

# St Paul's Evangelical Church

Edition 2, Volume 12  
December, 2018

## Pastor's Pen

People come to church for various reasons—some are experiencing a crisis in life and are looking for answers; some have a spiritual hunger in their soul and sense that the church will be a place to help them fill that void; some have come from early childhood and it is a place that has become part of their lives. Whatever the reason, they are always to find a place where Christians love Jesus supremely and love one another sacrificially, a place where they will be accepted, challenged to look at life, turn from those things that come between God and man, and walk both with God and a brother or sister. This month, I have asked Norma Porter, who has been a part of St. Paul's church family as long as anyone to share her thoughts with us.

*“Having a church family brings one closer to God and into harmony with each other. I am so thankful for my church family. I am touched by their concern and compassion. When I have a concern or problem, they pray for me and with me. We laugh, love, and pray together. Sometimes tears are shed in happy and sad times. God seems closer when they are near.*

*Surrounded by church family, cares seem to vanish and a peace fills your body and soul. There you feel safe from the cares of the world and can even solve some of your worries with a better conception of all the chaos around you.*

*A church family has many faces and each is a blessing from God. Those faces greet us, make us feel welcome and assures us of our part in the family of God. Families grow with children and the church is no exception. Children are a gift from God and we have been exceptionally blessed with them. When they gather around their teacher on Sunday morning, I murmur, “Thank You, Lord’ for our future church family.”*

*Psalm 92:2—“Every morning tell Him, ‘Thank You for Your kindness.’ And every evening rejoice in all His faithfulness.”*

## Church Events

December 2 – First Sunday in Advent

December 2 – Christmas program practice at 8:15 am

December 9 – Annual congregational meeting following Church service with carry in meal

December 9 – Christmas program practice after carry in meal

December 16 – Christmas program practice after carry in meal

December 17 – Board meeting at 6:15 pm

December 21 – Dress rehearsal following pizza and soda supper at 6:00pm

**Family Night:** Danny and Brenda Haldiman, Darren and Nancy Haldiman, Kirby and Debi Baumert, Larry and Sue Ann Reynolds, Doug and Jackie Cowgill

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# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  Kendall Borts
2 First Sunday in Advent  Christmas program practice at 8:15 am	3	4  Holly Eschenbrenner, Grayden Gatlin	5 WWJD 6:50-7:45am  Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am & Middle School 6:30-8  Roy Nott	6	7  Mark Rohrbach, Raleigh Nott	8  Gage Reynolds
9 Annual congregational meeting following Church service with carry in meal  Christmas program practice after carry in meal	10	11  Sandy Gerlach	12 WWJD 6:50-7:45am  Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am & Middle School 6:30-8  Lashley Rohrbach	13	14  Rob Reimler	15
16 Christmas program practice after carry in meal	17 Board meeting at 6:15 pm	18	19 WWJD 6:50-7:45am  Youth Group HS 6:30-8:15am & Middle School 6:30-8  Gabrielle Rohrbach	20	21 Dress rehearsal following pizza and soda supper at 6:00pm	22
23  Dalton Oerly	24	25  Natoma Elliott	26  Don Gerlach, Kim Marshall, Lisa Marshall	27	28  Steven Borts	29  Mary Haldiman
30	31					

## Update from our Missionaries— the Dettmans

Hey everyone,

Thanks so much for your prayers for us during Launch Week! We saw God move in some incredible ways

throughout the week and the last few days as well. Launch week ended last Saturday, and we got to have front-row seats to some pretty amazing things! (cont)

- At the Jesus Film showing, there were 7 students that attended, including Dan\*, Erin\* (one of the girls who decided to follow Jesus a few days before), Maranda\* (one of Erin's friends that she brought), and Nicole\*.

- As a team, we shared the Gospel with 68 people! In the 7 weeks we'd been sharing since the start of the school year, we had shared the Gospel with 70 people total. We nearly doubled our number in just that one week!

- A few days after the showing, one of our team met with Erin for a follow-up appointment to explain more of what it means to walk in the Spirit and follow Jesus, and to challenge her to become a Key Volunteer; someone who will help start a movement on her campus. She was very excited about the idea, and even came up with a list of 10 people she wanted to share the Gospel with. She's already shared with 2 people from her list! And when she came for the second follow-up appointment a few days after that, she brought Maranda with her so that they could share more with her!

