



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

11795 Rte. 216  
Fulton, MD 20759  
301-725-0241

## News & Notes

March, 2020

Volume 13 Issue 03

## Worship Schedule

Sunday 8:30am (in Sanctuary) and 11:00am (in Sanctuary)

**Adult Sunday School with Pastor Dave Shank 9:45am.** Topic- "The Story" by Max Lucado and Randy Frazee. Location—Parish Hall.

**Wednesday Bible Study Group: (Thursday Group will meet on Wednesdays for Lent)**

**6PM** This group will be studying "Wonderous Love" (Join the e-mail list to receive the readings of the week in advance.)

Youth Schedule

**March 15th and March 29th Confirmation Class 6:30pm (29th with parents)**  
(Please let the congregation know of any upcoming activities, shows, events that the congregation could support)

## Important Upcoming Dates



*Please Join the St. Paul's Family for the following events:*

**Wednesday, Mid-Week Lenten Services:**

**March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st**

**Mornings**

**6:30 am** Chapel open for individual prayer

**7:00 am** Morning Prayer liturgy

**Evenings**

**6 pm** Soup & Salad, **6:30pm-Lenten Devotions**  
("Wondrous Love") in the Parish Hall

**7 pm** Holden (musical/singing ) Evening Prayer  
in the Sanctuary



God's work, our hands.

**Saturday, March 14, Brotherhood Spaghetti 6:00 – 7:30 PM**

**PARISH HALL \$12 ADULTS \$5.00 CHILDREN age 7 – 12 CHILDREN age 6 AND UNDER FREE** Featuring a variety of spaghetti and noodles. A variety of sauces. Garlic bread. Garden salad with a variety of salad dressings. Orange or Raspberry Sherbet. Iced Tea, Lemonade or Coffee.

## Sesquicentennial Celebration Continues



February we had a bulletin insert from Jim Kerwin. March 1st we continued our celebration with a warm welcome to Pastor Jason Burns. The plan is to continue for Temple talks on "What St. Paul's means to me and my family" and/or bulletin inserts on the topic and to plan for special activities and our normal activities with a 150th flair. There will also be service projects for everyone to take part in too! Another meeting is scheduled to take place in March on the 9th at 7 pm at Betty Kerwin's home.



## Upcoming Events:

- **MAR 7 WOMEN'S GROUP 9AM—11AM**
- **MAR 9 150TH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETS 7PM BETTY KERWIN'S HOME**
- **MAR 14 BROTHERHOOD PARISH HALL 8AM**
- **MAR 14 BROTHERHOOD SPAGHETTI DINNER PARISH HALL 6PM**
- **MAR 15TH CONFIRMATION CLASS 6:30PM**
- **MAR 15TH COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS**
- **MAR 17 SR. FELLOWSHIP PARISH HALL 11:30 AM**
- **MAR 20TH FAITH IN THE MOVIES 7PM LAUREL TOWN CENTER**
- **MAR 21ST GRASSROOT 8AM**
- **MAR 27TH OUTING THE LITTLE MERMAID AT RESERVOIR HIGH SCHOOL, FULTON, MD 7PM**
- **MAR 29 CONFIRMATION CLASS WITH PARENTS 6:30PM**

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## Pastor's Corner



“Rejoice always,  
pray continually,  
give thanks in all  
circumstances;  
for this is God’s  
will for you in  
Christ Jesus “

1 Thessalonians  
5:16-18 (NIV)

**March 2020**

Lent is upon us!

On the first Sunday in Lent, the Gospel reading is always about the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. It was during this time when he was alone and tempted by the devil. He fasted, he prayed, and he made it through those 40 days in the wilderness.

There are times in each of our lives when we too are in the wilderness. Sometimes, that wilderness is physical, and often it is mental, emotional or spiritual. These are not easy times. It’s in those moments when our faith can really be tested, where we can find ourselves questioning whether or not God is really there with us, and we may really have to push ourselves to persevere, so that the time in the wilderness comes to an end.

How do we get through these “wilderness” times? Often, just as Jesus did. Through prayer and fasting. Praying for clarity in moving forward, for strength to make it through, and for the tools to get where you need to be can help us in the times when things are difficult. Abstaining from all food for 40 days may not be what we do, but fasting from something or from some sort of food can help us gain some clarity when times feel dark.

There are also some other disciplines we can use to give us clarity. When Jesus was confronted by the devil and tempted in the wilderness, one of the ways he fought off the devil’s offers was to use scripture. That is another way we can work through what is going on in our lives. We can rely on the scriptures, read, study and contemplate in order to gain the clarity we need and to seek guidance for how to move forward in our lives.

There are bound to be multiple times in our lives when we are faced with feeling as though we are in the wilderness. Those times can come when they are expected, as in times of transition, grief or illness. Sometimes though, those times come without a clear reason. When things are going well, we may feel as though we are all of a sudden thrown into a wilderness time and we don’t know what to do.

While these are difficult times to move through, with the help of our God, and with the help of our faith community, we can get through them! So, whether you are entering this Lenten season feeling as though you are in the wilderness, or you are entering it feeling like you are ready to go, and ready to tackle your spiritual disciplines, may this be a blessed time of spiritual renewal!

