

Epistle

*A welcoming community
sharing Christ's love
in service
through relationships.
Welcome. Share. Serve.*


July 2019

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

News and More News

This month, I have a number of varied things to share with you, so keep reading to look for different topics. Summer is sometimes a time of quiet and rest in the church, but this year does not look like it!

Roof Leak



About nine years ago, Saint Paul's UMC did roof repairs to the brick façade on the front side of our roof. That same area is leaking again. Rather than make a second set of repairs to this brick façade, we are making plans to remove it and replace it with a different type of product which will adhere better, providing us with a more permanent and reliable fix to this part of the roof. We are making plans for the repair right now. If you have a contractor to recommend, please contact a member of the trustees or the church office immediately so that we can move quickly to do the repair before there is more rain damage. Thank you for your

recommendations regarding quality contractors.

Annual Conference

Carol Egan, our lay member of the Minnesota Annual Conference has provided a full report on this year's Annual Conference meeting, which was just held in Saint Cloud, which you will find further on in the Epistle. I wanted to highlight and comment on a couple of things.

Did you see all of the purple scarves hanging in the sanctuary at Saint Paul's UMC? Maybe you knit one of them! These scarves were part of the Lydia Project, which is part of our planned hospitality for General Conference 2020. Each delegate, bishop, and visitor to General Conference 2020 will receive a hand knit scarf in Vikings purple as a "welcome to Minnesota" gift. As an Annual Conference, we knit

between 12,000 and 13,000 scarves together (a combined knitting time of approximately seven years!). These scarves were blessed at Annual Conference and are packed away ready for our international General Conference 2020. Special thanks to Bettie Robinson and Carol Egan for knitting and for all of the friends of the late Shirley Wilson living at Southview Senior Living, who knit many scarves in Shirley's memory.



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A truck full of health kits, layette kits, and flood buckets was packed, received, and sent on to the UMCOR distribution center in Sager Brown, Louisiana. Special thanks to Deanna Sellers, who sent a big box of health kits that she and her family packed as a family mission project.

You have probably already seen news coverage of two statements that were passed by the Minnesota Annual Conference related to the actions of General Conference 2019. United Methodists in Minnesota hold different understandings regarding questions of homosexuality and the church, but there is a strong consensus toward being more inclusive of the GLBTQI community. Carol's report gives more detail, but highlights are: One statement is simply a statement that our Annual Conference is opposed to the traditional plan passed by General Conference 2019. The other statement is a longer vision statement of how we hope to live our faith as Methodists in Minnesota. Most of the statement affirms some of the traditional and beloved parts of Methodist theology, beginning with the statement: "We envision a Methodism that is rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation." It is a longer theological statement, but worth reading. A copy of the full statement can be found on the Annual Conference website (it is Item 100), and paper copies are also available in the church office. Two portions have gotten media attention. One portion is these two sentences: *"We affirm the prayerful discernment of our Board of Ordained Ministry, who, along with our Conference leadership, have determined nine characteristics for evaluation of clergy. We support the Board of Ordained Ministry's decision to evaluate candidates for ordination, licensing, and candidacy on the basis of these characteristics alone."* So, in Minnesota we are continuing with our traditional written and oral exams for ordination that have to do with theology, ministry, and spiritual health. We will not be adding new questions related to homosexuality. The other sentence receiving media attention is: *"We affirm each clergy person's prayerful discernment in officiating wedding ceremonies for any prepared couple who comes to them."* Many of our clergy have publicly stated that they will perform marriages for any prepared couple who comes to them, whether the couple is heterosexual or homosexual. Some clergy have publicly said that they will not. In Minnesota, we affirm the sound judgment of our clergy in the matter of marriage.

I will continue to provide information on changes within our denomination as it becomes available, and I am happy to answer your questions. Please remember that no matter what is happening in our larger denomination, we are called to love and serve God faithfully every day, right here in Mendota Heights. There are people who need Christ's light and life every day, and we are called to shine that light.



