



Come Home to St. Paul's Evangelical Church

*"When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way."*

Psalms 142:3

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BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

A Prayer for Joy & Strength—

Romans 15:13 -*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."*

Deuteronomy 31:6 -*"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you."*

Dear Lord-

We pray that you would fill our children with your joy as they begin a new year of learning. Help them to find joy in their studies and interaction with their teachers and peers at school. We ask that you would help our children, educators, administrators and parents be strong, courageous and kind as they tackle a new school year. Remind them daily that you are with them giving them strength to walk through each day. Keep them safe— Amen.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

A **Special Sunday School event** will meet on September 10th. All ages will meet together on this Sunday in the Power Plant for a special lesson and snacks! **Regular Sunday School** will start on September 24th. 2nd graders will also be presented with bibles on that day.

Join us for the **Wednesday Worship Back-to-School event** on **August 16th**. Dinner starts at 5:45. We'll be presenting information on a new kids program that will be starting in September!

MEMORIAL

Janet Kay Jung (nee Elam), age 76 of Maryland Heights, Missouri, was called to her heavenly home on Wednesday, July 19, 2023. She was born on May 13, 1947 in St. Louis, Missouri, one of three children of Turney and Vivian (nee Smith) Elam. She graduated from Ritenour High School in 1965 and earned an associate degree from Southeast Missouri State University. She married the love of her life, Charles Jung, on September 18, 1981, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ (now St. Paul's Evangelical Church) in Creve Coeur, Missouri. They were blessed with almost 42 years together, two children, Donald (Samantha) Jung and Kimberly (Nick) Ragsdale; five grandchildren, Adam, Lucas, Charlie, and Vivian Ragsdale, and Nadia Jung. Her faith life was very important to her; she remained very active at St. Paul's, where she enjoyed working with the youth and children's ministries, teaching, mentoring, and going on mission trips. She also deepened her faith by being a part of the Bible Study Fellowship. Outside of church, she enjoyed gardening, butterflies, boat rides, and fishing at Terre Du Lac. More than anything, she loved her family, especially being very active in her children's and grandchildren's lives. She loved to celebrate others' life milestones, and she will be always remembered for her sweet, positive nature.



ELDER NEWS & MINUTES

Elder Board Minutes June 12, 2023

Elders Present: Dwight Holmon, Joyce Lindstrom, Carter Meier, Bob Schalk, Frank Serdy, David Smith

Opening Prayer: Joyce Lindstrom

Approve May Minutes:

Motion to approve May minutes as amended made by Frank Serdy; second David Smith; motion passed.

Update from Deacons:

Chuck Caesar reported the Hecht Memorial Fund has been distributed down to a \$0 balance, and the line item will be deleted from the budget.

Employee Retention Credit is still expected to arrive in June.

Giving for the month of May was \$37,993, while spending was \$48,903, for a shortfall of \$10,909.

Old Business:

Letitia Wong has invited the Ukraine Baptist Church to lead the Wednesday Worship event in August.

The search team has received 14 responses to their job post for Pastor Next.

Terry Schoenfeld will receive \$500 per week for the four Sundays in June -- \$250 for preaching and \$250 for expenses he may incur by living in St. Louis rather than in his home in Iowa.

The next quarterly listening session will be Sunday, July 9, immediately after the worship service.

Invite selected committees to Elder Board for updates/support needed from Elders.

Any congregant who has questions or concerns will be invited to visit with the Elders at one of their regular meetings.

New Business:

The agenda for the June 25 Special Congregational meeting was decided to be only the vote to invite Terry Schoenfeld to become our Interim Pastor until Pastor Next arrives, followed by a reception with cake in the multi-purpose room. Frank Serdy has made arrangements with Lynn May for the cake.

Joyce Lindstrom presented the current Personnel Committee Charter from 2017. Motion to approve the Personnel Committee Charter as amended made by Frank Serdy; second David Smith; motion passed.

Joyce Lindstrom presented current Personnel Policy from April 2017. Motion to amend the policy was made by Bob Schalk, second by Frank Serdy; motion passed.

Motion was made to approve Christy Drake working 32 hours per week until an Office Manager is hired.

Motion by Frank Serdy, second by Carter Maier. Motion passed.

Motion was made to continue taking the offering in the pews. Motion made by Joyce Lindstrom, second by Frank Serdy. Motion passed.

Other Business

Suggestion: A Kids' app for the St. Paul's website.

