

# St. Paul's News



DECEMBER 2018



**Christmas Greetings!** This past month (November) we had our church's charge conference. We gathered at Faith United Methodist along with many other churches from our district. We shared a time of worship and conference and then training conducted by our district superintendent, Doug Lewis. As part of our charge conference reporting, I submitted a report detailing my perspective on the past year. I have attached that report for your review. Also included in this newsletter is our Lay Leader's report which Ben Lindhorst presented for review.

As we enter the month of December and the season of Advent, we become very aware of God's presence and His grace in our lives. What a mighty God we serve. It is my prayer that you are richly blessed this Advent and Christmas season!

*Jeremiah 29:11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. 12 Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13 When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14 I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD,*

*and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.*

As I settled into the parsonage, after having been appointed to a full time appointment comprised of serving St. Paul's UMC, Republic Trinity and Melmore UMC, I received a letter from Bishop Malone and Superintendent Doug Lewis.

As I reviewed the letter, I thought to myself that I should use this letter to begin to structure a plan for entry into my first year of full time ministry. I am now almost five months into that ministry and I refer to the same letter for this pastor's report. I will mirror the bullet points of the letter that I received in this report.

- **Self Care:** First, let me say that all is well with my soul. Though it has been a time of transition for myself and for my family, I continue to see the presence of God all around me and I praise Him for sustaining me, my family and these three congregations throughout these months. I have attempted to keep self care in mind as I have settled into my new role and though I have failed at times I have maintained my efforts and will continue to do so.
- **Get to know people:** There have been plenty of meaningful moments in my first four months. I have attended fellowship events at all three churches, visited shut ins from all three and enjoyed times in small group and, of course, in worship. I believe that relationships are the key to a strong ministry and I make it a goal of mine to connect personally with people as often as I can through face to face

meetings, telephone contact and cards/notes.

- **Use the gifts God has given:** Music continues to be an important part of my ministry and I have been able to use this gift at all three churches. A parishioner from St. Paul's has joined me and is playing guitar at Republic Trinity's evening service. Pastor Amy and I have also sang at the Melmore UMC and we had an evening of uplifting music to help raise funds for the chair lift at Melmore. It amazes me how God has begun to weave all three of the congregations together and I look forward to strengthening those ties in the future.
- **Meet with the Leaders:** This has been a challenging aspect of ministry for me this year, as juggling three churches meetings can be complicated. But, I have met with the leadership teams from all three churches (monthly for St. Paul's and Trinity and bi-monthly for Melmore). I have found all of the leadership teams to be willing and hopeful about the future of each congregation. We are working to strengthen communication between each church and have recently begun including a "Team Ministry Happenings"

article in our newsletters. St. Paul's has made it a goal this year to cross the connection more and become more invitational to the other two congregations and also be more of an active participant in the other churches ministry events. Pastor Amy and I continue to meet with the SPRC leaders from each church on a regular basis.

- **Cultivate the Connectional Covenant:** We are embarking on a stewardship

series at St. Paul's and Republic Trinity this month and it is focused around our Methodist membership vows.

- **Be the Face of the Congregation:** I have actively sought opportunities to serve the community through my ministry at all churches. In particular, I have begun to serve the community of Tiffin through aiding the college ministry, Overflow; serving on the Community Connectors board for the local mentoring agency; meeting with the mayor to address the churches place in our growing downtown and I have served as a School Pal at North Central Academy in their mentoring program. In Republic, we served hot dogs on Trick or Treat night as a community service project and we continue to focus on monthly mission projects, which has led to conversations between myself and the coordinator of the local food pantry.
- **Education:** I have enrolled for my course of study courses for the next year (four courses in total).

I thank the Bishop, the Cabinet, my District Superintendent and the people of my congregations for their prayers and the active part that they play in my current ministry and the ministries of those I serve. I look forward to seeing where God will lead us all in the coming months.

