

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2017

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Jesus Has Risen

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you" (Matt. 28)



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"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

With the month of April comes the High Festival of Easter Sunday. Praises be to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is recorded in Matthew 28:1, 5-6 as follows: **"After the Sabbath, at dawn of the first day of the week; Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. . . .The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'"**

What I like most about this passage is the fact that it places despair in the shadow of hope. These women certainly were not hopeful as they made their way to the tomb. Their Lord had been crucified and put to death. What an awful trip this must have been as they prepared to anoint Jesus' body with the spices they had brought.

The scene takes a sudden change in direction, however. Sadness and despair are replaced by an angel sent by God the Father. It was the first proclamation of the Easter message: **"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."** The women had gone to give Jesus a proper burial. Instead, the resurrected Jesus buried their despair and replaced that sadness with hope of eternal life.

Jesus suffered and died. He paid the penalty that we deserve, and the joyful news is that his resurrection secures for us a place in heaven. He grants us forgiveness, life, and salvation. He gives us hope. This is a message I need to hear on a regular basis—"He gives us hope!"

Too often people paint a very bleak picture of our existence. It's easy to do. After all, Mother Nature does her fair share to frighten us all; and, where Mother Nature leaves off, human beings step in to do their damage. Consequently, living a "normal life" sometimes appears to be a "hopeless situation."

Nevertheless, as the women made their way to the tomb, it truly can be said that they certainly were not hopeful. This is a great picture to keep in mind as we move along into another month. Many of us will face words from a doctor that are frightening, words from an employer that will leave some scrambling to pay the monthly mortgage, death notices and funerals to attend. But in the middle of all these things, the message of Easter—the proclamation of God's promise in the resurrected Christ Jesus—IS one of hope.

We now are making our way into the month of April, and my prayer is that we continue to go forward motivated by the hope we have in Christ Jesus. And, I also pray that we may have a unique opportunity to share our message of hope with someone who appears to be stumbling along in a sad and hopeless way.

Blessings in Christ our Lord,

Pastor Schultz



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	READERS	COMM. ASSIST.	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS
2	Youth	Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Irma Pereira Helen Spink	Leelah Ballah Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
9	Abel Dobson		Irma Pereira Helen Spink Palm Sunday Maunday Thurs- day Good Friday	Rick Sinnigen Gerry Quarm Mack Makor Joe Norris
16	Bill Oehlkers	Corvah Akoiwala Bill Oehlkers	Irma Pereira Helen Spink Easter Day	Kim King Helen Miller Bill King Dennis Kollie
23	Margaret Boger		Irma Pereira Helen Spink	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George Dauda Grace Dauda
30	Titi Adekeye	As Available	Irma Pereira Helen Spink	Kim King Helen Miller Bill King Dennis Kollie

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Apr. 4 Irma Pereira

Eunice Stoskopf

Apr. 8 Roberta Decontee

Apr. 13 Kumba Forkpa

Apr. 24 Norma Sonstroem

Apr. 25 Alison Schultz

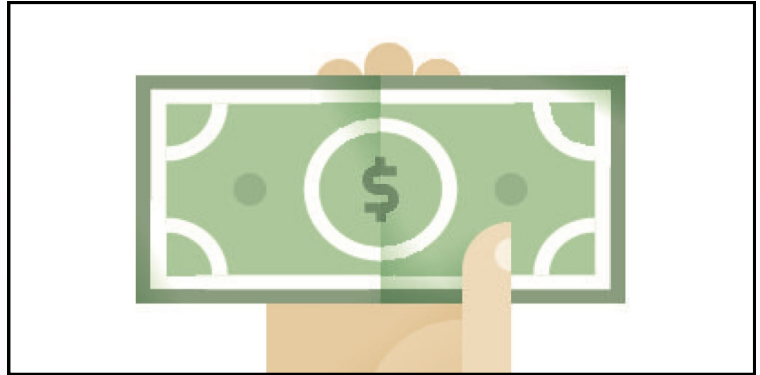
Apr. 27 Judy Crump

Apr. 28 Gerda Jourdan

Camille Pringle

Apr. 29 A. Barton Buffington

George Dauda Jr.



Did You Know? Thanks to a friend of St. Paul's, your increase in giving this year will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000. What a wonderful opportunity to build on your generosity! For example, if your envelope giving increases \$1 a week, by the end of the year, 52 weeks, your contribution will have doubled to \$104.



Prayer Breakfast

SPONSORED BY DANLETTE NORRIS

APRIL 8, AT 9:30AM AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH 445 ELMWOOD AVE.

PROVIDENCE, RI 02907 PHONE (401)941-5100

70 1/2?

IRA?



If you said “yes” to both of these questions-that you are at least 70-1/2 and have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) -you have a wonderful opportunity to help St. Paul’s as well as yourself.

You can make a withdrawal from your IRA without paying any taxes. (Of course, you can’t count it as a tax deduction)

Then by filling out a very simple form, you can make a one time for 2017 contribution to St. Paul that is equal to your annual giving.

Of course, any increase over your 2016 contribution will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$30,000.

In you do this, you won’t have to write out any checks for the rest of the year or drop an envelope into the offering plate.

