



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

June 2018

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Ponderings From The Pastor

INVESTING IN GOD'S FUTURE: THE TIME IS NOW!

YOU'VE LIKELY HEARD the word before: sustainability. In a global sense, sustainability means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It means being unselfish and concerned about who comes after us. It means being responsible and compassionate, and willing to take a long view of things.

RIGHT NOW, in the present time, our church—like a majority of mainline congregations—has slipped out of sustainability. In recent years we've passed deficit budgets and had to take money from endowed funds to help meet current expenses (more than once--thankfully, the investment "market" has overall been good!). We often have to "rob Peter to pay Paul." And, our "pledges" (our members' promised monetary offerings to the church) are significantly less than last year...and last year they were less than the year before that...

IN OTHER WORDS, we are in depletion mode, rather than sustainability mode. We are slowly whittling away our resources, while living in a time of increased costs, a still adequate-but-aging facility, and overall, fewer members to make it all work out somehow. But, again, we are not alone. Here are some statistics from Hope Partnership (the folks who "run" **New Beginnings**, our proposed vision process we'll be discussing on June 24) about the "average **New Beginnings** congregation"...

- The average **New Beginnings** congregation is using only 32 percent of its total facility. A **New Beginnings** assessment has helped these congregations either downsize their facility needs (lowering utility costs) or share the unused portions of their building with other ministries, or even other churches.
- About 70 percent of the participants in **New Beginnings** churches are over age 45 — and half are over 65. With the help of a **New Beginnings** assessment, many of these churches are seeing the need not only to reach new people, but to also welcome younger people and younger leadership into their congregations...and learning strategies to accomplish that.
- Most **New Beginnings** churches spend a minimum of 33 percent of their operating budget on facility costs (utilities, insurance, upgrades, and maintenance). In many cases, a **New Beginnings** assessment has helped these congregations lower their facility expenses and find more life-giving ways to steward their finances.
- The average **New Beginnings** congregation funds only about three quarters of its budget with congregational offerings. The other quarter comes from savings accounts, building-use income and endowment interest. In other words, **New Beginnings** congregations are living off the assets of a previous generation. After the assessment process, these churches are finding answers to the question, "How do we become more sustainable for the mission God calls us to today?"

For an electronic
version of
THE EPISTLE,
please visit our
website at:
www.stpaulnch.com

*St. Paul United
Church of Christ
6997 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH
45231*

Ph. 513-931-2205
Fax 513-931-2206
Email:
office@stpaulnch.com
Website:
www.stpaulnch.com

Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

9:50 AM Traditional
Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday School

Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

IN OUR CASE here at St. Paul UCC, if falling out of sustainability is the "bad news," then **New Beginnings** has the potential of bringing great "good news"!! We MUST NOT be afraid to name and claim our current reality. Mature Christian disciples can look at things realistically without falling into despair or hopelessness: they always remember that they have an Advocate—the Holy Spirit—as their greatest ally! God is on our side, and we are a resurrection people!

SO, TAKING THE STEP into **New Beginnings** is taking action NOW—a step of faith and trust in GOD—to enter a sustainable future. It is good news because it means we have the courage and wisdom to once again grasp the long view! Sure, it will take a while to get there....but the journey is one toward wholeness, health, vitality and spiritual fulfillment. These things are ALL good news! They are the fruit of discovering and living God's dream for St. Paul UCC!...and THAT'S a dream worth sharing!

PENTECOST BLESSINGS

Pastor Barry

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Council Meeting

April 16, 2018

8:30 P.M.

Present: Mike Bartholomew, Margaret Maybury, Jan Apro, Anne Zimmer, Joan Allen, Lois Manifold, Linda Woods, Nancy Klusmeier.

Council reconvened after the presentation on "**New Beginnings**" by Pastor Barry and Pastor Becky from Mt. Healthy Methodist Church. "New Beginnings" is a process that helps churches answer the question "**What is God calling our congregation to do and be in this time and this place?**" It helps churches choose their future, instead of letting it get chosen for them. The process is three phases and usually takes 6-8 months. Phase I – On-site assessment and report; Phase II – Training for 8-12 key leaders within the church who learn to guide congregation through a discernment process; Phase III – These leaders conduct small group meetings toward a "big picture" decision about that key question.

- Nancy felt that, should we decide to take this to the Congregation for a vote, if a member is willing to help with the costs (\$4,000 - \$5,000 ?) as Pastor Barry had stated, we should accept that offer. We could also look into the grant that will match offer. Yes, the Church could also pay some so that we are invested in the process. However, under our circumstances, we should accept the offer.
- The minister steps back so that the process is from the bottom up and the members decide what they want to do.

