

Fall Voters Assembly Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Pittman at 12:45 pm. Pastor Eddie opened with prayer. A motion to accept Joan McRae and Doug Livingston as new voters was offered by Bobbie Seibert; seconded by Beth Hornish; and accepted. A motion to accept the Minutes from the April Voters Assembly Meeting (attached packet, pg 2) was offered by John Mann; seconded by Art Gaertner; with no discussion the motion was accepted.

Under Old Business, further Debt Reduction Efforts were discussed. A graph (attached packet, pg 3) was presented of the impact of FFFII and any further debt reduction efforts in addition to our monthly payments. A motion to repeat a capital campaign just like FFFII was offered by Tommy Livingston; seconded by Rick Daniel; discussion followed.

Rick Daniel stated another campaign with the same goal as FFFII would have the loan paid off by Feb 2018, whereas with no additional principle applied the loan would pay off by May, 2023 according to the graph. Pastor Eddie offered that the yellow (or blue) envelopes could still be used by donors to give gifts to be applied straight to the principle just as in FFFII. Mike McRae stated that freeing up our current monthly payment of \$6,563/mo to go toward ministry when the loan is paid off would be exciting. Jeff Pittman noted that the FFFII campaign had a new building as an eventual consequence; with no planned building project, this may impact future participation in debt reduction efforts. He also noted that FFFII was based on anonymous pledges to produce a total amount to gauge progress toward a building plan; to now just pay off the loan would not require pledges. Beth Hornish questioned the dismissal of filling out a paper pledge, and Rick Daniel said it would help with goal-setting. TJ Schmelter asked if the loan payoff of \$506K would be the goal, and Jeff Pittman answered that \$300K would be needed alongside the monthly payment for the Feb, 2018 payoff; a single gift of \$506K would pay the loan off immediately.

Art Gaertner offered an amendment to the motion on the floor that the church leadership be appointed to develop a plan and present specifics of an additional campaign; David Burrell seconded; discussion followed. Beth Hornish pointed out that we do not want to lose momentum if we do not move forward now. Art Gaertner said if 43+ families participated in FFFII, then we need to find ways to build more excitement with further efforts. Tricia Scheler commented that there was sacrificial giving by those 43+ families, and other priorities in current ministry and building needs that are also important may get lost in concentrating only on loan payoff. Alison Gilchrist suggested using the annual stewardship commitment cards in January to include debt reduction; the cards are sealed and therefore also anonymous. Larry Lechner suggested this team develop a timeline. Pastor Eddie asked for Rick Daniel to serve on this team, and he accepted. With no further discussion, the amendment was then voted upon and accepted. The final amended motion to repeat a capital campaign with church leadership appointed to develop the plan and present the specifics was then voted upon and accepted.

New Business was taken up at 1:20 pm with the presentation of the **Nominations Report** (attached packet, pg 3) as assembled by Jeff Pittman, Dan Jones, Walter Dick and Pastor Eddie. Rick Daniel moved to accept; John Mann seconded; with no discussion, the motion was accepted. Jane Burrell asked for the Assembly to recognize and thank the retiring team members for their time and input to the ministry of St. Paul's. The request prompted a round of applause for their service. Jeff Pittman said he enjoyed the people and the ministry during his term as president.

The **Proposed 2015 Financial Plan** (attached packet, pg 4) was presented in turn by each of the Team Leaders. The **Elder Team Financial Plan** (attached packet, pg 4) was presented by John Mann. He thanked Jerry Alldredge for developing the Elder Team portion of the proposed 2015 Financial Plan (attached) and reported a \$3,911 decrease for Elder spending compared to the 2014 Plan. Art Gaertner asked when there last had been a raise for the full-time staff; John reported that it had been over three years and that salaries had been a heartache for the elders since the trigger impact last fall. David Burrell stated that Social Security will be receiving a 1.5 – 2% increase this coming year, asked if anyone in the meeting has gone this long without a raise, and questioned why we ask our full-time staff to do so. Emily Santaliz asked about the impact of healthcare costs on the budget. John reported that the elders approved a lower-cost, higher deductible HDHP plan from Concordia Health Plans that would have lower premiums. John summarized the **Elder Team Report** (attached report, pg 16) emphasizing that we are called to be missionaries using our Core Values in community-based missions. He said the Team has discussed an Elder Team Retreat and performance reviews by the Elders.

The **Education Team Financial Plan** (attached packet, page 4) was presented by Alison Gilchrist, stating it was similar to 2014 but a Young Adult Ministry has taken root out of the College Age Bible Class and a line item has been added to help fund a trip to Atlanta in January. The Preschool line item is increased for additional staff due to increased enrollment. The Middle School line item amount typo was caught and corrected by Pastor Chris. Alison summarized the **Education Team Report** (attached report, pg 17-18) emphasizing Children's Ministry volunteer appreciation, Vacation Bible School held in June, the Adopt-a-Grandparent program in conjunction with the Prophets, and the Children's Christmas Program to be held on December 6 as a Saturday morning breakfast-theater for the community. The Preschool has 60 children enrolled, and the Preschool received its re-accreditation earlier that morning during the Preschool Sunday Celebration, singing and blessing of the teachers. Alison thanked Nancy and her staff as well as congregational members that served during this almost year-long process of re-accreditation that occurs every five years.

The **Outreach Financial Plan** (attached packet, pg 4) was presented by Pedro Santaliz, reporting ministry line items remaining constant but yellow page ad size, web hosting, and email communication costs had reduced. Art Gaertner noted that the Outreach Team has the smallest budget. Pedro summarized the **Outreach Team Report** (attached report, pg 19), thanked the current team members, and encouraged involvement everyone in outreach efforts. He emphasized the backpack give-away project at the start of the school year and the upcoming Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat on October 31 where volunteers, decorated trunks and candy are all needed. Pedro introduced his passion for addressing child hunger in Decatur and proposed a questionnaire in November to assess interest in this ministry.

The **Trustee Financial Plan** (attached packet pg 5) was presented by TJ Schmelter reporting that many line items were adjusted for actual and projected usage, noting the reduced rate for our phone and email service. Bob Koenig requested that the parking lot be striped in the coming year. In the **Trustee Team Report** (attached report, pg 17), TJ noted the several repairs to the HVAC freon lines that has increased cooling in the Sanctuary, the ARC blower motor repairs, and the Fellowship Room HVAC wiring repairs, as well as various other projects including repairs to aging commodes. Jim Forthman asked if there was a replacement schedule for greater HVAC efficiency. TJ replied that there is no gain in heating with the 80 % furnaces and there is not sufficient return on investment for replacement to improve SEER rating from 8 to 13. Jim stated that being too cold or too hot justifies more reliability, and TJ noted that the team has considered a more active preventative maintenance program since component replacement has better cost efficiency and proactive measures would provide greater reliability. The Sanctuary currently has 3 out of 4 working furnaces. Jeff Kelly reminded everyone that the campus Workday is scheduled for November 1 and encouraged everyone to participate. Jeff Pittman thanked TJ for his service as Trustee Team leader as he will be retiring and moving from the area.

At 2:00 pm the complete **Proposed 2015 Financial Plan** (attached report, pg 4-5) was presented with the projected income set for \$20,000 greater than 2014 projected income of and the expenses set for \$385 less than the 2014 Plan. Dave Burrell offered an amendment to the proposed 2015 Financial Plan to increase the 5 full-time staff positions by 2%; Art Gaertner seconded; discussion followed. Art noted that there would be an additional 0.1% ripple effect due to retirement and disability benefits tied to salary. Ron Seibert asked for clarification on healthcare rates, and Jeff answered that they are independent of salary but decreased with a higher deductible plan this year. Jeff Pittman noted that the Trigger Plan, when put into effect, affects the same five full-time positions, so if giving is insufficient, then the raises go away anyway. David Burrell stated that those who vote in favor of the raises should be willing to add \$5/week to their giving. A vote was then taken on the amendment to increase full-time salaries by 2%; accepted. A motion was offered by Rick Daniel to accept the proposed 2015 Financial Plan as amended; Pedro Santaliz seconded; accepted.

