

Be the Church

As we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of St. Paul's in October, some lamented that church membership is not as big as it once was. While it is true that our membership is smaller, this is not unique to our church. People have many ways to occupy their time on Sunday mornings and many find community in places outside of the church. We do not know our neighbors like we used to, so inviting them to come to church isn't as easy as it used to be.

I read an article in Christianity Today called, "11 Ways to be Church for Those Who Don't Go to Church". The premise of the article is that forming authentic relationships will build the trust necessary to talk about God or invite others to church. Some of the ideas are: Build relationships with no strings attached, be more joyful and less mean, live with integrity, be scandalously generous, and be available.



These sound like the foundation to building an authentic friendship. I think we all could benefit from that kind of relationship. Jesus didn't spend much time in the synagogue, but he did spend a lot of time out in the community building relationships with people. Let us not only come to church, but let us also BE the church.

You can read the article at: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/karl-vaters/2015/october/11-ways-to-be-church-for-those-who-dont-go-to-church.html?paging=off - bmb=1>

Journeying with you,

Pastor Jill

Religion in the News

In football there is an “us vs. them” mentality. The focus is always on your next opponent. But according to retired NFL running back Clinton Portis, former head coach Jim Zorn drew the battle line in the Washington Redskins’ locker room.

Portis claims Zorn divided the team into two groups: Christians and ballplayers.

“So if you didn’t believe in what he believed in . . . if you weren’t the guys who sat and prayed with him and did everything the way they thought your life should be, you kind of got, ‘Well, you’re not doing right’ speeches directed toward you,” said Portis.

Nothing really went right for Zorn during his tenure with the Redskins. The team went 8-8 during his first year as coach before falling to 4-12. Zorn was then fired.

Memories of St. Paul’s

To help celebrate Heritage Fest during the month of October, some church members submitted their favorite memories of St. Paul’s. Here are their stories:

****My Grandfather, Fred Krunnfusz, was involved with the groundbreaking of the church in 1875. My mother was born into the church so she was a lifetime member. I was born into the church, so I’m proud to say that I am a lifetime member, too. Originally services were held in German and eventually went to two services—one in German and one in English.**

When I was in Kindergarten Sunday School Mrs. Karge was our teacher. We all dearly loved her. She lived on the corner of Dundee Avenue and Dexter Street, a neighbor to the Voight family—all St. Paul’s families. On occasion she would walk us to her house for cookies during Sunday School time. Her son married Rosa Hodel from our church family. In those days young people married other people within the church.

As we grew older Sunday School met in the big church. Each class had their own pew to meet in. We would sing a couple songs, say a couple prayers and we would retire to our individual classroom in the basement. Everyone would march up the aisle to the back of the church and take the stairs down to the basement. All of the students would be singing “Onward Christian Soldiers” as we marched. You could hear us all over the church. I remember how the bigger boys would really belt it out! We all did! That is still one of my favorite songs.

As we grew older we got a different teacher. Mabel Ross took over a class of all girls. She was great. We all stayed together for many years. She would plan picnics and movies on Saturday afternoons. We all got along so well that we didn’t want to miss

Sunday School. When she married Elmer Baker from our church family, we girls had a party for her.

Rev. Rest was our new minister and it was confirmation time for my age group. We were Rev. Rest's first confirmation class. We were a big class and really gave him a hard time. The boys did their tricks and piled up chairs in the doorway so Rev. Rest couldn't get in. (The girls were good). Our class met for two years. Rev. Rest made us study, too. Les Rohrsen and Helen Selpien were also in this class.

We had a great youth group. We did a lot of fun stuff. I remember Melvin Drafall was the only one at 16 who had a car, besides our leaders. We would all pile into the cars and go to Bartlett for a free outdoor movie and then come back to the church for food. As we got older and started dating non-St. Paul's kids, we would bring them along, too. Lots of good memories! Besides fun things we had many discussions about life and teenage problems.

In those days church did lots of entertaining, because there was no TV. We put on plays, talent shows, minstrels, father-son and mother-daughter banquets. There was something going on all the time to be a part of. I would say we had a close-knit congregation where everybody knew everybody.

Rev. Rest stayed until 1944. We were the last couple he married before he moved to another church. Everyone liked him so well that we kept in touch with him and his family.

When my boys were growing up, there were active in sports sponsored by the church—basketball, baseball, shuffleboard. Even my husband played on the men's baseball team.

So you see St. Paul's has always been a part of my life since day one. My mom and dad were active members when my brother and I were growing up. My dreams for St. Paul's are to keep doing as we are. New families are joining us, which is great. We need to reach out to more families and show them why they would want to be one of us. We can rely on our younger members (and we do have some great ones) to carry on our great church. I'm sure with God's blessing they will. I have great confidence that our wonderful new church will grow and grow. Under God's love and guidance, anything is possible.

I feel proud and honored to tell people I belong to St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

—Ariel Bruhn

**The memories that I have are from the Easter Sunday services. I don't exactly remember the years, but it was back when men wore suits and women wore dresses. I would guess that it was in the early 1960's and was the same for several years.

