

St Paul's Evangelical Church

Edition 6, Volume 3



Pastor's Pen

We began a series on the church last month saying that "A church is a group of people, who in response to the Holy Spirit, have entered into a living, loving, transforming relationship with both the Lord Jesus and with one another for the glory of God." Pew research did a survey on why people go to church—and why they don't—people were allowed to give more than one reason.

1. To become closer to God. (81%)
2. So their children will have a moral foundation. (69%)
3. To become a better person. (68%)
4. For comfort in times of trouble or sorrow. (66%)
5. They find the sermons valuable. (59%)
6. To be part of a faith community. (57%)
7. To continue their family's religious traditions. (37%)
8. They feel obligated to go. (31%)
9. To meet new people or socialize. (19%)
10. To please their family, spouse or partner. (16%)

Reasons why they skip regular religious services.

1. They practice their faith in "other ways." (37%)
2. They are not believers. (28%)
3. No reason is "very important." (26%)
4. They haven't found a house of worship they like. (23%)
5. They don't like the sermons. (18%)
6. They don't feel welcome. (14%)
7. They don't have the time. (12%)
8. Poor health or mobility. (9%)
9. No house of worship in their area. (7%)

I am surprised that one of the answers for why people skip religious services is not, "Other things just seem more important or urgent." Each of us has reasons to attend or not, but the Scripture is clear that the best way to grow as a believer is to be an active part of a church family that loves Jesus, loves one another and clearly teaches His Word. Pray that we will become that. Read Hebrews 10:23-25

Church Events

June 9 – Camp Aurora special offering for foster care youth

June 16 – Family night at 6:00; Sunday School picnic

June 17 – Church Board Meeting at 6:15

July 14 – Food Pantry Offering

July 15 through July 18 – VBS from 6:30 – 8:50

Family Night:

Bob and Lisa Marshall

Lashley and Joyce Rohrbach

Andy and Kacey Clay

Keith and Ana Maria Hendrix

Tim and Amber Wilson

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June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Billy Porter
2	3	4	5	6	7 Bradley Schoenthal, Evan Schoenthal	8
9 Camp Aurora special offering for foster care youth	10 Karen Schlup	11 Ben Glenn	12 Kim Marshall	13 Cory Reynolds, Andy Clay	14	15
16 Family night at 6:00; Sunday School picnic Evan Knierim	17 Church Board Meeting at 6:15 Jacob Haldiman, Evelyn Rohrbach	18 Milayna Meisenheimer	19 Harold Haldiman, Mikayla Haldiman, Madison Haldiman	20 Margaret Heimericks	21	22 Brayden Schoenthal, Ethan Schoenthal, Caleb Rohrbach
23	24	25 Darren Haldiman	26	27	28	29
30						

Youth Group

The Youth Group is putting the finishing touches on the year. May 1st, we watched the Christian movie "I can Only Imagine" which was well received by the group. May 8th, we invited parents of the youth to attend our Wednesday night meeting. We fed everyone supper, discussed highlights from the year, and answered questions parents had. This was well attended with over 80 people between the middle and high school groups.

While we don't meet regularly during the summer months, there are still a few things I would like to do with the Youth Group. One of those is a community service project. We are looking for a daylong project in Jamestown that would help an individual in need or provide benefit for the entire community. Please let Ben, Kelly, or myself know if you have any ideas.

Thanks you all for the prayers, support, snacks, and Mt Dew provided during this entire school year. God is using all of us do a great work in the lives of our youth.

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

"To Mars and Beyond" will be held at St. Paul's/Grace UMC, Monday-Thursday, July 15-18 from 6:30-8:50 each evening for ages 4 through completed 6th grade. Gathering and pick-up will be at St. Paul's Evangelical Church. Blast off with the first VBS to land on Mars and discover the wonders of God's universe.

Watch for upcoming registration information in the church bulletin and July Messenger

News from the Dettman's

He is risen! We hope you had a blessed Easter celebrating the resurrection of our Lord with family and friends. We enjoyed getting together with other expat families here for an extended time of worship and fellowship, including an egg hunt for the kids. While we had much to celebrate on Easter, it was a sobering to remember that for the vast majority of the people in our country, it was just another Sunday. Please continue to pray that more and more people here would find joy in celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ! This month, we have much to praise God for. During our "push week," we were able to share the Gospel with 57 people. Then, the following week, we saw another girl, *Rachel, decide to follow Jesus! Our team had been meeting with her for a few months, sharing and reading the Bible with her. Eventually she got to the point where she wanted to believe, but had some questions she wanted to ask a local believer. We asked some of our national staff in the capital if they would be willing to talk to her, and they came down to our city for the day to meet with her. During their meeting, *Rachel said she wanted to give her life to Jesus! Since then she has come up with a daily reading plan, and already wants to talk to others about the decision she has made. Join us in praising God for the work He has done in Rachel's heart, and pray that God would continue to grow her and give her boldness in sharing about Him! This upcoming month, from May 5-June 4, most of the people here will be celebrating Ramadan. During the month of Ramadan, people fast from food, drinks, and smoking from sunrise to sunset. This helps the people sympathize with the poor and draw closer to God. There is an increased emphasis on doing good and giving to the poor. Ramadan is an easy time to get into conversations about God, and see what people believe about how to please God. As we listen to people share about all the things they believe God requires of them and how unsure they are of their standing before Him, it burdens our heart knowing that Jesus came to perfectly fulfill all the God requires, and that all who simply trust in Him can have perfect assurance of our standing before Him. A common prayer for people here during Ramadan is that God would show them the "straight path." Please join us in praying this along with them, knowing that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life! together for His glory, the Dettmans

Mary Kay remembers from June 2000.

