

Newsletter 2017



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

Our annual walk-a-thon will be on Saturday, May 20 at the Portuguese Club parking lot at 9:00am. Proceeds are to support St. Paul's Church. A SPECIAL AFRICAN DINNER will be offered on Sunday, May 21, after the service in the fellowship hall. Speak to David Ballah, Joe Norris. Tickets are \$10.00. All proceeds will be donated to support The Gbarnga Mission Project.



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10 "Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

"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."

“Launch Out Into The Deep.”

(Lk. 5:1-11)

It is a venture of faith to **“launch out into the deep”**—to believe that there is always more out beyond our present level of living. Listen again to a marvelous event: Luke relates the story as in chapter five he tells us how Jesus stood by Lake Gennesaret pressed by the people who came to hear the Word of God.

Two ships stood near by, empty of men, for the fishermen were washing their nets. Jesus entered into one of the ships and asked Simon (Peter), who owned it, to put out from the land a bit so that he might have freer opportunity to teach the people. Later on, he said to Simon, **“Launch out into the deep, and let down the nets for a catch.”** Despite the fact they **“had worked all night and had not caught anything,”** Simon obeyed Jesus and, after they had done so, **“they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break so they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them.”** Both ships were filled with the fish!

One might stop at many points of this interesting story, but its most vital message for us seems to be in this simple challenge, **“LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP.”** Too often we live in the shallows of our faith in God, taking only a little of the “catch” he tries to heap upon us. Even the organized work of the church at times suffers because its workers are content to expect but little help from the Lord God for their tasks and challenges.

“Launch Out Into The Deep” is Jesus’ way of saying, “Try me and trust me.” Simon and the other future disciples listened to the divine invitation—they accepted the challenge to **“catch men”** instead of fish. They followed Jesus and spent their lives looking out for the spiritual needs of OTHERS.

As we go along, one step at a time, we learn as we go and our understanding of the Lord deepens. We may start reluctantly, with weak hearts, hardly daring to “try” him out, but as we go the way becomes clearer, for God is reaching out to go alongside as we take our first faltering steps. Jesus says, **“I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you”** (Matt. 17:20).

God has been at our side all the time, waiting for our first steps toward him, and he will be there all the time as we progress through life with him as our companion. No challenge is ever too great to handle when one’s faith in God is greater than the challenge that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Pastor Schultz

May Birthdays

1st Tongor Langer
 2nd Titilaya Adekeye
 Lisa Goodlin
 Nucha Varfley
 Taurus Varfley
 4th Kevin Riley
 6th Kathy Fruggiero
 Ruth Phillips
 7th Alvin Buffington
 8th Melitta Lambert
 9th Marion Gbaie
 11th Andrew Hencler
 14th Donald Kuepker
 Arthur Watson
 15th Kolu Clark



17th George Dauda Sr.
 Haley Stamp
 18th David Ballah
 Elizabeth Riley
 Marthin Faria
 19th Muriel Anderson
 21st Mark Richard
 23rd Corvah Akoiwala
 24th Danielle Schultz
 25th Edith Stamp
 31st Versa Stamp

May Anniversaries

15th Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Clark (6th)
 23rd Mr. & Mrs. Corvah Akoiwala (19th)
 24th Mr. & Mrs. Julius Kolawole (20th)



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Readers	Comm. Assistant	Altar Guild	Ushers
7	ABIO ADEKEYE	RICK SINNIGEN CORVAH AKOIWALA	MARY ABBENANTE HELLEN MILLER	LEELA BALLAH SEANIAH BALLAH SOLOMON PAYE HARDLYN DAUDA
14	RICK SINNIGEN		MARY ABBENANTE HELLEN MILLER	RICK SINNIGEN GERRY QUARM MACK MAKOR
21	BILL OEHLKERS	JOE NORRIS BILL OEHLKERS	MARY ABBENANTE HELLEN MILLER	KIM KING BILL KING DENNIS KOLLIE HELEN MILLER
28	DAVID MARTIN		MARY ABBENANTE HELLEN MILLER	KEVIN KEHYEI DANLETTE NORRIS GEORGE DAUDA GRACE DAUDA