A **MOTION** was made (Maybury/Woods) to recommend the "New Beginnings" program to the congregation to vote on at the next Congregational Meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** with Jan Apro and Lois Manifold abstaining from the vote.

- Margaret suggested that the Pastor's Epistle articles be shorter and to the point.
- Information regarding "New Beginnings" should also be sent out to the congregation ahead of the June meeting.
- At this point, Mike suggested that Council look over the minutes from the previous month and the financials and Pastor Barry's mileage and summary of his time.

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Council Meeting
April 16, 2018
8:30 P.M.

Council Minutes: Continued

A **MOTION** was made (Apro/Bartholomew) to approve the minutes of the March 19 Council Meeting. **MOTION PASSED** and the minutes were approved as printed.

A **MOTION** was made (Apro/Maybury) to adjourn. **MOTION PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M. with Pastor Joan Allen leading us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Klusmeier
 Council Secretary

The next Council meeting is Monday,
 August 20, 2018 7:00 PM.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JUNE 24TH

The Congregational Meeting will be after worship on June 24th. This meeting includes all the reports for the committees of the church. There will also be elections for Council Positions. There are several who are stepping down, as they have served on the Council for many years.

If you are interested in holding a position on the Church Council, please contact the office. Current openings will include President and Secretary (possibly) positions. It will also include Finance, Missions, and Welcome committee chairman positions.

Look into your heart and pray about considering a position on the Church Council.

News and Updates

JULY EPISTLE DEADLINE

The Epistle deadline for the July edition is Wednesday, June 20 2018. 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 lights are off in the building when you leave.

Thank you



FACEBOOK PAGE

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



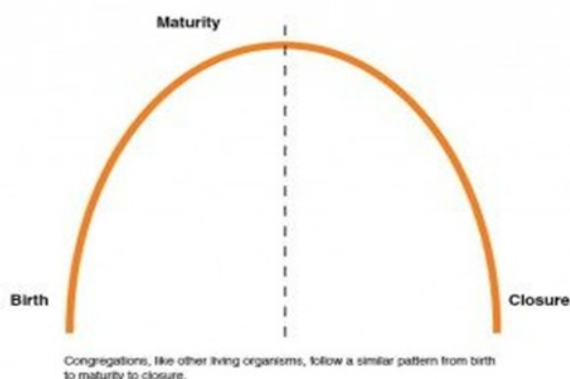
The “New Beginnings” Corner

Keeping YOU Up To Date on our Church-Wide Vision Process!

LOOK HERE in each month's “Epistle” for Updates and Information

As you probably know by now, our St. Paul congregation will hold its summer annual meeting on **JUNE 24 after worship** (we will meet that day in our Chapel), and our members will be asked to affirm our participation in NEW BEGINNINGS. Below is an excerpt from HOPE PARTNERSHIP, the denominational group that would be helping us through the New Beginnings process. Take a look-see!

Lifecycle of a Church



Congregations, like all living organisms, follow a similar bell-curve pattern of development. The point at the far left of the curve is the congregation's origin. Following a congregation's birth, it grows and matures, and along the way, it adds new people, new programs and new administrative tools. At some point, a congregation reaches “maturity” — the point at which it begins to fulfill the vision named in the early days of the church's life. This is when we might say a church is “running on all cylinders.” Looking back, we might be inclined to call this period of maturity the “glory days” of a congregation — the sanctuary was full, the classrooms were bustling with activity, the

committees were functioning to their fullest.

But shortly after a congregation reaches this point of maturity, it often takes its eyes off the vision for the new future ahead of it. Churches become content and don't see the gradual decline that begins to take place. They may seek out temporary (or technical) fixes to regain the maturity they once had. They may hire a youth pastor in an effort to “replace the young people” who have left. Or, they may start a second worship service, with the hope that the sanctuary will fill up again. Often, these efforts are done with the expectation that the church will once again return to the maturity of its “glory days.” People express their desire for the church to “get back to” the ministry it once had.

Experience shows that once a congregation has begun to decline in both participation and energy, it becomes nearly impossible to return to any *previous* point on the lifecycle. Instead, what is required is the birth of an entirely new lifecycle. This requires a congregation to make a bold decision for its future.

The New Beginnings Assessment Service is designed to help a congregation make that bold decision. A decision of this magnitude takes a special set of assessment tools and conversations. It also helps to have a compassionate set of outside eyes to help the congregation see its situation anew. This is Hope Partnership's role in the New Beginnings process.

From The Nurture Team

Samaritan Purse ("Shoe Box") Project

We will once again be filling shoe boxes for needy children overseas. The shoe boxes are filled and wrapped in November so they can be shipped for the children to receive at Christmas. Last year we filled 36 shoe boxes and would like to match that again this year. In order to do this WE NEED YOUR HELP by donating items from the list below or by making a monetary donation and we will do the shopping. Monetary donations can also help to cover the shipping costs. Empty shoe boxes are also needed to fill!

