

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

**Enclosed is the Spring Voters Assembly Packet** including a copy of the Voters Meeting Agenda, the Minutes from the previous Voters Meeting in October, the Pastor's Report and quarterly summaries, Financial Reports and Team Reports.

**All confirmed members are invited to participate in our Voters Assembly** where these reports 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  
April 30, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER – Dave Burrell

OPENING PRAYER – Pastor Kretzschmar

ADMISSION OF NEW VOTERS – Dave Burrell

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES pp 3-4

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Financial Review Team Report – Dee Livingston

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Kretzschmar pp 5-6

- Vision for the Congregation
- Programs and Efforts connected to Vision –  
Worship Series, Small Group studies, Mini-flock Get-togethers with Pastor
- Missional Opportunities and Connections

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Art Gaertner pp 7-12

ELDER TEAM REPORT – Jerry Alldredge pp 13-14

- Connection and Communication

OUTREACH TEAM REPORT – Jackie Joiner

- Reformation Celebration – 500 years and It's STILL All About JESUS! pp 15
- Church-wide and Community-Focused Family FunFest in September

EDUCATION TEAM REPORT – Alison Gilchrist

- Church-wide, Invite-a-Friend, Invite-our-neighbors, Multi-Age VBS pp 16
- Preschool, Children, Youth, Adult

TRUSTEE TEAM REPORT – Don Olson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT - The Lord's Prayer



## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Fall Voters Assembly Meeting October 30, 2016**

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Dave Burrell at 12:45 pm.

### Admission of New Voters

New voters requesting membership included Mike & Nicole Ringers, Mark Blaske, Frank Presta, Pam Meadows and Diane Pitts; a motion to accept these new voters was made by Jim Forthman / seconded by Ron Neuendorf / approved.

The Spring Voters Assembly minutes (attached) were presented for approval; a motion was made by John Covington / seconded by Bob Sullivant / approved.

The Financial Reports (attached) were given by Bobbie Seibert; she reported that Firstfruits Giving is down 19% from last year, with expenses decreased by 2 pastors and increased by the replacement of 3 HVAC units, the Financial Plan was still \$13,000 to the positive. The Thrivent Building Loan balance was \$370, 025.

The Official Acts of the Congregation Report (attached) was given by Dave Burrell; he noted that Worship Attendance is significantly down yet Bible Study participation is holding.

The Elder Team Report (attached) by Jerry Alldredge emphasized supporting each other in our Christian walk.

The Education Team Report (attached) was given by Alison Gilchrist noting the activities of our HS Youth, MS Youth, Children and Preschool; she thanked all the volunteers in these ministries and said they are all appreciated.

The Outreach Report (attached) was given by Jackie Joiner. She said the Team is preparing for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 and discussing a Lutherfest block party; she asked for volunteers to serve on a Reformation Planning Committee; Beth Hornish and Carol Morgan volunteered.

The Trustee Team Report (attached) was given by Don Olson; he announced a Fall Workday for Nov 19; he reported on the installation of the Sanctuary fan, the Fellowship Room flooring, and keyless entry throughout the building and the replacement of 4 HVAC units. Don was thanked for his leadership, and he praised the work of the Trustee Team members.

Under Old Business, a Call Committee update was given by Dave Burrell; 45 pastoral candidate names were given to the Committee by Southern District President Schultz; the Committee is in the process of reviewing these files, comparing their characteristics against our congregational requirements and then contacting those to see who is available for a call. The Committee hopes to have a candidate to present to the congregation by early December. It was explained that none of the names that had been submitted from within the congregation had been recommended to consider by President Schultz due to his assessment that their characteristics did not match those of our congregation.

Under New Business, the Nominations Report (attached) with a slate of officers and teams was presented for election by Dan Jones; John Covington made a motion to accept the slate of candidates / Nancy Neuendorf seconded / the slate was elected with no dissension. Dave Burrell thanked those just elected to serve beginning in January as well as those who had served this past year.

Dave Burrell presented the 2017 Financial Plan (attached). Art Gaertner noted that the interim pastors were being paid from the guest preacher budget line, and its overage would be offset by the line of the senior pastor in his absence; Art also thanked the elders for their supply of great interim preachers as well as appreciation for the pastoral assistants and CrossLife volunteers who have stepped up during the interim and Bill' Klein's departure. Dave also clarified the reclassification of the Organist line to Organist/Keyboardist since the practice has been to pay for choir accompaniment on the keyboard from this line item and looking ahead there will be need to pay for a CrossLife keyboardist/Musician in 2017; there was also a shift in monies from the now Organist/Keyboardist line to the Music Director line leaving sufficient monies in each line to cover expenses anticipated. L.J. Alvis made a motion to accept the Plan / Michael McRae seconded / approved.

