



The Circuit

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's United Church of Christ



Phone: 540-459-3643

235 South Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

July/August 2019

Young Thoughts

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax— Of cabbages—and kings— And why the sea is boiling hot— And whether pigs have wings."

The time has come to speak of things – although not quite the selection from Lewis Carroll's timeless poem *The Walrus and the Carpenter*.

The time has come though to speak of good-bye. The time has come to look to the future not the in-between. The time has come for change.

I was called four years ago this August to come to St. Paul's UCC and work with you as you dealt with some very serious issues. I was asked to guide you through the process of developing a Profile (with a whole new format!). I was asked to be a supportive structure for a Search Committee to discern who might be a good fit for the next settled pastor. I was asked to be your pastor and teacher for a slice of your long history. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve you in this way.

Now the Constitution Committee has done its work and through that we addressed some of the grievances of the past and brought the document up to current practice. Thank you Jane Miller, Meg Trott, and Craig Smith for your dedicated work.

Now the Transition Committee has done its work and through that we submitted a Profile that was honest in its reflection on our present and past and hopeful in its vision for the future. Thank you Melissa Andrews, Joe Lehen, Mary Catlett and Derek Ritenour for your dedicated work.

Now the Search Committee has made a selection for our Candidate for the Called Position of Pastor and Teacher. And although they still have some more work to do in order to finalize the process, I want to thank Eric Dalke, Meg Trott, Mary Catlett, Chris Eye and Craig Orndorff for their dedicated work.

On July 20 and 21 you will have opportunities to meet the Candidate and to cast your vote in a Congregational Meeting called to formalize the relationship as Settled Pastor.

August 11, 2019 will be my last Sunday at St. Paul's as your Interim Pastor. After that date, I will be observing some protocols designed to make the transition more positive for the next pastor. I will not be responding to phone calls from you all. I am not your sounding board for how things are going. I am not available for any special services. I will not be responding to your life or church events on Social Media.

These boundaries are important. Generally speaking, this boundary silence lasts a year. But even after that I'll not be available for pastoral type of duties.

The congregation of St. Paul's will continue to be part of who I am. I will continue to care that you move forward with the potential I know you have. Some of you will be lifetime friends because that is just how things happen. I have been honored to serve you. I have fallen in love with the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people of the town of Woodstock. It has been good to be in ministry with the clergy of the Shenandoah Association.

Yes, the time has come to talk of things. The time has come to say good-bye. The time has come for you to say hello. The time has come for you and your new pastor to dream new dreams and carry on a vital new ministry at St. Paul's UCC.

*Grace and Peace,
Rev. Clara*



UPCOMING EVENTS

- o July 6 – Youth group from Kensington, CT will spend the night at St. Paul's during their mission trip
- o July 14 – Teen Challenge will lead worship
- o July 14 – 18 – Vacation Bible School at the United Methodist Church
- o July 20-21 – Candidate Weekend
- o July 21 – Candidate will lead worship followed with the congregational meeting to vote
- o July 28 – Congregational meeting to approve the 2018-19 Annual Reports
- o Aug. 11 – Rev. Clara's last Sunday at St. Paul's – Lunch Reception will follow worship



PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Betty Crane Dr. Jerry Germroth Larry Gochenour Valorie Hockman Wes Irvin	Jake Johnson Daniel Rohne Kasten Michael Kavaras Marcie Lambert Nora Long	Cheri Davidson May Gail Mayberry Spencer McIntosh Rev. James Medley Jessie Payne	Janet Sibert Rev. Charles Wood Pete Wright St. Paul's church family
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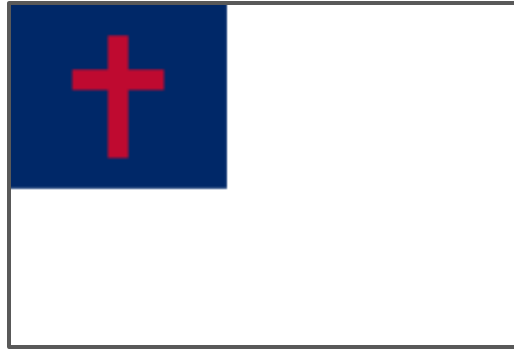
Editor – Jane Miller Contributors St. Paul's – Ministry Chairpersons and others Production Coordinator - Becky Lytton
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OUR CHURCH HISTORY

St. Paul's UCC



You have probably notice this flag in the sanctuary next to the pulpit. Here is a little history about the flag.

