



Proclamation

JULY 2015

Volume 2, Issue 15

A Few Thoughts on Retirement

By Tim McNutt, *Pastor*

Eventually, retirement comes to all of us, for as the saying goes, 'Nothing lasts forever.' And sadly, the same even goes for church buildings.

The original St. Paul's church building has served her Lord well. Over the years, it has hosted baptisms, confirmations, conversions, holy communions, weddings, funerals, prayer meetings..... so many varied services for the Lord's people. But buildings do not last forever, nor should we expect them to always be there. Time moves on.

Which is why on Sunday July 12 at the 10.30 service, we will be 'decommissioning' this cherished building and are looking forward to you being with us to celebrate this special day! (More details are contained this newsletter.) It's a day for looking to the past and remembering. Yet by the end of the service it will also be a moment for looking ahead.

Yet, as special as buildings may be, the St. Paul's focus has always been on Jesus. Rest assured, HE will be our focus July 12 and the focus of St. Paul's for many years to come. Just as Hebrews 11 states - ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*** Buildings come and go, Jesus is always the same!





From the desk of the Congregational President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have good news on the progress of the permit application for our mission building. We expect to have a permit in hand after the St. Mary's Health Department approves our documentation of the church's septic system. The use of the existing system for the new building eliminates the expense of having to install a new septic system or connect to METCOM.

The decommission ceremony for the chapel will be part of the 10:30 worship service on July 12. We will announce when the chapel is to be demolished. Keep watch for any schedule changes in your email, website notices, and announcements after church.

To help maintain the financial wellbeing of our church, we now have an online donation service that you can use for one time, weekly, or monthly contributions. Just go to the St. Paul's Church website and select Donation towards the bottom of the left menu navigation pane. Debit and credit cards are accepted. We hope that you will find this service convenient and useful.

Now available on the St. Paul's website are the church health metric package on the Church Business Operations page. The financial metrics cover offerings, budget expenditures, building funds, and the general operating accounts. In development are metrics for outreach which include attendance, connecting with new people, and Christian education.

The purpose of the church health metrics is twofold. First is to enable the council a better understanding of what is going on and to support decisions in utilizing resources. The second is for congregation members to gain insight to the church operations and see where they or the congregation as a whole take part in the health of St. Paul's.

You can find the Church Business Operations page on the website under the grouping About St. Paul's. Also included on this page are the constitution and recent voter meeting minutes.

Dear Lord, We believe and confess that You are the resurrection and salvation to everlasting life. In the weeks and months ahead, please provide comfort to members of St. Paul's and extended families that have recently lost loved ones. Only with Your strength and will, can we carry on through such times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Check out St. Paul's website:

Get the latest in Calendar Events and News! If you missed a Sunday, you can download the bulletin on the Services page.

Please join us to celebrate
The ORIGINAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Southern
Maryland!

July 12th during the 10:30 am Worship Service we will celebrate the over 100 years of service The Original Church has provided and officially RETIRE the building from service.

Following the service there will be a Homecoming Picnic on Church grounds.

There is a Sign-up Sheet next to the front door for food dishes and to volunteer for set-up.

Many hands are needed to make the work light for all.

Thank you,

Lois Beverage
301-769-3499



Our Church was built in 1911 and was the founding Church for Grace, Trinity, and Sutherland Lutheran Churches!

On the Lighter Side

The day the Church treasurer resigned, the church asked the local grain elevator manager to take the position. He agreed under two conditions:

- That no treasurer's report would be given for the first year.
- That no questions be asked about finances during that year.

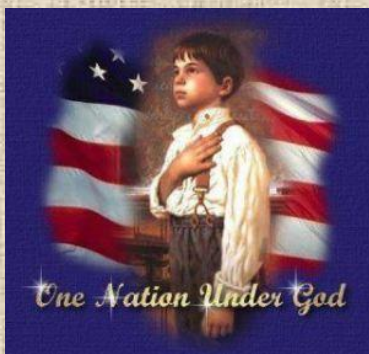
The people were surprised but finally agreed, since most of them did business with him and he was a trusted man. At the end of the year he gave his report:

- The church indebtedness of \$228,000 has been paid.
- The minister's salary has been increased by 8%.
- The Cooperative Program gifts (\$200) have been paid.
- There are no outstanding bills.
- There is a cash balance of \$11,252!

Immediately the shocked congregation asked, "How did you do it? Where did the money come from?"

He quietly answered, "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. Throughout the year, I simply withheld ten percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You didn't even miss it!"

"Do you see what we could do for the Lord if we were all willing to give at least the tithe to God, who really owns it?" he asked. And so the new treasurer had made his point.



BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT ALLOWS US TO SAY, "ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL," WE CAN WORSHIP AND SERVE JESUS FREELY.

