



*Let us think about each
other and help each other to
show love and do good deeds.*

Hebrews 10:24

Our St. Paul

January 2019

Our St. Paul



Your St. Paul Team

Rev. Michelle Torigian, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Herbert M. Schafale, *Minister of Visitation*
Patrick Kinney, *Facility Manager*
Tina LakeHopper, *Office Coordinator*
Stephenie Bauza, *Accountant*
Tyler Kohrs, *Director of Christian Education*
Dan Fry, *Director of Music Ministry*
Scott Wilson, *Director of Contemporary Music/B Street Band*
Jeana Smith, *Director of Mother's Day Out*
Karen Juenger, *Receptionist/Secretary*
Stephanie Elmore, *Staff Support*
Nick Wilhelm, *Staff Support*

Office Hours:

Mon thru Thurs: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fri: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

When you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, please ask the hospitals to notify the church office. Also please telephone the Church Office regarding hospitalized members of the St. Paul faith family. The pastors will visit church members and their families each week. If you have a new addition to your family, please contact the church office so we can keep our records current.
Your communication is crucial to our ministry!

OUR ST. PAUL is published monthly. It is edited by our pastor and produced by the office staff.

Material for inclusion may be sent to the church noted for **Our St. Paul**.

<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>MAIL DATE</u>
Feb 2019	Jan 15	Jan 23

Finding Comfort in the Winter Wilderness

We've reached that time of year when Christmas and all of our holiday festivities are coming to a close. The lights and trees have been removed/will soon be removed from our living rooms, leaving us in the lightless wilderness of winter. Some days, snow fills our lawns, driveways and roads, and perpetual clouds blanket our skies. We are often forced into our homes based on the road conditions, and must cancel plans with friends instead of risking our well-beings by driving on snow and ice.

Our social calendars are have lightened up considerably. For many of us, we have scheduled a fraction of the events we had in December. As the temperatures drop, we wait in our homes, trying to figure out how we can best keep our spirits up during a time of year that seems more like an exile.

With the nights extending longer than our days (besides the sun often hiding behind the cold, gray clouds), we often find our spirits somewhat down after the hype of the Christmas season.

So...now what?

I've read about a tradition in the Scandinavian countries called *hygge* (pronounced *HYU-gah*). *Because those who live close to the Arctic Circle endure extremely long nights this time of year, they have established a lifestyle that will help them through the shortest days of the year. While hygge isn't something that translates well into English, a way we can understand this concept is through the word "coziness." In the hygge lifestyle, homes are set up in very cozy ways: through lighting, throw pillows, and comforters. We may sip tea or hot cocoa by the fireplace. But that isn't the only way hygge is established. Through the presence of friends and family in the long evenings of winter, comfort is found for those who miss sunlight.*

God desires for us to usher comfort and coziness into our world when wilderness surround us. As Isaiah 40 was written during the time of the Babylonian Exile, God calls on the Israelites to "Comfort, O comfort my people." January seems like our wilderness from people and light. In order to find our way through the winter doldrums, we are called by God to bring companionship, comfort, and coziness into the world, shining a new light in this winter darkness, and reflecting the love of God.

Blessings of comfort throughout these long nights of January!

Pastor Michelle

From the President's corner...

I can't actually believe it is the end of the year!!! It's December and we are as busy as any of Santa's elves. December brings so many wonderful events, and we of course want to take part in all of them. At the end of last month, our church was so beautifully decorated and lit in twinkling lights, it put us all in the mood to get going on bringing the season of Advent to light and prepare for the birth of Christ at the end of the month. It is a wonderful month of beauty, wonder and sharing with one another. We try to offer something for everyone so that all can share in those warm feelings.

