



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's Church!

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore (Psalm 133).*

In his reflections on Psalm 133 in the August 15 UCC Daily Devotional, John Edgerton points out that, "Our country is deeply fractured. Division has reached the point that we view those who differ from us not as compatriots but as people who live in a different country, a country we would not want to live in." And he concludes by saying, "We have moved beyond the point where a return to "normal" can be achieved by symbolic gestures or speeches or prayer-vigils. The divisions among us can only be resolved by real, substantive change."

As followers of Christ, we look to God to work that substantive change in us and in our world. Throughout that Bible we read stories of the kinds of ways that God transforms individuals and commissions them to create transformation in the lives of people and society. Christ's resurrection serves as a template for this process: resurrection power opens the way for us to discover our new selves empowered drive positive change that betters the lives and experience of others.

Our congregation must live up to our calling in Christ. Each of us begins by confronting any failure of unity within ourselves. In what ways do we lack peace within ourselves? How are competing priorities or values tearing our minds and hearts asunder?

As we move into peace within ourselves, we are made ready to create and enjoy peace with those around us. Like many UCC congregations, ours is comprised of people who hold highly diverse religious and political views. We can choose to shape our relationships according to the polarized lines reflected in our society today, or we can choose to shape our relationships according to the peace and unity envisioned by Christ's new kingdom. We can choose to read or post inflammatory messages on social media that fuel division and enmity, or we can stand for peace and reconciliation in all we say and do, even with those on the other side of the issues.

It really is our choice! Will we allow systems of hatred, distrust, and conflict rule in our hearts, or do we choose to open ourselves up to Christ's redemptive systems of compassion, peace, and mercy?

Let us choose peace. Let us choose new life. Thanks be to God!

~ Pastor Paul Forrey

## News from the Board of Christian Education

### Sunday School

The Board of Christian Education continues to meet and make plans to keep in touch with our Sunday School learners and help them continue to grow in their faith until we can safely welcome them back to our classrooms. Now, we want to hear from parents about how to keep in touch with our students to continue their faith formation.

In September we will finalize together a survey and members of the BOCE will call parents to discuss their thoughts concerning how St. Paul's Church can continue lead the children on their faith journeys while keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Meanwhile the Wednesday Night Faith Formation group continues to meet via Webex. We are currently reading a fascinating book written by Zen Buddhist teacher Thich Nat Hanh called *Living Buddha, Living Christ* in which the author explores striking similarities in the teachings of these two world-changing religious leaders.

### Family Movie Night

We plan to host an outdoor family movie night for either October 3 or 4. A final date, time, and Movie Title will be announced later. Physical distancing will be maintained. Should weather not permit an outdoor event, we will view the film in Fellowship Hall with safety protocols in place.

### Children's Chats

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to do our weekly Children's Chat. They have been entertaining, mesmerizing, educational and inspirational. They are posted on our website and Facebook page. Please contact Pastor Paul or Claudia Chalk if you would like to volunteer. If you have an idea or topic for a children's chat, please let us know.

