

St. Paul's Church

of the United Church of Christ



"The Light" Newsletter
April 2017 Edition

A Time For Everything....

A Farewell to St. Paul's from Pastor Chad

In the book of Ecclesiastes, we are reminded by the author that there is a time and a place for everything under heaven. He says there is "a time to rejoice and a time to mourn, a time to be born and a time to die." And while it may not say it directly, there is a time to say hello and a time to say goodbye. In October of 2011 my family and I traveled to St. Paul's to say hello and welcome a new community and era in our life. It was a new day for all of us. I was overwhelmed with your kindness, your embrace of my children, and your readiness to get to work in building on a new future for St. Paul's. Here we stand nearly 6 years later and as I type this final newsletter article to you, we are all seeking God's strength for a way to say a proper farewell. I will be the first to admit that leaving, change, and saying farewell does not come naturally or easily for this pastor. I reckon that it does not come easily for any of us. And yet, it is imperative that we do it well and with Christ as the center of our hope and faith. While we still have a few more worship services left together and while I may not express this perfectly, I hope this final note from me can at the very least offer a reminder to each of you of my fondness for you, the people of St. Paul's Church.

As Rich Mason drove me around Alexandria and the surrounding area of Campbell County I asked him one of the most important questions I would ask during my visit. I asked, "So, Rich, is it a pre-requisite that I be a UK fan in order to be your pastor?" After a brief pause, a smile came over his face and he responded, "Well.....I suppose it isn't a must, but it would sure help. I'm sure that we would welcome you either way." Boy, was he right. I can imagine that you all likely had your suspicions of this Louisville

Cardinals fan, Illinois born, vegan, ear pierced, former United Methodist outsider. I get it. I was not from Campbell County and the unknown can be scary. And yet, you welcomed me as one of your own. You offered to care for my kids when we needed a sitter. You asked if we needed help moving in. You provided my family with a beautiful welcome basket filled with local area gift cards to things we might want to explore. You welcomed me into your homes, your hospital rooms, your driveway basketball courts, and into moments of grief. When a tornado came whirling through our county in my first couple of months, destroying homes of those in our parish, together we picked up debris and offered supplies. We sang the hymns of the faith, took the sacraments, ushered in the resurrection, and I was offered a lawn chair for which I would find myself marching down Washington Street with as Barb Fausz shouted through a megaphone, "We offer real wine." It was as if the fact that I was a Louisville fan didn't matter because what was binding our hearts together was our united faith in Jesus Christ.

The book of Ecclesiastes is correct to remind us that life is filled with passages of time and I believe that this is present in our bible to remind us to pay attention to these changing realities in our lives. We are not fond of change. We want everything to stay the same. But God has so ordered the world that things are always changing, that life is a constant cycle circling back upon itself over and over again. Generations of people who have influenced the life of St. Paul's church have lived and died passing on the faith to another generation. This generation of faithful saints will, indeed, pass on our faith to a generation that comes after us. Your pastors will not stay forever and will move on to other ministries. And, in the end, what we have is the gift of gratitude. We can express to God and one another just how thankful we are for these moments we have had together.

And beyond that gratitude, we can take what we have learned, what has inspired us, and build upon the growth that has taken place in our time together. Indeed, I will be entering a new phase of my career in ministry as a UCC pastor and there are so many things I have learned here that will shape who I am becoming. In fact, I am going to serve where I am because of how you all have shaped me and I am thankful. You too, friends, will take some of the things I have shared with you and our mutual ministry together into a new phase. God has been preparing you for this moment and where we have come over 6 years will endure towards the next 6 and beyond. But, before we ever get to those new journeys, there is a moment of farewell and release that we must share and that is essential to our health as people of faith and people in ministry.