**God bless you and keep you!**

**Pastor Charlene**



## *Special Birthdays!*



## *Happy December Birthdays!*

**6- Norina Martin**

**13- Faye Eley**

*If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office*



### **LUNCH BUNCH!!!**

**Everyone is invited to join us for  
Lunch Bunch  
December 18<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 pm  
Jeff Kuhn & Sharon Rigby's home  
750 Twp Road 1172  
Tiffin OH  
Contact Jeff or Sharon for more  
information  
419-934-3525**



Shoe Box Gifts: Twenty four shoe boxes packed with many fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items were taken to the drop off by Carol Graham the week on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to those who made donations of gifts and postage!

Third Sunday Ingathering Offering **\$65.00** Will be donated to First Call for Help to help those that are in need in our community.

The Special Thanksgiving Offering Envelope giving was designated for F.A.C.T. this year and **\$133.00** was collected

Alternate Poinsettias will be the Sharing Kitchen and Connections teen group.

Special Christmas Offering Envelope donations will be divided between First Call for Help's heating fund and Morrison House this year.

Sharing Kitchen workers will be needed on Thursday December 27<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the kitchen door in the annex room.

**-Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee**



**Table Favor Committee will meet  
Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**



If your son or daughter is in Third Grade or older  
and would like to acolyte, please contact Jill  
Lindhorst at 419-443-0273.  
Please consider helping us!!



Christmas shopping just got easier! This year the Salvation Army has requested we simply purchase clothing for the boys and girls. They want to be able to give each child pajamas and a day outfit. They said they would like an assortment of sizes of clothing for boys and girls as they have many children in need.

We will still have paper angels on our Christmas tree near the elevator. You may take an angel if you want as a reminder. There will be general information on them regarding clothing for children, such as: Purchase a day outfit and or pajamas for boys and or girls. The suggested limit is \$20.00 and a return by date of December 12<sup>th</sup>. The Salvation Army did state they will have Christmas tree tags in the stores with toy ideas on them, if you would rather take one of those feel free to do so. You can turn it back in to the store or to St. Paul's. If you have any questions or need someone to do the shopping for you call Sandy Arnold at 419-447-6145.

Sincerely,  
The Missions Committee





## ***2018 Lay Leader Report: A Year In Review***

By Ben Lindhorst

What a year we had at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church! Listed below are some of the highlights:

### ***Children's Christmas Program 2018***

***Rehearsals December 2nd and December 9th from noon to 1:30***

***The program is December 16th during worship at 10:15***

***Please see Molly Lofton or Kyle Paxson with any questions.***



### ***CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S***

We are selling Poinsettia's once again this year!

Plants will be placed on the altar for Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Christmas Eve December 24<sup>th</sup>. They may be picked up after the morning or evening service. The cost is \$8.00. This year there are two alternate options. You may choose to give a gift to the Sharing Kitchen or Connections rather than purchasing a plant

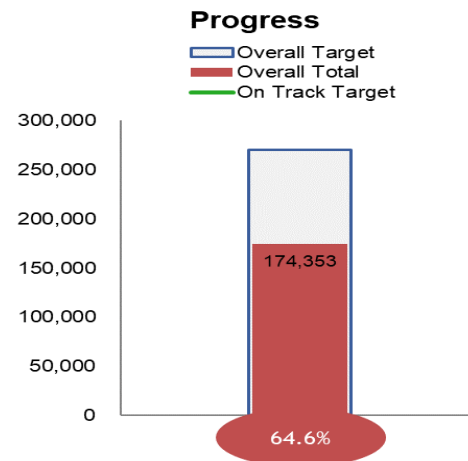
- † We started out the year with Pastor Hannah and everything was running well. We then found out that she was going to be transferred to Strongsville Methodist Church. We were concerned with her leaving because she was very good with the youth. We have seen her grow as a Pastor and it was hard to see her leave.
- † As a send off for Pastor Hannah, we had one dinner a month for four months. The dinners were her favorite foods. We had grilled cheese, taco bar, barbeque and other wonderful foods. Everyone enjoyed the food so much that we are thinking about continuing the dinners.
- † The transition from Pastor Hannah to Pastor Charlene got off to a rocky start. The sharing of Pastors between Republic, Melmore and St. Paul's churches was a new direction for all three churches. They were arguing over who was going to pay for salaries, benefits and lodging. They also disagreed on service times. As usual GOD intervene, and all was solved.
- † Pastor Hannah brought a lot of youth an enthusiasm to the service and it was nice that Pastor Charlene was able to step in with that same amount of

