

St. Paul's 2020 Annual Report





Annual Meeting – January 17, 2021

Agenda

Prayer

Call to Order

Marie Lowe, Council President

Establish Quorum (10% of membership; approximately 15 members)

Adopt Agenda

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2020

Treasurer's Report

- 2020 Financials

Accept Church Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

- 2021 Budget
- Nominating Committee report
- Election of Committee and Council Members
- Review of church safety information
- OTHER

Reading of Minutes

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2020

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Meeting was called to order and a quorum was established.

Justin Kipfer made a motion to adopt the agenda. Ruth Hopfinger seconded the motion.

Laurie Bellucci made a motion to accept the Annual Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2019. Mary West seconded the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Expenses for April 2019 was questioned as higher than other months. Susan McPherson, Church's Treasurer, advised it was due to Insurance Premiums.

The item of 'Other' under the Checking Account Summary was questioned. The other column was for various miscellaneous expenses (Missions, Flower Fund, etc.)

Chris Kipfer made a motion to accept the 2019 Financial Report as presented. Jean Wirth seconded the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Addition to Pastor Laurie's Report: Pastor Laurie advised of a scam that began in Baltimore, Maryland. Parishioners receive a call from a Pastor requesting gift cards for other parishioners in need.

Correction to Christian Ed: Ruth Hopfinger advised they purchased a goat, sheep and a pig in July for \$350 leaving a balance of \$309.18.

Howard Barraclough made a motion to accept all Church reports, with corrections, as presented. Seconded by Chris Kipfer. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Budget: Insurance and Church Utilities budgeted were questioned. They both were less than what they actually were in 2019. Justin Kipfer advised they were close to what they were and cannot determine rate changes. Susan McPherson, Church Treasurer, stated some items will go up and some go down through year balancing out.

Bev Myers made a motion to adopt 2020 Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Howard Barraclough. All in favor, motion carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Deacons: Marie Lowe, Laurie Bellucci

Trustees: Jeff Peters, Chris Kipfer

Christian Ed: Ruth Hopfinger, Danielle Paganello

Local Missions: Marie Lowe

Memorial Committee: Karen Biedeck

Investment: Justin Kipfer

Pastoral Relations: Tracy O'Neil

Diane Storch made a motion we close the nominations and accept the election of officers. Seconded by Lisa Neary. All in favor, motion carried.

CHURCH SAFETY INFORMATION

Emergency Medical and Fire Evacuation plans are being finalized. Upon finalization, Church members will be advised and mock drills will be conducted in warmer weather.

Concern over cancellation of Church and notification of members made. Discussion held and options suggested. Marie Lowe, Council President explained current procedure and will be placed on agenda for next Council Meeting.

OTHER

Pastor Laurie requested new ideas for fund raising for youths attending Youth Missions. There use to be 3-4 youths and now looking at 7-8. Pastor Laurie explained one idea of Egg Basket for Lent.

It was questioned if elevator lift was paid for or if additional money needed. Dave Williman advised elevator paid in full through various means.

Reviewed reading of minutes. Chris Kipfer made a motion to accept minutes as read, Ruth Hopfinger seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Wolf

A note from our Council President

2020 has been an interesting year. We started the year with a delay in the Annual Meeting due to a snowstorm which forced cancellation of church service. We were able to reschedule to the following week and did have a productive meeting. This event resulted in an improved system to contact people in the event emergency closures.

We scheduled a "summer picnic " in March which was a fun time and helped us through the winter blues. Unfortunately, we were impacted by COVID-19, which resulted in the closure of in-person worship services. Thanks to Eric, Chris, Pastor Laurie and many others we were able to have on-line services. The church did reopen in the fall for in-person worship. The council has worked hard to develop a safety plan to reopen our church, which included 6' social distancing, reduced capacity, mask wearing and open windows to improve ventilation. Hymnals and bulletins were also removed. St. Paul's has been able to remain open; we have had no cases of church related COVID infections. We have been able to continue with individual communion, confirmation and acceptance of new members while following safety guidelines.