My final Sunday with you will be April 23rd as we share in worship and a farewell gathering. This is not saying goodbye. This is a public acknowledgement and celebration of the ways in which God has been at work in our midst as we have shared in ministry together. It is, also, a moment of release where we both acknowledge and release one another from the covenant we agreed upon back in 2011. Near the end of that service on the 23rd we will all participate in a ritual of release where we offer one another love, gratitude, support, and encouragement as we depart in peace from our ministry obligations and covenant with one another. I will vow to relinquish my pastoral connection and duties to you as a congregation so that your next pastor can fully immerse himself or herself to your service. And you also will vow to release me and promise to allow me to be fully committed to my new setting of service. I will admit, this is hard work. When we have been so united and tied together in reliance, counsel, and mutual ministry, it is hard to release one another. And yet, this is what we must do for the health of us all.

After my final Sunday with you, my ministry at St. Paul's will end and I will no longer be available for service with you. I won't be doing visits, taking your calls for assistance, offering counsel and care, weddings or funerals, or helping prepare items for worship. For a period of a year I will remove myself from direct communication with you, particularly as it relates to anything to do with the ministry of St. Paul's Church. This act allows for your new pastor to have your full attention and it sets boundaries that are necessary for each of us to transition into our new journeys. I hope you understand that this is done not out of any personal distrust of the people at St. Paul's. In the United Church of Christ, this step is necessary and an intricate part of our transitional process as pastors in being faithful to our pastoral code of ethics. It is because I love you all so much and want what is best for you that this time of release is necessary. I trust you all into God's hands as I pray for your new leadership and the current lay leadership to move forward into a new future. I hope you will pray the same for me in my new journey.

In my final newsletter article, I wish to thank each of you for covenanting with me and my family in ministry. For all of you who were leaders from president on down, I am thankful that you have given of yourself and been my source of support as your pastor. I am so thankful to the Staff Parish Committee who sat with me through some hardships, listened to my concerns, helped me make some hard decisions, and lifted me up when I was down. Thank you to the staff, Ben, Darlene, Melinda, and Craig. I love that we could get work done and still have a sense of humor together, and I will miss working with you. Thank you to each of you who cared for my kids. I know they can be a handful at times, but they fell in love with you all from the beginning. They have known the love of a church because of your kindness to them and your extravagant welcome both

on Sunday mornings and in your homes. I know that Shannon is grateful that you allowed her to sing with her amazing voice and allowed her to practice yoga with many of you. She is a true gift to the Church and you reminded her that she is needed. And thank you for welcoming me. I know that I have not lived my calling perfectly and each time I fell short became a growing edge for me to learn from. Know that the mistakes I made were all mine and I can only pray for your forgiveness and grace.

These final words are tough, but necessary. It is necessary because now has come the time to wish you all farewell. Please know that I will pray for you. One journey is coming to an end and another one begins for us both. May the God of all peace offer you strength for the journey and may you know that I will always carry you with me in my pastoral and spiritual journey. Blessings to each and every one of you.

With Gratitude,

Pastor Chad

CHURCH TIDBITS



St. Paul's Nursery

St. Paul's has child care for children ages infants to kindergarten during the worship service in the Nursery on the Lower Level. There is no adult supervision for children first grade and older. It is requested that these children remain with their parents/guardian in the sanctuary during the worship service.

Thanks, Church Council

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee has put together a few activity bags for young school age children who are attending church services. The bags will be located in the vestibule and labeled by grade levels. These bags will be available Sunday.

Recycle Pill Bottles! In developing countries, medications (when actually obtainable) are often dispensed into hands, pockets, leaves or any other available container. We can help improve healthcare quality in developing nations by donating clean pill bottles to help the poor: medicine can be distributed in sterile containers. Please bring your empty pill containers [prescription bottles, large & small, with and without child resistant caps, and over-the-counter pill bottles] for recycling to help others and keep thousands of bottles out of landfills each year! And, by placing a nickel, dime or quarter in each bottle helps with shipping costs. You can drop them in the collection box by the front door of the church. Thank you!

PLASTIC BAGS

We are collecting plastic grocery bags again. The bags can be left in Fellowship Hall on the table provided.