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

March 16, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 16, 2017, by Treasurer Dan Robinson. Present were: Treasurer Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chairperson of the Board of Deacons Joe Norris, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, 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. Vice-President David Ballah joined the meeting shortly after it was convened and assumed the chair.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2017, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Dan Robinson presented a Treasurer's Report for the period January 1 through February 28, 2017. Total income during this period was \$39,079.16, and total disbursements were \$39,217.88, resulting in a deficit of \$138.72. Snow removal charges are less than they were for the same period last year. The balance of Memorial Funds as of February 28, 2017 is \$202,278.50.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that he conducted the funeral of Millie Stamp on March 8, 2017. There was no organist for the service due to a miscommunication among Pastor, Donna, and Ron Brown. However, the hymns were sung a cappella and this worked well.

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

Deacons. Joe Norris noted that we continue to pray for improvement in Pastor's health. Joe also reported that the Call Committee will be meeting in the next two weeks to complete its preliminary work relative to the call process. Thereafter, the Committee will essentially be on hold until September when it will reconvene and assess where matters stand. The Deacons and Pastor will meet in the next month to review the church directory containing the photographs taken by Richleau Norris. The purpose of the meeting is to verify that the information is correct.

Trustees. James Woods asked David Martin to report on three recent problems. On Mar. 15th Children's Friend reported two leaks, one in the school roof and one in the ladies' room in the church basement. The roof leak is in the hallway which runs from the parish hall to the school classrooms. Water came down into the hallway and into Classroom 1 (the first classroom on the right as you walk down the hallway). The leak in the ladies' room appears to be caused by water coming down from the gutter above the kitchen window which looks out on Elmwood Avenue. As an immediate response to the school roof leak, Donna and David shoveled snow, ice, and water off the roof in the area of the leak. Regarding the ladies' room leak, Donna plugged in an electrical cord which it is believed powers a heating element in the gutter above the kitchen window. The heating element is intended to melt ice dams. Both of these remedial measures are temporary fixes.

. The leaks will have to be fixed, and David will contact Derrick Matusic, our roofing person.

The third problem is with the roof of the sanctuary. A piece of slate along the peak of the roof has risen up and needs to be put back into position. David will contact Milligan Construction LLC, the company which has done work on our slate roof in the past.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris reported that the Board of Social Ministry continues to make visits and send cards to members who are shut-in or ill. David Martin thanked the Board for the card he received during his recent illness. Danlette said that some shut-ins desired to receive the sacrament more frequently. Pastor responded that he was hearing this for the first time and that he and the Deacons would discuss ways of satisfying this request. There will be a prayer breakfast on April 15.

Stewardship. Danlette Norris reported for Stewardship. Completion of the congregational pictorial directory and getting it posted in the parish hall remains a priority. The Board of Stewardship is also concentrating on ways to encourage members to participate in the \$30,000.00 Challenge. (A friend of St. Paul's, who wishes to remain anonymous, has pledged to match on a dollar for dollar basis the amount by which each member increases his or her offering in 2017 above the amount the member gave in 2016 up to a maximum of \$30,000.00. Thus, if a member contributed \$500.00 in 2016 and contributes \$600.00 in 2017, the \$100.00 increase in the member's offering will be matched by an additional \$100.00 donated by the friend of St. Paul's.)

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business. Fund-raising Walk. A fund-raising walk to benefit St. Paul's will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017. David Martin agreed to prepare sponsor forms for the walk.

Sunday School. Danlette expressed concern that some children are not as enthusiastic or eager to attend Sunday School as they could be. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to ask the Deacons to examine this concern and make recommendations.

The meeting concluded at 7:59 p.m. with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

David L. Martin, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the April 2017, Council Meeting.

Can You Spare Two Hours a Month to Help Take Care of St. Paul's?