**Peace,**

*Pastor Carolyn*

## Associate Pastor

March 2020

Greetings!

For March, I continue to try something new. When I write to you each month, I am going to choose to write on one of the Spiritual Discipline areas in which I serve. So, each month, I will be choosing to write on Evangelism, Stewardship or Christian Education as they relate to the life of our church.

For this month I share some thoughts around Christian Education. On Sunday mornings since September our Adult Christian Education class has been journeying together in the pages of the Old Testament. We are using a book entitled “The Story” to guide our time together. This is a narrative presentation of the Bible. It assists our time together by dividing the Bible into 10-12-page chapters that make it very easy for the reader to get a great overall feeling of a particular time, story or character within the pages of scripture. There are also discussion topics that lead our class into various areas of pondering what God has to say to us daily. The time together is wonderful, and I highly recommend you join us!!

On one Sunday recently our conversation led us into a time of thinking about accountability. Specifically, we started to talk about our accountability when it comes to our spiritual and prayer life. This led us to ask about some good guiding resources that we could use to aid us in these areas.

I guided the class to the following 22 questions. These are 22 questions that are to be pondered and asked privately when we are talking to God through prayer. Especially during these 40 days of Lent, I share these now with you and invite you to ponder...and pray!

- Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better

than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?

- Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?
- Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?
- Can I be trusted?
- Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?
- Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- Did the Bible live in me today?
- Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
- Am I enjoying prayer?
- When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?
- Do I pray about the money I spend?
- Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?
- Do I disobey God in anything?
- Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?
- Am I defeated in any part of my life?
- Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
- How do I spend my spare time?
- Am I proud?
- Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?
- Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- Do I grumble or complain constantly?
- Is Christ real to me?

Lenten Blessings,

*Pastor Dave +*



**“When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?”**

**Pastor Dave**

## News and Notes

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### Council President

#### President's Message    March 2020



He (Jesus) said to them "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Matthew**  
**22:37-39**

August 2016, The LEAD (Living Every day as Disciples) Team was born.

Pastor Carolyn, Ryan Dymek, Judy Hewitt, John Korsland, Liz Morris, Patrick Thompson, and I went to our first LEAD retreat. We knew that we attended the same church, and some of us were familiar with one another, but we were unsure of what we had signed up for and how this was going to help the little stone church on the corner, our beloved St. Paul's. Through team-building, bible study, prayer, and through the grace of Jesus, we learned to listen to God, each other, the congregation, and the community. What we have discovered and already knew is we at St. Paul's want to serve others, we want to share the good news of Christ and want to help people in need. The congregation has stepped up to help Grassroots and the Day Resource Center. On February 28 and 29th, this same team will meet for our final retreat to be blessed and continue to take what we've learned to listen to other people in the community to find out how St. Paul's can serve this ever-expanding community. So as our team continues to look outward, another group consisting of Pastor Carolyn, John Korslund, Lynne Bassler, Bret Hassel, Karen Jennings, Peter Newman, and David Riethmiller will begin the "centering" process. This process focuses on the internal part of St. Paul's and understanding what our core values and beliefs are so we can communicate them with the community. If you happened to be in a group at church that used the "Value Cards," this is where this group comes in.

Many thanks to all who have stepped up to be part of the LEAD process, and with God's guidance, we will be known as the little church on the corner that continues to reach out and help our neighbors.

Peace,

*Julie Smith*



## Volume 13, Issue 03

### Stewardship

ELCA

2019 giving statements are available in the office and in the parish hall. Any questions can be directed to Donna Frederick at [frederickdonna@verizon.net](mailto:frederickdonna@verizon.net).

If anyone would like an envelope or pledge card please contact Bob Peters [bob.peters31@gmail.com](mailto:bob.peters31@gmail.com) or email Donna Frederick



“Verily I say unto you, in as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.”

**MATTHEW 22:37b-39**

### Thrivent Dollars -

This is still time to direct your 2019 “Thrivent Dollars” till March 31st. Should you need assistance please call the church office 301-725-0241 or email Donna Frederick at [frederickdonna@verizon.net](mailto:frederickdonna@verizon.net).

### Amazon Smile-

Thanks to all those who donated to St. Paul’s using Amazon Smile. You can continue to do so all year long by going to the church website at this link <https://stpaulslutheran.info/donate#amazon> There, click on the Amazon Smile image. Then you will be taken to the Amazon website. A pop-up will ask if you want to make St. Paul's your Amazon Smile charity. Click "Yes," then shop as normal.

### From the Evangelism Committee:

We usually meet the 1st Monday of the month at 7pm in the Chapel.

For February the committee worked on planning out St. Paul’s Events with a 150th flair.

Note: Our December support of a local family was a rousing success and we plan to do more this year.

**Activities that are in the works:** We are working with the L.E.A.D. team in finding ways to connect with the community. One such opportunity has been identified. St. Paul’s is helping Grassroots to prepare and serve a meal on a bi-monthly basis. These are taking place on third Saturday of the odd number months at 8 am. Next Event March 21st with the Thursday Worship group sponsoring. June 6th an outing to see the Bible Museum in D.C. near K Street. Also an outing to see Esther at Site & Sound has been moved to the fall.



Join us as we search for other opportunities and service projects with a 150th flair.



