

ST. PAUL'S

**EVANGELICAL
CHURCH**



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17 - 7pm



Midweek Lenten Option

We are excited to announce our first-ever edition of "Conversations from the Upper Room".

The Upper Room is a new initiative that is being spearheaded by St. Paul's and Gateway Metro St. Louis to bless Christian nonprofits that are serving the St. Louis community.

City Missionary Marco van Raalten will welcome a special guest every Wednesday night during the lenten season to discuss the theme of "Lament with Hope."

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ELDER REPORT

Thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting, either virtually or in person. We accomplished the business that happens at every annual meeting: approving minutes, electing elders, and voting on the budget. Craig Caesar and Barbara van Dyk were re-elected to three-year terms. Barb Hueffmeier was re-elected to a one-year term. The proposed \$912,601 budget was approved.

We also dealt with business that the congregation has never faced before: a law suit. There was a great deal of passionate discussion on the situation we face. You'll hear more on that topic in separate communication. There were two big takeaways from the meeting: one for the Elder Board and one for all of us.

The takeaway for all of us is that this will be a long process. We will have to have a great deal of patience as we all go through it together.

The takeaway for the Elder Board is that it needs to communicate more. We need to regularly let the congregation know the status of the law suit even when the status is "Nothing has changed since our last report."

What didn't get covered at the meeting was our look to the year ahead. We all look forward to things getting back to normal, but what will "normal" look like?

We expect at some point, maybe this fall, the limits on gathering will go away. We'll all be able to worship together in person and have meetings in the building. Does that mean Facebook Live, YouTube, and Zoom will go away? Probably not. It just means that on cold, snowy mornings and dark stormy evenings those virtual tools will be a good option, not a requirement.

We heard from Marco van Raalten about the "upper room" incubator that is developing on the second floor. St. Paul's enjoys a very important location and nice facilities. This is one way we can put those gifts to use to serve the Lord. We expect this important outreach to grow.

The 920 Warson house was mentioned in Mike Kolmer's presentation on the building and grounds. During the pandemic it has been a blessing as it is a limited space that is easily sanitized without exposing the rest of our main building. Once the pandemic is over we will look to what comes next for the property.

One concern that will impact all of us when the pandemic ends is what will Sunday morning look like? How many services will there be? How will we do Sunday school for each age group? This is not a decision the Elder Board will make by itself. We will rely on everyone to join together in making the best choice possible.

Jim Glauert
Elder Chair



YOUTH UPDATE

St. Paul's Family,

I am about a month into my new role here at St. Paul's Evangelical Free Church and it has been very interesting transitioning during a pandemic. My family and I are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from everyone at St. Paul's and while we haven't gotten to connect with many people because of coronavirus, we are expectant for the day when that will occur.

In the coming months, I am looking forward to youth group resuming and continuing to learn more about St. Paul's and meet with people. I also wanted to take a moment to share with you all about a trip coming this summer that I am excited to help lead. From June 20-26, we will once again be taking a trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin with an organization called Group Mission Trips. Group Mission Trips partners with local churches and organizations all over the United States to provide various week-long missions trips for churches that have an impact on the community and assist local churches seeking to reach their community.

We will be taking about fifteen people to Green Bay to work on homes for low-income and elderly individuals and families. There is still a lot of information that we will be getting in the months ahead, but I wanted to put it on your radar for two reasons. First, so that you can be in prayer for this trip and those that will be going and second, so that you would consider whether you ought to join us. My hope is to have about ten current or recent high school students and about five adults. If you are handy with tools, we could certainly use some of that knowledge.

Whether you consider going or not, prayer is still the most important thing we need at the moment. Given the state of things with the pandemic, there is a lot of uncertainty about a trip of this magnitude and nothing can be guaranteed. Pray that God would begin to impress on people's hearts if they should consider going or not. Pray for the people we meet and talk with in Green Bay and most importantly, pray that this pandemic will not interfere with our ability to take this trip. I have heard nothing but positive responses from people who have been on this trip in the past and I would love to be able to participate myself. Further information about the trip including cost, schedule, application, and expectations will be coming in the next month.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

God bless,
Daniel Sjogren



Are you a military veteran?

We are compiling a list of St. Paul's members who have served our country. If you have, or know someone who has, please contact the church office with:

military branch, time of active duty
rsvp@stpaulsefree.org OR 314-993-0015

MISSIONARY NEWS



John Shehan (seated on the left) with several of the boys that John and Melissa care for in Mozambique.

