



May 2019

The Goodnews Letter

St. Paul United Methodist Church

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Pastor Robert Reeves

From the Pastor's Desk

I wanted to go ahead and take the May newsletter article to share the majority of my "farewell thoughts" with the St. Paul Church family. Being honest, I don't like writing such letters because there is too much to share, to thank you for, and to give GOD the glory. I'm concerned I'll leave something or someone out who made our 4 year tenure here a greater blessing.

Thanks to everyone for your participation and contributions. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DID ANYTHING TO MAKE ST. PAUL A BETTER CHURCH FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS!**

Thank you for the many ways you received my pastoral ministry. As the years go by, I will look back fondly on our time together.

In our tenure I've watched some good things happen. We've celebrated baptisms, had some great song services and gospel singings. We reduced the debt on the Family Life Center to \$199,019.96! We've said our goodbyes to precious people in St. Paul's history who have finished their course and await us in heaven.

Together, we realized a few dreams, lived through a few trials, and persevered. I am not blowing my own horn although there's risk in someone interpreting these statements that way. I give GOD the glory!

I believe St. Paul has faced some crises in our tenure here such as the need to make financial adjustments and acknowledging that every parishioner cannot always be our focus. That position is reserved for JESUS CHRIST!

Some of you have acknowledged when a local Church refuses change, it refuses to live into the future the LORD has for that Church. There has been change here.

St. Paul is better off today than it was when I arrived not because I have been here but because GOD HAS BEEN HERE AND IS STILL HERE AND many of you are listening to HIS wise counsel in my opinion.

The LORD cares for St. Paul more than anyone else ever will be able to. My prayer is that you will receive His counsel and enjoy the days ahead that only GOD can make possible as you walk with the LORD.

While I am leaving you, there is one who remains constant: Jesus Christ. Jesus has been here from the beginning, and will be with you for the rest of time. If through the power of the Holy Spirit you allow Jesus to guide St. Paul, you will always have a mission. It may not look like the church we have today. There may be difficult decisions which need to be made. But a passion for our Lord and Savior will see you through all your future trials. This passion guided the earlier congregations here and helped them navigate their challenges. Likewise the same grace is offered our present Church.

The biblical record is full of stories about people who faced hard trials. Those who think their local Church should never have problems, challenges, or trials, aren't facing the reality of living in this world and dealing with all people who participate in any local church. No matter the problem or trial or challenge, the LORD will be faithful. He will not fail those who will trust HIM with their life and their local church!

The last time I looked at the last statement of JESUS in Matthew's gospel, the promise is still there, JESUS is with us always! May our hearts be with HIM always as well!

(cont'd on pg. 2)

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My prayers will remain for you to experience all that GOD can do as you look to HIM, the Hope of all Glory who is the author and finisher of your faith!

May the LORD grant you a wonderful growing relationship with your new pastor! Under Susan's pastoral leadership may new doors of opportunity fling open for St. Paul.

There's an old joke about moving pastors. The punch line goes that all pastors make some parishioners happy when they arrive, happy while they are in their local church or happy when they leave! With that in mind, let us consider the following:

If you can see how you benefited from my pastoral leadership or ministry and have grown further into your purpose in Christ, to GOD be the glory! Thank you JESUS!

If in the LORD's sight and judgment I have in any way failed you, I do apologize and ask your forgiveness by the power of JESUS CHRIST that resides in you. I am overwhelmed by how merciful our GOD is. Let us give that grace to one another in the household of faith. For all that have either failed the LORD or me you are forgiven in JESUS name! Please go and grow on with GOD!

Beloved, we cannot thank you enough for the many little and big things you've done for us in our time here. Thank you for following after JESUS! My Hall of Fame Church list has grown! I have been blessed and moved by many of you who exemplify your love of GOD, one another and our ministry here with you. Let us remember in the LORD's perfect timing we will one day be together again in the LORD's presence telling HIM forever how worthy JESUS is! If we do not see each other again in this life, we'll meet again in Heaven's glory! All praise alone to Christ who makes us new!

We ask for your continued prayers as we now prepare to move to our next appointment — the Indian Field UMC in St. George. Indian Field is well known for the huge Camp Meeting that it hosts every fall. Come join us for the services! We love you in Christ! For GOD's children the best is yet to come!

- *Pastor Robert Reeves & Family*

Flower Schedule

- 5. Communion
- 12. Mother's Day-Kathy & Philip Moore
- 19.
- 26.

