

TRANSITION TEAM NEWS

The Transition Team has identified the top three issues facing St. Paul's and, along with the staff and ministry team leaders, have begun to identify key action steps and initiatives to address the issues.

These issues and action steps to date are:

- 1. Resistance to Change** (This is the *Tradition Issue*: "Letting go of past traditions, programs and personalities.")
Action Steps: This one we all need to own and work on. Let's keep our hearts soft toward the changes that may be necessary as we move into the future God has for us.
- 2. No Unified Vision or Focus** (This is the *Leadership Issue*: "Lack of unified, decisive, empowering, transparent leadership; a need for a leadership training program; and better communication at every level.")
Action Steps: The elders are aware of and own the leadership issues, and have appointed a governance review team to bring recommendations. Appointed to this team are: Don Andrews, Craig Caesar, Susan Pollmann, Pastor Don, and Conway Wong.
- 3. Lack of Growth** (This is the *Mission/Outreach Issue*: "Need to find ways to build a growing community of Jesus lovers/disciples.")
Action Steps: Pastor Daniel and the Children and Family Ministries (CFM) team are planning for new children's programming for Wednesday evenings, starting on Sept. 7. The goal will be to serve and reach young families.
 Pastor Don will be holding a two-session training for potential small group leaders in late August and September. New small groups will be launched in late September with the goal of building community and reaching friends, relatives, and neighbors.

St. Paul's SWOT Analysis Results:

Strengths

- Biblically Based
- Location/Facilities
- Committed Members/History (in the positive sense)

Weaknesses

- History/Tradition (in the negative sense)/Letting Go of the Past
- Leadership Issues/Communication and Lack of Transparency
- Age of Congregation/Steady Decline in Membership

Opportunities

- Diverse Populations/Outreach to Community
- Partnerships/Upper Room
- Improve Governance

Threats

- Cultural Challenges
- Apathy and Affluence
- Lack of Unity/Conflict

Our next TOWN HALL meeting will be Sunday, August 21

10:45am // Multipurpose Room

There will be an update on the transition process,
a time to ask questions, and a continued look to the future.

Picnic	2	King's Kids Camp	5	Special Anniversaries	7
Children & Family Ministries	3	New Babies	6	Death	7
Missionary News	4	Women's Fellowship	6	Calendar	8
Thoughts from Pastor Daniel	4	Reasonable Faith Meeting	6		
Small Group Training	5	Birthdays/Anniversaries	7		

CHURCH picnic

Sunday, September 11

Picnic plans are in the works for food, fun,
and friends.

Save the date and dig out your favorite pot
luck recipes.

Pastor Don and Julie will be hosting us at
the parsonage grounds.

Stay tuned for more details.

**If you would like to help with the planning or on
that day, contact the church office.*

Dessert contest / games / snow cones / fellowship

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

Launching this Fall – Cultivate Kids & Teens!

This fall, we are excited to announce that we will be offering a new Wednesday night program for children age 3-6 on Wednesday nights here at St. Paul's starting Wednesday, September 7. Our goal in offering this program is not just to help children and families that are already a part of St. Paul's grow in their faith, but to reach our community with the life-changing news of God's Word and the Gospel specifically. To that end, we will also be offering free dinners each Wednesday night to remove a possible barrier to families being able to bring their kids here each week.

We have decided to call this new outreach program Cultivate Kids and our goal is to teach kids to love like Jesus. We will be using a curriculum called Grow. Throughout the year students will be learning about the life of Jesus, his teachings, his birth and death, the prophets, worship...etc. We will be starting with a month long series called *Blast Off*, which will focus on teaching kids how they can grow their spiritual habits by spending time with God and with others, using their gifts and sharing their faith story. To keep things consistent and avoid confusion, we will also start referring to our middle and high school youth group as Cultivate Teens. That will also look different this year as I am hoping we will be spending more of our youth groups joining forces with other local area youth groups to serve our community and grow in our faith together.

As part of our efforts to reach out to our community more, we need your help. On Saturday, August 27 at 9 a.m. we will be gathering at church to go out into targeted residential areas around the church to tell them about our fall offerings and raise awareness of St. Paul's in our own community. I would love to have you join us for that. You can also help us successfully launch these new initiatives by becoming a volunteer leader. There is a need for help with small groups, decorating, preparing, serving and cleaning up from meals, initiating conversation at dinner, helping with registration...etc. There will be a Volunteer training meeting on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. where we will equip you for your role and provide you with our expectations for everyone that helps with Cultivate Kids and Teens.

A reminder that anyone interested in serving with teens or kids at St. Paul's needs to go through our Children's Volunteer Process which includes: a background check, interview, reference checks, and Ministry Safe sexual abuse awareness training. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at daniel@stpaulsefree.org or at 314-440-1266.