Tommy Livingston addressed the Assembly concerning the elimination of the 10:45 Traditional worship time during the interim and wanted to discuss some ideas to accommodate those disenfranchised by this new worship schedule. He suggested that we all think of some ideas; he made a motion that "We meet again in two weeks to discuss service times offerings" / LJ Alvis seconded / discussion followed. Head Elder Jerry Alldredge explained the interim constraints that the elders considered at length last November when their decision to offer 8:15 Traditional and 10:45 CrossLife was made with the goal to best serve the most members with the least disruption. There was insistence by a few that the current schedule was not acceptable. Additional discussion centered on if a meeting were held then what time would the meeting take place, whether this meeting in two weeks should be a voters meeting and whether or not suggestions presented would be voted upon there or whether suggestions would be collected and presented to the elders for a final decision to be made by the Elder Team. Carol Morgan proposed an amendment to reword the motion to state that "The meeting would be a Listening Session at 9:30 am on November 20 to assemble service time recommendations for the Elder Team to consider." / Nancy Neuendorf seconded. Ron Neuendorf called the question / Rhonda Reece seconded / a vote was taken on the amendment / accepted, and a vote was taken on the final motion of "There will be a Listening Session at

9:30 am on November 20 to assemble service time recommendations for the Elder Team to consider” / accepted.

An announcement was made asking everyone to complete their 2-question Communication Survey so that the Church Office may provide efficient means of keeping the congregation informed of happenings in worship, Bible Study and ministry.

Dave Burrell closed the meeting by leading the Lord’s Prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Morgan

## **Special Called Voters Meeting**

**December 18, 2016**

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Dave Burrell at 10:06 am.

Call Committee Chairman Craig Baker reported that the Call Committee had thoroughly reviewed the 63 names of pastoral candidates of which 50 were supplied by the Southern District and 13 by our congregation. Of these, 14 candidates were qualified based on the congregational criteria as surveyed at the beginning of the call process and six candidates agreed to consider a call by our congregation. During the week that the Call Committee conducted telephone interviews, three candidates accepted calls to other congregations, and two decided not to consider a call at this time.

Craig Baker then reviewed the biography of Rev. Dr. Aaron Kretzschmar of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in La Porte, IN. Of the two sets of pastoral candidates, the first one in the spring and the second set under consideration this fall, this candidate was the only person common to both lists; he had been a favored choice among the Committee members during the first round, but he was unable to consider a call in the spring. What stood out about him was his conversations about worship and ministry; the similarities of his current church in size, the number and style of worship services, and their organizational challenges as compared to ours; his teaching of multiple Bible classes each week, his doctorate in life applications of ministry, and his a commitment to family and children. His family consists of his wife, Erin, and daughter Grace, who is 8 years old.

David Burrell expressed the sincere belief that the Holy Spirit has been deliberate in bringing the Call Committee to the selection of this one candidate; John Covington moved that St. Paul’s should extend a Divine Call to Rev. Dr. Aaron Kretzschmar and John Mann seconded the motion. A few very positive comments were made, and the congregation then voted to approve the motion (68-4) counted by Craig Baker and Jerry Alldredge.

After much applause, David Burrell stated that he would contact Pastor Kretzschmar with our Call and invite him and his family to visit by mid-January. He then led the Assembly in the Lord’s Prayer and adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

Joyfully Submitted,

Carol Morgan

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church Voters Meeting – April 2017 – Rev. Dr. Aaron Kretzschmar

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23*

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church Membership Information

433 Baptized Members

370 Confirmed Members

Membership Changes, October 2016 through March 2017

Membership Gains: 7

Membership Losses: 130

Baptisms: Henry Archer Alldredge

Transfers In: Allen & Tascha, Evelyn, Mackayla, and Olivia Mowen; Glenda Ater

Reinstatement: Patty Pace

Transfers Out: Ellen Schroeder, Bill & Cathy Klein

Member deaths (Transfers to the Church Triumphant): Renee Riley

What a Blessed Season of the Church Year is Easter!

A number of areas/items I've been involved in thus far at St. Paul's

Getting to know the members and families of St. Paul's

Attending board and committee meetings

Attending small group meetings/studies

Participating in activities with the Preschool (i.e. Chapel, reading, celebrations)

Leading *God's Place* for the Boys & Girls Club

Visiting homebound members

Visiting members in the hospital

Your Pastor's Vision for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, Alabama

An Emotionally Healthy Congregation

Every congregation/individual has room to grow in this area

Congregations are “emotional systems” (dynamics are similar to a biological family)

IQ vs. EQ

There is a correlation between spiritual health and emotional health

Emotional health is to be modeled/facilitated *especially* by leaders

Potential use of training resources (i.e. the books *Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times* and *The Emotionally Healthy Church*)

