I thank my God for you every time I think of you. Philippians 1:3

Just when you think I am gone, I turn up like a penny (or the measles virus due to non vaccinators). Even though my last Sunday was April 7th, there are a few things I prepared ahead: the yearly report for May and this, the May newsletter. I am going to take advantage of this last opportunity to share some thoughts and reflections before I go.

You may not know this, but my call prior to your church had some struggles, and many of those created dings in my spirit. Do you know what I mean by dings? The tiny dents in your car that seem minute, but when you have a load of them, the car looks beat up and haggard. Essentially, I came to you pretty dinged up in my spirit. The warm reception and kindness extended to Karl and I upon arrival here truly was a balm for that weariness. I thank you for the depth of hospitality that you showed us.

I had hopes for this pastorate and this church. I did not realize many of them here, but I pray that in my work I have created beauty and enhanced the gospel of Jesus Christ among you. I have been privileged to be in your homes, at hospital bedsides, and with you in times of great joy and sorrow. The time here has shaped my spirit and ministry in profound ways. I have enjoyed bible studies and Sunday schools, fellowship events and German Dinner. I was grateful to celebrate your 140th anniversary and see the incredible collection of photos, bulletins and newsletters acquired over the years that mark the ministry of this church.

I have especially enjoyed the connection I have had to the community and all the people who are working tirelessly to make this city a place for fruitful people to live and grow. The strong connection of clergy and community hearkens of a time gone by, and I count myself as grateful that I had a chance to experience it. I encourage you to get more involved in this city, and to be a part of this meaningful work.

If you were at my last service on April 7th, you know that we participated in a service of release. It is a time to ask for forgiveness and a time to share forgiveness. For all the times I failed to do/be what you needed, I hope you heard my apology. As I noted that day, we must place a boundary around the next year and give one another the space to encounter new ministries and experiences. I have been profoundly grateful for the good boundaries Susan Thompson exercised; other former pastors should heed her example, and I pray I will too.

Thank you for the grand feast after my last service, and all the love that has been showered upon me. I hope you look after one another and take ownership of your church, rather than waiting for someone else to step up. Visit the shut-ins; it isn’t just the pastor’s job. Be kinder to the people who keep this place up and running from day to day, especially the secretary, Ann. Last, but not least, plan your future based on who you are and what you are, rather than an antiquated ideal from forty years ago. May God bless you and keep you.

Blessings, Pastor Sheresa
Children’s Sunday School Ends May 12th!

Children

*Children’s Sunday school will take place during worship the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month. They meet on the stage in the fellowship hall.

The 1st Sunday of the month will be dedicated to intergenerational worship.

Children will meet for Sunday school during worship.

Middletown will celebrate Earth Day May 11, 2019 8AM– noon Sign in at Middletown High School main lobby or online. Volunteers may pre-register online by April 26 at www.keepmiddletownbeautiful.org or in person on the day of the event at Middletown High School.
Call Jeff Michel at (513) 425-7750 for more information.

Karl & I sincerely thank you for the warm wishes, kind words, scrumptious lunch and beautiful plate you gifted to us to remember you. Others extended cards and gifts, and I will acknowledge those in the near future. Much appreciation to the members of bible study for their precious Willow tree figurine. I am blessed. Thank You!

Lunch Bunch May 26th– Clubhouse in Monroe
June 30th– Swire Inn 64 S. Main St, Middletown

Sunday, June 9th is Pentecost Sunday...
. It’s time to get on fire with the Holy Spirit! Wear the color red and celebrate the Holy Spirit crowning the heads of the twelve apostles.

Scott enjoyed the fellowship of your congregation very much. Thank you for the comfort you gave to him in the last days of his illness. Please accept this donation to the church in his memory.
Sincerely,
Pat Marshall

SUMMER MUSIC

During summer we ask guest musicians to volunteer to share their talents with us some Sundays. If you know a singer or musician that you would like to ask to share their talents with us, please do and give Pastor Sheresa or Barb their contact information so dates can be arranged.

