



Saint Paul Presbyterian Church
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February 2020

Saint Paul's Epistle to You



A Correction for the Growing Fear of Increasing Smallness

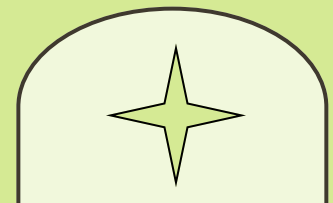
By Walker Westerlage, Pastor

Religious life in our country is rapidly becoming crippled. Therefore, in polling data the “nones” (as in no religious affiliation) is growing at a quickened rate. It gives pause to me and I wonder what contributions I may have sowed in my poetry of time, have been detrimental. The following words from Nadia Bolz-Weber provide a helpful correction for the growing fear of increasing smallness. The Holy Catholic Church, the body of Christ is something that cannot be destroyed. Amen

“There are many reasons to steer clear of Christianity. No question. I fully understand why people make that choice. Christianity has survived some unspeakable abominations: the Crusades, clergy sex-scandals, papal corruption, televangelist scams, and clown ministry. But it will survive us, too. It will survive our mistakes and pride and exclusion of others. I believe that the power of Christianity — the thing that made the very first disciples drop their nets and walk away from everything they knew, the thing that caused Mary Magdalene to return to the tomb and then announce the resurrection of Christ, the thing that the early Christians martyred themselves for, and the thing that keeps me in the Jesus business — is something that cannot be killed. The power of unbounded mercy, of what we call The Gospel, cannot be destroyed by corruption and toothy TV preachers. Because in the end, there is still Jesus.”

Bolz-Weber, Nadia. *Accidental Saints* (p. 10). The Crown Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Peace,



February Liturgist

Joyce Kirkpatrick

Elders of the Month

Linda Akins

Norma Russell

Continue to use the email addresses of “pastorsppc@sbcglobal.net” or “sppcnrh@hotmail.com” to communicate with Walker.

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL CLASS

The JOY Class is on hiatus.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School is starting up again. Please ask Scott Carter for more info. The class will meet at 9:30—10:30 in the Fellowship Hall Adult Classroom.



Everyone enjoys the fellowship after church and it's even better when there is a little something to nibble. There are four months this year that have a 5th Sunday. We are open to suggestions, i.e., soup, salad, ice cream social, etc. Please let one of the committee members, such as Heidi Newell, Louise Wilson, or Norma Russell know what you'd like to see for the 5th Sunday.

The fourth Sunday will continue to be a Birthday Cake Sunday. It's easy and if you cannot serve it yourself, any member of the Congregational Care Committee is willing to help then, or any Sunday.

Testimonials Requested

Testimonials of 350 words or less are requested to post on the Saint Paul website and in print communications. Please submit your testimonial of why you joined Saint Paul and why you continue to be a member. Email it to Walker at pastor-sppc@sbcglobal.net. If you need help with typing your testimonial, submit a written copy to Joyce Kirkpatrick and she will see that it is formatted correctly and submitted.



If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please submit it to Joyce Kirkpatrick for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter!! Enjoy!!

Potato Soup from Robin Hicks

INGREDIENTS

3-4 lbs of Potatoes, remove any rough spots but keep as much of the skin on as possible
1 stick of Butter
1/2 cup of finely chopped Onion
1/2 cup of finely chopped Celery
1 tsp. poultry seasoning/bouillon
1 tsp. diced garlic
1 quart of Half n Half

DIRECTIONS

Boil the potatoes until they are soft. In a small frying pan, melt a stick of butter and add the celery and onion. Add the poultry seasoning or bouillon and the garlic. Heat until the veggies become clear. Combine the softened potatoes and veggie mixture with a quart of half n half. Continue to cook on low heat for about 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. You can add additional milk if the soup is too thick for you.

THE MISSION PAGE



February NEED Volunteers

Volunteers needed
2nd Monday of each month
10 am—3 pm



The Mission Committee met on January 26 to review plans for the coming year's mission commitments. We hope to continue with all the important work we are attempting and add new missions when we can. Here is the status of our various missions:

NEED—Thanks for your generous donations following the holiday. We learned in late January that they are in great need of cereal, green beans and pinto beans. Cereal is getting more expensive and donations are greatly down. The pantry goes through green beans and pinto beans quickly so they need a steady supply.

Health Equipment Loan Program—Rosalee is the contact for this program at this point. We are organizing a cleanup day to inventory and organize the HELP room. Thanks for all your valuable donations to this ministry. Recently we took excess walker frames to both NEED and Presbyterian Night Shelter.

