



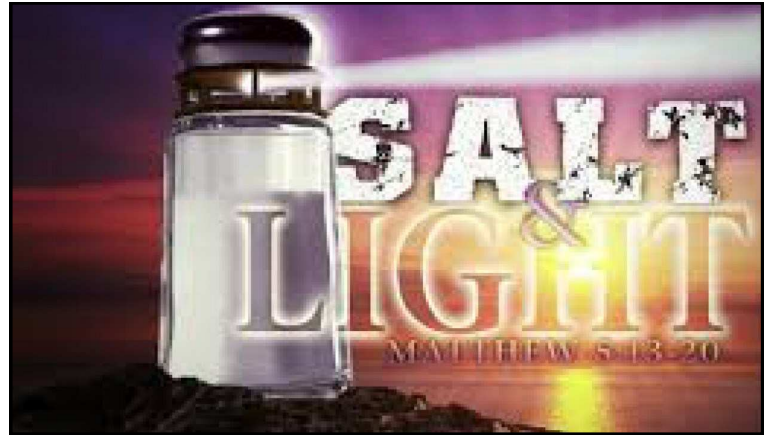
ST. PAUL'S NEWS FEBRUARY 2017

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a

lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.²⁰ For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.



"St. Paul's Church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ committed to helping all people by actively practicing the Gospel in word and deed."

St. Paul's Church
445 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, RI 02907
Office: (401) 941-5100



PASTOR'S LETTER

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6).

The month of February will bring many new challenges. St. Paul's Church is actively participating in the matters pertaining to finding or “calling” a new pastor. **“Do not be anxious about anything”** in this process. God is good and God will bring forth a new pastor to lead St. Paul's.

This is a fine, upstanding, dedicated congregation that has faithfully served the Lord for better than one hundred and fifty years. This tremendous event was recently celebrated to the glory of Jesus Christ on Sunday, October 23, 2016. Over the course of the one hundred and fifty years of St. Paul's history, God has proven to be a God of goodness and blessings for this unique ministry here at 445 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI.

Keep that in mind, and **“in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God”** as the call process continues. God will provide St. Paul's with a new pastor who will faithfully lead St. Paul's into its future ministries. I am certain of this, and I am confident that the congregation will be satisfied, content, and pleased with the new pastor as he assumes the role of your Senior Pastor.

By God's grace and favor, I am pleased and, in sincere humility, I am proud of the fact that the congregation has unanimously voted to ask me to continue on as your Vacancy Pastor until the process of calling the new pastor has been completed. It has been a difficult year—to say the least. However, all of my anxiety was genuinely “set aside” as my **“prayers and petitions”** were answered with this unanimous decision for me to remain in the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. Thank you.

The details of my role as your Vacancy Pastor have yet to be discussed or even presented at this time; nevertheless, **“do not be anxious about anything”** for we are about to continue together until the Lord God provides the details of new pastor to be called to this marvelous congregation.

Sincerely,

Pastor Schultz



Feb. 1 Kartoe Makor
 Feb. 2 Jean Makor
 Noko Miller
 Feb. 3 Janet Spink
 Zabinski
 Feb. 4 David Martin
 George S. Norris
 Feb. 7 Charles O. Morris
 Feb. 9 Dorothy Grable
 Feb. 13 Rondell Harmon
 Feb. 14 Corvah Akoiwala II



Feb. 16 Rev. Leon Schultz
 Feb. 17 Jackie Pringle
 Feb. 18 Andrew Buffington
 Dianysha Varfley
 Feb. 22 Leelah D. Graves
 Feb. 24 Elizabeth Hencler
 Feb. 25 Mayamu Drechsler
 Ann Kuepker
 Feb. 26 Mary Abbenante
 Feb. 28 Margarete Falconer






Feb. 15 Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kuepker (59th)



FEBRUARY COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE

Feb. 5 Dawn & Spencer Seitz, Joan Galloway, Norma Sonstroem
 Feb. 12 Rick Sinnigen, Eleanor Sinnigen, Kim King, Ed Boger
 Feb. 19 Elaine Slavin, Bob Johnson, Lindas & Tom Foley
 Feb. 26 Donna Bucu, Kumba Forkpa, Leela Ballah, Seaniah Ballah

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	READERS	COMM. ASSIST.	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
				
5	Pat Martin	Corvah Akoiwala Bill Oehlkers	Mary Abbenante	Leela Ballah, Seaniah Ballah, Solomon Paye, Hardlyn Dauda
12	Kevin Riley		Mary Abbenante	Rick Sinnigen, Gerry Quam, Mack Makor, Joe Norris
19	Rick Sinnigen	As Available	Mary Abbenante	Kim King, Bill King, Dennis Kollie, Helen Miller
26	Abel G. Dobson		Mary Abbenante	Kevin Kehyei, Danlette Norris, George Dauda, Grace Dauda