The Women's Guild put stars on the Star Tree as soon as the elves got it set up in the Welcome Center. They tried a new twist on the Star Tree when they put stars together on the tree representing each child in a family that could use a little help this year. I can tell you it was heartwarming site to see people lined up at the tree to choose a star or group of stars to buy gifts for children in need. You just can't see a sight like that without getting a surge of pride in the people from St. Paul!!! The Mission Board sponsored our second Undie Sunday this year. For this event, new undies, socks, hats, mittens, sweaters etc. are gathered for the children at Kinder Cottage. That bin was overflowing with new "stuff" for those wonderful children. Then when the Star Tree had been stripped of its stars by those elf shoppers, the tree was suddenly adorned with tee shirts, onesies, socks, mittens, etc!!! How wonderful was that! Such caring and generous people call St. Paul their church home!

On December 8th, Tyler and the Christian Education Board presented "Cookies with Santa". I have it on good authority that Santa asked our very own Facilities Manager, Patrick Kinney, to sit in for him as Santa this year. Santa just has so many things to do at the North Pole this time of year! Santa, and his Elf Tyler, were there to thrill the over 100 children who came to enjoy the morning. There were a LOT of cookies, an amazing Hot Chocolate Bar and lots of fun games and crafts. Pastor Michelle created a beautiful backdrop for Pictures with Santa. There were a few tears from very little dudes who were a bit unsure about that big guy in the red suit, but most of the kiddos were totally ready to tell the Jolly Red Elf what they hoped to receive for Christmas. Another day of swelling pride from yours truly!!

This past Saturday, our Fine Arts Committee working with our very own Music Ministry, presented a wonderful evening of Christmas Music. The Choir and the B Street Band presented a special program of a variety of music for the season. The concert ended with everyone in attendance lighting a candle, sitting in the darkness of the sanctuary singing Silent Night in both the original German and then in English. It was a beautiful reminder of the reason we all gather together to celebrate.

This year we will offer our first ever Blue Christmas Service. Pastor Michelle has brought this to us and we are honored to be able to offer this service. If you are unsure what it means, it is for any of us who have reasons to feel sad this time of the year. The loss of a loved one, or really anything that makes this season feel a bit overwhelming with sadness when everyone else seems so happy. Feel free to join us; even if you aren't in that particular situation, come offer support to those who are. It may be the very thing that will make your Christmas feel complete when you realize how very fortunate you are.

And finally, we will offer 2 services on Christmas Eve. The B Street Band will provide music at the 4PM service and the Choir at the 7PM service. These services are the real reasons for all the joy. Choose the service that fits with your schedule, but choose one of them. It will make your heart swell with love.

I'll be back in 2019, so we will continue these columns in the new year. I have been honored to be your President this year and represent the wonderful people who are St. Paul UCC. I look forward to a new year with all of you and hope to keep adding new members to our family. Have a very Merry Christmas!! I love you all.

Blessings,

Mimi Llamas, President St. Paul UCC Church Council

St. Paul UCC Holiday Schedule



Wednesday, December 19 ~ 6pm in Heritage Hall

Blue Christmas Service

The Blue Christmas service is an opportunity for people facing a difficult Christmas due to a variety of issues including the loss of a loved one, unhappy Christmas memories, seasonal depression, trauma, health issues or other transition.

Sunday, December 23 ~

9am & 11am services in Sanctuary

Monday, December 24 ~ 4:30pm & 7pm

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 30

New Year's Weekend

9am Single Service with Guest Craig Bielke

stpaulucc.org

We have a wonderful team of St. Paul friends that keep our website up-to-date and interesting

–Check out our website for:

Pastor Michelle's Sermons Events
St. Paul History and Archives Info
Calendar Videos and Slide shows
MDO Info Fine Arts Concert Info
President's Corner and Pastor's Letter from OSP

BLESSING BAGS ITEMS

We are looking to collect items for "Blessing Bags" for those who are less fortunate. *Can you help?*

Items that are helpful and needed:

Clean blankets, clean coats, small containers of wipes, small bottles of sanitizer, individual heat packs, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, chapstick, combs, brushes, small packages of tissues, small first aid kits, deodorant, razor and shaving cream, toothbrush and paste, and personal notes of encouragement.

Please place in designated box or bring to church office. *Thank you!!*

Help those in need with Christmas Basket donations.

Christmas is fast approaching and the Mission Board would like to assist those less fortunate in the Franklin Neighborhood area.

