

St. Paul Partners

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St. Paul Lutheran Church Staff

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Sponsored by the Startown Senior Citizens

A Word from the Pastor

FORWARD TOGETHER AS PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Dear St. Paul Family,
St. Paul's Forward Together Team, composed of *Robin Fincannon, Marty Coulter, Gail Bowman, Richard Helton, Kathy Frye (acting as scribe) and me*, have continued to meet and have spent many hours discerning, praying and planning. Since we began meeting back in January with our synod partner, Pastor Alice Johnson-Curl, there were two main goals we felt the Holy Spirit leading us to pursue.

The larger goal is that of partnering with Startown Elementary school (just down the road from us) to see what ways we could help the children and support the staff in the important work they do of educating the children in our community. Through contact with the staff at the school, a list has been generated which will be share

with you soon regarding what their needs are. A large part of their need seems to require going to their campus to help the children with things like reading, mentoring, and the lunch buddy program. In the near future we plan to generate a list of church members willing to be trained as volunteers and then begin the process of cycling in to the system. We feel this can be a smooth transition from ways we have already partnered with them in the past such as helping some of their families at Christmas time and our Christmas in July initiative.

The second and somewhat smaller goal is that of revamping our committee structure to make it more practical and something that works better for us. While the structure worked well for

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Mission Statement

We the people of St. Paul are called and empowered by God- To **Witness** through Christ;
To **Welcome** everyone through the Holy Spirit;
To **Worship** with joy; and To **Work** with God to meet the needs of our community.

Pastor's Article Continued

us in the past, we are at a different place now in the life of the congregation and so certain changes to the system are in order. Within that, your Church Council decided this year to change the term "committee" to "team." It is felt that having groups called "teams" conveys more of a sense of mission and partnership as different groups meet together as a team to organize and plan for ministry inside and outside of the church walls. Currently the Executive Team (*Pastor, Council President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer*) is looking at resources to help facilitate a new system of teams and information on this will be shared in the near future. Throughout this process we have also been reminded that our constitution (*which is 15 years old*) needs to be updated and so there is a Constitution Team working on this in partnership with the synod as well.

You may have noticed this article uses the words "team" and "partnership" quite often and that is part of what we want to convey to you. The idea that we are all part of what Martin Luther called the priesthood of all believers. The idea that no matter

who we are or how old we are or where we are at in life, God has a calling for each of us and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Startown is the place the Holy Spirit has us to put that calling into action. While there are still many details that need to be worked out, it is all a work in progress and I believe there are things yet unknown the Spirit will show us as we strive to reach out into our community in new and exciting ways. This is a good time to be the church and I believe the best days for St. Paul's are ahead of us.

In the weeks and months ahead you will be hearing more and more from our Forward Together Team. In the midst of it I look forward to our partnership in ministry as we live out our mission statement to "**witness, welcome, worship** and **work** with God to meet the needs of our community."

Yours in Christ,



And the nominees are...

The Auxiliary of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary enhances, supports and strengthens the welfare and progress of the Seminary community by providing for non-budgeted needs through memberships. This Spring we have an opportunity to both continue our Seminary support but also recognize men and women with either Lifetime Memberships (\$100.00 contribution) or Sustaining Membership (\$1.00 to \$99.00 contribution). This can be a fitting memorial for a loved one. Nominations must be submitted by April 15, 2015. Forms will be distributed in Sunday Bulletins or contact a WELCA Circle member for more information or forms.



Volunteers Needed!

Catawba Regional Hospice is currently in need of patient support volunteers to provide companionship, support, & friendship to patients and families in our area.

If you are interested in joining the Hospice volunteer family, please call Sara Waugh at 828-466-0466. The next volunteer training class meets in March.

Dear St. Paul's Congregation,
Thank you so much for your prayers, cards and phone calls while I have been in recovery.
Marie Scronce

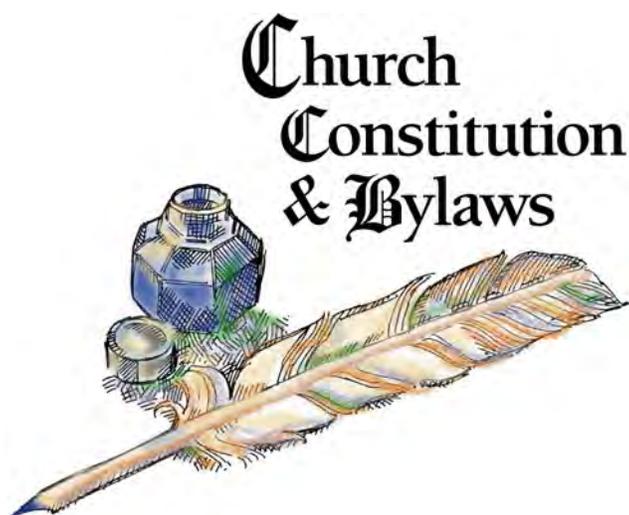


Dear St. Paul's Congregation,
Thank you so much for all the prayers during my colon cancer surgery and recovery in December and January. I'm doing very well now. I knew a lot of people were praying for me. I had a peace within me the whole time. God does answer prayers!!!
Love in Christ,
Mildred Mills

