



The Steeple



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

JULY 2019

Hola, mis amigos; Hello, my friends!

Joe & I are back from our mission trip to Honduras; I have so many stories to tell! Let me first say that we saw the love of Jesus in Honduras! The Honduran people, despite the harshness of their lives, are an extremely warm and loving people. They smile easily and love to hug. We made many friends there and thanks to the Internet, we will be able to keep in contact with them!

One thing of major importance that we were required to bring with us was our "flexibility." It turned out to be one of the most frequently used items we brought along. Our mission trip leader/organizer created an itinerary that detailed every activity, and the locations we intended to visit. However, due to the political situation, and a teacher's strike, we were unable to do everything we intended. Instead, we managed to keep busy building relationships and serving the Lord. God's plans superseded our own.

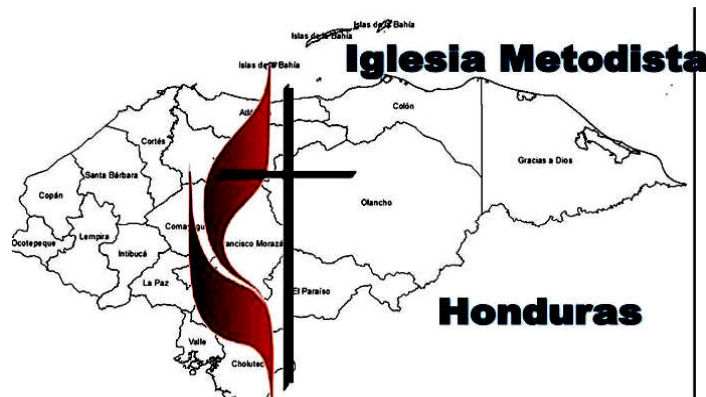
What did we do? The men and a few of the ladies (not me) worked in a couple of construction projects. The city we spent the most time in, is called Tegucigalpa (*te-goo-see-gal-pa*). It is the capital city of Honduras and it is densely populated. Many buildings are constructed with the option to build upward, because there is no room to expand outward. Our construction workers and local hands worked on the new floor that will house a larger sanctuary, and some classrooms. We put a new coat of paint on the interior of the current sanctuary which is located in the basement of the building. The new sanctuary should be open for use in two years.

We were so blessed and inspired by the worship we experienced with the Honduran people. They sing with great gusto and joy. Music is a large part of their worship and everyone is involved. At one service several girls, from about 6 to 18 years old, performed a liturgical dance. They were dressed in long flowing dresses and they each had beautiful smile on their face. During the worship service, the children sit in the front pew; when the liturgist reads scripture the children have their Bibles open and read along. If they cannot find the passage, a teacher helps them find it. The Hondurans take Biblical literacy very seriously!

Thank you again for your generous donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste. The children and parents appreciated the love and care you lavished on them.

REFLECTIONS...

