



St. Paul's News

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Dave Heckler

One of the quirks of the ministry we share together is that I'm just slightly older than the median age of folks in our congregation—which suggests that many of you are facing the same basic life challenges that I am. And I suspect that has a great

deal to do with where we find ourselves (and even the larger Church) these days. Allow me some space for personal reflection:



In some ways, I'm ahead of many of you. Quite a few of you are experiencing "empty nest syndrome"; alas, my proverbial "nest" has been empty for at least four years now, with both of my sons in their thirties, living with their current or soon-to-be spouses, and facing the challenges of young adulthood in the 2020s (which for Stephen and Betsy and a lot of other young adults includes working two jobs each to make ends meet). I was once in the "sandwich generation" myself, caring for parents and children at the same time; my parents have both been dead for over twenty years now—but I remember the struggles of navigating those dual responsibilities. But I'm also wrestling with the reality of my getting older and of having to wrestle with the reality of my own mortality. I'm turning 62 this year, which is no big deal—except that my dad died at 62. "I'm in much better physical shape than my dad was," I remind myself; but alas, the things that haunt you most rarely comply with your logic, and the experiences of your friends also inform your experiences. (At least three of my best friends from high school are now dealing with degenerative diseases and sizing up walkers and wheelchairs...) And retirement? What a concept! Be it blessing or bane, I don't see that in my future unless one of those disabling events comes home to roost in my own body. The church I love, the calling I love, and the bills that never stop coming need me to keep in action...

I'm pretty sure this is where many of you find yourselves these days. And these realities deeply affect how we relate to the Church, its rhythms of worship and service and fellowship, and the sustenance of its ongoing life and ministry. When the "nest" is empty but your health is still pretty good, it's understandable that you'd want to travel and enjoy all those things that childcare and other responsibilities made more difficult for years. When the stresses of being in the "sandwich generation" weigh heavy upon you, it's even more challenging to gather with a family that also wants you to serve and give of yourself and your resources. And when your health and mobility are facing challenges, or you're finding it harder to wrestle with or accept the changes and challenges of each new era of church and society, it only makes engagement with the community and ministry of the church and congregation all the more challenging. It's much easier to conclude that you've "put in your time" in your younger days, and that it's time for other folks to "step up"—that our life together is mostly about nurturing our younger members in faith and life, and once they're grown, letting others take their place in that calling...

But what if this new stage of life comes with its own new callings?

One of my favorite theologians and spiritual thinkers, Fr Richard Rohr, has written and spoken a great deal about "the second half of life". (He turns 80 this year, so he's done his share of thinking about these things...) In his book *Falling Upward*, he notes that in our "first half of life", our lives are shaped primarily by "making something of our lives"—establishing our homes and careers and vocational identities, taking care of children and parents, amassing our resources, and achieving those things that establish our individual identities in the eyes of our culture. Most people, Rohr asserts, figure that these things are what life is *all* about—that "the first half" is all there is. (It's one of the things that makes "retirement" a devastating thing for many people. "Who am I apart from my job, my status, my achievements?") But Rohr goes on to speak powerfully about the calling of "the second half of life", when we begin to engage the questions and challenges of our walk with God not to gain answers for our children, not to amass "principles for successful living", but to enter more deeply into a relationship with God that's shaped less by correct doctrines and more by a humble inner knowing. In this "second half of life", we have the opportunity to revisit the core beliefs of our faith in the light of greater maturity and experience; in our new spiritual homesickness, our life with all its ups and downs becomes our great spiritual teacher. "In the second half of life," he writes, "we don't have strong and final opinions about everything, every event, or most people, as much as we allow things and people to delight us, sadden us, and truly influence us." Instead of "making something of our lives",

Pastor's Corner Continued

we have the freedom to discern what God has made of us, who we are at the core of our being instead of by the definitions of others, and how we can let God work through us to uniquely touch the lives of those around us...

I believe that if many of us are finding ourselves at the gates of "the second half of life", the church as the community of believers may be precisely where we need to be— not for our kids' sake or our parents' sake, but for our own sake. We have a new opportunity to bring our questions, to raise our questions, to wrestle with our questions, and together to discern how God in Christ Jesus addresses those questions by meeting us where we are, not where we used to be. We have a new opportunity to authentically be the body of Christ alive in the world, not because we have all the answers or have been appointed to hold dominion over the world around us, but because we've gone through too much to be anything other than totally human with one another, and we really don't have anything more we have to prove. (It actually reminds me a lot of the blessings of campus ministry— except that while we "second-halfers" have new opportunities to bring our questions, we're hopefully a lot wiser now than we were when we were college-age...)

