

SEPTEMBER 2019

Greetings, People of Infinite Worth!

Today, I want to use this forum to talk about **religious persecution in India.** In the U.S., we are guaranteed the right to worship as we wish. Other than a few isolated incidents of abuse, we enjoy tremendous freedom of worship. But other places in the world are not as open to Christianity. Persecution of Christians is real, and it is happening all over the world. Just last month, in August, India experienced an outbreak of violence against Christians. It is chilling to think about what has happened there. Here is a quote from Zenit, a news agency based in Rome.

"According to media reports, often these anti-Christian acts are carried out by Hindu extremist groups and fomented by "religious hate speeches" promoted on the web and on social networks. According to the ADF, [an organization committed to protecting Christian rights] anti-Christian sentiments and acts in India have increased since the federal government has been led by the Hindu nationalist party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who in 2019 started his second term." **REFLECTIONS...**

India is predominantly Hindu; there are 966 million citizens (80%) who practice Hinduism. Other religions in India include, Muslims, who make up about 14% of the population, and Christians who are the smallest minority at 2.3%.

These abuses begin with a mob of Hindu extremists, who are accompanied by the police. They show-up at a prayer service, usually held in small house churches. The mob begins shouting slogans, and when the people try to leave, they attack the congregation. No one is safe from the physical violence; they beat up everyone, including the women and children. The pastors are arrested and detained. Normally, the building in which they met is burned. These attacks have become so common that the authorities do not have time to condemn them. Mob violence like this has become commonplace in India, because the political parties and social agencies fail to speak out against violence toward religious minorities.

We are so far away from India and other places where mob violence attempts to subdue Christianity. We see the news reports and know that our brothers and sisters in Christ are suffering and dying for their faith. Let's pray together for India, that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, other political leaders, and social agencies begin to condemn these attacks and that they will create policies and laws to allow more freedom of religion in their country. Let's pray for the protection of Christians and other religious minorities. Please pray with me....

Lord, we ask for peace for our brothers and sisters who are abused and intimidated for the sake of Jesus. We ask that you create a sense of openness and generosity in the leaders' hearts. Create space for Christian minorities to worship and pray in freedom. Help those who have already suffered because of mob violence to heal and be comforted. Amen!

Pastor Debra

https://zenit.org/articles/violence-against-christians-in-23-states-of-india/



OUR CHURCH FAMILY & THANK YOUS!

- We rejoice with the Sunday, August 18 baptism of Levi Leon Price, son of Angelina Bailey! May God be ever present in Levi's life.
- Our deepest sympathy goes out to each family that has recently lost a loved one. This includes the family of **Irene "Toodie" Hagen**, sister of Vivian Westhoff; the family of **Nathan Best**, classmate/friend of Christina Johnson; the family of **Ruth Ann Nappier**, sister/sister-in-law of Tom (Trudy) Lehnen; and the family of **Paul Lehnen**, brother/brother-in-law of Tom (Trudy) Lehnen. May God give to all His comfort, healing, and peace in this time of loss.
- We also grieve with Dorothy Kasinger and her extended family at the passing of her grandson, **Jacob "Jake" Cathorall**. It was a blessing to hear the many stories about Jake from his family, friends, and co-workers. May God pour out His grace on all of you in the journey ahead. (see photo of Jake)



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- **<u>THANK YOU</u>**: Thank you for all the kindness and help shown to me by Pastor Debra & Joe and by John Hendricks. You have all been most gracious to me and I am happy that God led me to St. Paul UMC! *Cynthia Moore*
- <u>THANK YOU</u>: Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies. We will definitely put them to good use! Thank you for your investment in our students! *Sincerely, Jim Miller—Principal of Central Intermediate School*
- **<u>THANK YOU</u>**: Thank you for showing God's love in a practical way to those who have been affected by a tornado. Your generosity will bring hope to people in their time of need. *In His Service, Chantel Corrie—Midwest Mission Distribution Center*



See You at the Pole[™] was inspired by students in a youth group in Burleson, TX, early in 1990. The teenagers felt led to go & pray at night at several area schools during a weekend youth retreat. Their experience was shared with thousands of other youth from across Texas in the form of a challenge in June 1990 at a large conference. More than 56,000 students on 1,200 campuses in Texas and three other states were documented at the first See You at the

Pole[™] in September that year. Since 1991, See You at the Pole[™] has grown to God-sized proportions. The movement began to spread to other nations through missionaries from the U.S. Now each year, more than 3 million students from all over the world participate in See You at the Pole[™]. Students in more than 20 countries are responding to God and taking seriously the challenge to pray.