**“St. Paul’s Jonathan MacKrell will have the role of Flounder in the March 27, 2020 at 7 pm Reservoir production of “The Little Mermaid”. Please sign-up in the Parish Hall as you come in the door nearest to the parsonage where the altar flower and sanctuary sign-up sheet is located.**



### Easter Egg Hunt 2020:

If you would like to contribute individually wrapped candy for St. Paul's Easter Egg hunt this year, please drop it off in the Parish Hall by Sunday, March 29.

*Elizabeth Ohl*  
Christian Education

### St. Paul's Senior Fellowship



The next Senior Fellowship luncheon will be held on March 17th beginning at 11:30am. Join us for food and fellowship. As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, we will complete our **"50 bagged lunches"** project for Grassroots. You are encouraged to show your St. Patrick's Day spirit by wearing your green. If you plan to attend, **please RSVP** by calling or emailing Joe and Cathy Dymek at (410-531-1057 or [jcdymek@verizon.net](mailto:jcdymek@verizon.net)) or by signing up on the Welcome sheets.

**We look forward to seeing you in March and please bring a friend!**

#### Note:

1) We follow Howard County School's inclement weather policy. If the schools are closed that day we will not have the meeting. However if, they are delayed, our meeting **will go on as planned.**

2) In December, the members of Senior Fellowship created **"God's Grace Bags"** that contained items that could be given to someone that is homeless or in need. The congregation has embraced this ministry and to date 75 bags have been created. At this time, in order to continue, we are asking the congregation for cash donations to purchase the necessary items to fill more bags. The items purchased will continue to be non-perishable so that you can keep a bag in your car. The bags will be updated with contents appropriate for the weather. If you would like to donate funds, please designate them for Senior Fellowship.



### Women's Group

The Women of St. Paul's will meet March 7th 9am to 11 am. Contact Julie Smith or Sandy August for more information. **All women are welcome to join the 1st Saturday of the month 9 am to 11 am.**

### Music– Notable Events



**Youth Choir-** Tues-  
days from 7 to 7:45pm.

**Bell Choir-** Meets  
in the Bells Room, Tuesdays at 7pm

**Chancel Choir-** meets Thurs-  
days from 7 to 8:30pm

### Audio Recordings

Check out the website for recordings of St. Paul's services. All services from the last 2 months can be found under Gallery/Audio. Just click <http://stpaulslutheran.info/messages/sermon-audio>

Hearing assistance is available. Please ask an usher.



11795 Route 216  
Fulton MD 20759  
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## “Like” us on Facebook!

For a while now we have had a St. Paul's Facebook group, we also have a public page! Find us and click “like” and **share** and watch us for announcements! Tell your friends too!

[www.facebook.com/StPaulsFulton](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsFulton)

(St. Paul's Social Media)

We're on the Web!  
[www.stpaulslutheran.info](http://www.stpaulslutheran.info)

“Follow” us on Twitter! <https://twitter.com/stpaulsfulton>

“Tag” us on Instagram! <https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsfulton/>

## Women's Daily Grace— Simple Mindfulness!



2/24/2020

When all kinds of distractions pull us in multiple directions, it can be a serious challenge to live in the moment, even if that moment is not unpleasant. Mindfulness is an age-old practice of paying attention. In mindfulness, we focus our awareness on the present moment in a non-judgmental way and then acknowledge and accept whatever comes to us. Being mindful not only creates space for mental and emotional calm, but it also carries with it some physical benefits too, with stress reduction leading the list.

Given the chaos, negativity and dysfunction in our world today, it's no secret that many of us want (and need) to focus on the present moment (and God's presence in that moment) instead of operating on stress-induced autopilot.

When we don't live in the present, we can miss the many promptings of the Holy Spirit. Imagine how our entire community would benefit from our collective stewardship of emotions, stewardship made simpler through mindfulness.

*This message is an excerpt from “Grace notes: Minding the moment” by Linda Post Bushkofsky in the October 2019 issue of Gather magazine.*

## Lectionary Readings for the Month

### Mar. 1st— 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 (10); Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

### Mar. 8th—2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 (1,2); Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

### Mar. 15th—3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 (1); Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

### Mar. 22nd 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 (5); Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### Mar. 29th—5th Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (5); Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45





By: Kerry Griffin

St. Paul's Archivist

February 26, 2020

Tales from the Archives is a presentation from the Archives at St. Paul's.

Contributions of items of significance to the Church History or contributions of stories are welcome and encouraged. Please submit by the 20th of the month.

It is the goal of the Archive to preserve the Church History and make selected portions of it known to the congregation from time to time.

I can be contacted at:

301.518.8460 cell

kerrygriffin@verizon.net

### What's happening in the Archive?

- ◆ 150th-Anniversary Memorabilia
- ◆ St. Paul's Picture Day.

(Shown right: Picture of Elsie Mae and Benny Bassler's Wedding taken at Clifton Park Baptist Church.

Left to Right, Rev. W. Millar (Clifton Park Baptist Church), Elsie Mae Bassler, Benny Bassler and Pastor Ted Menter (St. Paul's, Fulton)

Let me know if any one else would like to share?

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### Archive March 2020

As I write the next installment of "Tales from the Archive" it is now Lent. The 150th Celebration is in full swing. Pastor Burns visited with us this past Sunday, March 1st.

