



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

October 2018

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

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Worship Opportunities

Sundays:

9:50 AM Traditional
Worship in Sanctuary
Sunday School

Ponderings From The Pastor

INVESTING IN GOD'S FUTURE: HONESTY

ON THURSDAY, September 13, we kicked off New Beginnings at St. Paul UCC!

THAT DAY, after umpteen anxious text messages back and forth with Rev. Doug Pfeiffer, our assessor from Hope Partnership, he finally made it to the church just after 3 PM...almost right at our scheduled time. We were not sure that was going to happen! Doug is from Iowa, and flew to Cincinnati from Des Moines via Minneapolis/St. Paul. You'd think these cities would've been far enough from the East Coast not to be affected by Hurricane Florence, which was delaying thousands of flights already...but it was touch and go! Anyway, Doug made it, and we got everything done according to plan.

THAT PLAN included a tour of the whole church building and grounds, led by Council President Judith Lewis-Combs. Following that at 4 pm, Doug sat down with our Office Administrator/Treasurer, Anne Zimmer, our Finance Chair, Donna Hodson and myself, to address Doug's questions about "money stuff" (church giving patterns etc.). At around 4:45 PM, Doug then went off with Rick Davis for a whirlwind driving tour of the area—a good chunk of the whole city! Then at about 5:45, Doug joined Cheryl and myself, Judith, and Rev. Carl Robinson (SONKA Association Minister) to have dinner with Doug and answer some more "data point" and other relevant, specific questions.

FINALLY, at 7 pm, Doug and Carl met with about thirty members of SPUCC—our staff, leaders, and group representatives—for an Appreciative Inquiry session, in the Chapel. Doug explained about how the New Beginnings process will work (more about that elsewhere in this edition of *The Epistle*); then Carl took over, asking those gathered, twelve specific questions to gather more insight about SPUCC, while Doug meticulously recorded the responses.



AT THE END of our time together, Doug then discussed the "Church Lifecycle" model (based on the groundbreaking work of George Bullard—and which you've seen before here in *The Epistle*). He reminded us that, like all living things, non-profit institutions and churches have a similar predicable lifecycle—beginning with a Birth and ending with a Death—with common, observable stages of development all along the lifecycle. These stages can be illustrated on a "bell curve" that looks pretty much the same in principle for all churches. Essentially, churches begin with people sharing the power of a motivating, uniting spiritual VISION, and they work to "incline" (grow) the church. Relationships start to blossom, programs start and expand, and administration becomes necessary to organize it all. At the top of the lifecycle curve, a church "peaks out" at this point and its growth flattens out—it begins to "recline." Soon thereafter—WITHOUT THE POWER AND MOTIVATION of a NEW SPIRITUAL VISION—it begins to "decline." Any remaining vision, then the relationships, then the programs—*everything*—it all slopes downward and the church is headed towards Death. Before the end, only administration remains, trying desperately to keep open a mostly-empty building.

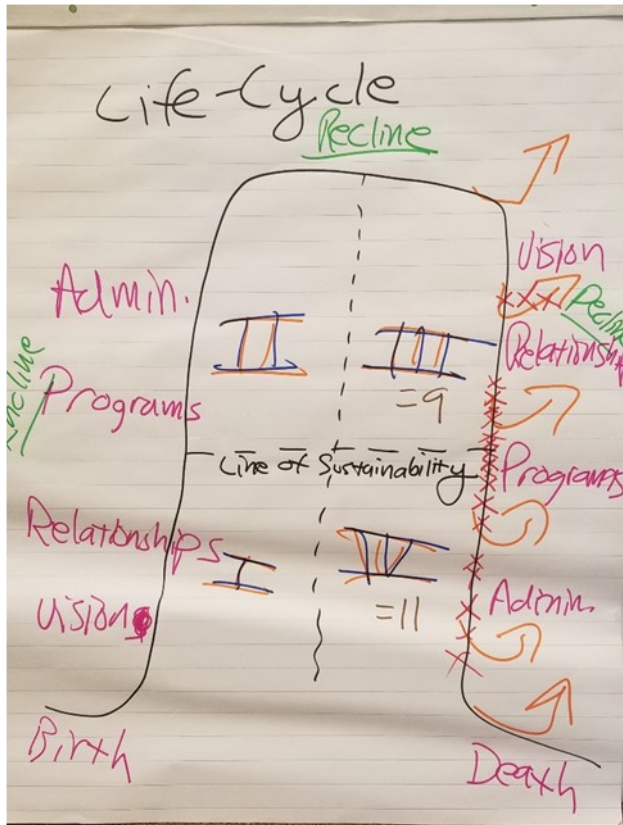
Ponderings From The Pastor (continued)

WITH ALL THAT IN MIND and to close the evening, Doug then invited everyone present to come forward and place a red "X" on the lifecycle curve—we were asked to put our "X" where we thought St. Paul UCC *currently* is in its own Lifecycle. When we were done, ALL of those X's ended up on the DECLINE side of the curve, with many below the "line of sustainability" (where a church has enough vision, relationships, and program to keep growing).