St. Paul's is blessed to continue with music thanks to Arlene and Edie; they have graced our services with their beautiful music. The bell choir has been able to perform taped music which has added to the service. Our screen use has improved and continues to be updated to provide enhanced components to our service.

We did lose a few precious members this past year; also fortunate to welcome confirmands and new members. We are blessed with all our faithful people who have continued to support St. Paul's.

My deepest thanks to the council for their continued work, especially in this trying year. Their determination and faith will help St. Paul's as we continue to move into 2021.

Marie Lowe
Council President

2020 PASTOR'S REPORT

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from God. In fulfillment of God's own purpose, God gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits. -James 1:17-18

To be a cheerful giver, we must first acknowledge the blessings we have been given. The word 'gift' appears in the Bible starting with the first book, Genesis. It continues to appear through Revelation, the last book of our Holy Scriptures. Most of the instances refer to the gifts we give to others- and those we bring to God.

Regular corporate worship is a gift we give ourselves and our church family. This year we learned, and are continuing to learn, how to do this virtually. As your pastor, I prepared 47 sermon messages and 47 Children's Chats. I officiated at 1 baptism and 7 funerals. We accepted 1 new member and confirmed 5 of our youth. During worship, we blessed church leaders, installed Sunday School teachers, and honored our graduates. Our children blessed their backpacks as well as the SouperBowl and UNICEF donations. We remembered those who have passed on during the year. I participated in both the Bell and Chancel Choirs.

In other ministry, I supported two weekly Bible Studies. I met with our Confirmands an additional 17 times. After 1 Lenten Lunch, we cancelled most Church in Attica ministries due to the pandemic. The CROP Walk was held virtually. I continue to serve as Treasurer for this group. I met 22 times with the 3 and 4-year-old Pre-School class to talk about faith and helping others. I wrote 11 Newsletter articles. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund helped 2 people. We also helped 1 family with clothing.

I enjoyed 122 visits including shut-in, hospital, office, Communion and home visits. I attended 178 meetings including Christian Education, Pastoral Relations, Deacon, and Council meetings. We raised funds for our Youth Mission Group. I joined in Sisters in Faith activities. I checked-in with members/friends of the congregation and sent out inspirational/informational e-mails to pass on ever-changing details. I also continued my ministry of presence at community events, when possible.

The Western Association requires 75 hours of continuing education every three years. Towards that requirement, I read 4 books and completed another 70.5 hours, including 2 on-line courses by the New York Conference: *Pastoral Care in a Time of Pandemic* and *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence*. I logged into 10 Webinars dealing specifically with on-line worship and another 24 on various topics. I completed Sexual Harassment Prevention Training for Church Employees, participated in the Spring NYSOM Learning Event, and monitored the Ministry of Word & Sacrament Program in the Spring session. I belong to a Community of Practice Group.

I represented you at 1 virtual Western New York Area Churches in Covenant meeting. Northtown Clergy met virtually. I serve on Western Association's Committee on Ministry and act as their Treasurer. I mentor a NYSOM student with whom I meet every other month.

I pray that St. Paul's UCC will continue to be transformed, as we use the gifts that God has given us to reach out to our community and each other, offering our first fruits to the One who was, is and is to come. May the peace of God continue to challenge us.

Godspeed,
The Rev. Lauran Heidenreich

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Memorial Committee
Treasurer's Report 2020

Memorial Fund:

Balance ending December 31, 2019 \$6889.30

Memorials received:

Sharon Vanson

Kathy Koers

Howard Barraclough

Hans Moeller

Helen Gephart

\$2175.00

Less Disbursements: No disbursements made

Ending balance December 31, 2020 \$7016.30

John West Scholarship Fund:

Balance ending December 31, 2019 \$4831.99

Plus donations received

Plus memorials received

Plus bequeaths

\$0

Less disbursements: Dylan Kipfer

\$1000.00

Kathleen Nolan

\$1000.00

Ending balance December 31, 2020

\$2831.99

Respectfully submitted,
Memorial Committee

Property Improvement 2020

Beginning Balance \$23998.66

Expenses

Lift

\$15979.70

Attica Millworks

110.96

-16090.66

Balance 12/31/2020 \$7908.00

Envelope Giving Report for 2020

62 boxes of envelopes were issued in 2020.