I am super excited for St. Paul's as we enter into some new and thrilling things and know that there are many people here who are also excited about moving forward. Please consider how you can participate and support these initiatives and most importantly pray that God would draw new people to St. Paul's through these efforts to be more community-focused and engaged.

Pastor Daniel Sjogren



There will be Back-to-School Blessing bags available for children ages 2-6th grade in the Welcome Center on Sunday, August 21.
Just look for your child's name on the tag!

FEATURED MISSIONARY

Allan and Cindy Pavey have been working in Grenoble, France since 1992. They work with Torchbearer's International at the Champfleuri Camp. Allan, who graduated from Gordon College with a degree in Business/Computer Science, is the Technical Director at Champfleuri. He, and the other 7 staff members run the DEFI Torchbearer's Bible School, camps during the vacation periods, and they host church groups on weekends. Allan focuses on leading music, keeping the computer systems up and running, maintenance, and discipling students and campers. In addition to the work at the camp, Allan is on the church council of the French church. He leads music most Sundays, organizes the preaching roster and encourages the other leaders in the church.



Cindy, who graduated from Wheaton College with an elementary education degree spends most of her time teaching English and religion classes in a village school, where she has taught children ages 3-11 for 20 years. In addition, during the vacation periods, she joins the camp staff as a counselor and a teacher. She also teaches at church.

Thoughts from Pastor Daniel

Adventures in Quarantine

July has been a weird and unusual month for me and I thought I would share with all of you the challenges this past month have given me. The month began with a lot of expectation and hope. I was excited to be going to the Challenge Conference with a few of our students and getting some time to really dive deeper with them over the course of a week. I was also looking forward to hearing from some different voices and how they related to teens and engaged them with my favorite book of the Bible, 1 Peter. Instead of that, I spent the week of the Challenge Conference isolating in a hotel room, having tested positive for Covid. It was incredibly discouraging and disappointing and I found myself asking God this question, "Why?" What was the purpose of all of this? Why did I get covid at the beginning of something I had been looking forward to for months?

Whether you have had covid or not and whether you have been in isolation with your thoughts for some time, I suspect all of us have had moments in our lives where we have asked God similar questions. "Why?" and "What for?" are common questions we wrestle with when things don't seem to make sense. And if you are at all like me, one of the most frustrating things about these questions is that there are no easy or quick answers. Often my

response in situations where I feel angry at God and question what He is doing is to try and move beyond those feelings. Like many Christians, when I feel like frustration with God over life circumstances or unanswered prayers or unfair situations; my immediate response is to try and shut those feelings down and to swing back to God's goodness and promises. Unfortunately, that line of thinking and movement inhibits me from wrestling honestly with those very real feelings and doesn't make the feelings themselves go away, it just results in them being stuffed down. Not exactly a recipe for emotional health.

Instead of trying to drive those negative feelings away, I need to remind myself that wrestling with God and questioning or doubting what good can come from less than ideal situations is biblical. The Psalms are filled with laments toward God; there is a whole book called Lamentations and the Bible includes the book of Job (filled with unjust suffering on Job's part) and Ecclesiastes, which simply states life is filled with worthlessness apart from God. So, if you are at all like me, and dealing with those questions of "Why?" and "What are you doing God?", know that you are not alone and that God's Word is a filled with his people asking similar questions. Of course we need to remind ourselves of God's goodness and promises, but we have to make sure we don't use those reminders to run away from very real feelings and questions we are wrestling with in the moment.

Pastor Daniel Sjogren

SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING

Sunday, August 28

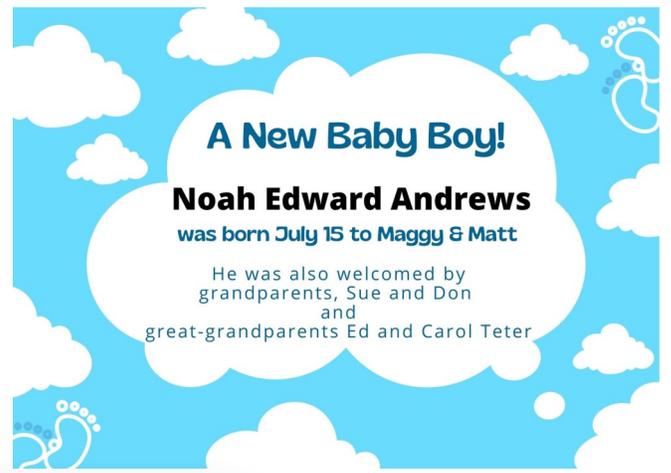
10:45am - Noon

Contact Pastor Don for information



King's Kids Camp 2022 was a success this year! St. Paul's sent a small, but mighty, group of campers and counselors. Thanks to all who have supported this camping program financially and prayerfully.