(see the "RED X's" in this photo)

Doug then reminded us of that we are Christians!....that we are not supposed to be afraid of death, and that we believe in Resurrection...that death does not need to have the last word, that God routinely redeems hopeless situations and brings NEW LIFE from apparent lifelessness. No matter how far down the *decline* side of the lifecycle we actually are, we are NOT WITHOUT HOPE! We can discern a NEW VISION and INCLINE ourselves again. That's what New Beginnings us all about. Vision = Hope!



AFTER THAT last exercise, we circled up for a closing prayer, in which I asked God for several things...including a growing ability for ALL OF US to be honest and patient with one another during the New Beginnings process! We need honesty—so that we can see our reality clearly and not flinch from it... or be afraid; and to be able to openly and forthrightly address whatever hidden obstacles may be blocking the emergence of a NEW VISION for SPUCC. Also, we need patience with one another because we have many different opinions about what is "right" and what we "need to do" or "should be doing." Some of those opinions may prove to be right in the end, some may not. The important thing is not whether your opinion is the right one—we will be listening to

everyone's opinions! What matters is GOD'S "opinion!" Where does GOD want to take us? And how does GOD want us to get there? The answers to these questions will not be found in/through our human egos...but through honesty and patience...and perseverance in prayer.

A key to the success of this whole endeavor is HONEST and PATIENT prayer. And deeper prayer—listening prayer, contemplative prayer, silent prayer, meditative prayer! TAKE TIME for this—to be alone with God and let the Spirit guide you...shape your thoughts...challenge you...maybe even change you. Our church will need the change brought by a NEW VISION to "incline" again—and the church will never change unless WE are willing to let God change us.

SHALOM,

Pastor Barry

FACEBOOK PAGE

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

In Loving Memory

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

IN Memory of Gladys Elsasser

Lynn & Paul Kluesener

Jane & Wayne Schluetker

IN Memory of Janet Dean

Pam & Scott Leist

News and Updates

Council News

The next Council meeting is Monday,
October 15, 2018 7:00 PM.

Your New Council is "back" in session and ready to begin working for the church and making things happen. 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

NOVEMBER EPISTLE DEADLINE

The Epistle deadline for the November edition is Wednesday, October 17, 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





The “New Beginnings” Corner

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

WATCH HERE in each month’s “Epistle” for Updates and Information

SO—WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT IS NEXT??

On September 13th we had our first SPUCC meeting of our NEW BEGINNINGS discernment process, and everything went fairly well! (for a recount of that night, please see Pastor Barry’s front page article about NEW BEGINNINGS in this edition of The Epistle). Our assessor from Hope Partnership, Rev. Doug Pfeiffer, now has all the information and data he needs to compile a detailed report for our church to help us discern God’s new VISION for us. The next step will be PRAYERFUL WAITING...Doug will spend several weeks carefully mulling over everything, and his report will be sent to our church LEADERS by mid-to-late October....

- The report will cover a lot of ground, and offer a no-holds-barred, detailed “snapshot” of where SPUCC is RIGHT NOW.
- The report will also offer **THREE “possible futures”** to consider, based on everything learned – these three possibilities will form the HEART of the home group discussions, which will begin sometime before (or right after) the end of the year.
- Everyone will have the chance to see a copy of the report once they commit to take part in a house group meeting—it does not get distributed widely before the house groups, or to those who are unwilling to take part in the discussion, for obvious reasons! (for example, minimizing gossip, “I told ya so’s,” unsubstantiated rumors, etc.)
- Because of the detailed nature of the report, and to insure healthy, productive discussion (based on tried-and true experience with hundreds of churches) several SPUCC members will be trained as house group **FACILITATORS**; they will help us all interpret the report, listen to each other, and listen to God speaking to us through what we learn together – see below!

MARK YOU CALENDARS!!

The NEXT get-together for our congregation for New Beginnings will be on **Friday, November 2**. Everyone in the church who wishes to be part of a house meeting is invited to attend this gathering and meet with **Jill White** (our Hope Partnership trainer) from **7 to 9 PM** (the church will be open for coffee/refreshments at 6 pm). Again, everyone is invited, and we will most likely meet in the Fellowship Hall—watch for more details. For anyone who wants to attend this meeting and does not drive in the evening, please let us know, so that we can arrange transportation for you.