Reminder!!! Our spring congregational meeting is May 19th after worship. We will be carrying in chicken and are asking all to bring a side dish. Watch for a sign up sheet.
We will be voting on council leadership, reviewing our ministry and checking in with the church’s general state of being. We are always in need of volunteers to serve on council, and we encourage you to get involved with our committees: fellowship, service, worship and maintenance. It takes a village to proclaim and live out the Word of God. Join us for this important meeting as we celebrate and plan the work of being a church.

Church Women United will hold their regular meeting on May 13th at First Christian Church at 1 PM. Please bring a friend!

A Gracious thank you goes out to our council members, who serve faithfully and generously. Thank you Barb Flory, Rick Lyons, Julie Ratliff, Cindy Burnett, Darlene Adams, Chuck Clark and Bryan Cantor.
Our fellowship team gets a workout planning and overseeing the fun things we do at St. Paul's. Thank you, Chuck and Cindy for helping us be a community that eats together.
May Volunteer Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Refreshments</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Open/Close</th>
<th>Liturgist</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>C. Burnett</td>
<td>J. Rockwell</td>
<td>L. Adams</td>
<td>J. Rockwell</td>
<td>C. Batliner</td>
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<td>C. Lowman</td>
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<td>Communion—D. Meeker, P. Beatty</td>
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<td>5/12</td>
<td>R. Britton</td>
<td>C. Kinialocts</td>
<td>C. Batliner</td>
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<td>R. Lyons</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/19</td>
<td>J. Batliner</td>
<td>C. Burnett</td>
<td>M. Shibley</td>
<td>J. Rockwell</td>
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<td>C. Kinialocts</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>R. Lyons</td>
<td>S. Canter</td>
<td>L. Adams</td>
<td>J. Rockwell</td>
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<td>C. Clark</td>
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<td>C. Lowman</td>
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Please remember in your prayers…

Virginia Elam      Cleo Habig          Amanda Lorig
Carroll Stein        Charlene Hale      Shirely Fore
Frances Stoutenbourgh

Our Military…. Chase McConnehea  Jake Burley

Income for the month of March …$10,047.73 ($3,709.00 of that amount is offering)
Expenses for the month of March …$14,357.86 Checking Balance March 31, 2018 .($4,220.00)
March collection benefited OGHS .$90.00

“Thank you for all the cards and messages of sympathy after losing Joe. They meant so much to me.”
Cindy Burnett

MAY 18TH
9AM-12PM
Reminder that children’s Sunday school is held during worship on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month in the fellowship hall.
ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 13, 2019

PRESENT: Barb Flory, Chuck Clark, Rick Lyons, Cindy Burnett, Julie Ratliff, Darlene Adams, Pastor Sheresa Simpson-Rice
ABSENT: Judy Brewer, Bryan Canter
OPENING PRAYER: Barb

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2019 Approved as written. Julie/Darlene

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Approved as written

TREASURER’S REPORT Approved to file for audit. Julie/Darlene

PASTOR’S REPORT –Rev. Sheresa

CO-MODERATORS’ REPORTS—Barb & Rick—Barb thanked Pastor Sheresa for her time with us. She has worked doubly hard in recent months with the Canters, Mary & Jean, and Cindy & Joe and in preparing the Lenten devotional guide to help us plan for St. Paul’s future.

SERVICE—Julie & Judy—SHALOM ended a week early. No report.

WORSHIP—Barb & Darlene—Palm Sunday. Barb will pick them up on Friday. Ann Marie will pre-pay for them.

FELLOWSHIP—Chuck & Cindy—New volunteer sheets are ready.

PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE—Rick—under unfinished business

BUDGET & FINANCE—Bryan—Report was posted online to the council members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Audit update: Chuck Clark and Carl Batliner have completed the 2018 audit.

Sound system—We received a quotation from Sound Force Inc. We have a couple questions and will check back with them before next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
Exit interview—Co-moderators will conduct the exit interview with Pastor Sheresa on April 1.

Release service on April 7—Pastor Sheresa has chosen Mark Williams, a retired UCC minister, to lead that part of the service.

