

# St. Paul's Church

500 N. Downing St.  
Piqua, OH 45356

1846-2021

175 Years serving God and Community



## Church Council Executive Committee:

- President, Steve Schulz
- Vice-President, Terry Walker
- Secretary, Vicki Couchois
- Treasurer, Brad Petry

## A message from Pastor Keith

I officiate a lot of funerals. To be more precise, I average two funerals a week, a rate that I have maintained at least for the last two decades of ministry. And in these funerals, I officiate, it can be said that there are two primarily different agendas I have depending on whether the deceased knew Jesus as their Lord or not. I either preach the Gospel of Jesus to the family and friends of a nonprofessing individual or I preach the Gospel of Jesus to family and friends of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Same message, just different approaches. And I always I pray I have been some comfort and enlightenment to both audiences.

But I can never hold a candle to Jesus' officiating at a funeral. In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus was visiting a city called Nain when all traffic stopped for a funeral procession. A widow was weeping as her only son had died. Being a widow, she not only lost the comfort and love of her son, she also lost the only source of her future existence. A huge crowd was walking with her probably asking each other what is she to do now!

But then comes Jesus. Our text states that first Jesus saw the mom. It simply says in the text "...And when the Lord saw her...". I am reminded here that Jesus always sees us and our needs. Secondly, it states that "...Jesus felt compassion...". Jesus is always in touch with His heart with our circumstances and threats in life. Then thirdly, Jesus goes against all the written and unwritten rules of living and "touches the coffin" defiling Himself in Jewish law. Jesus stops the funeral dead in its tracks and transforms a dirge into a dance! He raises the widow's son from the dead!

In reality, Jesus still changes every believer's funeral today as He stops the dirge and leads us in dancing. The loved one is now more alive than ever before. As Jesus said, "Those who believes in Him shall never die"! Jesus is still in the business of changing every funeral for those who believe in Him as Lord and as their Savior. Will Jesus change your funeral? Have a great month!

## **A message from our Music Director**

*Pastor, Jason Townsend*

The Touching Story Behind "It Is Well with My Soul" Lyrics by Horatio G. Spafford. It Is Well with My Soul - Spoken Word by Lloyd Newell Life can be so unpredictable - joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence? Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever. Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?" Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.<sup>1</sup> As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn: When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll— Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know It is well, it is well with my soul. Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

## **Facilities Manager**

*Dick Harrod*

It is hard to believe that summer is almost a memory. Why does time speed by us at light speed and yet there never seems to be enough time to get everything done? With recent "turn of events" I have become more aware of how precious each hour of the day is. I need to express my gratitude to my "St. Paul's Family" for looking out for me over these past few weeks, what a wonderful group of people you are. Thank you so much for your sincere and caring hearts. I'm doing fine and with God's help I will continue to ensure that St. Paul's is a clean and safe place to worship.



## **A message from our Youth Director**

*Erica Petry*

Hello St. Paul's Church Families

It has been a very busy summer here in the youth Sunday school classroom & nursery!! We have finished our 8-week program for baptism, so now we are in full planning mode for the church youth's baptism (August 22nd time is to be announced very soon). So exciting for them!

Along with our super summer we have just finished Concrete & Cranes VBS and oh what fun it was!! We had 29 kids, 15+ volunteers & Adult Bible Study lead by Bob Heater!! The kids got to see a real Crane, made stepping stones, tie dye shirts and learned the lessons of how to have a great foundation with Jesus Christ.

We are also planning another Community Pancake Dinner which will benefit so many and all details will be announced very soon!!

So, stay tuned and as always come join us in all the fun!!!

Thank you to our St. Paul's Church Families for all their support,

## **Pulpit Humor**

### **Travel Instructions**

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '**B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth - BIBLE.'