**You're Invited!**

AN OPEN HOUSE

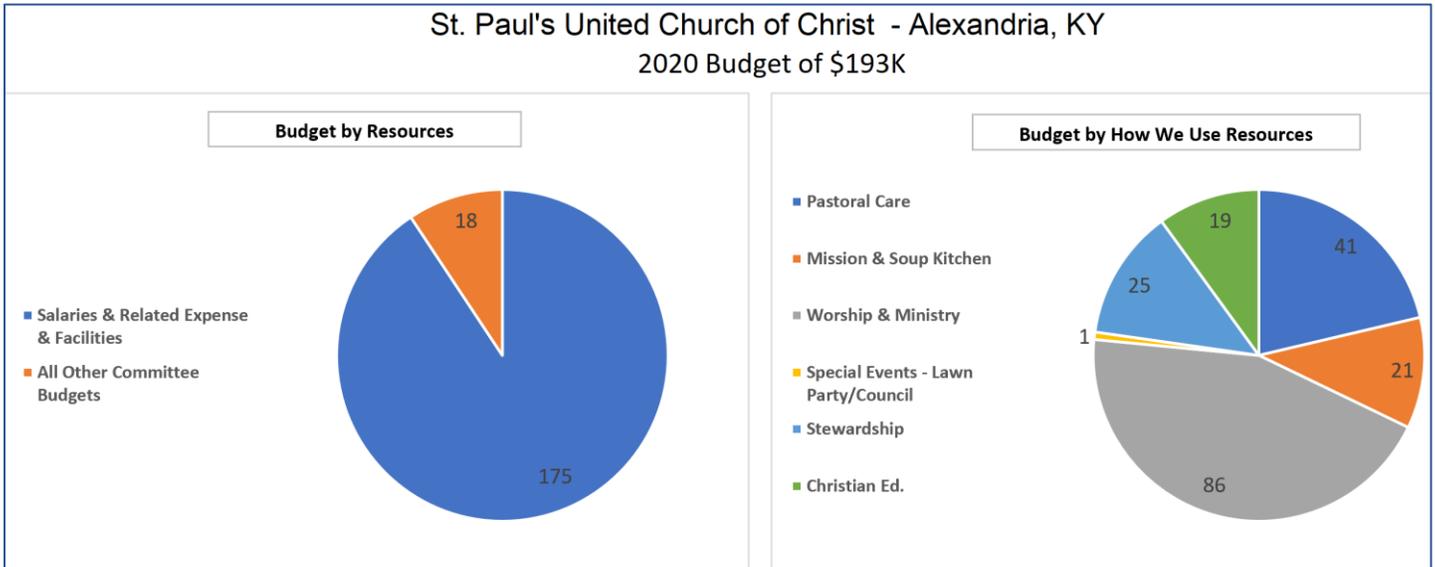
**Celebrating the 90th Birthday of Martha Anne Schmidt**

Sunday, September 20th, 1-5PM  
Alexandria Fair Grounds (Exhibit Hall)

*\* No Gifts Please \**

## Financial Update: Thinking and Acting Differently

Greetings friends. In our last financial communication, we asked for your continued support and then had the great pleasure to thank you for your amazing response to continue the life and ministry of St. Paul's Church. During the middle of the year and just before we budget for next year, it's good to take a look at how we thought we would be doing, how that's gone, and where we think the year will end. You may remember way back in December 2019, outgoing President Connie Ballinger held up these graphs before we voted on the 2020 budget.



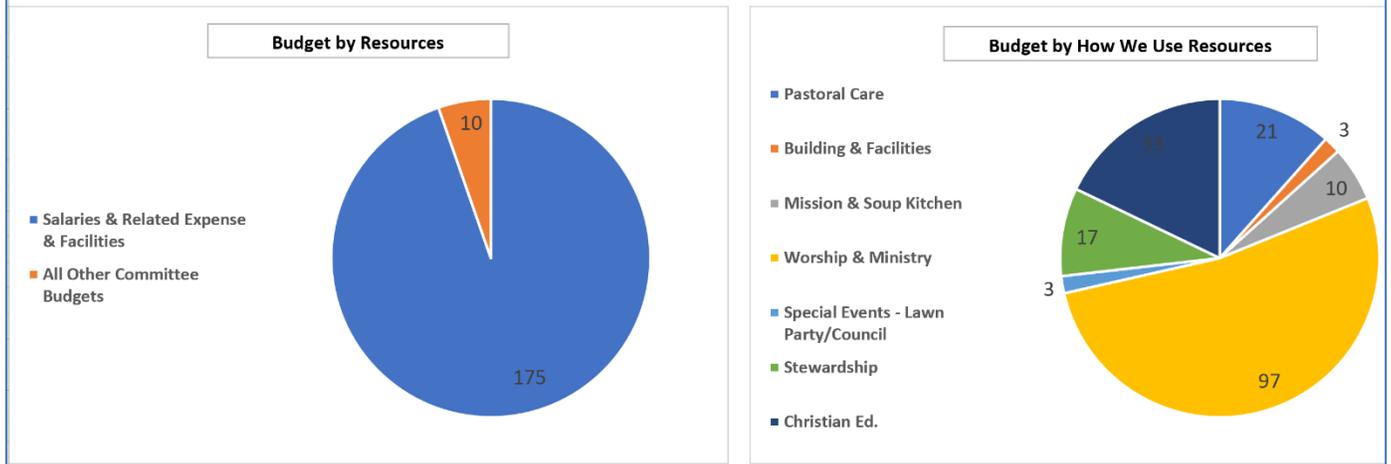
We also noted that if 2020 giving remained at the 2019 level of \$163,000, we expected a shortfall of \$30,000 which could be covered from investment fund proceeds in 2020.