Maybe this is what this particular Lent, with its inaugural call to "Remember that you're dust, and to dust you shall return", is all about for us. By coming back to the stories that shaped our Baptismal journey, by recognizing ourselves anew as being "buried with Christ and dead to sin," and by following Jesus on His own self-emptying journey to the cross, we can find the possibility, even in our "second half of life", to "arise with Christ to live in Him". Come join me on the journey, and let's see what wonders of new life God has in store for us...

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Pr. Dave



Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Services

On Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season (through March 29), we're joining our brothers and sisters from St John's Lutheran Church and St John's UCC in Richlandtown in a series of **Midweek Lenten Services at St John's Lutheran's Activity Center**. We'll begin with simple soup suppers at **6:00 PM**, then begin our time of worship around **6:45 PM**. Our theme this year is **"Created for Community"**; we'll be reflecting on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, and with God, using ways other than "sermons" to reflect on the Scriptures.

Pr Dave will be the musician for most of the services; we're "hosting" the services (which means we're responsible for food and Pr Dave is leading worship) on **Mar. 15 & Mar. 29**. Here's the "schedule":

DATE:	HOST:	LEADER:	THEME:
March 1	St John's UCC	Pr Steve Myren	"In Community with Creation"
March 8	St John's Lutheran	Pr Dave Genszler	"In Community with All the Saints"
March 15	St Paul's	Pr Dave Heckler	"In Community with Our Neighbor"
March 22	St John's UCC	Pr Steve Myren	"In Community with the Marginalized"
March 29	St Paul's	Pr Dave Heckler	"In Community with Christ"

Obviously, we'll need some soups, bread, and maybe dessert for the dates we're hosting the service, so if you can help with this, please let Pr Dave know. (Remember the KISS principle and "Many hands make light work.") We're thrilled that we can resume this time of worship and fellowship we've previously shared together for over nine years— so come on out and invite your friends to join you!

March Worship News: Finding New Life in the Way of the Cross

- ✦ Let's start out with a great reflection on this Year A Lenten season. As *Sundays and Seasons 2017: Preaching* put it:

"Lent in Year A is Lent at its best, Lent at its most basic, Lent closest to its origin, Lent at its core. The readings that shape Lent in Year A... were used by early Christian communities that were accompanying inquirers and candidates for Baptism. This group of candidates had been assembled over several years, attracted by the message of the Gospel, the witness of other Christians, the mercy and service of the congregation, and the working of the Spirit. In the last year or so, they'd expressed a desire to become public followers of Jesus, that is, to be baptized. Now, after months of formation, only five or six weeks remained until their Baptism at Easter. These five gospel stories, with their Old Testament partners, moved these candidates and the whole congregation through Lent to Baptism at Easter. They've been preserved and carried forward to us as the Year A Lenten texts..."

- ✦ **Lent** is a season in which we journey with Jesus from the divine declaration of Jesus' glory through the wilderness to the true glory of Christ Jesus seen in His cross. On **Sundays in Lent**, we'll use a "hymn mass" setting with canticles to familiar hymn tunes (including a variety of "Kyrie" settings).
- ✦ **March 12** marks the beginning of **Daylight Savings Time**— so before you go to bed on Saturday night March 11, make your clocks "**spring forward**" one hour! (Note: Your cell phones, computers, and alarm clocks will probably make this shift automatically...)



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Come join us each week for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article "Join us Online via Zoom" in this newsletter for instructions. For Zoom, use meeting ID number 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805.) We're "**Living with the Lectionary**", digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don't have to be a biblical "expert" to get a lot out of this study— so come on out in the broad daylight and invite your friends to join you!