I wanted to share with you some of the 150th memorabilia that Charles Iager brought into the Parish Hall on the table between the windows of the back wall. (On the facing page.)

It is a snapshot in time of life in Howard County and St. Paul's as it was back in the day. I want to encourage everyone to please stop by and browse the collection.

I will be putting together a memory book of the bulletin inserts, temple talks and hopefully statements from the former visiting Pastors, or family, Sons and Daughters of the Congregation which will be on display in the narthex. I also hope to have a scrapbook for any items of memorabilia that other members of the congregation might like to either donate to the archive or simply loan.

As suggested by Elizabeth Ohl I think it would also be nice to set up a small bulletin board in the narthex that could sit on a display easel.

So, I will be setting one up for the sesquicentennial. This way we can pin up announcements and other things of interest to share with the congregation.

In this way hopefully the St. Paul's

family would be encouraged to share items of interest from our rich history.

The 150th teams will be meeting again March 9th at 7 pm at Betty Kerwin's home. So if you have an idea or something you would like to share it is not too late to join us and get on one of the teams.

### St. Paul's Picture Day

I also wanted to let everyone know that St. Paul's will again be putting together another photo directory.

Lifetouch will be doing the photography.

**The dates they will be with us are July 13,14, and 15th from 2 pm to 9 pm.**

So please put this on your radar and watch for more information and the sign-up for the day and time slot of your choice.

We are hoping to include as many of our St. Paul's family as we can. If you know you can't sit for one of those dates, please consider sharing a photo of your own for inclusion in the directory.

The plan is to also make it a special edition with pictures of the actual big day in October. Then the directory will be all assembled with this additional content and hopefully in everyone's hands by the end of the year.

So please plan to be a part of this moment in our history.

Jack Frost has volunteered to help with this endeavor. If you have an idea or would like to join the Directory Team, please let me know?

**Respectfully Submitted,**

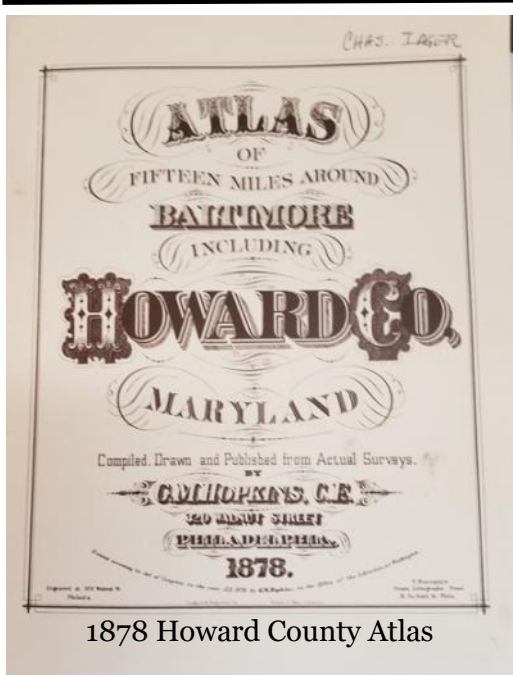
*Kerry Griffin*

Archivist

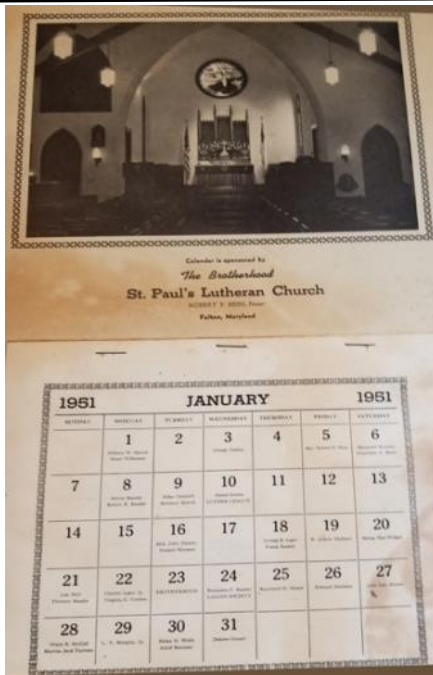
(C. Iager photos on page 9)







1878 Howard County Atlas



St. Paul's 1951 Calendar

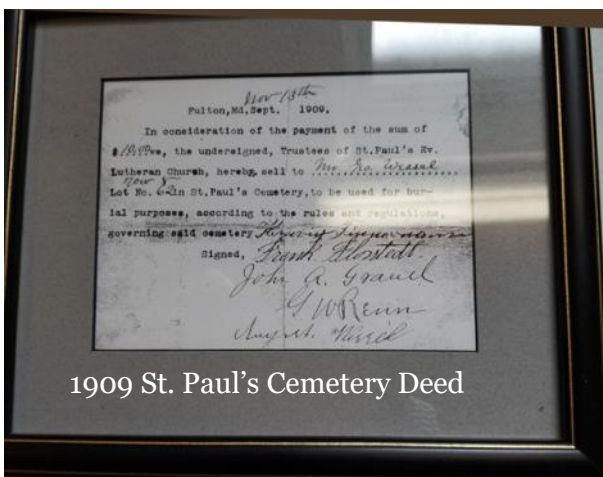
## Volunteers Needed

I will be attempting to update the history of "St. Paul's Volume 3" from 1995 to the present day.