Let's look forward from these simpler times, knowing what we now know, and see what has happened and where we expect to be by the end of 2020. Our 2020 **giving** response has been strong and I project 2020 giving to be in the range of **\$165,000 to \$170,000 by year end**. I used two projection models that look at current year and historical giving and forecasted how we might expect that to continue in the remaining weeks in 2020. This assumes that we continue our **remarkable** support as we have done so far. Thank you once again for supporting St. Paul's life and ministry.

As you might expect, the pandemic has impacted the **expense** side of our operations as well since so many activities have been eliminated or curtailed in 2020 and time and resources have been devoted to our response to continue worship at home and in-person. Using a similar technique to forecast giving, Treasurer Sandy Smith and I looked at actual expenditures and which expense were likely to be impacted by the pandemic in 2020. This resulted in a re-forecast for 2020 operating expenditures ranging from **\$181,000 to \$185,000**. Paul also shared how his time has been re-directed in 2020 so the Q3 2020 Reforecast expense picture now looks like the picture below with more time to worship & ministry, think videos!

*(Continued)*

St. Paul's United Church of Christ - Alexandria, KY  
2020 Annual Reforecasted Operating Expenditures of \$185K



This picture also shows that if these assumptions hold, our projected shortfall will not be \$30,000 as budgeted but instead in the range of \$11,000 to \$20,000 which in 2020 is easily handled by a recovered investment fund.

Our financial picture clearly demonstrated that this year, we all needed to think and act differently and that we responded to the call to transform and meet the challenge in 2020. Anyone can be captain in calm waters. You and our leadership teams have responded well in waters have been anything but calm.

if you would like to see your personal mid-year giving for your own 2020 reforecast, please let me know anytime and I can happily provide a 2020 giving statement through my most recent update. Soon, you'll be able to make all your personal giving reports available to you on-line via Breeze anytime, regardless of how you gave. Stay tuned as this is one of many financial team projects currently underway as part of our finance transformation effort. Expanded use of Breeze is a big part of this effort and you are enthusiastically invited to check it out and join in! Contact me to learn more.

And finally, 2021 Budget time is just around the corner and once again, we'll return to our triangular alignment of St. Paul's resources with our mission, operations and information. Our financials will also exemplify how we address the question, **what legacy will St. Paul's leave at this time?** I welcome and encourage you to share your thoughts with me & Council members as a key participant in our response as we begin the budgeting process for 2021 and going forward.

Thanks again for your continued trust and partnership and I look forward to hearing from you.

Peace and Love,

Jeff Enyart  
Financial.secretary@stpaulsalexandria.org

## September Birthdays

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Kathy Miller      | 19 Lawrence Boehm      |
| 2 Don Hatfield      | 19 Asbury Turner       |
| 4 Carol Jean Baker  | 20 Martha Anne Schmidt |
| 6 Kim Bowling       | 20 Karen Zimmerman     |
| 7 Diane Weber       | 21 Larry Giesmann      |
| 9 Robert Weinel     | 21 Teresa Knauer       |
| 10 Dave Burling     | 22 Sarah Edington      |
| 12 Jack Thomas      | 24 Charlene Rogers     |
| 17 Eric Bihl        | 25 Jocelyn Meyer       |
| 18 Connie Ballinger | 27 Lexi Nicholson      |
| 18 Pat Harrison     | 29 Danielle Rooney     |
|                     | 30 Debbie Fowee        |