In **Pastor Chris' Pastor's Report** (attached packet, pg 10) he emphasized the collection of Operation Child gift shoeboxes were being collected for the Youth Christmas Workshop at Grace Lutheran in Huntsville on Nov 2; Our Redeemer Lutheran in Florence has narrowed their pastoral search down to three candidates and he hopes to return from assisting during their vacancy in January; he will be preaching at Harold Coomer's ministry on 10/21; the softball co-ed team had 22 players with many not affiliated with St. Paul's – great interaction and opportunity for ministry; Fall Feast is on October 31 – "Let's do this!"

In **Pastor Eddie's Pastor's Report** (attached packet, pg 6-9) he highlighted his monthly activities where he saw generosity in action: in April placed in "jail" for Muscular Dystrophy – bailed out by generosity; in May disaster relief efforts and donations to Salvation Army were by generosity; in June was VBS – children and generosity; July we had workshops on our Core Values; in August we celebrated the progress of FFFII. In the **Pastor's Summary** (attached packet, pg 11) Pastor Eddie noted that hurting people are visiting and there are less of St. Paul's family members on Wednesdays and Saturdays/Sundays with the loss of Alvah Wayand, Waneta Wayand, Charles Howell, Neal Redwanz, and Jerry Mitchell among others this year. Pastor Eddie underscored the message of St. Paul's being a place to belong as well as Romans 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding except for the debt to love each other; future improvement projects in beautifying our campus – Beautiful Savior, Beautiful Campus theme.

The **2nd and 3rd Quarter Financial Reports** (attached report, pg 12-15) presented by Bobbie Seibert showed Giving for 2014 is over Giving in 2013 by 2.2%; the Compass Bank loan balance at the end of September was \$506,458; there were \$12,680 more in first fruits giving than expenses in the Financial Plan; the Available Working Funds Trigger was \$73,547 and the Vestry is not having to look at this as critically as last year when it dropped below the \$40,000 Trigger minimum that resulted in salary reductions. A motion to accept the Financial Reports was offered by Jim Forthman; seconded by Beth Hornish; accepted.

Jeff Pittman thanked everyone for the meal and constructive discussion during the meeting. At 2:30 pm Pastor Chris offered Isaiah 45:1-7 as a closing devotion emphasizing vs 8 to "Let righteousness bear fruit!" because "God chooses us and uses us!"

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Morgan

**Voters Meeting
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Decatur, Alabama**

Enclosed is the Fall Voters Assembly Packet including a copy of the Voters Meeting Agenda, the Minutes from the previous Voters Meeting in April, the Pastor's Report and quarterly summaries, Financial Reports and as many Team Reports available at the time of this printing.

All confirmed members are invited to participate in our Voters Assembly where these reports and others will be presented and questions may be asked. Members who are twenty-one years of age and older are invited and encouraged to become part of the Voters Assembly.

We will gather at 12:15 in the ARC for our Fellowship Potluck; please plan on attending and bringing a meat dish and a vegetable dish or dessert to share. The Voters Meeting will begin at 12:45 pm.

**AGENDA
VOTERS MEETING
October 19, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER – Jeff Pittman

OPENING PRAYER – Pastor Eddie Scheler

ADMISSION OF NEW VOTERS – Jeff Pittman

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – Carol Morgan

OLD BUSINESS

- Debt Reduction Continuation Strategy

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominations Team Report and Elections – Dan Jones
- Proposed 2015 Financial Plan – Team Leaders

PASTORS' REPORTS – Pastor Eddie and Pastor Chris

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Bobbie Seibert

ELDER TEAM REPORT – John Mann

TRUSTEE TEAM REPORT – TJ Schmelter

EDUCATION TEAM REPORT – Alison Gilchrist

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT – Pedro Santaliz

ADJOURNMENT – The Lord's Prayer

**Spring Voters Meeting
Minutes
April 13, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President, Jeff Pittman. Charlotte Bradley and her crew were thanked for setting up and serving our potluck.

Pastor Eddie led the opening prayer.

Admission of new members Jackie Joiner, Linda Paradise, Diane Plotz, Wanda Parrotta, and Jimmy Mueller was presented, seconded and accepted.

Beth Hornish presented the Financial Review Team Report (attached); the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Art Gaertner presented the Available Funds Trigger Report (attached); the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Pastor Eddie presented the Pastor's Report and pointed out the downward trend in attendance over the last 6 months. He also asked the question, "what are our 'core values' as a church?"; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Pastor Chris presented his report highlighting main points from various areas; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Bobbie Seibert presented the Financial Reports; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

John Mann presented the Elder Team Report; Jeff Morgan was nominated to serve as Elder; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

TJ Schmelter presented the Trustee Team Report; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Alison Gilchrist presented the Education Team Report; no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted.

Pedro Santaliz present the Outreach Team Report; Wanda Parrotta announced that Big Lots is offering 20% on backpack items;.no questions were asked; the motion to approve was seconded and accepted. Pastor Eddie announced that there was an after-school bus driving slot needing filled on Thursdays and encouraged volunteers.

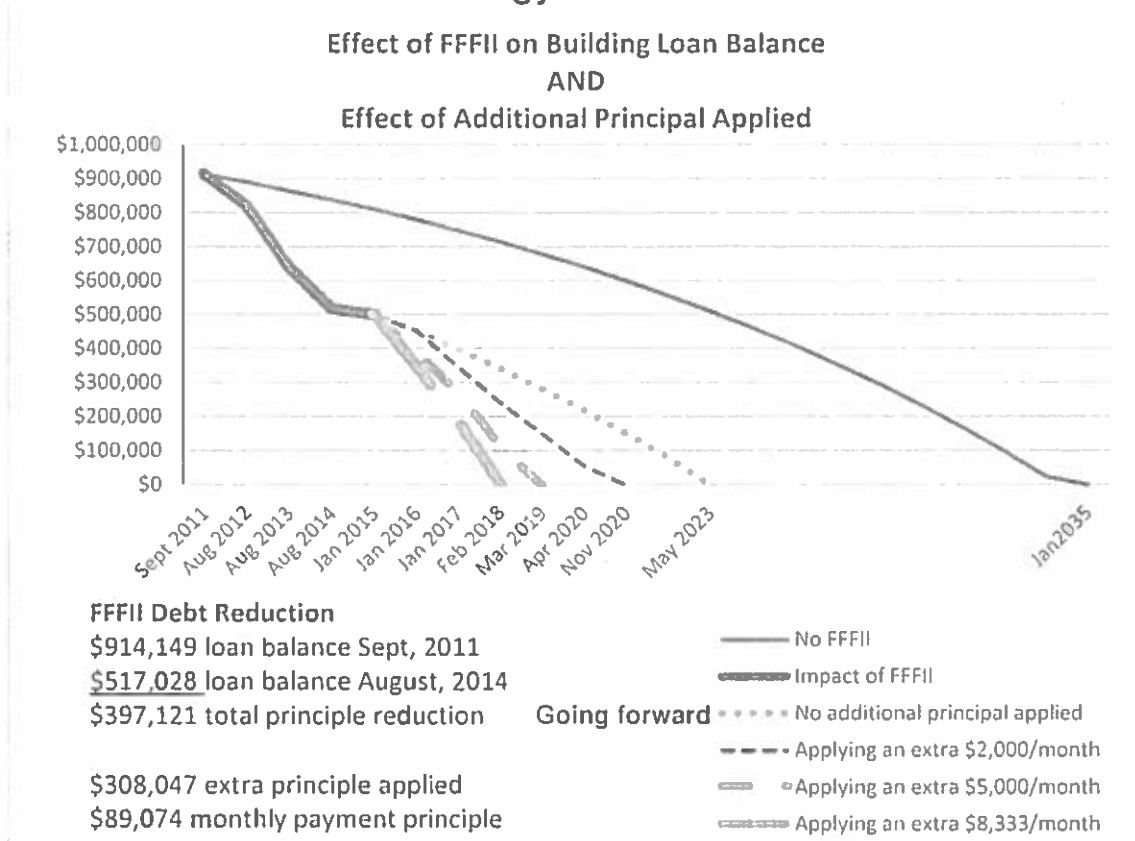
With no further business, Jeff Pittman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and accepted.