Presbyterian Night Shelter--We'll repeat the ever popular March Madness to collect items for the shelter. Watch the bulletin and the March newsletter for details. Check the sales for tooth hygiene items, cleaning products for the body and for clothing, over-the-counter drugs, and bedding and bathroom items like towels, wash cloths, blankets and pillows. For the last two years we have provided over 3,000 items as a result of our "Madness." Thanks to everyone!

Support Our Soldiers—We'll begin to collect items for our service personnel again in May, June and July in recognition of Memorial Day and Independence Day. You are welcome to leave items in the bin at any time as deliveries can be made throughout the year.

Pennies for Mission—Watch for Bingo Night in May. Collect your coins—quarters fit nicely on the squares--and your White Elephant gifts and be ready to rumble. Meanwhile, nickels, dimes and pennies can be deposited in the jar in Fellowship Hall. Last year, your loose change added up to over \$600 for our missionaries on the border. Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar are mission co-workers with the Presbyterian Border Ministry in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

Operation Christmas Child—Later in the year we will be discussing collecting Christmas gift boxes again for children around the world.

We are always looking for new mission direction and mission committee members. Our next meeting is Sunday, February 16. Please join us. If you have comments or questions see Linda Akins, committee moderator, or Beckie Briggs, recording secretary. Thanks again for all you do in God's name.

THIS 'N' THAT

Evening Book Club

The Thursday evening book club will meet on Thursday, February 20th at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

February: The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

Please contact Heidi Newell if you have any questions.

PRAYER CIRCLE

We are currently in the process of revitalizing the Saint Paul Prayer Circle, a group that will pray for you or someone you care about when there is a need for special prayer. If you would like to be a member of the prayer circle, please notify Sue Sewell at sue.sewell@att.net. In the meantime, if you have a prayer request, please contact Walker, Sue Sewell, Jeff Redelfs, Macklyn Hill, or Norma Russell. Your request will be confidential if you so desire.

NEED

The need continues for cereal, green beans and pintos, however, anything you bring for NEED is much appreciated.

What Presbyterians Believe

— from the PCUSA Website

Biblical Interpretation—Disagreements about Scripture’s meaning abound, but some general guidelines can help.

By Jack Haberer | Presbyterians Today



“Presbyterians sure like to fight!” Whether recounting the war stories of the Scottish Highlanders or the political battles of the most recent General Assembly meeting, Presbyterians have engaged in many a high-minded, ideological argument. Many of those battles have been incited by disagreements on how to interpret and respond to the teachings of Scripture.

Presbyterians take the Bible seriously; it is the defining document for their faith. However, the diverse forms and content found within many passages of Scripture have generated a broad range of interpretations.

Many ask, “How can documents written by humans be truly God’s Word?” For Presbyterians the best answers can be found not so much by speculating over the “idea” of biblical authority — which inevitably leads to many more questions — but by studying the Scriptures themselves. The “doctrine of inspiration” is best grasped as we practice the essential task of study — that is, reading the text.

Some guidelines

In recent decades, General Assemblies have provided essential guidelines for such reading and interpretation. To put those guidelines simply, “Read the text, in its historic and literary contexts, within the broader biblical context, and look for appropriate points of application in order to live it in the here and now.”

- (1) First, in order to understand the meanings of Scripture, we need to be reading Scripture.
- (2) Second, we need to read in context. Each of the Bible’s books was written in a particular genre by a particular person at a particular time for particular readers to provide particular information that addressed particular concerns. The first challenge is to try to identify as accurately as possible what those particulars were.

Some books are written like history texts (such as Chronicles), while others read more like memoirs (the four Gospels), letters (Romans), poems (Psalms), or sermons (Hebrews). Some writings assemble a mix of genres (such as the parables and miracle stories found in the Gospels). When reading such varying genres, common sense dictates that we “hear” the way the writer is writing, just as newspaper reading requires us to differentiate between the varying approaches of the news reporter, the editorial writer, the sports reporter, and the comic strip writer.

- (3) We also need to read within the broader biblical context. Having considered the intended meaning of a particular text, we need to compare that text with other biblical texts that address related subjects. A basic Bible study library can facilitate such study. Concordances list the particular places where a word is found in the Bible. Topical Bibles categorize Scripture passages by subject matter. Cross-references, such as those found in most study Bibles, offer texts on comparable subjects.

When comparing Scripture passages, some apparent contradictions will emerge. Such dilemmas are usually solved when each passage is studied in its own context.