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Thank you all for your prayers and well wishes. We love and appreciate all of you. May the Lord bless you all.
Pam & Teddy Clark

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Giving makes such a big difference! Many thanks for your recent donation of \$100.00. Your support of Catawba Regional Hospice ensures a vital link to competent, compassionate support, respite and hope for this community and the surrounding region. Every year the number of patients we serve grows and each year more of those patients have limited resources. Our commitment to serve them remains steady and your donation helps ensure that commitment. We are honored that you have chosen to support our mission. Your gift from the heart is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.
Sincerely,
David B. Clarke – President

Editor's Note: The donation was made by the church in appreciation for Hospice letting Church Council use the facility for their retreat in January.



Church Constitution & Bylaws

Constitution Update Team

In case you are seeing calendar memos about meetings for the "Constitution Update Team," we want to inform the St. Paul congregation about this initiative. The last time our Church Constitution was revised was October 2000, over 14 years ago. A lot has changed in our Church since then. Your elected Church Council is undertaking updating our Constitution to reflect our current membership and methods of operation. This process will take time and will require congregational and synodical approval. The current Constitution is available for anyone to review-see Pastor Kraft, Morgan Lane or any Council member if you desire to read our current document. Your Church Council members commit to keeping you informed in the coming months.

***We did it!***

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated and helped with the Mardi Gras pancake breakfast last week. It is a joy to announce that the amount collected (including the \$1000 matching gift) comes to \$3,323. Your immense generosity and support of our young people is very much appreciated. If you would still like to make a contribution, checks can be made out to St. Paul Lutheran Church and earmarked "Youth Fund."

Saturday March 7th – 10:00am

Meet at Pin Station in Newton. Shoes are \$2.00. Games are \$2.25 for adults and \$1.75 for kids 12 and under. Please text Pastor Ralph to let him know if your family will be attending 828-855-7212.

Sunday March 29th – 11:30am

Easter Egg celebration that will include a pizza lunch, the Resurrection story and Easter games.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Camping trip at the Mission Property – Friday April 24 – Saturday April 25. More information to come soon.

Women of the ELCA

Cards, "kisses", flowers – that's how the St. Paul WELCA Circles ensured our homebound members they were loved and remembered on Valentine's Day last month. And since this year's theme is "Of Many Generations," we also helped support the youth of St. Paul with a donation during their Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast. Our Prison Cookie Ministry effort netted over 100 dozen and we give thanks for the congregational involvement in this outreach program.

But WELCA is not resting on these laurels. The Sunshine Circle meeting on March 13th in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM will be a "Favorite Hymn" sing-along. In addition to their one hour monthly meeting on March 13th at 6 PM in the Conference Room, the Sisters in Spirit will be traveling to Salisbury on March 10th to visit Rufty's, a craft store specializing in beads. This will be part of our Chrismon ornament creations, along with counted cross-stitch emblems. In March both circles will prayerfully considering nominees for the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary which need to be submitted by April 15, 2015. And, of course, we will be participating in appointing the Sanctuary for Easter.

So, you can see we are happily busy and there is much to do. Women of St. Paul, please join us as we do God's work with our hands.

**DING!! DONG!!**

Fortunately, our Handbell Group sounds MUCH better than "ding dong." But there are many bells and not enough hands. Come join this special choir as they revive a generations-old method of music. This is "Handbells 101" so no prior experience is necessary – just a willingness to learn and two (or even one) arm. We hope to see you on Wednesdays from 6 to 7 PM.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>SS; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 6pm - <i>Soup-n-Sandwich Supper</i> 6:45pm - <i>Lenten Evening Prayer</i>	2 11:30am - <i>Senior Citizens Luncheon</i>	3	4 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	5 12pm - <i>Pastor Ralph at LIGHTs Meeting</i>	6 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	7 10am - <i>Youth Meet to go Bowling</i>
8 GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 11:30am - <i>Worship & Music Team Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Soup-n-Sandwich Supper</i> 6:45pm - <i>Lenten Evening Prayer</i>	9 10am - <i>Sunshine Circle</i> 6pm - <i>Sisters in Spirit</i>	10 10am - <i>Chrismon Team departs for Salisbury</i> 6:30pm - <i>Constitution Update Team</i>	11 11am - <i>Pastor Ralph at Lutheran Ministerium Meeting</i> 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	12	13 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	14
15 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 11:30am - <i>Church Council</i> 6pm - <i>Soup-n-Sandwich Supper</i> 6:45pm - <i>Lenten Evening Prayer</i>	16 6pm - <i>Hymn Planning Team</i>	17	18 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	19 9am - <i>Cookie Ministry Pickup</i>	20 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	21
22 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 2pm - <i>Spring Conference</i> 6pm - <i>Soup-n-Sandwich Supper</i> 6:45pm - <i>Lenten Evening Prayer</i>	23	24	25 12pm - <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6pm - <i>Handbells</i> 7pm - <i>Choir Practice</i>	26	27 8pm - <i>A.A.</i>	28
29 8:30am - <i>Java With Jesus</i> 9am - <i>Sunday School; Confirmation</i> 10am - <i>Worship</i> 11:30am - <i>Youth Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt</i>	30	31				