Suggestions for increasing church funding include: Church suppers, rent sanctuary for Christian weddings

Suggestion: Kick-off picnic for fall

Calendaring:

Saturday, June 24, Shepherding Meeting, 8:30 a.m., with congregants invited at 9:00 a.m. The Elder Board will meet with Terry Schoenfeld after the prayer time.

Sunday, June 25, Special Congregational Meeting to approve Terry Schoenfeld as Interim Pastor, immediately after the worship service, followed by a reception in the Multi-Purpose Room

Sunday, July 9, Listening Session after worship service

July 10 Elder Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

July 29 Shepherding Meeting 8:30 a.m., with congregants invited at 9:00 a.m.

August 14 Elder Board meeting??? Elders usually take one month off each year.

Closing Prayer: Bob Schalk

Respectfully submitted, Joyce Lindstrom, acting secretary

Approved as amended 07/10/23

MISSIONS NEWS

St. Paul's will be hosting two visits in August from our supported missionaries:

- **August 13** - Nate and Faith Walter: on sabbatical from their work in Spain operating the Pilgrim House on the Camino del Santiago in Spain.
- **August 20** - David and Shawna Boerema: updates in the EFCA APEX program.

We hope you will join us on both Sundays during the Fellowship time in the MultiPurpose Room.

Cricket Meyer Visit on July 9th

St. Paul's enjoyed a wonderful visit with Cricket Meyer during the Fellowship time on July 9th. Cricket provided an update on the wonderful things happening with the Uyesu Unathi school. The school continues to grow. Funding for a project to add two additional classrooms and additional toilets is progressing well. Cricket spoke of the dear children at the school, and her additional ministry teaching the women who work there about Jesus. She also explained the very difficult living conditions for the poor, and the security concerns she faces on a daily basis going to and from the school. Cricket is grateful for St. Paul's financial support and prayers.



Allan & Cindy Pavey Visit on July 23rd

St. Paul's enjoyed hearing from Allan & Cindy Pavey during the Fellowship time on July 23rd. Allan presented pictures of the French Camp Champfleuri and the TED (Total English Days) camp that was held in July. Cindy spoke of her ministry teaching religion and English in a school near-by. They are thankful for support and prayers they have received from St. Paul's. They are asking for continued prayers for these ministries, along with the local church they attend, and that God would send more missionaries to continue the work that they have been doing.

Update from the John & Melissa Shehan in Mozambique

(full letter available Welcome Center)

This is our first full year living in Nacala and we have been focusing mostly on building relationships in the community. We live and serve in one particular area a lot and we are trying to get to know the people and represent Jesus to them as well as we can.

Our days are still filled with a lot of construction at the new Iris center. We share Jesus with our mostly Muslim construction crew everyday. (see picture) They are our new friends and neighbors and we want them to know that the purpose behind all the construction is Jesus. In November, we will be hosting Iris Global's International School of Missions for a month so we must finish the majority of the construction project by mid-October. We are so excited to host them and help train a new generation of missionaries!

In July and August, the Iris well drilling team will be coming to drill 25 wells in the most desperate areas in Nacala. Thank you all for your prayers and support. We truly appreciate it.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer Update

The youth of St. Paul's have been active and are doing well. We met about every two weeks and had two noteworthy outings - a float trip on the Black River (picture on left) and a Lake Weekend at Bull Shoals Lake (pictures below).

Throughout this summer we studied topics from a book called "10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity" by Rebecca McLaughlin. The 10 chapters cover very relevant topics that we all face especially in a post Christian world. Every student received a copy of this book for reference in the future. Rebecca McLaughlin also authored an adult targeted book similar to this one called "Confronting Christianity – 12 Hard Questions for the World's Largest Religion" that is a recommend read for anyone interested.

Although Summer is a bit sketchy on attendance as vacations, sports, and other family activities often overlap, we had 9 students attend the Lake Weekend event and discussed 4 of the chapters from our 10 Questions book. The Saturday of Lake Weekend was dedicated to tubing, swimming, and waterskiing. We happily came back with no injuries and only minor sunburns. During the weekend we began to feel like a youth group and less like a group of youths. That is a great step to build the fall season on and we hope we can build on those relationships. Of note, our youth program has 12 active students who often bring friends. We have gotten to know the students better and can attest that this is a great group of people.

Finally, we had to say goodbye to Isabella del Cid as she has to finish her last year at UMKC. She has been an awesome leader this summer and will be missed.



Youth Retreat @ Kisse Mills

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

A Church picnic is being planned for September 17 along with a celebration of our Church's 180th Anniversary. Mark your calendars and come enjoy the day with your church family. More details coming soon!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Please join the ladies at their next Women's Fellowship meeting on August 9, 2023. Bring your own lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided.

