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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR DON

Writing here at my desk on this Wednesday before Christmas I'm reminded of the lady who was Christmas shopping with her daughters. The crowds were awful. She had to skip lunch because of the tight schedule and now she was tired, hungry, and her feet were hurting. She was more than a little irritable! As they left the store she asked her daughter, "Did you see the nasty look that salesman gave me?" Her daughter answered, "Oh, he didn't give it to you Mom, you had it when we came into this store." Ouch! Been there, done that.

Christmas. At a time that is supposed to bring out the best in all of us, we are often like the lady in the story and find that instead of Christmas cheer we are spreading Christmas drear. We vow to love all our relatives well and find that our vow is just not quite enough. Instead of experiencing the joy and peace of Christmas we often find ourselves depressed and overwhelmed during the holidays.

How ironic that at the time of the year when we celebrate the coming to earth of God Himself, to give men new hearts and to rescue us from our human frailties (sin), many do not turn to the Christ child – to our King Jesus for the forgiveness and power we need to live the "Jesus life". Our discouragements, our lack of patience when shopping, our struggles with trying to do right and to love our relatives all point to our need for a Savior.

So, rejoice! Remember the words of the angel to the shepherds in the hills overlooking Bethlehem, "Do not be afraid; for I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." He has come to not only purchase eternal life for us, but to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit who enables us to live an authentic Christian life. Take a moment to ask Him if there is any action or attitude in your life that is displeasing to Him. As He points out our sin, we "breathe spiritually". We simply confess our sin (I John 1:9), receive forgiveness, and allow Him to again take control of our lives (Eph. 5:18 and Rom. 6:18).

"Something New in '22"

Well, enough preaching. By the time you read this it will be 2022. Julie joins me in praying for you all a healthy, happy, and fruitful year. We have very much enjoyed connecting with so many of you during these first three months. Serving as your interim pastor is an unexpected honor and a joy.

The first phase of this transition process is the connecting phase. That will, of course, continue as there are so many more of you we look forward to "connecting" with. Don't hesitate to reach out to me if there is something specific that I can do for you. (Call the church office or email me at: don@stpaulsefree.org)

The second phase of the transition process is the assessment phase. The Transition Team is being organized during this month and will begin to meet in February. This team will be working on behalf of St. Paul's and will lead the congregation in asking God to give us fresh, new vision for the future. The role of this team will be to capture, communicate, and courageously lead the congregation into this future. Talk with me if you want more information about the Transition Team.

I believe God will do "Something New in '22!". Please join in prayer to that end and watch for an upcoming congregation-wide concert of prayer that will kick off the Transition Team.

Pray for me. (My prayer for you is found in Eph. 3:14-21.)
Blessings and love.

ELDER NEWS

It's a new year, 2022. We all pray that it will be better than 2021. Fortunately, with God's help, we can make sure it's a better year. With the guidance of Pastor Don, we are starting the transition to a new lead pastor. It will not be an easy path.

It starts with self-examination. "Who are we as a congregation?" "How did we get to be the way we are?" Once we can answer those questions we can move on to "What do we want to become?" That answer will have many facets to it. There will be the facilities side where we determine the best way to use our property to serve our community. There will be the worship side which will cover in-person and remote attendance. There will be the side of studying God's word which includes Sunday school for adults and youth, men's and women's ministries, and small groups. There will be the service facet which will include activities from Stephen Ministry to sausage suppers.

In order to travel this transition from a time in 2021 when everything seemed to fall apart to a time when everything works will require not only Pastor Don's experience and leadership, but also participation by the people of St. Paul's. If we decide our service to our members and community includes "Meals on Wheels" then it will require people to prepare the meals and drivers to supply the wheels. If we are going to continue to make our services available remotely then it requires people to operate the cameras, microphones, internet connection, Turbo Bridge, and run the visuals. Classrooms need teachers as well as students. As many of us have already learned, coffee and donuts do not just magically appear on Sunday morning.

So when you are contacted to be part of the Transition Team look at it as an opportunity to shape the future of St. Paul's. How can we make it the church you want to attend?

Another thing that the new year brings is our annual meeting. This year's meeting is on January 30. Currently, it is scheduled for noon. That may change to 10:45 AM, following the Sunday morning service. This was how we held our previous town hall meeting. We hope to be able to make the meeting available over the Turbo Bridge phone ministry. Watch for further communication on this.



Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 30
Time to be determined
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Budget Hearing
Monday, January 17
Multipurpose Room

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT

By Lisa Stahlhut

Wow! Where did the month of December go? The children enjoyed being part of the cantata by singing Away in a Manger. After this special service, everyone was treated to a short re-enactment of the nativity story. Special thanks to Kelly Cug and Amanda Frederick for organizing this!

