



# THE ST. PAUL SPIRE



St. Paul United Methodist Church • 165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

October

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2017

## Pastor's Pen



Greetings Church, I'd like to share a story that brought out an insight that is truly challenging the modern Church. It's about a young man name Roy Robertson who was a soldier at Pearl Harbor back in 1941. He reported that his ship, the West Virginia, was docked at Pearl Harbor on the evening of December 6, 1941. He and a few of his comrades had left the ship that night and attended a Bible study. About fifteen sailors sat in a circle on the floor and the leader asked them each to recite their favorite Scripture verse. In turn, each sailor shared a verse and briefly commented on it. Roy sat there in terror. Even though he grew up in a Christian home and went to church three times a week, he still couldn't recall a single Bible verse. Finally, the young man remembered one verse - John 3:16. He silently rehearsed it in his mind as the spotlight of attention grew closer as each sailor took their turn. And then his worse fear came to fruition. Right before it was his time to speak, the sailor before him recited John 3:16.

Roy panicked when he realized that the sailor before him had taken his verse! He was stunned and humiliated when everyone realized that he could not recall from memory even a single verse. And later that night he went to bed thinking to himself, "Robertson, you're a fake." The next morning at 7:55, Roy and all the

other sailors were awakened by the ship alarm ordering them to battle stations. 360 planes of the Japanese Imperial Fleet were attacking their ship and the other military installations. Roy and his crew raced to their machine gun emplacement, but all they had were practice ammunition. So, for the first 15 minutes of the two-hour battle, they only fired blanks hoping to scare the Japanese airplanes.

Later Roy shared, as he stood there firing fake ammunition he thought, "Robertson, this is how your whole life has been - firing blanks for Christ." There and then he made up his mind as Japanese bullets slammed into their ship, "If I escape with my life, I will get serious about following Jesus." Roy Robertson did get serious. He became the first missionary of "The Navigators" and did a lot of work with Billy Graham as well.

Beloved, what I want to ask you is are you growing mature in the Lord or are you firing blanks for Christ? Today in prayer, examine your walk with the Lord and seek to grow deeper in maturity with Him, for the Bible tells us that every day we are under attack by Satan.

1 Peter 5:8 tells us to, "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." But one of the main weapons God has given us to fight with is the Bible. But if we don't have God's Word in our head and in our heart, then like David we cannot proclaim, "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." (Psalms 119:11, NLT) But if we do not learn God's Word and hold it in our hearts, then like Roy, when we go into battle with evil, we will be shooting blanks. Beloved, let us take the time to listen, learn, and let God's Word empower us and give us the peace and protection that God has promised us.

God bless your hearts.  
Pastor Frederick Sampson

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## Points of Interest

- Pastor's Tuesday Bible study meets at 10 A.M. in the Parlor. Join us!
- Wednesday Prayer Group will meet in the Parlor at 10 A.M.
- Small Group meets every other Wednesday, 6<sup>30</sup> P.M. in the Pastor's office.



# October

		<u>Worship</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
3	44	\$3,333
10	36	2,073
17	36	2,590
24	33	1,121



**Designated Gifts/Giving**

Sunday School: (YTD Total: \$5)

**“Second Mile” Giving**

Coins for Mission: (YTD Total \$106)

F.I.S.H. Collection: (YTD Total \$206)

**Fundraisers**

Roof Repair (YTD Total: \$663 from UMW)

Olga’s Fundraiser (YTD Total: \$16)

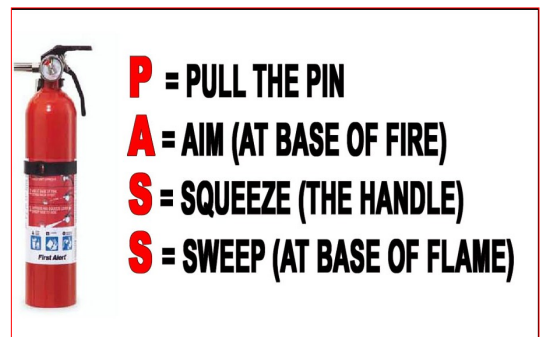
Kroger Community Rewards (YTD Total: \$37)

**Mission Opportunities — As of August 31, 2017**

	<u>Conf. Request</u>	<u>Paid in 2016</u>
Ministerial Pension	\$2,180	\$1,308
Common Budget**	15,979	0
World Service		918
Ministerial Ed.		0
Black College Fund		0
Africa Univ.		0
Meth. Union for		
District Missions	776	310
Detroit Ren. District	325	175
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$19,260</b>	<b>\$2,711</b>

\*\* (This amount is proportionally applied to Connectional Ministries, World Service, and Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, Africa University, and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.)