Blessings!
Pastor Debra





OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- “As You Like It” was at the SIUE Metcalf Theater June 21-23 and June 28-30. **Oliver Bacus** was a member of the cast! Congratulations! The theatrical and enchanting Shakespeare that you have come to expect from SIUE Summer Theater continued; this beloved romantic comedy moved from the magical Forest of Arden to the mysterious 1920’s Ozark forests, and was complete with original, Old-Time Tunes. Keep up the good work!
- Congratulations go out to **Andrea Kasten & Harry Reed III** who were married on June 8th! Excited supporters of this new family include her sister, Caroline Crandall; parents, Debbie & Ross Eggebrecht and Bill Kasten; and grandmother, Rosalie Toner! May God bless your home and life together.
- Congratulations to **Will Garrison’s** baseball team on getting 2nd place overall in their league after the June 27th game! They played hard and almost had an exciting comeback at the end. Will pitched and got the last 2 outs without allowing any runs. Great job!
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Jerret “Jay” Fagan**, step-brother of Jim (Maggie) Funke; the family of **Donnie Calvin**, sister-in-law of the late Shirley Crews and friend to many at St. Paul; the family of **Cathy Dunnagan**, niece of Anna Mae & Jim Stewart; the family of **Cory Frye**, friend of Carol Russell; the family of **Jack Christie**, cousin of JoAnn Hill; the family of **Leo Stroheck**, 2nd cousin to Dorothy Kasinger, Marjorie Hall, & Ruth Champlin; and grandfather of, Julie Gvillo (who was our speaker); the family of **Terry Michaels**, brother of Rev. Keith Michaels (former pastor of EAFUMC); the family of **Anita McAfoos**, neighbor & friend of Lois Mitchell & Ruth Bell; and the family of **Darrell “Bill” Campbell**, good friend of Lois Mitchell from her church. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of loss.
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you so much for all of your prayers for my great-niece, Opal Lang. Her new heart is amazing and she has been able to go home from the hospital! God bless you all!
Rosalie Toner
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards, calls, and visits as I have dealt with my recent medical situation. Your outpouring of prayer made all the difference because I know that prayers work! Over 20 churches were praying for my healing! God bless you as you have blessed me!
Don Gwaltney & family
- **THANK YOU:** Thank you for all of your thoughts, cards, and prayers. They are badly needed for my wellness. I miss all of you and wish I could be there with you. I know the Lord is with me every day or I couldn’t go on. I love you all and you are in my daily prayers.
Gloria Basden



WORSHIP UNDER THE TREES
ON SUNDAYS IN THE
CHURCH AMPHITHEATER AT 8:15 a.m.
JUNE 2nd-AUGUST 25th

(In case of extreme weather the service is held in the sanctuary! The 10:30 a.m. service is held in the sanctuary.)



Honduras Photos! Thank you so much for your support!

-Pastor Debra & Joe Hoertel





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

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



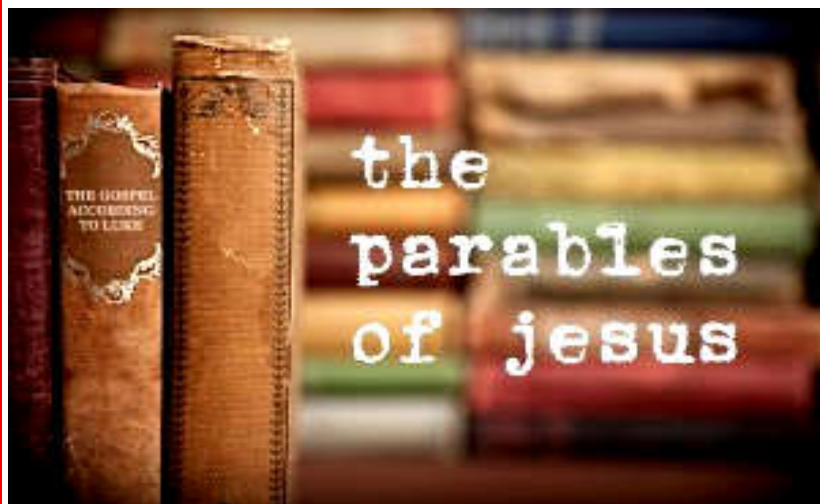
Our 10:30 a.m. service—Awakening—is a contemporary service. The preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is played by a worship band. Words to the songs are projected on the screen or are available on the entryway table.

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

7th: Communion Both Services. Series: Stuff God Never Said: Obedience to God Always Results in Financial Blessings. Scripture: Philippians 4:10-13. Theme: God is not a vending machine; He does not reward our greed.

