

journey



Two kinds

There are two kinds of Christmas letters. One is the extremely rare type, almost strange in content. The other is remarkably common and predictably pleasant.

The common variety favors the calendar, believing that readers can't live without knowing that June was the Niagara Falls trip, July was when the clothes dryer breathed its last, and August was when the doctor couldn't wait to examine Dad's gout. Sometimes writers stuff these letters with paragraphs about the kids' achievements, all of which are – not surprisingly – two notches above mediocrity. Henry was captain of the kindergarten soccer squad chosen unanimously by his peers. Danielle made it to the bi-state dance championship in spite of a sprained ankle. And Isabella got straight "A's, ... well, yes, for the third year in a row.

In contrast, imagine the rare or maybe even unheard of Christmas letter. This variety, which would take exceedingly great care to write, has little interest in ribbons, trophies, or awards. It really doesn't care that the dryer quit. Instead, it centers on what the apostle Paul calls "fruits of the spirit." Here we discover the beauty of Henry's gentleness and self-control, Danielle's unending generosity, and Isabella's inner joy that makes you want to call her up for lunch tomorrow. The mother writing this kind of letter isn't bragging about how fruity her family tree happens to be so much as she's offering a deep slice of what her family most values. It's a look below surface routines and superficial observations.

There are also two ways to pray. One variety is settled, rote, and (many will say) often unfeeling. This variety has its place, especially when maintaining daily spiritual discipline and linking one's life to a larger world. Praying traditional prayers keeps one from being in love with one's own words, small preferences, and selfish tastes.

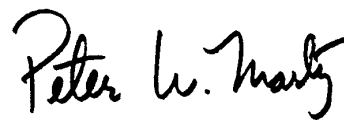
But another way of praying is so deeply personal and frank in language that there is clearly no hiding from God. If anything, one's vulnerability before the Lord becomes both the reason and the strength for the conversation. Listen to the prayer language of Flannery O'Connor, at the young age of 21, recording her deepest prayer thoughts in a journal: "My mind is not strong ... [it] is a most insecure thing, not to be depended on. It gives me scruples at one minute and leaves me lax the next ... [it] is in a little box, dear God, down inside other boxes inside other boxes and on and on. There is very little air in my box. Dear God, please give me as much air as it is not presumptuous to ask for. Please let some light shine out of all the things around me so that I can shine."

O'Connor asks God for help in pushing her aside.

"I do not know you God because I am in the way." And, with a depth resembling the second kind of Christmas letter I referenced, O'Connor fills her journal with pleas for a kind of prayer that will evade the trivial. "Please help me to get down under things and find you where you are."

That last line is a good one for all of us in these pre-Christmas weeks. "Lord," any of us might choose to pray, "help me get down under the frippery of the season, below the trappings that avert my attention, beneath the wrappings that cause me to miss the eyes of another." If we could pray through the eyes of Christ as he sees the world, which must be different than the way we see the world, we'd probably do a few things differently in December.

I don't know what those things are for you, and don't even know fully what they are for me. But if we would all aim to pray with a new sincerity, we might catch some cues for how to make this Christmas more Christ-minded than ever. We might even feel what Flannery O'Connor said she felt in her best moments of prayer – "the warmth of [divine] love heating me up."



PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



journey

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MISSION
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ON THE COVER:
Martha Barnds

High school girls head out for a night on the town

On Saturday, Dec. 15, high school girls are invited to a night of dinner, Christmas lights, and dessert.

The evening, from 5-10 p.m., is a time for girls to be together with conversations centered on healthy perspectives and belonging. The conversations will be intentional, with well-trained adult leaders who will share their own stories.

Participants will meet at church for a limo ride to Biaggi's for dinner, a tour of Christmas lights, and then dessert at a congregation member's house. Cost is \$30. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

Children and youth Advent gathering: Socks

Each year, St. Paul children and youth gather items for people who are having a difficult time. This year, the gathering will be for socks, both adult and child sizes, to be distributed to shelters around the Quad Cities. Items will be collected in the Education Wing on Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16.

On Dec. 16, wear silly socks to church in the spirit of thanksgiving and generosity for this opportunity to give. We'll bless the collected socks in worship as we prepare to send them out into the community. Questions? Contact Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.