Six months ago, I sat at this table in our sun room, admiring the view of our wintry back yard. Today, the expected and anticipated summer 'glory' is on display before me: a garden full of soon-to-be flowering flowers; roses, carnations, lilies, impatiens, pansies, ferns, and hostas edging the various parts of the backyard. When I wrote six months ago telling you how I enjoy this view and the peaceful place to read, study and write, I had no idea what this year would hold, but I did have some thoughts on my heart I felt were from God, some goals I thought He gave me to fulfill. As I look out on our beautiful backyard and remember how it was just potential and all unseen only six months ago, it is a picture to me of what God at work in our lives is like. Often there are periods that look stark, ugly, unproductive, cold, even harsh...but God remains constant, working yet unseen, never gone, never uninterested, never NOT sovereign, never deaf...and in His time, the work of His Spirit, the effect of His Presence will display growth where there seemed to be none and beautiful bearing of fruit where there seemed to be no life. I believe reading His Word over and over, hearing it, listening to it, memorizing it, teaching it, interacting with it often is like preparing and tending a garden for and through it's latent season. Much goes into the ground, but we don't see anything happening. As laying fallow and resting is necessary for ground to produce in it's season, it is necessary in our lives for periods as well and is no indication that God is not at work doing what is necessary within. We need to be willing to embrace the seasons of life He gives where we cannot see the fruit, the beauty of blooming flowers for the knowledge that His promise to us is His Word will not be unfruitful or ineffective in transforming us and our lives into the eternal thing of beauty He has in mind

WWJD

The 2018-2019 regular school year has ended, and WWJD will take a break for the summer. We met 31 times during the school year with an average attendance of 29.

WWJD finished the year with Visitor's Day on May 15. Including the children, guests, and volunteers, there were 58 who gathered for this amazing Wednesday morning ministry.

Pastor Steve Watson of St. Paul's led the group in prayer before a delicious meal of breakfast casseroles, scrambled eggs, donuts, and fruit.

During devotional time, a new puppet friend EP3-20, a robot, visited with the children and guests. EP3-20 (Ephesians 3:20) came specially to talk about this summer's Vacation Bible School. "To Mars and Beyond" will be held at St. Paul's/Grace UMC on July 15-18 beginning at 6:30 each evening. Our new robot friend invited the children to attend and explore where God's power can take them through cool crafts, fun games, neat science, great music, snacks, and, most important, stories about Jesus.

Have a great summer and a great big thank you to the 20+ volunteers who help in fixing breakfast, supervising activities and clean-up, and providing the devotionals.

Minutes for the Board meeting

May 20, 2019

St. Paul's Evangelical Church Board met on Monday, May 20, 2019. Present were Don Gerlach, Ted Rohrbach, Barb Oerly, Lisa Porter, Mark Rohrbach, Debi Baumert 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 April 15, 2019, meeting was reviewed. Mark made a motion to approve the minutes and Debi seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report: A copy of the treasurer's report was given to all board members and reviewed. There was discussion on a memorial policy that was approved by the board at the May 18, 2015 board meeting. Barb will look for a copy of the policy. Barb made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Mark seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Church website calendar entries – Family night June 16, 2019; Sunday School picnic.
- Church record book – None.
- Stewardship report – No update.
- Homeless Ministry – No update.
- Address list for Messenger – Done.
- Comprehensive list of church helpers – Barb will post a copy on the bulletin board and get it in Messenger.
- Electrical work update – Two companies will be looking at work and providing an estimate. One has already been to the church and waiting on an estimate. The other company will be looking at soon and providing a bid.
- Organ removal – Ted is going to address this with the congregation this weekend.
- General maintenance – Don completed several general maintenance items including; adjustment of exit door by choir room, LED lights installed in hall outside of choir room and hanging of bulletin boards. He is going to look at the choir room door that is sticking. A door mat was installed outside the basement entrance.
- Birthday list – There is ongoing work being done to the list. If anyone has updates or additions please notify the board.
- Wax basement floor – This will be done after VBS.
- Safe deposit box – The box belongs to the Cemetery Board. It will be checked to verify physical copies of the CDs are in the box.
- Copier – Service has been called and will be out to fix the fuser.
- Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group End of Year Dinner – Approximately 80 youth and parents attended. It was a very nice event.

New Business:

- Approval of bills – Barb made a motion to approve payment of bills and Debi seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Copy machine in choir room – Ted will talk to the choir about to see what is actually needed.
- Mission Trip 2020 – At the end of the year youth group dinner, Seth and other leaders of the high school youth group discussed taking the high school youth on a mission trip in June 2020. The board discussed the trip and tentative plans that are in the very early stages of development. It was noted that there is approximately \$5,200 in the mission trip fund and \$1,000 has been in the budget for a trip as well. Debi made a motion to sponsor a mission trip for the youth and Barb seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Bulletin – Details of the Catholic Church picnic and Redemption Inside the Walls will be put in the bulletin the next two weeks.
- Freezer – The board is asking that items left in the freezer be labeled with who it belongs to and a date. If it is not marked it will be assumed that it is for anyone’s use.
- Craig Flood Assistance – The board discussed and Barb will contact Rachel for information.

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, local and traveling visits, phone contacts, mileage details, and expenses he has incurred.
- Magnolia Ramblers – The Magnolia Ramblers will be coming through Jamestown. There was discussion about them leading a church service. Mark will talk to Lashley about them possibly coming.
- Upstairs thermostats – Pastor Steve asked who was responsible for changing them as the temperature starts to change. Larry Borts adjusts the thermostats.
- Picnic tables – Pastor Steve reported we will be getting a couple new picnic tables for the church. These will be in addition to the ones we already have now.
- Baccalaureate – Pastor Steve said the service was very nice and he appreciated all the people that helped.

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

Lisa made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Oerly
Secretary