Monetary donations in any amount will enable us to provide a Christmas basket for these families. Donations may be mailed to the St. Paul Church office or placed in the offering plate.

Please clearly mark your donation as "Christmas Basket Donation".

Thank you for your help.





Pastor Herb is Retiring!

Join us on Sunday, February 3rd for a special day honoring an extraordinary man. We will be celebrating Pastor Herb's 19 years with St. Paul UCC and 60 years in Ordained Ministry.

Threads of Hope

has baby quilts for sale for the holidays or for any occasion. The quilts are all handmade with love by our quilters and the profits go to St. Paul UCC. There are many to choose from—for boys, girls and neutral colors. If you are interested, please contact Sonja at 530-3897.



Teddy Bear



Little Girls



Choo-Choo

Join us for FREE presentations / discussion about Alzheimer's!

St. Paul UCC 'With You'
is offering classes to learn more about Alzheimer's
and its affects. Come to one or all of the classes
All are welcome.

Where: St. Paul UCC

115 West B Street, Belleville
(enter off C Street parking lot)
In the Church Library

Time: Noon - 1:30pm

Dates:

Sunday, January 20, 2019

"Alzheimer's and Dementia:
A broad overview vs normal aging"

Sunday, February 17, 2019

"10 Warning Signs for Alzheimer's"

Sunday, March 17, 2019

"Healthy Living for your Body & Brain"

Sunday, April 28, 2019

"Effective Communication Strategies"

Sunday, May 19, 2019

"Understanding & Responding to Dementia Related Behavior"

Questions: stpaulucc.org or 233-3303

Matthew 28:20

And Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



**VALENTINE DINNER THEATER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Treat your Valentine to our very first St. Paul Fine Arts dinner theater on Saturday, February 9. Our Culinares will be serving dinner at 6:30 p.m. as the mystery begins to evolve. Tickets will be available for purchase every Sunday in January in the Welcome & Activity Centers and through February 4 from the church office. The cost of the dinner is \$18. Sweet Treat booths will also be offering goodies for purchase. This promises to be an intriguing evening of delicious food and “whodunit” fun!

2019 Adult Mission Trip

The adult mission team has chosen to help with recovery efforts in Hattiesburg, MS the week of June 2 - 8. The city was devastated by a 2016 flood and a 2017 tornado. The recovery effort will build 400 new homes and rehab 1500 existing homes. If you are interested in the trip or would like more information, please contact Roger Harris (618.277.3805 / roger.harris@bankofamerica.com). Reservation deadline is March 31, 2019.



SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE



UCC RESOURCES

DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Saturday, Feb 23 9am-2pm
at St. Paul UCC

Speaker Panel Includes:

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC
Heather Kimmel, UCC General Council
Andy DeBraber, UCC Office of Phil, Tech, ID & Comm
Holly Miller Shank, MESA
Rep from the Pension Board

CRAFTY MANIA

Proceeds to Benefit: A Mission of the Church

Are you a Scrapbooker, Card Maker, Jewelry Maker, or like to Sew?
What ever your craft, join us!! Spend the day doing what you like!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

What: All Day Crafting
When: Saturday –January 26, 2019*
8:30am – 4:00pm



**(if the event gets cancelled due to snow
or low attendance, the new date would be March 23rd)**

Where: St. Paul UCC
115 West B Street (enter on C Street), Belleville, IL

Adults: \$30.00 with lunch / \$25 no lunch

Includes: snacks, vendors, reserved space, attendance prizes,

Extended Hours Available! 9am–10:00pm \$35.00 per person (meals served) / NO meals \$30

Contact Person: Diana Haar - dmhaar@charter.net or

Tina at St. Paul Church - (618) 233-3303

**** ENTER RAFFLE TO WIN A CRICUT ACCESSORIES & other raffle items-**

Raffle tickets available for purchase at Crafty event!