Every member can practice the acronym LEST

Listen

Encourage

Support

Truth telling

## A Congregation Deeply Rooted in Foundational Spiritual Disciplines

Prayer is a key spiritual discipline

for personal growth

for united congregational ministry efforts

Growth in God's Word is essential

for all members, and especially the younger generations

to be nourished as those with new life in Christ, strengthened for service to Him

to withstand the attacks of the devil, the world, and the flesh

## A Missional Congregation

The terms "missions" and "mission-minded" are inadequate for the local context

The term "outreach" is a good one but can seem intimidating to some

A Missional Congregation is one in which members, individually and corporately, are continually looking for opportunities to connect people to Jesus Christ

## Upcoming programs/efforts connected to Vision

*War Room* worship series beginning June 11<sup>th</sup>

Showing of the movie *War Room* on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

Resources to be available for small groups to conduct studies on prayer

(i.e. "The Circle Maker" and "Too Busy Not To Pray" DVD-enhanced studies)

Monthly mini-flock gatherings at the Kretzschmar home beginning May 21<sup>st</sup>

*I Am Second* worship and small group campaign in Fall of 2017

Pray about a 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation Missional Campaign for St. Paul's beginning October 2017

Pray about ways to connect better with Preschool and Boys & Girls Club families

Thank you to all St. Paul's boards, committees, volunteers, and leaders for your faithful service to our Savior

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Secretary's Report - December 31, 2016

FINAL

11/20/2017 10:29

Date	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	Loan Principle Gifts	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
10/2	9,028.00	955.00	1,110.00	120.00	10.00	236.00		11,459.00
10/9	8,478.00	555.00	5,146.10	158.00	500.00	300.00		15,137.10
10/16	5,786.47	565.00	1,904.50	167.50	300.00			8,723.47
10/23	5,983.02		202.00	323.75	10.00	1,031.45		7,550.22
10/31	4,462.00	210.00	4,528.00	30.80	10.00	577.00		9,817.80
add'l	(240.00)	160.00	(246.00)			6.66	47.04	(272.30)
EFT	2,785.00		2,613.00		35.00			5,433.00
11/6	10,510.00	795.00	4,027.50	26.09	110.00	10.00		15,478.59
11/13	7,995.00	679.00	3,771.00	22.41	510.00	287.00		13,264.41
11/20	7,221.89		2,243.00	416.29	10.00	112.00		10,003.18
11/27	3,199.00		1,038.00	1,782.00	10.00	106.00		6,135.00
add'l						5,231.44	45.55	5,276.99
EFT	2,545.00		3,485.00		35.00			6,065.00
12/4	11,866.50		2,496.50	17.03	10.00	106.00		14,496.03
12/11	8,067.50	1,305.00	4,736.00	394.82	610.00	83.00		15,196.32
12/18	7,289.02	1,023.00	1,491.00	236.00	300.00	182.42		10,521.44
12/25	7,545.41		1,403.00	467.00	50.00	270.00		9,735.41
add'l	2,090.00		2787		35.00	4.86	47.09	4,963.95
EFT	2,895.00			198.56		150.00		3,243.56

	Firstfruits Giving	BGC Fee	Preschool	Special	Loan Gifts	Pass-Thru	Interest	Total
<b>1st Quarter Totals by Month</b>								
Jan	43,169.62	1,260.00	15,255.57	508.71	660.00	1,889.38	29.00	62,772.28
Feb	37,674.04	1,780.00	22,294.30	304.83	760.00	998.70	31.00	63,842.87
Mar	<u>37,011.57</u>	<u>2,080.00</u>	<u>15,308.50</u>	<u>1,274.87</u>	<u>755.00</u>	<u>2,234.15</u>	<u>31.01</u>	<u>58,695.10</u>
Total	117,855.23	5,120.00	52,858.37	2,088.41	2,175.00	5,122.23	91.01	185,310.25

<b>2nd Quarter Totals by Month</b>								
Apr	34,739.64	750.00	15,236.30	1,795.57	740.00	5,913.49	29.04	59,204.04
May	40,023.97	1,330.00	17,648.95	556.01	970.00	4,106.40	32.04	64,667.37
June	<u>33,660.78</u>	<u>1,849.00</u>	<u>11,130.80</u>	<u>692.11</u>	<u>1,675.00</u>	<u>1,941.34</u>	<u>37.75</u>	<u>50,986.78</u>
Total	108,424.39	3,929.00	44,016.05	3,043.69	3,385.00	11,961.23	98.83	174,858.19

<b>3rd Quarter Totals by Month</b>								
July	36,899.65	-	18,328.10	694.13	680.00	1,211.45	43.95	57,857.28
Aug	41,837.95	780.00	16,049.00	1,201.30	630.00	1,859.84	50.01	62,408.10
Sept	<u>34,366.35</u>	<u>4,950.00</u>	<u>15,732.50</u>	<u>3,604.85</u>	<u>585.00</u>	<u>846.42</u>	<u>45.51</u>	<u>60,130.63</u>
Total	113,103.95	5,730.00	50,109.60	5,500.28	1,895.00	3,917.71	139.47	180,396.01