For 2019 the date is Wed., September 25th! Pray for our youth and their schools!

Hand Bell Choir Director

Familiarity with sacred music a must. Performance monthly during worship at both services - 8:15am & 10:30am. Rehearsals are at least an hour on Wednesdays from Sept. to May. Please call the church office for more information, 618-259-5210. Application and job description are on our website. stpaulwired.org



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Pastor Cary Beckwith will be starting a Bible Study on **Tuesday, Sept. 3rd** at **11am & again at 6pm** at the **Wood River First UMC.** It will be held at 30 North Sixth Street, Wood River ... enter on the Lorena side of the church. On **Wednesday, Sept. 4th** the Bible Study will be held **at 6pm** at **Wanda UMC, 4813 Wanda Road. JOIN US!**

TO:Seniors (70 & over in 2019) of St. Paul UMCWHAT:A Luncheon and a Celebration of You!WHERE:St. Paul UMC, Fellowship HallWHEN:September 25th, WednesdayTIME:12:00 p.m. (NOON)

8th SENIOR LUNCHEON

Won't you please plan to join us for the 8th annual senior luncheon served in your honor! Included will be time for fellowship & fun. Bring your spouse, a family member, or a friend; an appetite; and a smile to have a great time! We would love to know that you will be coming and who you might bring. Please call the church office 259-5210 by Monday, Sept.23rd to make a reservation. Arrangements for door-to-door service or valet parking are just a phone call away because we want you to be here! Let us, with God's help, bless you with food, fellowship, & friendship on September 25th! We look forward to seeing you!







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

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

Our 10:30 a.m. service—Awakening—is a contemporary service. The preaching focuses upon life lessons from the Bible. Music is lead by a worship & praise team. 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.



1st: <u>Labor Sunday</u>. <u>Communion Both Services</u>. <u>New Sermon</u> <u>Series: Biblical Blueprint</u> Message: Jesus' Promise! Scripture: *Acts 1:1-11*



8th: <u>Birthday Sunday</u>. <u>Sermon Series: Biblical Blue-</u> <u>print</u>: Message: Fire And Wind! Scripture: *Acts 2:1-12*



- **15th:** <u>Sermon Series: Biblical Blueprint</u>: Message: Opportunities! Scripture: Acts 3:1-12
- **22nd:** Angel Choir Sings in the 10:30 service. Sermon Series: Biblical Blueprint: Message: Platinum Rule! Scripture: Acts 8:26-31
- **29th:** <u>Sermon Series: Biblical Blueprint</u>: Message: Lunch With Cornelius! Scripture: *Acts 10:1-7*



Fall Small Group Bible Study

Using "When God's Spirit Moves" by Jim Cymbala Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

This video-driven study will show us how to listen for the voice of the Spirit, and how a life lived in the presence of the Spirit can transform us and our church. Sign-up sheet & books are on the table outside the pastor's office.

September 8th – Agent in the Shadows September 15th – Power Source September 22nd – The Best Bible Teacher October 13th – Water, Wind, and Fire October 20th – Who's in Control? October 27th – Help When We Need it most







IT WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...the ST. PAUL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10h from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

We will have our great Chicken & Noodles or the Vegetable Soup, etc., etc. The craft ladies have been busy creating a variety of crafts and gifts – remember to shop your "home church" first! Pick up those gifts for the "special people" you want to remember especially at Christmas and check out the Halloween treats for your kids and grandkids. Don't forget to stop at the baked goods/candy, jams/jellies tables.

Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Dinner from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you can't "eat in" we'll be glad to fix a "Take-Home-A-Meal."

Of course, in order to make the FALL FESTIVAL a success we will need lots of help. Any amount of time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. There will be sign up inserts in the bulletins and on the table in the hallway during September. Please indicate your donations and possible work times and turn them in on any of the Sundays between now and the FALL FESTI-VAL. If you miss signing up at church & want to donate or work, please call Joyce Tappy at 259-8774 or the church office, 259-5210. Proceeds from this project and all others held during the year will be disbursed to our mission groups at our December 5th Christmas Party/Meeting. See you IN CHURCH at our Fall Festival!