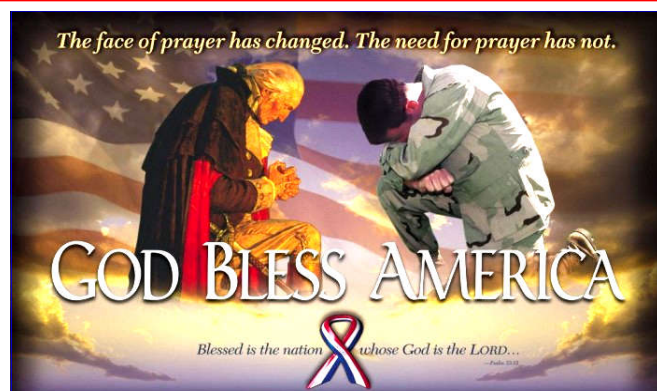


14th: Birthday Sunday. 8:15 Hickerson Scholarships Awarded. Series: Stuff God Never Said: God Will Never Give You More Than You Can Handle. Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. Theme: God will often give us more than we can handle. He wants us to lean on Him for strength.



21st: New Sermon Series: The Parables of Jesus. Message: Are You Talented? Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30. Theme: We are most blessed when we use the gifts and talents God has given us.

28th: Series: The Parables of Jesus. Message: Prodigal Son. Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30. Theme: The loving Father loves us all in ways we may never understand.





My goal is not
to be better than anyone
else, but to be better than
I used to be.

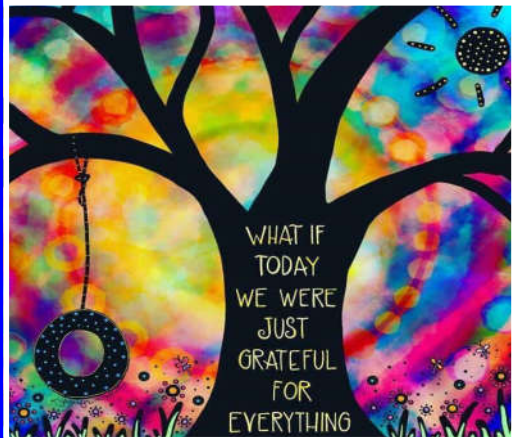
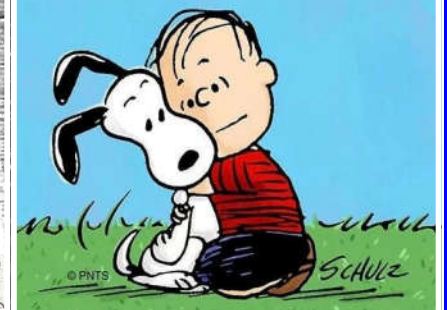
-Dr Wayne W. Dyer



Grace is when God gives
us good things that
we don't deserve.
Mercy is when He spares us
from bad things we deserve.
Blessings are when He is
generous with both.
Truly, we can never run out
of reasons to thank Him.
God is Good All The Time!



Take care of each other



My to-do list
for today:

- count my blessings
- practice kindness
- let go of what I can't control
- listen to my heart
- be productive yet calm
- just breathe

“Did I offer peace today?
Did I bring a smile to
someone’s face?
Did I say words of healing?
Did I let go of my anger and
resentment?
Did I forgive?
Did I love?”
These are the real questions.”
- Henri Nouwen





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 Anna McLain
- 24-Jul Tony Wood

- 26-Jul Kathy Crews
- 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 | 09-Jul Paul & Brandy Mormino |
| 05-Jul Don & Vivian Sands-Franklin | 13-Jul Josh & Amy Gowan |
| 06-Jul Glenn & Paula Hubbard | 15-Jul Ryan & Jenny Spurgeon |
| 07-Jul Tom & Ruth Voorhees | 22-Jul Robert & Gina Brown |
| 08-Jul Paul & Gerry Ward | 23-Jul Rick & Amy Helmkamp |
| 09-Jul Greg & Kathy Crews | 31-Jul Mike & Kathy Link |



Be sure to pick up your Church Directory for 2019!

