

ST. PAUL'S NEWS MARCH 2019

445 ELMWOOD AVE. PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02907 (401-941-5100)

LUKE 9:28-33 THE TRANSFIGURATION



²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. ³¹ They spoke about his departure,^[a] which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)



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."

PASTOR'S LETTER

“GOD’S GREATEST DESIRE”

We all have many wants and desires. However, “*God’s Greatest Desire*” is clear: “**This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men and women to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth**” (1 Tim. 2:3-4). “*God’s Greatest Desire*” is that there would be universal salvation. He wants everyone to benefit the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and to inherit a place in his heaven.

The Lenten season begins on **Wednesday, March 6, or Ash Wednesday**. The Lenten season allows us time to think about this mission of Jesus Christ. Toward the close of his ministry on earth, there came a reflective moment when Jesus evaluated the response of those who knew him or at least knew about him. Many had believed that he was God and expressed earnest desire to follow his teachings. There were others, however, who ignored him, were irritated by him, or even sought to destroy him.

When we know that people have turned against us, it’s rather easy just to ignore them. We are so preoccupied with our own lives that those who choose not to be our friends are soon forgotten. What many are actually saying is, “If you don’t like me, I don’t like you either.”

While this may be a familiar experience, it was not the attitude of Jesus Christ. He was grateful for those who believed in him and promised to join their lives together in harmony with God the Father. Nevertheless, Jesus continued to pray, saying, “**I pray also for those who will believe in me** (Jn. 17:20).

“*God’s Greatest Desire*” is that all people come to him through Jesus Christ our Lord. Consequently, God didn’t only settle for those who responded favorably; but, instead, God offers the call of love to the many who refuse to accept Christ. Jesus kept on praying for those who “**will believe.**” That’s what God wants: that every person will respond favorably to the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and benefit his salvation. Furthermore, it is essential to remember that we who now believe are called to make “*God’s Greatest Desire*” come true.

The Lenten season gives us time to think about our calling in Christ Jesus. By the means of grace, that is, through the regular use of Word and Sacraments, God the Holy Spirit prepares our hearts and minds to pray for ourselves and ALL PEOPLE, yes, even for those whom at times “we don’t like either.”

May God strengthen us over these next weeks of reflection to think and pray for those who daily surround us and are so much in need of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Schultz



March Birthdays

2 Dorothy Johnson Akoiwala
Maggie Baysah
Galimah Baysah
Dennis Clark
3 Randy Dauda
Nyekkeh Forkpa
4 Hardlyne Dauda
Minerva Johnson
George S. Norris
5 Diane Pendergast

7 Charles O. Morris
8 Katherina Cooke
Edith Jourdan-Grittner
Rolf Kohm
Gerry Quarm
10 William Oehlkers
Dakhena Sheriff
11 Lois Oehlkers

13 Rondell Harmon
14 Corvah D. Akoiwala II
17 Thomas E. Richard
20 Veretta Jungwirth
22 Leelah D. Graves
23 Nellie Ballah
Kyle Walmsley
25 Tiler Thomas
28 Ralph Gbaie
29 Rebecca Fruggiero



13th Mr. & Mrs. William Hervey (31ST)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Reader/ Acolyte	COMM. ASSIST.	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
3	Youth/Cameron Arrundell	Bill Oehlkers Steven Nagbe	Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Leela Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
10	Kevin Riley Abiodun Adekeye		Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Rick Sinnigen Onu Stevens Andrew Mastostefano
17	Patricia Martin Jacob Mastrostefano	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller
24	Bill Oehlkers Hawa Mulbah		Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George Dauda Grace Dauda
31	David Martin George Roberts	Corvah Akoiwala Bill Oehlkers	Nancy Watson Donna Bucu	Kim King Bill King Dennis Kollie Helen Miller