See Bill Oehlkers for more information to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

February 16, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017, by Vice-President David Ballah. Present were: Vice-President Ballah, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Bucu, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship Bill Oehlkers, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees James Woods, Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris, and Pastor Schultz. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2017, Church Council meeting as corrected.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson presented a revised Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016. Offerings for the year were \$173,299.75. Total income was \$213,295.87, and total disbursements were \$232,522.58, resulting in a deficit of \$19,226.71. (As noted in the January 19, 2017, minutes, Dan had advised that the figures reported at that meeting would probably change somewhat due to payment of a few remaining bills from 2016 and receipt of reimbursement from Children's Friend for some shared expenses.)

Dan also presented a Treasurer's Report for the period January 1 through January 31, 2017. Total receipts for the period were \$20,095.58, and total disbursements were \$16,749.61. Dan explained that the primary reason receipts exceeded disbursements by approximately \$3,300.00 was that a member had given their entire offering for 2017 on a single Sunday in January. The balance of Memorial Funds as of January 31, 2017, is \$202,181.82.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that on Feb. 8, 2017, he conducted the funeral for Carl DiAbbruzzese, who was John Mastrostefano's father-in-law. Pastor also said that he had recently visited Ed and Margaret Boger when they were in Rhode Island Hospital.

Finance. Richard Sinnigen had nothing to report from the Board of Finance.

Deacons. Joe Norris reported that a subcommittee of the Board of Deacons, augmented by the Chairperson of the Call Committee Bill Oehlkers and Secretary David Martin, had met with Pastor and discussed terms for his employment as our vacancy pastor. After Joe had stated the terms, **a motion was made, seconded, and passed to employ Pastor Schultz as the vacancy pastor for a period of one year beginning Mar. 1, 2017, and ending Feb. 28, 2018, at a total cost of \$42,400.00.** The items constituting this cost are listed below:

Salary	\$15,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$20,000.00
Car Allowance	\$5,000.00



Discretionary Fund_ \$500.00__Conferences and Conventions_ \$1,000.00___Guest Preachers_
\$900.00___Total:_\$42,400.00

___ The \$42,400.00 figure represents a significant reduction in the cost for pastoral services. In 2016, the amount budgeted for those services was \$113,926.00. Thus, during the period from Mar. 1, 2017, through Feb. 28, 2018, St. Paul's will save an estimated \$71,526.00 as shown below:

\$113,926.00 Amount budgeted in 2016 for pastoral services

- \$42,400.00 Cost of Vacancy Pastor for one year

\$71,526.00 Reduction in cost for pastoral services

Trustees. James Woods reported for the Board of Trustees. During the last month the trustees repaired one of the chairs on the altar which had been loose by gluing it. Bill King replaced the floodlight outside the church office door. The new light is very bright and working well. Bill King also replaced the light in the parish hall restroom which had ceased to work.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris reported that the Board of Social Ministry has sent a card to Margaret Boger at Golden Crest Nursing Home. The "Souper Bowl" event raised \$360.00 to help pay for the cost of the new refrigerator. Social Ministry is also working on an inventory form for the kitchen so we will know what we have.

Stewardship. Bill Oehlkers reported that Board of Stewardship will be getting back to the congregation regarding the information obtained at the February 4th Stewardship Forum.

Old Business. Facebook Page. Joe reported that Dan has been monitoring the church's Facebook page and that he is very pleased with what appears on it. Deacon Corvah Akoiwala will also be assisting in monitoring the Facebook page.

Church Directory. In March, Pastor will proofread the church photo directory that has been created by Richleau Norris.

New Business. Joe Norris expressed the special thanks of Mr. Joseph N. Boakai, the Vice-President of Liberia, for the warm and cordial welcome he received from Pastor Schultz and the congregation during his visit on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017.

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn. The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m. with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary



MINUTES OF
VOTERS' MEETING
Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017

A meeting of the Voters' Assembly was held on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017, in the Sanctuary following the worship service. The meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. by Vice-President David Ballah. Two items were on the agenda:

1. approval of the minutes from the Jan. 22, 2017, Voters' meeting, and
2. consideration of a recommendation from the Church Council that St. Paul's employ Pastor Schultz as the vacancy pastor for a one year period beginning Mar. 1, 2017, and ending Feb. 28, 2018, at a total cost of \$42,400.00.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the Jan. 22, 2017 Voters' Meeting.

Vice-President Ballah then asked Bill Oehlkers to explain the recommendation from the Church Council. Bill recapped the situation regarding Pastor's health, his inability to leave the country at this time, and his resulting availability to serve as the vacancy pastor for one year. Bill also explained the compensation which Pastor would receive as the vacancy Pastor:

Salary	\$15,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$20,000.00
Car Allowance	\$5,000.00
Discretionary Fund	\$500.00
Conferences and Conventions	\$1,000.00
Guest Preachers	\$900.00
TOTAL:	\$42,400.00

Bill King moved that the recommendation be accepted, and Danlette Norris seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Jack Sinnigen asked how much Pastor's salary, housing allowance, and car expenses would total, and Treasurer Dan Robinson answered \$40,000.00. Linda Foley asked if Pastor's position would be full time, and Dan said that it would be. Herb Jeschke asked how the amount of Pastor's housing allowance is determined. Dan answered that the amount is recommended by the New England District.

Discussion ended, and the motion to accept the recommendation of the Church Council that St. Paul's employ Pastor Schultz as the vacancy pastor for a one year period beginning Mar. 1, 2017, and ending Feb. 28, 2018, at a total cost of \$42,400.00 was passed unanimously.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Bucu, Secretary Pro Tem