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



JUNE Stewardship

Budget Offering:	through 5/31/2019	\$15801.00
Designated Giving:	through 5/31/2019	\$706.41
	Capital Improvements	140.00
	Loose Change	151.41
	Flowers	75.00
	Hickerson Scholarship	60.00
	Upper Room	15.00
	VBS Offering	141.00
	Gideons International	20.00
	Mid-West Mission Dist	54.00
	Happy Bears	50.00
Trustee Reserve Fund		5000.00
Reimbursements		13.50
Endowment		26828.80
Capital Campaign		1550.00
Total:		\$49899.71

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

Average Attendance for JUNE 2019

Early Service	46
Late Service	42
Sunday School	25
Visitors	4



Capital Campaign money received as of 6-30-19: \$335,562.92



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 Croatians 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!

**DEADLINE FOR
August 2019
STEEPLE,
Fri., July 19th!**

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER

**400 N. Central Ave.
Roxana, IL
FREE FAMILY MOVIES
EACH MONTH!**

**Friday, July 5 @ 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 6 @ 6 p.m.**





In a world where you can be anything... Be Kind!

Thank you for your support in our youth and camping ministries! It was a wonderful, yet rainy, week at camp. We had several highs amongst the rain, and the sun peeked out several times to reveal to us God's pure beauty and grace.

We will not be able to continue our campfire devotions in July due to summer vacations for our youth families. We have had anywhere from 8-17 kids show up! It's been an amazing way to connect outside of the church walls. We will be planning a Back-to-School lock-in for August, (possibly on Aug. 9th) so please keep a lookout for that date. Looking forward to seeing what God will continue to do in our lives.

If you would ever like to help with the cost of our snacks for our meetings, please contact Lauren to make arrangements. We do have a peanut allergy and a gluten allergy in the youth group. We are also open to suggestions from parents and the youth on how to better reach as many as possible! God bless your summer!

We love you, church!
In God's Love and Kindness,
Lauren Cranmer -
Youth Director





VBS 2019 - Thank You!

I want to thank everyone for the vital role you have played in the ministry of the children of our church and neighborhood. To all who volunteered, thank you for participating in the powerful gift of God through the work you have done to make VBS a success. To our church family, I want to say how deeply I appreciate the gifts of your time, talents, donations, service, and prayers. A special thank you to our youth and young adult volunteers. Our youth are a powerful resource for VBS. They bring fresh perspective and energy to our kids that seems to never run out. The VBS program was powerful and successful.

We have had an out-of-this-world experience at the **TO MARS AND BEYOND: Experience Where God's Power Can Take You VBS 2019**. This year To Mars And Beyond invited our Voyagers on a power launching adventure to experience this wonderful ride of a lifetime with God. In space, our Voyagers discovered where God's power could take them!

After a high energy opening of praise songs, our Voyagers traveled to several stations. Our story classroom introduced 5 unique Power Launcher Reminders: Go Beyond with **FAITH – BOLDNESS – KINDNESS – THANKFULNESS – HOPE!**

We expanded on these lessons by participating in a variety of activities: Crafts; Music; Snacks; Science; Recreation; Puppets; and Movies. Each station activity had a purpose; to help teach our Voyagers where God's power could take them. Each day was centered on our Vector Verse: **"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by His power at work within us."** **Ephesians 3:20**

We were blessed with a combined total of approximately **86** children, youth, young adult and adult assistants, helpers, and leaders who all came together to see where God's power could take us. Throughout the week, we were able to raise **\$141**. Our offering this year is going towards **"Team Honduras"** a mission trip our pastor participated in to Honduras. This ministry did many things, one of which was educating the people – especially the children – on the importance of oral hygiene. They were given their own toothbrush and toothpaste and shown how to use them as well as receiving a fluoride treatment. Remembering back to last year, our daily offering helped buy a garden brick and a paver that were placed in our Prayer Walkway in the park, in memory of Spencer Bacus who lost his fight to Giant Congenital Nevus last year. Spencer was a part of our VBS family for over 20 years and remains in our hearts at VBS forever. Our love and prayers continue to be with his family as his light continues to shine through us. **#SHINE LIKE SPENCER**

So, until next year's journey at VBS, may God bless you as much as you have blessed these children!

