

St. Paul's Church

of the United Church of Christ



**"The Light" Newsletter
March 2017 Edition**



Come Walk With Me

Pastor Chad

Our theme this year for Lent is “Come Walk With Me.” In fact, in attending the Maundy Thursday service this coming April you will discover that this is the title of the Cantata and the overarching theme of the biblical narratives throughout Lent. This is clearly intentional because the seasonal metaphor for Lent is that of going on a “journey.” The season begins with Jesus’ journey into the wilderness for 40 days and nights, which is ultimately reflective of the 40 year journey the Israelites took in the wilderness between Egypt and the Promised Land. And Lent ends with Jesus’ journey into Jerusalem and down the road to Golgotha. So, the Bible is no stranger to this concept of God taking us on a journey and now that we are going to be spending the next 40 plus days leading up to Holy Week and Easter the question before us is, “Do we have our walking shoes on?”

Much of Jesus’ ministry is spent on the move. One of the signature departures of Jesus’ ministry from that of the established religious leaders is that he refused to confine his ministry to only the temple in Jerusalem. The temple is where many assumed God’s presence was to be found. People like John the Baptist and Jesus, however, suggested that God could be found not just in the temple but in our very lives. And so, he traveled from town to town preaching that God’s Kingdom had come near, so near in fact that it dwelled within his followers. He found himself on a seashore calling fishermen to leave their nets to come walk with him. He found tax collectors, zealots, and people on the margins of first century life to leave their old life behind and to walk with him into a new life. The act of walking with Christ is the calling of Lent. But, there is one thing we should know about this road. It is not always an easy one to travel.

The call to walk with Christ in discipleship has always assumed that there will be things we must give up and surrender. The road would not always be smooth. I think sometimes we don't like change or want to do newer things because they are hard and require large amounts of trust in God. When God has asked people in the Bible to leave things behind and walk in faith into a new journey, God does not ever promise the road would be easy or smooth. In fact, the Israelites wanted to turn back just as their journey was beginning because they noticed right away just how difficult it was going to be. In the case of Jesus' disciples, they end up discovering that the road of his ministry would ultimately lead them all to the road towards Golgotha, where Jesus would be murdered and killed. Jesus, in fact, tells us in the gospels that to follow will mean that we have to "take up our cross and follow him."

Here we are at the beginning of our Lenten journey and we will walk through the desert with Christ and through the Garden of Gethsemane and eventually to the cross. The invitation that this season offers us stands the same: Christ calls upon us to come and follow me. Even if the journey and road is hard, will we put on our walking shoes and walk with Christ? When the road is rough and it twists and turns, this does not necessarily mean that we are on the wrong road or that we have errored in some way. It may mean we are directly following the Jesus who journeyed it before us. The promise is not that it will be easy, but rather that Christ will never leave our side throughout. May your Lenten journey rest on that hope. Come walk with Christ this Lent.

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!

THANK YOU

I cannot say thank you enough for the cards, prayers and phone calls I have received before and after surgery. Thanks to Chad for being there before surgery and for the visits during my stay at the hospital. Your prayers assured me that all will be well.

Sue Hatfield

THANK YOU:

You've done it again! You sent 72,000 can tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in 2016. Tabs are tiny but they help "the House". Because of your help, God's blessings stream in. That's why you are "the good people of St. Paul's".

P.S. If you wish to remain anonymous when donating tabs, that's okay. But if you let me know who you are, that helps me return the "interesting things" that are often in the containers. Thank you!

Donna Mader

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!



Thanks to all for helping us raise funds for the Backpack Program! Our incredibly generous congregation donated \$300 for the food packs going to elementary students at Campbell Ridge!
Amazingly, the voting was a tie! - CE Board

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

THOSE WHO SERVE IN MARCH

Liturgist

Mar. 5 Shannon Abbott
12 Debbie Fowee
19 Amity Kukla
26 Roger VonStrohe

Coffee

Mar. 5 Linda Krebs
12 Mindy Connell
19 Dave & Cammy Burling
26 D. Yeager & J. Baker

Acolyte

Mar. 5 Isa Abbott
12 Solomon Abbott
19 Logan Hayslette
26 Brenna Losey

Communion Set-up: Mar. 5 – Barb Fausz and Helen McAlpin

Ushers:

Mar. 5 10:30 Asbury Turner, Rick Carr,
Jim Miller and Debbie Fowee

Mar. 12 10:30 Cameron McDonald and Kayla McDonald

Mar. 19 10:30 Jessica McDonald and Leah McDonald

Mar. 26 10:30 Ron Sperry and Shawn Hayslette

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

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE
ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. THANK YOU!