<b>4th Quarter Totals by Month</b>								
Oct	36,282.49	2,445.00	15,257.60	800.05	865.00	2,151.11	47.04	57,848.29
Nov	31,470.89	1,474.00	14,564.50	2,246.79	675.00	5,746.44	45.55	56,223.17
Dec	<u>39,753.43</u>	<u>2,328.00</u>	<u>12,913.50</u>	<u>1,313.41</u>	<u>1,005.00</u>	<u>796.28</u>	<u>47.09</u>	<u>58,156.71</u>
Total	107,506.81	6,247.00	42,735.60	4,360.25	2,545.00	8,693.83	139.68	172,228.17

	Firstfruits Giving	BGC Fee	Preschool	Special	Loan Gifts	Pass-Thru	Interest	Total
<b>2016 Totals by Quarter</b>								
1Q	117,855.23	5,120.00	52,858.37	2,088.41	2,175.00	5,122.23	91.01	185,310.25
2Q	108,424.39	3,929.00	44,016.05	3,043.69	3,385.00	11,961.23	98.83	174,858.19
3Q	113,103.95	5,730.00	50,109.60	5,500.28	1,895.00	3,917.71	139.47	180,396.01
4Q	<u>107,506.81</u>	<u>6,247.00</u>	<u>42,735.60</u>	<u>4,360.25</u>	<u>2,545.00</u>	<u>8,693.83</u>	<u>139.68</u>	<u>172,228.17</u>
Total	446,890.38	21,026.00	189,719.62	14,992.63	10,000.00	29,695.00	468.99	712,792.62

Prior Year Comparison by Month				Firstfruits Giving		2016 vs 2015	
	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+Loan Gifts				
	2015	2016	2015	2016			
Oct	49,855.84	36,282.49	1,402.36	1,665.05	2016 YTD Firstfruits Giving of		446,890
Nov	44,378.87	31,470.89	2,891.86	2,921.79	is under last year by		-100,214
Dec	40,210.93	39,753.43	2,351.75	2,318.41	or by		-18%
Total	134,445.64	107,506.81	6,645.97	6,905.25	is under YTD Income Goal by		-145,433
					\$592,323 Income Goal YTD is		592,323

Prior Year Comparison by Quarter				Loan Principle Gifts		2011	
	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+Loan Gifts				
	2015	2016	2015	2016			
1Q	145,570.46	117,855.23	21,196.08	4,263.41	FFFI Campaign		40,760
2Q	141,216.05	108,424.39	13,670.77	6,428.69	Sept, 2011		97,204
3Q	134,445.64	113,103.95	6,645.97	7,395.28	- Aug, 2014		101,809
4Q	<u>125,872.10</u>	<u>107,506.81</u>	<u>8,135.67</u>	<u>6,905.25</u>			83,838
Total	547,104.25	446,890.38	49,648.49	24,992.63	Given since Aug, 2011		11,995
							10,000
							345,605

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Secretary's Report - March 31, 2017**

4/20/2017 18:29

Date	Firstfruits Giving for Budgeted Expenses	BGC Fee Income	Preschool Tuition Income	Special Giving	Loan Principle Gifts	Pass-Thru Income	Interest Income	Total Income
1/1	6,295.00		730.00		10.00	81.00		7,116.00
1/8	10,190.76		5,337.50	17.05	510.00			16,055.31
1/15	6,612.56		3,896.00	123.89	110.00	94.00		10,836.45
1/22	5,136.36			30.00	10.00			5,176.36
1/29	8,873.00	865.00	3,604.50	43.55		722.00		14,108.05
add'l				71.00		607.01	47.24	725.25
EFT	3,335.00		4,895.00		35.00			8,265.00
2/5	9,465.25	921.00	4,468.00	123.25	20.00	131.00		15,128.50
2/12	13,531.00		3,599.00	1,600.00	180.00	460.00		19,370.00
2/19	5,166.00		3,039.00	211.81	20.00	67.00		8,503.81
2/26	7,029.06	1,055.00	2,216.50	1,529.42	10.00	144.00		11,983.98
add'l						10.94	42.59	53.53
EFT	2,710.00		3,327.00					6,037.00
3/5	10,501.06	655.00	3,767.00	435.50	4,120.00			19,478.56
3/12	9,963.45		4,006.00	65.47	890.00	232.80		15,157.72
3/19	7,181.74		2,536.00	131.35	60.00	115.40		10,024.49
3/26	5,154.00	1,955.00	1,770.00	304.75	35.00	84.00		9,302.75
add'l				307.00		3,089.78	47.29	3,444.07
EFT	2,780.00		4,406.50		70.00			7,256.50

