



# The Circuit

The Newsletter of  
St. Paul's United Church of Christ



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Phone: 540-459-3643

235 South Main Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

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October 2020

*From the Corner of Spring and Main Streets*

Dear St. Paul's Family,

A season in our temperate climate lasts four months, and then, suddenly or subtly, makes way for next season. But it is not so with the season of COVID19. It arrived at our doorsteps in early March like a roaring lion, and has lingered beyond our wildest nightmares. Like fish, after too many days, it starts to smell.

COVID19 has been with us as a congregation for 29 Sundays, and counting. I've come to think of this season as the convergence of multiple pandemics that have come home to roost: economic, educational, environmental, political, racial, and viral. This is the time we live in. It is easy to fall into doubt, despair, and hate (or indifference, perhaps the most dangerous of all). This is our season. We cannot afford to dwell on the past, nor can we time travel to a new future. We can only live in the present.

Our congregation's namesake, the apostle Paul, wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." I suspect that is what he was talking about in Romans 8:28 when he said, "We know that God works together in all things for good of those who love God, who are called according to God's purposes." We usually hear this text as a short term promise of protection and relief to individuals, rather than God working together with us (those who love God) for an ultimate good in a bigger, more distant end that we do not yet understand.

In the meantime, it is up to us to choose how we will live. Perhaps the best advice I've seen comes from Richard Rohr, one of my go-to Christian contemporary spiritual voices, recommends that for the next four months, **"You impose a moratorium on exactly how much news you are subject to, hopefully not more than an hour a day of television, social media, internet news, magazine and newspaper commentary, and/or political discussions. It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth, which is always found in a bigger place. Instead, I suggest that you use this time for some form of public service, volunteerism, mystical reading from the masters, prayer or, preferably, all of the above. You have much to gain now and nothing to lose. Nothing at all. And the world—with you as a stable center—has nothing to lose. And everything to gain. (from Center for Action and Contemplation, September 21, 2020)**

We are not the first people to live in the midst of catastrophic changes, and unless the Lord returns soon, we will not be the last. We have the assurance that in the end faith, hope, and love trump doubt, despair, and hate. Love never fails. Let this season be the season we choose and practice faith, hope, and love.

Pastor Anne

## OCTOBER 2020 NOTES FROM PASTOR ANNE

### **When will we regather in person?**

Our consistory has been in discussion via Zoom regarding when we will begin in-person worship in our sanctuary. Our next consistory meeting is on Wednesday, October 14, and this is our first order of business. The decision made will be posted on our website and communicated via email on October 15.

In the meantime, we have an excellent plan in place to assure the safety of those who choose to worship in-person, and are working with our children's ministry leaders to make sure that our children will be included in our reopening plans. We will continue to make worship services available on-line for those who cannot worship in person. Our next outdoor worship service will be at 11 am on Sunday, October 11 along the banks of Stoney Creek on the Snarr property.

### **World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2020.**

Join us on-line as Christians around the globe celebrate World Communion Sunday. We are not alone, and we need to pray for each other in these very challenging times.

**Opportunities to Gather On-Line:** If you are interested in any of the options below, please call or email Becky at the church office for more details about how to be involved.

#### **Worship with St. Paul's:**

Posted at [www.woodstockucc.com](http://www.woodstockucc.com) on Sunday mornings at 8 am. An email is distributed on Sunday mornings as a reminder of how to access the worship service.

#### **Kola Class:**

Sundays, 9:30 – 10:30 am. Join in the discussion and fellowship about upcoming sermon texts and what God might be saying to us through Bible texts.

Email Becky Lytton or Pastor Anne for the Zoom link.

**30-Minute Theology:** Mondays, 7 – 7:30 pm. Men sharing their beliefs and questions about God.

Email Becky Lytton or Pastor Anne for the Zoom link.

**Sacred Season:** Every other week on Thursdays, 4 – 5 pm. Women of faith reflecting about God's presence in their lives.

Email Becky Lytton or Pastor Anne for the Zoom link.

### **Porch Visits with Pastor Anne**

Now that the weather is getting a bit cooler, Pastor Anne would love to visit members and friends of the congregation respecting social distance on your porch or patio. Please call the church office to schedule a visit.

### **Installation of Pastor Anne on Sunday, November 15 at 3 pm.**

COVID-19 put this temporarily on-hold. Please save the date for this worship service to celebrate our mutual covenant of ministry. More details to follow.



## PEOPLE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Dr. Jerry Germroth Valorie Hockman Wes Irvin	Jake Johnson Daniel Rohne Kasten Michael Kavaras Jerry Lambert Marcie Lambert	Nora Long Cheri Davidson May Gail Mayberry Spencer McIntosh	Jessie Payne Janet Sibert Pete Wright
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Editor – Jane Miller Contributors St. Paul’s – Ministry Chairpersons and others Production Coordinator - Becky Lytton
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## ST. PAUL’S NEWS

### Consistory Happenings!

The St. Paul’s Consistory met September 9<sup>th</sup> using Zoom.



