

## *President's Note for September 2019*

### **"All at once, summer collapsed into fall." Oscar Wilde**

Yes, that is often how it happens in Sacramento, we'll go from the heat of summer to the falling leaves and cool weather of fall, seemingly overnight, though here in the Sacramento valley this transition is more apt to happen in October or even November than September. This September and this fall here at St. Paul's will bring some major milestones, events and celebrations, the good Lord willing. On a page of its own of this newsletter you'll find an article from our own Reverend Doctor Donald Schedler, Ph.D. concerning major milestones he and Ruth have reached this year where the numbers sixty-five and ninety are prominently featured, give it a read and congratulations to this remarkable couple that God has richly blessed.

Skipping ahead, Saturday October 05th St. Paul's will be the host site for what we hope will become an annual Craft Faire. A variety of tables with a splendid assortment of wares will be displayed on the corner lawn and perhaps in the Fireside Room. See Sandy Wolpert for details. Saturday October 19th we'll have our annual Oktoberfest from six until nine. We always have a great time enjoying good German food, music, raffle prizes and typically a nice door prize. If you can assist there is a signup sheet in the Fireside Room, see Dede McKinnon if you have questions. See Punky Dias for tickets which will be a very reasonable fifteen dollars apiece. Both events should be a lot of fun and help showcase that St. Paul's has much to offer in terms of fellowship, outreach and yes, worship.

The big event for the month of September comes on Sunday September 22nd when St. Paul's and Pastor James E. Townsend celebrate fifty years of mutual ministry, quite a milestone. We will have our worship service as customary at ten am and after worship will join with Grace Sacramento Presbyterian Church for a joint celebratory luncheon, reminiscence and brief history lesson. Invite your friends, family and neighbors, particularly those who have historical ties with St. Paul's and Tahoe Park.

We've been rather spoiled this past eight years or so with our regular contingent of Sunday clergy. They've been our steady guide and we sometimes take that commitment for granted. We've been blessed to have Pastor Townsend to willingly and humbly find other clergy able and willing to preach when the need arises, while still preaching, presiding, leading, and filling in gaps, not to mention cleaning, spraying for weeds and being a jack of all trades. With Pastor Schedler out of the mix and with Pastor Unmacht stepping aside we've had a couple of slots to fill. I'm pleased to announce that Pastor Ray Olsen has agreed to step in for the first Sunday slot. Pastor Townsend and I recently met with Pastor Mark Vance who has moved to California from Indiana to be near his daughter. Pastor Vance is now finishing an interim position in Foresthill and then will be with us on the fifth Sunday of September and the fourth Sundays of October and November. We also look to keep Pastor Carlson and retired Bishop Mullen in the mix as well. As I believe most are already aware, Pastor Dee Emmert has graciously agreed to remain with us on the third Sunday of each month despite serving as interim pastor with our friends at Church of the Cross. Many thanks to each as they serve our Lord here at St. Paul's.

Speaking of our friends from Church of the Cross, their annual car show and pancake breakfast, which has been held here at St. Paul's the past two years, was a resounding success. I know I enjoyed the pancakes, fellowship and would have liked to take the little Triumph on display home with me. My neighbor has a 1961 Jaguar I've lusted after of late. Yes, I know, beware the tenth commandment! Fellowship helps bind our congregations and fellow believers and helps us to fulfill the two greatest commandments, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV. I quote this passage as a reminder to myself and readers that despite our diverse social and political views we are bound together by our faith and love of our Lord. Yes, we live in a testy, divisive, sound bite filled world, yet it is still possible to disagree with others without being disagreeable. Martin Luther writes in his large catechism: "It is a particularly fine, noble virtue always to put the best construction upon all we may hear about our neighbor..." Dr. Ben Carson, HUD Director, retired pediatric neurosurgeon, conservative speaker, writer and devout

Christian writes in his book One Nation: "Though today's politicians (I would expand this term to society) would have you think otherwise, it is eminently possible to have substantial disagreements with others and remain friendly and cooperative." Chapter 9, page 99, 2014 Sentinel edition. You've undoubtedly heard the quote from Lincoln that states, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." This quote echoes Christ himself in Matthew 12:25. My point is simply that there are a multitude of forces of evil and darkness in this world to combat so let's fight the good fight for truth and light and not each other as we strive to live up to the two greatest commandments.

Since First English Lutheran Church and those from the "greatest generation" established a Lutheran church presence here in Tahoe Park, initially in what had been a filling station, right after WWII we have been both blessed and a blessing. Blessed in that we now have our beautiful little brick corner lot church where we've been free to worship and commune, and a blessing in that we've striven to share our love for our Lord and his love for all of creation both here and in the surrounding community. May we be both blessed and a blessing for many years to come. Thy will be done. I'll conclude with words from our Lord.

**"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Matthew 7:12 NRSV**

**Peace and blessings,**

**Chuck Prewett**

**Council President**