

St. Paul's News

JULY AND AUGUST 2017



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

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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."

As we enter the warm summer months, here is a brief reminder from the Apostle Paul: **“I urge you therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”**

It’s as though the summer gives us a “chance to breath.” Our schedules are relaxed, a vacation from the office is in the making, and the children are “sleeping” without the busyness of school. Perhaps the summer is God’s way of slowing people down. There’s nothing better than having a little extra time during the day or during the evening to devote to oneself. But, on the other hand, perhaps summer is God’s way of causing people to reflect on his presence, that is, it’s a time to slow down and appreciate the goodness of the Lord.

Times of relaxation allow for times of reflection, and, in the warm days ahead, I would that we all have a little more time to reflect on the hope that we have in Christ Jesus. I would also pray that all of our members might have the courage to call to mind the reminder of St. Paul over the course of the summer—to live our lives as “living and holy sacrifice to the Creator.”

Opportunities for worship are scheduled elsewhere as well as at St. Paul’s Church here on Elmwood Avenue these next months. Whether we are on a vacation or are unable to break from a planned summer activity, let’s remember to include our gracious God as part of that day in one way or another: Check the church directories of the local newspapers, visit the Website of that vacation spot, or call the family together for a hymn and a prayer if formal worship is not available. In this way, we are found acceptable to God in our **“spiritual act of worship”** and are worthy of our calling in Christ.

And let’s not forget that God is ever with us on our journeys and also beside us as we relax at home. His presence is the special gift of his mercy and the summer months allow us a little extra time to relax, to travel, and to reflect of the great mercy of God in Christ Jesus.

May God bless us all as we recline in His grace!

Pastor Schultz



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 John M. Stamp 27 Benjamin Robinson
3 Soonkaru Varfley 28 Trudy Kohm
6 Robert Russell 31 Nellie Cooke
7 Jerry Mulbah, Jr. 29 Rachel L. Kollie
Corrine Stoskopf
14 Jerry Mulbah, Sr.
Manfred Rapp
16 Shaheed Patterson
Catherine Stoskopf
17 Patricia Martin
22 Stanley Urey, Jr.
24 John D. Sinnigen
Helen Smith
25 Wilma Varfley
27 Ansu Baysah



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Jeanne Long
Hilde Rapp

9 Ingrid Mercer
10 Kim Cook
11 Mack Makor
15 Joaquim Barros
Centeio III
17 Kwayah Makor
18 Tonia Dahn
23 Abraham Kerkula
27 Hawa Mulbah
Elaine Slavin
30 Edith Jourdan Grittner

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

16 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fruggiero (34)
17 Mr. & Mrs. William Oehlkers (57)
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rehbein (13)
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cook (12)

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

13 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Watson (62)
 21 Mr. & Mrs. David Martin (29)
 21 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Richard (18)
 26 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Boger (56)
 26 Mr. & Mrs. George Dauda (11)



MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

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May 18, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, May 18, 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 Trustees James Woods, Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship Bill Oehlkers, Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen, Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris, and Pastor Schultz. Dawn Reynolds was also present as an observer. 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 April 20, 2017, Church Council meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson distributed a Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through April 30, 2017. Total income during this period was \$81,017.25, and total disbursements were \$71,584.70, resulting in net ordinary income of \$9,432.55. The balance of Memorial Funds as of April 30, 2017, was \$202,722.37. Dan noted that in April we received \$2,000.00 in Thrivent Choice dollars as a result of members who are Thrivent policyholders directing that such funds be sent to St. Paul's.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that attendance at the Sunday morning Bible Class is growing. Chapters 10-12 of the Book of Acts have been the subject of recent classes. He is contemplating continuing Bible Class through the summer. Visitors to the church have told him that they are pleased with our worship service and the friendliness of the congregation.

Deacons. Joe Norris reported that Bill Oehlkers had met with the Deacons and made two suggestions: (1) that the Board of Christian Education be staffed (it has no members at present), and (2) that a review of the church's music program be undertaken. The Deacons plan to post photographs from the congregational directory in the parish hall to help members learn each other's names. Ed and Margaret Boger have transferred their membership to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Smithfield. (Our Redeemer is all on one level and does not have steps.) The Deacons continue to bring communion to any member who is unable to attend church. Joe said that members receiving this service are very appreciative.

Trustees. Inadvertently omitted from last month's Trustees' report was work done by Bill King in the school basement. Bill eliminated some night lights which had been burning continuously. He also fixed the light switches there so that the lights for a room are controlled by a single switch located in that room and not by two switches, one of which was located outside the room.

James Woods reported that during the past month the Trustees have: 1) replaced two incandescent floodlights above the altar with LED floodlights; 2) shredded four boxes of records from the Christian Day School; 3) repaired an amplifier in the sanctuary; 4) planted flowers in front of the church; and 5) created four Caretaker Teams to clean the church and maintain the grounds. James also reported that: a) two sinks in the ladies' room located at the foot of the Carter Street stairs were unclogged by Lees' Plumbing and Heating; b) a new hot water heater has been installed by Lees at a cost of \$1,150.00 (the old water heater had been installed in 2006 and it was making the hot water very rusty); c) Derrick Matusic, our roofer, fixed the leak over the kitchen window which looks out on Elmwood Avenue; d) Pastor serviced and sharpened the self-propelled lawn mower and the Trustees thank him for doing this; and e) Children's Friend reported a leak in the basement in the library along the wall which is parallel to Carter Street. Dan Robinson said that we may be able to get

a rebate for installing the new hot water heater, and he will look into this. Pastor noted that water gets into the electrical box located in the narthex stairwell when it rains. The Trustees will add this to the list of leaks that must be fixed. Rick Sinnigen said that one of the anchors for the inner doors to the sanctuary is loose and needs to be fixed. The Trustees will look at this also.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris thanked the men for doing the Coffee Hour on Mothers' Day. The inventory of the kitchen has not yet been completed. Danlette hopes to enlist some of the younger members to help with this task. The Fund Raising Walk to benefit St. Paul's will be held on Sat., May 20. The Board of Social Ministry is planning two barbeques this summer. Residents from the surrounding community may be invited to these events. Danlette suggested that the church consider instituting an educational program which would teach people basic life skills (e.g., how to sign one's name).