***** Early bird registration due January 2nd (to be entered in special drawing)**

Reservation Deadline is January 16th

Please remember **IF the minimum is not met by the deadline, the event will be **CANCELLED!!***

Make checks payable to: St. Paul UCC

Mail payment & reservation to: St. Paul UCC
115 West B Street, Belleville, IL 62220
Attn: Crafty Mania

Name: _____

Phone _____ E-mail (print clearly) _____

I would like to sit by _____

My craft is _____

Enclosed is my payment of (please circle ONE below)

- 1 \$30.00 with lunch / \$25.00 no lunch 9am – 4pm
- 2 \$35.00 with lunch & dinner/ \$30.00 no meals 9am – 10:00pm

Thank you!!!

Revenues	<u>2018 Final Budget</u>	<u>2018 Nov Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Congregational Offerings	\$409,676.94	25,576.33	324,151.79	72.12%
MDO Tuition/Other Income	\$98,000.00	9,033.75	94,173.75	96.10%
MDO Fundraiser/Capital Campaign	\$1,000.00	0.00	870.00	87.00%
Special Stewardship Events	7,500.00	0.00	1,492.20	19.90%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	\$9,600.00	800.00	8,800.00	91.67%
Building Fund	\$21,000.00	1,491.00	22,359.50	106.47%
Various Missions	\$0.00	4,600.00	25,544.55	N/A
Memorials	\$10,000.00	645.00	13,920.00	139.20%
Bequests	\$2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Building Income	\$8,000.00	590.00	10,428.50	130.36%
Pastoral Honorarium	\$2,000.00	50.00	1,180.00	59.00%
Pastoral Expense Revenue		1,430.00	1,730.00	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	\$5,664.00	0.00	5,487.00	96.88%
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	\$80,000.00	0.00	35,000.00	43.75%
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	\$15,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	66.67%
Other Income	\$2,000.00	11.43	6,345.25	317.26%
Total Operating Revenues	\$671,440.94	44,227.51	561,482.54	83.62%
Board Revenues	\$0.00	458.21	18,535.05	
Pew End Donation		2,785.00	13,505.00	
Grand Total	\$671,440.94	47,470.72	593,522.59	88.40%
Expenses				
Personnel Board	(\$315,515.94)	(24,312.87)	(277,756.24)	80.03%
Administrative Support	(41,370.00)	(2,221.27)	(39,095.93)	94.50%
Mission Board	(19,775.00)	(439.34)	(21,869.73)	110.59%
Christian Education Board	(8,650.00)	(274.89)	(12,242.36)	141.53%
Stewardship & Nominating Board	(2,500.00)	(15.99)	(1,261.90)	50.48%
Christian Growth Board	(0.00)	0.00	(77.94)	n/a
Business & Property Bd (includes Mortgage)	(174,945.00)	(12,057.58)	(149,622.63)	85.53%
Worship Board	(9,685.00)	(342.66)	(8,274.39)	85.44%
MDO	(99,000.00)	(8,539.79)	(84,437.91)	85.29%
General Fund		(1,833.79)	(1,833.79)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(671,440.94)	(50,038.18)	(596,472.82)	88.83%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses		(5,810.67)	(2,950.23)	

CONGEGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, February 10th—Mark your calendars
immediately following the 9am service

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

The following memorials and gifts have been received by St.
 Paul Church:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

IMO Paul Bauza
 (Fine Arts)

Ellen Bohnemeier

IMO Henry (Hank)
Bohnemeier

(Fine Arts)

Ellen Bohnemeier

IMO Margaret Birkner
 (Fine Arts)

Ellen Bohnemeier

IMO Penny Kennedy
 (Fine Arts)

