

# Epistle

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

January 2020

## REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR AMY JO

### Year of Relationships 2020

Do you remember the Year of Music 2018 at Saint Paul's UMC? We had a wonderful time focusing on music, including a concert series, guest musicians in worship, hymn sings, and a sermon series on spirituals. The Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) consulting team that came to work with Saint Paul's UMC recommended that we try next a Year of Relationships, focusing on our relationships with God, with each other, and with our neighbor. What a wonderful idea!

We'll begin our calendar year with a focus on our relationship with God, then move on to our relationships with each other, and finish the year with our relationships with our neighbors. You will notice educational opportunities, preaching, fellowship events, and mission work related to

these themes throughout 2020.

With our children, we will focus on four goals during the "Relationship with God" time in the new year:

2) Being able to pray the five finger prayer. 3) Being able to pray a table grace. And 4) Memorizing the Lord's Prayer. For our children, these are some of the

basic spiritual practices that help us grow in our relationship with God. You will notice that our January Kidz 2gether worship will focus on spiritual practices with the children. For adults, there will also be opportunities to grow in the spiritual practices that nurture our faith and deepen our relationship with God, beginning with a sermon series on the images of God that shape our relationship and then small group studies on prayer.

There are many pieces of music that describe the longing of human beings for a closer relationship with God. The choir will sing one of these spirituals during the new year: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me."

*(continued on page 2)*



1) Teaching our children/youth how to do a daily devotional time, because devotional time is one of the ways that our relationship with God is nurtured and strengthened. We also have three goals for our children related to prayer:

*(continued from page 1)*

The emphasis of this great spiritual is about the closeness of God in our day-to-day lives—the way that the presence of God’s Spirit attends us, guides us, strengthens us, comforts us, and brings us peace.

Do you have exciting ideas for the things we might do together during the Year of Relationships? We are still in the planning phase, and we would love to hear from you! Please let me know (give me a call/e-mail/text, or note it on the blue card), and you can become involved in the planning process or implementation as the year moves forward.

As 2020 unfolds, I encourage you to dive in and be part of the Year of Relationships at Saint Paul’s UMC. This focus returns us to the answer of Jesus when asked “What is the greatest commandment?”

*“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” -Matthew 22:37-39*

As we strengthen our relationships with God, with each other, and with our neighbors, we practice loving as Jesus loved. ☚

## EVENTS

What’s  
happening and  
when



### BLESSING WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>

**10:30 am**  
Guest Musician:  
Laurie McFaul, violin

We will pray for God’s blessings in our lives during the new year. As we pray, Laurie will provide uplifting violin music.

### CHURCH CONFERENCE AND POTLUCK SUNDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>

St. Paul’s UMC will convene an upcoming church conference on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

#### Potluck After Worship

All are welcome!  
You do *not* have to provide something to enjoy the offerings!

#### Meeting

**11:45 pm**  
Come and find out how we are doing during our annual church meeting.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
disciples of Christ

We had over 40 children and youth in the building on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the morning of our **Christmas pageant** - and what a great morning it was! A lot of hard work by all accumulated into a fantastic pageant.



### CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

After the pageant, everyone enjoyed a Christmas party with a delicious brunch and fun and fellowship while making gingerbread houses and decorating ornaments.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Helping families  
nurture lifelong  
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## CAROLING

Twenty two  
people from Saint  
Paul's UMC went  
caroling to bring  
a little Christmas  
joy on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>.

Then they  
warmed up with  
cookies and  
cocoa at church.



## CONFIRMATION

2019-20

The confirmation class will meet on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>,  
6:00 pm, at church.

They will be discussing "Seasons of Faith."



# REACHING OUT

Living our faith  
and connecting  
with our  
neighbors



## GARLOUGH SCHOOL/ ST. PAUL'S UMC PARTNERSHIP

We have been financially supporting Sheridan Story at Garlough Elementary this year. The volunteer work, packing weekend food into backpacks, is being done by another church group. Sheridan Story provides weekend food so that families can continue to feed their children, and children will be nurtured and ready to learn on Monday mornings.

We also have several people serving as Reading Buddies at Garlough. Yours truly (Carol Egan) is working with four first graders and finding it to be heart-warming, fun, as well as challenging.

