

St Paul's Evangelical Church

The Messenger

Edition 2, Volume 5
February, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Bill Wilson was an alcoholic. Alcoholism had ruined his life—he had lost his job, his family, his reputation and his future if he continued. He knew that he had to do something. He felt he just needed to 'control it better to show more self-control.' But he found that he couldn't. He succeeded for a time and then relapsed—he would take one step forward and two steps backward and his life continued to spin out of control. He had been admitted to a rehab 4 times. While he gained new insight into alcoholism, it wasn't until he met Bob Smith (another alcoholic) and they began to build a friendship and help each other to stay sober. Bill Wilson learned two things—each of us needs the help of others to make the changes we desire and to maintain those changes; and, it is in helping others to be better that we are helped to be better. There is an interdependence and a mutual care that is needed.

The same is learned in other areas of life. Recently I heard there is a group of individuals meeting for exercise twice a week at the Assembly church in Jamestown. Each of them has a desire to be better/healthier physically. Each has probably tried on their own to exercise and keep it up, to make it a way of life. And, probably each has at some point failed to persevere. But, meeting together, supporting one another, encouraging one another, celebrating each lost pound (success!) together, sharing times of stumbling together, helps them to succeed and to persevere and to reach the goal of being healthy together. People who drop out will, most likely, come to a point when they need encouragement but there will be no one there to cheer them on.

The same is true spiritually. As Christians, we want to do spiritually better, for ourselves and for our family and friends—but we find that no matter how much we desire to be better, we stumble along the way, we lose heart, we stop reading, praying, worshipping, growing—not because we don't want to and not because we don't realize how valuable it is but because God never intended us to 'succeed' by ourselves. There is an interdependence and mutual care that is necessary. It is only as we allow others to care about our spiritual well-being and for us to take the responsibility to care for the spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters that together we reach our goal of spiritual health and moving in the right direction.

In March, we will be having a 'Membership Sunday.' Church membership is about different things to different people—but to me, it means I want to publicly express my desire to belong, to care for others in the church and to give them permission to care for my soul. I can't make it through life in a way that honors the Lord Jesus without you and without caring for you and you caring for me. Church membership is a public declaration of that truth. If you are interested in membership, please contact Pastor Steve.

Church Events

Feb. 14th – Communion

Feb. 17th – Ash Wednesday Service at Moniteau at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 21st – Dettman Ministry Offering/Family Night: Trivia Plus with Elaine and Sandee, 6:00 p.m.

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From Mary Kay

Our daughter gave Mary Kay a gift subscription to “Storyworth.” Storyworth poses a question and then allows Mary Kay to answer it to share with her children and grandchildren (allows her to tell her story, what God has done in her life). One of the questions asked was, “What has made your faith stronger?”

I think I would have to say that what has made my faith (and I often use the phrase “confidence in God”) stronger are also the pivotal memories in life that I have. My first personal awareness and initial “falling in love with Jesus” at age 7 is certainly my memory of my faith. I remember going to Bible Camp several times as a child, but my strongest memory was going to Stoneybrook Bible Camp outside of Topeka, Kansas the summer I turned 15...the camp was in August I’m pretty sure, so I had just turned 15. During this camp I made some resolutions with the Lord to seriously follow Him with my whole heart. It was not long after I returned home from camp that summer that I chose to be baptized. As if I hadn’t been awkward enough before this time and a total misfit among my peers, after this I was really focused! My faith was growing and changing as I was. I look back on my life from here on with mostly a genuine thankfulness that God gave me the experiences in life that He did to bring me through always in preparation for where He knew He had me headed.