The **Christian Flag** is an ecumenical flag designed in the early 20th century to represent all of Christianity and Christendom. Since its adoption by the Federal Council of Churches in 1942, it has been used by many Christian traditions, including the Anglican, Baptist, Mennonite, Methodist, Moravian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Quaker, and Reformed, among others. Africa and the Americas are regions of the world where the flag remains popular. The flag has a white field, with a red Latin cross inside a blue canton. The shade of red on the cross symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed on Calvary. The blue represents the waters of baptism as well as the faithfulness of Jesus. The white represents Jesus' purity. The dimensions of the flag and canton have no official specifications.

The Christian Flag was first conceived on September 26, 1897, at Brighton Chapel on Coney Island in Brooklyn, New York in the United States. The superintendent of a Sunday school, Charles C. Overton, gave an impromptu lecture to the gathered students, because the scheduled speaker had failed to arrive for the event. He gave a speech asking the students what a flag representing Christianity would look like. Overton thought about his improvised speech for many years afterward. In 1907, he and Ralph Diffendorfer, secretary of the Methodist Young People's Missionary Movement, designed and began promoting the flag. With regard to the Christian symbolism of the Christian Flag:

The ground is white, representing peace, purity and innocence. In the upper corner is a blue square, the color of the unclouded sky, emblematic of heaven, the home of the Christian; also a symbol of faith and trust. in the center of the blue is the cross, the ensign and chosen symbol of Christianity: the cross is red, typical of Christ's blood.

The ecumenical organization, Federal Council of Churches (now succeeded by the National Council of Churches and Christian Churches Together) adopted the flag on 23 January 1942; the Federal Council of Churches represented Baptist, Brethren, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, Methodist, Moravian, Lutheran, Oriental Orthodox, Polish National Catholic, Presbyterian, Quaker, and Reformed traditions, among others. The Christian Flag intentionally has no patent, as the designer dedicated the flag to all of Christendom. Fanny Crosby wrote the words to a hymn called "The Christian Flag" with music by R. Huntington Woodman. Like the flag, the hymn is free use. On the Sunday nearest 26 September 1997, the Christian Flag celebrated its one hundredth anniversary.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Flag



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

Consistory Happenings!
The St. Paul's Consistory met June 12th.



Highlights from the meeting include:

Ministry Reports:

Treasurer's Report and Budget and Finance: There is no update on reconciling of issues related to the 941 forms the 2015 and 2017 tax issues. The computers in the church offices will be replaced considering they are over eight years old.

Ministry of Worship and Music: The Law Enforcement Service on May 8th was well attended, as was the Mother's Day Service the following Sunday at which the Junior Choir sang. Our high school graduates, T.J. Williams and Zeb Dyer, were recognized during the service on May 19th. There will be special guest musicians throughout July and August during worship.

Ministry of Christian Education: On May 30th, members of the youth visited the Bible Museum and Law Enforcement Museum in DC.

Ministry of Stewardship and Missions: This year's Heifer Project benefitting the Craig Memorial Congregational Church has received approximately \$1500 in donations.

Ministry of Building and Maintenance: There has been no further work on the air conditioning units or church garden beds. The installations of a canopy for over the red doors facing Main Street have been installed. The church signs will be repainted this summer. The locking unit on the door at the Spring Street entrance recently broke but has been replaced and the chair lift has also been repaired.

Business Items:

Pictorial Directory: Members of the congregation have been asked to submit a photo to the church office for inclusion in the church directory by June 30th.

Consistory membership: Four members' terms are ending in June: Melissa Andrews, Travis Cooper, Gabi Fream, and Susan Fream. Travis Cooper has agreed to remain as church Treasurer. Gabi Fream has agreed to stay on for an additional year. The election of Consistory members will be at the Congregational Meeting on June 16th with the installation on June 30th. A joint meeting of new members and those leaving the Consistory will be held on July 10th at 7:00.

