



# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

May/June 2019

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## A "FUTURE STORY" OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH



DID YOU KNOW that SPUCC has a new short-term **VISION TEAM**!? The members of this team are: Donna Hodson (chair), Paul and Lynn Kluesener, Linda Woods, Nancy Klusmeier, Brian Tobergta, Anne Zimmer, Joan Allen and myself (as "technical advisor"). I THANK all these dedicated folks for their service—especially as several of them *also* served our New Beginnings process as house group Facilitators. SO WHAT EXACTLY IS THE VISION TEAM, and what will it do? As I mentioned at our March 29<sup>th</sup> annual congregational meeting, the Vision Team (in concert with the Holy Spirit!) has the intense and (very) important task of taking New Beginnings to the next crucial, future-shaping level...

- following up and "digesting" all that we learned through/in the house groups;
- conducting a number of interviews with community leaders in our area;
- *detailed* study and assessment of more demographics, plus "religious insights" and "ministry preferences" of the community around the church—i.e., what do the folks in our community value and believe, and what kinds of ministry can best reach them and SERVE them?
- *ALL with the goal of writing a specific, achievable **FUTURE STORY** for St. Paul UCC.*

AND JUST WHAT IS a "future story"?

THOUGH A "FUTURE STORY" may well include these, it's *more* than a new "mission statement" or "vision statement." It's a new PURPOSE, a new *trajectory* and *reason for being*—giving the church a **laser-beam focus** on WHO we are reaching out to and WHY we are doing it. It's a spiritual revival and "reboot." It's new kinds of ministry (and probably giving up some old ones). A new future story is NEW LIFE BLOOD for the church...new devotion, new resolve, and re-newed commitment to be "ambassadors for Christ": *\*So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of the new creation. The old things have gone away, and look, new things have arrived! All of these new things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with this message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors who represent Christ.\**

I KNOW FOLKS are *eager* to see "results" from New Beginnings! No one more than myself! And we will have them. But, here is a reality for us all to take to heart: our house groups discerned NOT to adopt any of the three *suggested* "future stories" provided by the New Beginnings assessment. SPUCC is "doing it's own thing," creating our own unique future story, by *adapting* one major strategy suggested by

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For an electronic  
version of  
THE EPISTLE,  
please visit our  
website at:  
[www.stpaulnch.com](http://www.stpaulnch.com)

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### Worship Opportunities

#### Sundays:

9:50 AM Traditional  
Worship in Sanctuary  
Sunday School

## Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

New Beginnings. That major strategy? It is **REDEFINING OUR MISSION**. In a nutshell, that's the work the Vision Team is now doing. Here is what the New Beginnings assessment says about this strategy...

**Redefine the Mission:** *This is a longer-term, spiritual journey traveled by a congregation that is in need of reconnecting with the surrounding community. With this strategy, a church re-forms itself, realizing what God has called it to be and do – in THIS time and place. With this strategy, the congregation suspends its month-to-month meetings to allow time to prayerfully focus on the question, "What is God's mission in our community TODAY?" This process will take at least 12-18 months and requires enough financial support to engage a long-term discernment period. It is not for every church. (Appendix B, p. 43)*

COME THE END OF JUNE it will be *one year* since we entered into New Beginnings, and seven months since the assessment was completed...so however you slice it, we are well over halfway there! This final process of writing our detailed and unique future story—OUR story—is INTENSE and demanding. The goal is to have that future story spelled out by the time we reach that one-year mark in June—and then share it with the congregation for *whatever action* needs to be taken in order to start *implementing* our new future story. You will receive a **clear, comprehensive written report** from the Vision Team when their work is completed. PLEASE pray for the Vision Team DAILY...and...PLEASE be patient and understanding! As quickly as we are trying to move along, this incredibly essential and weighty work *cannot* be rushed!

SO...THAT'S WHERE WE ARE! Let me wrap up by sharing with you one last snippet, from the New Beginnings resource being used now by the Vision Team ("Finding Our New Beginning: Refining Your Future Story And Developing A Plan"). This is from a "sample" future story in the workbook...

*"When we started seeing that our ministry was about relationships...that's when we really began to change....At first people were resistant, they were afraid of what change might look like around here. Yet we knew that our neighbors were not going to adapt to us. Our ministry had to address the faith questions these neighbors really were asking. Our ministry needed to help them engage in God's mission in ways that met them where they were."*

*"We love this church – you know? The people who went before us left us with the responsibility to see this ministry thrive. But more than that, as we began our own deeper spiritual dive, led by the pastor and a small group of seasoned spiritual leaders in the community, we were reminded that it's not just about duty or loyalty or some legacy from a previous generation. We were reminded that we are called to share God's unconditional love – personally and as a community.  
"And we were called to do it right here and right now."*

AND SO IT IS.