Financial Peace University to be offered this winter

Financial Peace University will be offered Sundays, Jan. 6-Mar. 3, 10:20-11:05 a.m. The course will be led by St. Paul members Ron and Meg Knapper. In this series, the idea is to take "baby steps" toward better financial health. Sign up for the class and order materials at www.fpu.com/1071814. Cost is \$109. Contact: Ron Knapper, ron.meg.knapper@gmail.com.

Youth choir alumni singing and cartoons ring in the New Year

Welcome the new year at St. Paul with two beloved annual events.

New Yorker cartoons: Enjoy a hearty laugh on Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:20-11:05 a.m. as Pastor Peter Marty reviews the year through *The New Yorker* cartoons.

Sunday morning learning classes (for all ages) will be on break Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. Classes resume Jan. 6.

Youth Choir: All former Youth Choir singers are invited to join the current Youth Choir for worship on Sunday, Jan. 6. Gather to rehearse a favorite anthem, *Who Is the Lamb?*, at 8:20 a.m. in the Chapel. The choir sings during the 9 a.m. service. No need to sign up, just come! Questions? Contact Dan Pepper, pepper@stpaulqc.org.



SERVICE IN THE CITY: YOUTH & ADULT MISSION TRIP

This spring, St. Paul youth and adults are invited to take part in a four-day experience, March 10-13, in Chicago that will include volunteering, exploring, and discussing systemic issues at the root of poverty and injustice.

Led by Pastor Katy Warren and Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries, spend time working at soup kitchens, Head Start programs, and food pantries. Explore the city by eating at ethnic restaurants, and be part of meaningful conversations.

Cost is \$150, including meals, housing, and transportation. Spots are limited; open to anyone age 14 and older. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Contact Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

All St. Paul Reads: *The Boys in the Bunkhouse*

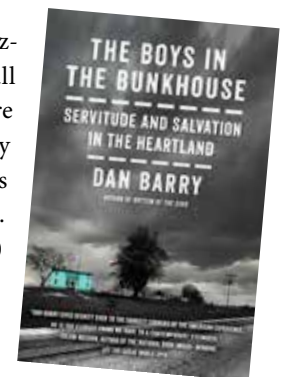
The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland is the 2019 All St. Paul Reads book.

All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for all to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. In 2019, this dinner and discussion event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m.

In the tiny farm town of Atalissa, Iowa, dozens of men, all with intellectual disability and all from Texas, lived in an old schoolhouse. Before dawn each morning, they were bussed to a nearby processing plant, where they eviscerated turkeys in return for food, lodging, and \$65 a month. They lived in near servitude for more than 30 years, enduring increasing neglect, exploitation, and physical and emotional abuse.

New York Times writer and columnist Dan Barry tells the harrowing yet uplifting story of the men, and the heroic efforts of those who helped them to find justice and reclaim their lives.

The Boys in the Bunkhouse is available for purchase for \$10 in the St. Paul Book Corner. To help plan for dinner, please RSVP at stpaulqc.org/signups.



T gathered at the T TABLE T



St. Paul people: Have you pledged?

2018 offerings

Your offerings are critically important for the financial health of our congregation. Every offering you make adds to the goodness of what we can accomplish. Thanks for making St. Paul a priority in your life.

Pledging for 2019

One of the expectations of St. Paul is that every member make a financial pledge commitment – a faith promise of what they believe they can give to support the ministry of the congregation. Please make every effort to get that red pledge card and envelope for 2019 in. Extra cards are available at church. Or, save time by logging onto the St. Paul website and making your pledge electronically at www.stpaulqc.org/pledge-2019. Online pledges are completely confidential.

Year-end giving

An 11-month statement of your giving will arrive in your mailbox mid-December. To be credited to 2018 giving statements, all offerings must be received in the church office through mail or the offering plate by Monday, Dec. 31 at 12 noon.

Artist Martha Barnds gifted her stippling to St. Paul. As a gift to St. Paul people, a reproduction of the piece (free of charge) will be available at the Info Center in the month of December.

Gratitude

Thank you for your gifts of gratitude for St. Paul now and throughout the year. The Christ-centered mission and ministries of St. Paul depend entirely on the giving and pledges of every single household.

Our pledged giving for 2019 will make possible St. Paul's expanding mission character, staffing, and ministry vision. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Paul believes in giving 20+ percent of our annual budget away. This double-tithe is no easy matter. It's the hallmark of a servant people who belong to a servant church. Generations have helped establish this priority, supported fully through the offerings of St. Paul people.

