

ST. PAUL'S NEWS 2018



St. Paul's Church
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

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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

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Ps. 46:1).

Heading into the New Year is always exciting. There will be all sorts of distractions and challenges and blessings. That seems to be the way the years go by, that is, we make our plans for the immediate future, but then we deal with what's put our way and pray that we'll come out on top. God continues to be with us and bless us all the days of our lives. Once again, from the Psalms: **“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”**

As we look back in time, our blessings are made clear. Sometimes we don't understand the circumstances of the distractions of “what's put our way,” but as we reflect on the things having gone by, the pieces generally come together and we say, “Now I understand why that happened!” By the same token, when we are still left wondering as to why the things happened the way they occurred, the actual blessing is that we maintain a close relationship with God as we pray for the answers to come.

The New Year brings me to a point of contentment. I am so thankful for the many blessings that have come my way over the years here at St. Paul's. I now look back and wonder where the time has gone. My original plan was to serve a parish in Minnesota or Wisconsin, but God's plan was to place me in New England.

Then, I look at the blessings at St. Paul's Church. What a wonderful family of believers we enjoy; what a lovely fellowship we share, and what a unique ministry we have developed as we have even established a Lutheran school—the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center—in Gbarnga, Liberia, West Africa. As I look around on Sunday mornings, I see people smiling and greeting one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. I look around and see a neighborhood that some would shun, but I love this location here on Elmwood Avenue. And, furthermore, we can safely say, “St. Paul's Church is a successful church in a major downtown area.”

Thank you! A special thank you to the Church Council for their dedication to St. Paul's and my ministry. A special thank you to all of the volunteers for their hard work in the maintenance of St. Paul's. A special thank you to all of the teachers and members of the Sunday school that provided us with the beautiful Christmas Service: *“From Heaven Above.”* A special thank you to Ron Brown and Emily Brown for lifting our hearts with beautiful music on Sunday mornings and also to our faithful secretary, Donna, for “keeping the place going.” A special thank you to all who once again sent Christmas cards and gifts this past December. Yes, thank you all for making St. Paul's our home, and, of course, “Happy New Year!”

In Christ,

Pastor Leon Schultz

Jan. 1 Kaibeh Makor
 Princess Makor
 Samuel Makor
 Jan. 2 Eva Ballah
 Cassandra Varfley
 Jan. 4 Evelyn Gonsalves
 Joseph Varfley
 Jan. 9 Yarkpawolo Makor
 Jan.10 James Darlington
 Elena Fenchel
 Jan.11 Danlette Norris



Jan. 14 Onu Stevens
 Dane Carthur Watson
 Jan. 15 Seaniah Ballah
 Jan. 16 Dawn Seitz
 Jan. 17 Robert J. Fruggerio
 John Mulbah
 Samantha Robinson
 Jan. 18 Nasya Watler
 Jan. 25 Claire Lamore
 Jan. 27 Grace Dauda
 Jan. 28 Ronald Rehbein
 Ralph Rehbein

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Date	Readers	Comm. Assistants	Altar Guild	Ushers
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7	Youth	Bill Oehlkers Corvah Akoiwala	Dawn Nahlik Yorquala Makor	Youth
14	Patricia Martin		Dawn Nahlik Yorquala Makor	As Available
21	Kevin Riley	Rick Sinnigen JoeNorris	Dawn Nahlik Yorquala Makor	As Available
28	As Available		Dawn Nahlik Yorquala Makor	As Available

MINUTES OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Nov. 16, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 7:07 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 by Vice President and Chairperson of the Board of Finance Richard Sinnigen. Present were: Vice President Sinnigen, Treasurer Dan Robinson, Secretary David Martin, Financial Secretary Donna Buco, Chairperson of the Board of Stewardship Bill Oehlkers, and Pastor Schultz. Dawn Nahlik was also present as an observer. The meeting opened with a prayer offered by Pastor. Chairperson of the Board of Social Ministry Danlette Norris joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Dan Robinson distributed a Treasurer's Report for the period Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 2017. Total income during this period was \$184,236.72 and total disbursements were \$168,670.28, resulting in net ordinary income of \$15,566.44. The balance of Memorial Funds as of Oct. 31, 2017, was \$250,543.59.