Firstfruits Giving	BGC Fee	Preschool	Special	Loan Gifts	Pass-Thru	Interest	Total
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**1st Quarter Totals by Month**

Jan	40,442.68	865.00	18,463.00	285.49	675.00	1,504.01	47.24	62,282.42
Feb	37,901.31	1,976.00	16,649.50	3,464.48	230.00	812.94	42.59	61,076.82
Mar	<u>35,580.25</u>	<u>2,610.00</u>	<u>16,485.50</u>	<u>1,244.07</u>	<u>5,175.00</u>	<u>3,521.98</u>	<u>47.29</u>	<u>64,664.09</u>
Total	113,924.24	5,451.00	51,598.00	4,994.04	6,080.00	5,838.93	137.12	188,023.33

**Prior Year Comparison by Month**

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+Loan Gifts	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Jan	<b>43,169.62</b>	40,442.68	1,168.71	960.49
Feb	<b>37,674.04</b>	37,901.31	1,064.83	3,694.48
Mar	<b>37,011.57</b>	35,580.25	2,029.87	6,419.07
Total	117,855.23	113,924.24	4,263.41	11,074.04

Firstfruits Giving	
2017 YTD Firstfruits Giving of	<b>113,924</b>
is under YTD Income <b>Goal</b> by	-32,216
is under YTD Income <b>Need</b> by	-22,158
<i>\$584,559 Income Goal YTD is</i>	<i>146,140</i>
<i>\$544,328 Income Need is</i>	<i>136,082</i>
is under last year by	-3,931
or by	-3%

**Prior Year Comparison by Quarter**

	Firstfruits Giving		Special Giving+Loan Gifts	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
1Q	117,855.23	113,924.24	4,263.41	11,074.04
2Q	108,424.39	-	6,428.69	-
3Q	113,103.95	-	7,395.28	-
4Q	<u>107,506.81</u>	-	<u>6,905.25</u>	-
Total	446,890.38	113,924.24	24,992.63	11,074.04

Loan Principle Gifts	
2011	40,760
FFFII Campaign	97,204
Sept, 2011	101,809
- Aug, 2014	83,838
2015	11,995
<u>2016</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<u>2017</u>	<u>6,080</u>
Given since Aug, 2011	351,685

**Summary**

Firstfruits Giving is under 3% from this time last year

**Financial Plan Goal**

Annual Income Goal: \$584,559 - Quarterly Income Goal: \$146,140 - Monthly Income Goal: \$48,713

**Conservative Plan Projection Need**

Annual Income Need: \$544,328 - Quarterly Income Need \$136,082 - Monthly Income Need: \$45,361



St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2016

FINAL

2/8/2017 12:32

<b>Total Funds in the Bank 12/31/15 to begin 2016</b>	<b>\$89,339.53</b>
Income (Firstfruits Giving, Special & Payment Pass Thru Income)	712,792.62
Disbursements (Financial Plan Expenses, Special & Payment Pass Thru Expenses)	<u>-690,791.53</u>

**Total Funds in the Bank 12/31/16** **\$111,340.62**    **\$22,001.09 increase during 2016**

**Breakdown by Fund**

Available Working Funds			
Budgeted Operating Expense Fund	19,013.16	(see details in the 2016 Financial Plan Report)	
Building Usage Fund	14,537.86		
Emergency Fund	10,246.36		
Memorial Fund	<u>32,186.41</u>		
		<b>75,983.79</b>	(Operational Trigger - maintain \$40,000)
Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion	6,670.55		
Other Designated Accounts with donor-restricted use	<u>28,686.28</u>		
		<b>35,356.83</b>	

**\$111,340.62**

**Thrivent Building Loan Balance** **\$350,968.88**

Available Working Funds 12/31/2016	Balance 12/31/2015	Receipts during 2016	Disbursements during 2016	Balance 12/31/2016
<b>"Checking Account"</b>				
<b>Budgeted Operating Expense Fund funded by Firstfruits Giving</b>	-21,081.84	446,890.38	-427,877.22	<b>\$19,013.16</b>
* Emergency Fund Transfer in January to zero out Budget Fund		<u>21,081.84</u> *		
* more Expenses than Firstfruits Giving in 2015				
Preschool and BGC income offsets their expenses in the Financial Plan details may be found in the 2016 Financial Plan Report				
<b>"Savings Account"</b>				
<b>Funds (available to cover Budgeted Operating Expense Fund shortfall)</b>				
Building Usage Fund funded by building usage fees	10,331.55	4,686.00	-479.69	14,537.86
Emergency Fund funded by Savings interest, surplus transfers	30,859.21	-20,612.85	0.00	10,246.36
Memorial Fund funded by Special Giving - over and above FF Giving	28,327.88	4,135.00	-276.47	<u>32,186.41</u>
<b>Total Undesignated Funds</b>				<b>\$56,970.63</b>
<b>Total Available Working Funds (Operational Trigger of \$40,000)</b>				<b>\$75,983.79</b>