FACILITATOR TRAINING—if you have been asked to serve as one of our house meeting FACILITATORS, plan to be here on **SATURDAY, November 3, from 9 AM to 3 or 4 PM** (the church will open for coffee and refreshments at 8:30 AM. Lunch will be provided.) This is a one-time training event, so please plan accordingly to be here that day, and stay for the whole event. Any questions? Contact Pastor Barry. After this training, we will begin scheduling house meetings—and one or two meetings at the church.

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: **NEW UPDATED LIST**

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	Hacky Sack Balls	Coloring Books, Puzzles	Mittens
Packaged Bar Soap	Water Bottle	Plastic Dinosaurs	Hair bows/barrettes
Small Tote Bags	Small Purses	Pencils	Watercolor paints
Paintbrushes	Canvas/Paper	Play Dough w/ plastic cookie cutters	Slinky
Small etch a sketch	Flashlight w/batteries	Compact Mirror	Blank Index Cards
Safety Scissors	Rulers/Protractors	Chalkboard/ chalk	Binoculars
Small Frisbee	Small Kites	Bead Jewelry/Bead Kit	Sewing Kit
Fabric, 1-2 yards	Ribbon	Gardening Kit, Gloves, Hand Tools	Building Blocks
Playing Cards	Marbles	Tool Kits (Plastic too)	Tennis Ball
Baseball/ Mitt	Bandana	Bright Colored Rope/Twine	Fishing Kit

Soccer Ball with Manual Air Pump or Kickball w/ 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! NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY SCHOOL SUPPLIES. All the Back to school prices are great for making your dollar go even farther.

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!



Thank you everyone for items already brought in.... we appreciate your participation!



St. Paul UCC
Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, October 27, 2018

10 am - 3 pm



Come do your Christmas Shopping with us.

All In One Place

Quality Homemade/Handmade Gifts

Pottery, Crystal Jewelry, Quilted Items, Baby Items,

Bath Bombs, Sugars Scrubs,

Wooden Items, Paper Crafting,

Handmade Cards, Wreaths, Vinyl Crafts,

Hand-Woven Baskets and more.

Retail Direct Sales Entrepreneurs

Food and Refreshments

Multiple Basket Raffle



St. Paul UCC, North College Hill
(Fellowship Hall, upstairs, downstairs)

6997 Hamilton Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45231

513-931-2205

For Additional Information

Call Lynn Kluesener 513-266-6890

Free Admission



St. Paul UCC Holiday Craft Show

We are in need of any donations of large Baskets or Containers for use in making raffle baskets for our upcoming Holiday Craft Show at St Paul that you may have around your home. Please bring them to church each Sunday and put them in or on the table in the room outside the main office (by the kitchenette).



We are also accepting any gift cards, new items that are wrapped or in boxes that can be added to create 'theme' baskets for us to raffle at church. (Ex. Spa, candle, kitchen, children, holiday, wine, sports, etc.)

Thank you for your support in making this a successful St. Paul Community Event and Fundraiser!

If you have questions, please contact:

Trudy Jester, 513-314-2148

Lois Bates, 513-284-2148

Trecy Bates-Webb, 513-233-5361



Raffle tickets will be available soon!



St. Paul Youth

Camping at the Kluesener Farm





There are so many good pictures that need to be shared, and not enough space..... MORE COMING NEXT MONTH!!!!

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
October 10th

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



Coupon Expires: October 10th 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. Multilined, 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.

Supports
Mt. Healthy Alliance



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



Dine to Donate

Please present this on
October 2nd

20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports
NCH Historical Society



Coupon Expires: October 2nd 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. Multilined, 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.

Supports
NCH Historical Society

*Thank
you!*

*Dear St. Paul Church Family,
A note of thanks for
all of your kindness
following my recent surgery.
The phone calls, the visits,
the cards etc. touched
me deeply. Please know
how much all was
appreciated. Sincerely,
Lynn Kluesener*

KROGER REWARDS UPDATE

We are still collecting rewards quarterly from the Kroger Rewards program. We were recently notified that we have a new account number. The new account number is NG771. If you have a Kroger Rewards card and have not attached it to the church yet, please consider attaching it to the church. Use can use either the number above or the church name. Thanks to all who have their rewards already attached.



SCOUTING NEWS

The Cubbies have started their new program year. Both the parents and the kids are really excited. Four of the new scouts are girls. It's so exciting!



The Troop is working on finishing up their Citizenship in the Community merit badge. They will be working at the Haunted Castle during Spook-O-Ree at Cub World in October.

The Venture Crew is planning some day hikes and outings. They are also working on their plans for their Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, November 10. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 6:30 PM. Won't you please come and join us? Tickets will be available on Sundays after Worship and in the church office during office hours.