Healthy Church Initiative

We are slowly and steadily moving forward in the implementation of our Healthy Church Initiative recommendations, finalizing the new leadership structure of Saint Paul's UMC and setting goals for action on other recommendations. Thank you for all that you are doing in order to grow forward together. ☚

MN UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

From
Lay Member,
Carol Egan



Have you ever felt so frightened about going to church that you could barely breathe? I think we would all agree that no one should feel so afraid of entering church. At Annual Conference, just before an important vote, two people at my table were that frightened. One of them could hardly breathe.

We were about to vote on Item 100. Item 100 explains a vision for the future of the church. It rejects the decision made at General Conference 2019 (which adopted the Traditional Plan, keeping exclusionary language in our Discipline regarding homosexuality and the church and increasing penalties for clergy who perform same-sex marriages). Item 100 affirms that *“we envision a Methodism that is rooted in Jesus, grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all persons, and engaged in the work of justice and reconciliation.”*

It further states, *“We are a Church created to participate in God’s redemptive work in this world. We hold an unwavering commitment to the hard work of advocacy, justice, reconciliation and liberation.”* We welcome all people and celebrate the unique gifts that each individual brings to our congregations.

Item 100 was passed with 85% yes votes and 15% no votes. I am hopeful that my new friends at my table can breathe a little easier and will feel uplifted by their church rather than oppressed.

Another item we passed was Item 102, a statement regarding the Traditional Plan. This statement

declares that we stand against the punitive nature of the Traditional Plan and *“affirm our commitment to a fully inclusive, grace-filled, compassionate church.”* This item also passed and was approved.

Other items of business were taken care of such as the 2020 budget, increased funding for campus ministries, additional designated Advanced Specials in Minnesota, clergy appointments, and, of course, the ordination of new pastors and others who have completed various courses of study which enable them to serve the church in capacities such as deacon or lay minister.

The worship theme of the *Woman at the Well* reminded us that Jesus broke rules which he considered unjust (such as not speaking to a Samaritan woman who was considered “unclean”). Jesus welcomed everyone into abundant life through the love of God.

Every year I meet more people and see other friends from previous years. I love the connection and bonds we form at Conference. I very much appreciate the opportunity to represent St. Paul’s at Annual Conference and thank you for sending me as your Lay Member.

In this next year let’s work together to be inclusive, loving, and supportive of all who come through our doors, allowing them to breathe comfortably and trust that we are the Hands of Jesus.

Carol Egan

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families
nurture lifelong
disciples of Christ



ONE ROOM SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the summer and running through August 25th, we combine both of our children's Sunday School classes into one—One Room Sunday School (ORSS). ORSS begins at approximately 10:15 am, after Children's Chat in worship.

We like to give our regular Sunday school teachers throughout the year a summer break. If you have an interest in helping teach one Sunday this summer, please contact Lani Thompson at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Dates still open:

- ♦ July 21
- ♦ August 4
- ♦ August 18
- ♦ August 25

MISSION TRIP

Build relationships
and change lives



MISSION TRIP JULY 20—27, 2019

This July 20th -27th, members from St. Paul's UMC will be going to Charleston, West Virginia for a week long mission trip to help serve in a community struggling through poverty. This will be an inter-generational mission trip for youth who have finished 6th grade through adults.

We are still looking to connect everyone going on the trip with a couple sponsors from St. Paul's UMC. Being a mission trip sponsor helps you be part of the trip even if you can not attend. Sponsors not only help financially, but also build relationships with

their sponsee, as well as know they are helping to make a difference. Each sponsor will be asked to donate \$35 towards the cost of the trip. In return, the sponsee will be sending postcards and letters throughout the trip to tell their sponsors about their experiences. After we return we will be hosting an ice cream social for the sponsors where we will share photos and videos. Everyone will have a chance to sit with their sponsors and tell them all about the trip. If you are interested in being a mission trip sponsor or have questions, please contact Lani Thompson, lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

FINANCE

Support of our church and its mission



FINANCE REPORT

Right now I am dreaming about days at the lake, eating watermelon and a walk along the river. Summer is a beautiful time of year in Minnesota. I'm guessing you are much like me. I only live in Minnesota for the summers. I sure don't look forward to winter with -20 temps and a foot of snow. Summer also brings a change in schedules and we don't all make it to church as often as we would like. But, no surprise, our expenses continue during the summer. Please remember to be thoughtful about your giving during the summer. It is so necessary and so appreciated. This may be the time that you want to consider giving automatically. You can set up contributions as auto pay from your checking account on any schedule you like. Forms are available in the office. If you want more information, contact Bob Walker, 651-340-0231, or rawalkbob@gmail.com.