-Jamie Gwaltney, VBS Director





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

**PLEASE
HELP US
HELP YOU!**

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!



2019 is posted on the long bulletin board in the Education Wing. There are openings in the months of:

SEPT. AND NOV.

This is a great ministry to honor or remember someone or a special day. Please, help fill it in! Thank you!



comes to St. Paul UMC on Sunday, July 14th at 6 p.m.

Be sure to join us!

ENCOUNTER is a youth choir ministry of Main Street United Methodist Church comprised of 88 Christian youth from 9th through 12th grade from eight area schools and home schools representing 30+ churches in the Alton area. They are dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through the ministries of music, service, fellowship, and participation in the life of the church.

The musical is a compilation of different pieces that reflect both the glory and power of God alongside of the brokenness of humanity.

A free will offering will be received to help with expenses and a summer tour; otherwise there is no charge to attend. Bring your family & friends!

SEE YOU THERE!



UPCOMING IGRC EVENTS & MEETINGS

Prayer team initiates Conference Prayer Line

If you are involved in any prayer ministry for the Lord, the IGRC prayer team THANKS you for being faithful. I am hopeful that all is going well as we continue to be in prayer for our conference, our churches, and ourselves.

The **IGRC Prayer Team** has started a **Conference Prayer Line** that meets every **Sunday at 7 p.m.** This conference Prayer Line consists of a five minute devotion, prayer requests, testimonies, and prayers. Please join us. The call number and access code are as follows:

Conference number: (218) 895-0912 Access code: 339523

Grace and Peace

Aletha Weatherall - IGRC Prayer Team Coordinator



CAMPING...CAMPING...CAMPING

Pick up *Connecting Campers, Nature, And Christ*—a publication offering a complete listing of our church camps. It is available in the wall rack 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 *Connecting Campers, Nature, And Christ*.

Awakening Worship Conference

September 14 @ 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Hosted at Troy UMC in Troy, IL

The Awakening Worship Conference is designed to help raise up the spiritual temperature in worship in our churches. Though worship is not all about music, vocals, and tech, these are some of the common tools the modern church utilizes to help call and inspire people to worship. During the conference, we will invest time growing in skill and heart, all the while praying our leaders, teams, and congregations will come alive in worship.

WHO ATTENDS:

Worship Leaders,
Pastors, Team
Leaders, Team
Members, Volun-
teers in worship
tech, band, vocals
and other arts.

2019 Worship Conference	EARLYBIRD By 6/30	REGULAR By 9/8	WEEK OF
Individual	\$35	\$45	\$55
Group (3 or more)	\$25	\$35	\$45



PEORIA – The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference gathered around the theme, *Let's Get Fired Up: Hearts Strangely Warmed by the Blaze of the Holy Spirit*, at the Peoria Civic Center.

The elections of lay and clergy delegates in concurrent lay and clergy sessions dominated the early business of the annual conference.

Presiding Bishop Frank J. Beard gave an outline of the process of local churches disaffiliating with the conference. Conference leaders are working toward finalizing the process by Sept. 1, but Beard noted that the plan passed by the 2019 General Conference and upheld by the Judicial Council is “narrow in focus, for a specific period of time, for a specific issue”

and that the process includes annual conference and conference trustees' participation.

An offering of \$96,735 was collected during Friday's Morning Manna for the Our Conference, Our Kids campaign, pushing the campaign to \$904,954 of its \$2.5 million goal. The campaign, which will be used to endow the spiritual life programs at five conference children and youth welfare agencies was approved by the 2016 Annual Conference and launched at the 2017 session.

Other special offerings included \$6,704.52 by conference laity for the maintenance fund of the John Kofi Asmah School in West Point, Liberia; \$7,605.58 for the Tom Brown Scholarship at Wiley College and \$8,589.24 for the Bishop's Ordinand Trip to the Holy Land in February 2020.