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

Stewardship Corner

Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). By grace, God enables our giving, and, as He strengthens our faith and changes our hearts, we can give generously. Giving expresses our gratitude to God for Who He is and what He has done for us through His Son, Jesus. When our giving becomes important to us, we may not be able to buy or do things because our desire to give may force us to say, "No." However, we don't see our doing without or doing with less as being a sacrifice. Because God is the love and joy of our lives, our giving becomes a privilege rather than an obligation.

Mission and Ministry



**We are collecting non-perishable food for “The Mission” in Lexington Park.
If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Gray at 301-290-1264**



“Personal Care Kits” for Nepal earthquake victims

With the tragedy in Nepal, we will be collecting items for “Personal Care Kits”

Items to purchase:

Towels-bath size, Soap-bath size, Toothbrush-adult size, Comb-sturdy, and
Nail Clipper-metal.

Contact Lois Beverage for more information 301-769-3499.

A View from the Pew

by Jim Shewbridge

"There is a vacant house on our road---"



There is a vacant house on our road today. Several weeks ago, while returning home, I was stopped by the intrusion of a large dumpster being backed into a driveway. There were two vans parked on the road edge in front of the house and I noticed the business lettering identifying these people as environmental disposal specialist. One of the van drivers was close enough and I asked what happened. He said the person who lived there had "passed" (a generally used southern term to mean died) and evidently it was several weeks before anyone knew of the persons demise. During the following days, I observed the workers emptying the house of things which we surround ourselves as necessities for living.

Who was this person? Over the years, I only saw a man at the residence on two occasions! Everything was strange regarding the house, there was no grass- only wild saw grass and weeds around the limited view of the house front with an abundance of trash and containers strewn everywhere. For years, there was a "No Trespassing" sign by the mailbox and on two occasions, the mailbox was dislodged from the post for months. Our mail carrier once told me that he had to contact him in person since the United States Post Office was prohibited from holding mail more than three months. I also inquired of our mail carrier at one point if there was anyone else in the house. My fears were that perhaps the man had a wife and was keeping her locked up- there were two cars in the driveway. Remember we are to be mindful of strange acting people (by Homeland Security) and perhaps my imagination got the best of me. Turns out that no one else lived there. By the way, the mailbox was once again on the ground prior to his demise. I could relate other strange actions, but that is not my point. **Did this man know Jesus the Christ- was he saved?**

As I relate this story, I am obliged to ask God for forgiveness for not venturing beyond the "No Trespassing" sign to meet and greet this man in the name of the Lord. Why did I not consider that this person too was acceptable to God? The truth is that I had written this --- "person off", as he was just too odd. It is only now as I pen the words that I recall **2nd Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

Thus, while I am too late to share the Gospel with this man (and I still don't know his name) - a sin of omission is now laid at my feet due to my inaction. From my perspective, I called him odd and did not heed the Holy Spirit's promptings to speak with him about Jesus. All I can do at this point is to **trust that the Judge of the earth will do right.** (Genesis 18:25, NIV.)


What do I do now? I can only ask God to renew a new spirit within me and boldly go forth daily proclaiming salvation to the unsaved irrespective of how I perceive people. Cleanse me merciful God each day that I may walk in your light. Let me begin with family, neighbors and co-workers. Pray before you speak and God will provide the words.

John 9:4 (NIV) As long as it is day we must work for Him who sent me. Night is coming when no one can work.

St. Paul's Youth Group



Friday, July 17 6 to 10 pm

Online Donations - We now have an online donation service that you can use for contributions (weekly or monthly). Just go to the St. Paul's Church website and select  towards the bottom of the left menu navigation pane. Debit and credit cards are accepted. stpaulssomd.org

AmazonSmile

Did you know that when you make a purchase from Amazon you could be sending a little gift to St. Paul's!?!

The AmazonSmile program allows its customers a choice of charities to support with a percentage of their purchase!

When you are shopping online with Amazon search for **amazonsmile** and click on **get started**.

Type in: **ST PAULS LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE HALL**
and then hit the select button.



Remember in your Prayers

SHUT-INS: *Pat Gardiner*

Serious Health Concerns: *Dale Bittner*

MEMBERS: Health Concerns: *Chicchina Bailey, Stephanie Boyer, Betty Downs, John Fuchs, Melva Fuchs, Sally Gheen, Carletta Cyrus Parmes, Kathy Lewis, Lucy Price, Kathe Vachalek*

2nd Lt. Jackie Mazingo, Air Force, Kim Mazingo's daughter, who is deployed in the Middle East
Betty Downs, who had back/disc surgery on Wed., July 1

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

The Family of Isla Kinlaw, Lee Oxford's granddaughter, who passed away on June 19.
 John Bishoff, friend of Lucy Price, health concerns.