There were two other incidents that come to mind as formative in my faith and walk with the Lord Jesus. The first incident I want to share is while in Haxtun, CO I received “the worst spiritual advice ever”...which was “while you are in the ‘having and raising babies stage’ of your life, I don’t know why you would even try to keep up on Bible reading, personal devotion and prayer.” My inward response (which of course was God’s Spirit speaking to mine) was “your husband and children cannot afford for you to check-out spiritually in these years!” I prayed and asked advice from anyone and everyone on ideas to actually “do” this through these years...I tried many different things...but the long and short of it was that God wanted His relationship with me enough that He always helped me find a way. Even at my very worst, He found ways to speak to me, to teach me, to help me keep growing and knowing Him. Secondly, when we moved to Fremont, God launched me into a course of faith-growing unlike any I had known before in that He began to teach me to trust Him for things so far out of my control that I asked for things He put on my heart that I had absolutely no way to accomplish or even see a way that they could happen under my efforts. This is where I remain today. Faith and growing to know and trust Jesus and through Him, His Father, doesn’t have an ending--THAT He has promised!

Simple ways to share the Gospel

The gospel is simply the good news about the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. (1Cor. 15:3-4)

Last month we shared about the Wordless Book with each color representing a spiritual truth. This month, we want to share about your Personal Testimony.

Our stories are not the gospel; the gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ. Our stories can incorporate this good news though! Every believer should be ready in season and out of season to share what God has done in his/her life.

If you’re like me, something as simple as a personal testimony can seem overwhelming. Never fear, because this is actually super simple if you know the three simple elements Paul included when sharing his testimony in [Acts 26:1-23](#).

Here are the three elements to a basic testimony:

1. Give a brief description of what your life was like before you received Christ. (see verses 4-11) Perhaps you grew up in a ‘Christian home’ and so don’t remember a time you didn’t believe in Christ—but there was a time when it suddenly ‘clicked’ and set you in a new direction. Use that time as your before.
2. Describe how God spoke to your heart and opened your eyes to spiritual truth. Include the basic facts of the gospel and your response of faith. (verses 12-18)
3. Finally, share how your life has changed since receiving the forgiveness available in Christ. (verses 19-23)

Mary Kay’s ‘story’ above is a good example of taking what God has done in your life and sharing it to point people to faith in God through the Lord Jesus.

Sermon Series

“Taking Inventory, Focusing Our Lives”
We want to look at Colossians as we begin the new year—

Memory Verse for February

Be working on this important verse

By this shall all men know you are My disciples if you have love for one another. John 13:35

Be working on this verse as a family. Blessings.

Youth Groups

We have begun for the spring. We invite and need your prayers for the teens, the leaders, the health in the community (when school is canceled, youth group is canceled). The Senior High is working on answering questions that the teens asked: “How to get the most out of your Bible reading,” “How to make a difference for Jesus,” “How do we put science and the Bible together.” They are having guest speakers help, Karen and Nat Smith on Bible reading, Ben Smith on creation and the Bible. It is exciting that we have so much talent and knowledge in the church and people willing to share.

The Middle School is looking at ‘Great Stories of the Bible—How God worked in and through lives.’ We have a number of people that are sharing their ‘present day’ stories—showing that God didn’t only work in lives in the past, but He is working in lives today. If you would like to share or help, please contact Pastor Steve.

We do need people who will consistently pray—**the work of God begins on our knees.**

Good Books

You might encounter a good book, buy it, read it and then it sits on your shelf. It is too good to throw away and it collects dust. If you have a good book that has especially helped you in your walk with the Lord Jesus and would like to make it available for your brothers and/or sisters in the church, please bring it into the pastor’s office with a brief note including your name, how it helped you in your spiritual life and whether you desire the book to be returned to you. When you find a book that helps you, be assured that it will also help others.

A great book that is helping me spiritually is, “When the Soul Listens” by Jan Johnson. You can get it on Amazon Kindle. Another book that I would recommend is Ann Voskamp’s “1000 Gifts” also available on Kindle.

Update on the Jesus Storybook Bible

We have given out nearly 60 of these in the last few months. I have asked for ‘testimonials’ from those that have received them. This is the one that I received from Nancy Haldiman.

“The kids loved reading the Storybook Bible each night. They loved the stories and beautiful illustrations and I loved how each story ties back to Jesus. It was a great read that we will enjoy several times over!”

Another story from Karen Smith on the Jesus Storybook Bible.

When I am tutoring, one of the activities I ask of my students is to read a portion of a good book and summarize. I am doing this with a young lady from Korea (in 6th grade). Her English vocabulary is fairly small, so I gave her a copy of The Jesus Storybook Bible. I was thrilled when her Dad told me that she reads and writes a summary from it daily, without having to be asked.