- The week following the Jesus Film showing, Nicole was texting with our team asking clarifying questions about God, Jesus, and the trinity. Last night, she met with some people on our team and they were able to share with her again and answer more of her questions, and she decided to follow Jesus!

- Matt\* is a fellow worker from Sweden; he and his family moved here in August with a different company and he has a heart for university students. He met up with someone on our team the other day who told him about how God's been moving among students and showed him how we've been sharing the Gospel. Matt called our teammate yesterday to say that he shared the Gospel with a friend of his here and he decided to follow Jesus!

It's been beyond incredible to see how God's moving here. Thanks so much for your prayers in paving the way for His Word to go forth!

Please continue to pray for:

- Sally\*, the other girl who decided to follow Jesus at the beginning of Launch week. Our team has not been able to connect with her since then.

- Dan\*, who is desiring for God to reveal Himself to him.

- Mark\*, a guy I shared with last week who is very attracted to Jesus, and wanted to meet again to hear more.

together for His glory,  
the Dettmans

## **Becoming**

Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group is names "Becoming" because these teens are between childhood and adulthood and they are 'becoming.'

We had a fun night Nov. 7, going to SKYZONE—24 teens and a safe trip. We are thankful for Mark Rohrbach and New Hope lending vans for transportation and Paul Fennewald driving. It was a great time.

Kathy Reimler has been leading about thanksgiving, encouraging the teens to incorporate thanksgiving as a way of life. Sandy and Sharon are doing an incredible job with the meals. We will be meeting

Nov. 28—Looking forward to Christmas

Dec. 5—The Real meaning for Christmas

Dec. 12—The Best Christmas Pageant Ever  
movie night.

Dec. 19—a Christmas party, celebration

## **WWJD**

As we continue learning about the stories of the Bible, during November we concentrated on the story of Joseph as told in the Old Testament. Actually, we began learning about Joseph from Pastor Dennis Maxwell, of New Hope Baptist Church, on October 31. He told the children about Joseph's coat of many colors and how Joseph's brothers ended up selling him into slavery.

On November 7, Pastor Steve led the devotional and pointed out that one time when Joseph did the right thing, bad things happened to him. But Joseph stayed faithful to God and kept doing the right thing and finally he was given a high government position in Egypt. In spite of some bad things, his life turned out well and God was with him.

But Joseph's story didn't end there, as the children discovered when adult leader Karen Jones added to the story on November 14. Joseph had interpreted Pharaoh's dream foretelling of 7 years of great plenty to be followed by 7 years of famine and was put in charge of storing up food during the plentiful years. During the famine, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food and, eventually, all were reconciled. All of the brothers and their father Jacob moved to Egypt where they were fed and treated well. While Joseph's brothers had meant to do something bad by selling him, God turned it into good by using Joseph to store up food and preserve life during the famine. Even today sometimes things that start out bad are turned into good by God. He is always working for good and wants us to live well together.

The children also continue to enjoy various activities and a nutritious breakfast each Wednesday. During November, many worked on coloring "I Am Thankful For..." wheels to take home for Thanksgiving.

## **2018 High School Youth Group Update**

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the annual meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> so I wanted to take this time to inform the church and provide a year-end summary of the Jamestown Community Youth Group. It's been an

exciting year and I believe God is doing great things in and through this group. Ben Marshall and Kelly Cobb have joined the team which has provided some much-needed support to prevent any one person from getting burned out. In this letter I will briefly touch on (cont) several different things the group has done this year and some goals moving forward.

### **Weekly Attendance**

I've said it before but the success or failure of the youth group shouldn't be based on numbers. In fact, I sometimes get a little nervous when we have huge groups because I'm afraid we're starting to appeal to kids for the wrong reasons (food, games, hanging out, movie nights, etc.). I often find myself too concerned about attendance and am tempted make "hangout" time as long as possible, even if that cuts in to the study. That being said, I would say we average 20 youth each week with some weeks being close to 30 and others around 15. Of those who regularly attend, close to half are Seniors, 6-8 Juniors, 2-3 Sophomores, and 4-5 freshman.

### **New Purpose Statement**

The purpose of the Jamestown Community Youth Group is to "Create and Cultivate a relationship with Christ to withstand the trials and temptations of life." If you haven't been in the youth group room lately, I would encourage you to take a look at the banner on the wall. Our purpose statement is written on the poster with a tree and an intricate root system as the background. The way I see it, the youth in our community MUST be rooted in Christ or the storms and winds of life will take them out. It's not enough to look like a Christian on the surface. A tree has no power to stand if there are no roots or if the roots grow shallow. I believe that poster is a great snapshot of why our group exists.