In 2018, St. Paul has given \$600,000 to organizations as close as a neighborhood school and as far away as Africa.

Have a question about pledging or stewardship? Contact Marcia Robertson, stewardship coordinator, 563-326-3547 ext. 218, marcia@stpaulqc.org.



A stippling of St. Paul

St. Paul has been my church home since we moved here from Pennsylvania. As a child, I spent most of the church service drawing. At the end of worship, I would give my artwork to someone sitting around me. One of my preschool teachers at St. Paul told my mom one day that they finally had to put a limit on how many pieces of paper we could use in art because, although my creativity had no limits, the church's paper budget did.

In first grade, I began taking art lessons with Mrs. B. This year marks my ninth year with her. In class, we learn a variety of techniques and use many different mediums. My favorite so far might be stippling, which is when you create an image using dots — many dots. It takes a lot of time and patience to complete a project. You may spend hours sketching and placing dots, only to realize that something is off and you have to start over. It is only when you finish placing the dots that the whole picture is complete.

I realize faith is a lot like a stippled piece of artwork. The first step is to sketch out the picture. It's like the foundation of your faith. My family is the foundation of my faith. It began with my baptism by my grandfather. It continued with regular church attendance, Sunday school, choir, First Communion, and confirmation. Next, you begin to form the picture by placing dots. These are the experiences and relationships that influence our daily lives and the practice of our faith. These faith points are like going to Camp Shalom, taking part in mission trips, retreats, and small groups in confirmation. Most of the dots come from everyday life when your faith is tested or put into action. Sometimes we make mistakes in life, like in art. Our faith teaches us that nothing can separate us from God's love and through grace, we are forgiven. It is never too late to start over or take our faith picture in a different direction.

In stippling, you slowly begin to see your picture take shape. Now that I have finished confirmation, I can look back and see how my faith is being formed and will continue to shape itself into one big picture of faith.

— Martha Barnds, 9th grader



a voice in the wilderness

This December, focus on the promise of God's love with St. Paul's annual tradition of daily Advent devotions.

Featuring an array of St. Paul voices, these devotions will land in your email inbox and the St. Paul website, based on the theme of *A Voice in the Wilderness*. The final devotion will be posted on Christmas Day.

Sign up to receive the devotions by email at ow.ly/TGYC5, or read them on the website beginning Sunday, Dec. 2, at stpaulqc.org/blog.

Note: If you have received the devotions in the past, you do not need to sign up again.

WELCOME TO MINNESOTA by Derek Ball

I'm a "big picture" person. Details aren't my strength. This is best exemplified by a trip I took by myself to Minnesota – or more specifically, the trip I took home.

I had attended a conference in Minneapolis and, since it was fall, I decided to follow the Mississippi back down to the Quad Cities and take in the beauty of the trees in their full autumnal majesty. On the way home, I stopped at Effigy Mounds National Monument in Harpers Ferry, Iowa. It was moving to take in this sacred space with the colored leaves falling gently around me as I quietly hiked the trail. Wrapped up in this spiritual experience, I got in my car to head home. I stopped when I saw the sign.

"Welcome to Minnesota"

I had driven thirty miles *north* without realizing it.

The next fall, I decided to share this beautiful place with my wife for our anniversary. We enjoyed the autumn colors and the views of the river. When we pulled out to drive home, she asked, "Is this where you got turned around and drove the wrong direction?" When I told her it was, she noted that, when driving south in Iowa, the Mississippi River should always be on my *left* and pointed out the window to the river. I had driven thirty miles, wrapped up in my thoughts, with the largest river in the United States on my right hand side.

Sometimes life is like that for me. I get lost. I go in the wrong direction. I find myself in the wilderness of anxiety or hurt. And I don't



pick up on the signals (sometimes as large as the Mississippi) that will help me find my way home.

The comfort for me in my faith is that God is always there to point me back to where I should go. With God's help, I'm always able to find my way home again. Even if I have to go a little out of my way to get there.

Derek is a member of St. Paul with his wife, Lisa (who still has to help him with the details), and their kids David and Gracie. He works as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at Marriage and Family Counseling Service in Rock Island and lives in Davenport.