March Servants

Liturgy...The Work of the People Offered Unto God

<i>MONTHLY DUTIES</i>		
Ushers	Marty Coulter	Melvin Coulter
Altar Guild	Keith Frye	Kathy Frye
Money Counter (Teller)	Judy Hoke	Glenn Hoke
Sunday School Teller	Glenn Hoke	
Communion (1st, 3rd, 5th)	Keith Frye	Kathy Frye
Communion (2nd, 4th)	Gail Bowman	Kathy Simmons

<i>WEEKLY DUTIES</i>	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Greeter	Gayle Jarrett	Barbara Reed	Michelle Potter	Sharon Frye	Roger Frye
Lay Reader	Betsy Lindler	Joey Potter	Tim Lail	Chantae Lail	Natalie Lail
Prayer Leader	Pastor Ralph	Gail Bowman	Keith Frye	Kathy Simmons	Richard Helton
Acolyte	Betsy Lindler	Donna Miller	Alex Fincannon	Cierra Lail	Gail Bowman
Crucifer	Kathy Frye	Joey Potter	Judy Hoke	Dylan Lail	Natalie Lail
Children's Message	Gail Bowman	Wanda Helton	Richard Helton	Mary Kraft	Pastor Ralph



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|------|------------------|------|-------------------|
| 3/2 | Margaret Bowman | 3/13 | Johnnie Fulbright |
| | Jonathan Jarrett | | Savannah Lail |
| 3/3 | Sterling Jarrett | 3/14 | Keith Frye |
| 3/10 | Patty Burris | 3/20 | Noah Lindemann |
| | River Russell | 3/22 | Gail Blackburn |
| | Denise Sigmon | 3/23 | Sue Hoyle |
| 3/11 | Bill Abernathy | 3/28 | John Warren |
| | | 3/29 | Robin Fincannon |



February 2015 Council Highlights

The attendance report was reviewed and approved as follows:

December 2014

Worship: 80 average
 Sunday School: 37 average

January 2015

Worship: 66 average
 Sunday School: 30 average

Motions approved:

- January 18, 2015 council minutes
- February, 2015 Treasurer's Report

- Pastor's Report
- Consent Agenda Reports: Witness, Worship, Forward Together and Youth

Items of Interest:

- Youth sponsored Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on February 15th a great success!
- Taylorsville Prison Cookie Ministry ends on February 19, 2015
- Lenten Food Drive begins February 18, 2015
- Ash Wednesday: February 18th: 12:00 noon, spoken word service, 7:00 pm regular service
- Lent Soup/Sandwich and Service beginning on February 22 – March 22 with Pastor's coming to us "round robin" style
- Forward Together Team working on volunteer opportunities for St Paul congregation to offer tutorial assistance to Startown Elementary



Through January 2015	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance
*General Fund	9,466.16	12,175.66	15,280.22	6,361.60
**Dedicated Fund	80,849.98	2,565.00	7,246.17	76,168.81
Current W/H Tax Payable		132.10		132.10
Total General Fund	90,600.86			82,662.51

	Fund Balance
Gift & Memorial Fund:	\$63,852.10
Mission Campus CD:	\$163,282.64

Updates on our Church Family

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of the Rev. Dr. James Ray Stephenson who passed away January 31, 2015. Pastor Stephenson had served as an interim pastor for St. Paul's twice back in the 1990's and early 2000's. His funeral was held at Mt. Olive Lutheran in Hickory on February 4th. Online condolences may be sent to www.bass-smithfuneralhome.com.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Herman Mercer who passed away at the VA hospital in Asheville, NC on February 13th. His service was held Sunday February 15th at St. Paul's officiated by Pastor Ralph.

Our Christian sympathy and hope in the resurrection is extended to the family of Mr. Rayford Crawley who passed away on February 16th. He was the father of St. Paul member Holly Crawley and grandfather of Jim Ferguson.



ST. PAUL
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STARTOWN

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www.stpaulstartown.org

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St. Paul Partners volume 28 • number 8

14,000 in 2013, 17,000 in 2014

That is the number of pounds of food that St. Paul Lutheran Church-Startown donated in the past 2 years! That is OVER 15 TONS of nonperishable items freely given to ECCCM to help our neighbors in Catawba County! Again, this year, we can join together to provide assistance to those in need. During this cold winter, many are forced to choose between warmth and food, a hard decision to make since both are necessary for life. By partnering with ECCCM, we have an opportunity to help that decision-making easier. Canned fruit, vegetables, pasta, beans, rice, flour, oatmeal, cereal and canned meats and fish all go directly to those most in need. From the Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 25, verse 35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Look for the collection baskets in the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall.