COUNTY MARKET RECEIPTS

Since Women's Guild is no longer functioning, The Bell Choir is collecting County Market receipts. Please save them if you shop there and give them to any member of the Bell Choir or put them in the offering. They do expire in 6 months so don't save them too long before bringing them to church! Thanks!

Relay for Life of Campbell County

Friday, May 12-Saturday, May 13

6 pm-6 am – Ft. Thomas Tower Park

Website: RelayForLife.org/campbellky

For Team information, contact Sandi Wilder @859/630-4295 or Jackie Baker @441-7903

For Sponsorship and Donation opportunities, contact:
Lisa McCord @859/991-0822

Sympathy to the family of Dick Carr, Debbie Yeager, Rick Carr, and Jenny Keene on the death of their mother, Romaine Carr who passed away on February 25th. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Sympathy to Sally McNichols and family on the death of her husband, Ron who passed away on February 27th. Please keep this family in your prayers.

THANK YOU

To the great people of St. Paul's Church---Thank you for the cards, calls, and prayers I received after my knee replacement surgery. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. I am very grateful. Lee Walz

THANK YOU:

Thank you to our friends at St. Paul's for the beautiful flowers and comforting cards that you sent after our mom's passing. We especially want to thank you for all your prayers and well wishes during Mom's illness. A special thank you to Pastor Chad for his visits to the hospital. We are truly blessed to be a part of the St. Paul's family.

Sincerely,
The family of Romaine Carr

THANK YOU

Dear St. Paul's family,

Your love and support through Ron's illness and passing have meant more than words can say. The many prayers were and still are appreciated. The flowers were beautiful. Hugs are always wonderful. Thank you all for always being there for my family and me.

Blessings! Sally McNichols

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Kyle Ballinger
Lyndsee Ballinger
Daryl Knauer
Brianna Harrell

Welcome to St. Paul's

A few weeks back we welcomed four new members to St. Paul's Church and we consider it an honor that they have chosen to nurture their spiritual journey with us. Below you can get a glimpse into our newest members. Be sure you take extra time next time you see them to greet and welcome them.

Welcome to,

Lyndsee Ballinger

Lyndsee was born and raised in Cincinnati. She moved to Kentucky in 2008 upon marrying her husband, Kyle. They joined a church in Independence until they moved to Georgia. In May of 2016, their family moved back to Northern Kentucky to the Alexandria and Cold Spring area. They are happy to raise Greyson and Kynslee in the church where Kyle grew up. They are grateful to be home.

Kyle Ballinger

Kyle is the eldest son of Mike and Connie Ballinger, husband to Lyndsee Ballinger, and father to Kynslee and Greyson. After moving back to Northern Kentucky from Georgia, Kyle is excited to raise his family in the church he grew up in. He also miraculously holds his marriage together every year during the Cross Town

Shoot Out as an avid Xavier fan and being married to a UC fan.

Daryl Knauer

Daryl has been a self-employed advertising copywriter for more than 20 years. He and his wife, Teresa, have two adult children, Elisabeth and Carrie. They currently have two dogs, a cat, and six chickens. Hobbies include reading, kayaking, bicycling, hiking, and bowling. Daryl enjoys singing in the choir at St. Paul's and looks forward to being involved in the mission programs of St. Paul's.

Brianna Harrell

Brianna was born and raised right here in Alexandria. She has been looking for a faith community that is welcoming and she found that in St. Paul's. Brianna lives in Alexandria and attends Northern Kentucky University. She is studying to be a medical examiner.

DART BASEBALL CHAMPS



Congratulations to the St. Paul's women's dart baseball team for coming in first in the league! Our own Jenny Franzen had the highest batting average in the league - 408. Roland Wright had the highest men's batting average - 363. Our men's team can in third in the league.