The symbols of CHRISTMAS

The Christmas spirit comes alive each December at St. Paul, with objects, sounds, and sights. Here, we share some of the items that hold special meaning or stories for this most precious season.

ORGAN

The St. Paul organ marks 10 years this month of inspiring awe and wonder year-round, but especially during Christmas.

The organ case stands nearly 36 feet tall at the highest tower. From pencil-sized pipes to the soaring 16-foot “Low C” pipe in the organ facade, the pipes number 2,335. Materials from all over the world combine for musical excellence. Two keyboards, crafted of bone and ivory, originated in England. Metal pipes were built in Holland. Reed pipes came from Germany.

The artisans of M.L. Bigelow & Co. of American Fork, Utah, custom-designed the distinctive asymmetric case and the instrument’s fine musical qualities. It is Bigelow’s “Opus 33,” the thirty-third instrument crafted by the company. It was conceived and constructed over a two-year period in their Utah workshop. The pipe organ was dismantled for its cross-country journey to Davenport, aboard two 53-foot semis. It was then meticulously rebuilt and voiced on site.

The mechanical-action tracker organ is constructed with 44 ranks and 43 stops (with 37 independent voices). Each manual keyboard is constructed of 61 notes, with 32 notes on the pedal keyboard.

The metal pipes are made of tin, lead, and zinc. The wooden pipes are oak and poplar.

The longest pipe stretches to 16 feet. The shortest is a mere three-quarters of an inch.

The finely-polished cabinetry is crafted of quarter-sawn white oak. Surrounding the keyboards is cocobolo, a beautiful wood of Central America.

A visible star-like feature is mounted high on the organ. When this zimbelstern (or bell star) is played, eight bells make a continuous tinkling sound – a festive and surprising accent to worship.

The organ is driven by electric stop action, with state-of-the-art digital memory. Two video monitors, connected to closed-circuit cameras, provide the organist with a view of the Sanctuary and choir director.



HYMNS

What is your favorite Advent or Christmas hymn?

Advent hymns center on the hopefulness of the arrival of the baby in a manger.

People, look east.

The time is near of the crowning of the year.

*Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.*

*People, look east, and sing today –
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

The last hymn played at the end of the fourth Sunday of Advent at St. Paul is *Joy to the World*. It’s often considered to be the transition hymn between Advent and Christmas.

“*Joy to the World* was not written for Advent or Christmas,” according to the Hymnal Companion for Evangelical Lutheran Worship. “It is the second half of a paraphrase of Psalm 98, from the Psalms of David (1719) by Isaac Watts. In the Lutheran Book of Worship it stood as the first Christmas hymn. Here (the red hymnals found in St. Paul pews), it stands as the last one for Advent.

The hymns and carols sung at Christmas are imprinted on our hearts and minds. They are sung through the 12 days of Christmas, until Epiphany.

The first carol in the hymnal is *From Heaven Above*. And just as *Joy to the World* is the final Advent hymn, *The First Noel* is the last Christmas carol in the hymnal.



*The first Noel the angel did say, was to certain
poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.*

TREES

Two live Christmas trees from Timber Creek Tree Farm arrive the first full week of December. Matt Spencer, St. Paul's custodial manager, chose this year's trees on a beautiful fall sunny day. He says when he saw one of them, he heard angels singing. "It's absolutely beautiful," Matt said. That one is about 30 feet high – the tallest tree St. Paul has ever had; the other is 26 feet high.

Once the trees are up in the Sanctuary, thanks to the help of many hands, approximately 3,500 lights go on to each of the two trees, as well as about 30 satin and shiny red bulbs. A rented mechanical lift makes it all possible. It takes a few days to decorate. The trees will be shining brightly by the second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9, just in time for Choral Advent at 9 a.m. worship.

A few years ago, the Davenport West High School welding class built a hinged tree stand (to make raising the trees easy). They built another one this year. Andy Zinn, son of members Teresa and Jerry Zinn, teaches the class.

"The trees mean a lot to me, because they mean a lot to others," Matt said.