In closing, Pastor Eddie posed a question of what we are focusing on at St. Paul's and then asked for prayer requests: those offered included Christy and her family at Our Redeemer in Florence, the family of Arvid Wakefield, a gracious embassy worker to grant a travel visa for Jordan Corlew's fiancé. We then closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

April Nave

Debt Reduction / Continuation Strategy



2015 Nominations

Officers:

Chairman – Art Gaertner
 Secretary – Carol Morgan
 Financial Secretary – Kaye Hartley
 Treasurer – Bobbie Seibert

2015 Nominated Elders:

Randy Blevins
 Tim Herfurth
 Jim Forthman
 Dan Jones
 Michael McRae

Returning Elders:

Jerry Alldredge
 Phillip Corlew
 John Mann
 Jeff Morgan
 Jimmy Mueller

Retiring Elders:

Randy Blevins
 Jim Forthman
 Art Gaertner
 Tim Herfurth
 Mike Widmar

2015 Nominated Trustees:

Mike Bosco
 John Covington
 Rich Maschke
 Rusty Nicholson
 Don Olson
 Jimmy Prickett

Returning Trustees:

Pete Johnson
 Jeff Kelly

Retiring Trustees:

Mike Bosco
 John Covington
 James Gilchrist
 Tim Nave
 Rusty Nicholson
 TJ Schmelter

Education Team Leader – Alison Gilchrist

Outreach Team Leader – Pedro Santaliz

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Plan Worksheet 2015

Elder Financial Plan Worksheet

Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses

Expenses	July 2013 - June 2014	2014 Financial Plan	2015 Proposed Plan	Change vs 2014 Plan	Notes
	620,569	587,000	607,000	20,000	
Senior Pastor	63,000	63,000	63,000	0	
Associate Pastor	41,802	41,802	41,802	0	
Director of Children's Ministry	36,520	36,520	36,520	0	
CrossLife Coordinator	5,667	5,666	5,666	0	
Organist	23,526	24,765	24,765	0	
Ass't Music Director	4,550	4,600	4,600	0	
Music Director	3,948	5,000	3,860	(1,140)	new Director salary at 75% Bill Brunner's
Business Manager	39,520	39,520	39,520	0	
Office Manager	18,720	20,280	20,280	0	
Nursery Attendants	6,405	7,200	7,000	(200)	adjusted by actual usage
Thanksgiving Fund (Salary Contingency)	1,500	3,500	2,000	(1,500)	" " " "
Employee Benefit & Payroll Tax Expense	89,280	130,190	132,070	1,880	no longer qualify for \$5000 HC tax credit
Conference and Convention	0	2,500	2,500	0	
Office Supplies	3,709	6,500	5,200	(1,300)	adjusted by actual usage
Choir Supplies	961	1,500	1,300	(200)	" " " "
Worship Supplies	3,984	5,500	4,350	(1,150)	" " " "
Discretion	-32	300	300	0	
Social Ministry	781	500	500	0	
Church Worker Scholarship	500	500	500	0	
Lutheran Hour Support	694	980	980	0	mid-year rate increase
Total Elder Expenses	\$339,334	\$401,324	\$397,413	-\$3,911	
Children's Ministry	2,564	3,050	3,150	100	adjusted by forecasted usage
Summer Camps	2,160	3,500	3,500	0	
Middle School Youth Ministry	1,804	3,500	3,200	(300)	adjusted by forecasted usage
High School Youth Ministry	1,430	4,000	3,500	(500)	" " " "
Young Adult Ministry	0	0	500	500	" " " "
Family Ministry	1,122	1,600	1,300	(300)	" " " "
Adult Education (Adult PH offering supplemented)	(464)	250	250	0	" " " "
Preschool Ministry	4,725	9,446	11,159	1,713	increase in enrollment and subsequent staffing expenses
Library Ministry	225	0	0	0	
Social Group Ministry (softball)	110	400	400	0	
Total Education Expenses	\$11,515	\$25,746	\$26,959	\$1,213	
Advertising/Communication	3,345	3,200	2,140	(1,060)	lower cost of yellow page, web hosting, email
Bibles and Tracts	67	500	500	0	
Member Activities	934	800	775	(25)	
Projects	169	500	500	0	
++ Community Ministry - Boys & Girls Club	2,301	1,850	1,800	(50)	increased income from more bus riders
Total Parish Outreach Expenses	\$6,816	\$6,850	\$5,715	-\$1,135	

	24,350	27,600	25,515	(2,085)	adjusted by actual usage
Janitor/Custodian Salary	4,591	3,300	4,500	1,200	-
Janitor Supplies	1,163	2,080	1,400	(680)	-
ARC Take-down	(12,240)	(12,240)	(12,240)	0	-
Janitor & Supply CoPayments from PS, BGC	15,723	20,350	22,750	2,400	anticipating more upkeep
Repairs & Maintenance	14,965	15,111	16,622	1,511	reflects rate increase
Property & Liability Insurance	42,844	41,107	39,378	(1,729)	adjusted by actual usage, reduction in phone/email contract
Church Utilities	(6,000)	(7,200)	(6,000)	1,200	adjusted by actual usage
Utility CoPayments form PS, BGC	1,352	1,400	800	(600)	adjusted by forecasted usage
Church Furnishings	7,419	7,000	8,000	1,000	-
Office Equipment	281	450	450	0	-
Van Maintenance	1,010	0	0	0	-
Bus Loan Expense(PIF Aug, 2013)	74,700	78,756	78,756	0	-
Building Loan Expense	170,157	177,714	179,931	2,217	-
Total Trustee Expenses	62,057	58,700	60,700	0	
District Missions Tithe	589,880	670,334	670,718	385	
Total Expenses	30,689	(83,334)	(63,718)	19,615	
Financial Plan Activity					

2015 Financial Plan Summary

	July 2013 - June 2014	2014 Financial Plan	2015 Proposed Plan	Change vs 2014 Plan	
Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses	620,569	587,000	607,000	20,000	
Total Elder Expenses	339,334	401,324	397,413	(3,911)	adjusted by forecasted usage, rate decreases offset by loss of HC credit
Total Education Expenses	11,515	25,746	26,959	1,213	PS cost increases serving more children; addition of Young Adult Ministry
Total Parish Outreach Expenses	6,816	6,850	5,715	(1,135)	decreased website, email, yellow page ad costs
Total Trustee Expenses	170,157	177,714	179,931	2,217	adjusted by forecasted usage, rate increases
District Missions Tithe	62,057	58,700	60,700	0	
Total Expenses	589,880	670,334	670,718	385	
Financial Plan Activity	30,689	(83,334)	(63,718)	(19,615)	

Pastor Eddie's Monthly Ministry Reports
April –September, 2014

Pastor Eddie's April Ministry Report - May 6, 2014

Connecting People to Jesus in Worship - In March and April of this year we averaged 343 souls in worship. In March and April of 2013 we averaged 375 in worship. Since Easter was in March in 2013 and in April in 2014 it seemed best to make a 2 month comparison for clarity in this report. No matter how we compare the months we are seeing a steady 8% decline in worship over the last 2 years. If it helps drive you to your knees in prayer in regards to the gravity of what it means to keep having fewer and fewer people in worship we had 529 in Easter worship this year and we had 601 in Easter worship last year. We didn't have God's Place either year.

Connecting People to Jesus in Bible Groups - I was blessed to be a part of 12 Bible studies, including confirmation and a GREAT review by Vicki Anderson leading us in Confirmation Survivor! THANK YOU MS. VICKI! I lead Preschool chapel 2 times. I need everyone to pray hard about how much God is moving in our preschool and how we can ALL better join in on what God is doing. When we ask the question, "Where have you seen God at work?" St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool is a strong answer.

Connecting People to Jesus in Ministry - I went to jail in April. Thanks for posting my bail! I had over 30 Pastoral Visits - 8 with communion. I made 6 hospital calls. We had a great ramp building day with the confirmation class - thank you Mike McRae for setting it up! We had a very good Church Work Day - thank you TJ Schmelter for setting it up! I was able to drive the van for Boys and Girls Club twice.