On Wednesday, October 3, a new group of Brownies, Girl Scouts, will begin meeting at the church. There will be about 6 girls and will meet 6:00 to 7:30 PM.



NURSERY SCHOOL

"Fall is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." - Albert Camus

Fall is my favorite time of the year! Beautiful leaves, pumpkins, scarecrows, hayrides, football and getting into a full swing of a new school year!

The 3 year olds are learning their colors. The 4 year olds started the study of the alphabet and the 5 year olds are learning about our State of Ohio.

I see lots of busy hands, lots of learning and lots of discovery. But what always brings a smile to my face is watching friendships develop.

We are also super excited to be learning spooky Halloween songs and poems. Don't worry, if you are in the building, we promise not to scare you too much!

Have a great October and enjoy the fall before it "leaves".

Karen Rieman
and staff





10/1 Bob Combs
 10/2 Ruth Meissner
 10/3 Jenny Cornish
 10/6 Judith Lewis-Combs
 10/8 Eric Reed
 10/9 Nathan Beresford
 Cheryl Bordenkircher

10/11 Lilliana Bierkan
 10/12 Carolyn Push
 10/14 David Schleutker
 10/19 Evan Heitman
 Melissa Jensen
 10/20 Teina Tallarigo

10/22 Joe Jester
 10/25 John Allen
 Dick Manifold
 10/28 Judith Boyce
 10/29 Heather Kelsey
 10/30 Scott Leist



11/1 Patrick Woods
 11/2 Logan Bierkan
 Angela Oaks
 11/4 Bill Mayer
 11/5 Bruce Banker
 11/6 Michelle Yung
 11/7 Todd Mittler
 Karen Rieman
 11/8 Jeremy Overholts

11/9 Margaret Maybury
 11/10 Michele Annis
 11/12 Mike Bartholomew
 11/13 Chelsey Davis
 11/14 Laura Bierkan
 11/15 Dot Kahle
 11/16 Amy Miller
 11/19 Steve Fassnacht
 Rebecca Jester

11/19 Albert Mueller
 11/21 Margie Fassnacht
 11/24 Jim Gorsler
 Amber Hancock
 11/25 Gerald Stegman
 11/30 Adele Yung

Please Continue to Remember in Prayer:

Nan Grow
Our servicemen and women
Peggy Adams
Chad Willcocks
Melody Hoff
Kathy Aker
Ginny DuPriest
Debbie DuPriest
Erma Amrein
Mike Mathauer
John Allen
Gay Steinhauer
Norma Carrier
Alice Graber
Don Beresford
Tony Mancini
Helen Mason
Jessica Obert

Paul LaMott
Gay D. Smith
Rev. Virginia Duffy
Ruth Meissner
Barbara Williamson
Skip Zimmer
Mike Chalfin
Elaine Sloan
Nancy Lanza
Bonnie Rogers
Barb Walbrun
Alberta Hahn
James Stokes
Tommy Moorehead
Howard Seaman
Jack Lawler
Lindsay Pitcher

The Elsasser Family
June Ward
Howard Heineke
Kim Caudell
Christine Schlegel
Paul Maus
Mike Cornish
Charlotte McCauley
Clara Kemplin
Rhonda Lahmann
Joann Ernst
Owen Erickson
The Summe 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
Mary Lou Heiden
Joyce Seesing
Dolores Ungerbuehler

Bob Dickman
Charlotte McCauley
Dot Sunnenberg
Sharon Wagner

Marian Faller
Albert Mueller
Anne Timme
Lucille Walters

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



October 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 MARCC 50th Anniversary Event	4  SPY Camping Hueston Woods	5	6
7 Communion World Communion Sunday Neighbors In Need →	8	9	10 Exec Team Mtg 5:00 PM	11 Staff Mtg 10AM	12	13
14	15 Nurture Mtg. 5:30 PM Council Mtg. 7 PM	16	17 Epistle Articles Due	18 NS - Cookie Dough arrives	19	20 NS Cleaning Day 
21 Children's Sabbath	22	23	24	25 Set Up for Craft Show Pre-K Show Halloween Chapel	26 Craft Show Set Up 6 - 8 PM	27 Craft Show 10 AM - 3 PM 
28	29	30 NS 3's & Pre-K Halloween Party	31 Happy Halloween 	Standing Dates: Mondays: Crafty Critters - 10 AM Scouts: 6:30 - 9:00 PM Tuesday: Community Dinner 5:00 PM weekly Fridays/Saturdays: AA Meeting 8 PM		
				FH = Fellowship Hall NS = Nursery School		

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



THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL

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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.