\*2 Corinthians 5.17-20

*Pastor Barry*  
**Love, Peace, and Easter Blessings!**

## *In Loving Memory*

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

In Memory of Marian Faller

In Memory of Paul Maus

Dot Kahle

Elaine Sloan

Elaine Sloan

# News and Updates Council News

The next Council meeting is Monday,  
June 17, 2019 7:00 PM.

We have many things going on in the church at this time. We are always striving to make St. Paul a place you can definitely call YOUR church HOME, If you find that you have questions or concerns in a particular area of the building or within a committee, please be sure to talk with the chairman of the committee with your question or concern. Here is the list of all members of the Church Council.

President - Judith Lewis-Combs - 729-3152  
Secretary - **Nancy Klusmeier - 923-1369**  
Treasurer - Anne Zimmer - 513-260-0573  
Nurture Team - Linda Woods - 513-289-5335  
Welcome Team - Diane Banker - 522-3318  
Endowment - Jan Apro - 931-2417

Vice President - Jan Apro - 931-2417  
Finance - Donna Hodson - 904-333-9422  
Care Team - **Margie Fassnacht - 574-0354**  
Facilities - Rick Davis - 574-8345  
Worship Team - **Vicki Ritz - 741-7868**  
Sr. Minister - 513-317-8146

Office Administrator - Office - Anne Zimmer - 931-2205

At our upcoming Congregational Meeting, June 30, council members with me re-affirming their position, with the exception of Secretary, Care Team and Worship. If you are willing to serve in one of these positions, or know of someone, please contact the office.

## ZWOSTER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to Chelsey Davis and to Madyson King. They both are receiving Scholarships this year. Good Luck to both of you in your upcoming academic school year.



## JULY EPISTLE DEADLINE

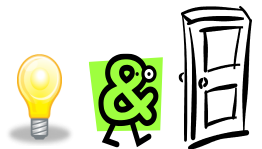
The Epistle deadline for the July edition is Wednesday, June 19, 2019. Please submit the information either by email to Anne or drop it in the Epistle box in the main office. There is also a folder in the blue mailbox outside the office.



## PLEASE HELP US with LIGHTS AND DOORS

On several occurrences lately, we have found an outside door unlocked. Please be sure to check doors before you leave, especially if you are the last one out.

Please do your diligence to make sure that the



Thank  
you!

Dear St. Paul Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer quilt I was given during my recent surgery.

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, and concerns.  
Peace and good health to all of you!

Roxanne Reed

**From Rev. Rich Jones, Fleming Rd. UCC:** This should be a fantastic service! Rev. Daniel Hughes, pastor of *Incline Missional Church* (Price Hill) and president of the *Economics of Compassion Initiative* (founded by Dr. Walter Brueggemann and Peter Block) will be sharing and the Rev. Troy Bronsink (founder of the *Hive* in Northside) will also be leading us in a couple of elements of the service....that with the amazing gifts, talents, and leadership of some of our UCC pastors and staff, as well as our congregations being present with one another has all of the makings of a great day!

LOCAL  
Church &  
Community  
EVENTS



**UCC Pentecost Service**  
For Cincinnati and surrounding areas  
**Fleming Road UCC**  
691 Fleming Rd. 45231

June 9 at 3 PM

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Paul-United-Church-of-Christ-NCH/451020504934791>.





## Jr. & Sr. SPY NEWS

Have you been in fellowship hall lately? The SPY groups have decorated the sound boards to give it a little more life. It is our version of the Bible (in pictures). Stop down and take a look.

Spring is here and the SPY has a lot on its plate since the end of April into the summer. As most of the kids in SPY go to church camp we have a lot of cross over activities. If you see one of our SPY out and about ask them what they are doing and join in on their fun.

We want to thank everyone for their support at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month breakfast (SPY IN THE KITCHEN!) It's been great fun cooking for the members of St. Paul.

We want to give a shout out to St. Paul's Scouts! The 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Egg Hunt went great and working with the Scouts was a wonderful opportunity to meet the other youth in the building.

After working the Fish Fry we enjoyed 4 games of bowling and boy was it fun.