Designated Funds funded by Special Giving - over and above Firstfruits Giving	Balance 12/31/2015	Receipts during 2016	Disbursements during 2016	Balance 12/31/2016
<b>Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion</b>				
Benevolence Fund	0.00	100.00	0.00	<b>100.00</b>
Adult Sunday School	879.62	577.10	-551.08	<b>905.64</b>
Floor Refinish Fund (\$4,000 transferred from Bldg Usage Fund)	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Special Ministry Fund	2,646.01	200.00	960.00	<b>3,806.01</b>
Technology Fund	-27.08	0.00	27.08	<b>0.00</b>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,083.90	775.00	0.00	<u><b>1,858.90</b></u>
				<b>\$6,670.55</b>
<b>Other Designated Accounts</b>				
ARC Improvement Fund	2,289.43	0.00	-262.45	<b>2,026.98</b>
Bible Fund	2,083.86	1,200.00	-949.00	<b>2,334.86</b>
Children's Ministry Account	393.18	237.76	-250.00	<b>380.94</b>
Designated Trust - Koenig	10,599.82	0.00	0.00	<b>10,599.82</b>
Disaster Relief Fund	837.80	0.00	0.00	<b>837.80</b>
Fellowship Hour Acct	0.00	956.00	-500.00	<b>456.00</b>
Mission Trip Fund	208.13	0.00	0.00	<b>208.13</b>
Operation Debt Free - Gifts to Principle	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	<b>0.00</b>
Preschool Fund	4,646.73	156.00	-2,274.75	<b>2,527.98</b>
Quilting Account	701.10	192.98	-111.29	<b>782.79</b>
Sanctuary Projector Fund	5,055.00	0.00	-261.08	<b>4,793.92</b>
Youth - High School Account	9,041.11	6,194.71	-12,228.94	<b>3,006.88</b>
Youth - Middle School Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Pass Thru - Special Giving	0.00	4,723.08	-4,723.08	<b>0.00</b>
Pass Thru - Payments	464.12	20,554.00	-20,287.94	<u><b>28,686.28</b></u>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	40,902.73	45,866.63	-51,412.53	<b>35,356.83</b>
<b>Total Funds in the Bank 12/31/16</b>				<b>\$111,340.62</b>

**\$35,356.83**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - March 31, 2017**

4/20/2017 18:58

<b>Total Funds in the Bank 12/31/16 to begin 2017</b>	<b>\$111,340.62</b>
Income (Firstfruits Giving, Special & Payment Pass Thru Income)	188,023.33
Disbursements (Financial Plan Expenses, Special & Payment Pass Thru Expenses)	<u>-162,592.88</u>

<b>Total Funds in the Bank 3/31/17</b>	<b>\$136,771.07</b>	<b>\$25,430.45 increase during 2017</b>
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**Breakdown by Fund**

Available Working Funds		
Budgeted Operating Expense Fund	20,824.82	(see details in the 2017 Financial Plan Report)
Building Usage Fund	16,232.86	
Emergency Fund	29,396.64	
Memorial Fund	<u>32,371.16</u>	
	<b>\$98,825.48</b>	(Operational Trigger - maintain \$40,000)
Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion	6,483.27	
Other Designated Accounts with donor-restricted use	<u>31,462.32</u>	
	<b>\$37,945.59</b>	

**\$136,771.07**

**Thrivent Building Loan Balance** **\$328,460.36**

Available Working Funds 3/31/2017	Balance 12/31/2016	Receipts during 2017	Disbursements during 2017	Balance 3/31/2017
<b>"Checking Account"</b>				
<b>Budgeted Operating Expense Fund funded by Firstfruits Giving</b>	<b>\$19,013.16</b>	113,924.24	-93,099.42	<b>\$20,824.82</b>
* Emergency Fund Transfer in January to zero out Budget Fund		<u>-19,013.16</u> *		
* more Firstfruits Giving than Expenses in 2016				
Preschool and BGC income offsets their expenses in the Financial Plan details may be found in the 2016 Financial Plan Report				
<b>"Savings Account"</b>				
<b>Funds (available to cover Budgeted Operating Expense Fund shortfall)</b>				
Building Usage Fund funded by building usage fees	14,537.86	1,695.00	0.00	16,232.86
Emergency Fund funded by Savings interest, surplus transfers	10,246.36	19,150.28	0.00	29,396.64
Memorial Fund funded by Special Giving - over and above FF Giving	32,186.41	184.75	0.00	<u>32,371.16</u>
<b>Total Undesignated Funds</b>				<b>\$78,000.66</b>
<b>Total Available Working Funds (Operational Trigger of \$40,000)</b>				<b>\$98,825.48</b>