Finance. Rick Sinnigen said he had nothing to report from the Board of Finance.

Stewardship. Bill Oehlkers reported on a ten point program that the Board of Stewardship is developing to support 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.*) The program will include weekly and monthly announcements, posters, quarterly giving statements, and skits.

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business - Unknown Check. Dan reported that we received a \$5,000.00 check from an entity identified as The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust of Indianapolis, IN. He asked if anyone knew anything about it. No one did, and the matter was referred to Rick Sinnigen for investigation as to the origin and validity of the check.

Quarterly Giving Statements. Bill reported that some members had expressed concern about privacy in connection with the recently issued Quarterly Giving Statements. Bill noted that a statement has since been provided to the congregation, both orally and in writing, which explains that the Financial Secretary only provided the Board of Stewardship with the giving totals for each offering envelope number and that no names were released to the Board of Stewardship. Thus, the Financial Secretary remains the only person who knows how much a member gives.

Accounting Software. Bill presented a memorandum which suggested that the church's current accounting software (Helpmate) may be out of date and/or difficult to use. He proposed that a committee be established to review and make recommendations regarding it. It was suggested that the committee's scope should be expanded to include updating the Windows Operating System. The suggestion was accepted. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to establish a software review committee, consisting of the Treasurer, a member of the Board of Finance (Rick Sinnigen), a member of the Board of Stewardship (Bill Oehlkers), a member of the Board of Deacons (Joe Norris), Pastor, and Donna Bucu.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting concluded at 8:29 p.m. with the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary

July 2	Reader Sandra Wuo	Comm. Asst. Joe Norris Rick Sinnigen	Altar Guild Helen Spink Yorqualla Makor	Ushers Leelah & Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
July 9	James Woods		Helen Spink Yorqualla Makor	Rick Sinnigen Gerry Quarm Mack Makor Joe Norris
July 16	Bill Oehlkers	Bill Oehlkers Corvah Akoiwala	Helen Spink Yorqualla Makor	Kim & Bill King Dennis Kollie Hellen Miller
July 23	Kevin Riley		Helen Spink Yorqualla Makor	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George & Grace Dauda
July 30	David Martin	As Available	Helen Spink Yorqualla Makor	Kim & Bill King Dennis Kollie Hellen Miller
August 6	Reader Leela Ballah	Comm. Asst. David Ballah Joe Norris	Altar Guild Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Ushers Leelah & Seaniah Ballah Solomon Paye Hardlyn Dauda
August 13	Pat Martin		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Rick Sinnigen Gerry Quarm Mack Makor Joe Norris
August 20	Rick Sinnigen	Bill Oehlkers Corvah Akoiwala	Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Kim & Bill King Dennis Kollie Hellen Miller
August 27	Abel Dobson		Donna Bucu Kolu Clark	Kevin Kehyei Danlette Norris George & Grace Dauda

ST.PAUL'S CARETAKER TEAM SCHEDULE

TEAM # 1

Captain: James Woods July 1
August 5



TEAM # 2

Captain: Donna Bucu July 8
August 12

TEAM # 3

Captain: Rich Norris July 15
August 19

TEAM # 4

Captain: David Martin July 22
August 26



COUNTING TEAM SCHEDULE FOR JULY & AUGUST

JULY 2	TEAM #1	Rick Sinnigen, Eleanor Sinnigen, Kim King
JULY 9	TEAM #2	Elaine Slavin, Bob Johnson, Linda & Tom Foley
JULY 16	TEAM #3	Donna Bucu, Kumba Forkpa, Leela & Seaniah Ballah
JULY 23	TEAM #4	Pat & David Martin, Dennis & Kolu Clark
JULY 30	TEAM #5	Dawn & Spencer Seitz, Joan Galloway, Norma Sonstroem
AUGUST 6	TEAM #1	Rick Sinnigen, Eleanor Sinnigen, Kim King
AUGUST 13	TEAM #2	Elaine Slavin, Bob Johnson, Linda & Tom Foley
AUGUST 20	TEAM #3	Donna Bucu, Kumba Forkpa, Leela & Seaniah Ballah
AUGUST 27	TEAM #4	Pat & David Martin, Dennis & Kolu Clark

JULY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Team #1 James Woods
2 10 AM Worship with Communion	3		5	6	7	8 Team #2 Don- na Buco
9 10 AM Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15 Team #3 Rich Norris
16 10 AM Worship with Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22 Team #4 David Mar- tin
23 10 AM Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 AM Worship with Communion	31					

AUGUST 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Team #1 James Woods
6 10 AM Worship with Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12 Team #2 Don- na Buco
13 10 AM Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19 Team #3 Rich Norris
20 10 AM Worship with Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26 Team #4 Da- vid Martin
27 10 AM Worship	28	29	30	31		