Pastor's Report. Pastor reported that the following persons were received into membership on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017: Mr. Robert and Mrs. Charlene Mastrostefano and their sons Andrew and Jacob; Mr. Derek and Mrs. Kate-Lynne Laroche; Ms. Eva Gaines; and Ms. Rachel Hutchins. The three members of the confirmation class are good students, and Pastor is pleased with their participation. He anticipates that they will be examined by the Deacons prior to being confirmed which will be a return to past practice.

Trustees. David Martin reported that the Trustees will meet on Sunday, Nov. 19, to consider the estimate of \$7,956.00 for repairs to the school roof submitted by Mr. Gordon H. Chandler. David asked that Dan Robinson contact the anonymous donor who donated \$47,158.61 to replace the school roof and ask him or her whether a portion of this money may be used to repair the roof. Pastor suggested that the donor also be asked whether a portion of the money could be used to replace three exterior doors: the door leading from the parish hall to the courtyard, the door adjacent to the left rear of the stage, and the office door. Fire regulations require that the first two doors have push bars and the office door is rotted at the bottom. The Trustees will discuss the doors at their meeting. The tree on the front lawn broke off at its base during the severe windstorm on the night of October 29-30, 2017. Upon examination, it appeared that the tree may have been diseased because the wood at the base was quite soft. David reported that Children's Friend has replaced the doors connecting the parish hall to the school with a single metal door which can be locked with a key. We granted permission for this modification a year ago because Children's Friend had been notified that their inability to lock the previous doors from the school side was a security violation.

Social Ministry. Danlette Norris reported that the Board of Social Ministry is preparing Thanksgiving baskets. They are using donations and a 250 gift card from Thrivent to buy foods items for the baskets.

Finance. Rick Sinnigen reported that the Board of Finance had met on Nov. 15 and gone over the church budget for 2018. One item that needs to be finalized is the pastoral remuneration. The Board of Finance requests that the Board of Deacons do this in the near future. Rick will communicate this request to Joe Norris, the chairman of the board of Deacons. (At this point in the meeting, Danlette had to leave because she had guests at home.)

The Board of Finance had been asked to investigate investing church funds in something other than guaranteed accounts in order to earn a higher rate of return. Rick stated that he had contacted the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and Thrivent regarding possible alternatives. While there are mutual fund accounts that have the potential to earn a greater rate of return than we are presently earning, all of these accounts involve varying degrees of risk to the principal. The Board of Finance recommended that we keep the church's money in the LCEF accounts that do not involve risk to the principal. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the recommendation that church funds be kept in accounts that do not involve risk to the principal.

Stewardship. Bill Oehlkers reported that if offerings continue at their present pace, we will have an increase in giving of approximately \$19,500.00 and that we would qualify for an additional \$19,500.00 in matching funds under The Thirty Thousand Dollar Challenge.

Old Business. Church Directory. A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Church Council communicate to the Board of Deacons that the delay in the distribution of the church directory is a significant concern and the Council requests that the Deacons provide a firm date by which the directory will be available to members.

Accounting Software. Dan reported that a request has been made to churches in the New England District to see if they have the disc for the software program "Church Helpmate."

New Business. There was no new business.

A motion was made to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting ended at 8:05 p.m. with recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Martin, Secretary



JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Bible Class</i> <i>meets at 9:00</i> <i>am in the</i> <i>church office</i> <i>Confirma-</i> <i>tion: 10:45</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Worship</i> <i>Bible Class</i> <i>10:00 am</i> <i>Communion</i>	8	9	10 <i>Gbarnga</i> <i>Board</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>7:00PM</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00am</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Council</i> <i>Meeting</i> <i>7:00PM</i>	19	20
21 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00am</i> <i>Communion</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Worship</i> <i>10:00am</i>	29	30	31			