<u>\$</u>	<u># of boxes</u>	
0	4	
1 - 9	1	
10 - 19	1	
20 - 29	4	
50 - 59	2	
60 - 69	1	
70 - 79	1	
100 - 124	1	
125 - 149	2	
150 - 174	1	
175 - 200	1	
300 - 324	2	
325 - 349	1	
350 - 374	1	
375 - 400	1	
425 - 449	1	
475 - 499	1	
500 - 524	2	
600 - 649	1	
650 - 700	1	
750 - 799	2	
800- 849	1	
850 - 899	1	
900 - 949	2	
1000 - 1099	1	
1200 - 1299	4	
1300 - 1399	1	
1400 - 1499	2	
1500 - 1599	1	
1800 - 1899	1	
1900 - 1999	2	
2000 - 2499	3	
2500 - 2999	3	
4000 - 4499	2	
5000 - 5999	3	
6000 - 6999	1	
7000 - 7999	1	
12000 - 12999	1	
Total	<u>62</u>	

Special Giving Envelopes

	<u># of envelopes</u>
Initial 2020	33
One Great Hour of Sharing	6
Easter	24
Neighbors in Need	3
Strengthen the Church Fund	4
Candle Light Service	27
Christmas 2020	22
Christmas Fund 2020	5

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Neary

2020 Additional Offerings Report

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$125.00
Neighbors in Need	135.00
UNICEF	103.57
Souper Bowl of Caring	133.00
Strengthen the Church	185.00
Christmas Fund	190.00

St. Paul's 2020 Trustee's Report

- ⇒ Video/sound system serviced and updated to meet streaming needs
- ⇒ AC units and boiler serviced
- ⇒ Electric hand dryers installed in all bathrooms
- ⇒ Emergency exit lights rewired; fire and building inspections completed
- ⇒ Lift maintenance contract signed
- ⇒ Organ check-up completed; will be done bi-annually
- ⇒ Basic building maintenance, repairs, mowing and yard maintenance done by trustees

Respectfully submitted,

David Williman
Trustee Chairman

DEACON ANNUAL REPORT (2020)

- ⇒ Outgoing Deacons thanked for service and incoming Deacons welcomed.
- ⇒ Feb. 2020 was the last Deacon monthly meeting until Dec. meeting due to Covid -19 restrictions/ concerns. Deacons did meet as Council meetings resumed during the summer months.
- ⇒ Confirmation class was discussed and changes were made due to Covid -19. Confirmation service was in Dec. 2020.
- ⇒ Screen usage and streaming services discussed and continued to be upgraded.
- ⇒ Candlelight service planned.
- ⇒ Christmas service planned.
- ⇒ Nominations for committees discussed.
- ⇒ Celebrations for 50 year members discussed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Best,
Deacon Secretary

Membership Report

2020 Members by Confirmation: Margaret Elizabeth Baker, Anna Grace Hopfinger, Emily Jean Peters, Stephanie Anne Silvernail, Sawyer John West

2020 New/ Renewing Members: Christopher Lee Eddy

2020 Baptisms: Finley Louis Paganello

2020 Funerals: *Denis Turton*, Sharon Sereatha VanSon, *Lester Burr*, Kathy Koers, Peter J Davis II, Howard Barraclough, *Joseph G. Murch*,

2020 Deaths: Hans Moeller, Harold Merle
Italicized names denote non-members.

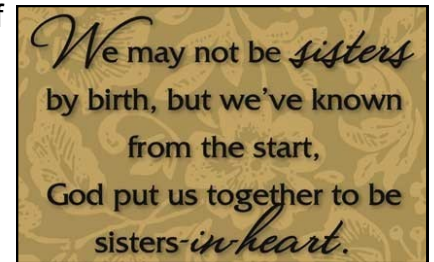
Local Mission Report

We did not meet or disburse funds in 2020.