THOSE WHO SERVE IN APRIL

Liturgist

Apr. 2 Karey Thomas
9 Marion Gosney
16 9:00 – Teresa Knauer
10:30 – Debbie Fowee
23 Amity Kukla
30 Roger VonStrohe

Coffee

Apr. 2 Linda Krebs
9 Amy Meyer
16 Easter Breakfast

23 Tim Ash
30 Mindy Connell

Acolyte

Apr. 2 Lexi Nicholson
9 Cole Johnson
16 9:00 - Kennedy Johnson
10:30 – Isa Abbott
23 Shae Weinell
30 Logan Hayslette

Communion Set-up: Apr. 2 – Mindy Connell & Audrey Thomas

Apr. 13 – Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Apr. 16 – Barb Fausz & Helen McAlpin

Ushers:

Apr. 2 10:30 Asbury Turner, Rick Carr,
Shawn Hayslette and Debbie Fowee

Apr. 9 10:30 Cameron McDonald and Kayla McDonald

Apr. 13 7:00pm Pat Schuchter and Sue Hatfield

Apr. 16 9:00 Shawn Hayslette and Pat Schuchter
10:30 Jessica McDonald and Leah McDonald

Apr. 23 10:30 Marion & Dorothy Gosney

Apr. 30 10:30 Rick Carr and Sue Hatfield

**IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ASSIGNED DATE, PLEASE
TRADE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND LET THE CHURCH OFFICE
KNOW.**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 1 Janie Haddix
2 Cindy Schneider
3 Samantha Gunning
3 Mitchel Haddix
3 Logan Hayslette
7 Betty Bihl
8 Betty Lou Pfeiffer
9 Brady Coplen
9 Frank Santee
10 Keaton Ballart
10 Dorothy Gosney
10 Melinda Schamer
13 Olivia Davis
13 Scott Dawson
14 William Vogt
15 Austin Jones
16 Jim Fausz
17 Jean Baker
17 Sue Hatfield
17 Anna Wheeler
18 Kathy VonStrohe
23 Beekee Hayslette
24 Michael Franzen
24 Susan Geiman
25 Byron Santee
27 Shannon Abbott
29 Diana Mote





Do we have your email address? St.

Paul's is continuing to work on our communication and social media outlets so that we can best communicate with as many of you as possible. If you are not receiving our weekly Constant Contact emails about events and the sermon preview, please write your email on the line below and return it to the office or put it in the offering plate.

Thank you!

The Church Office

Upcoming Christian Education Events

3/19 -4/9 9:45 Kids rehearse bells and song for Palm Sunday in sanctuary



4/16 Easter Egg Hunt 10am

4/16 Confirmation during 10:30 worship

4/30 9am New Adult Sunday School Class starts (see more info in the bulletin)

4/30 Packing up the food for the Backpack program starting at 9 am in Fellowship Hall

5/2 6pm CE meeting in conference room

5/14 Mother's Day skit – rehearse at 9:30

VBS June 12-16 9am-noon, Volunteers needed:
teachers & class helpers

See Evelyn eedietz@aol.com 635-1002

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

It is our tradition that members and friends help decorate the sanctuary for Easter morning by bringing in flowers and plants. Please have yours to the church (the upper door by the Mary Kaffenberger room/will be open) by 2:00 pm Saturday, April 15th. Also if you would like to order flowers for Easter, Karey Thomas is willing to take care of this for you. If interested, see Karey. All flowers are \$7 each.

**6" Daffodil
6" Easter Lily**

**6" Hyacinth
6" Tulip**



New Adult Sunday School Class
9 to 10 am Sundays

After my young students are confirmed on Easter, I will have a block of time to offer the confirmation curriculum to adults. Even if you were confirmed many years ago, this course of study is very different. If you have never been confirmed, this course will provide a basis from which to extend your faith journey.

The first six chapters cover worship services, the meanings of why we do what we do, symbolism, and community in worship; the history of our church using old historical documents; the Bible and how it was put together over time; the history of Christianity and its many branches; the history and organization of the UCC; and an in depth look into the creeds and our statement of faith in the remaining chapters. Several adults have said they would like to go through this course, and now it will be available, starting April 30th at 9 am in my classroom directly behind the sanctuary. Please see me at church if you are interested in attending.