After the holidays we hope to provide cash for Garlough to purchase warm winter clothing for children whose families need the help. We have done this several years in a row. The person to whom we gave the money is no longer there, so we will organize it through someone in the office. We won't let the kids go outside without proper gear if we can help it! (Just in the last couple of months several children have been seen coming to the office, wearing sleeveless or thin shirts, asking for warmer clothing. There is obviously a need.)

Other projects we may help support include purchasing library books or classroom supplies. Thank you for your generous support of our work at Garlough!



Neighbors, Inc.  
222 Grand Ave. W  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
neighborsmn.org  
651-455-5000

**Thank you for  
your generosity!**



**2020 CAMPAIGN**

**PLEDGING**

THANK YOU to all who have completed a pledge card for 2020. Your dedication and support to the work of our congregation is evident in your financial pledge. So far we have received 46 pledges, totaling \$142,050. (Our proposed budget for 2020 is \$281,000) Our goal is a 10% increase in number of pledges or 61 pledges. For 2020 pledges, we have received 7 new pledges and 48% of the pledges were an increase from last year.

It's not too late to complete a pledge card. If you need a pledge card, contact the office. You can mail your pledge to the office or put it in the offering plate. We realize that we all have many issues to deal with during Advent, but we urge you to please consider making a pledge to keep St. Paul's a vibrant church family.

*Bob Walker,  
Financial Secretary*

**MEMORIALS OF 2019**

Sadly, our church lost many wonderful friends and members of our congregation in 2019. But with every sadness comes some good news, our memorial fund has grown. Memorials given the church were those of Yeen Chong, who died in 2018, but some of her gifts were received in this fiscal year. Those that died in 2019 included Eleanor McGlothlin, Jo Baker's brother, Marvin Lans, Jo Daugherty, Shirley Wilson, Yvonne Momsen, Tracy Morgan, Sharon Holmes, Jim Fritsche, Don Halver, Glenda Sellers, Mary Bell and Karen Rahn. There was also a large gift from the Grinager's in memory of John's mother, some of which was received in 2018 and some in 2019. In total the amount received in this fiscal year was well over \$12,000.

Some went to our church's operation. At the direction of their families, some of our memorial money was directed to our general fund. In another instance, the family designated the mission

program of our church as the recipient.

Some went to things that were needed. Expenditures for things included an addition of Jo Daugherty's name to the choir plaque, handbell music stands, additional table with necessary padding and cover, planters and flowers for our outside beautification, Spark Story Bibles for the children, a plaque denoting the groundbreaking of St. Paul's Church, and new Rainbow playground equipment placed in front by the walking path currently being created by the city of Mendota Heights. It should also be noted that Nancy Kane's memorial received in the previous year was transferred to the United Methodist Women to be used toward the purchase of turkeys for the annual turkey dinner.

Lives well lived go on to bless us in many ways. We remember their words, their service, and their gifts with gratitude.

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Finance Update thru 11/30/2019

General Fund Income	\$202,068.33
Less General Fund Expenses	<u>\$222,688.16</u>
Balance	\$ (20,619.83)
Less Unpaid Apportionments	<u>\$ 29,554.25</u>
Deficit After Unpaid Apportionments	\$ (50,170.08)

# SMALL GROUPS

United with purpose



## UMW CIRCLES

### Ruth and Rebekah Circle

Ruth Circle and Rebekah Circle will meet together on Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at the church. Ruth Circle will provide the treats and the program. The main topic of business will be the discussion of a possible merger. Questions? Contact Rhea Nyquist, 651-457-5623 or Beda Lewis at 651-554-3600.

### Rachel Circle

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

## MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in January. Questions? Contact Charles Duddingston, 651-454-1733.

## SUNDAY ADULT ED

Bertelsen Library

Sundays, 9:30 am

The world is complicated. Let's work through it together. Using *Faithlink*, a weekly curriculum, each Sunday this fall we will address a current event and discuss it, along with a Christian point of view, with as many viewpoints as possible. Topics will be fresh every Sunday! Join us as we connect faith and life. Charles Duddingston will convene.

## WEDNESDAY ADULT ED BOOK GROUP

Bertelsen Library

The Book Group will take a break in January and start up again in February. Look for upcoming details.

## OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE 2020

The recently reorganized Outreach Team is getting ready to start collaborating and planning! The Outreach Team is/will soon be comprised of the following members:

- Mission Lead Coordinator - Carol Egan
- Mission Lead Coordinator - tbd
- Men's Group Representative – John Grinager and Brent Cuttell
- UMW Representative- Chrisana Tripodi
- Marketing Specialist – Barb Goin
- New Member Programs- tbd
- Outreach Team Leader – Bev Momsen

We are looking for a volunteer with passion and ideas for serving our community (mission activities coordinator) and also a volunteer to lead the development of programs for New Members. Do you have time to meet with the Outreach Team 4-5 times a year, and occasionally help with church wide outreach activities that support our vision of Welcome- Share- Serve? Please contact Beverly Momsen (bevmomsen@comcast.net or 651-505-9192) or Pastor Amy Jo (pastor@stpaulsmn.org or 651-452-5683). Our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.



**Please pray for the following:**

**Joys:**

Marriage of Tom Frame and Lisa Maynard, December 18<sup>th</sup>

Eric Cooley, brother of Katie Hamilton, newly ordained as a deacon

Birth of Owen Young, son of Justin Conrad and Kirsten Young, December 15<sup>th</sup>

Birth of Frederick Wilson, son of Luke and Melissa Wilson, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Deaths:**

Mike Shaw, father of Nancy Grinager, December 9<sup>th</sup>

The Blackhawk helicopter accident victims: Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers Jr.,

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord, Sgt Kort M. Plantenberg

Dawn Everling's niece, Heather Brodie, November 27<sup>th</sup>

Gretchen Nelson's grandmother, Emily Grimaluskus, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Health Concerns:**

Barb Helmken's brother-in-law, Reed, starting chemo for multiple myeloma

Duane Devereaux, for healing

Adam, who is facing amputation of his leg above the knee on January 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
a victim of an alcohol impaired driver

Bettie Robinson, recovering from successful shoulder surgery

John Schmidt, for healing of his leg

Barb Jorgenson's mother-in-law, Verna, fell and fractured her pelvis

Jerry Holmay, encouragement while recovering from a recent surgical procedure

Loye Eckman's cousin Anne with depression and Anne's husband, Joern, with lung cancer

Barb Helmken, health issues

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

Mike LaGuire's daughter, Cheryl, healing from breast cancer

Daniel Berntsen, Shirley Holmay's friend and former co-worker,

very seriously injured when hit by a vehicle while riding his bicycle to work

Kathy Detert's neighbor, Mary, with bone cancer

Barb Goin's friend, Laurie, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> round of chemo with more to come

All homebound with health problems

**Additional:**

Guiding parents during the teen and tween years

Peace, healing and joy to all

*Please call the office with joys and concerns*



**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - noon

**LANI'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Please contact Lani at  
lani.thompson@stpaulsmn.org or  
612-412-6663 to make an  
appointment.

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Education Hour for all: 9:30 am  
Worship: 10:30 am

**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAYS SCHEDULE**

Education Hour for all: 9:30 am  
Kidz 2gether Worship: 10:30 am  
Brunch: 11:30 am  
Communion will be offered the 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of every month.

**CENTRAL LEADERSHIP**

**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 your November  
donation of 206 pounds of grocer-  
ies! We assisted over 600 fami-  
lies in the Food Shelf and we  
could not have done it without  
you! We are very grateful for  
your support.

*The team at Neighbors, Inc*

**THANK YOU TO THE  
NOVEMBER COUNTERS**

- Brent Cuttell
- Barb Goin
- Barb Jorgenson
- Patricia Lamski
- Rhea Nyquist
- Jude Rikala
- Bob Walker
- Priscilla Wiessner



New winter address:

**Mike and Sherry  
LaGuire**

1110 N. Henness Rd.  
Site 1803  
Casa Grande AZ 85122

**Marilyn Anderson**

651-330-0043



**Tom Frame and  
Louise Maynard**

December 18, 2019



**Frederick Luke**

**Wilson**

Son of Luke and Melissa

Wilson

Born: December 7, 2019



**Owen Young**

Son of Justin Conrad and

Kirsten Young

Born: December 15, 2019





**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

700 Wesley Lane  
Mendota Heights MN 55118

Phone: 651-452-5683  
Email: [info@stpaulsmn.org](mailto:info@stpaulsmn.org)

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*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
The People of the United Methodist Church®

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JANUARY 26<sup>th</sup>**

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**Potluck After Worship**

All are welcome!  
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something to enjoy the offerings!

**Meeting**

**11:45 pm**

Come and find out how we are doing!