Sisters in Faith

- † Throughout the pandemic Sisters in Faith continued our mission of reaching out to all members.
- † We sent cards and care packages.
- † For St Paul's 157th anniversary we gave out anniversary bags.
- † The kitchen was cleaned up in the fall.
- † Our annual Christmas party was held in December.

We are looking forward to more mission projects in 2021.
Please consider joining us.



Pastoral Relations Annual Report

The committee consisting of Bev Myers-chair; Laurie Bellucci, Tracy O'Neil, Lisa Neary - Deacon chair, Maria Lowe – Council President.

We met with Pastor Laurie twice this past year. January 16th, November 30th. Due to COVID 19 restrictions and being forbidden to enter into the church we did not meet.

Highlights:

Pastor Laurie attended class "Pastoral Care in a time of Pandemic" and other classes making us able to have online streaming services.

New UCC Conference contact person – The Reverend Gary Ferner

5 student Confirmands Margaret Baker, Anna Hopfinger, Emily Peters, Stephanie Silvernail and Sawyer West were confirmed on Sunday, December 13th

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Bellucci, Secretary

St. Paul's UCC Christian Education Committee
Annual Report 2020

Heifer Project - we hosted hot cocoa and cookies after church in February and raised \$138. Thank you for your contributions to our ongoing cans and bottles drive.

Dunkirk Camp - brunch and all summer camps were cancelled due to the pandemic. There is currently a balance of \$1286 in the camp fund.

Pre School - In the fall, the teachers and substitutes were reinstated: Kerri Zehler, Deb Bender, Amy Pariso, Marilyn Wilson. Fire drills and a fire safety program were held in October. There are 10 three year old's and 4 four year old's registered in the 2020-2021 class.

Sunday School - Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$133 to go to the local food pantry. Backpacks were blessed in September. We were happy to host a Halloween party this year. Games and pumpkin painting were enjoyed by the children. Individual treat bags with cider were distributed as the children left the party. The annual Advent Workshop was held on Nov. 22nd and the tree was decorated the following week as part of the Hanging of the Greens service. Confirmation resumed in September and the five students were confirmed on December 13th. Due to COVID restrictions, the new members received cupcakes to share at home with their families. Chris purchased gifts for the confirmands as well. Chris directed the Christmas play, "Santa's Favorite Christmas Story". Charles Williman was the narrator and the children played the parts of Santa, the fox, forest animals, shepherds, and the angel.

Susan and Chris will stay on for another term. Jennifer Eddy will be finishing the unexpired term of Danielle Paganello.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hopfinger

St. Paul's Pre-school report

January through mid-March was a pretty normal school schedule.

Then we had our "pause."

We handed out work packets for the 2nd half of March along with one for April & one for May.

We were unable to do our end of year field trips. We were also unable to have the 3's closing program of the 4's graduation program with a small celebration.

Starting our fall programs had it's own hurdles.

We had to cut back on students due to occupancy capacity. We are now operating with two teachers with 13 students in the big room. Parents are not allowed into the building. Students wear masks except at tables (only 2 chairs per table for distancing) when working with a teacher or snack time. Teachers have masks except for snack time.

We did have a fire drill but no visit to the firehall. We also didn't have a Christmas program. We are still learning and enjoying each day. They look forward to seeing their friends each day. We stay in our rooms all cozy and safe, hopefully.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deb Bender, Director

St. Paul's Pre-School Financial Statement - January 2021

Income:

2020-2021 school year registrations received = \$630.00
Sept. 2020- Dec. 2020 tuition received = \$5,470.00
(all accounts currently in good standing)

Jan 2020 - May 2020 total tuition received = \$7,455.00

Total Income: \$13,555.00

Expenses paid out to the church cumulative (since January 2020):

\$2131.40 paid to church for Pre-School FICA tax (January 2020- December 2020)

\$365.21 paid to church for Pre-School portion of Disability Insurance (2020)