For the last few years, St. Paul's has not had a sexton or a cleaning service. The church needs to be cleaned regularly, and the grounds need to be maintained regularly. To meet these needs, four Caretaker Teams are being created. Each team will be led by a Trustee and will clean a portion of the church once a month and will cut and trim the grass (in season). The teams will work on the weekend that corresponds to their numerical designation. Thus, Team One will work on the first Saturday, Team Two on the second Saturday, and so on. The Caretaker program begins on Saturday, June 5, with Team One. Please help take care of St. Paul's and sign up for the Caretaker Team of your choice. Team Sign-up sheets will be available in the parish hall starting Sunday, May 6th. If you have questions, just ask any of the Trustees who are listed below as captains of their teams.

TEAM AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

TEAM ONE. (Captain James Woods) The Sanctuary, including the narthex, the gallery, the choir alcove, and the Altar (but not the narthex stairwell) plus the lawn.

TEAM TWO. (Captain Donna Bucu) The Office, including Donna and Pastor's offices, the Parish Hall, including the stage, the hallway to the left of the stage, the store room to the right of the stage, the parish hall restroom, the kitchen, and the Altar Guild Room (but not Carter Street vestibule) plus the lawn.

TEAM THREE. (Captain Richleau Norris) The basement beneath the Parish Hall, including the restrooms, the Carter Street vestibule and stairwell, and the stairwell next to Pastor's Office (including the passageway leading to the Academic Resource Center and the hallway outside the boiler room) plus the lawn.

TEAM FOUR. (Captain David Martin) The basement beneath the Sanctuary, including the narthex stairwell and the restrooms at foot of the stairwell, the Sunday School rooms, the Missions Room, the Choir Robing Room, the Counting Room, and the Academic Resource Center plus the lawn.



30,000 bucks

For the first time in the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's, we have an amazing opportunity. I am talking about the \$30,000 challenge grant. As you have heard before, for each dollar increase in giving at St. Paul's in the church envelope, a friend of the congregation will match it dollar for dollar. So a \$100 increase in giving becomes \$200 by the year's end.

For new members or those who have not used the envelope before, any amount over \$250 for the year will also be matched dollar for dollar.

You may want to know how well we are doing this year. It's too early to tell how much will be matched, but we can tell you how well you are doing.

Statements have been prepared which indicate your envelope giving for the first three months of 2017, and by comparing the number with your total giving for 2016, we can project how many of your dollars will be matched. These statements are available in the church office where the newsletters are usually placed. Please pick up your statement today.

If there are any discrepancies from your records, please see Donna Bucu, the financial secretary. If you have any questions as to how your offerings were calculated, please see Bill Oehlkers, Chair of the Stewardship Committee.



Pass It On Volume 9, No. 10 • April 15, 2017

We hope you are enjoying these issues of "Pass It On" — a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the New England District and nationally.

For more news and information, visit www.LWML-NED.org.

Mission Goal for 2016-2018 is \$64,000

MISSION GOAL UPDATE:

AS OF APRIL 1, THE TOTAL MITES COLLECTED TOWARD THE LWML-NED MISSION GOAL IS \$30,594.82.

MITES COLLECTED FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH WAS \$3,089.06.

OUR MISSION GRANT #4a - CHURCH WORKER SCHOLARSHIP HAS \$5,886.64 TOWARDS ITS GOAL OF \$7,000.00



PRAISE THE LORD!!

April 1st From LWML President, Patti Ross

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



I have the pleasure of announcing to you that the \$2 million Mission Goal of the LWML for the biennium of 2015-2017 has been met.

In humble adoration and with praise to our faithful God we dedicate these dollars to Him for the work of missionaries and ministries around the world who work to spread the saving message of Christ's love and forgiveness. Let us all take a moment to give thanks to our God.

Thank you for your dedication to meeting this goal.

With thanksgiving, Patti

Update April 7th Mites collected for the 2015-2017 biennium totaled: \$2,097,904.23 !!

FAITH IS... TRUSTING THAT GOD'S TIME IS THE BEST TIME
...HUMBLE YOURSELVES, THEREFORE, UNDER GOD'S MIGHTY HAND, THAT HE
MAY LIFT YOU UP IN DUE TIME. 1 PETER 5:6