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

MARCH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Darlene Haigis	11	Kenneth & Susan Voelker
2	Ronald David Behymer	26 years	
2	Rachel Steelman		
5	Kriste Swanson	15	Dennis & Karen Zimmerman
7	Sharon Ash	34 years	
13	Carol Valerius		
13	Stu Stormer		
17	Brian Clos		
17	Aleene Schaber		
17	Arlene Vogt Wagner		
18	Cammy Bihl		
19	Ted Hornsby		
26	Betty Kaffenberger		
26	Alex Boehm		
26	Todd Cox		
28	Greg Hamilton		



Upcoming Christian Education Events

3/6 6pm CE meeting in conference room

3/12 Movie night

4/? Meeting TBA



4/16 Easter Egg Hunt 10am

4/16 Confirmation during 10:30 worship

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 (tentative, depending on the last day of school) 9am-noon, Volunteers needed: teachers, class helpers, & snack prep. See Evelyn eedietz@aol.com

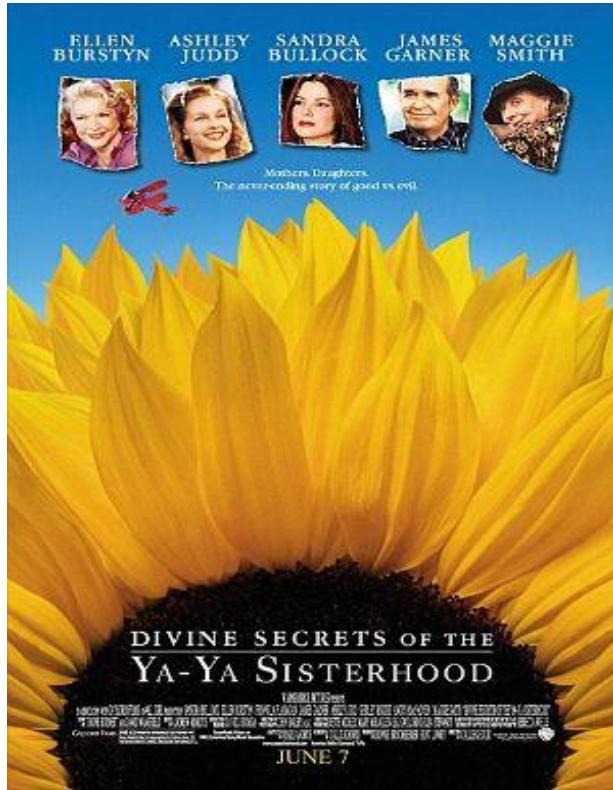
New Membership Class to be Offered

If you are interested in joining St. Paul's Church, Pastor Chad will be offering a 3 week class starting March 5th and running through March 19th. We will celebrate and welcome in new members on the 19th. The class will be in the sanctuary at 9am each Sunday. Any questions please ask Pastor Chad in person or contact him at chad@stpaulsalexandria.org or by phone in the office at 635-9394.



The season of Lent is upon us and Ash Wednesday will get the journey started. Come worship at St. Paul's on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, at 7pm. We will receive the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion in the sanctuary. Come, journey with us from the ashes to the cross.

**JOIN SHANNON FOR ANOTHER
MOVIE NIGHT
MARCH 12 4PM-8PM**



Shannon will host her final movie night at St. Paul's by watching the "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood." A meal provided by the Christian Education Board will begin at 4pm and followed by the showing of the film. See you then.



Congregational Care Team (CCT)

The purpose of the CCT is to build relationship with congregants through offering visitation and spiritual care to those in care facilities, homebound or with special needs for support at times specified by the pastor.

Every congregation needs to care for one another. We say in our mission statement that we “nurture one another in faith and fellowship.” When receiving new members we are saying to them that we “welcome you with joy....promise you our friendship and prayers....may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of the risen Christ.” And the Bible says, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;... (1 Corinthians 12.26).” In other words, we are called to care for one another.

CCT Prerequisite

All CCT members must be actively committed to the larger mission of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ.

CCT Training Required

The training for the CCT program is designed as a group experience for the purpose of interaction, conversation, building

relationships, sharing insight and role playing. The goal is to provide initial insights and basic skills for caregivers. The nature of this ministry requires CCT members to have a common understanding and commitment to confidentiality and the sensitivity and exposure of being in close and sacred space with those in need. Thus, it is important that all team members have this training together.

CCT Training – Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:00a to 2:00p

This year's training will be with three other United Church of Christ (UCC) congregations, Christ Church, UCC of Ft. Thomas, Faith UCC of Anderson Township and St. John UCC of Bellevue. The training will be held at Christ Church, 15 S. Ft. Thomas Ave., Ft. Thomas, KY 41075. Lunch will be provided.

Commit to CCT Training

If you sense that you may be gifted in care ministries and are interested in serving through the CCT contact Pastor Chad in the office at 635-9394 or speak with Lilla Losey of your interest. We will need to get a sense of how many are going to be trained on the 18th for the sake of food preparation, so please let Chad or Lilla know ASAP.

St. Paul's Church

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