I led John Pierson's funeral in April. I conducted Dorothy Paulson's committal service in April. and we held Alvah and Waneta Wayand's funeral in April. They will be missed. Thank God Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

We hosted Greg and Susan Finke from Dwelling 1:14 and leaned more about joining Jesus on His mission - let's do it!

We still need to discover what our core value is at St. Paul's so we can all be clear in our minds and then in our actions why we are here! The elders are planning on hosting Kevin Wilson - a Mission and Mission facilitator from the Ohio District the last weekend in July to help us prayerful wrestle with the discovery of a unified core value.

Pray hard and hold on for the ride,
Pastor Eddie

Pastor Eddie's May Report - June 3, 2014

Connecting People to Jesus in Worship - We averaged 323 souls in worship in May. We averaged 367 during the same time last year - a full 12% decrease. The decrease in worship was around 8% in 2013 and in 2012. We had 8 first time visitors and 2 second time visitors. The trend for decreasing worship numbers is spiraling every week. St. Paul's is as vibrant in mission and ministry as have ever been in our history. We have many good, strong, life-changing ministries. We have historically high giving. We have almost all of our worshippers in ministry. Yet at every worship service you look around and see mostly empty pews or chairs and you clearly get the impression that this is not a very vibrant church. Bluntly, it breaks my heart to look out and see most of the chairs are empty week after week after week.

What is the definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Connecting People to Jesus in Bible Groups - I led 8 Bible Classes and have 5 in my Grace Class. 3 of them are thinking about joining. We also held our confirmation oral exam and conformation service in May with 5 of our 8th graders confirming their faith.

Connecting People to Jesus Through Ministry - I had 18 pastoral session or visits - with 7 of our shut-ins and their families communed. I was involved in 14 meetings including our Southern District Mission Council. I preached and led Bible Class at Our Redeemer in Florence one time. I made 2 hospital calls.

I was privileged to be the graduation speaker at Decatur High's Developmental Graduation! I was also privileged to speak at Harold Coomer's Downtown Mission where one person raised their hand to receive Christ as Lord!

It made two trips to Tennessee to help with tornado relief. Thank you Danny Smitherman, Andrew Keaty and Tim Herfurth for joining me on one of the trips! I took our Boys and Girls Club bus drivers to Camino Real for a thank you dinner. Right now we need 3 new drivers for next fall.

We are also very thankful to have had all 3 of the girls home for memorial day weekend and we thank God for their safe travels.

We see lives being touched and changed by the power of the Gospel... We see people receiving Christ for the first time at a downtown mission... We see a preschool ministry that is changing families for the better across this community... We see young people profess their faith publicly... then we come to church and every week there are fewer of us here... if we continue to decrease by 15% a year in our Saturday and Sunday services we will be at 160 by 2017.

Come Lord Jesus,
Pastor

Pastor Eddie's June Mission and Ministry Report - July 1, 2014

Connecting People to Jesus In Worship - We averaged 340 souls in worship this June. We averaged 378 in June of 2013. That is exactly a 10% decrease in one year. We did have 11 first time visitors. We had 1 fourth time visitor who is also in the Grace class. We also had 10 people join! Seven of them are in one family - but we love large families! Jack Dufly also preached in the sanctuary service and God clearly has His hand on Jack's life! I led Chapel with the Preschool twice and God's Place once.

Along with Ann and Duron Cridor I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to the congregation to come to Preschool Chapel on any Thursday morning and see what a wonderful ministry our Preschool is doing! In July chapel will be at 9AM every Thursday in the sanctuary.

Connecting People to Jesus In Bible Groups - I led 6 Bible classes. Pastor Chris and I also prepared the sermon series and daily devotions for "Everything is Great in Romans 8." We are looking forward to strength God will provide as we read and study His Word together! Daily devotions are available to share!!

Connecting People to Jesus through Ministry - June was a blessed month of ministry. It included 15 meetings, 2 hospital calls, 22 pastoral visits (4 with communion), 1 wedding rehearsal and wedding. We were blessed to attend the Forthman's 50th anniversary party! I also attended the VBS orientation luncheon and helped set up and then lead games for "Blast Off" VBS! I was on call one night as a volunteer Chaplain. I was blessed to visit with the Bike and Build Crew - great job Jim Forthman and the elders!

In terms of just plain fun Mike Widmar and his friend Scott and I won the annual St. Paul's Golf outing! Trish and I attended the Grand Ole Opry for the first time. I delivered our \$1000.00 tornado relief check to the Salvation Army! Trish and I also attended the youth program and housed four of the girls from St. Luke's in Illinois.

We were also able to go to Texas for the post wedding celebration for Trish's dad and his new wife Cynthia! My uncle passed while we there so we saw many friends and family on both sides of our families. Thank you for your prayers and your support of the ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Please make plans to attend either of the core value discovery sessions with Dr. Kevin Wilson on July 25 at 6pm or on July 26 after the Saturday Night Life service. Kevin will preach at all of the services that weekend and then lead us in a planning session following our congregational potluck on July 27 after the late services. Because of the first 3 sentences of this report, this is a crucial time in the history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, Alabama.

Thank God We Know Who Wins!
Pastor Eddie

Pastor Eddie's July Report - August 5, 2014

Worship - We averaged 299 in worship in July. We averaged 353 in July 2013. That is a 15% decrease for the same time period and same number of services in the month. We had 1 first time visitor. We had no 2nd, 3rd, or 4th time visitors. I had a blast leading chapel for the preschool 2 times.

Bible Study - We studied Romans 8 in July. Thank you for the positive comments and responses to the series. There weren't many, but the ones we got were helpful. We are looking forward to "Back To..." weekend on August 9&10 as we kick off the new year of church, school, ministry and Bible Study for all ages. I led the Motley crew and my Grace class a total of 5 sessions.

Ministry - I attended/led 16 meetings; made 5 hospital calls; had 16 pastoral care sessions and 5 with communion. I was on call for the hospitals as a volunteer chaplain. I was blessed to hear Jack Duffy preach at Harold Coomer's Evangelistic Ministry. I also had the opening devotion for the Boys and Girls Club summer closing program.

Trish, Rachel and I also spent a week in El Salvador doing mission work with my sister Tracie and her husband Jimbo. We did much needed construction work, VBS with the kids and revival with the adults. We also got to attend Jordan and Vlad's wedding. Overall, it was a hard week we will long remember. After that trip Trish had a Mortan's Neuroma taken out of her foot and is still on the scooter as I write this report.

St. Paul's loss is heaven's gain as we held the memorial service for our dear friend Neal Redwanz. Keep Bev and the family in your ongoing prayers.

Dr. Kevin Wilson was here in July and spent the weekend helping us discover/rediscover our core values. Please keep praying about and talking about how we live out our values of:

Respectfulness - Generosity to others - A Church Where We Belong - Children

Blessed,
Pastor Eddie

Pastor Eddie's August Ministry Report - September 2, 2014

Connecting People to Jesus in Worship - We averaged 297 souls in worship in August. We averaged 346 souls in worship in August of 2013 a 14% decrease in just one year. Our core value of "a church where you belong" needs to reach more people and quickly. We had 8 first time visitors. 2 of them - Auburn and Nicole came back for a second visit. And Nicole came back for a third visit and brought her daughter. I was able to lead God's Place 1 time and chapel 4 times. What a blessing to worship the Lord with little klds and big kids! We also celebrated the Baptism of Cooper Lawrence!

Connecting People to Jesus in Bible Class - I led 6 Bible classes.

Connecting People to Jesus through Ministry - We had a great night of ministry at Harold Coomer's as I taught and thank you Bill and Cathy Klein for leading worship. Trish and I were able to open the Preschool Orientation Meeting with prayer and meet the parents and thank you Nancy Neuendorf for leading the preschool with excellence. I was able to spend time at the "Back Packs for Hope" giveaway - great job Pedro Santaliz. We had a fun night hosting the Prophets at our house for a Terrific Tuesday - good job Ms. Trish and Pastor Chris.

