CAN TELL YOU HOW TO TRADE IT FOR SOME RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT'S OF INCALCULABLE VALUE!

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN JESUS

www.joyfultoons.com © 2015 Michael D. Waters

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. - ISAIAH 64:6 NIV



Sunday, June 10th is Catch Up Sunday!

Catch Up Sunday is June 10th. We invite you to join the others at St. Paul in giving a special gift to help us catch up on our bills. We have special envelopes for this special offering or you may designate an amount labeled "Catch Up" on your regular offering envelopes or you may stop by the Church Office with a gift or you may give online through our website.

Our income this year has fallen short of what we need to meet our necessary expenditures. Currently, we are behind in payment of over \$15,000 in obligations.

Ironically, this is happening at a time when many areas of our ministry are thriving. We are looking forward to another great Vacation Bible School, our Awakening Service is picking up steam, and for the first time in years we are sending youth to camp at Little Grassy!

We understand that some of our families are struggling financially. We have prayed with those who are unemployed, those who are supporting children, those who are underemployed, those who are helping aging parents, and those living on fixed incomes. We know your situations and we care. Our intent isn't to make you feel guilty if you are unable to give financially on *Catch Up Sunday*, but only to be honest and transparent about our situation. You should expect nothing less from us.

God does expect all of us to worship Him. Jesus makes it clear that His goal is that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that "He is Lord." Whether you are able to make a special *Catch Up* gift, we expect the gift of your presence in worship on June 10th. The 8:15 a.m. service is outside and the 10:30 a.m. Awakening Service celebrates Graduate Sunday and Hickerson Scholarship Sunday.

We leave you with this thought from Billy Graham: "GOD HAS GIVEN US TWO HANDS-- ONE TO RECEIVE WITH AND THE OTHER TO GIVE WITH. WE ARE NOT WELLS MADE FOR HOARDING; WE ARE CHANNELS MADE FOR SHARING." Your *Catch Up Sunday* offering will enable us to be a wide channel for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our region.

The Finance Committee



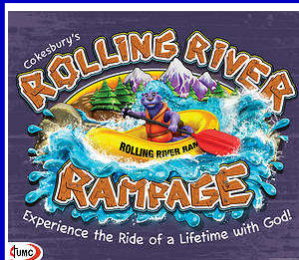
2018 Annual Conference June 7-9 Peoria Civic Center

Annual Conference meets June 7-9 at the Civic Center in Peoria. Your representatives are Pastor Daryl and Ryan Tite. This year's theme is *Let's Get Fired Up! Moving Forward*.

Besides engaging in inspiration worship and learning sessions, the Annual Conference sets the area budget, passes resolutions, and does other necessary business. You will receive a report from our delegates after the conference. We thank you for your generous gifts for the Conference Mission project. Together we accomplish great things for Christ.

Please remember to keep Pastor Daryl and Ryan Tite in your prayers as they participate in this year's Annual Conference as our representatives.

While Pastor Daryl is required to attend Annual Conference, he is able to return to meet emergency needs. You may reach him by calling the Church Office or by calling 618-980-0232.



VBS 2018

June 11 - 15
9:30 a.m. - Noon

For Vacation Bible School we have much of our leadership in place, but workers are still needed! We will have **Classes** for children ages 3 (and potty-trained) to 6th grade. The **Stations are:** Recreation, Crafts, Movie, Story, Snacks, Music, Science Lab, Puppets & Play.
Class Leaders, Class Assistants, Station Assistants, and extra Helpers - openings in each area are available.

If you are in 7th grade or older and are interested in helping with VBS in **any of these areas** or in **any way**, please talk to Jamie Gwaltney or give her a call ASAP at 692-0898.

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OR OLDER, BE SURE TO PICK UP A POLICY PACKET WITH A BACKGROUND CHECK FORM AND FILL IT OUT (IF YOU DID NOT DO THIS LAST YEAR)! DROP IT OFF AT THE CHURCH OFFICE! A REQUIREMENT!

**→ CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD!
→ SUPPLIES ARE STILL NEEDED!**

We pray that it will be another fun and inspiring year!



A Pastoral Letter from
Bishop Frank J. Beard

Resident Bishop, Western Area,
The United Methodist Church

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ!

It is an honor to serve as your Bishop. My love and appreciation for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) family continues to increase and grow. I am especially thankful for the prayers, cards, calls, and other acts of kindnesses expressed during the recent loss of three of my siblings. Your support is priceless.

The Council of Bishops (COB) has just concluded our spring meeting. All of our meetings are bathed in prayer, dependent on the Holy Spirit, anchored in worship, and involve much open caring and honest in-depth conversations.

One of our ongoing churchwide conversations centered on *The Way Forward* report that was presented to the COB. I write to share with you the decisions that emerged from our gathering.

The COB has agreed to release our full report to the General Conference no later than July 8, 2018. The report is currently being edited, translated (into six different languages), and is under Judicial Review for compliance with our Book of Discipline. The entire report will be available to all after it has been properly prepared.