Ellen Bohnemeier

IHO Tim & Sandy
Ritter's 50th

Anniversary

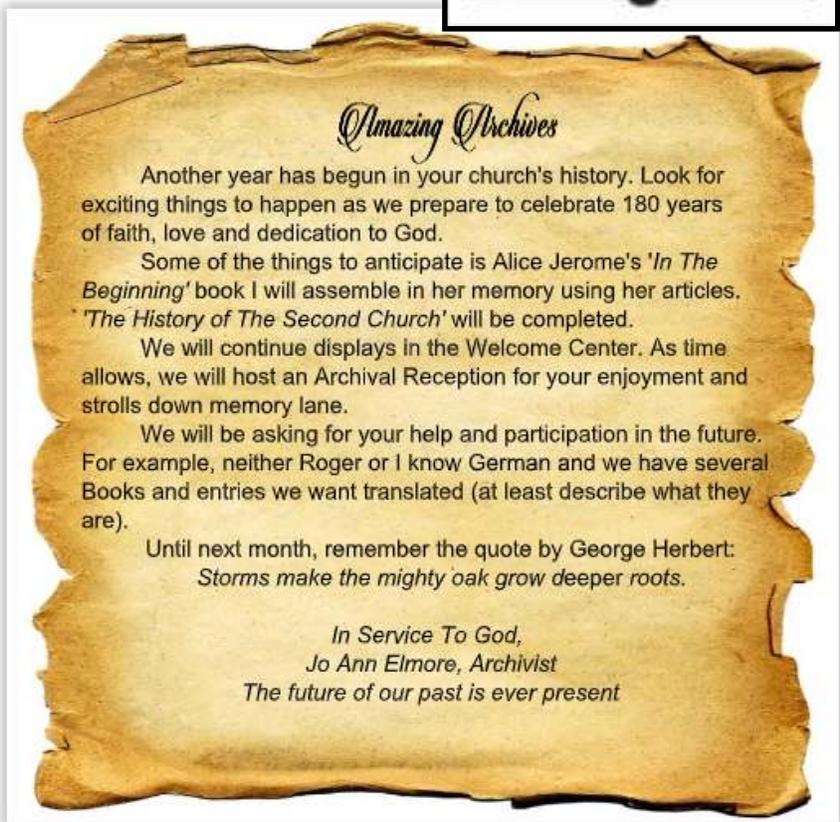
(Fine Arts)

Ellen Bohnemeier

IHO Gus Kuether's
 (Leadership

Development fund)

Rev. Robert Koepcke



Celebrations

January Anniversaries

3 Roger & Susan Relfe
30 Gene & Judith Crites



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Nov 2018

Attendance: 694

All Gifts: \$36,441.97

Nov 2017

Attendance: 639

All Gifts: \$42,568.99

Gifts exclude MDO revenue and endowment distributions, but does include investment income.

January Birthdays

1 Rick Haar	25 Samantha Jacob
2 David Heizer	Drew Kastner
3 Ellen Zimmerman	27 Shirley Boesch
Judith Schuessler	Tyler Poirot
5 Fern Regensberger	Ryan Peterson
7 Mitchell Fish	29 Roger Harris
Paul Sutherland	Abigail Gibson
8 Janet Hentze	Scott Keplar
9 Carson Hopper	31 McKenna Loving
10 Bob Cyphers	Sandra Ortmann
Michael Eckert	Andrew Elser
11 Drew Wolf	Jessica Bearley
John Birkner	
12 Kathleen Parker	
Kathy Birkner	
Ryan Birkner	
13 Judith Crites	
14 Carrie Naylor	
Robert O'Hara	
16 Velma Glock	
Gloria Strohm	
EJ Sporleder	
17 Roger Henke	
18 Linda Altmansberger	
Osceola Mueller	
19 JoAnn Elmore	
Elaine Smith	
Jack Stokes	
21 Bernadine Limper	
Cal Guthrie	
24 Lou Ann Niemann	
David Steen	

115 WEST 'B' STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
PHONE: 618-233-3303
MAIL DATE Dec 19, 2018

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BELLEVILLE, IL
PERMIT #17

Return Service Requested



stpaulucc.org

Always something new!! Check out the *Online Calendar & Upcoming Events!*

If you can't be with us in person,
join us by listening to
our worship service
LIVE on KSTL - 690 AM radio
& **streamed on Jubilee690.com**
at 9am Sundays and



Are you interested in
being a member of
St. Paul UCC?
Please contact
Pastor Michelle or the
church office.



St. Paul United Church
of Christ, Belleville, IL