<b>2017 St. Paul Budget Report</b>	
through September 2017	
Ministry, Programs & Outreach	
Budget Each Week	\$2,611
Budget Year-to-Date	\$99,218
Offering Year-to-Date	\$81,317
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$17,901





# Worship Assistants

## Counters

- 1 Bill Lee, Doug Sweeder
- 8 Barb Casper, Sue Sweeder
- 15 Joyce McClelland, Sherry Pickett
- 22 Bill Lee, Lisa Sweeder
- 29 Barb Casper, Doug Sweeder

## Lay Readers

- 1 Doug Sweeder
- 8 Marcus Kelley
- 15 Bill Lee
- 22 Carol Kelley
- 29 Doug Sweeder

## Trustee on Duty

Brian Johns

## Nursery

- 1 Kecia Brown
- 8 Kim Hinkle
- 15 Helen Vaillencourt
- 22 Scott Sweeder
- 29 Kecia Brown

## Ushers

- 1 Brian Johns, B. Robinson
- 8 B. & D. Casper, M. Kelley
- 15 B. & S. Johns, J. Leitch
- 22 Brian Johns, H. Vaillencourt
- 29 B. & S. Johns

- Is there anything you'd like in the Spire? Call the office - (248) 338-8233 by the **15<sup>th</sup>** of the month.



## September Anniversaries

- 2 Randy Whitcomb & Michelle Gentile
- 15 Lawrence & Kim Hinkle
- 17 Chris & Andrea Drouillard
- 20 Anil & Marjorie Kumar
- 21 Gary & Jane Lowell
- 24 Randy & Laura Ferguson
- 29 Scott & Lisa Sweeder

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## Ads/Announcements

- **First Sunday FISH Collection!** The FISH pantry is still in need of Hamburger Helper, crackers, spaghetti pasta and sauce, large jars of peanut butter, jelly, boxed potatoes, baked beans, cereal, canned corn, and green beans. Your donations do make a difference. Thank you for supporting this cause.
- **Walt Whitman Elementary School** - Many children will benefit from your donations and generosity. Thank you very much!
- **Annual Hands 4 Detroit – Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- **The Stewardship Campaign** is scheduled to begin October 22<sup>nd</sup> and end with Celebration Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **UMW Pasty Bake – October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.** Please get your orders in as soon as possible to **Virginia Tuttle: (248) 652-4974**. Order deadline is October 8<sup>th</sup>. \$3 each




## September Birthdays

- 10 Kaia Sweeder
- 11 David Walsh
- 21 Brendan Sweeder
- 23 Zakiya Kelley
- 24 Bill Lee
- 26 Sue Puckett



# October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M.	<b>2</b>  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>3</b> Bible Study — 10 A.M. <b>UMW — 11<sup>30</sup> A.M.</b>  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	<b>4</b> Prayer — 10 A.M.  Small Group — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Office GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Parlor Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>5</b>  Choir — 7 P.M.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Art of Living (AOL) — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) UMM — Dixie Diner, Waterford Shotokan — 10 A.M. (FH)
<b>8</b> Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship —  <b>Pasty Order            Deadline</b>	<b>9</b>  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>10</b> Bible Study — 10 A.M. Finance — 1 <sup>30</sup> P.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	<b>11</b> Prayer — 10 A.M.  GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Parlor Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>12</b>  Choir — 7 P.M.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) EIP — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. Shotokan — 10 A.M. UMW District Meeting Ferndale UMC
<b>15</b> Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M.  Jack & Jill 12 <sup>30</sup> -6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. (FH)	<b>16</b>  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>17</b> Bible Study — 10 A.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M. <b>Leadership            — 7 P.M.</b>	<b>18</b> Prayer — 10 A.M.  Small Group — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Pastor's Office GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Parlor Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>19</b>  Choir — 7 P.M.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10 A.M.  Rental — (FH)
<b>22</b> Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M.  <b>Stewardship            Campaign            Begins</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Pasty Bake —            9 A.M.</b>  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>24</b> <b>Pasty Bake —            8<sup>30</sup> A.M.</b> No Bible Study — 10 A.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	<b>25</b> Prayer — 10 A.M.  GTAC — 6 <sup>30</sup> P.M. Parlor Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>26</b>  Choir — 7 P.M.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> AOL — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. (FH) UMW — 8 <sup>30</sup> A.M. Leo's Coney Shotokan — 10 A.M.  VSNA — Noon -(FH)
<b>29</b> Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9 <sup>45</sup> A.M.	<b>30</b>  Tai Chi — 7 P.M.	<b>31</b> Bible Study — 10 A.M.  Shotokan — 6 P.M.	<b>Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund Through UMCOR</b> Make checks payable to the church, the memo and envelope need to be clearly marked " <b>Hurricane Harvey,            Advance #901670, or UMCOR</b> ". Cash is also acceptable, but clearly marked for UMCOR on the envelope.			