Our 2023 Officer/Liaison List

President: Kelly Shaak
Vice President: Tracy Hallman
Secretary: Stefanie Bauman/Sara George
Treasurer: Bob Westervelt
Finance Secretary: Wendy Gullett
Finance: Karen Roehner
JN/Youth/Christian Ed: Stefanie Bauman
AA/Al-Anon: Sue Young
Boy Scouts: Donne Wyatt
Fellowship: Kelly Shaak
Evangelism: Brett Shaw
Exec. Comm./Fundraising: Tracy Hallman
Property Committee: Bill Shaeffer
Worship: Rose Sutkins
Social Ministry: Sara George

Scouts BSA Troop 007 News



- ✦ We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights, or check us out at Scouts007.org.
- ✦ We now have a fully chartered **Cub Scouts Pack 007** at St Paul's! Many thanks to Rich and Robin Beaumont and John Hunsberger for their hard work and leadership in bringing this troop together and leading it.
- ✦ And in our Scout Troop, we have **three new** (or almost there) **Eagle Scouts**— *Austin Chantelau* (whose Eagle project includes our new picnic tables), *Jayson Halteman* (whose Eagle project is the flagpole and stone wall overlooking our cemetery), and *Corbin Babb*. Congratulations to all of them for reaching Scouting's highest honor!



AHUB Upper Bucks Code Blue News

The **Upper Bucks Code Blue** sheltering ministry of Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB) provides emergency shelter for homeless people when nighttime temperatures and/or wind chills reach dangerous levels—in our case, 26 degrees or below—from **Nov. 15 through Apr. 15**. We've already been open almost 30 nights this winter, and we've been sheltering even more of our neighbors in need at the Masonic Lodge building in downtown Quakertown.

But this ministry requires volunteers sharing their time, organizational skills, relational skills, and of course, food and supplies to make this shelter available for folks in need. If you're interested in helping with the ministry of AHUB, please see Pr Dave.

March's "Monthly Special": Crossroads Pregnancy Center

Our tradition of "Monthly Specials" is a special opportunity for giving to help specific ministries in our community and beyond—some of them through the Lutheran church, others through the community organizations. For March, our **Monthly Special Recipient** is **Crossroads Pregnancy Center**. Please give as you're able!



Happy Birthday!

3/3 Kelly Shaak
3/8 Ben Bauman
3/9 Todd Silvius
3/9 Vanessa Hamlin
3/12 Rachel Hassler
3/14 Nancy DePue
3/14 Allyson Hassler
3/15 Janet Hallman
3/15 John Schnabel
3/17 Kristin Umstead
3/17 Kelly Reiss
3/17 Johari Miller
3/17 Gianna Barndt
3/19 William Barndt
3/22 James Gibson
3/25 Karen Ludovici
3/28 LouAnn Barndt



PAINT ST. PAUL'S: As a Congregation, we agreed that painting St. Paul's inside and out should be a priority to maintain the integrity of our structure and present a shining example of love for our home of worship.

We completed the painting in 2022 at a cost of \$19,900. We decided to defer raising the funds to cover the capital we withdrew from investments until we finished raising funds for the parking lot renovation. **Having successfully met and exceeded our fundraising goal for the handicapped parking lot renovations, we are ready now to raise the funds to repay our investments.**

In order to offset the cost of the painting project, the Congregation approved holding a capital campaign. **The Painting St. Paul's Campaign** will consist of a 3-year pledge period starting in March 2023. Campaign proceeds will replace the funds taken from the church's investments.

A form for making a pledge is available in the pews and will be sent to your home.. Please prayerfully consider what you can donate toward this worthy cause as we welcome all to St. Paul's. **Thank you for returning your pledge card by February 26th.**



Join a growing movement of people like you who are helping fellow community members living with dementia. A little support can make a big difference. Be a Dementia Friend!



What Makes You a Dementia Friend?

You become a Dementia Friend by attending a one-hour informational session to learn about this worldwide movement, about living with dementia, and the simple things you can do to support someone living with the disease.

What Happens at the Information Session?

The one-hour session is a discussion led by a Dementia Friends Champion. It is not a training session. You'll learn what dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease, and some tips for communicating with people living with dementia. Everyone who attends is asked to turn their new understanding of dementia into a practical action that can help someone living in your community. The action can be as big or as small as you choose—every action counts!

Remember...

You don't need to be a dementia expert to become a Dementia Friend.

You don't need to know someone with dementia to become a Dementia Friend.

Learn more at www.dementiafriendspa.org

Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom, the Dementia Friends initiative is underway in Pennsylvania and across the United States. By helping everyone in a community understand what dementia is and how it affects families, each of us can make a difference for people touched by dementia.