MARCH 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship Service 10am with Communion	4	5	6 ASH WED. SERVICE 7:00pm	7	8	9 set your clocks Ahead 
10 Worship Service 10am Daylight Savings	11	12 Deacons Mtg. 7:00pm	13 Gbarnga Board Mtg. 7:00pm	14	15	16
17 Worship Service 10am with Communion	18	19	20 SPRING BEGINS 	21 Council Mtg. 7:00pm	22	23
24 Worship Service 10am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship Service 10am with Communion						

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

January 17, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:03 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, by President David Ballah. Present were: President Ballah, Vice President Corvah Akoiwala, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, and Chairman of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen. Also in attendance was Dawn Nahlik. President Ballah asked Dawn to open the meeting with prayer. Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris and 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 Dec. 20, 2018, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Dan Robinson presented the Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2018. Total income during this period was \$210,275.23 and total disbursements were \$188,424.89, resulting in net ordinary income of \$21,850.34. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Dec. 31, 2018, was \$248,662.34. Dan cautioned that the foregoing figures were not final figures. Bills from 2018 are still coming in. **Finance.** Richard Sinnigen said he had nothing to report from the Board of Finance.

Trustees. David Martin reported that Waste Management notified us that a recent pickup from our recyclables dumpster was contaminated with trash and that we may be assessed an additional charge as a result. To address this problem, David prepared some Recycling Rules based on a video on the Waste Management website. Copies of the rules have been given to Children's Friend and to Orlando, our part time sexton from J&A General Contractor (J&A). F.G. Lees & Son, Inc., (Lees) has not yet submitted its proposal to address the problem of the basement toilets backing up and overflowing. David has informed J&A that the opening for a gate to be installed in the large parking lot should be 24 feet wide. J&A is to submit a proposal for installation of a gate.

Deacons. Joe Norris said he had nothing to report. The Deacons have not met because Pastor is away. **Social Ministry.** Danlette Norris reported that the recent fund raiser for the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission was very successful. A total of \$1,400.00 was raised.

Old Business. Directory. Corvah Akoiwala said that the congregational directory was almost ready to go to the printer. If we order 150 copies, the estimated cost per copy would be \$10.00. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay for 150 copies of the directory from the following sources: \$500.00 from the Council's Discretionary Fund, \$500**

New Business. Second Handicapped Parking Space. David Martin reported that Children’s Friend had requested that a second parking space behind the school be designated for handicapped parking, that both handicapped spaces be identified by signs mounted on posts, and that the handicapped symbol be painted on the asphalt. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to authorize the designation of the parking spot adjacent to the existing handicapped parking space as a second handicapped parking space.** The Council directed David to inform Children’s Friend of this action and that St. Paul’s was willing to have the requested signs erected if Children’s Friend will pay for them. St. Paul’s will pay the cost of painting the handicapped symbol on the parking spaces.

Larger Dumpster. Rick Sinnigen said that Waste Management had notified us that the large dumpster was overflowing recently and they recommended that we increase the size of this dumpster from 6 cubic yards to 8 cubic yards. The larger dumpster would cost between \$100.00 and \$150.00 additional each month. The Council decided that we would monitor the situation for one month to see if the overflowing occurs again. When Donna returns, she will be asked to look at the dumpster each day to see if it is overflowing or if there is trash on the outside of the dumpster.

Report on Gbarnga Mission. **A motion was made, seconded, and passed to ask the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission Project to provide an annual report to St. Paul’s of the amount of financial support members have provided during the previous year.** It was agreed that the report could simply state the total amount received from general giving (e.g., fund raisers, walks, etc.) and the total amount received from individual members (e.g., tuition assistance and other individual gifts) to the Mission.

Weather Concerns. Because of the possibility of inclement weather on Sunday, Jan. 20, it was agreed that the Deacons, in consultation with the President, would determine by 7:00 a.m. Sunday whether to cancel the worship service. Pastor Clark will be notified of this deadline so he will not make a needless trip to Providence.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with recitation of The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary