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	PROPOSED BUDGET 2017		
	PROPOSED	ESTIMATED	ANNUAL
	2017	ACTUAL 2016	BUDGET 2016
<u>RECEIPTS:</u>			
Current Offerings	161,000.00	173,300.00	161,000.00
Children's Friend Lease Payments	39,994.00	38,830.00	38,830.00
Thrivent Choice	0.00	782.00	0.00
Hall Rental	0.00	385.00	0.00
Celebrating Summer	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	200,994.00	213,297.00	199,830.00
<u>DISBURSEMENTS:</u>			
<u>Pastoral Support:</u>			
Pastor's: Salary	39,314.00	38,543.00	38,543.00
FICA Offset	1,990.00	1,967.00	1,967.00
Benefits	37,020.00	37,090.00	38,000.00
Housing Allowance	27,024.00	27,024.00	27,024.00
Car Allowance	4,992.00	4,992.00	4,992.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Discretionary Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00
Conferences and Conventions	1,000.00	574.00	1,000.00
Guest Preachers	900.00	600.00	900.00
Total Pastoral Support	113,740.00	110,790.00	113,926.00
<u>Christian Worship:</u>			
Organist/Choir Dir. Salary	15,596.00	15,290.00	15,290.00
Stewardship	500.00	100.00	500.00
Substitute Organist	1,500.00	900.00	1,500.00
Altar Supplies	700.00	662.00	500.00
Organ/Piano Tuning & Repairs	2,000.00	1,130.00	2,000.00
Total Christian Worship	20,296.00	18,082.00	19,790.00

<u>Boards and Committees:</u>			
Board of Deacons	500.00	0.00	500.00
Board of Social Ministry	600.00	0.00	600.00
Church Council Contingency Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00
Call Committee	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Boards and Committees	6,600.00	500.00	1,600.00
<u>Administration:</u>			
Secretary's: Salary	29,205.00	28,632.00	28,632.00
Benefits	14,905.00	14,658.00	15,000.00
Employer FICA	2,778.00	2,723.00	2,723.00
Employer Medicare	650.00	637.00	637.00
Church Supplies	4,000.00	3,422.00	4,000.00
Postage	500.00	561.00	500.00
Telephone/Internet	2,500.00	2,615.00	2,500.00
Office Equip Maintenance	3,000.00	3,221.00	2,500.00
Treasurer Services	6,000.00	6,400.00	8,000.00
Sunday School	1,300.00	166.00	1,300.00
Miscellaneous	500.00	-256.00	500.00
Total Administration	65,338.00	62,779.00	66,292.00
<u>Properties:</u>			
Utilities: Church	35,000.00	30,322.00	35,000.00
Recapture	-26,250.00	-22,974.00	-26,250.00
Rubbish Removal: Church	13,000.00	12,703.00	10,000.00
Recapture	-9,750.00	-8,434.00	-7,500.00
Snow Removal: Church	5,000.00	8,290.00	5,000.00
Recapture	-3,750.00	-6,218.00	-3,750.00
Parking Lot Donation	500.00	0.00	0.00
Building Maintenance	25,000.00	10,926.00	30,000.00
Insurance	15,000.00	13,343.00	15,000.00
Sexton's Supplies	1,000.00	18.00	1,000.00
Cleaning Services	5,000.00	2,100.00	5,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	1,500.00	1,465.00	1,500.00
Total Properties	61,250.00	41,541.00	65,000.00
Total Disbursements	267,224.00	233,692.00	266,608.00
Deficit for Year (from Memorials)	-66,230.00	-20,395.00	-66,778.00

Call Committee Update

Nominations

At the Voter's Meeting on January 22, the Voter's accepted the recommendation of the Call Committee that a call be extended to a pastor in the field, that is, an individual who is already serving a congregation. This means that any voting member of St. Paul's can nominate a pastor for consideration. Forms will be made available shortly for members who wishes to do this.

Qualifications of the New Pastor

In order to listen to the congregation's preferences for a new pastor, a form will be inserted in the Sunday bulletin for February 5 which will provide an opportunity for members to indicate the qualities that they would like to see in the new pastor as well as areas of ministry which they believe will need his attention. The following Sunday, February 12, a congregational call meeting will be held in the sanctuary after the service at which time the form will be reviewed and members will have an opportunity to verbally share their thoughts about a new pastor.

Call Committee Meeting

The Call Committee will meet again on February 11 to continue work on the self-study of the congregation. This will enable the Committee to identify the type of pastor they wish to recommend for a call as well as to inform the pastor who receives the call as to the needs and challenges of the congregation.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the call process, please contact one of the members of the Call Committee: Gerry Quarm, David Martin, Joe Norris, Bill Oehlkers, Julius Kolawole, Helen Sprink, David Ballah, Leela Ballah or Maggie Baysah.