The COB and the Commission on a Way Forward sought to honor the 2016 General Conference's request to help our denomination to find a way forward on issues related to human sexuality. The Council's discernment process was guided by the over-arching desire to strategically help the General Conference to move forward while recognizing and affirming that as United Methodists we hold a wide range of positions regarding issues of human sexuality. The COB is committed to the mission and vision of our denomination and are united around preserving the unity of our denomination for the sake of our global witness for Jesus Christ.

Our goals were:

- To design** a way for being the church that maximizes the presence of a United Methodist witness.
- To allow** for as much contextual differentiation as possible, given our global realities.
- To create** as much unity as possible to achieve our stated mission.

Having received and considered the extensive work of the Commission on a Way Forward, the Council of Bishops will submit a report to the special session of the General Conference in 2019 that includes: All three plans for a way forward presented to the COB that was considered by the Commission.

1. The Traditionalist Plan
2. The One Church Plan
3. The Connectional Conference Plan

The Council's recommendation to the General Conference is The One Church Plan. While this plan will be singled out for primary consideration, the other two plans remain a possibility for adoption by the General Conference delegates.

In the spirit of transparency and full disclosure the COB will provide an historical narrative of the Council's discernment process regarding all three plans. We believe it is important to show folks how we arrived at our decision.

Rationale: ***In order to invite the church to go deeper into the journey the Council and Commission has been on, the Council makes all the information considered by the Commission and the Council of Bishops available to the delegates of the General Conference and acknowledges there is support for each of the three plans within the Council. The values of our global church are reflected in all three plans. The majority of the Council recommends The One Church Plan as the best way forward for The United Methodist Church.***

It is critically important to understand that three official actions are included in this one formal motion and rationale.

First, the Council of Bishops is forwarding three complete plans as part of its report to the General Conference: The Traditionalist Plan, The One Church Plan and the Connectional Conference Plan. This means the General Conference will have all three plans in front of them for

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consideration, and has the right to adopt, reject or amend any of them.

Second, in a series of conversations and polls, the preference of the majority of active bishops on the Council was to recommend one plan to the General Conference and for that recommendation to be the One Church Plan. Not surprisingly, there was significant support for the other two Plans as well.

Third, the Council is going to share the full body of the Commission and Council's work with the delegates, so they will have the identical resources we used as they decide the best way forward for the United Methodist Church.

Ultimately it is the General Conference - and not the Council of Bishops - that will chart the way forward for our Church next February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis.

I cannot begin to explain to you how complex this issue is given the global nature of our denomination and the changes that are taking place in our society and world.

The United Methodist Church operates in some contexts where it is against the law to even discuss issues related to human sexuality in public. There are contexts where religious persecutions are taking place and our Bishops that serve in those places could be subject to jail and confinement should the church adopt policies that are not in harmony with governmental laws and regulations. In other contexts, same gender rights have been affirmed by the laws of the land, and many feel the injustices of denominational limitations hinder pastors and churches from being able to fully engage in ministry to the LGBTQ community.

Our members hold a wide range of positions regarding human sexuality. Each member operates out of sincerely held beliefs and are convinced of the moral views they espouse.

Each can and have shared biblical, theological, and missional rationale for their beliefs. **This issue is as complex as is our global community and the decisions we make must consider the broader needs of our global family.**

I encourage us all to continue to operate in a spirit of collaboration, communication, and Christ-centered focus, recognizing that each of our views may stand in need of corrections. I do not believe that we should allow issues of human sexuality to divide or split our denomination.

A hurting, broken world needs the testimony and witness of the church's ability to remain united, anchored in Jesus Christ, despite the challenges we face.

I encourage us all to continue praying for our delegates as they prepare to wrestle with this crucial issue. I encourage our pastors to lead us with humility and with the same mind exhibited by the Lord Jesus Christ. I remind both lay and clergy leaders in the spirit of John Wesley's General Rules; *Do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God.*

The recommendation from the COB reflects our global complexities and offers a way forward that does not force or compel any church or person to adhere to a position that they do not choose to embrace. The plan offered recognizes that there is a wide range currently present among faithful United Methodists. This recommendation reflects the wide diversity of perspectives within the COB. We believe that the One Church Plan is our best way forward as a denomination. The General Conference will decide which of these options is our best hope for moving out of our current impasse.

Ultimately the decision on this matter lies with the 800+ clergy and lay delegates from around the world who will convene at the General Conference in St. Louis in February 23-26, 2019.

Between now and then, I will be working closely with our delegation as they discern where they believe the Holy Spirit is leading the church. I urge you to pray, daily, for me and for them, as well as all the delegates of the General Conference.

I love The United Methodist Church and am convinced that this issue need not divide us. I am convinced that we can live together, like family, and still have differences in our approaches regarding issues of human sexuality. I remain committed to the preaching and teaching of the Good News of the Gospel. I remain convinced that everyone needs a personal relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ. I believe the United Methodist church is stronger and can accomplish more when we focus on those things that unite us; GRACE, UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, FORGIVENESS, and our MISSION and MINISTRY to the World that God loves.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me at bishop@igrc.org.

God Bless

Bishop Frank J. Beard



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. I am 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.**