I need to hear from all those with a memory of an event they would like to share or an important happening that should be recorded and/or photos.

I will be putting this together to come out this year. Hopefully in time for the celebration.

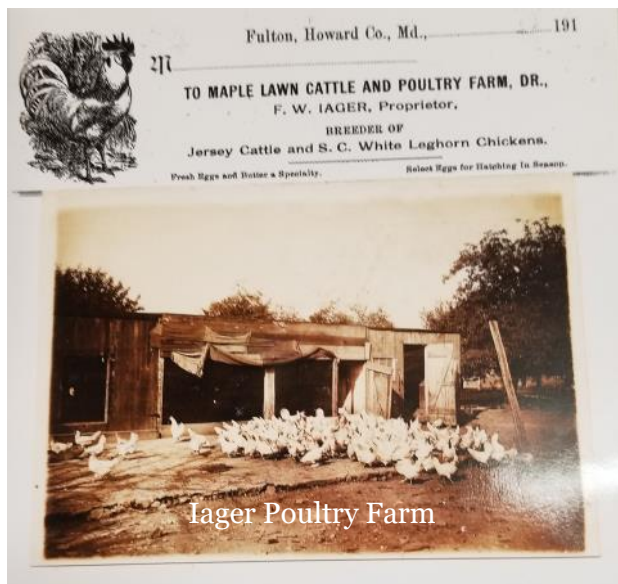
Please help me tell our story!



1909 St. Paul's Cemetery Deed



Iager Farm



Iager Poultry Farm



Fulton Post Office

### Property Committee Notes for February

1. The guidelines and rules for the Community Garden have been completed. We are waiting on good weather so we can till the garden again.
2. New signage has been ordered for the church. We are waiting for the mock-up to approve the order.
3. The heat pump has been replaced in the Chapel. Hopefully that is the end of all the problems. The unit has a two year labor warranty and a ten year compressor warranty.
4. The new flooring has arrived for the Wessel room. We are just waiting on John Murphy to prep the sub-floor. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO STEVE AND DONNA SEALING FOR PROVIDING THE MATERIALS.
5. A water alarm was installed in the basement of the parsonage.
6. We were notified that Verizon will be replacing the copper lines to the church with fiber lines. We are pricing upgrades to the fire alarm system to accommodate the new lines.

Thanks, to all those persons who have helped out in the past and also to those who have volunteered to help going forward.

*John Murphy*

**Property Committee Chairman**



### Men's Brotherhood

The Men of St. Paul's gather on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month for breakfast, a brief business meeting and devotions. All males in the congregation are welcome and invited to attend! Next meeting is March 14th

Officers: Ken Keefer, President; Mike Heyser, Vice President; Randy Baldini Treasurer; Randy Arndt, Secretary

### Men's Brotherhood Notes from February 2020 Meeting:

1. We discussed a write up summarizing the history of the Men's Brotherhood for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
2. We discussed plans for the Spaghetti Dinner on March 14th.
3. We discussed current Property Committee projects.
4. We had a brief devotional lead by Pr. Dave and briefly discussed having a Brotherhood Sunday.

The Men's Brotherhood is open to all men in the congregation of any age. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month for a Breakfast Meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am. Anyone with questions on the Brotherhood can contact any of the Officers.

*Ken Keefer*

**Brotherhood President.**



### **A Thank you to the Congregation from our Youth**

The youth group enjoyed a crazy busy February and are grateful for the warm support of St Paul's congregation. Our activities this past month were highlighted by the Grassroots dinner on Friday, Feb 21 (kicking off our famine lock-in) and the annual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. Sincerest thanks to everyone who shared in the meals and games.

Special shout-outs are needed for our overnight chaperones, Amy Emad, Elizabeth Ohl and Mike Heyser. And thank you John Murphy for chaperoning and being our unflappable head chef for both meals. Erik Domaas' smile and helpful hands in the kitchen were key.

Russ Werner's Bible Jeopardy was back to great reviews this year at the pancake supper. Thank you, Russ.

Heyser Farms contributed yummy sausage and real Maryland maple syrup. All of the great food and fellowship helped highlight the lessons about hunger the youth group studied during their famine.

Grassroots will receive over \$1200 from the event proceeds and our pancakes added about \$360 to the youth group fund. Thank you, St. Paul's. We truly could not have succeeded without YOU!