Palm Sunday there will be charts in Friendship Hall for members to write their thoughts from the Lenten devotional guide on Post-It Notes and put under the correct categories. These thoughts will help us formulate plans for the future of St. Paul’s. Pastor Sheresa will instructions in the newsletter.

May Congregational Meeting date—May 19. We will once again have chicken and carry-in dishes.

Nominations for Council members—We will need one or two new members for Council.

Council’s annual reports will be due to Ann by April 30 to be printed for Congregational Meeting.

Lunch Bunch—Shooters Sports Grill in Hamilton for March, Spinning Fork for April, Clubhouse Grille for May, maybe Swire for June.

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MONTH OPENING PRAYER: Judy

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Flory, Acting Secretary
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2019


Absent: Bryan Canter

Opening Prayer: Judy

Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2019. Approved as written. Chuck/Julie.

Approval of Agenda. Approved as written. Julie/Chuck

Treasurer’s Report. Approved to file for audit. Julie/Rick


Pastor Sheresa worked with the Church Secretary Ann so that she knows where to find the resources to do the church reports that were done by previously by Pastor Sheresa.

Two points of discussions were brought up - 1. A motion was made by Chuck & seconded by Julie that in the foreseeable future, the assigning of liturgists will be handled by the Worship Committee. Motion passed. 2. A change was made to the future treasurer’s Report. It was decided to put change 501.010 from ‘Honorarium’ to ‘Supply Minister’ and to create an additional line of ‘Interim’ when the time comes. Exit Interview: Handouts of Pastor Sheresa’s answers were handed out to council and she expanded on some of her points.

Pastor Sheresa’s report ended with this thankyou note:

“It has been my great honor to serve this congregation as pastor. I thank you for your diligent participation on this council and your willingness to heed a call many let fall on deaf ears. I pray only good things for you and your families. May your children and grandchildren (and great grandchildren) blossom in the light of Jesus Christ. Thank you for everything. I truly appreciate it.”

Co-Moderators’ Reports: Barb & Rick. Barb thanked Sheresa for all the work that she has done for the church.

Service: Julie & Judy. Julie thanked Pastor Sheresa for being honest when dealing with council.

Worship: Barb & Darlene. No report.

Fellowship: Chuck & Cindy. Chuck thanked Pastor Sheresa for pushing council.

Property & Maintenance: Rick. May 18 was set for Spring Clean-Up Day. Hours were set at 9am-noon. We will work outside and inside the building.

Budget & Finance: Bryan. No report.

Unfinished Business

1. Sound system. Needed: headsets for those in the pews, new sound system, & a new CD player. We do not have final costs yet.

2. A replacement for Cindy has not been found yet. Suzy Canter will be coming on council to replace Darlene Adams.

3. Congregational Meeting May 19-chicken and carry-in & election of officers/council.

4. Annual report due to Ann by April 30.

New Business: none

Next Meeting: May 5 after church.

Next Month Opening Prayer: Rick

Attendance: March 2019 - 131 (26/5 week average). March 2018 - 131 (33/4 week average)

Respectfully submitted by
Judith S Brewer,
Church Council Secretary
Thank you to our supply ministers for April and May. Rev. John Dick worshipped with us on April 14, 18, 21, and 28. He and his son and daughter-in-law even provided Easter music. Rev. David Harris will worship with us May 5, and Pastor Robert Walker will worship with us May 12, 19, 26.

You can order a wonderful memento picture below. Picture prices will run from $.70-$1.50. You can order one in Friendship Hall, call the office or contact Charlene Kiniyalocts with any questions.
ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
114 S. BROAD STREET
MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

OPEN AND AFFIRMING
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

Nursery Provided • Lift to Sanctuary • Handicap Accessible
Holy Communion celebrated on the first Sunday of the month.

Marsha Minge, Choir Director • Barbara Flory, Pianist

Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:00a.m—2:00p.m.
Office 513-422-4519  E Mail: stpaulsucmidd@att.net
WEB PAGE: stpaulsucmidd.org