Here is an update on our finances through April. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Grace and Peace,
Kae Jewell, Finance Chair

General Fund Income	\$83,326
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$81,296</u>
Balance	\$ 2,030

Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$10,748</u>
Deficit After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ 8,718

REACHING OUT

Living our faith
and connecting
with our
neighbors



GARLOUGH SCHOOL SHERIDAN STORY UPDATE

Starting next fall, we will continue to support Sheridan Story financially, but we will no longer provide volunteers to help stuff food bags into backpacks. We had only two dedicated volunteers (thanks so much to Barb Helmken and Barb Jorgenson!!) and don't feel we can continue offering that service with only two people to fulfill the obligation. Another church will be doing the backpack work. Please continue to support Sheridan Story with your finances and your prayers.

GARLOUGH SCHOOL SHOPPING LISTS

We will collect **school supplies** in August to give to Garlough Elementary. Please watch for sales this summer, and begin shopping for the usual items from now through August (backpacks, single subject notebooks, glue sticks, Kleenex, 24-count Crayola color crayons). We will have a collection bin in the narthex.



SUMMER MEALS AT SOMERSET ELEMENTARY

Since Garlough elementary is closed for the summer due to renovations, the Saint Paul's UMC mission team will be serving lunches at Somerset Elementary on July 8th - 11th from 10:00 am-12:30 pm and they would love for you to join them! If you are interested in serving kids a good nutritional meal, contact Lani at lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org.

SERVING WITH NEIGHBORS INC.

We are also invited to serve breakfast and lunch meals Monday through Thursday AT 5 LOCAL SCHOOLS. 764 volunteer spots are needed! Could you spare 2 hours to set up and serve meals to local kids and teens ages 1-18 at one of 5 local schools? Duties are to help set up food items, assist in dispensing foods and wipe down tables. The schedule is very flexible. It is fun to see children/teens enjoying summer activities. For more information, please call Scott at Neighbors 651-306-2153 or email scott@neighborsmn.org.

NEIGHBORS INC. FOOD SHELF

Neighbors' Food Shelf continues to need donations now that school is not in session. Peanut butter, pancake mix & syrup, tuna and pasta are always in demand. Thank you for continued support.

EVENTS

What's
happening and
when



NIGHT TO UNITE TUESDAY, AUGUST 6th

5:00—7:00 pm

*Night to Unite is coming.
Bring the whole family and
invite your friends!*

Where: St Paul's United Methodist Church

When: August 6th, 5:00—7:00 pm

What: Meet your neighbors, enjoy food, yard games and lots of fun water activities for kids—so be sure to bring swimsuits and towels. The Fire and Police Departments will also be making a visit to the church.



Looking Ahead...



Fall Kick-Off Sunday
September 8th

Rummage Sale
September 21st

Blood Drive
October 12th

Turkey Dinner
October 23rd

Fall Festival
October 26th

SMALL GROUPS

United with purpose



MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in July. Questions? Contact Dick Robinson, 651-207-8643 or dickrobinson2@msn.com.

UMW CIRCLES

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will not meet in July or August. Questions? Contact Annie McGuire, 651-254-7265.

Rebekah Circle

Rebekah Circle will not meet in July or August. Questions? Call Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

Rachel Circle

Rachel Circle will not meet in July or August. Questions? Contact Barb Jorgenson, 651-414-0054.

SUNDAY ADULT

EDUCATION, 9:00 am BERTELSEN LIBRARY

There will be no meetings in July and August.

WEDNESDAY ADULT EDUCATION BOOK

GROUP, NOON BERTELSEN LIBRARY

There will be no meetings in July and August.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ways to serve the church



Volunteers are needed for the following dates/activities. Does a date work with your schedule? Guidance will be provided, if needed. It's as simple as calling the church office, 651-452-5683, and letting us know!