Champion: Rose Sutkins

Learn More:

Register at: www.dementiafriendspa.org or rsutkins@gmail.com

A program of the



Baptismal Anniversaries!

We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly?

Happy Baptismal Birthday!

Robert Ball, Deborah Constable



Like us on Facebook (and check us out online)!

Our church website:

www.stpaulsqtown.org

Our email address:

stpaulsqtown@gmail.com

Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown

Joyful Noise Facebook:

www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls

For daily Morning and Evening Prayer:

<https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>

In the event of inclement weather you are always cautioned to remain at home if you feel traveling is unsafe. The answering machine will be updated with a message and an e-mail will be sent when a decision has been made to cancel services due to icy/snowy/unsafe weather conditions.

Our Social Ministry Team is now helping pack food bags at the Quakertown Food Pantry the first Thursday of every month from 1:00-3:00 PM. No experience necessary—everyone's welcome to provide this vital ministry to the community. Contact Sara George, primrose40@aol.com or 215.538.3786 if you're interested in helping.

Join Us Online via Zoom or Free Conference Call!

- ✦ If you'd like to participate in most of our activities taking place over **Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in.
- ✦ If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you— something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.
- ✦ Even though our **Sunday morning Fellowship Hour** is being held in person again after worship, Patty Schumacher's making sure you can still join in, even if you can't join us in person! To do so, follow the instructions above for Zoom, but use meeting ID **839 381 0896** and passcode **90e8Dm**.
- ✦ And if you want to check out the latest announcements, you can find "**This Week at St Paul's**" on **Google Docs** at



FaceTime

docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#



Supporting Our Ministries

Thanks for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's! Your tithes and offerings are much needed during this time; as the end of 2022, our congregation's expenses have exceeded our income by over \$29,000, even with very disciplined stewardship of our resources. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.



You can financially support our ministries in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit or debit card. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

And remember, if you tithe using "Simply Giving" and you've increased your tithe amount on your pledge card, you need to fill out a new Simply Giving authorization form noting the change. Please contact the church office for a form.



Communion Classes Available in Lent

If you're a baptized Christian (young or older) and you're not receiving the body and blood of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, you're missing out on the birthright of your Baptism. To help prepare young and old for this staple of their lives of faith, Pr. Dave will be making available a series of **Communion Classes** during the Lenten season here at St Paul's. We welcome **all** baptized young (and older) people who express interest in receiving the sacrament to join us. If you're interested in participating in these classes, please contact Pr Dave at prdaveheckler@gmail.com or 570.470.0716 as soon as possible.

DON'T FORGET TO ...

1. Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.
2. If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at stpaulsqtown@gmail.com.



***Due to the closure of the Quakertown Redners we are no longer collecting receipts.**

Social Ministry News

Results of the Mitten Tree -- \$320 raised.
 Bake Sale -- \$700 raised.
 Cake Walk -- \$170 raised



Thank you to everyone who has participated in these ministries! The Committee is sending \$500 to **Lutheran Disaster Relief** for the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and to provide relief to the war-torn citizens of Ukraine. We are also purchasing \$100 worth of WAWA gifts cards for the **Code Blue Shelter**, per the request of their coordinator, along with jugs of juice. We have also purchased and delivered **fruit and care packages** for several of our congregation who could use some TLC at this time in their lives.

We are now volunteering at the Food Pantry the first Thursday of the month, 1-3 pm, filling bags of groceries for clients who come later in the day. Speaking of which, let's **restart collecting non-perishable items for the Food Pantry**. Place in the Narthex. Check expiration dates on the cans, please!

We also are **collecting personal hygiene** items for women through the YWCA: shampoo and conditioner, soap and body wash, face and body lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and mouthwash.



Thank you for helping with this community outreach! We're spreading love.