I am still volunteering once or twice a month at the hospital as a Chaplain. I am still on the District Mission Council Team and we met in Hattiesburg. the Mission Team distributed almost 10,000.00 in Spirit Kindle grants and are still on the lookout for places to invest for the Kingdom. I drove the van for the Boys and Girls Club kids twice. If you see any of our drivers Steve Guinn, Wanda Parrota, TJ Parrota, Rick Daniel, Ronnie Atkins, Don Olson, or Pastor Chris tell them thank you for carrying the ball on this great ministry.

Speaking of the ball - the St. Paul's co-ed softball team has won 2 games and lost 2 games this season. And speaking of the other ball - football - it was fun to watch Texas A&M run up and down the field against South Carolina. Gig'em Aggies!

On a much more thankful note Trish and I also celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary this August - we appreciate all the cards and calls and blessings!

Remember to be active in our core values: -Children -A Church Where You Can belong -Generosity to Others - Respectfulness,
Pastor Eddie

Pastor Eddie's September Report - October 7, 2014

Connecting People to Jesus In Worship - We had 324 souls in worship this September. We had 336 in worship last September and we thought that was a low month at the time... We had 8 first time visitors and 5 of them came back for a second and third visit. I was blessed to lead Preschool chapel 4 times including for Grandparents Day.

Connecting People to Jesus In Bible Groups - I taught 3 Motley Crew Classes and 3 Confirmation classes.

Connecting People to Jesus In Ministry - I made 21 visits, 15 with 15 people communing. I made 3 hospital calls and one middle of the night visit to the Mitchell's as Jerry crossed the finished line of faith.

We had a great FFFII Celebration with strong requests to keep the ball rolling as we eliminate our debt. The Daniel's did a great job with October Fest! It was a strong month of fellowship as we also held our first Saturday Night Life 4th Saturday Food, Fun and fellowship Bash!

I was also on call for the hospital. I read at Austinville. I drove the bus 2 times and I gave a sermon and Bible Study on KFJO radio. Trish and I attended the Professional Worker's Conf. in Destin. We also celebrated Samantha turning 21 and Rachel turning 16.

Just for fun I played a little softball; got 2 limits of Alabama doves and a good sermon illustration on fixing our eyes on Jesus. Then at the end of month made it to Texas for a fun trip with my dad and did harvest a 3 point whitetail that has already been made into sausage and steak.

Blessed,
Pastor Eddie

Pastor Brynestad's Report

Voters Report | October 2014

General

- **Fall Festival** – I would like to do the Fall Festival again this year. We should do it on October 31st, even though it's a Friday because that's when most people will be going out (unless, of course, the city makes a big push otherwise). Since we are looking two months out, we should try to arrange trunks, games, food, and even try for an inflatable or two. We need to find willing people to handle each of these things.
- **Our Redeemer** – Our Redeemer has narrowed a new list of pastoral candidates down to three and will vote on to whom they will extend a call. There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 26. It is not unlikely that I will be serving St. Paul's only by Thanksgiving or Christmas.

Prophets

- **Terrific Tuesdays** – Our in home summer fellowship activity has come to an end. We saw most of our youth at some point throughout the summer. Near the end the attendance was sparse, so considerations may be made to end Terrific Tuesdays before band camp begins.
- **ONE – Southern District High School Gathering** – The Southern District high school gathering at Camp Restore in New Orleans was a success. We had 10 youth from St. Paul's and 4 youth from Our Redeemer in Florence attend. Relationships were strengthened and many new friendships were made while we were down there. The youth spent a full day serving people around the New Orleans, LA, community, and a full day in breakout sessions learning things about their faith. In their free time, the youth visited downtown NOLA and some common sites to the area.
- **Shakalaka** – The Prophets had 22 youth attend the trip to Shakalaka in Huntsville Saturday night, September 27. After spending a full hour on all the trampolines, they went to McDonald's for a late night treat before coming home.
- **Summer Week of Service** – We are planning a trip for next summer that will be dedicated to serving our neighbors. Details will be shared when they become available. Based on the search so far, we expect the cost of the trip to range from \$250-\$300 per person.
- **Giving Tree** – The Giving Tree will be assembled on Sunday, November 16. The gifts are due Sunday, December 7. The gifts will be wrapped during our last FaithLinks on Wednesday, December 10. Distribution will be Saturday morning, December 13.
- **Christmas Lock-In** – Friday, December 19.
- **Auction 2015** – Our next auction is just around the corner! The date for next year's auction is Saturday, February 7. The theme will be superheroes. More information will soon be coming to your mailboxes.
- **In Christ Alone: National Youth Gathering** – The LCMS NYG is only two summers away! We already making calculations and looking at plans for the 2016 Gathering in New Orleans, LA.

Disciples (Upcoming Events)

- **Acolyte Training** – Sunday, August 24
- **Halloween Party** – Saturday, October 25 | 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm | The Disciples will meet at the Bauer's home for a costume party with games.
- **District Retreat** – November 7-9 | Camp Blue Lake, Andalusia, AL | Registration is \$75, first payment of \$35 due by Sunday, September 14.
- **Starbucks Sunday** – Sunday, November 30
- **Christmas Lock-In** – Friday night, December 19. 8:00 pm to 6:00 am | Will share space, but not time, with the Prophets during the lock-in.

Adult Education

- **FaithLinks** – We will have 3 adult classes that will be offered during FaithLinks this Fall.
 - *Lutheranism 101* is returning for its third year. Led by Beth Hornish.
 - *The Unshakable Truth* is being led by Mike Widmar with the help of Dan Jones.
 - *Where Moms Connect – A Year of Adventure*. A class specifically for mothers being led by Audrey Hamm.
 - *(Untitled Men's Group)* – A new men's group is meeting on Wednesday nights during FaithLinks. They are meeting in the college youth room (302).

**Pastor's Summary
for
April 2014 - September 2014**

Official Acts

Baptisms

James Lawrence Cooper
Mitchell Hoffmann
Cole Hoffmann

Funerals

Alvah Wayand (4/22/2014)
Waneta Wayand (4/22/2014)
Charles Howell (6/12/2014)
Neal Redwanz (7/21/2014)
Jerry Mitchell (9/23/2014)

Members Received

By Adult Confirmation

John & Kelly Bergsing, Janice Cross, Emily Dickinson, Douglas Ann Livingston

By Transfer from another LCMS Church

Michael Ringers

Members Removed

By Transfer to another LCMS Church

Gene and Patricia Fundum

By Transfer to another Lutheran Church

The Moses family, Drew Sullins

By Transfer to Christian Church

John and Joan Key, Charlie and Heather Jones

Average Worship Attendance

2007	383
2008	405
2009	383
2010	392
2011	366
2012	375
2013	357
2014	328

Average in Bible Study

2007	202
2008	214
2009	193
2010	190
2011	192
2012	177
2013	173
2014	202

Average in Ministry

2009	277
2010	263
2011	259
2012	247
2013	286
2014	283

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary's Report
2nd Quarter 2014**

10/10/2014 16:39

Date	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
4/6	15,796.62	360.00	3,637.31	96.40	265.00			20,155.33
4/13	13,947.00	180.00	3,760.76	323.05	165.00	1,810.83		20,186.64
4/20	10,344.66		3,649.90	596.00	205.00	73.00		14,868.56
4/27	7,392.50	720.00	1,099.00	1,520.48	10.00	803.46		11,545.44
add'l	470.00					9.22	18.17	497.39
EFT	5,741.00		1,642.00	10.00	100.00			7,493.00
5/4	15,248.78		2,515.50	716.91	965.00			19,446.19
5/11	8,625.40	405.00	5,077.45	263.85	10.00	1,200.00		15,581.70
5/18	6,612.24	240.00	2,735.02	1,035.97	10.00			10,633.23
5/25	9,141.00	900.00	2,187.00	214.25	10.00	180.00		12,632.25
add'l	100.00			100.00			18.18	218.18
EFT	6,025.00		1,250.00	200.00	100.00			7,575.00
6/1	14,076.25	60.00	1,259.50	87.50	240.00	955.52		16,678.77
6/8	9,489.82		4,602.20	501.79	836.59	11.00		15,441.40
6/15	5,504.12		2,544.00	2,897.08	10.00	1,116.00		12,071.20
6/22	8,405.61		1,464.00	189.82	30.00	32.00		10,121.43
6/29	6,415.20		1,561.00	5,109.25	310.00	366.00		13,761.45
add'l	80.00			40.00		5.98	18.78	144.76
EFT	5,760.00		846.00		35.00			6,641.00