Church Nursery

- 5. Melanie Reeves & Christy Boatright
- 12. Minnie Goodman & Toby James
- 19. Shelly James & Eirene Ferguson
- 26. Sandy Webb & Kathy Moore

Acolytes

- 5. Lauren Akins
- 12. Zoey Hall
- 19. Nolan Akins
- 26. J. B. Morrow

Visitation

- 5. Pastor Robert
- 12. Lynn Alexander
- 19. Sandy Webb
- 26. Minnie Goodman

Ushers

- 5. Billy Watkins & Joe Eubanks
- 12. Randy Stowe & Michael Thompson
- 19. Vince Maglio & Bo Herndon
- 26. Charles Goodman, Sr. & Doug Summer

Lay Assistant

- 5. Charles Goodman, Sr.
- 12. Rick Crosby
- 19. Mason Morrow
- 26. Charles Goodman, Sr.

Offering Accountants

Charles Goodman, Sr. & Jennifer Morrow

SS Assembly Refreshments

- 5. Friendship Circle
- 12. SS Assembly Group
- 19. SS Assembly Group
- 26. SS Assembly Group

Communion Preparation

Darlene Paradise, May 5

Ad Council/Finance Committee News

The figures are in for the first quarter of 2019 and the Finance Committee will be reviewing them the 4th Sunday—the regular meeting being delayed because the 3rd Sunday was on Easter.

While the report will not be spectacular, it is most encouraging. Some of our generous givers are now in heaven, others of you who care deeply about the survival of St. Paul have reached deep in your pockets, making this year's pledged money slightly exceed last year's. That is still not enough to totally meet our present budget (which is almost identical to the 2018 budget). However, if we can maintain our present giving level through the next quarter, we should be able to cover our local expenses. We have received several hundred dollars as special gifts to apportionments but that will probably be the most we can give until later this year.

That said, you are all aware that our incoming pastor, Susan Pennock, will be receiving a lower salary but even with that cut, we will need to maintain our present giving. We do not yet know the exact change as there are items that apply to that salary that are unknown so the present budget figures will not change even though in July we will be paying her less. The budget change will occur as we prepare the budget for 2020.

The next 2 months will be busy as Pastor Robert prepares to leave for his new position and as we dialogue with Pastor Susan, giving and getting information for her coming to St. Paul. You should find her bio on this page in the June Newsletter.

As you know, Annual Conference is the first Sunday in June. The following Sunday will be a very, very special day at St. Paul and I urge you to be here. You won't want to miss it. Bring your friends. But don't wait until then, to share with Pastor Robert your appreciation for his ministry at St. Paul these past 4 years.

I am especially grateful for the laughter he has brought to St. Paul.

He has been most helpful in keeping us aware of the problems in the UMC and we need to remember that, though they have been temporarily resolved, the issue will continue.

He has been extremely helpful in trying to resolve our Financial difficulties, working with us and the District Superintendent through the apportionment situation.

He has lovingly worked with many of our shut-ins, a good many during their transition to glory.

The confirmands will always remember the special events and the spiritual insights they received under Pastor Robert's guidance. The Easter Sunday service as they joined the fellowship of St. Paul was most inspiring.

He has encouraged Karen and the M & M choir, often asking them to sing for special events. He has worked toward increasing our appreciation of the old and new Christian music and has brought us many talented individuals and singing groups for our inspiration. I wish he had played the guitar and sang for us more often. I will miss him practicing the piano when he was not aware anyone was listening.

As the next 2 months roll swiftly by, let's send him to his new charge with our thanks and love.

I ask that we also greet Pastor Susan with enthusiasm and a desire to provide what she will need to be an effective pastor. Since she will not be a full time pastor, we will need to do our jobs faithfully, taking one step at a time to carry on God's work at St. Paul.

A promising future lies ahead for St. Paul.
Let's make the most of it.

*Grace & peace,
Betty*

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Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Sunday Assembly 9 FH Sunday School 9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30 Communion Friendship Circle 5 FH	6	7 <i>Ansley Summer (B)</i>	8 Best Joy Cir 10 FH M & M Choir 5:30	9 <i>Debbie Kirkland (B)</i>	10	11 4 The FLC is reserved 9-4 <i>Stacie & Lyle Ustry (A)</i> <i>Deborah Eubank\$ (B)</i>
12 Sunday Assembly 9 FH Sunday School 9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30 Mother's Day M&M's sing <i>Rick Crosby (B)</i>	13	14 <i>Joey Clevenger (B)</i> <i>Jennifer & Charles Goodman, Jr. (A)</i>	15 <i>Wendy Stephens (B)</i>	16	17 <i>Joe Eubank\$ (B)</i>	18
19 Sunday Assembly 9 FH Sunday School 9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30	20	21	22	23 <i>Pat Matera (B)</i>	24 <i>Barbara & Tommy Johnson (A)</i>	25
26 Sunday Assembly 9 FH Sunday School 9:30 Sunday Worship 10:30 <i>Rich Polatewicz (B)</i>	27  Office Closed <i>Wendy & Bill Stephens (A)</i>	28	29	30	31	