\$2,000 paid to church Feb. 2020 for building use

Total 2020 church expenses: \$4496.61

Other expenses (cumulative beginning January 2020):

\$12,865.15 - Salaries paid out

-Jan. '20 = \$1498.94

-Feb. '20 = \$1848.94

-March '20 = \$3121.11

-April '20 = \$1498.94

-May '20 = \$1447.64

-Sept. '20 = \$574.93

-Oct. '20 = \$1062.59

-Nov. '20 = \$1062.59

-Dec. '20 = \$749.47

\$67.64 - RW Publications (advertising and copy paper)

\$77.00 - postage

\$157.08 - Reimbursement for misc. classroom supplies
(ie. pictures, cleaning supplies, craft supplies)

\$170.16 - Reward Carpet Cleaning (professional shampooing of carpets - August 2020)

Total Other Expenses: \$13,337.03

Income (\$13,555.00) - Expenses (\$17,833.64) = - \$4278.64

Bank balance as of 12/04/2020 = \$4,268.35

Tuition was collected through March 2020. We did not charge for April and May while NYS was on pause order. We handed out work packets and accepted donations (total donations collected in April and May were \$1,000 - included in total tuition above. Three parents requested refunds for April and May, totaling \$540. Due to having a lot of money in the pre-school account at the time and pre-school able to afford the cost, I made the executive decision to continue to pay the teachers their normal pay during closure. This accounts for the negative amount based on income versus expenses for 2020. (The bank balance at the beginning of March 2020 was \$7533.97).

We currently have 9 students in the three year old program and 4 students in the four year old program paying \$90/month. We are paying 1 teacher and 1 aide (being split between 2 people sharing the responsibilities, Deb Bender and Kerri James). Deb Bender has mentioned she plans to retire after this year. We will need to look for a replacement as director and teacher, we will defer to Christian Education to make that hiring decision.

Prepared and Submitted as of 1/2/2021 by Becki Peters

Nominating Committee Report

For 2021 year

		2020	2021
		Budgeted	Proposed Budget
<u>Deacons - 3 year term</u>			
Marilyn Wilson	2021 - 2023	Our Church's Wider Mission	6,000.00 6,000.00
Lisa Neary	2021 - 2023	Local Mission	1,200.00 1,200.00
		Western Area Covenant Share	834.00 1,112.00
		NYS Conference Dues	266.00 278.00
<u>Trustees - 3 year term</u>			
Tom Baker	2021 - 2023	Pastors Salary	41,761.42 42,041.42
Christopher Eddy	2021 - 2023	Pastors Annuity	7,845.79 7,845.79
		Pastors Health Insurance	10,600.00 12,000.00
		Pastors FICA	4,301.00 4,301.00
		Housing Allowance	14,280.00 14,000.00
<u>Christian Ed - 3 year term</u>			
Chris Kipfer	2021 - 2023	Supply Minister	600.00 480.00
Susan McPherson	2021 - 2023	Accountable Professional Exp	1,200.00 1,200.00
Jennifer Eddy (to fill unexpired term)	2021 - 2022	Secretary	3,060.00 3,360.00
		Custodian	4,843.80 4,843.80
		Organist	4,117.23 3,000.00
		Supply Organist	400.00 -
		Choir Director	1,224.00 1,224.00
		Employee FICA	1,013.25 698.28
		NYS Disability	350.00 250.00
		Special Events	300.00 300.00
		Dunkirk Scholarships	500.00 500.00
		Christian Education	300.00 100.00
		Church utilities	7,000.00 7,000.00
		Telephone/Internet	1,200.00 1,524.00
		Insurance	6,100.00 6,100.00
		Building Maintenance/Repairs	1,800.00 2,289.00
		Shoveling	300.00
		Snow Plowing	775.00
		Snow removal	1,075.00 1,075.00
		Office Supplies/Equipment	2,900.00 2,000.00
		Worship Materials	1,200.00 800.00
		Music	400.00 400.00
		TOTAL	122,671.49 125,888.01