Second Quarter Totals by Month

	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
Apr	53,691.78	1,260.00	13,788.97	2,545.93	745.00	2,696.51	18.17	74,746.36
May	45,752.42	1,545.00	13,764.97	2,530.98	1,095.00	1,380.00	18.18	66,086.55
Jun	49,731.00	60.00	12,276.70	8,825.44	1,461.59	2,486.50	18.78	74,860.01
Total	149,175.20	2,865.00	39,830.64	13,902.35	3,301.59	6,563.01	55.13	215,692.92

2014 Totals by Quarter

	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
1Q	154,402.85	4,038.00	47,187.55	14,476.78	46,922.05	5,639.73	54.48	272,721.44
2Q	149,175.20	2,865.00	39,830.64	13,902.35	3,301.59	6,563.01	55.13	215,692.92
3Q								
4Q								
Total	303,578.05	6,903.00	87,018.19	28,379.13	50,223.64	12,202.74	109.61	488,414.36

Prior Year Comparison by Month

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+FFF II	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Apr	42,978.35	53,691.78	8,495.96	3,290.93
May	43,912.21	45,752.42	7,854.13	3,625.98
Jun	60,212.23	49,731.00	4,211.78	10,287.03
Total	147,102.79	149,175.20	20,561.87	17,203.94

Firstfruits Giving 2014 vs 2013	
2014 YTD FFGiving of	303,578.05
exceeds last year by	13,394.54
or by	4.6%
is under YTD Goal by	(\$31,589)
670,334 Annual Goal -YTD	\$335,167

Prior Year Comparison by Quarter

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+FFF II	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
1Q	143,080.72	154,402.85	56,699.30	61,398.83
2Q	147,102.79	149,175.20	20,561.87	17,203.94
3Q	149,866.90		53,877.25	
4Q	167,123.97		14,960.20	
Total	607,174.38		146,098.62	

FFFII Summary		
2011		\$40,760
2012		\$97,204
2013		\$101,809
2014		\$50,224
FFFII Given-to-date \$289,996.54 after 34 months		
Total FFFII Faith Promise \$322,700.00		
90% of goal		94% thru 3-yr FFFII

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Financial Secretary's Report
3rd Quarter 2014**

10/9/2014 18:00

Date	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
7/6	12,523.00	100.00	3,483.00	23.00	215.00	16,981.63		33,325.63
7/13	15,293.00		3,677.00	116.79	1,420.00	1,820.00		22,326.79
7/20	9,207.33		1,901.00	150.10	135.00	431.00		11,824.43
7/27	9,086.25		1,290.00	90.91	10.00	25.00		10,502.16
add'l	30.00			55.00		320.91	18.78	424.69
EFT	5,937.00		814.00		35.00			6,786.00
8/3	11,457.88		2,748.70	188.65	260.00	1.10		14,656.33
8/10	12,954.50		5,212.40	267.92	1,310.00	2,009.00		21,753.82
8/17	6,656.50		4,350.20	314.81	20.00	1,378.58		12,720.09
8/24	7,814.38	3,868.00	2,044.00	34.10	62.00	41.00		13,863.48
8/31	7,789.99	300.00	1,231.00	73.06	610.00	400.00		10,404.05
add'l	186.00			50.00		299.75	17.61	553.36
EFT	5,935.00		1,630.00		15,000.00			22,565.00
9/7	15,117.30		6,684.45	34.50	110.00	140.00		22,086.25
9/14	8,097.80	460.00	3,536.00	50.71	73.00	1,109.00		13,326.51
9/21	6,102.05	236.60	1,361.00	52.94	5,287.00	204.00		13,243.59
9/28	5,809.50	786.00	2,374.60	300.22	50.00	1,941.85		11,262.17
add'l	47.00					4.95	19.38	71.33
EFT	5,900.00		1,990.00		70.00			7,960.00

Third Quarter Totals by Month

	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
July	52,076.58	100.00	11,165.00	435.80	1,815.00	19,578.54	18.78	85,189.70
Aug	52,794.25	4,168.00	17,216.30	928.54	17,262.00	4,129.43	17.61	96,516.13
Sep	41,073.65	1,482.60	15,946.05	438.37	5,590.00	3,399.80	19.38	67,949.85
Total	145,944.48	5,750.60	44,327.35	1,802.71	24,667.00	27,107.77	55.77	249,655.68

2014 Totals by Quarter

	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	FFFII	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
1Q	154,402.85	4,038.00	47,187.55	14,476.78	46,922.05	5,639.73	54.48	272,721.44
2Q	149,175.20	2,915.00	39,024.64	14,658.35	3,301.59	6,563.01	55.13	215,692.92
3Q	145,944.48	5,750.60	44,327.35	1,802.71	24,667.00	27,107.77	55.77	249,655.68
4Q								
Total	449,522.53	12,703.60	130,539.54	30,937.84	74,890.64	39,310.51	165.38	738,070.04

Prior Year Comparison by Month

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+FFF II	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
July	49,347.95	52,076.58	34,962.87	2,250.80
Aug	48,550.05	52,794.25	2,037.82	18,190.54
Sep	51,968.90	41,073.65	16,876.56	6,028.37
Total	149,866.90	145,944.48	53,877.25	26,469.71

Firstfruits Giving 2014 vs 2013	
2014 YTD FFGiving of	\$449,523
exceeds last year by	\$9,472
or by	2.2%
is under YTD Goal by	(\$53,228)
\$670,334 Annual Goal -YTD	\$502,751

Prior Year Comparison by Quarter

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+FFF II	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
1Q	143,080.72	154,402.85	56,699.30	61,398.83
2Q	147,102.79	149,175.20	20,561.87	17,959.94
3Q	149,866.90	145,944.48	53,877.25	26,469.71
4Q	167,123.97		14,960.20	
Total	607,174.38		146,098.62	

FFFII Summary		
2011	\$40,760	
2012	\$97,204	
2013	\$101,809	
2014	\$74,891	
FFFII Given-to-date \$314,663.54 after 36 months		
Total FFFII Faith Promise \$322,700.00		
98% of goal 3-yr FFFII complete		

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - September 30, 2014

10/9/2014 16:33

Total Funds In the Bank 12/31/13 to begin 2014		<u>\$79,763.58</u>	
Income		738,070.04	
Disbursements		<u>-707,374.12</u>	
Total Funds in the Bank 9/30/14		<u>\$110,459.60</u>	<u>\$30,695.92</u>
Breakdown by Fund			Increase during 2014
Available Working Funds			
Budgeted Operating Expense Fund	12,680.88	<i>(see details in the 2014 Financial Plan Report)</i>	
Building Usage Fund	12,063.21		
Emergency Fund	23,587.32		
Memorial Fund	<u>25,215.63</u>		
		73,547.04	(Operational Trigger - maintain \$40,000)
Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion	4,011.13		
Other Designated Accounts	<u>32,901.43</u>		
		36,912.56	
		<u>\$110,459.60</u>	
Compass Loan Balance	<u>\$506,457.92</u>		

Available Working Funds 9/30/2014	Balance 12/31/13	Receipts during 2014	Disbursements during 2014	Balance 9/30/14
"Checking Account"				
Budgeted Operating Expense Fund funded by Firstfruits Giving	7,761.11	449,522.53	-436,841.65	\$12,680.88
* Emergency Fund Transfer in January to zero out Budget Fund			<u>-7,761.11</u>	
* more Firstfruits Giving than Expenses in 2013				
<i>Preschool and BGC income offsets their expenses in the Financial Plan details may be found in the 2014 Financial Plan Report</i>				
"Savings Account"				
Funds (available to cover Budgeted Operating Expense Fund shortfall)				
Building Usage Fund funded by building usage fees	10,320.71	3,165.00	-1,422.50	12,063.21
Emergency Fund funded by Savings interest, surplus transfers	15,660.83	7,926.49	0.00	23,587.32
Memorial Fund funded by Special Giving - over and above FF Giving	21,313.78	4,035.00	-133.15	25,215.63
Total Undesignated Funds				\$60,866.16
Total Available Working Funds (Operational Trigger of \$40,000)				<u>\$73,547.04</u>