YarnWorks Eighteen years ago, Joan Stewart, a member of St. Paul's, was going through cancer treatment. She showed up one Sunday morning wrapped in a knitted shawl. This gift was from a friend's church who had created, prayed over, and given it to encourage Joan in her trial. She expressed how much the gift meant, and the warmth and comfort that it gave her as she went through treatment. That story inspired our women to gather the crafters of St. Paul's and begin their own group to bless others with handmade items during times of grief, illness, loneliness, need, or to celebrate happy times such as the arrival of a new baby. Since that day in 2005, 542 knitted and crocheted items (shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets) have been lovingly gifted. As some of our crafters have retired in recent years, we are seeking others to help carry on this ministry. Come join us to reach a new generation of needy and hurting people. We'll bring the supplies and help you get started if you'd like to learn.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 10, 1-3 pm, at the home of Mary Louise Serdy, 13275 Windygate Lane, 63146. Questions? Need directions? Call 314-724-3447. We look forward to seeing you there!

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

In July, we were pleased to have six youth from Russian-Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church and Pastor Sergey Ivanovich and his wife come pray with us. They sang three beautiful worship songs in Russian and told stories about how Evangelicals are ministering and sharing the Gospel in Ukraine during this time of war, how they are continuing to send missionaries across the world, and how we could pray for them. It was a tremendous blessing that they took the time to worship with us.

Wednesday Worship this month will be **August 16th**. It will be a **Back-to-School event** where we pray for our children and students and learn more about the new Fall kids program. **Dinner will be served at 5:45pm and worship will begin at 6:30pm.** Look for more information / opportunities to serve in the Sunday bulletins.



Happy Anniversary!

Jim & Nancy Crews 8/2 —26 years
Charles & Marlene Eschenbrenner 8/8—70 years
Jim & Cindy Glauert 8/10—6 years
Walter & Jody Graeler 8/11—67 years
Mike & Janet Kolmer 8/11—49 years
Roger & Joyce Lindstrom 8/11—60 years
David & Maggie Sohn 8/11—39 years

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

Harry & Phyllis Bauer 8/14—58 years
Ralph & Carole Stahlhut 8/24—60 years
John & Marcie Darby 8/26—23 years
Rich & Edith Niedringhaus 8/29—64 years
Ken & Kathy Fischer 8/31—55 years
Scott & Jannet Dieckgraefe 9/1—39 years
Fred & Margy Robinson 9/2—61 years

Happy Birthday!

Donna Jayne 8/1
Mary Adams 8/6
Caroline Wong 8/6
Al Black 8/12
Mary Smith 8/16
Walter Graeler 8/19
Melanie Brewer 8/2

Lela Vollmer 8/25
Donna Dubinsky 8/28
Andy Dielman 8/29
Betty Bins 8/31
Melissa Shehan 8/31
Kelly Schjenken 9/2
Paul Wilson 9/3
Rosemary Wilson 9/3
Jim Crews 9/5



Congratulations to these new Babies!

Benjamin Kozlowski was born July 13, 2023 to parents Jason and Shelby Kozlowski and grandparents Maureen, and the late Don Kozlowski.

Vivian Ann Ragsdale was born July 19, 2023 to parents Kim and Nick Ragsdale, and grandparents Charlie and the late Janet Jung, Ralph and Tora Ragsdale. She joins 3 brothers, Adam, Lucas, Charlie.

THANK-YOU

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

Thank you so much for the cards and prayers for Walter and I. It meant so much and continues to do so. The care and concern you have shown us is a living example of Christ's instructions to us when He walked on this earth and through his words in Scripture to love Him with all our hearts, soul and mind and to love others.

Thank you for loving Him and us. God bless you.

Walter and Jody Graeler

DEACON UPDATE

July 2023 Financial Update—

Needed to support Monthly Budget: \$61,884

July Giving in Support of Monthly Budget: \$43,453

July Expenses: \$49,079
(\$5,626) Short

Giving Received Year-to-Date: \$331,568

Expenses Year-to-Date: \$402,911
(\$71,343) Short

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.
Prayer & Care Meeting	1:30 p.m.

8/6	Communion
8/7	Missions Team 7:00pm
8/9	Women's Fellowship 11:30am
8/15	Wednesday Worship - Back to School Event 6:30p - Dinner preceding 5:45p
8/26	Pray with the Elders 9am
8/27	Town Hall Meeting 10:45am
8/28	Quilts of Valor 9:30am