## September Anniversaries

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 12 Lewis & Mindy Connell<br>41 years | 20 Marion & Dorothy Gosney<br>62 years  |
| 18 Tom & Jeanne Greiser<br>49 years  | 20 Jim & Karey Thomas<br>16 years       |
| 18 Danny & Robin Stacey<br>43 years  | 22 Michael & Janet VanNevel<br>29 years |

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### THANK YOU

Thank you so much for thinking of me at graduation time. Thank you for the wonderful gift card!

~ Ben Dietz

St. Paul's Church, You all know how much Mom loved the church. She would have been very happy with the beautiful flower arrangement and with the beautiful service that was held for her. Thanks for all the years that meant so much to her.

Michael & Mark Vogt

### **THOSE WHO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER**

#### Liturgist

#### Ushers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Sept. 6 9:00 am Patricia Ross<br>10:30 am Kathy VonStrohe  | Sept. 6 9:00 am Jim Miller & Margaret Perry<br>10:30 am Pat Schuchter & Sarah Lester   |
| Sept. 13 9:00 am Claudia Chalk<br>10:30 am Roger VonStrohe | Sept. 13 9:00 am Patricia Ross & Everett Harrison<br>10:30 am Lee Walz & Pat Schuchter |
| Sept. 20 9:00 am Evelyn Dietz<br>10:30 am Debbie Fowee     | Sept. 20 9:00 am Gary Sperry & Sally McNichols<br>10:30 am Roger & Kathy VonStrohe     |
| Sept. 27 9:00 am Debbie Yeager<br>10:30 am Charlene Rogers | Sept. 27 9:00 am Wanda Hornsby & Jim Miller<br>10:30 am Debbie Fowee & Pat Schuchter   |

**St. Paul's UCC, Alexandria, KY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—July 14, 2020**

PRESENT: President- Daryl Knauer, Vice President-Charlene Rogers, Financial Secretary-Jeff Enyart, Treasurer-Sandy Smith, Recording Secretary-Debbie Yeager, C.E.-Claudia Chalk, Trustees-Sally McNichols, Missions-Sarah Lester, Worship- Fred Losey, Stewardship-Cammy Burling, Tech Support- Craig McAlpin, and Pastor Paul Forrey. Daryl opened the meeting with a prayer and Council members recited the Council Covenant.

- 1) SECRETARY'S REPORT---Sally McNichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the council meeting held on June 8, 2020 that were posted on OneDrive. Charlene Rogers seconded and the motion carried.
- 2) FINANCIAL CHECK—Sandy reported that there is \$27,206.40 in the checking account and \$18,160.57 in the temporary account. Claudia Chalk made a motion to pay the bills. Sarah Lester seconded and the motion carried. Jeff reported that giving has been strong. Compared to last year we're good, but we're still below budgeted amount. Breeze has an option for the donor to add the transaction fee to their donation amount.
- 3) TECHNICAL SUPPORT—Craig reported that he has set up a lap top for Darlene to use at home in case she has to work remotely. She can also check phone messages from home.
- 4) PASTOR'S REPORT- Paul reported:
  - Sanctuary services since reopening have gone well. People are able to social distance, and Ben and the ushers are doing a great job disinfecting surfaces after each service. He would like to increase the attendance. Usually, the 9:00 service has more people. There has been a request for singing.
  - Groups continue to use WebEx, but WebEx has changed their policy for the free plan, and meetings would be cut off after 50 minutes. We could subscribe to the basic plan for \$14.95 per month. Fred Losey made a motion that we purchase the basic plan on a monthly basis. Cammy Burling seconded and the motion carried.
  - We will need to plan for covering and videoing the Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> services as Paul and Patricia will be on vacation.
- 5) CE BOARD—Claudia reported:
  - VBS was held virtually for 5 weeks beginning June 14. There were 15 children from 8 families who participated. Families could post pictures and videos on a private Facebook page.
  - The committee has discussed a Sunday School re-opening. There will be no in-person Sunday School for the remainder of the summer. There will be no nursery until further notice. Charlene asked if her adult class could meet with social distancing if there is a desire. Council agreed that that would be feasible.
  - The BOCE continues to look at Sunday School curriculum, but they will not purchase any for this fall and winter.
  - Evelyn and Paula will deliver the unused filled Easter eggs to families who want to have a private hunt.
  - Children's Chats will continue to be posted on Facebook and the website. They have recruited a diverse group of people to help with the Children's Chats.
- 6) MISSION—Sarah reported:
  - Soup Kitchen---Gary Sperry continues to deliver food to Tender Mercies. Volunteer involvement is very limited due to current restrictions.
  - Family Promise was able to start processing families this week. Families will be housed at Holiday Inn Extended Stay in Bellevue. Churches will continue to provide food via gift certificates to area restaurants and Kroger. Our next support opportunity is Aug. 4 and 5.
  - There may be opportunities to help school families as the schools plan for reopening.
  - HONK is not currently taking volunteers.
  - Isaiah House Ministries will be distributing food on Saturday, Aug. 29.