The following are items needed to fill the shoe boxes:

Doll	Bandages	Small Manual Pencil Sharpener	Underwear
Stuffed Animal	Sunglasses	Colored Pencils	Socks
Harmonica or Kazoo	Small Cars, Trucks	Pencil Case	Flip-flops
Hairbrush	Jump Ropes	Crayons and Markers	Hats
Toothbrush	Yo-yo	Pens	Scarf
Washcloths	Hack-Sack	Coloring Books, Puzzles	Mittens
Packaged Bar Soap	Water Bottle	Plastic Dinosaurs	Hair bows/barrettes

Soccer Ball with Manual Air Pump – this is a *favorite* for both boys *and* girls! Last year we found that Wal-Mart had THE BEST price on soccer balls & air pumps.

Items that we cannot send include candy, toothpaste, gum, used items, war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food of any kind, drink mixes, liquids or lotions, glass or aerosol containers.

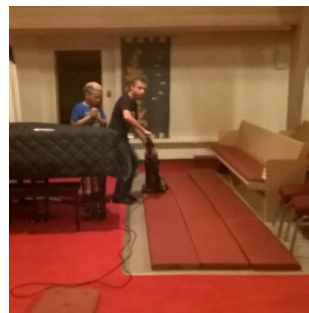
It may seem early to be thinking about this, but if we get an early start, we can take advantage of sales or other bargains over the next few months!

Please consider helping with this important mission of St Paul UCC. Items for the shoe boxes and monetary donations (clearly earmarked "for Samaritan Purse Project") can be brought to the church office. Monetary donations can also be placed in the offering plate. Please let Anne Zimmer or Linda Woods know if you would like to help fill the shoe boxes in November – it's a lot of fun! As always, we greatly appreciate the generous support of our St Paul family!





At our lock in on May the 11th, we did mission work around the church starting in the sanctuary.



Sweeping and dusting the pews and flipping the cushions. The kids worked up quite a appetite, having no choice , we served them root beer and cream soda floats. After a hearty round of hide and seek, we watched a movie then lights out. Only to start the next morning working in the court yard, clearing weeds and planting a magnolias tree, in honor of Evenly Osterbrock, which we will dedicate on July 15th, during the service.



SPY will be sponsoring a Rock a Thon on June 10th after the service. All monies raised will be sent to the cancer research. We will be working in the court yard again on June 30th, and July 28. If you would like to help, bring your gloves and let's get dirty. July 15th is also youth Sunday, please mark your calendar and come and worship with us.

Summer is here and we need help with summer Sunday School. We will be using special curriculum. No prep required. We have started setting up times for summer help. As of this moment we have wonderful people like, Judith Lewis-Comb, Cheryl Bordenkircher, Diane Banker and Linda Woods, who have agreed to help. Won't you give a Sunday to help. Please contact Vickie Bryant if you can give a Sunday, 238-7127 or see Pastor Joan Learning and praying never takes a Sunday off.



Camper's Fund

CAMP TIME AGAIN

We will be sending our kids to camp again this year, with the help of Hyde Park Methodist church. We are planning to send 7 kids this year. However we need your help. Camp cost is \$335.00 per kid and we need to raise funds to assist in getting our kids to camp. Would you prayerfully consider donating to this incredible opportunity for our youth. For more information contact Pastor Joan.



SOMETHING NEW COMING TO ST. PAUL

There is a new kind of prayer coming to St. Paul this summer. In the months of June, July and August, we will be hosting a "drive through" prayer, for our neighbors and members in need, in our parking lot.

How will this work, you ask? From 9-11 am, we will set up stations in our top lot and invite anyone, neighbor or member, drivers or walkers, to come into the parking lot and receive a prayer. We know that people drive by our beautiful church everyday and wonder if God can hear them. We will give them a chance to know that "God is listening" and so are we.



If you would like to help, we would love your help. There will be lots of things for you to help with setting up, praying, guiding and closing down. Let us reach out to all God's children and open our doors and parking lot to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. For more information see Pastor Barry or Pastor Joan.

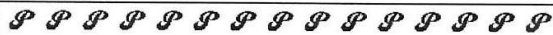
Mission Partner News

MT. HEALTHY PANTRY NEEDS

Deoderant, Bar Soap
Tooth Paste, Shampoo
Toilet Paper, Tooth Brushes

Canned Fruit, Cereal

You can bring items to the main office and we will be sure to get it delivered.