Designated Funds	Balance 12/31/13	Receipts during 2014	Disbursements during 2014	Balance 9/30/14
Designated Funds funded by Special Giving - over and above Firstfruits Giving				
Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion				
Disaster Relief Fund	2,222.20	0.00	-830.00	1,392.20
Special Ministry Fund	2,646.01	0.00	0.00	2,646.01
				\$4,011.13
Other Designated Accounts				
ARC Improvement Fund	3,720.71	0.00	0.00	3,720.71
Bible Fund	1,250.40	585.00	-274.93	1,560.47
Children's Ministry Account	651.66	451.91	-492.35	611.22
Designated Trust - Koenig	0.00	10,599.82	0.00	10,599.82
FFFII - Building Fund Gifts to Principle - all gifts applied to principle	0.00	75,170.64	-75,170.64	0.00
Preschool Fund	9,282.08	1,257.20	-5,812.04	4,727.24
Quilting Account	386.10	-200.00	0.00	186.10
Youth - High School Account	3,332.31	8,009.61	-4,311.51	7,030.41
Youth - Middle School Account	0.00	309.39	0.00	309.39
Pass Thru - Special Giving	0.00	19,200.63	-16,898.28	3,029.30
Pass Thru - Payments	388.83	32,398.61	-21,060.85	<u>1,126.77</u>
				\$2,715 Sanctuary gift, Donut & Mission funds
				\$32,901.43
Total Designated Funds	23,880.30	147,782.81	-124,877.68	\$36,912.56

Total Funds in the Bank 9/30/14	\$110,459.60
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St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Plan through September 30, 2014

10/9/2014 16:20

	2014 Year-to-Date Actual	2014 Financial Plan	
Income			
Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses	\$449,522.53	\$587,000	77%
Expenses			
Senior Pastor	47,250.00	63,000	75%
Associate Pastor	31,351.50	41,802	75%
Director of Children's Ministry	27,390.06	36,520	75%
CrossLife Coordinator	4,250.25	5,666	75%
Organist	16,820.00	24,765	68%
Ass't Music Director	3,250.00	4,600	71%
Music Director	2,421.25	5,000	48%
Business Manager	29,640.06	39,520	75%
Office Manager	14,040.00	20,280	69%
Additional Office Staff Expense (Our Redeemer Reimb)	-8,200.00	1,000	-820%
Nursery Attendants	4,531.00	7,200	63%
Worker Thanksgiving Contingency Expense	0.00	3,500	0%
Employee Benefit & Payroll Tax Expense	65,783.70	130,191	51%
Conference and Convention	773.75	2,500	31%
Office Supplies	3,235.02	6,500	50%
Choir Supplies	0.00	1,500	0%
Worship Supplies	2,998.21	5,500	55%
Discretion	211.14	300	70%
Social Ministry	717.83	500	144%
Church Worker Scholarship	0.00	500	0%
Lutheran Hour Support	562.50	980	57%
Total Elder Expenses	\$247,026.27	\$401,324	62%
Children's Ministry	4,876.99	6,550	74%
Middle School Youth Ministry	815.45	3,500	23%
High School Youth Ministry	3,831.34	4,000	96%
Family Ministry	1,089.19	1,600	68%
Adult Education (offset by Adult Power Hour offering)	-344.89	250	-138%
+ Preschool Ministry	420.63	9,446	4%
Social Group Ministry (softball)	310.64	400	78%
Total Education Expenses	\$10,999.35	\$25,746	43%
Advertising/Communication	2,357.49	3,200	74%
Bibles and Tracts	66.60	500	13%
Member Activities	0.00	800	0%
Projects	101.35	500	20%
++ Community Ministry - Boys & Girls Club	1,993.23	1,850	108%
Total Parish Outreach Expenses	\$4,518.67	\$6,850	66%
Janitorial & Supplies	22,205.57	32,980	67%
ARC Take-down	699.79	2,080	34%
Janitor & Supply CoPayments from PS, BGC	-9,180.00	-12,240	75%
Repairs & Maintenance	13,211.97	20,350	65%
Property & Liability Insurance	11,551.12	15,111	76%
Church Utilities/Phone/Email/Dumpster/Pest	28,873.94	41,107	70%
Utility CoPayments form PS, BGC	-4,796.79	-7,200	67%
Church Furnishings/Computers	1,352.16	1,400	97%
Office Equipment Copiers/Printers	5,746.25	7,000	82%
Van Maintenance	126.93	450	28%
Building Loan Expense	59,067.18	78,756	75%
Total Trustee Expenses	\$128,858.12	\$177,714	73%
District Missions Tithe	\$45,439.24	\$58,700	77%
Total Expenses	\$436,841.65	\$670,334	65%
Financial Plan Activity for 2014 through September	\$12,680.88	-\$83,334	
+ Preschool w/ Extended Care Fees minus Expenses	-\$420.63		2014-2013
++ Boys & Girls Club Fees minus Expenses	-\$1,993.23	2013 FF Giving	\$440,050 \$9,472
YTD ministry cost of PS and BGC	15	2013 Expenses	\$447,718 (\$10,876)

Elder Team Report
Voters Meeting: 10/19/2014

Matthew 13: 1-23, Mark 4: 1-20, Luke 8: 1-15 The Parable of the Sower.

Dear Members of St. Paul's

As I reflect back over the past several months of meetings and decisions, Jesus explanation of the Parable of the Sower comes to mind. You have of course been hearing the definition of Core Values for these past months in the areas of Respectfulness, Children, A Place to Belong and Generosity to Others and our prayer is that the Elder Team is helping to lead as well challenge you all in stepping forward in obedience to God as sowers in our core values. We continually pray that God will bless the seed that is sown and that He may allow us to see the fruit of that labor and even participate in the harvest.

I feel very blessed to sit among the Elder Team and get a first hand glimpse of what God is doing through you all here at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. The Lord continues to bless St. Paul's Lutheran Church and we honor and praise the Lord in worship and in our daily lives as we seek to spread the good news that Jesus Christ continues to bring us.

This year has been very productive both within the walls of St. Paul's and outside in the community of Decatur, Northern Alabama and around the world. The Elder Team encourages each member to continue to lift us up in prayer as we come before the Altar and seek God's will. God is working on the Core Values through our Vision, and Mission Statement or spurring people on to ministry. The Elder Team believes that you will see some awesome things coming together in the near future here at St. Paul's

Highlights of Accomplishment for this Quarter:

1. Elder Team attended the Confirmation Questioning held on May 3, 2014
2. Elder Team was invited on May 6, 2014 to hear Pastor Eddie preach God's Word at Harold Coomer's, New Life Recovery Ministry in Decatur, Alabama
3. Elder Team discussed and approved Holy Communion for the 5th Sunday of the month.
4. Elder Team discussed and approved a special offering on Armed Forces Day, May 17, 2014 Bible Sticks audio Bible for military personnel.
3. Elders hosted the Bike and Build organization by providing a potato bar for the Bikers on June 7, 2014. Bike and Build is a non-profit organization which organizes cross-country cycling trips to benefit's the affordable housing cause in the United States.
4. Pastor Chris will continue the Mission as the Interim [←]Pastor at Our Redeemer, Florence, Alabama. Elder Team has discuss a transits strategy for Pastor Chris from Our Redeemer as members of Our Redeemer began the calling process for a new pastor.
5. Elder Team along with the Pastors invited Dr. Kevin Wilson to conduct a presentation on Core Values, July 25-27, Friday and Saturday. Sermon ("Kingdom Connections") at SNL, Cross Life, 08:15, and 10:45 and then potluck. Approximately 30 individuals were at each presentation and approximately 80 individuals for the potluck.
6. Rally Day, Back to ...Weekend August 9-10, 2014, Elder Team provided a booth for Rally Day.
7. Elder Team reviewed and approved the 2015 spending plan (Budget).