### **Discussions and Material**

The new sound bar and projector our church got has been a wonderful tool for us. On a typical week, we will watch a 5-10 minute video followed by a 30-45 minute discussion based off the video. We have been utilizing RightNowMedia using Kelly's account through her church in Columbia (now that I think about it, I'm not sure if that's right or wrong...anyway). We typically study Francis Chan series (we are currently going through James) but have also completed a Tim Tebow series and occasionally take question from the youth and discuss them.

When I say we discuss a topic, we truly discuss it. Whether it's right or wrong, Kelly, Ben, and I don't do a lot of teaching. These kids are in school for 7 hours a day so I don't think preaching at them in youth group is the most effective way to get the point across. My goal is to talk as little as possible while keeping the discussion on topic. I want to affirm good points or thoughts while also pointing out if something said is untrue or unbiblical. The youth do most of the talking and they can certainly have a lot say if we're focused on listening to them.

### **Mission Trip**

We did not do a mission trip this year. Last spring I tried to drum up interest in going to Camp Aurora for a weekend but the response was slim to none. A couple of the youth have expressed interest in going on a big "Group Workcamps" mission trip which we haven't done for a couple years now. While these are great experiences and certainly worthwhile spiritually, they take a lot of work and coordination. The last time we tried to organize a mission trip like this there just wasn't enough response from the parents to move forward. On top of that, the youth are so busy during the summer with traveling sports, FFA Camp, Church camp, family vacations, etc. I'm certainly not opposed to a big mission trip and would help however I could but would need someone to take point and lead the effort.

### **Spiritual Growth**

This is the toughest point to talk about because it's hard to know what's going on in the hearts of the youth in Jamestown. Most of our members don't regularly go to church which adds to the uncertainty. I can't recall having any youth come to me saying their life has been completely changed and they've given their heart to Jesus. Additionally, minimal response is given when we try to coordinate service projects and mission trips. However, I've had some private discussions with some of the youth when they were going through rough patches and tried to give them Godly wisdom and advice. I've also gotten feedback from parents saying they can see a change in their child because of youth group. My main prayer (and I hope it's your too) is that seeds are being sown in the hearts of our youth. Pray that they wouldn't get caught up in worldly temptations and pleasures and seek satisfaction in Christ who truly and eternally satisfies.

### **Conclusion**

There is a lot to be excited about with the Jamestown Community Youth Group. At the same time, however, we need to make sure our focus is on spiritual growth, NOT numbers. In my opinion, 5 members who experience growth is better than 30 that remain stagnant. Spread the word to those you know about our high school, junior high, and elementary school groups and please pray for Ben, Kelly, and I as we try to shepherd the flock.

## **Care Packs**

Area churches are providing Jamestown school students with care packs (formerly known as buddy packs) again this school year. A care pack is a collection of food sent home on Friday to help supplement a food shortage at home over the weekend. Currently, there are eight children in the program. The community does a great job supporting this program and it is truly appreciated by the students, parents and school staff.

St. Paul's will be providing food for the months of December and January. A collection tote will be placed in the basement in November. Food will be collected until the end of the calendar year. The church will also be taking monetary donations as well. Simply note "buddy pack" in the memo and drop the donation in the offering.

### **Food items being collected include:**

Ravioli/Beefaroni/Spaghetti microwaveable cups, macaroni & cheese cups, Vienna sausages, jerky meat sticks, tuna packets, regular sized jars of peanut butter, peanut butter crackers, peanut snack mix, cereal/granola bars, pop tarts, fruit cups, raisins, fruit snacks, juice boxes and milk boxes (that don't have to be refrigerated).

Items should be easy to open and prepare by a school aged child. If you have any questions, please call Heidi Eschenbrenner at 660-849-2372. Thank you for your help.