This event is scheduled for October 19th from 11 a.m.—2 p.m. Please watch for more information!

> Pastor Debra & Awakening Planning Team





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01-Sep Christi Baggett 01-Sep Jay Bentley III 01-Sep Arik Newingham 02-Sep Ron Nelson 02-Sep Jenni Ortearen 03-Sep Al Poston 04-Sep Cherie Buatte 04-Sep Rod Croxford 04-Sep George Hamilton Sr. 04-Sep John Hendricks 05-Sep Damian Newingham 06-Sep Josh Gowan 06-Sep Jason Henderson 06-Sep Ryan Tite 07-Sep Kamryn Bell 07-Sep Jim Dawson 08-Sep Justin Bottorff 09-Sep Angie Hansard 09-Sep Liam Oertle 09-Sep Matthew Poston 10-Sep Jake Birmingham 10-Sep Zelda Plummer 10-Sep Christy Scroggins 11-Sep Don Bunt Sr. 11-Sep Marc Ortegren 12-Sep David Badman

September Birthdays

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

23-Sep Harvey Gowan
23-Sep Nathan Shewmake
24-Sep Tanner Betts
24-Sep Kellie Greer
25-Sep Hayley Schlemer
25-Sep Phil Tite
26-Sep Bob Blacklock
26-Sep Sarah Laufersweiler
26-Sep Ashley Poore

23-Sep Baylee Allshouse

- 26-Sep Lily Roberts
- 26-Sep Debbie Tite
- 26-Sep Jan Williams
- 27-Sep David Betts
- 27-Sep Becky Chester
- 27-Sep Donna Ewing
- 27-Sep Joyce Hutchens
- 27-Sep Sharon Inman
- 29-Sep Jordan Brown
- 29-Sep Kara Martin

29-Sep Steven Tite

September ANNIVERSARIES

- 02-Sep Jason & Gretchen Henderson
- 04-Sep Daryl & Deb Fansler
- 06-Sep Jason & Lindsey Mayer
- 13-Sep Phil & Debbie Tite
- 15-Sep Donovan & Caitlyn Hale
- 15-Sep Kevin & Lindsey Rader
- 16-Sep Christopher & Megan Ricketts
- 17-Sep Chris & Susan Cameron
- 18-Sep Jerry & Cathy Cameron

19-Sep Cory & Caroline Crandall
20-Sep Bryan & Katie Clark
20-Sep Ross & Debbie Eggebrecht
24-Sep Nicholas & Julie Hobbs
26-Sep Ryan & Savannah Cincoski
26-Sep Don & Diane Ford Sr.
27-Sep Ryan & Megan Parker
29-Sep Gary & Shirley Clark

Be sure to pick up your church Directory for 2019!

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





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AUGUST Stewardship

Budget Offering: Designated Giving:	through 8/31/2019 through 8/31/2019	\$16832.00 \$1398.95
	Capital Improvements	90.00
	Loose Change	98.95
	UMCOR	50.00
	2019 Steeple Postage	10.00
	Upper Room	15.00
	Memorial	50.00
	Helping Hands	550.00
	Youth	35.00
	Funeral Dinner	500.00
Capital Campaign		625.00
Total:		\$18855.95

DEADLINE FOR October 2019 <u>STEEPLE</u>, Fri., September 20th!

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

Average Attendance for AUGUST 2019

43 40 27

Early Service	
Late Service	
Sunday School	
Visitors	



Capital Campaign money received as of 8-31-19: \$336,762.92



MONTHLY LOOSE CHANGE PROJECT

September's Loose Change

<u>Project</u> is **Trinity UMC** in East St. Louis/Washington Park. The ministry of the church has expanded to provide worship services, VBS, and a food pantry to the growing Hispanic Community. The need is greater than the resources of the local church which is why we help. There is a dedicated membership and a strong youth program at both sites. May God bless and multiply your gifts!

NAZARENE COMMUNITY THEATER 400 N. Central Ave.

Roxana, IL FREE FAMILY MOVIES EACH MONTH!