Finance News

Old Business:

Parish House Annual Meeting Jan 29: Bill and Tom presented the updated evaluations for renting or selling the parish house. The congregation voted to sell. Next step is to engage an appraiser for the property. Tom will schedule a meeting with QNB to discuss getting a line of credit or a loan. The Property Committee will also discuss the FireHouse's interest in the house and how much of their own work they would prefer to put into the property as well as how much land they wish to acquire. **OPEN**

On Going Business:

1. **Vanguard Account Balances:** As of January 31, 2023, \$98,223.28; December 31, 2022, **\$94,189.38**; November 30, 2022, **\$96,832.41**. In process to turn over management of account to Karen.
2. **Income statement:** As of January 31, 2023, expenses for the year exceed income (**\$1327.48** DRAFT only); December 31, 2022, expenses for the year exceeded income (**\$28,898**); November 30, 2022, expenses for the year exceed income (**\$30,577.74**).
3. **Stewardship:**
 - 2022 Donor reports were distributed.
 - Sara launched the "Paint St. Paul's" capital campaign at the annual meeting. Goal \$15,000. Includes pledge cards, mailing, emails, and reminders in the newsletter and bulletin. 3-year collection period. Six returned to Wendy to date for \$4,000+. Additional \$1500 already collected.
 - Social Ministry raised \$170 from the CakeWalk Feb 12.
 - Social Ministry requests that \$500 be sent from their account to Lutheran Disaster Relief for the Earthquake in Turkey/Syria and for the war in the Ukraine. Bob will follow up.
 - Bob reported that an additional \$35 was collected from the Mitten Tree in January for a total of \$320.
4. **Cemetery:** As of January 31, 2023, balance is **\$90,607**; December 31, 2022, balance is **\$86,154.95**; November 30, 2022, balance is 88,206.86.

Synod and Conference Upcoming Events



- Our **2023 Upper Bucks Conference Assembly** will be held in person on Sunday, **Mar. 5 @ 2:00 PM** at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in [south] Perkasio, led by our dean Pr Erika Wesch. We should have at least two delegates at this assembly and can have a third "youth/young adult" delegate as well. Among other things, we'll be holding an election for our conference dean, voting on our 2023 conference budget, and having more conversations about ministry collaboration between congregations. (Pr Dave will be leading a conversation about new and ongoing collaborative efforts in our Quakertown Lutheran Cluster.)
- Speaking of collaboration, many of our Upper Bucks Conference congregations continue to be in **pastoral transition**: Quakertown, Trumbauersville, Keller's Church, Richlandtown, Durham, Sellersville, Upper Tinicum, Spinnerstown, and Almont (Sellersville) are still searching for new pastors (most of them "part-time"), with some of the interim/bridge pastors in those congregations now in their third year of service there. Pr John Hansen is now serving as the part-time bridge pastor at Christ's Lutheran in Trumbauersville; Pr Jim Saboe is on sabbatical from Zion, Zion Hill right now. This is just one of the reasons why greater collaboration between our congregations is even more essential right now. Please keep our neighboring congregations, our conference dean, and our Synod in prayer during these times of transition.
- Our **2023 Synod Assembly** will be held in person on **May 5-6** at Franconia Mennonite Church. The theme is **"Transformed to Serve in a 'Where's the Faith?' World"**. Registration materials and costs are being posted on the synod's website (www.ministrylink.org). Far more than being a series of tedious business meetings, our synod assemblies feature dynamic speakers, vibrant worship with many styles of music and leadership, informative displays by organizations and ministries across our synod, and plenty of lively fellowship. Once again, we can have a third "youth/young adult" delegate, and we can also include plenty of visitors (and since the Assembly is within easy commuting distance from our home, it's especially easy for us to visit). To register as a delegate, please inform Pr Dave and then go to www.ministrylink.org to register. (We'll cover the cost for our delegates.)

Quilt Raffle Tickets Available for Joyful Noise 9

The beautiful quilt to the right could be yours! A king sized, hand-quilted made with hand embroidery, unique treasure. If you aren't interested, you may know someone else who is! If you would like to help raffle off this quilt, please see Linda Hertzog for raffle tickets.

Joyful Noise is FAST approaching! Our website has been updated with information about this festival. Sponsor forms, marketplace vendor rental forms, a list of bands, and more, is now available at www.stpaulsqtown.org. Please share this information with your family/friends/co-workers! Remember all net proceeds will go to local food pantries and we need your help to get the word out. Join us for our next Joyful Noise meeting on Sunday, March 5th following worship. See you there!



Sharing God's love in joyful service!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

The St. Paul's News

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Pastor David Heckler

Church: 215-536-5789
stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers



March
2023