**Signed,**

*Sue Meoni and Your Youth Group*



## Upcoming March Events

11795 Rte. 216 Fulton, MD 20759 stpaulslutheran.info, Instagram: stpaulsfulton Twitter: @stpaulsfulton		<b>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</b>  Celebrating 150 Years of Ministry 1870 - 2020
<b>SPAGHETTI DINNER</b>		
<b>WHEN:</b>	Saturday, March 14, 2020 6:00 – 7:30 PM	
<b>WHERE:</b>	PARISH HALL	
<b>WHO:</b>	EVERYONE, young and old, in St. Paul's congregation plus their friends, relatives, neighbors, etc. We urge you to invite everyone whom you think may be interested in having a great meal and fellowship together.	
<b>COST:</b>	\$12 ADULTS \$5.00 CHILDREN age 7 – 12 CHILDREN age 6 AND UNDER FREE	
	<b>EATS:</b>	A variety of spaghetti and noodles. A variety of sauces. Garlic bread. Garden salad with a variety of salad dressings. Orange or Raspberry Sherbet Iced Tea, Lemonade or Coffee.
	<b>BENEFITS:</b>	St. Paul's Men's Brotherhood
Church Office: 301-725-0241		st.paulsfulton@gmail.com

- **March 15th Grand opening of the Community Garden.** (Watch for details)
- **March 20th Faith in the Movies** (See Pastor Dave for details.) We will be meeting at Regal Laurel Town Center for "I Still Believe" The Real-Life story of Christian Singer Jeremy Camp at 7 pm ([www.regmovies.com](http://www.regmovies.com)) We will be sitting around row F10 and F11.
- **March 21st Grassroots Saturday** 8 am (The Thursday Church Group will be Sponsoring)
- **March 27th Reservoir High 7 pm** will be doing a production of "The Little Mermaid" with our own Jonathan MacKrell

## Events to Watch For

 April 12th Easter	<p><u>Please Join the St. Paul's Family for the following events:</u></p> <p><b>April 5th Palm Sunday 10 am</b> (One Service Only)</p> <p><b>Holy Week–</b>  <b>Maundy Thursday April 9th @7pm</b>  <b>Good Friday April 10th @Noon,</b>          Chapel, Stations of the Cross worship in the Sanctuary @7 pm</p> <p><b>Easter April 12th—6:30 am</b> Sunrise Service in the pavilion outdoors, Sanctuary Service 8:30 am, 9:45 am Egg Hunt &amp; Breakfast, and Sanctuary Service 11 am</p>	 God's work, our hands.
 Palm Sunday April 5th @ 10am		

⇒ **New: "Classified ... in Search of" Section** to be added to website, member Facebook and Newsletter. Watch for details in all our media. Example, "In search of a ride to the doctors, pick up medicine etc."



## February Council

The February meeting was started by this month's prayer/devotion leader Julie using the Centering Prayer app.

The council reviewed the events from January. Some of the highlights include the following: The 12<sup>th</sup> night service and pot luck supper was fairly well attended. The Youth road trip participation and experience was positive, during which youth were strongly encouraged to ask questions. The Endowment Team and some council members collectively met with Yvonne Jones Lembo (ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner) and she recommends that we (1) establish a 150th Anniversary endowment fund and associated policies; (2) have her come share information with the congregation via small group meetings and temple talks. Bob Stumpff volunteered to assist with this effort using his vast knowledge and experience in this area.



For property highlights, John is prepared to order various parking and entrance signs as discussed last month. The Evangelism team is planning to buy a banner for the community garden, and recommends procuring and installing an outdoor banner display system. Rules and other logistical information for the Community Garden are being compiled this month. Also, the chapel heating and air conditioning problems continue and the recommendation is to replace the unit, as it is beyond its expected life. John has received estimates for the replacement unit.

The activities on deck for the month of March include the following: A 30 hour youth famine with a kickoff ham and mac & cheese dinner and bingo night planned for Friday February 14. Proceeds will benefit Grassroots. A Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner will be held on February 25 featuring Bible jeopardy. A new member's class will be held this Sunday after the late service. Currently expecting 4 people to participate. The lent and Easter schedule was distributed by Pr. Carolyn.

LEAD – The newly formed LEAD Wake-Up Team will develop mission and vision statements and is comprised of: John Korslund, Dave Riethmiller, Brett Hassel, Pete Newman, Karen Jennings, and Lynn Bassler. Annual Reports for 2019 will soon be due and will span January through December. Kerry Griffin reported that we are exploring “reboot” training on portions of the Elexio tool that we’re already paying for as well as potentially additional features that may be of value to our congregation (e.g., contacting the congregation or groups within the congregation via voice, text, or email).

In evangelism news a new movie group is being formed, another trip to Sight and Sound is in the planning stages, and the church plans to organize a visit to Reservoir High School to see a stage production featuring at least one of the youth in our congregation.

Thank you and tune in next month for another offering of Council's corner!

*Deb Cowell*

# 10TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF (MARCH 29, 2020)



## WE CANNOT WAIT TO SEE WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN LADLE!

Come enjoy Bridges' family-friendly fiasco as we celebrate the 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off! Local congregations come together in a friendly competition to raise awareness and funds for Bridges' programs which support those experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Participating congregations will enter their best chili in hopes of winning an award, especially the coveted Golden Ladle! As always, we will have local celebrity judges selecting the winning congregations.

Guests will have the opportunity to taste each congregations' chili and give tips to their favorite chili. There will also be opportunities to win an exciting raffle prize and fabulous silent auction items. **All proceeds will help support Bridges to Housing Stability's housing programs which provide affordable housing and supportive services to those experiencing homelessness or housing instability.**

**When:** Sunday, March 29, 2020

12:30 – 3 PM

**Where:** Dar Al-Taqwa Islamic Center

10740 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Why:** To raise funds to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Howard County.