Friday, September 6 @ 7 p.m. Saturday, September 7 @ 6 p.m.









IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING... BE KIND!

KIND Youth meetings have begun again on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 4-5:30 p.m. here at the church building. Please continue to pray for our youth as they ask questions and strive to

grow in their faith and understanding! Thank you Church for all of your support! 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 always open to suggestions from parents and the youth on how to better reach as many as possible! God bless you!

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

"A lie doesn't become truth, wrong doesn't become right & evil doesn't become good, just because it's accepted by a majority."





BRACE YOURSELVES. PUMPKIN FLAVORED EVERYTHING IS COMING.





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Food Drive & School Supply Collection----

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The Outreach Ministry Team
Thanks you for giving!!



Are you interested in joining the St. Paul UMC bowling team this season? We bowl on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. but we rotate people so you would not have to bowl every Monday night... sometimes you have other plans. To find out more please call Mark Mayer at 377-6463 today!



Alton Area Christian Ladies

The fall Bible Study will be on **GENESIS (3rd part)** and will begin on **Tues., September 17th at 10 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall classroom. The study will go for 9 weeks! All ladies of the church, please join us!!

Annual Coat & Shoe Collection

For several years we have collected new and used, serviceable coats and



shoes for Riverbend Head Start & Family Services families in our area.

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

► Coats and Jackets - sizes 2T to 7-8

► Shoes - infant sizes to children size 1

This information is to <u>remind</u> you that if you go to <u>yard sales</u>, have grandchildren with outgrown shoes and coats, go to **Goodwill**, or however you come across such items, you may



want to buy them for the **fall collection** during the summer. **Then just hang on to them.**

The collection usually occurs in **October/November.** When you see

the big box in the main hallway it will be time to place these items in it. Thank you so much as we plan ahead!



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To learn more on any of these topics / stories, please check out the information at the website: pasbfgiving.org. <u>PERSONAL PLANNER</u>—Planning with a Serious Illness: If at some point in life you have a serious illness, there are a number of planning options that should be considered.

<u>SAVVY LIVING</u>—How Medicare Covers Ambulance Services: How does Medicare cover ambulance service? Check here to find out.

DONOR STORY—Sale and Unitrust: Gene & Carol purchased stock in a small company several years ago. How has that turned out?

<u>WASHINGTON NEWS</u>—Praise for Taxpayer Advocate Olson: On July 31, 2019, National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, retired. She served taxpayers since 2001.

<u>FINANCES</u>—Stocks / Bonds / CDs & Mortgages: Check out the information!



Sunday, September 8th is Catch-Up Sunday!

Catch-Up Sunday will be **September 8th.** 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 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.

We understand that some of our families are struggling financially. Our intent isn't to make you feel guilty if you are unable to give a monetary gift 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 or not you are able to make a special *Catch-Up* gift, we want **the gift of your presence in worship on September 8th.** Our services are at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. both inside.

Your Catch-Up Sunday offering (letter & envelope coming in the mail) will enable us to be a wide channel for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our community! Thank you!

The Finance Committee

Greetings People of Infinite Worth!

Late last year, some of our members participated in a survey created by **The Unstuck Group.** The Unstuck Group is an organization that assesses churches and helps them to achieve sustained health. A church in sustained health has certain general characteristic, which are: collaborative culture, focused vision and strategy, and takes calculated risks. The survey we took last year was designed to help us determine where St. Paul is located on the church lifecycle.



According to the survey, St. Paul is in the **Maintenance** part of the bell curve; we are not experiencing sustained health. Here are some characteristics of a church in maintenance mode: **attendance that has plateaued or is declining, it has become insider-focused, and the vision has become unclear.** Please remember that without intentional action by the church, ALL churches have a tendency to slip down the right side of the bell curve illustrated above. Do not despair, we are not alone. **Let's be different,** let's be the church that experiences sustained health and new growth. We are in a wonderful position to begin a new vision for St. Paul. I am excited to think about the possibilities that lay before us.

In the weeks and months to come, church leaders and I will be in prayer and conversation about how to navigate our beloved church toward a healthier future, one in which we grow in numbers and in discipleship. **Please be in prayer for us;** help us discern what God wants to do in the life of St. Paul. We covet your prayers as we discern a new vision for St. Paul.