enthusiasm. With that being said, Pastor Charlene is not a copy of Pastor Hannah. She has her own unique way of preaching which allows her to get her sermons across to the congregation in a style that is understandable. I think that she is a great fit for St. Paul's.

- † Our youth club is growing stronger every week. The word is spreading among the youth of our community and we seem to be gaining more youth every week. Sometimes it is only one or two per week but that is still a positive mark.
- † Vacation Bible School was another big hit this summer. We had many kids that came to learn about the Lord. We look forward to another summer of Vacation Bible School.
- † Our older youth are enjoying the bible study and fellowship of our lock ins. We have about two a year and many of our youth drop everything to attend.
- † We are continuing our Sharing kitchen. We provide meals to the needy and hand them food and other items to take with them when they leave. Other churches and civic groups help us serve the meals. One of our youth, built shelving for the Sharing Kitchen as part of his Eagle Scout Project.
- † We are working on installing a new roof. The old slate roof and the extreme angle of the roof make this job very expensive. We will begin construction in a couple of weeks.
- † In 2019 we will continue to bring Christ into the community thru our youth programs, Sharing Kitchen, our

missions and the countless other things that make our church great.

## **ROOF FUND PROGRESS UPDATE!**



A note for all ministry leaders/teachers:

We are planning a work day for late winter/early spring. Because we want to respect you and your classrooms and ministry areas, we don't want to dispose of anything that you want kept. To help us, please clean or organize your classroom/ministry area prior to January 12<sup>th</sup> so that the work teams can deep clean the church on our work day.

Thank you for your hard work.

We couldn't do ministry without you!



## Reminder!

How are you planning on serving at St. Paul's in 2019?

Your service helps St. Paul's strengthen its ministries.

You can serve by your presence at weekly worship and special ministry/outreach events, as well as presence in Sunday school or bible study. You can also support the church through your prayers, your service on committees or in a ministry leadership or support positive. Finally, you serve through your financial support of our ministries.

Have you returned your 2019 commitment card yet? If you have not, please return your commitment card to the church office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding our upcoming church year, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Charlene Thomas.



## TEAM MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

**MELMORE UMC:** Members from Melmore UMC came and worked at the Sharing Kitchen the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>. Continuing the work of Jesus by meeting the needs of our Sharing Kitchen guests!

Melmore has introduced a monthly "Now You Know" series on the second Monday of each month. Join us for a free community meal at 5:45 p.m. and then stay for an information session about a community resource or program. On December 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a representative from HEAP/PIP program which assists with heating costs.

**REPUBLIC TRINITY:** Come and check out The Flame praise and worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings. A wonderful time of uplifting music and study of the word of God. Come and worship with Trinity (202 Broadway Street, Republic)

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** Listed below are the Christmas Eve Services for all three churches in our connection.

- Republic Trinity UMC: 5:00 p.m.
- St. Paul's UMC: 7:00 p.m.
- Melmore UMC: 7:00 p.m.

*Merry Christmas*



and  
suddenly  
there was with  
the angel  
a multitude of  
the heavenly host  
praising God  
and saying  
Glory to God  
in the highest, and on earth  
peace, goodwill towards

men

Luke 2  
13-14

I bring you good tidings of great joy,  
which shall be to  
all people. For unto you  
is born this day  
in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is  
Christ the Lord.

✿ Luke 2:10 & 11 ✿

DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!

**Newsletter deadline for January is  
December 20th, 2018.**

Please email to [secretary@tiffinstpauls.org](mailto:secretary@tiffinstpauls.org)