Highlights from the meeting include:

- Treasurer’s Report:
  - o The monthly reports were presented.
- Worship and Music:
  - o A Vesper’s service on Aug. 23 at the home of Ed and Ellen Markel was wonderful!
  - o Outdoor worship at the Snarr’s house will be held on Sept 13 at 10:00 a.m. with Communion.
  - o Senior Choir practiced and was recorded outside for anthems in September.
  - o Four pianos were tuned by Kevin Minnick.
- Christian Ed:
  - o Rod Chamberlain has agreed to serve as the coordinator for Christian Education. Thank you!
  - o Need a new Youth leader(s) and Acolyte coordinator
- Stewardship & Missions:
  - o We had setup a prayer chain for schools – parents, children and teachers through September.
- Building & Maintenance:
  - o Work is complete on the front sidewalk by the Town of Woodstock. Thanks!!
  - o The boiler inspector has approved the two boilers and a certificate will be received soon.
  - o Don Largent has repaired the roof over the Fellowship Hall.
  - o The insurance company will be called once the Sibert family completes the cleaning of the sexton house. The Town office has been notified about the rodent issue.
  - o Kolton Poston has been asked to clear and spray the weeds growing on the fence and some tombstones in the cemetery. He will also clear the shrubs on the north side of the church.
- Pastoral Report:
  - o An Installation service will be held for Rev. Anne on November 15 on Zoom.

- Old Business:
  - o A Bluetooth speaker has been received and will be installed for use in the parlor.
- New Business:
  - o Joe Sibert is officially retiring as sexton as of Sept. 30.
  - o The consistory will be enlisting the sexton's duties to be taken over by members of the congregation.

**NOTE:** The full copies of all consistory minutes can be found in the notebook on the desk outside the pastor's office.

## JOE SIBERT IS RETIRING AS SEXTON

As of September 2020



Charles Joe Sibert was born and raised in Woodstock. After graduating from Central High School in 1964, he joined the Air Force and spent the next 21 years serving in aircraft and electronic maintenance. He worked on Air Force air craft, cargo, helicopter, warfare aircraft, etc.

When he returned home in 1985, he helped his mother who was the sexton of the church. When she died, he continued working for St. Paul's.

Joe's hobby is reading! He enjoys reading all type of books. Some of his favorite TV shows are about the military, outdoor reality shows, and contests of bladesmith! He enjoys sports such as racing, baseball and basketball.

In all, Joe has served the church as sexton of St. Paul's UCC for 39 years. Some of those years were when he was a teenager working alongside of his parents, James and Gerry Sibert.

Best of luck in the wonderful years to come!!

## Bread of Life Food Pantry

1. We gave out 4716 pounds of food to 67 families consisting of 192 individuals.
2. Family size of 1 – 3 = 46
3. Family size of 4 – 8 = 21
4. We were able to give out an average of 70 pounds of food to each family served.
5. The poundage we gave out was less this month because we were unable to get 5 pound bags of potatoes, apples, oranges or small bags of onions from the Food Bank. We did get limited quantities of cucumbers, lettuce, cauliflower, plums and honey dew melons. We also got some donations of tomatoes from the local community.
6. We are grateful for the volunteers that have faithfully supported this ministry for so many years. We pray that the pandemic will end soon!
7. As always, we thank you for your support.  
~ Blessing, Bill Decker, Director



## STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONS

Stewardship and Missions will be meeting very soon to plan for outreach activities for the fall and early winter season. Among the activities we will be exploring is the need for another food restocking for our area Food Pantries. More details will be forthcoming including information on how you can support this effort and all of the upcoming missions programs.

~ Joe Lehnen

## Thank You!!

Special thanks to the anonymous folks who contributed financially for the purchase of the new keyboard, stool and stand! They have been used twice so far at our outdoor services. What an awesome gift that will be cherished for many years to come. The church has also purchased, through the Kocher Fund, new speakers and a mixer to enhance the quality of the keyboard.



## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CHURCH AT THIS TIME?



Tom Snarr changing light bulbs



Altar at the outdoor worship at the Snarr's



Music with the children at the outdoor worship at the Snarr's



**New Parlor Furniture!!**

This was purchased by the money left to the church by Dorothy Lambert.

**Birthdays for St. Paul's**

- October 1 – Rod Chamberlain  
3 – Amy Bankert  
4 – Mike Good  
5 – Bret Tusing, Jacob Sharp  
6 – Isaiah Dyer  
13 – Jean L. Foster (92 years young)  
15 – Ed Markel  
18 – Michelle Koontz  
20 – Francis Baylock  
22 – Butch Heishman, Meg Trott  
23 – Diane Denison  
24 – Faye Cullers, Annette Petrick Gentry  
25 – Mary Payne  
26 – Bobby Grubbs  
27 – Micah Holland  
29 – Marie Kennan  
30 – Ellie Overman  
31 – Ellen Markel
- November 1 – Amaya Young  
6 – Chad Sheetz  
8 – Jerry Litten  
9 – Cully Neese  
10 – Ricky Lambert  
11 – Bev Harrison, Matthew Lambert,  
Katie Overman, Betsy Overman  
12 – Caleb Sibert, Ramsey Miller,  
Katherine Neff  
13 – Becky Linaweaver, David Brill  
14 – Andrew Miller  
15 – Alonzo (AJ) Charity  
16 – Marissa Orndorff, Susan Myers  
17 – Stacie Lambert  
18 – Jenna Hoffmasater, Tyler Dellinger,  
Shirley Linaweaver  
20 – Robert Kennan  
21 – Stephen McCarthy  
22 – Isabelle Funkhouser, Glenn Wetzel  
23 – Emily Funkhouser  
24 – Robert Martin  
27 – Jane Miller, Blake Snarr  
28 – Brian Swann, Eloise Youngblood

**Anniversaries for St. Paul's**

- October 4 – Price and Leah Timmerman  
7 – John and Joyce Golladay  
17 – Dennis and Karla Thomas  
20 – Ricky and Patty Dellinger
- November 1 – Maren and Barbara Johnson