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Brad and Courtney have graciously provided a tranquil respite during these warm summer evenings to meet and study the Bible. The group gathers every other Wednesday, the next one is August 10<sup>th</sup>. The weekly church bulletins and "The One Call Now" provide updates. Should the weather not cooperate the group moves to the church. Everyone is welcome!**

## **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

*Vicki Couchois, Secretary*

### SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

MAY: (1) Financial Info: Total General Fund Assets Apr. 30, 2021, \$63,094.21; Total Endowments \$774,487.93. (2) Learned that JaneAnn Vest is returning to her position as Organist. (3) Heard a report from Randi Pearson about the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting in June. (4) Received invitation from Alan and Jen Miller for a bond fire party at their home June 5 at 6:30 to celebrate life after Covid19. The entire Church Congregation was invited. (5) Discussed St. Paul's Missions and how these funds can be increased. (6) Heard a report on the progress of the Child Care Committee. Next step is to apply to the State for a Certificate of Occupancy then hire a director. Randi reminded everyone that it is a slow process and patience will be needed. (7) Read a thank you note from Debbie Motter Oakes thanking us for the kindness and hospitality shown to their family with the Funeral Lunch.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** (1) Financial Info: Total General Fund Assets Dec. 31, 2020, \$60,939.08; Endowments \$748,402.74 (2) Received the Budget recommendation. Randi Pearson explained that the budget is basically the same as 2020 and is to cover the balance of 2021. Budget was approved as presented and explained. (3) With the exception of a few members, the Council Members and Officers agreed to remain on the Board through 2021. (4) Steve Schulz thanked the Officers for their efforts and dedication during this very difficult year of the pandemic. (5) Heard an in-depth report about the Child Care Committee and project. Things are progressing nicely. (6) and last, but not least at all, Thanked Steve Schultz for his leadership through this past year and a half; and thanked Melinda Sillman for her dedication and efforts to keep us all updated and involved through these difficult times.

\*\*\* There was no regular council meeting June 2021

## **Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) Statement of Polity**

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of His body, the Church universal, and of each local church.
2. We believe that each local church is in itself a complete church, and therefore autonomous and possesses all rights and responsibilities of the church by the Holy Spirit as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ exercises His authority in each local church by the Holy Spirit and through the Holy Scriptures.
4. We believe that each local church is ultimately answerable only to Jesus Christ, and not to any association, conference, council, synod, or any other ecclesiastical body.
5. We believe that it is proper and beneficial for each local church to seek fellowship and counsel of other such local churches.



You will find this little house located near the main entrance to the church on Downing Street. Nonperishable food items can be placed inside for anyone in need to take. Signing will be added. Thanks to those who made this possible.

**Time to “Pack the Pantry” for the Bethany Center Food Pantry. Bring nonperishable items to church and place in or near the container at the front entrance; the items will be delivered to the Bethany Center.**

**Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings:** Sunday’s 6 - 7 P.M. and Wednesday’s 8 – 9 P.M. Enter through the Greene St. door.

**We would like to hear from you! What is your favorite bible verse or do you have a special prayer request? Write it down and place it in the “giving plate” or mail it to:**

**St. Paul’s Church  
500 N Downing St.  
Piqua, OH 45356**

**You can also email: [mmsillman@gmail.com](mailto:mmsillman@gmail.com)  
[stpaulspiqua@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpaulspiqua@sbcglobal.net)**

**Thank you and God Bless**

## **2021 Calendar:**

Calendar will be updated throughout the year

August 8, Bethany Center Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

August 15, New Members “Welcomed into Church”

August 22, Baptisms

September 11, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 911

September 12, Grandparents Day

September 18, Taste of Piqua

October is National Clergy Month

October 18, 175 Anniversary of St. Paul’s Church

October 31, Halloween

November 11, Veterans Day

November 13, Downtown Horse Parade 7:00 P.M.

November 22, Decorate for Christmas

November 25, Thanksgiving

December 11, Caldwell District Christmas Tour 5-8 P.M.

December 24, Christmas Eve Service 7:00 P.M.

December 25, Merry Christmas

December 31, New Year’s Eve