Legislatively, the conference announced that the health insurance allowance paid to full-time pastors will remain at \$17,500 for 2020. The conference also approved a 2.25 % increase to its minimum salaries. In 2020, the salaries will go to \$44,358 for clergy in full connection, associate members and provisional elders; and \$40,705 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 2020. No change was needed for the defined benefits portion of the CRSP plan, which stands at \$5,700 per year for full-time pastors; \$4,275 for ¾ time pastors; and \$2,850 for ½ time pastors. Pastors at ¼ time or less are not eligible. Retirees under the pre-1982 pension plan will see a 2 % increase to \$794 per active service year in 2020.

It was also announced that the closing of Living Springs Camp was consummated just days before the start of the Conference session. In 2015, the annual conference authorized the sale of three of five conference camps – Living Springs, Epworth and Jensen Woods – to consolidate and invest in the other two campsites – East Bay and Little Grassy. The sale of Living Springs was the final sale of campsites and conference attendees saw a report of the improvements that have been made with the sale proceeds at East Bay and Little Grassy.

The conference also approved an initiative by congregational development, Reach 1,000, lending its support to local congregations reaching 1,000 new people from new ministries and reaching 1,000 additional new people through existing ministries. Congregational development is putting systems in place to provide training, coaching, and assistance in the endeavor.

The 2020 budget of \$12,099,908 was approved – a decrease of \$7,408 or 0.06 %. This is the seventh year of a relatively flat budget with the 2020 total less than the 2013 budget.

The conference approved the discontinuance of 14 churches – Big Prairie UMC; Blue Mound Bethel UMC; Bonnie UMC; Bryant UMC; Charleston Otterbein UMC; Colp UMC; Decatur Central UMC; Garrison Temple UMC; Irvington UMC; Prairieton UMC; Providence Chapel UMC; St. Jacob UMC; Twoer Hill UMC; and Vandalia Luster Chapel UMC – with a combined 2,120 years of ministry.

Seven elders were ordained. Three provisional elders and four provisional deacons were commissioned. A total of 30 pastors with a combined 769.5 years of service retired. Membership stands at 118,681 in 2018, down 3,841 from 2017. Average worship attendance is 51,696, down 1,599. Church school attendance stands at 17,046, up 12.

The 2020 Annual Conference will be June 4-6, 2020, at the Peoria Civic Center in Peoria, IL.

By Paul Black



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

😊 → FINISHING THE WORK... ← 😊

As announced earlier this year, the work of the Mission Possible (topping over \$500,000) is complete. The Jr. Parsonage has been sold and the proceeds, along with approximately \$5,500 from the CFC checking account, were used to pay off our debt to 1st Mid America Credit Union.

The Trustees along with the Church Finance Committee and Church Council have agreed to move \$5,000 from the total that remains in the CFC account into the Trustee Reserve Fund as a jump start on any physical needs of the church in the future. Approximately \$2,000 will be kept in the CFC checking account to pay for incidental church building physical needs in the next few months and the remaining money, approximately \$26,000, will be transferred to the St. Paul Endowment Fund to pay down our in-house loan of \$71,000. The new transfer plus the \$1,000 we already paid to the Endowment Fund leaves us with a balance of approximately \$43,000 of indebtedness to the fund. The very last of our remaining indebtedness!

We ask that you continue in prayer about our church's physical needs and consider either continuing or beginning a financial contribution to help us pay down our debt to ourselves in the “Endowment Fund.” (To do this, pay any monies to the **Capital Fund Campaign designation** as you have done in the past.) Not only is it important to pay ourselves back, to adhere to this church's longtime philosophy of being debt-free, but it is equally important to put ourselves back into a position of paying our fair share of apportionments for the ministry work of the United Methodist Church in general.

Your generosity and prayerful approach to supporting the church's work is appreciated more than mere words can express! God bless...

Many blessings and thanks to all,

From your current St. Paul UMC Trustees:

Mike Tappy, Scott Gwaltney, Ian Martin, Noël Schiber, Joe Hoertel, Karen Challandes (secretary), Jim Herndon (chairman), and Pastor Debra Hoertel