Darlene DeMarr, friend of Lucy Price, undergoing chemo treatments.

Sandra Peterson, Tony Gray's mother, No surgery due to cancer moving to other areas.

Joey Holman, family of Jim & Diana Hiller, prayers for healing,

Suzanne Dean, Patty Gumtow's daughter, she is undergoing cancer tests.

Alex Ching, Tony Ching's brother, started chemotherapy for breast cancer.

Missy Hile, friend of Kelly Gray, she has cancer and started chemotherapy.

Sonny Oden, Ray & Nettie Trimbath's friend, stage 4 Cancer.

Suzanne Phillips, friend of Stephanie Boyer, extended illness from surgery complication.

Donovan Gheen, Fred and Sally's young grandson with cancer.

Harry Maxey, Bob Maxey's father, living with Parkinson's.

Tammy Nichols, Dianne Nichols daughter-in-law, recovery.

Aunt Edna, Dianne Nichols, serious health concerns.

Austin Knarr, Gene Bostwick's nephew, health concerns/chron's disease.

Madeline, Health concerns.

Rebecca Athenason, Dianne Nichols daughter, serious illness.

Alan Burch, friend of Karin Beall & former pre-school parent, cancer.

Wee Davis, friend of Alan Hunter, brain cancer.

Alma Stowers, Stephen Stowers Great Grandma, Breast Cancer.

Johanna Fortney, daughter of Elin Cramer, cancer.

Joe Fuchs, son of John Fuchs, bone cancer.

Edward DeMarr, nephew of Lucy Price, brain tumor.

For safety of all our military personnel & for their families

God listens when we pray

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". [Philippians 4:6-7](#)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>JULY BIRTHDAYS</u> 4 Fred Gheen 4 Ken Mueller 6 Christopher Piphon 7 Nettie Trimbath 8 Lisa Reithmeyer 9 Kristina Lacey 9 Bob Maxey 12 Andrew Wiggen 18 Ryan Chew 21 Bunny Bailey 27 Mark Lewis 28 Karin Beall 28 Jonathan Chase 28 Christopher Green 28 James Green 28 William Green 31 Janet Butterfield			1	2	3	4
			Vacation Bible School 9:00 – 11:45 am			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Program Times: 9:10am – PRAISE SVC 10:30am Acolytes 10:30 Allison Werth						
12 De-Commissioning Sve	13	14	15	16	17	18
Program Times: 9:10am – PRAISE SVC 10:30am – De Commissioning Service Picnic following Acolytes 10:30 Nicole Williams		Council Meeting 6:30 pm				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Program Times: 8:00am 9:10am – PRAISE SVC 10:30am Acolytes 8:00 Emily Maack 10:30 Jacob Gray						
26	27	28	29	30	31	Anniversaries!
Program Times: 8:00am 9:10am – PRAISE SVC 10:30am Acolytes 8:00 Dylan Otte 10:30 Dylan Vogt 7:00 pm OUTCRY TOUR Worship Concert Bristow VA.						July 21 – John & Melva Fuchs July 26 – Stephen & Stephanie Stowers

Funnies and Coffee with Jesus



<p>RFB</p> <p><i>The Original</i> COFFEE WITH JESUS</p>	<p>I'm just not feeling it, Jesus. I know we're supposed to praise you, but too often, for me anyway, it's just words.</p>	<p>Practice praise anyway, Ann, in private. Those words will eventually take root in your heart if you keep them on your lips.</p>	<p>I'll try it, Jesus, but please don't expect me to be that weirdo saying "Hallelujah" and "Praise the Lord" all day at work.</p>	<p>By all means, please don't be that weirdo, Ann.</p> <p>Be the weirdo who says it all day long in her heart.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Facebook.com/RadioFreeBabylon</p>
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St. Paul's Lutheran Church

37707 New Market Turner Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659-3075

Sunday Services 8:00 and 10:30 am

Sunday School and Adult Classes 9:10 am

Wednesday Connections Service 6:30 pm

Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Phone: 301.884.5184

Website: www.stpaulssomd.org

Email: stpaulslcmsmd@netzero.net

Behold, now is the favorable time;
Behold, now is the day of salvation.
2 Corinthians 6:2

Remember these dates:



Sunday, July 12 – NO 8:00 am Service

**Sunday, July 12 – 10:30 am Worship Service
for Deposition of St. Paul's Chapel**

Picnic lunch following service.

**Sign-up sheet for food dishes and for help
with set-up/take down.**

Outcry Tour - July 26 @ 7:00 pm

Jiffy Lube Live – Bristow, VA Concert with Hillsong,
Jesus Culture, and Kari Jobe. St. Paul's is going as a
group – tickets \$22 per person. See Jack McNutt