Weeding around the church

- ♦ July 28-August 10
- ♦ August 25– September 7
- ♦ September 8-21

One Room Sunday School Leader

- ♦ July 21
- ♦ August 4
- ♦ August 18
- ♦ August 25

Serving Summer Meals at Somerset Elementary

- ♦ July 8 – 11, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm



Please pray for the following:

Joys:

Lois Olund turning 90 in July

Baptisms of Carter Ball, Elianna Ball, Jaylynn Ball, Keeli Chavez, Raymond Renard and Rosalie Renard

Janelle Hamilton graduated from high school

Deaths:

Corrine Mahoney's friend's mom, Irene Bloomquist, June 4th

Health Concerns:

Barb Goin's mom recovering from pneumonia

Daniel Berntsen, Shirley Holmay's friend and former co-worker, very seriously injured when hit by a vehicle while riding his bicycle to work

John and Nancy Grinager's niece, Natalie, healing from calciphylaxis

The late Yeen Chong's violin teacher, Clarence Heavner, recovering from heart surgery

Kathy Detert's neighbor, Mary, with bone cancer

Chrisana Tripodi's husband, Greg, for ongoing health issues

Jerry Moffitt's twin, John, recovering from neck surgery

Barb Goin's friend, Laurie, recurrence of brain cancer

Thomas, with kidney stones that require extra attention

Nancy Grinager's sister-in-law, Dedra, fighting lung cancer

Barb Helmken; for Lisa with breast and ovarian cancer, John; Phil, with leukemia

Kae Jewell's uncle, Bob Grich, in hospice care

Jo Reck's mother, struggling with near blindness

All homebound with health problems

Additional:

For young people in bad relationships

For recovery for those experiencing an overdose

Please call the office with joys and concerns

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

LANI'S OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Tuesday, 12:00—8:00 pm

**SUMMER SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**

Adult Education: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

One Room Sunday School 10:15 am

2nd SUNDAYS SCHEDULE

Adult Education: 9:00 am

Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:00 am

Brunch: 11:00 am

Communion will be offered the 1st and 2nd Sundays of every month.

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIR:

Leslie Watkins

ST. PAUL'S STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Amy Jo Bur,
pastor@stpaulsmn.org

**Director of Children, Youth and
Mission:**

Lani Thompson,
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org

Director of Music Ministry:

Lane Skoglund-Anderson,
laneskoglundanderson@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Diane Pelinka,
info@stpaulsmn.org



grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being
thankful; readiness
to show appreciation
for and to return
kindness

Thank you for all the prayers and
good wishes during my hospital
stay and rehabilitation, Hope to be
back to church soon!

Tom Lewis

(Tom is at the Sholom Home
for rehabilitation)

HOLY BAPTISM



June 9th

Carter Ball, Elianna Ball,
Jaylynn Ball, Keeli Chavez,
Raymond Renard,
Rosalie Renard

Family of: Lani Thompson

**THANK YOU TO THE
COUNTERS IN MAY**

Brent Cuttell
Barb Goin
Shirley Holmay
Barb Jorgenson
Rhea Nyquist
Jude Rikala
Bob Walker
Melissa Wilson



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6
7 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion— - No One Room Sunday School	8 Summer Meals @ Somerset	9 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 am Kidz 2gether Worship w/Communion - No One Room Sunday School 11:00 am Ice Cream Social	15 6:00 pm Finance Mtg	16 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Mission Trip to Charleston WV departs
21 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am One Room Sunday School	22 6:00 pm Central Leadership Team <i>6:45 pm 4H</i>	23 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	24 <i>5:00 pm Private Flute Recital</i>	25	26	27
28 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am One Room Sunday School Mission Trip to Charleston WV arrives back	29	30 <i>6:00 pm Yoga</i>	31	<i>Italicized events are conducted by outside groups renting space at the church.</i>		

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

700 Wesley Lane
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683
Email: info@stpaulsmn.org

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