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

December 15, 2016

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, by Vice-President David Ballah. Present were: Vice-President Ballah, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairman of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, and Pastor Schultz. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor. Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris joined the meeting in progress.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2016, Church Council meeting as submitted.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2016. During this period total income was \$195,996.28, and total disbursements were \$210,711.16, resulting in a deficit of \$14,714.88. The balance of Memorial Funds as of November 30, 2016, is \$201,968.21. Offerings in November were at their usual level.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that the following new members were received into membership on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016: Alexander Dobson, Viakaadeya Forkpa, Karen Anne Kolling, Miatta Marshall, and Nathaniel Rorberts. He conducted the funeral of Horst Jourdan on Dec. 8th and baptized Ila Jean Dreshler on Dec. 11th.

Finance. Richard Sinnigen reported that the Board of Finance had reviewed the proposed 2017 church budget. He asked Dan to present it. Dan explained that the biggest unknown for 2017 was pastoral compensation. We do not know for how long we will have an interim pastor, and we do not know what his compensation will be. Given this, the Board of Finance concluded that the safest course of action was to budget as if Pastor Schultz were going to be with us for the entire year. Otherwise we run the risk of under budgeting for pastoral services and having to call special voters' meeting(s) in 2017 to approve additional funding. The budget includes a 2% raise for all church employees as recommended by District.

The proposed 2017 church budget was reviewed by the Council. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to reduce the amount budgeted for building maintenance from \$30,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and to allocate \$5,000.00 to the Call Committee for expenses associated with the process of finding a new pastor. A motion was then made, seconded, and passed to schedule a Voters' Meeting for Jan. 22, 2017, and to recommend that the proposed 2107 church budget be approved as amended.**

Deacons. Joe Norris reported Herb Jeschke had hoped that St. Paul's 150th Anniversary Committee would reconstitute itself as a committee to celebrate at St. Paul's the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. However, most of the members of the 150th Anniversary Committee indicated that they were not so inclined. Joe told Herb that he was free to chair a 500th Anniversary Committee at St. Paul's and seek members for it, but Herb indicated he could not serve as chair. Accordingly, the Deacons decided that we will not have a separate observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, but will be a part of the District's celebration of this occasion.

Joe further reported that the Deacons have had preliminary discussions with Pastor Schultz with respect to him serving as interim pastor. It was decided that authorization should be sought from the Voters before proceeding further. Pastor Schultz endorsed this course of action. Accordingly, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to ask the Voters at the Jan. 22nd Voters' meeting to authorize the Deacons to enter into negotiations with Pastor Schultz for the purpose of engaging him as interim pastor. This will be the second item of business at the meeting, and David Martin suggested that it be acted upon by secret ballot.

If the Voters grant the requested authorization, there will be a second Voters' meeting in late February at which the Voters will be asked to approve the compensation to be paid Pastor Schultz for serving as interim pastor.

Trustees. David Martin reported for the Trustees. He and Steven Nagbe had been doing outdoor work around the church on Mondays, but this has come to an end with the onset of cold weather. In January, they are planning to paint the plywood panels which were put over the holes in the walls in the Sunday School room. The holes were made in order to get at the pipe which had burst.

Pastor said that one of the ceiling lights in the parish hall restroom was not working and that some small holes have been made in the wall where Children's Friend attempted to re-mount the toilet paper dispenser. David said that the Trustees would take care of these items.

Old Business. Snow plowing. Dan spoke with Ernie, the man suggested by Children's Friend to do snowplowing. Ernie looked at the areas around the church we want him to plow. He is supposed to get back to Dan with a price.

Parking Lot Problems. David Martin reported that the letter to Children's Friend asking them to share in the cost of installing gates to the parking lot has not been sent. David continues to feel that the timing is not right and that it is better to wait and see if another complaint about parking is received from Children's Friend. The Council agreed with this course of action.

New Business. Donna reported that a snowblower has been donated to the church and that she can show anyone who is interested how to operate it. Donna and Pastor jointly reported that a new refrigerator for the kitchen has been purchased from Lowe's for approximately \$1,500.00. The old refrigerator failed shortly before Pastor's turkey dinner in December.

Pastor reported that he has observed cars parked near the dumpster after dark and that he believes illicit activity is taking place. The Council discussed this problem which appears to stem from the fact that this area of the parking lot is not illuminated and set back from the street. Ways of illuminating the area were discussed, but those which seemed most effective may involve significant cost. It was decided that the church would send a letter requesting a meeting with the chief of police and that David Ballah, Pastor, Donna, and Danlette would represent St. Paul's at the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m. with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary