

## For the glory of God

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:13

On Father's Day weekend I attended the Illinois Conference Annual Celebration in Peoria, Ill. It was uplifting to gather with United Church of Christ pastors and lay leaders from all over Illinois to worship, pray and learn together. The keynote speaker was the Rev. Traci

Blackmon and she encouraged us to look out for the least of these in our communities, in the country and around the world.



The most inspirational message I heard came not from the keynote or even a fellow minister, but from an 18-year-old girl named Otissa. She is on the brink of adulthood and trying to figure out what she wants to do with her life. She shared that she's not sure what she “wants to be when she grows up,” but she knows how she wants to live her life. She wisely told the crowd of mostly adults that it doesn't matter what you do, as long as you do it to the glory of God.

She shared that she learned this lesson not from Sunday school but instead from watching basketball. She was particularly inspired by one of the top shooters, Stephen Curry who plays for the Golden State Warriors. After he makes a shot he pounds his chest and then points to the sky as a reminder that he plays for God.

Let us all remember that no matter what we do, we can do it to the glory of God.



Journeying with you,

*Pastor Jill*

## **What did Jesus do?**

In continuing our series of interesting facts (or fiction?) you may not know about Jesus, many say he was born in an actual house, not a barn or stable.

Luke 2:7 says, “and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger . . .” According to Bible archaeological experts, Jesus was probably born in the house of relatives because of the Greek word kataluma, which is used in the Scripture and means “inn” or “guest room”. Luke uses the same word when referring to the place where Jesus and His disciples observed the Last Supper.

Joseph and Mary traveled to town to stay in a relative’s home, where Mary could deliver the child safely. However, when they arrived they probably found it full so they just crashed in the lower floor, where animals are kept at night. In the ancient world and primitive modern cultures, mangers were built within the house so animals could be protected from the heat, cold or theft.

## **Wider Mission Ministry**

July we will be collecting for the “Step it Up” Shoe Drive for children in need of school shoes through the First Baptist Church. We are looking for tennis shoes (children size 10 through adult size 10) for either boys or girls. We will be collecting through July 24.

The Heartland Blood Drive will be on July 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m at St. Paul’s. Our goal is to receive 20 units of blood, so 30 people will need to sign up. There will be a sheet available for people to make an appointment, and there also will be online registration. Each successful donor will receive a coupon for a pint of Baskin Robbins ice cream.

## **Scholarship Report**

There were two individuals who applied for a scholarship this year. The applicants must meet the following requirements: financial need, involvement in the life of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ and academic standing. After careful review of both applications and prayerful consideration, the committee has awarded scholarships to the following:

Alison Smith, who will be a senior at Judson University majoring in special education; and

Daniel Wayeshe, who will be a junior at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale majoring in aviation.

Scholarships are funded through contributions to the Scholarship Fund, not the General Fund. The Scholarship Committee and recipients would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

## UCC Vacation Bible School 2016

St. Paul's UCC teamed up with Cornerstone UMC for Vacation Bible School June 2024 at Goebbert's in Hampshire. The theme was Cave Quest, an over-the-top underground adventure where kids walked away with the understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and shine His light. All the kids and volunteers had a wonderful time with all of the adventures.



## **Summer PrayerGround**

For six weeks this summer (July 3 – Aug 7), we are going to try something new. In place of School School, we will have a special area set up in the sanctuary called a PrayerGround. This will be a special place just for kids filled with quiet activities that fit with the theme for the day. Children will stay in worship for the entire service and nursery will still be available for our littlest worshippers.

Our focus for the summer will be the life of Moses. We will use parts of the animated movie Prince of Egypt to guide us. It will be a fun summer for our whole church family!

## **Financially Speaking**

The total receipts for the month of May were \$14,631. Our spendable income came to \$14,464 including our OCWM income of \$256. We had charitable income of \$167, including \$55 for the Building Endowment Fund and \$112 for Strengthen the Church.

## **July Greeters**

July 3 Janet Werner and Polly Russell	July 10 Fred and Karen Vollman
July 17 Judy Olsen and Joy Zweifel	July 24 Jon Kobel and Corrine Eickstaedt
31 Chuck and Karen Smith	

## **We want your pictures**

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto: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	Linda Becker – Secretary
Jon Kobel – Choir Director	Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist
Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor	Dale Volkening - Janitor

### **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