It is our prayer that our leadership and the congregation will continue to remain steadfast and unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord.

We value and appreciate each and every member of the St. Paul's family. Thank You for your commitment to God, your patience, prayers, participation and continued support of the ministry of St. Paul's. May God bless you and your families.

We are a team to serve you. If you have any interest in serving on this board or serve in another role at St. Paul's, let me know as we have many needs.

Your Elder Team: John Mann, Jerry Alldredge, Randy Blevins, Philip Corlew, Tim Herfurth, Jim Forthman, Art Gaertner, Mike Widmar, Jimmy Mueller and Jeff Morgan.

Head Elder,

John Mann

**Trustees Report to Voters Assembly
October 19, 2014**

Things that have been done summer of 2014

- Replaced plants, installed landscape lights at brick church sign
- Performed ongoing maintenance of prayer garden
- Cleaned gutters and installed gutter covers
- Removed damaged tables from storage
- Performed ongoing shrub trimming
- Worked on bus electrical problems with light staying on
- Replaced water valve on office wing toilet
- Replaced guts on some toilets around the church
- Replaced multiple lights in the building
- Adjusted door in breezeway
- Repaired several HVAC units around the building

Scheduled Workday – November 1, 8 am – noon

**Education Team Report to Voters Assembly
October 19, 2014**

Children's Ministry Report - April – September 2014 – Tricia Scheier

Power Hour

- School-year volunteers were honored at the end of May with gift cards to their favorite fast food restaurants.
- The Bible Bucks store was open for business in May. Children earn Bible Bucks for their attendance at Power Hour and for bringing a friend, bringing their Bibles, and learning Bible verses.
- We have a great team of volunteers for this school year. Children are engaged in learning important Bible principles through skits, puppet shows, videos, and hands-on activities.
- Our Power Hour offerings go to support two girls in Uganda through Christ Community International.

Preschool

- We were approved for re-accreditation
- Graduation was held May 21.
- Music is offered to students ½ an hour weekly. 3 and 4 year old classes attend PE ½ an hour weekly as well.
- The preschool is now sponsoring a child in Uganda through Christ Community International.

Music

- Several piano and/or voice students have participated in worship in the spring and summer.
- Junior tone chimes resumed with FaithLinks. There are currently 11 players in the group.

VBS

- One-day Vacation Bible School was an internal success. There was a great spirit. Thanks to the many volunteers who made it happen.
- We will take a look at our goals for VBS before deciding what to do next year.

Christmas Program

- "An Unplugged Christmas" will be held December 6 at 9:00am. It will include a breakfast and pictures with Santa.
- Currently there are 30 children in the program (grades K – 5).

Other Items

- Winshape Camp: Under the leadership of Carole Rikard (and Dottie Martinson), St. Paul's prepared and served meals for the Winshape staff.
- Adopted Grandparents: The Power Hour children and youth have adopted grandparents (ages 75 and up). They are sending cards and small gifts to honor our seniors.
- Boys & Girls Club: I led weekly Bible study for 3 classes of children enrolled in the summer program. In addition, I am tutoring individuals on a weekly basis. 3 children from the club are involved with our Christmas program.

- First Priority Kids: The Children's Ministry Exchange will begin the program at Barkley Bridge in Hartselle in January. If successful, we will begin moving into other elementary schools.
- School Lunches: My goal is to have lunch with every preschool class and every child in the congregation at their respective schools sometime during the school year.

Preschool Report - Nancy Neuendorf

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me." Mark 9:37

Summer Program for 2014

We had 47 children participate in our summer program.
Of those 32 used some type of Extended Care.

Enrollment for 2014-2015:

We currently have 59 children enrolled. Of those 36 use some type of Extended Care.
There are 3 children who have partial scholarships. We have one child in need of a partial scholarship
There are 7 teachers, 1 teaching aide, and 1 floating aide during Preschool hours.
There are 5 Extended Care staff members. 2 from 7:00 – 9:00 am. and 3 from 12:30 – 5:30 pm.
Our teachers also work in the Extended Care program if they desire.

Staff Members:

Preschool:	Tammy Corlew (PreK-4)	Raven Mobley (2 year olds)
	Lisa Morgan (PreK-4) ***	Teresa Lappert (Transition Class)
	Dawn Hasse (3 year olds)	Kristy Rey (Toddlers)
	Michele Braswell (3 year olds)	Carol Carlson (floating aide)
	Leslie Parker (2 year olds)	
Extended Care:	Anna Marie Hamilton (am)	Doug Livingston –pm office
	Lisa Morgan (am)	Jackie Clark (pm)
	Rachel Langford (pm)	

***Lisa Morgan has joined our staff. She is currently teaching with Mrs. Tammy. She has many years ex

NLSA Accreditation

After completing our self-study we hosted an NLSA visiting team during the first week in May, 2014.
We were granted re-accreditation from the National Lutheran School Association on July 30, 2014.
We are to receive our re-accreditation certificate on October 19th.
We will continue working on yearly continued improvement plans, including reviewing and updating policy manuals. We will remain in good standing until August, 2018 as long as we continue to demonstrate continued improvement on our cumulative annual report.
We will make formal application for re-accreditation at the beginning of 2017-2018.
THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this process. It is time consuming but helps us make changes that will improve our program.

Professional Growth

6 teachers attended the Alabama Kindergarten conference in July.
If funds allow, we plan to send teachers to the Southern District Teachers' Conference to be held in New Orleans in November.
If funds allow, we plan to send teachers to the NAEYC regional conference in New Orleans in January.
Nancy Neuendorf presented a professional growth session of Language Development to members of the Family Childcare Network.

Special Activities

Our Preschool garden was a success. The children learned lots about growing things and enjoyed sharing their "harvest". We will be cutting down stalks soon to prepare the ground for next spring.
Grandparent's Day was a great success with 60+ grandparents and special friends visiting with us.
Earlier today Preschool Sunday was held during CrossLife. Our teachers received a special blessing and we received our certificate of Accreditation. A short open house was held between worship and potluck.
Preschool Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations are one day opportunities for our congregation to volunteer. If you are interested please call 256-353-1353.

Outreach Team Report 19 October 2014

Past Activities:

The school giveaway event was held Friday 1 August at Wesley Memorial United Methodist. Besides St. Paul's, many other churches participated to help needy Decatur and Morgan County students with school supplies. Over one thousand students were helped. Thanks to St. Paul's for supporting this ministry.

Ongoing Activities:

Tennessee Valley Outreach has received attention by Small Groups. There is an ongoing need for minor cleanup and painting as well as meals and fellowship. Folks at TVO value fellowship most of all. These efforts are greatly appreciated by the TVO residents, TVO staff, and the Outreach Team. Jeff Kelly is the point of contact for this ministry.

Activities In the Planning Stage:

Fall Festival (aka Trunk or Treat) will be held 31 October starting at 6 PM in the front parking lot. In case of inclement weather we will move everything indoors. We will have games and food. All visitors will receive information regarding St. Paul's and an invitation to visit us for our Christmas program in December. We are in need of trunks and volunteers. Please see myself or Alison Gilchrist if interested. There are also signup sheets in the Lobby.

Future Activities:

Outreach is investigating the possibility of forming a ministry involved in helping to alleviate child hunger in the area. To that end, Outreach will distribute a questionnaire to the congregation to survey interest and direction. The North Alabama Food Bank is a great local organization that can help in starting this effort. We ask for your prayers as we determine God's will and direction for St. Paul's for this ministry.

Next year's school giveaway event is scheduled for Saturday 1 August. We are currently searching for other churches to partner with to help with school supplies for Austinville Elementary students from families in need. If we are not successful, we will again partner with Wesley Memorial United Methodist and Central Park Baptist to help with Backpacks for Hope.

Urgent Need:

Hospitality Team (aka Greeters) is in need of volunteers. The Outreach Team is also in need for volunteers to serve a one year stint on the committee. If interested, please see or contact me (information below).

A huge thank you to the St. Paul's Church Staff for all their help with Outreach and other ministries! Most of what has been accomplished this year and in the past could not have been done without them.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro Santaliz
Outreach Chair
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