Our family always went to the early service on Easter. We were still mourning the crucifixion of Jesus and the lights in the church would be dimmed. People would file to their seats and there was very little talking. Beverly Hoffman would be up in the balcony where nobody could see her. She would sing, a cappella, “Were you there when they crucified the Lord?” It was always a special time.

When she finished the song, the lights would be turned up and everyone in the church would start singing “Alleluias” to celebrate Christ rising from the dead. It was not something that you just heard, but something that you felt. A special time.

—Gary Brown

St. Paul’s celebrates history during Heritage Fest

Well over 100 people attended St. Paul’s Heritage Fest on Oct. 17. Even though the weather was a bit chilly, kids enjoyed the bouncy house and everyone indulged in German cuisine and entertainment.



Ladies Auxiliary

The Sweet Berry restaurant is where the ladies auxiliary went on Oct. 1, 2015, for the October "Out to Lunch" meeting. Fourteen ladies attended. We celebrated the birthday of Helen Selpien (Oct. 29) and sang the birthday song to her. Corrine Eickstaedt read the minutes of the September meeting and Joy gave the treasurer's report. We were reminded about the contest to name the house on Switzer and also reminded those in attendance to start bringing white elephant items, wrapped, to our meetings to use as prizes when we play bingo.

Judy Olsen is going to check the church coffee hour schedule and pick a date when the auxiliary can do coffee hour. We were asked to be thinking about Christmas and where we would like to go for lunch and a Christmas party.

Doris Weber, who is on the visiting committee, said they have been to see Helen Diekman, Betty Cannon and Audrey Heinrich, and were going to see Bob Kasper.

Worship & Mission Ministries—Build-A-Meal

"But Jesus said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men . . . and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled." Luke 9:13-14, 16-17

In October, our church participated in the Hampshire/Burlington Crop Walk. As part of this activity, we brought our food donation to the Hampshire/Burlington Food Pantry and had the opportunity to walk through their facility. It was very nice meeting and being able to help out another community near our church family.



Sunday, Nov. 22. Each week we will focus on a different area of the meal; however, you may bring items any week you wish. If you want to change up the meal, you may bring breakfast items or even baby food.

This month, we are again inviting you to help build meals for the Elgin Interfaith Food Pantry. We are collecting food items through Harvest

Nov. 1—Protein (canned meat, beans, peanut butter)

Nov. 8—Grains, pasta and pasta sauces

Nov. 15—Vegetables

Nov. 22—Fruit (any fresh fruit and veggies can be brought this day)

Financially Speaking

The total receipts for the month of September were \$83,122.09. Our spendable income came to \$82,756.34 including our OCWM income of \$210.

Our charitable income for September was \$35 to World Service, \$430 to the Neighbors in Need, \$245 to Crop Walk Mission, and \$56.75 to PADS.

November Council Meeting

Council will hold its next meeting on Nov. 19, at 7 p.m., at the church. We will be sharing brief reports from each ministry. Most of this meeting is being devoted to filling in amounts and discussing the 2016 budget. As always, church members are welcome.

November Greeters

Nov. 1: Polly, Jon and Family

Nov. 8: Dale and Sandy Volkening

Nov. 15: Ralph and Elsie Ward

Nov. 22: Jeff, Jackie and Julia

Terpstra

Nov. 29: Mike and Karen Westerman

Thank you, St. Paul's

Dear St. Paul's Church,

Thank you so much for all the school supplies you so generously donated to IL Park. They are such a blessing to my school. I truly appreciate your partnership. St. Paul's is such an amazing place and I am so happy to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

With God's Blessings,

Karen Smith

In the event of bad weather . . .

Before we know it, winter storms will be upon us. In order to keep informed about church cancellations, we have set up an account through Remind. If you signed up last year you do not need to do anything. If you have not signed up, or if your email or phone number has changed, please follow the steps below.

- To sign up for text alerts from St. Paul's text this: @stpaulsuc to 224.231.5038. You will immediately get a text back asking for your name. Reply with your name.
- To sign up to receive email alerts send an email to: stpaulsuc@mail.remind.com. You can leave the subject and message of the email blank.

If you do not have texting or email, sign up for a phone call by calling the church office (847.628.6118) or leave your name on the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Narthex.

We want your pictures

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at stpauls4me@yahoo.com. Please include any descriptions. Your photos could appear in the digital edition of The Chimes.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Staff

Jill Terpstra – Pastor

Jon Kobel – Choir Director

Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor

Linda Becker – Secretary

Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council

Anne Heinrich – President

Karen Westerman – Vice President

Sandy Volkening – Financial Secretary

Myron Meglin/Dave Thompson -Treasurer

Cindy Heinrich – Recording Secretary

Christian Education – Karen Smith

Evangelism – Polly Russell

Fellowship/Hospitality – Janet Werner

Mission – Barb Kamp

Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick

Properties – Dan Heinrich

Stewardship – JoAnn Pate

Worship – Vernon Knaak