Sharing your story

It is encouraging to hear how God has worked in your life. If you would like to write a short article about how God has provided or protected, or led, or strengthened, please take the time and write it down. Send that part of your story to pastor Steve at ecmc.Steve@gmail.com to be included in the coming newsletters. The Gospel of Mark tells the story of a man that was delivered from demons. *“As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.” (Mark 5)*

When we tell others what He has done for us, it glorifies Him, it encourages others (“What He’s done for others, He’ll do for you” principle) and He uses it in their lives. If you don’t know how to start that conversation try this: “I am just so excited, I have to tell somebody. You will never believe what the Lord did for me . . . “

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Debi Baumert and opened with prayer led by Pastor Steve Watson.

The minutes of the December 21st, 2020, meeting were read and approved. Ben Marshall made the motion and Mark Oerly seconded. Motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mark Rohrbach. After a typo error correction, the report was approved. The motion was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Nancy Haldiman.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Memorial Plaque: Ben Marshall reported that he has found a source for disk engraving and will continue to update the plaque as he gains information.
2. Church Record Book: Ben advised he has begun some updates and will continue as more information is confirmed. The Church Record Book is kept in the church safe and will be available at each Board Meeting. Ben added that he will maintain a working document and then update the actual records at each meeting.
3. Questionnaire: Ben Marshall, Susan Borts and Julie King have created a draft regarding the forthcoming questionnaire (previously announced last month) in order to assist with needed information not only for the Messenger, but also for the Memorial Plaque, the Church Record Book, and Membership Sunday. When finalized, it will be mailed out and we ask for you full cooperation and swift response.
4. Committee Service/Special Music: To date, no one has volunteered to arrange for "special music" during our Sunday worship service. Although we are accustomed to specials each Sunday, it is not an absolute. Perhaps that information will encourage someone to offer their services.
5. CoMo Connect: An email address was requested. We will use ecmc.steve@gmail.com. Also, the WiFi password is stpaul2020.
6. New Appliances: One new refrigerator is now located in the kitchen. The Board has approved the purchase of a second refrigerator at a cost up to \$850.00. The motion was made by Nancy Haldiman and seconded by Mark Rohrbach. Motion passed. The Board has also approved the purchase of a new vacuum at a cost up to \$350.00. The motion was made by Mark Rohrbach and seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed. Our thanks to Ben as he researches and finalizes these purchases.
7. Live Streaming: The pros and cons of live streaming our weekly worship services were discussed at length. Although, again, no final decision was reached, the Board continues to maintain an interest in this form of outreach. Pastor Steve's input was favorable. It was decided to continue research before making a final commitment.
8. Mission Trip: The Mission Trip this year will be in an area just north of Indianapolis, Indiana. The sponsors accompanying the 12 youth are Seth Rohrbach, Kim & Ben Marshall, and Barb Oerly. The dates for the trip are July 4th to the 10th. At this point, a \$50.00 deposit is required for each youth. Due to last year's trip cancellation, no fundraiser is scheduled this year.
9. Middle School Group and High School Youth Group: Both groups are meeting again on Wednesday evenings. Since face masks are encouraged, Pastor Steve will be placing another order so they will be available.

10. Membership Sunday: The Board has fixed the date of Sunday, March 28th (also Palm Sunday) as our Membership Sunday. Pastor Steve has a "working list" that he will use for contact purposes. We will continue to update this list as names come to mind.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Rohrbach presented the month's bills. The motion to pay same was made by Mark Oerly and seconded by Ben Marshall. Motion passed. At this time, Mark also advised that per our ByLaws, our financial records need to be audited each year. Susan Borts has agreed to accept that responsibility this year. Also, Larry Reynolds has agreed to prepare our tax reports.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastor Steve presented his monthly report including mileage, expenses, telephone calls, several home visits and an update on the Middle School Youth Group. He also distributed 12 Jesus Storybook Bibles this month and will do follow up. He advised there is no Confirmation Class in 2021. Also, no definite decision has been made by the Ministerial Alliance regarding our community Easter Sunrise Service, but remain hopeful it will occur.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: See the attached St. Pauls "Calendar" for 2021. Note that it includes proposed "Special Offering" dates and information. The motion to accept this calendar was made by Ben Marshall and seconded by Mark Rohrbach. Motion passed.