**How much:** No Entry Fee

**More Information:** [www.bridges2hs.org/events/cco](http://www.bridges2hs.org/events/cco) or email [supportus@bridges2hs.org](mailto:supportus@bridges2hs.org)

### **It's that time again... the annual yard sale will soon be here!**

Spring will soon be upon us – time to clean out those closets and donate your unwanted treasures for the annual St. Paul's yard sale. You likely have just what someone else is looking for. The sale date is **April 25, 2020 from 8 AM to 2 PM.**



Last year we raised over \$2200 for the scholarship fund. This year Brotherhood voted to dedicate yard sale proceeds towards land mortgage principal reduction.

We appreciate donations as soon as possible to stay ahead on pricing. We accept most items in useable condition – children's clothes and toys, tools, collectables, kitchen items in good condition seem very popular. Just leave any items in the basement on the table outside the yard sale room. (We would prefer that larger items not be delivered until closer to the sale day, when the parsonage garage is available for storage.) If you need help transporting items to the church, please call John Korslund at 515-851-8110.

We will be requesting assistance from volunteers as the date approaches, so stay tuned. This event has a record of great participation and congregational fellowship. Don't miss the chance to donate, be involved, and find a few treasures for yourself! Any items not sold will be donated to the Lutheran Mission Society of Maryland for their resale or donation.

As usual, the Brotherhood will be manning the grill and our youth will be holding their annual bake sale, so no one should leave hungry. Stop by to help and shop, but most of all join us all in great fellowship and celebration of our annual spring event. We hope to see everyone there on the 25<sup>th</sup>

### 30 Hour Famine

It started out as an idea - until it wasn't. Until it was planned, orchestrated, paid for, and - finally - done.

The thirty hour famine started at noon on Friday, the 21st of February, and lasted until six on Saturday, the 22nd, broken by a large communal dinner. In total, fifteen people participated - five adults and ten teens with ages ranging from 12 to 17. Most of the teens participated in the 30 hour fast and slept over at the church together. But most of you know this - what you want to know is what went on. Why did the church and Thrivent pay to let us do this? What good does this do?

Besides the obvious - money for Grassroots, an organization that helps people who can't summon enough money to survive - these thirty hours have bonded, enlightened, and empowered the youth and adults who participated, opening our eyes to how hunger affects the world (or more accurately, the people living on it).

The youth started the fast with a dinner - and not one we could eat. Instead, we ran the dinner (with the help of adults) - preparing the food, cleaning it up, selling tickets at the door, and running the highlight of the dinner - the bingo game. In the end, the dinner raised around \$1,500 - enough to buy half a day at Grassroots! To the 50 people who showed up, thank you so much for your generous donations; they will be used at Grassroots to keep the organization running.

Once the dinner guests left, the youth pitched in and cleaned up the parish hall. And of course, took our shoes off and slid around the clean floors in our slippery socks. The night went smoothly - the adults ran the learning part of the night.

The first night's discussion was how the 1st Commandment ("You shall have no other gods") relates to hunger and what we were doing.

At first glance, it doesn't seem to have anything to do with hunger. But we soon came to realize that not only does this mean we shouldn't choose to worship another deity, but that we should put our trust in God before anyone, or anything else. This includes earthly wants like money, property, and vanity - all things that are prevalent in today's culture. But they can also only get you so far. According to ELCA's Hunger Catechism, the wealthiest one percent of the world own more than half of the world's wealth - and if this wealth was spread out evenly, we could end world hunger. But it is not - so people living in extreme poverty (less than \$1.90 a day) have to turn to others. Put their faith in other people. And those that do that put their faith in God as well, because He does His work through us, His servants. For example, programs like "Seeds of Change" help support communities in poor countries, like Malawi, by giving them what they need to start (and continue) their own farms. These farms open up jobs, access to healthy food, and provide a source of income for their community. From this we learned that it is our job to help not only our community, but other communities too, because if we don't, then who will?

After that lesson, the youth changed and went to sleep in the newly painted youth room.

One of our youth, after waking up, exclaimed that she

had had the most interesting dream. There were rows upon rows of delicious food, and she was walking by them with her sibling, so tempted to have a bit to eat. But each time, as she reached towards the tantalizing food, her sibling slapped her hand away, reminding her that she was fasting and couldn't have any food.

As our service project, the youth created drawstring bags from some of the drapery material from the quilting room and clothesline. All of the youth got to do each of the jobs - cutting, sewing, and ironing - and if we didn't already know how to do the job, we were taught, and now can sew on sewing machines, and have a basic understanding of how they function.

During breaks, we played team bonding games and watched a few *VeggieTales* movies (a great temptation for our vegan and vegetarian). In between the games and movies, we read more ELCA papers about world hunger and how it connects to various things in our religion.

At the end of the fast, the youth shared a dinner of leftovers from the night before, over which a discussion of major takeaways commenced. Some of the major youth takeaways were that everything builds - from an idea to a set date, and if we work towards our goal, the idea is very likely to happen. However, about hunger, we learned that we don't ever really deal with true hunger. Most of us experienced the greatest amount of hunger just after starting, when we got home from school. We're used to eating directly after school, so when we were expecting food and didn't get it, we experienced a strong desire to eat. That feeling quickly abated, and by the time the dinner was done, we were barely hungry. During the dinner, some of us got hungry, and this instilled a feeling of true sacrifice in those youth. We learned that when we drank hot chocolate instead of the juice, water, and tea, we felt way less hungry (in future years, this will not be something that is allowed). Hot chocolate, being (unfortunately) a type of junk food, opened our eyes to how the food industry runs things. Cheaper, easy-to-get food will fill us up, but it will not provide us any sort of real protein that would help our growth.