LECTERN BIBLE

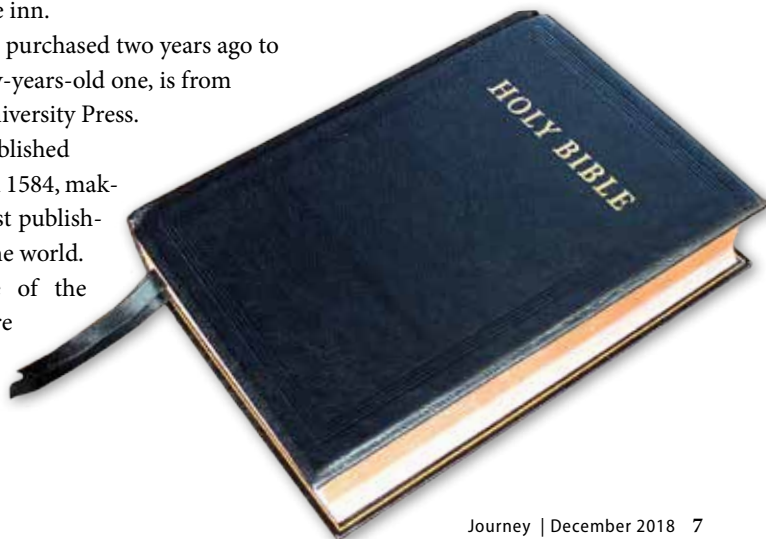
It's a goosebumps-type moment toward the beginning of Christmas Eve worship, when the worship assistants and pastors in white robes descend from the front of the Sanctuary.

With organ music, candles, the processional cross, and the large lectern Bible held high for all to see, they process up the center aisle to the middle of the Sanctuary. It is there that the Bible opens for the reading of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Bible, purchased two years ago to replace a many-years-old one, is from Cambridge University Press. Cambridge published its first book in 1584, making it the oldest publishing house in the world.

The edge of the Bible's pages are covered in gold foil.



Peace & Joy

Advent is a joyous season — a time of hope amid crisis, light in deep darkness, a sense of expectation, a growing trust in the promises of God. Our Advent journey begins the weekend of Dec. 1 & 2. Week by week, we'll prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with melodies that crescendo in hopeful expectancy, and with candles that pierce the darkness.

Advent starting December 2

Choral Advent Worship | Sunday, Dec. 9

Let the glories of song, and an impressive intergenerational gathering of St. Paul choirs at the 9 a.m. worship service, carry you into the beauty of the Advent season. From preschool choristers to adults, Choral Advent Sunday is a joyful tradition for preparing the way for Jesus' birth.

A Nova Christmas | Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.

The Nova Singers' Christmas concert is an annual tradition at St. Paul. Nova Singers is a 20-voice ensemble with a nationwide reputation for expressiveness, virtuosity, and innovative programming. The group has performed across the country and produced six professional recordings. Tickets available online and at the door.

Blue Christmas Worship | Friday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

This quiet service of longing and hope is designed for anyone who doesn't feel like celebrating. During the holidays, grief, illness, depression, and loneliness can be magnified. The Blue Christmas service acknowledges pain and longing, while offering hope and comfort for the broken-hearted. In the darkness of December, anticipate Jesus, the light of the world.

Kids & youth

Christmas Pageant | Sunday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

Dozens of St. Paul stars, shepherds, and sheep will sing and tell the story of Jesus' birth at the 2018 Christmas pageant, held in the Sanctuary.

Youth Advent Events | Dec. 2, 9, & 16

Shopping for Handicapped Development Center: On Sunday, Dec. 2, high school small groups will gather at Target in Davenport at 6:30 p.m. to shop for Christmas gifts for residents at the Handicapped Development Center. Bring \$5-\$10 to share.

Gingerbread House Building: High school youth will gather on Sunday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m. at church to create Bible-story themed gingerbread houses. Students should each bring a bag of candy to contribute.

Christmas Caroling: Students in grades 6-12 will gather at church for pizza followed by an evening of Christmas caroling around the community on Sunday, Dec. 16, 5:30-8 p.m.



Awake! Awake, and greet
the new morn, for angels
herald its dawning. Sing
out your joy, for soon he is
born, behold! the child of
our longing.

— From the Advent hymn,
Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

1 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve in an early-afternoon option. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Katy Warren preaching.*

3 p.m. | A Family Christmas Service

A service for all ages, but focused toward children, with traditional carols and a lively children's message. Children and youth choirs sing.