Our next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 15th, 2021.

Ben Marshall made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Nancy Haldiman. Motion passed. The meeting was closed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, February 14 Communion
- Monday, February 15 Board Meeting/6:30 PM
- Wed., February 17 Ash Wednesday Service at Moniteau/7:00 PM
- Sunday, February 21 Family Night/6:00 PM (Trivia Plus with Elaine & Sandee)

Family Night Hosts: *Ben & Kim Marshall, Don & Elaine Ernst, Ercell & Sharon Wagener,

Harold & Mary Haldiman, Norma Porter, Noland & Lisa Porter

For anyone who would like to mail in their offering, contributions can be mailed to:

Nancy Haldiman
24659 Bacon Bridge Road
Jamestown, MO 65046

St. Paul's Evangelical Calendar 2021

January 10- Communion

February 14- Communion

February 17- Ash Wednesday Service at Moniteau 7:00 pm

February 21-Dettman Ministry Offering / Family Night: Trivia Plus with Elaine and Sandee 6:00 pm

March 5- World Day of Prayer

March 7- Evangelical Council at St. Paul's 4:00 pm

March 14- Salvation Army Offering

March 21- Communion/Family Night: Talent Show 6:00 pm

March 28- Palm Sunday

April 1- Maundy Thursday at St. Paul's (arrive at 6:30 pm to begin at 7:00 pm)

April 2- Good Friday Service at Moniteau 7:00 pm

April 4- Easter/ Communion

April 18- Family Night: Volleyball and Cards 6:00 pm

April 25- Foster Kids Camp offering if needed.

May 23- Communion/ St. Paul's Cemetery Offering

June 20- Family Night: Sunday School Picnic 6:00 pm

July 11- Communion/ Food Pantry Offering (Central MO Food Bank)

August 15- Communion/ Evangelical Association Offering

August 15- Family Night: Softball and Ice Cream. Games start at 5:00 pm. Eat at 6:00 pm.

September 5-Labor Day Service at Jamestown Park

September 19/26- Mission fest at St. Paul's with Moniteau as guests. Noon meal. Offering to be determined.

October 3-World Wide Communion

October 17-Family Night: Fall Walk. Jamestown Pool, Senior Housing, and Community Building Offering. Usually gather at 1:30 pm. Fish Fry at 6:00 pm.

November 7 - Evangelical Council at Moniteau 4:00 pm

November 21- Communion/Family Night: Game Night 6:00 pm

November 28- First Sunday in Advent

December 12- Annual Meeting with meal following

December 19- New Board Installation

December 24- Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm. Healing House Offering

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day Chris Baker	3 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15	4	5 Michelle Phillips	6 Hailey Croy
7 Super Bowl Byron Haldiman	8 Janet Reimler	9	10 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 Addison Marshall	11	12	13
14 Valentine's Day Communion Nancy Haldiman	15 Presidents Day Board Meeting, 6:30 pm Brooke Imhoff Hannah Marshall Clark Rohrbach Charles Schoenthal Judy Wittenberger Kathy Reimler	16	17 Ash Wednesday Service at Moniteau 7:00 p.m. Luther Bish	18	19	20
21 Dettman Ministry Offering Family Night: Trivia Night 6:00 p.m.	22	23	24 Teen/HS Youth groups 6:30-8:15 Goldie Marshall	25 Lyndsey Stauffer	26	27 Terisa Knierim Valerianna Gentsch
28 Deborah Brennan Robyn Eschenbrenner Feb. 29 – Heston Gatlin	<p align="center"><u>Family Night Host/Hostesses:</u></p> <p align="center">*Ben & Kim Marshall Don & Elaine Ernst Ercell & Sharon Wagener Harold & Mary Haldiman Norma Porter Noland & Lisa Porter</p>					