Designated Funds funded by Special Giving - over and above Firstfruits Giving	Balance 12/31/2016	Receipts during 2017	Disbursements during 2017	Balance 3/31/2017
Designated Funds within Vestry Discretion				
Benevolence Fund	100.00	0.00	-100.00	<b>0.00</b>
Adult Sunday School	905.64	181.41	0.00	<b>1,087.05</b> <i>these three funds could be</i>
Special Ministry Fund	3,806.01	100.00	-746.69	<b>3,159.32</b> <i>sources of funding for</i>
Thrivent Choice Dollars	1,858.90	378.00	0.00	<u><b>2,236.90</b></u> <i>Reformation activities</i>
				<b>\$6,483.27</b>
Other Designated Accounts				
ARC Improvement Fund	2,026.98	0.00	0.00	<b>2,026.98</b>
Bible Fund	2,334.86	300.00	0.00	<b>2,634.86</b>
Children's Ministry Account	380.94	9.00	0.00	<b>389.94</b>
Designated Trust - Koenig	10,599.82	0.00	0.00	<b>10,599.82</b>
Disaster Relief Fund	837.80	0.00	0.00	<b>837.80</b>
Fellowship Hour Acct	456.00	0.00	0.00	<b>456.00</b>
Mission Trip Fund	208.13	0.00	0.00	<b>208.13</b>
Operation Debt Free - Gifts to Principle	0.00	6,080.00	-6,080.00	<b>0.00</b>
Preschool Fund	2,527.98	70.00	0.00	<b>2,597.98</b>
Quilting Account	782.79	0.00	-108.99	<b>673.80</b>
Sanctuary Projector Fund	4,793.92	0.00	0.00	<b>4,793.92</b>
Youth - High School Account	3,006.88	2,109.00	-100.00	<b>5,015.88</b>
Youth - Middle School Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Pass Thru - Special Giving	0.00	3,670.88	-3,895.26	<b>-224.38</b>
Pass Thru - Payments	730.18	2,134.93	-1,413.52	<u><b>1,451.59</b></u>
				<b>\$31,462.32</b>
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>35,356.83</b>	<b>15,033.22</b>	<b>-12,444.46</b>	<b>37,945.59</b>
<b>Total Funds in the Bank 3/31/17</b>				<b>\$136,771.07</b>

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Plan through December, 2016**

**FINAL** 4/20/2017 18:46

	2016 Year-to-Date Actual	2016 Financial Plan	
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b>\$446,890.38</b>	<b>\$592,323</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Senior Pastor	1,125.00	64,260 *	2%
Director of Children's Ministry (6mo: 40hrs, 5 mo: 20hrs)	23,776.56	37,250	64%
CrossLife Coordinator	2,479.31	5,666	44%
Organist/Keyboardist	10,595.00	24,765	43%
Music Director	3,996.66	5,000	80%
Business Manager	40,310.52	40,310	100%
Office Manager	19,094.40	20,280	94%
Additional Office Staff Expense	194.66	1,000	19%
Nursery Attendants	5,753.56	7,000	82%
Worker Thanksgiving Contingency Expense	2,145.00	2,000	107%
Employee Benefit & Payroll Tax Expense	34,792.29	90,504	38%
Staff Transition Expenses <i>not budgeted</i>	2,265.86	<i>not budgeted</i> *	
Guest Speakers, <i>Interim Proclaimers not budgeted</i>	16,992.00	2,500 *	680%
Other Interim Expenses	187.38	<i>not budgeted</i> *	
Conference and Convention	2,091.00	2,500	84%
Office Supplies	4,528.16	5,500	82%
Choir Supplies	-55.59	1,300	-4%
Worship Supplies	4,313.77	4,650	93%
Discretion	20.00	500	4%
Social Ministry	500.00	500	100%
Lutheran Hour Support	975.00	975	100%
<b>Total Elder Expenses</b>	<b>\$176,080.54</b>	<b>\$316,460</b>	<b>56%</b>
Children's Ministry	4,025.22	7,700	52%
Middle School Youth Ministry	2,714.47	3,400	80%
High School Youth Ministry	1,372.82	7,500	18%
Family Ministry	919.15	1,800	51%
Adult Education ( <i>to be offset by Adult SS offering</i> )	644.80	250	258%
+ Preschool Ministry	4,890.22	5,000	98%
Social Group Ministry	265.00	500	53%
<b>Total Education Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,831.68</b>	<b>\$26,150</b>	<b>57%</b>
Advertising/Communication	1,932.77	2,488	78%
Bibles and Tracts	0.00	700	0%
Member Activities	0.00	640	0%
Community Projects ( <i>offset by Thrivent Action Team grant</i> )	28.83	1,450	2%
++ Community Ministry - Boys & Girls Club	-1,071.83	2,575	-42%
<b>Total Parish Outreach Expenses</b>	<b>\$889.77</b>	<b>\$7,853</b>	<b>11%</b>
Janitor/Custodian Salary	24,998.00	25,000	100%
Janitor Supplies	4,326.18	5,000	87%
ARC Take-down	1,437.51	1,400	103%
Janitor & Supply CoPayments from PS, BGC	-13,440.00	-12,240	110%
Repairs & Maintenance	49,039.29	33,420	147%
Property & Liability Insurance	10,533.44	10,238	103%
Church Utilities/Phone/Email/Dumpster/Pest	35,990.30	38,954	92%
Utility CoPayments from PS, BGC	-7,200.00	-7,200	100%
Church Furnishings/Computers	613.56	800	77%
Office Equipment Copiers/Printers	6,046.35	7,500	81%
Van Maintenance	285.22	1,000	29%
Building Loan Expense	78,756.24	78,756	100%
<b>Total Trustee Expenses</b>	<b>\$191,386.09</b>	<b>\$182,628</b>	<b>105%</b>
<b>District Missions Tithe</b>	<b>\$44,689.14</b>	<b>\$59,232</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$427,877.22</b>	<b>\$592,323</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Financial Plan Activity for 2016 through December</b>	<b>\$19,013.16</b>		