Spring Street Doors: The Consistory has decided that the once the worship service begins each week, the Spring Street doors will be locked. The greeters will be asked to oversee that this occurs.

Search and Call Committee Work: There was much discussion regarding the work of the Search and Call Committee; more information regarding this is contained in this newsletter.

Congregational Meeting

June 16, 2019

Craig Smith called the Congregational Meeting to order following worship and presented the slate of new Consistory members (Gabi Fream, Kaye Lehnen, Alisha Williams and David Brill), Trustees (Craig Smith), and church officers (Treasurer and assistant, Travis Cooper and Becky Lytton, Financial Secretaries, Linda Sheetz and Becky Lytton).

Party Snarr made a motion to accept the nominations as presented. The motion was seconded by Jack Sheetz.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

~ Susan Fream

STEWARDSHIP & MISSIONS MINISTRY

Happy Summer!

Many thanks to all who made the 2019 Spring Missions Project a HUGE success! The St. Paul's family was able to send the folks at Craig Memorial Congregational Church in Paradise, California a check for \$1550.00 towards their continued recovery from the Camp Fire which occurred in November 2018. As was noted last month, a huge thank you goes to all of the youth of our church, and their adult leaders, who conducted a spring plant sale which benefitted this project!

It is truly hard to believe that another program year for the Stewardship & Missions team is now just a memory. A great year it was with a series of successful mission outreach projects that benefitted church members, people in our community and those less fortunate in far-away lands. By supporting programs such as the local food pantry project, the Christmas families program, and Craig Memorial Church in California, our little church did so much for so many.

Stay tuned for exciting news in the upcoming months about the 2019-20 Stewardship & Missions projects!

~ Joe Lehnen

SENIOR CHOIR TAKES A BREAK

Summer Musicians

As the senior choir takes a small vacation, St. Paul's will be inspired by the voices and melodies of favorite guest musicians. Please join us in welcoming each as they graciously share their talents:

July 7 – Emily White – (organ)

July 14 – Teen Challenge (mixed chorus)

July 21 – Barbara Strong – (piano)

July 28 – Andrew Miller – (piano and violin) Perhaps he will also sing.

Aug. 4 – The McCarthy Family – (contemporary vocals with guitar and piano)

Aug. 11 – Allen Brill – (Piano)

Aug. 18 – Hymn Sing led by Mary Catlett



We look forward to these summertime specials! Enjoy these sunny days and keep a song in your heart!

“Ev-‘ry day and night the Lord is with me,
Ever guiding, showing me the way.
When the days are long, when I’m not so strong,
God will be my song.”

YOUTH

The Youth Group would once again like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the consistory and "anonymous donor" that helped to pay for our trip to DC on May 30th. It was Desiree Williams, April and Kyrsten Alkire, Aiyana Charity, Connor Neff, and me. I just want to let everyone know that this was the first time that three of them had ever been to Washington, DC at all, and they were in awe as we drove through the city and saw all the monuments, the Capital and the White House. All four of them had never been on a charter bus and they were in heaven, LOL! They loved the seats (and their ability to recline), the overhead storage compartments, the outlets at each seat, and the bathroom in the back. I guess what some of us take for granted is greatly appreciated by those who have only been on a school bus! I packed snacks and drinks for everyone to have while on the bus. We arrived at the Museum of the Bible around 9:30am and had until 1:30pm to explore. Well, that was not enough time. There are six levels! We started at the top and went down as that is the chronological order of the museum. However, we spent a little too much time on the top three floors not realizing that the best parts were on the bottom levels. We took a walking 4D tour of the Old Testament. We saw so many artifacts and treasures and hundreds of versions of the Bible. Did you know that the Bible has only been fully translated into 683 languages? Only 1,534 languages have the New Testament translated and approx. 1,133 languages only have parts of the Bible translated. Did you know that there are over 7,000 languages in the world?!? Well, I didn't until this trip to the museum. They had book shelves with books representing each language of the world. They were color coded to show which ones had the full, partial and no translation. A couple of the kids and I did a "Virtual Tour" of Jerusalem and all of the important locations in the Bible. We put on those virtual goggles and it really did feel like we were there!