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting  
November 19, 2018

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board met on Monday, November 19, 2018. Present were Don Gerlach, Ted Rohrbach, Kim Marshall, Lisa Porter, Susan Borts, Barb Oerly and Pastor Steve Watson. President Don Gerlach called the meeting to order and Pastor Steve opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's report: The secretary's report from the October 14, 2018, meeting was reviewed. Kim made a motion to approve the minutes and Susan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: A copy of the treasurer's report was given to all board members. Barb made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Church website calendar entries – The board discussed the website calendar and the potential of publishing a yearly calendar that has all known dates included on the calendar. Examples would be Evangelical Council dates and nursing home worship service dates. As new events are identified they could be added as appropriate. Pastor Steve will look into calendar options.
- Church record book – Lisa continues to work on the record book; no new additions.
- Classroom space – This will be an item to discuss at the annual meeting.
- Stewardship committee report – Ted provided a copy to everyone and the board discussed the continuation of the committee. The board agreed that it would be a good idea to continue the committee for at least the next year.
- Care pack program – Collection of food will be through November and our church provides food in December and January.
- Homeless Ministry – Several people that took bags have given them away. Additional bags available in the church basement.
- Communion Plates – The communion plates have come in and were donated by Anna Marie Hendrix. At communion this weekend Pastor Steve will mention the new plates and let the congregation know we kept the old ones. If someone knows who donated them, we need to see if they are interested in taking them.
- Pew silencers – The replacement pew silencers are in and the old ones will be replaced soon.
- Salvation Army – Ted to contact them about a contribution for Hurricane relief.
- 2019 Family Night Host Schedule – Barb will make updates based on the changes we are aware of and forward to the board for review.

New Business:

- Approval of bills – Kim made a motion to approve payment of the bills and Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Potential new board members – Kim and Susan are going off the board. Board members have been talking with church members to look for replacements.
- Pastor Evaluation – Cindy Wieberg from Moniteau Evangelical Church will combine all notes from Evangelical Council meeting on one evaluation form. It will be discussed with Pastor Steve at the Evangelical Council meeting in January.
- Annual Meeting – The board discussed the agenda for the meeting. Some of the items to include are; continuation of contribution reports to all church families, potential painting and trim refinishing in the church and classroom space.
- Christmas Program – Sara Rohrbach has agreed to direct the program and is looking for volunteers to help.
- Advent Wreath – The board needs to look for it on Sunday so it is ready for the first Sunday in Advent.
- VBS material – The board discussed the payment of VBS material. St. Paul's has the majority of children attending so there was discussion on St. Paul's paying for the material and the other participating churches reimbursing St.

Paul's. Barb made a motion to pay for VBS material and have other churches reimburse and Lisa seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- Copier – There was an issue with double sided copying but it seems to be working at this point. The board decided that it needs to be serviced. Pastor Steve will call and set that up.
- Gideon's – The board discussed a donation to the Gideon's. They typically provide a supply pastor once a year. Lisa made a motion to give the Gideon's \$200 and Susan seconded the motion. Motion passed. Beth Fennewald can give us an address to send donation.
- Youth Group Christmas party – A request was made to provide additional funds to the youth group to have a Christmas party. It would pay for food and activities for the party. There is also interest in designing a t-shirt for the youth group and giving one to each youth. The board thinks this is a very positive thing to do. It will help spread the word about the youth group. It was decided a t-shirt is something we would do for both the high school and middle school youth groups. It is also something we want to consider for WWJD in the future. Lisa made a motion to provide funding for the youth group Christmas party and t-shirts. Susan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### Discussion items with Pastor Steve:

- Mileage and pastor's report – Pastor Steve gave board members a copy of the report. The report includes an overview of what has been done over the last few weeks, events coming up, sermon planning, visits and mileage detail.
- Music in Church – Pastor Steve would like to incorporate more WWJD and youth singing in the church. The board shared that Mark and Lisa Rohrbach are in charge of special music and they would be the ones to discuss this with.

Next board meeting will be Monday, December 17, at 6:15 pm.

Lisa made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Susan seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned after the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Oerly  
Secretary

Note: After the meeting was adjourned, Ted submitted a request through email to approve the draft budget that was presented in October. All board members through email approved the draft budget as a final to present at the annual meeting in December.

#### Dates to Remember:

Sunday, December 2, 2018 – First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 2, 2018 – Christmas program practice at 8:15 am

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Annual congregational meeting following Church service with carry in meal

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Christmas program practice  
after carry in meal

Sunday, December 16, 2018 – Christmas program practice  
after carry in meal

Monday, December 17, 2018 – Board meeting at 6:15 pm

Friday, December 21, 2018 – Dress rehearsal following  
pizza and soda supper at 6:00pm