We will be walking in the NCH Parade on May the 26<sup>th</sup>. We needed your help, so we could hand out bottle waters for those who are sitting on the side of the road. Boy did you all help. We cannot thank you enough! We hope we will see YOU sitting on the side of the road during the parade.

We want to thank every for the support on our Mother's Day Flower sale. All donations were given to the Camper's fund. We are working hard to get our 9 campers to camp and every little bit helps.



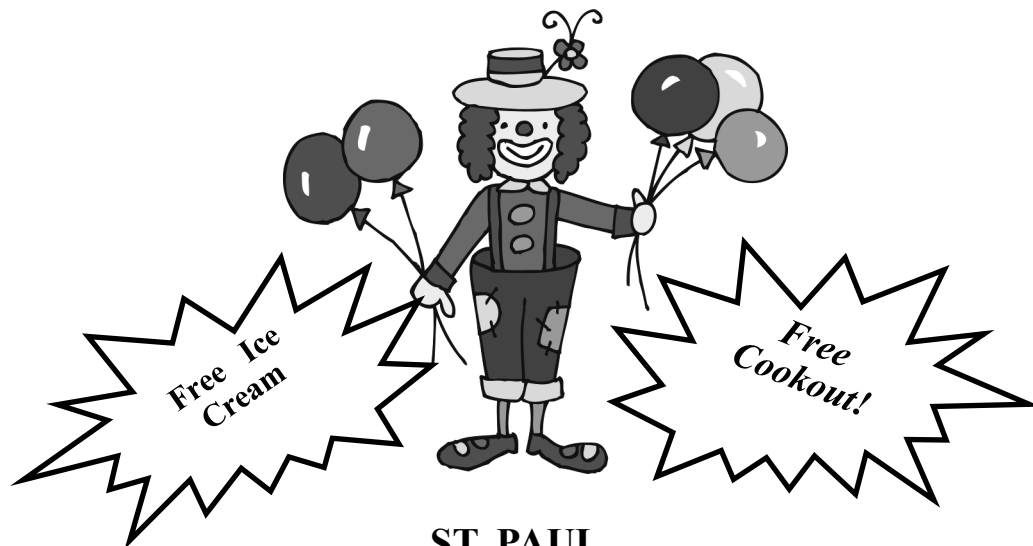
### CHURCH CAMPERS FUND UPDATE

We cannot thank this Congregation enough for their support. We have raised the enough money to send our youth to camp, July 7-12<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity and support for our youth is phenomenal. Our campers are really looking forward to another fun-filled year at camp. Send off will be during the church services on Sunday, July 7th.

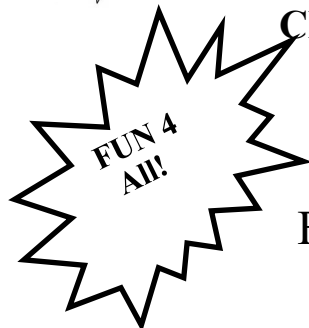
THANK  
YOU!



June 20, 2019  
Neighborhood Fun Fest



**ST. PAUL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST**  
(next door to NCH High School)  
**6997 HAMILTON AVE.  
CINCINNATI, OH 45231  
5 PM TO 8 PM**



**FAMILY FRIENDLY  
ALL ARE**



This event will be hosted by the youth of St. Paul United Church of Christ and also the youth from St. John's UCC from Tiffin, Ohio.

If you are interested in helping the youth to put on a great Carnival for the youth of the neighborhood please let us know. See Joan or Pastor Barry.

## NURSERY SCHOOL

The Pre K class ended the school year with displaying an art gallery in our school hallway. Here are a few pictures of some of the artists they studied and the children's artwork.



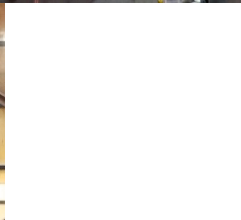
St. Paul UCC Nursery School is still accepting registrations for the fall 2019-2020 school year. Call to set up a tour at 931-9062.

Karen Rieman  
and Staff



# SCOUTING NEWS

Our Scouts enjoyed an Overnight of Climbing at Rock Quest in Springdale.