- Ink cartridges can be recycled at Staples. The church has an account there.
  - Sarah is still waiting to hear from Matthew 25 regarding the process for sanitizing pill bottles.
  - Patricia is spearheading an effort for the Mission Committee to have an article in each month's newsletter to inform the congregation of mission opportunities.
- 7) WORSHIP & MINISTRY—Fred reported that the committee did not meet in July. He spoke to members via phone. He asked Paul to keep them posted on when they'd need to meet. He gave an update on the Boy Scouts. Fred will check on the Boy Scout items we have and store them or find another troop that can use them. The main concern is the trailer.
- 8) STEWARDSHIP—Cammy reported:
- The Our Church-Our Future event is on hold until 2021.
  - Individuals speaking at services has been postponed until later this year.
  - June giving was up from last year.
  - The committee will have an article in the August newsletter.
  - Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month.
- 9) TRUSTEES—Sally reported:
- A no-touch hand sanitizer dispenser has been purchased and will be placed in the narthex.
  - Sample classroom is almost finished.
  - The Boy Scouts' trailer needs to be emptied of items belonging to the church and then donated to a needy troop.
  - Some plants have been transferred from planters in the front of the church to 2 N Jefferson and day lilies have been planted at the cemetery.
  - We received a request from the Campbell Co Historical Society to purchase an ad in the book *One Day in Campbell County*. Charlene Rogers made a motion that we purchase an ad for \$125.00. Jeff Enyart seconded and the motion carried.
- 10) VICE PRESIDENT—Charlene reported:
- After a discussion, it was determined that there is no need for the Investment Committee to meet now.
  - Council said it was okay for the members who cook and serve food for the Soup Kitchen to meet and do this using safety precautions or they can continue to deliver purchased food to the Soup Kitchen.
  - Sisters at 7 will purchase three DVD sets and donate them to the church.
- 11) PRESIDENT---Daryl reported:
- After a brief discussion, Council decided to cancel the Lawn Fete for 2020.
  - Council discussed re-opening the church to outside groups. Council agreed that groups who've used the facilities in the past could begin using them again if they agree to follow protocol. Daryl will develop a checklist for them to follow.
  - After a lengthy discussion on several scenarios that might affect in-person worship services, Daryl Knauer proposed a motion that if we are notified by the Health Dept of a person who attended our services who then tested positive for Covid-19, we will follow their guidelines on how to proceed and inform the congregation. Claudia Chalk seconded the motion and it carried.
  - Sarah Lester (Mission Committee) volunteered to head the planning of the September 27<sup>th</sup> service.

The next meeting will be held on August 11 in the Fellowship Hall at 7 PM. The meeting was adjourned and Council prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Yeager, Recording Secretary