Dine to Donate

Please present this on
June 13th

20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports
The Mt. Healthy Alliance



Coupon Expires: June 13th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins

One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon void if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. Multitasked, tampered, forged or photocopied coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Prices may vary in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & Marie Callender's Inc.

Community Fundraiser Event Friends, Food, and Fundraising To Support

Mt Healthy Alliance Inc. Food Pantry

3rd week of each month

Mon-Sat 6am to 3pm

Thurs 6am to 8pm



We'll earn 10% of sales when you present this flyer at

9894 Colerain Avenue (in Central Plaza
next door to A Sweet Life Cupcakes and
Crafts)

Flyer must accompany check donation

Please do not share the flyer with other guests at the restaurant



SCOUTING NEWS

The Cubbies are off for the summer. The leaders will be planning the upcoming school year over the summer.

The Troop is preparing for Summer Camp at Camp Friedlander. They have all signed up for their merit badges and are now working on all their pre-requisites for those merit badges where it is necessary to have certain requirements completed prior to attending camp.

The Crew is getting very excited about their upcoming trip. Columbus, Akron, Kelley's Island, Toledo and Dayton are all places they plan on visiting/staying so as to earn the Supernova Award. The Supernova Award is all about STEM. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). While on this trip they will also be earning their Tire III outing which is required for their Discovery and Pathfinder Awards. Menu planning and what gear to pack are the main topics of meetings right now. Anne can't wait for the trip as they will also be learning how to do some Dutch Oven cooking. (Anne loves to teach Dutch Oven Cooking to both the youth and adults!)



6/1 Chris Hoeweler
Misti Cornish
6/6 Mark Heitman
6/11 Sarah Jester Way
6/12 Bradford Bryant
Richard Bryant
6/13 Cheryl DuPriest

6/17 Robert Gorsler
Lucille Walters
6/18 Elijah Kelsey
6/20 Katherine Zapf
6/21 Herman Stahmer
6/22 Jordyn King

6/26 Jan Apro
Shianna Johnson
6/27 Roger Kolde
6/30 William Lowes
Jessica Overholts



7/1 Carol Lommer
7/2 Steven Kreiger
7/6 Isaiah Johnson
Donald Lerch
7/8 Brittney Heitman
7/9 Rachel Farlow
7/10 Katherine Blum

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

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

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:

Nan Grow
Our servicemen and women
Peggy Adams
Payson Davis
Chad Willcocks
Melody Hoff
Katie Morgan
Kathy Aker
Ginny DuPriest
Debbie DuPriest
Will Maier
David Smith
Erma Amrein
Mike Mathauer
John Allen
Jack Frost
Karon Jackson
Randy Schwartz
Gay Steinhauer
Mike Cornish
Norma Carrier

Alice Graber
Makayla Borg
Doug Mossman
Don Beresford
Margie Harman
Tony Mancini
Vicki Celenza
Helen Mason
Richard Wittaker
Max Kramer
Tom Kondo
Stephanie Collins
Jessica Obert
Paul LaMott
Gay D. Smith
Tyler Hardin
Rick Manifold
Rev. Virginia Duffy
Ruth Meissner
Kluesener Niece

Barbara Williamson
Skip Zimmer
Melissa Holmes
Mike Chalfin
Elaine Sloan
Del Collins
Steve Rogers
Barbara Koutroubas
Nancy Lanza
Rodney Webb, Sr.
Steve Barrett
Bob Berkley
Bonnie Rogers
Rebecca Horning
Mike Spears
Mae Scott
The Schmadel Family

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
Marian Faller
Albert Mueller
Anne Timme
Lucille Walters

Bob Dickman
Mary Lou Heiden
Joyce Seesing
Dolores Ungerbuehler

Gladys Elsasser
Charlotte McCauley
Dot Sunnenberg
Sharon Wagner

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



June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Standing Dates: FH = Fellowship Hall Mondays: NS = Nursery School Crafty Critters - 10 AM Scouts: 6:30 - 9:00 PM Tuesday: Community Dinner 5:00 PM weekly Fridays/Saturdays: AA Meeting 8 PM					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7 Disciple Bible Study 7:00 PM	8	9
10 Celebration Sunday Music/Teacher Graduate Recognition SPY Rockathon for Cancer Research	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20 OES Special Dinner	21	22	23
24 Congrega- tional Mtg After worship Youth Group Arrives from Tiffin, OH	25	26	27	28 Staff Meeting 10 AM	29	30 SPY - working in yard Drive Thru Prayer 9 - 11 AM

St. Paul United Church of Christ
6997 Hamilton Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45231



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

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6997 Hamilton Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231
Phone: (513) 931-2205
Fax: (513) 931-2206
Website: www.stpaulnch.com
Email: office@stpaulnch.com
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, and Morgan Peters

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.