5/1 Bob Dickman  
5/3 Betty Klug  
Ethan Overholts  
5/5 Pam Leist  
5/6 Jenny Birdsong  
Linda Stegman  
5/7 Anne Marie Timme

5/8 Alice Graber  
Romone Johnson  
5/11 Steven Johnson  
5/17 Linda Woods  
5/19 Alexis Mittler  
5/23 Mike Cornish  
Tyler Mittler

5/27 Tom Bryant  
5/28 Ellie Reed  
5/29 Robin Keller  
5/31 Judith McIlhane



6/1 Misti Cornish  
Chris Hoeweler  
6/6 Mark Heitman  
6/13 Cheryl DuPriest

6/17 Jacqui Umbach  
6/21 Herman Stahmer  
6/22 Jordyn King

6/26 Jan Apro  
Shianna Johnson  
6/30 Jesica Overholts  
Bill Lowes



7/1 Carol Lommer  
7/6 Isaiah Johnson  
Don Lerch  
7/8 Brittney Heitman

7/12 Roxanne Reed  
7/19 Alice Blum  
7/23 Nancy Klusmeier  
7/25 Sue Ehrhardt

7/27 Kristen Woods  
7/28 Lyndelle Murphy  
7/29 Sonya Heitman

*Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:*

Our servicemen and women	Nancy Lanza	Bodde Scudder
Peggy Adams	Barb Walbrun	Susan, friend of Linda Woods
Chad Willcocks	James Stokes	Bob Harbaum
Melody Hoff	Tommy Moorehead	Greg Rice
Kathy Aker	Howard Seaman	Barb Nuckols
Erma Amrein	Lindsay Pitcher	Norma Carrier
John Allen	June Ward	Melitta Marx
Gay Steinhauer	Kim Caudell	Chris Hoeweler
Alice Graber	Mike Cornish	Jesse McIlhaney
Don Beresford	Clara Kemplin	Roxanne Reed
Tony Mancini	Rhonda Lahmann	The Faller Family
Helen Mason	Joann Ernst	Bruce Banker
Jessica Obert	Owen Erickson	Anne Haire
Gay D. Smith	Nancy Basil	Ann Way
Rev. Virginia Duffy	Marlene Sheward	Kathleen Elsen
Ruth Meissner	Justin Nuckols	Roy Push
Barbara Williamson	Will Maier	Izola White
Skip Zimmer	Brian Criswell	Carol Schroer
Elaine Sloan		

Please keep the office informed on the status of those you have placed on the prayer list.


*Please Continue to Remember in Prayer our HomeBound:*

Geraldine Cooper	Bob Dickman	Mary Lou Heiden
Mary Heineke	Charlotte McCauley	Albert Mueller
Dot Sunnenberg	Anne Timme	Dolores Ungerbuehler
Sharon Wagner	Lucille Walters	

*If you would like to add  
someone to the prayer  
list, please call the office.*



# May/June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Confirmation Class Meets After Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 	28 Community Dinner 5 PM - FH	29 Brownie Mtg. 6:30 PM - FH	30 Vision Team Mtg 6 - 8 PM	31 AA - 8 PM	1 June AA - 8 PM
2 Celebration Sunday Sunday School, Music, Graduation Confirmation Class Meets After Worship	3 Scouts 6:30 PM FH	4 Community Dinner 5 PM - FH	5	6	7 AA - 8 PM	8 AA - 8 PM
9 Communion Confirmation Sunday	10 Scouts 6:30 PM FH	11 Community Dinner 5 PM - FH	12 Exec. Team Mtg 7 PM	13	14 AA - 8 PM	15 AA - 8 PM
16 Father's Day	17 Nurture Mtg 5:30 PM Scouts 6:30 PM FH Council Mtg. 7 PM	18 St. John's UCC Youth Group Arrives Community Dinner 5 PM - FH	19 Epistle Articles Due	20 FunFest Carnival 5-8 PM	21 AA - 8 PM	22 AA - 8 PM
23 Congregational Meeting 30	24	25 Community Dinner 5 PM - FH	26	27	28 SPY Lock-In 6:30 PM - 12 PM	29 Drive Thru Prayer 10 AM - 12 PM AA - 8 PM



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
6997 Hamilton Ave.  
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Office Hours 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Monday - Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Thursday - Friday

Nursery School Staff: Karen A. Rieinan, Director  
Susan Ehrhardt, Amy Miller, Angela Oaks, Jenny Birdsong,  
and Jessica Whittis.

Church Staff:  
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher, Sr. Minister  
Joan Allen, Lay Minister  
Rick Tallarigo, Organist/Interim Music  
Director  
Anne Zimmer, Office Administrator  
Jim Maybury, Sexton  
Anne Zimmer, Treasurer

Parish Nurses: Vicki Celenza, R.N.,  
Coordinator  
Roxanne Reed, R.N.