We thank everyone who helped to make this event possible including our Sunday school teachers (Bret Hassel and Erik Domaas), our youth group leader (Sue Meoni), Pastor Carolyn, our chaperones (John Murphy, Amy Emad, Mike Heyser, Elizabeth Ohl), our parents, and of course, you, the congregation! Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your generous donations. This fast allowed our youth to experience hunger in a new light, while also helping the community and strengthened the bonds between the youth group members, the congregation members, and God.

*Emily Ohl*



### Everyone Matters

*For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. Isaiah 25:4*

Grassroots runs a Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) from November to March, moving from church to church for a week at a time. Through our LEAD conversations with Grassroots, we learned that our neighbors at Temple Isaiah needed volunteers to help with their week in January. Sally Murphy volunteered for a weeknight evening shift and I volunteered for the Saturday overnight shift. Temple Isaiah was grateful for our support, we learned a bit about the CWS, but most importantly, those in the shelter were served. In 2019, the CWS served 64 clients, including 7 families with children, for a total of 2,234 shelter nights. Overall, Grassroots served 500 clients for a total of 24,448 shelter nights in 2019, in addition to 1,149 clients at the Day Resource Center. According to the [2018 Annual Report on Homelessness](#) in Maryland, for every shelter client, there are three more lacking shelter.

Grassroots provides a staff person and the mats/bedding, while the host church provides meals, volunteers, evening activities and rides to/from central meeting points. The shelter operates from 5:30 pm to about 7:00 am, beginning with dinner, some activities, then lights out from 10:30 until 5:30 when a light breakfast is put out along with bagged lunches. The shelter clients sign a “contract” when they check in, acknowledging the rules and promising to abide by them (there were no serious problems the night I was there). Any medications are collected and held by the Grassroots staff member. There was a room with Netflix and cushioned chairs for watching TV. Sally shuttled people who wanted a shower to and from a house on the Temple Isaiah property. Snacks and drinks were set out all night. Sleeping is hostel style, with a room for women and another for men, while family units are given their own rooms – all classrooms with furniture pushed aside or removed. The clients tend to be the same from night to night, and there were 22 people, with two families of one or two parents.

There are always at least two volunteers from the church along with a Grassroots staff member. The overnight shift started after everyone went to bed, which tends to happen before lights out. Volunteers are allowed a two-hour nap, and there must always be one person awake – we all stayed awake all night (luckily, I had the Martin Luther King holiday to recover). The Grassroots staff member was very good, caring and knowledgeable, and took charge when necessary. There was a minor dispute about leaving a door ajar because someone snored, and the rule is that it is supposed to be shut, so it was shut.

Temple Isaiah has a beautiful facility, including the ability to do laundry for the clients and provide showers (though neither are



re-

quired, as they are also available at the Day Resource Center on Guilford Rd). The clients ate at round tables with tablecloths and placemats provided by the children of Temple Isaiah, with uplifting messages and colorful artwork that was laminated. I especially liked one that said, “Everyone Matters”. The shelter clients are invited to participate in Friday night Shabbat services and often do! In the past, Temple Isaiah’s week coincided with the Super Bowl and they had a party for members of the temple along with the shelter clients, and everyone had a blast! I didn’t really see the clients until they got up for breakfast (except for the guy with insomnia who paced the hall most of the night). They look like you or me or anyone else in Howard County, not anyone that would arouse fear at first sight. Some of them had cars, even nice cars. A mother ensured her son used good manners. Most were very grateful for the hospitality of Temple Isaiah.

Temple Isaiah has been hosting CWS week for 7-8 years. It requires lots of volunteers but is really driven by the dedication of one woman, Susan Gordon, who also volunteers at the Day Resource Center every Monday. She made the last-minute call to keep the shelter open all day Saturday, because of the forecast of snow and rain – what a blessing! I really learned a lot about homelessness and Grassroots from my experience. We hope to continue helping Temple Isaiah, so please consider responding when the call comes out next year!

*Judy Hewitt*

**St. Paul’s Care Ministry**

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**Special Notes:** Have an item to share for the newsletter? Please submit items of interest by the 20th of the month for publication the first Sunday of the following month.

**Please let the church know of any Affirmations or people we should remember and other prayer requests.**

## Last But Not Least

**Photo releases:** As we continue to update our website we need your help! We have people who take photos at events and we would like to highlight these events through the website! But, we also respect your need for privacy. We will not post photos that show the faces of anyone under 18. We also will not post your photo without your permission. We ask that you contact the church office via email or snail mail or put a note in the "communications box" in the office and let us know if you DO NOT want your image used on the site.

## Social Media - Kim Moseman

Are you on Instagram or Twitter? If so, watch for information about St. Paul's on both!

Instagram: **stpaulsfulton** and Twitter: **@stpaulsfulton**