We enjoyed lunch at the Manna Restaurant on the top floor. They had an outside seating area they called the Hanging Gardens; it was very nice! Sadly, we had to leave the museum to move on to our next destination. I strongly recommend that you take time to visit this wonderful museum! You can also check out everything about it at www.museumofthebible.org, and they have lots of pictures. I only took a few because I was too busy taking everything in! Here are a few of our group...

Youth Group should be planning our schedule for the upcoming year and will start up in August. More to come!



Sincerely,
Alisha Williams,
Youth Leader



PROSPECTIVE PASTOR

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain Biography June, 2019:

Anne Findlay-Chamberlain is an ordained UCC pastor who has devoted her life to journeying with people as they seek wholeness. Her formal education includes a B.S. from the Pennsylvania State University in Health and Physical Education, a M.Ed. in Counseling from Shippensburg University (PA), and a M.Div. from North Park Theological Seminary (IL). Anne served three different congregations in Hawaii: as a solo Pastor in a small rural, primarily Native Hawaiian congregation in isolated Hana, Maui, as Interim Sr. Pastor at a Japanese American urban congregation in Honolulu, and as Senior Pastor at an ethnically diverse congregation in a suburb of Honolulu.

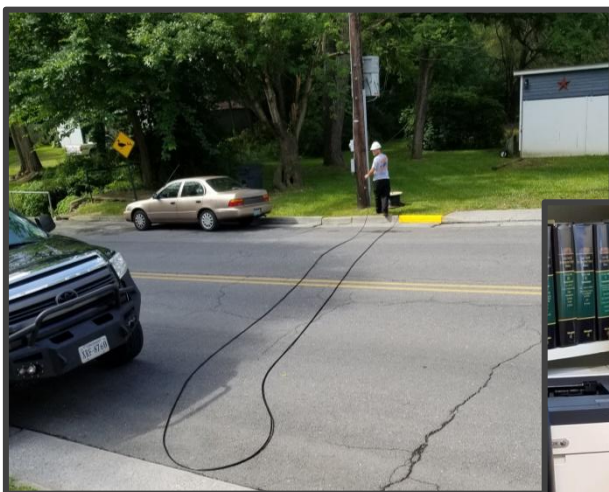
Anne is a life-long learner, and has completed additional training through Ashland Seminary's Pastors of Excellence program, Shalem Institute's Clergy Spiritual Life and Leadership program, and Charlotte Spiritual Center's Spiritual Director training. She understands her ministry as wayfinding: companioning individuals, small groups, and congregations on their spiritual journeys as they discover God's presence in their lives and live into that reality in the community and world. She is excited about the possibility of companioning St. Paul's UCC as they continue their long and rich journey of faith and service. Anne is married to Rod Chamberlain, another life-long learner and educator. They have two adult sons and four delightful grandchildren. They are counting down the days until they have the opportunity to meet and worship with St. Paul's UCC congregation.

Rev. Anne comes with the full support of the Search Committee!

** Please do not share this information as it is still confidential for our congregation only.

There will be a Meet and Greet on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at the Woodstock Brewhouse on the back patio from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. More information will follow.

CHURCH HAS NEW COMPUTERS AND CABLE INTERNET SERVICE



Words describing Rev. Anne

Birthdays for St. Paul's

July 1 – Cathy Dalke, Dickie Hinchee
6 – Maria F. Baylock
9 – Jack Sheetz
13 – Paula Orndorff, Leigh Catlett
15 – Cindy George
16 – Charlie George
18 – Leiyana Charity
20 – Joyce Golladay
21 – Bubba Kennedy, George Swecker
22 – Wayne Cullers, Bailee Sollenberger
25 – Ashley Bray
26 – Rev. Charles Wood
27 – Steve Heishman
28 – Julianna D. Bankert
31 – Roberta Dysart