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 28 for a family movie night. Join us at 5:30 for pizza and the movies will start at 6:00. We will be showing "Breakthrough" and for our younger children, "Veggie Tales Noah's Ark." Please plan to join us as a family. Bring your pillows and blankets to stretch out to watch the movie. Snacks will be served during the movie. Please see Lisa Stahlhut (lisa_stahlhut@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!



Friday, Jan 28

5:30pm Pizza
6pm Movie Time

"Breakthrough" or
"Veggie Tales Noah's Ark" for younger kids

Snacks provided with the movie too!

DIRECTORY UPDATE:

It is time again to update our church directory. If you have changes that you would like to make, please submit them to the church office, or email directory@stpaulsefree.org

These changes would include:

- your family information, address, or phone numbers
 - Updated photo

If you have questions, please the church office.

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Paul's Evangelical Church

Masks and appointments required!

Donors get their choice of a St. Patrick's Day themed t-shirt or a gift card!

Monday, January 31 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Multipurpose Room 9801 Olive Boulevard

**To schedule an appointment,
call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401, or
www.bloodcenter.org/group, Code 9795**

Women's Fellowship —

The next meeting of the Women's Fellowship will gather for their monthly meeting on Wed., Jan. 12. Bring a sandwich and join us at 11:30 a.m. for fun and fellowship. Dessert and beverages are provided.

White Cross Changes Meeting Place and Day

White Cross is in the process of moving back into the church and the **next** meeting will be in the Power Plant beginning **Thursday**, February 3rd at 9 am.

Thereafter we will be meeting the first and third **Thursday** of every month. **Please note that the day has been changed to Thursday.**

Several will be thankful as we will not have steps to handle and we will have more space for distancing and working. Even if you do not sew, we still need you for projects like rolling bandages and cutting out surgical supplies.

We trust that Thursday will not conflict with other activities so that more of you will be able to join us in serving God remotely on the mission field of The Congo. Hope to see you then.

For additional information, please call Phyllis Bauer at 314-567-3216.

Reasonable Faith - St. Louis Chapter

Do you or a loved one have questions about the truth of Christianity? Are you hesitant to engage in evangelism because you are afraid of not being able to answer tough questions? We believe that good questions deserve a good answer. Come seek answers with us in a safe and respectful environment as we engage in book studies, discussions, and various guest speakers.

Next two Meetings - January 17 & February 21 @ 7pm, Room 5

Book Study & Discussion: *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to The Transgender Moment*

Contact Conway Wong 314-737-2905

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Betty Keely 1/2
 Camila del Cid 1/4
 Joan Kanppenberger 1/4
 Daniel Sjogren 1/5
 Jan Smith 1/9

Eloise Coste 1/10
 Pauline Indermark 1/11
 Jesse Pollmann 1/11
 Charles Buescher 1/14
 Mary Louise Serdy 1/18
 Donna Triebe 1/22
 Ralph Stahlhut 1/24
 Art Maclean 1/26
 Marlene Shockley 1/27

Naomi Lebsock 1/30
 Art Pasteris 2/1
 Jorge del Cid 2/2
 Margy Robinson 2/2
 Ruth Wyne 2/4
 Ruth Effinger 2/5
 Fern Black 2/6
 Maureen Kozlowski 2/6
 Carolyn Samuels 2/6



David & Susan Pollmann
 Tim & Nancy Dahl

<u>Years</u>	<u>Date</u>
39	1/8
40	1/16



Dear St. Paul's,
 At this time of year, I want to thank all of you for the beautiful cards, messages and notes on them. I especially thank you for my own Christmas tree that you sent!
 Much Love and may all of you have a Blessed Christmas!
 Ruth Hinzpeter

Thank you so much to all who helped provide gifts to our 100 sponsored Angel Tree kids and the 55 families they represent.



And **Thank You** to those who gave **Christmas Cards for our Shut-ins**. They were all a wonderful addition to the gift bags with small trees that were delivered to them. And many thanks to those who helped deliver the gifts.



Charles and Marlene Eschenbrenner
 12102 Beckford Estate Drive
 Maryland Heights, MO 63043

A new

A new

a new

A new



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



Sundays

Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Time	10:30 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Focus Youth Group	6:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Quilters and More	9:30 a.m.
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Wednesdays

Women's Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
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Thursdays

Praise Ringers	6:00 p.m.
Chorale	7:00 p.m.

1/12 Women's Fellowship // 11:30am

1/17 Budget Hearing // 7:00pm

1/28 Family Movie Night // 5:30pm

1/30 Annual Meeting // 12:00pm

1/31 Blood Drive // 3:00-6:00pm