5 p.m. | Holy Communion with Open Spirit

The Open Spirit ensemble leads Christmas singing with a contemporary flair. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

8 p.m. | A Service of Lessons & Carols

Music by the Chorale with candlelight. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

10 p.m. | Candlelight Holy Communion

The evening concludes with *Silent Night* with special instrumentation, in a darkened Sanctuary lit with candles. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

Childcare: During all services, the childcare room will be open for parents to use as needed. Childcare staff have the day off. Children are always welcome in worship.

Christmas Eve parking: In addition to St. Paul parking lots & side streets, Madison School lots across Brady Street are available. Observe extra care when crossing Brady Street.

Open to being a Christmas greeter? Welcome people into the warmth of St. Paul on Christmas Eve. As people flow into church, a handshake, a smile, and a cheerful greeting mean so much.

Would you be willing to spread some Christmas joy for about 30 to 45 minutes of your time before a particular worship service? Please contact Jennifer Garvey, 563-326-3547, jennifer@stpaulqc.org.



CHRISTMAS LOVE *from the* ST. PAUL STAFF

Pictured: (top row, left to right) Christine Vincent, Todd Byerly, Dana Welsler, Peter Marty, Matt Spencer, Jennifer Garvey, Paula Durham, Josh Kestner, Katy Warren, Becky Harper, Chris Nelson, Lauren Brown (bottom row, left to right) Andy Langdon, Destiny Ellingsworth, Carrie Bowman, Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, Sara Harless, Karen Holden, Marcia Robertson, Karen Strusz, Sara Olson-Smith, Kendra Thompson, Beth

Laureijs, Eyreka Barnes. **Not Pictured:** Ron Huber, Ann McGlynn, Jim Akright, Bill Campbell, Nathan Windt, Dan Pepper, Katie Casey, Margaret Thompson, Linda Alebach, Teresa Whitbeck, Angie Vaaler, Paul Caldwell, Harris Schneckloth, Terry Haru, Nick Peterson, and Ron Mullen.

new members / OCTOBER 2018



Katie Arnold



Mary & Jim Brown



Julia Bryant



Linda Creighton



Jane & Thomas Delleman



Barry & Joann Garrels



Kris & Brian Hansen, Josh, Ashley



Leighton James & Patrick Hathaway



Mary & Steve Johnson



Terre & Frank Klipsch



Alexandra Larson & Michael Koepp, Lars, Linus



Terry Ousley



Valkrie Ramirez



Laura Kestner-Ricketts & Matt Ricketts, Andrew



Ila Jean Rock



Mallory Roseen



Missy & Cale Sponsler, Harper



Myrna & Al Tubbs



Madison Wookey & Bailey Akers

KATIE ARNOLD is the co-owner of Arnold's Body Shop in Davenport. She enjoys yoga, music, cooking, and gardening. She is mom to four-year-old Noah. The community presence and children's ministries are what attracted her to St. Paul.

MARY & JIM BROWN like to spend their time caring for their two dogs, helping with grandchildren, exercising, and socializing with friends. Jim and Mary are both retired – Jim from education administration and Mary from banking. What drew them to St. Paul? The wide age range and openness of the people.

JULIA BRYANT is retired. She used to own a childcare center based out of a nursing home in Nebraska. She likes to read and craft, and finds St. Paul to be a joyful and friendly place. She is the mother of Laura Kestner-Ricketts, who also joined in October.

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

LINDA CREIGHTON is a retired account assistant at the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau. She takes an interest in gardening, crafting, and spending time with her grandchildren. Linda is passionate about singing and Habitat for Humanity.

JANE & THOMAS DELLEMAN are excited to be a part of a “welcoming and energetic congregation.” Tom works in sales at Dee Electronics and enjoys woodworking and sports. Jane is a teacher at Quad City Montessori School and likes tutoring and gardening. They have two older daughters.

BARRY & JOANN GARRELS are both retired. They take an interest in reading, fishing, biking, and decorating.

KRIS & BRIAN HANSEN have two children, Josh and Ashley. Brian is a program manager with Bitco Insurance. Kris is employed with Davenport Schools as an elementary classroom coach. This family enjoys traveling to softball and baseball tournaments and being outside. They decided to join the church because of the inclusiveness of St. Paul.

LEIGHTON JAMES & PATRICK HATHAWAY both work at John Deere – Patrick as an instructor and Leighton in customer support. This engaged couple spends their free time staying active, traveling, and water skiing.