In January, the Mission Team was blessed to enjoy a virtual visit with John and Melissa Shehan who were home on leave. As many of you know, Melissa Knappenberger Shehan is one of our St. Paul's "home grown" missionaries. Today Melissa and her husband John serve the Lord in Mozambique in eastern Africa. When Melissa and John began their ministry in Mozambique, Melissa was working with local women to make and market handmade items, and John was involved in maintaining the Iris facilities along with doing outreach in the local area. But the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in major changes in their work. Many mission agencies in the area have left. Iris worked through the local requirements to stay open, which resulted in many of the orphaned children from the area coming to their facilities. Melissa and John have been caring for eight boys during this time. In addition, Iris has been dealing with refugees fleeing terrorist violence to the north. Iris Arts, the crafts business that Melissa had been leading with local women, has been discontinued. There is no market for the crafts due to the terrorist insurgency and lack of visitors. John's outreach work at the visitor center and in the area has also been impacted due to concerns about attacks. Despite these setbacks, John and Melissa have several new responsibilities in addition to caring for eight boys! They are working for the Iris center directors doing special projects, administrative work, maintenance and more. They also spend one day a week working at the Iris Farm. Upon return to Mozambique from their home leave, Melissa and John will continue their support to administrative operations of the base and taking care of the boys. In addition to discipling them, John and Melissa are tutoring the boys in their schoolwork and teaching them skills like photography. They also try to have regular trips to the beach and are helping the boys learn the great American pastime, baseball! It sounds like their work and ministry with the boys and for the Iris Center is challenging but extremely rewarding. We ask the St. Paul's family to keep Melissa and John in your prayers; for their safety and for their continued ministry and love for eight wonderful boys.

GATEWAY METRO ST LOUIS



Dear friends at St. Paul's:

We thank God for the ongoing movement of prayer in St. Louis! The good news is that it hasn't slowed down, but is accelerating! Here are two opportunities for you to get involved:

1. Pray for the Lou. (www.prayforthelou.org) On Saturday, March 14, we are aiming for prayer walks to take place in 300 locations across the St. Louis Metro area, followed by a virtual closing rally. St. Paul will be one of those locations! Frank Serdy is coordinating our local prayer walk. Many participating churches will preach out of Psalm 24 that following Sunday, including your pastor Andrew
2. A monthly city wide prayer meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month. On February 12 we plan to be at Chatham Bible Church in Florissant, MO at 7 pm. Worship, Contemplative Scripture Based Prayer and a Testimony from and prayer for local pastors who embody racial reconciliation will comprise our time together.

Thank you for your prayers! Hope to see you at any of these locations.

Marco van Raalten, City Missionary

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

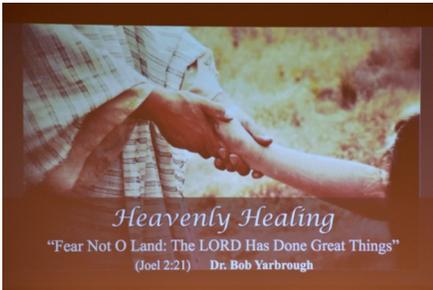
BELIEVER BAPTISM



Riley Starbuck



Lilly Shackelford



Pastor Andrew welcomes Pastor Daniel





Art Pasteris	2/1	Robert Schnellbacher	2/14	Solomon Frederick	2/26
Jorge del Cid	2/2	Lydia Starbuck	2/15	Edith Skaggs	2/27
Margy Robinson	2/2	Fernando del Cid	2/18	Carol Wipke	2/28
Ruth Wyne	2/4	Edith Niedringhaus	2/18		
Ruth Effinger	2/5	Jeff Pfeiffer	2/19	Daniel Pollmann	3/1
Eulah Gertz	2/5	Calvin Wong	2/19	Janet Kolmer	3/2
Fern Black	2/6	Joyce Sabine	2/20	Cindy Heuermann	3/4
Gayle Friz	2/6	Jason Starbuck	2/21	Jerry Eichholz	3/5
Maureen Kozlowski	2/6	Brian Thomas	2/21	Bob Aslin	3/6
Carolyn Samuels	2/6	Jeff Drake	2/22	Matthew Heuermann	3/6
Beverly Millard	2/8	Janet Graeler	2/22	Katie Prsha	3/7
Levi Bensing	2/11	Lynn May	2/22	David van Dyk	3/7
Nancy Parton	2/11	Mark Swanson	2/23	Elizabeth Neier	3/8
Betty Lang	2/12	Joyce Lindstrom	2/24	Mark Friz	3/9
Madelyn Oliver	2/12	Gregg Peter	2/24	Hudson Crawford	3/11
Steven Vasel	2/12	Terry Daniels	2/25	David Pollmann	3/13
Elizabeth Thomas	2/13	Eric This	2/25	Marco van Raalten	3/13



	Years	
Jeff & Rena Pfeiffer	26	2/11
Ruth & Richard Marsh	44	3/5
Scott & Elizabeth Schurwan	10	3/5
Lendy & Neil Middendorf	15	3/11
Fred & Donna Triebe	43	3/11

Our Condolences

NOREEN MUELLER passed away January 26, 2021 at the age of 83. A private graveside service with interment was held at St. Paul's Cemetery.

RUTH NIEMEIER passed away February 2, 2021 at the age of 95. Her funeral service was held February 5 at St. Paul's Church with interment at St. Paul's Cemetery, officiated by Pastor Andrew Seley.



Matthew Jepsen
 119 Kirton Ct.
 West Columbia, TX 77486



St. Paul's Evangelical Church
9801 Olive Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63141

New Sermon Series
Coming Soon