Charlene Rogers



**Join us for our 2nd
Mission Trip
to
Evansville, IN
June 18-June 23**



Register in the back of the sanctuary by May 1
\$50 per person to cover food



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
GREATER CINCINNATI



Care Packages

Care Packages are a wonderfully thoughtful way to provide some basic necessities for our parents during this very stressful time. When a child is ill and headed off to the hospital, parents may not think about packing things as basic as a bar of soap. Their thoughts are only on making sure their child gets well. Your kindness in the gift of small toiletry items will help make their time away from home more comfortable.

We are always in need of Basic, Dental, Shaving and Laundry packs. Please use clear, Ziploc baggies and include one **travel-sized** or single use item of each.

Basic

soap or body wash
shampoo
conditioner
body/hand lotion

Dental

toothpaste
dental floss
mouthwash

Shaving

disposable razors (1 or 2)
shaving cream

Laundry

Detergent (HE only)
Fabric softener

Other appreciated items that do not require packaging include:

- Any **full-size** of items listed above
- Toothbrushes
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand wipes
- Travel tissues
- Deodorant (male & female)
- Manicure sets
- Q-tips
- Facial cleanser
- Facial moisturizer
- Hairspray
- Hair gel
- Combs or brushes
- Q-tips
- Cotton balls
- Band aids
- Bubble bath
- Contact lens solution

Please note that we cannot accept any items that may be considered medicinal (i.e. cough drops or cortisone creams).

Care Packages can be dropped off at our House any day between 9 AM and 9 PM. There is no need to call ahead unless you'd like to have a tour. (Visit our website for tour information <http://www.rmhcincinnati.org/about/our-house/photo-tour>.)

- Don't forget to fill out a donation form and/or have school community service forms signed while you are here. ***No community restitution or court ordered volunteers can be accepted.***
- Community service hours are not awarded for the purchase and donation of pre-packaged care kits.
- Each individual who completes up to 25 packages may be awarded a maximum of 2 hours of service. There is no additional time awarded for more Care Packages, nor will 2 hours be given to all members of a group completing just 25 packages.

For the safety of our children and parents, ALL participants of this program and visitors to our House should be healthy, i.e. free from fever, cough or colds, or stomach virus symptoms. Please remember to wash your hands before assembling packages.

Lisa Davis

Volunteer and Operations Coordinator

☎ 513-636-2760 ✉ foodandfun@RMHouse.org

Robyn Cramer

Meals & Activities Assistant

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



350 Erkenbrecher Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229 ☎ 513-636-7642 📠 RMHCincinnati.org 513-636-4887



10/14

Second Sunday Feast



On Sunday, April 9th we will continue our tradition of the Second Sunday Feast immediately following worship. This will be a potluck luncheon shared by all members of the congregation. If you would like to bring a side dish, main dish, or a dessert to share with others, come get to know newer members, enjoy laughs with friends, and share some of your best recipes with one another. Each month we will always meet down in the fellowship hall for

a potluck feast on the Second Sunday. See you then!

Holy Week Worship



Come out Thursday, April 13th at 7pm to St. Paul's for our Maundy Thursday Holy Communion and Tenebrae Service. The Tenebrae will be centered in a Holy Week Cantata and carefully constructed scenes to accompany the story being told through music. All choral anthems are performed by our chancel choir.

GOOD FRIDAY OPEN PRAYER

The sanctuary will be open on Good Friday from Noon-2pm for prayer and meditation. Come out

and pray for others and meditate upon the empty
cross.



Worship with us on Easter Sunday as we celebrate
the resurrection.

Sunday, April 16th

9am Service

10am Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am Service with Holy Communion



St. Paul's Church

1 N. Jefferson
Alexandria, KY 41001
Phone: (859) 635-9394