Blessings! Pastor Debra





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

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, Volunteers in worship tech, band, vocals, and other arts.

Opening to God Rescheduled

The Opening to God retreat that was postponed earlier this year has been rescheduled for **October 4-5** at Little Grassy Camp. Persons that registered for the original retreat need not reregister for the October event, although several workshop choices have changed from the offerings of the earlier date. Those registrants will need to confirm workshop selections for the October retreat.

Registration is open until Sept. 20. If you are interested in knowing more, please speak to Pastor Debra as she will be attending.



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THERE ARE IMMEDIATE OPENINGS IN SWEET SOUNDS

Qualifications: Must be male or female; young, middle age, old, older. Must be able to walk and step into the van. <u>NO</u> EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED! If you like to sing that is a BIG PLUS. You don't have to be trained in opera or even country music. Can't read music? That is OKAY; we only use the words. Must be able to shake hands & spread some sunshine! You need no computer savvy, bookkeeping skills, or accounting degree. Should be available each Friday (at 12:45 p.m.) of the month and one Monday (at 1:00 p.m.).

APPLY IN PERSON AND BE PREPARED TO STAY. Excellent benefits to your mind, body, and soul. God and Sweet Sounds need you in this outreach ministry today!

Music IS a powerful memory!

Our members come from several churches and communities. For more information call Dorothy Kasinger at 259-7255 or email to her at <u>dorothydlk@charter.net</u>. Give us a try this fall!

Holy Spirit help me to tune out the world's noise and listen to You.

JIM HERNDON HONORED!

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville will honor eight remarkable graduates at the 2019 SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony, "A Night Among the Stars," on Friday, Sept. 27 in the Morris University Center (MUC). These impressive alumni have made exceptional contributions in their chosen fields, in their communities and at SIUE through their leadership, character and hard work. One of the eight is one of our own:

School of Education, Health and Human Behavior: Jim Herndon, BS Physical Education '72, MS Education Administration '78, Specialist Degree Education Administration '87

Herndon has served as a Metro East education and community leader for more than 40 years. He is an instructor in the SIUE Department of Educational Leadership where he contributed to the redesign of the principal preparation program. Before becoming an SIUE instructor in 2006, he served as superintendent of schools for Roxana Community Unit School District No.1. He was a special projects consultant in a \$4-billion training and development expansion project of the Conoco-Phillips Wood River Refinery. He also serves as an educational/business consultant from the Illinois Regional Office of Education #45.

CONGRATULATIONS JIM!

Life is a series of tiny little miracles. Notice them.



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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

BEN MOORE MEMORIAL SIGNS

The St. Paul trustees currently have a two phase project going on to continue improving the aesthetic look of our property as well as reminding those who came before that contributed so much to making St. Paul an important part of God's ministry in our area. We are so very thankful to the Ben and Beulah Moore family for providing funds through Ben's Memorial donations to underwrite this project.

Phase one of the project was to develop appropriate and aesthetically pleasing signage for the Park/Outdoor Worship area. Of particular value and a daily challenge for all of us as we consider our ministry at St. Paul is the message on the backside of the sign, which will be seen as people leave the area, reminding all of us to go forth on God's behalf; **"Enter to Worship...Leave to**



Serve. Certainly a thought provoking message! Our thanks to members of the Trustees for installing and preparing the signage area and to Budget Signs for the excellent work in preparing the sign.

Phase two will be to lower the old church bell from the bell tower and have it refurbished and placed as a permanent display beside the sign in the Park/Outdoor Worship area. The bell, which became obsolete with the purchase of the carillon system, was a gift to St. Paul from the Harold & Glenn Rich family and came to us having served a small church in Golconda, IL. The bell is currently unable to function and is simply rusting in its current space.



Once the two phases are completed they will honor our past and provide a reminder for all of us to serve and volunteer our time and energy for our continuing ministry work through St. Paul as those who came before us did in such an unselfish and committed manner.

Note: If someone has information about the purchase and year of installation of the carillon system please contact Jim Herndon so that we can add the information to our on-going St. Paul history project. You can learn more about the bell's history by reading the information provided in the church history book located in Joyce Tappy's classroom.