Ultimately the topic needs to be considered in the context of the broadest biblical themes. Special weight ought to be given to the “rule of love” — that is, “How does this passage help the reader better fulfill Scripture’s highest law to ‘Love your Lord with all your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself?’ ”

(Click the link in the title above for the full article)

News Briefs

Kroger Community Rewards. We need all of you who shop at Kroger and have loyalty cards to check your accounts and update your designation of Saint Paul as the recipient of funds. And for those who have not signed up, please do. Just go to Kroger.com and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on [Kroger Community Rewards](#). If you are enrolled, you need your password. If not, just follow the prompts to set up an account. Enter Saint Paul Presbyterian Church in the search box or our **new** number **WL034**. It's an easy way to donate to Saint Paul at no cost to you. You may also call Online Account Customer Service at 1-800-576-4377. **NOTE: If you receive a "technical error" the first time you click to enroll St. Paul, click it again. If you continue to encounter technical difficulties, please don't hesitate to call their Customer Service**

If you shop at Kroger, please be sure and use your Kroger Loyalty Card so that St. Paul will receive Community Rewards from Kroger.



06	Barbara Carter
13	Jo Elle Scott
15	Jeff Redelfs
17	Louise Wilson
22	Richard Roach



13	Steve & Linda Leveridge [f]
15	Dave & Kathleen Dare [f]



02	Hill
09	Redelfs
16	Kirkpatrick
23	Dobkins (cake)



Flowers—sign-up list located in the Fellowship Hall

Session Members

Your current Session Members are:

Class of 2020: Norma Russell, Linda Akins, Jo Elle Scott, Louise Wilson

Class of 2021: Al Kirkpatrick, Scott Carter, Sue Sewell, Sandra Turner

Class of 2022: Arlene Schneider, Anne Leeming, Heidi Newell



The Third Monday Book Club is a lively book discussion group that meets at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All readers are welcome and books for discussion are selected several months ahead by the group. Both fiction and non-fiction books are discussed with the focus on enlightenment and fun. Contact Rosalee Fleming at 817-281-0149 if you need more information.

Feb: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Mar: The Rent Collector by Camron Wright

Apr: Tending Roses by Lisa Wingate

May: Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

Jun: The Memory House by Linda Goodnight

For Updates to the Church Directory

Please visit Saint Paul's Church Directory at: www.stpaulnrh.org.

Click on Church Directory.

If your information is not correct, send an email with corrections to

Mary Atkins:

marylatkins@yahoo.com or

call Mary at 817-988-3909 or make your correction on paper and give to Mary.

Key Websites

Here are some websites related to our denomination that you may bookmark for reference:

www.stpaulnrh.org

www.gracepresbytery.org

www.synodsun.com

www.pcusa.org

www.pres-outlook.com

www.need-tarrant.com

www.facebook.com/need.tarrant

www.facebook.com/sppcnrh/

Saint Paul Presbyterian Church

Grace Presbytery

Synod of the Sun

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Presbyterian Outlook

NEED

NEED Facebook page

St. Paul Facebook page

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at sppcnrh@hotmail.com or call 817-281-3175.

WORSHIP LINKS

To hear some of the Sermons and Worship Anthems please click this [link](#) to navigate to the St. Paul Sermon webpage.

Presbyterian 101

A General Guide to the Facts About the PCUSA!



Saint Paul has a prayer circle that will pray for you or someone you care about when there is need of special prayers. You may call the Church office from 9 a.m. until Noon with any prayer requests or send them to the church email at sppcnrh@hotmail.com. Your request will be confidential if you so desire. The members of the prayer circle have promised to pray for the person for 7 days. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain, notify Walker.

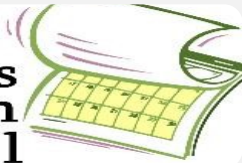


The Presbyterian Women's Circle meets the first Tuesday each month in the Fellowship Hall.

Come join us!!!

Everyone is welcome!!

**This
Month
@ St. Paul**



Send Us Your Church News!

Got news? We want it! The Saint Paul church newsletter helps spread the word about committee activities, special events, group meetings, important milestones, honors/awards, financial reports, and more. Please submit your articles to the editor at ak3e@swbell.net or give a hard copy to Joyce Kirkpatrick. If you need writing help, let her know. Photos and original artwork are also welcomed!

March 2020 Issue Deadline: Sunday, February 23, 2020

Mission Statement of Saint Paul Presbyterian Church

As joyful believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to worship God, educate disciples, remain steadfast in our faith, and do Christ's work through ministry, missions, and fellowship. We are led by the Holy Spirit to be a nurturing congregation that maintains a connection with the larger church as well as our local community, being open to the needs and concerns of others.