MARY & STEVE JOHNSON like to read, walk, travel, and spend time with their grandchildren. Steve is a truck driver with QC Freight and Mary works as a career coordinator at Pleasant Valley High School. Their son and grandson, Eric & Cooper Johnson, are members of St. Paul.

TERRE & FRANK KLIPSCH love spending time with their family and serving the community. A fiber artist and teacher, Terre fills her days making beautiful things and volunteering. Frank is the mayor of Davenport. Their son and family, Jake, Leslie and kids, initially drew them to St. Paul.

MICHAEL KOEPP & ALEXANDRA LARSON, have two young boys, Lars and Linus. Mike is employed as an engineer with Adaptive Corporation. Alexandra is a pathologist with Unity Point – Trinity. They enjoy exploring the community and caring for their children. They're excited to be part of the St. Paul community.

TERRY OUSLEY is retired from MidAmerican Energy as the vice president of customer service. He takes an interest in golf, volleyball, traveling, and being part of local non-profit boards. He recently went on the mission trip to Appalachia and is looking forward to the many other opportunities at St. Paul.

VALKRIE RAMIREZ is an early education childcare provider. She enjoys reading and spending time with her grandchildren. The “outpouring of love” is what attracted Val to St. Paul.

LAURA KESTNER-RICKETTS & MATT RICKETTS are the parents of Andrew and like to cook, garden, and fish. Laura works at Augustana College as the executive director of the Career Center. Matt works at Lujack Automotive. The educational programs and sense of community drew them to St. Paul.

ILA JEAN ROCK is a retired teacher who spends her free time reading, walking, traveling, and doing volunteer work. The opportunities to serve and small groups are what brought her to St. Paul. Her sisters, Marcia Paustian and Doris Lawler, are members.

MALLORY ROSEEN & AVERY FUHS (*not pictured*) spend their free time biking, shopping, fishing, cooking, and spending time with family. Avery is a family medicine resident with Genesis. Mallory works at Von Maur as a buyer. The strong sense of community is what attracted them to St. Paul.

MISSY & CALE SPONSLER are parents to six-year-old Harper. Cale is the regional director of operations with Alter Metal. Missy works as a life and disability analyst with Principal Financial. This couple enjoys attending their daughter Harper's activities. They also have two young adult daughters.

MYRNA & ALTUBBS are active volunteers in the community and enjoy spending time with their family. Al is the chairman and CEO of Ohnward Bancshares. Myrna is a former teacher who now takes care of the homefront. It was the worship at St. Paul that attracted them here.

MADISON WOOKEY & BAILEY AKERS come to St. Paul through friends. Bailey works as a software engineer at John Deere Seeding. Madison is a seventh-grade English teacher at Pleasant Valley Junior High. This couple is passionate about exercise and kids.

Council Notes

New Affordable Housing Ministry Approved

At its November meeting, the congregation council voted to move forward with an ambitious proposal from the mission board for St. Paul to help create much needed affordable housing in our local neighborhood. Under the plan approved, St. Paul will partner with One Eighty, a well-respected community organization in Davenport, and purchase and refurbish a vacant or rundown house, renovating it for a Madison Elementary School family to enter a rent-to-own arrangement.

With financial seed money from St. Paul's Greatest Needs Bequest Fund, the congregation aims not only

to establish a first house where a family can receive training and support for eventual homeownership. One Eighty's stewardship of rental income can also mean a number of additional rent-to-own houses in the future. Both St. Paul and One Eighty would contribute time and energy to turn these houses into homes. The council envisions this new ministry helping working families find what is often the one often unattainable piece in their lives: stable and affordable housing. They're also excited by what this new ministry will contribute to neighborhood revitalization. More news will be forthcoming.

UPCOMING worship

DECEMBER 1 & 2

First Sunday of Advent

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Katy Warren

11:15 Sara Olson-Smith

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale

DECEMBER 8 & 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Choral Advent, 9:00 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 All choirs

DECEMBER 15 & 16

Third Sunday of Advent

New Member Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Josh Kestner

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

DECEMBER 22 & 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Sara Olson-Smith

11:15 Katy Warren

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

DECEMBER 29 & 30

First Sunday of Christmas

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

11:15 Josh Kestner



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

Christmas Eve

COME & WORSHIP

1 ~ 3 ~ 5 ~ 8 ~ 10 P.M.