August 2 – Gabrielle Fream
3 – Karen Walton, Abbe Kennedy,
Heather Snyder
4 – April and Kyrsten Alkire
5 – Jackson Cooper
8 – Casey George, Jennifer Gardner
9 – Dawn Hawthorne
11 – Anna Baylock, Robin Grubbs
13 – Trent Snarr
14 – Jason Holland, Anna Smith, Lucy Rhea
16 – Leah Timmerman
18 – Keith Markel
20 – Julie Ritenour, Catherine Dalke
21 – Richard “Buck” Shrum
23 – Andy Walton, Kay Wetzel
25 – Dale Funkhouser
29 – Kline Wilkins



Anniversaries for St. Paul's

July 1 – Jason And Susan Fream
3 – Chad and Michelle Sheetz
5 – Richard and Marcie Lambert
20 – Dan and Bonnie Bowman
21 – Kline M. and Gayle Wilkins

August 4 – Dennis and Stephanie Dysart
14 – Bob and B J Goodier
19 – Bill and Kathy Holsinger
21 – Jerrold and Alice Foltz

Acolytes

July 7 – Aiyana Charity
14 – Gabi Fream
21 – TJ Williams
28 – Nathan Eye

August 4 – Connor Neff
11 – Allen Brill
18 – April Alkire
25 – Anna Ritenour

Scripture Readers

July 7 – Patty Dellinger
14 – Becky Lytton
21 – Melissa Andrews
28 – Alberta Smith

August 4 – Courtney Brill
11 – Craig Orndorff
18 – Susan Medley
25 – Emily Koon

Greeters

July – Senior Choir
August – Joe and Kaye Lehnen

Junior Church – Marsha Cooper & Jen Dalke

Elementary Class – Alisha Williams

Youth Class – Abby Neese

Altar Flowers

July 7 – Betty Lambert
14 – Linda Sheetz
21 – Trudy Knode
28 – Patty Dellinger

August 4 – Janet Sibert
11 – Patty Snarr
18 – Susan Fream
25 – Julie Ritenour



Rev. Clara's Blog
Thinking of children

Front-page news coverage draws us to particular political realities. The pictures and the report cause us to think of the conditions under which children from Central America are being subjected. We need to think of the children in these situations. We have a moral imperative to think of other ways to solve immigration and asylum issues.

This 4th of July week is a good time to think about the children for whom we in America have responsibility. What kind of world do we want them to experience in their adulthood? What are our hopes for them? As people of faith what do we want to tell them?

As I look at the state of education over the years contained within my own lifespan, I can certainly see great advances. I, for one, was the first in my immediate family to go to college, and even get a Master's Degree. Yet all children do not have access to quality education. All schools are not created equal. All children in this great and wealthy nation cannot afford to go to school. Some even need to sacrifice for the sake of the family and give up school in order to work in the fields. Teachers are uniformly underpaid. As we celebrate the 4th of July it is a good time to think about the children and how we teach the stories of America, the good and the tragic.

As Global Warming and Climate Change (or in some cases the denial of such) dominate discussions worldwide, let us think of the children. As people of faith we have been entrusted with the task of being faithful stewards of creation. The time of exploitation needs to end because it is not sustainable. Our children deserve better. Our children deserve the opportunity to enjoy the natural world. Our children deserve safe water and clean air. As we celebrate the 4th of July it is a good time to appreciate those parks and recreational spaces where we will celebrate and consider how we safeguard their future.

This annual celebration of America's founding is a good time to think about the children. Are we teaching them the lessons of Civics about how our nation works? It is an opportunity to think about how we teach our children (and hopefully ourselves) how to listen to one another and talk to one another. Democracy is a fragile creation. We need to teach our children (and ourselves) how to move beyond negative obstructionist political action. We need each other so that we can preserve our Democracy for our children.

Finally on this 4th of July week it is well to remember that our founding ancestors deliberately separated "church and state". Rather than limiting God to blessing only our nation, let us think how our faith informs the decisions we make. As a people of faith guided by the teachings of Jesus how we do view our policy discussions on such things as education, immigration, climate, our Democracy through the spectrum of compassion, mercy, and justice?

Maybe, just maybe, if we paid attention to the children we might find the will to confront the difficult issues of our corporate life in such a way that our children and our grandchildren might enjoy the fruits of this great experiment, The United States of America. It's worth a try. Happy 4th of July!

Grace and Peace

Rev. Clara