Women's Christian Growth Class

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Whether you are simply investigating the Christian life, have been a believer for a short period of time or have walked with God for years you are invited to join other women in **the Upper Room for a 7-week class on Christian growth, beginning Sunday, September 18., during the Sunday School hour, 11-11:45 a.m.**

Julie Price will be facilitating the class and will be using a study guide called **Christian Growth in 5 Steps**, covering the basics of what every believer needs to know to be healthy and growing as a Christian. Even if you have been a Christian for years, this study will challenge and encourage you. Please let Julie know if you are interested so that we have enough study guides. Call 715-252-8399 or email: julie.price1227@gmail.com. Moms with nursing babies are welcomed.

FYI – This will be the only women’s class this fall as Donna Triebe will be taking a break from teaching the Spiritual Sisters class until the end of October, and the Moms’ Connect class currently does not have a teacher.

Pastor Andrew Called to New Church

Pastor Andrew Seley was recently installed as the Pastor of West Lisbon Church in Newark, IL. Andrew will be keeping his current phone number and email: andrew.seley@gmail.com We wish many fruitful blessings for the Seleys and their church.

Reasonable Faith St. Louis is hosting a book/discussion study featuring the book by atheist author - Richard Dawkins, **The God Delusion**. We are reading and discussing this book to see what he gets right and what he gets wrong. The purpose of this study is to aid us in our evangelism efforts with secular people. 3rd Mondays of the Month @ 7pm in Room 5. Contact Conway Wong for more information.

conway.h.wong@gmail.com // 314-737-2905



Donna Jayne	8/1	Lela Vollmer	8/25	Rosemary Wilson	9/3
Mary Adams	8/6	Donna Dubinsky	8/28	Jim Crews	9/5
Caroline Wong	8/6	Andy Dielmann	8/29	Carol Carinci	9/8
Al Black	8/12	Betty Binns	8/31	Lucy Alstadt	9/10
Mary Smith	8/16	Melissa Shehan	8/31	Sue Jackson	9/10
Walter Graeler	8/19	Kelly Schjenken	9/2	Leslie Koewing	9/10
Rob Heuermann	8/22	Rosa Frederick	9/3	Lucas Pfeiffer	9/10
Don Price	8/23	Paul Wilson	9/3		



ANNIVERSARIES *to Celebrate*

Jim & Nancy Crews	25	8/2	John & Marcene Darby	22	8/26
Charles & Marlene Buescher	69	8/7	Rich & Edith Niedringhaus	63	8/29
Charles & Marlene Eschenbrenner	69	8/8	Kathy & Ken Fischer	54	8/31
Jim & Cindy Glauert	5	8/10	Scott & Jannet Dieckgraefe	38	9/1
Walt & Jody Graeler	66	8/11	Fred & Margy Robinson	60	9/2
Mike & Janet Kolmer	48	8/11	Janet & Ed Rolle	54	9/7
Roger & Joyce Lindstrom	59	8/11	Ken & Mary Broky	44	9/9
David & Maggie Sohn	38	8/11	Ron & Barb Hueffmeier	55	9/9
Harry & Phyllis Bauer	57	8/14	Robert & Karen Tucker	19	9/9
Anna & Nathan Hellebusch	1	8/14	Paul & Rosemary Wilson	56	9/10
Ralph & Carole Stahlhut	59	8/24			

Special Wedding Notes

We have two couples who are celebrating 69 years of marriage this month, one day apart, and both are Charles & Marlene: Buescher and Eschenbrenner! Congratulation to these special folks!!

Also of special note—we have twelve couples to celebrate 60 years or more in 2022! The others include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ed & Carol Teter—68 | Al & Fern Black—62 |
| Ralph & Lois Percival—67 | Lee & Eileen Carlson—62 |
| Walter & Jody Graeler—66 | Jim & Martha Miller—61 |
| Richard & Edith Niedringhaus—63 | Bob & Betty Binns—60 |
| Bob & Marlene Summers—62 | Fred & Margy Robinson—60 |



Mary Lou Hinzpeter, passed away on July 5, 2022 at the age of 89. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold. Her funeral service was July 16, 2022, officiated by Pastor Don Price, with interment at St. Paul's Cemetery.

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.

Tuesdays

Quilters and Project Linus 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Mom Connect 9:30 a.m.

- 8/4 White Cross // 9am
- 8/7 Communion
- 8/8 Deacons // 5:30pm
Elders // 7pm
- 8/10 Women's Fellowship // 11:30am
- 8/18 White Cross // 9am
- 8/21 Town Hall // 10:45am
- 8/22 Elders // 7pm
- 8/26 Transition Team // 6pm
- 8/27 Prayer Walk & Neighborhood Outreach
- 8/28 Small Group Training // 10:45am
- 8/31 Cultivate Kids Volunteer Training // 6:30pm