			2016-2015
+	Preschool Ministry - more out than in -4,890.22	2015 FF Giving	\$547,196
++	Community Ministry - Boys & Girls Club more in than out 1,071.83	2015 Expenses	\$568,266
			-\$100,214 less giving
			-\$140,389 less expenses

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Financial Plan through March, 2017**

4/20/2017 18:46

2017 Year-to-Date Actual    2017 Financial Plan

2017 Conservative  
Plan Projection Need

Income				
<b>Firstfruits (Current) Giving for Budgeted Expenses</b>		<b>\$113,924</b>	<b>\$584,559</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Senior Pastor	7,192	67,036	11%	55,863
Additional Church Worker	1,109	37,250	3%	15,000
Organist/Keyboardist	2,908	20,550	14%	20,550
Music Director	3,000	9,215	33%	9,215
Business Manager	10,078	40,310	25%	40,310
Office Manager	4,774	20,280	24%	20,280
Additional Office Staff Expense	0	1,000	0%	1,000
Nursery Attendants	1,276	6,000	21%	6,000
Worker Thanksgiving Contingency Expense	0	2,000	0%	2,000
Employee Benefit & Payroll Tax Expense	6,312	91,973	7%	77,500
Candidate Interviews/Relocation	7,495			11,173
Guest Speakers, <i>Interim Proclaimers not budgeted</i>	2,850	2,500	114%	2,500
Conference and Convention	0	2,500	0%	2,500
Office Supplies	445	5,500	8%	5,500
Choir Supplies	0	1,300	0%	1,300
Worship Supplies	1,236	4,650	27%	4,650
Discretion	0	500	0%	500
Social Ministry	85	500	17%	500
Lutheran Hour Support	244	975	25%	975
<b>Total Elder Expenses</b>		<b>\$49,004</b>	<b>\$314,040</b>	<b>16%</b>
Children's Ministry	289	4,300	7%	4,000
Middle School Youth Ministry	19	4,100	0%	3,000
High School Youth Ministry	689	4,600	15%	3,000
Young Adult Ministry	0	300	0%	300
Family Ministry	24	1,200	2%	900
Adult Education <i>(to be offset by Adult SS offering)</i>	85	250	34%	0
+ Preschool Ministry <i>(incl deposits/fees for '17/18 school yr)</i>	-6,319	5,271	-120%	5,000
Social Group Ministry	0	500	0%	0
<b>Total Education Expenses</b>		<b>-\$5,213</b>	<b>\$20,521</b>	<b>-25%</b>
Advertising/Communication	926	1,910	49%	1,800
Bibles and Tracts	0	700	0%	700
Member Activities	0	620	0%	620
Community Projects <i>(offset by Thrivent Action Team grant)</i>	13	750	2%	750
In-reach Projects	0	800	0%	800
++ Boys & Girls Club Ministry <i>(incl deposits for summer)</i>	-1,748	1,700	-103%	-1,000
<b>Total Parish Outreach Expenses</b>		<b>-\$809</b>	<b>\$6,480</b>	<b>-12%</b>
Janitor/Custodian Salary	6,075	24,000	25%	25,000
Janitor Supplies	802	5,000	16%	5,000
ARC Take-down	269	1,400	19%	1,400
Janitor & Supply CoPayments from PS, BGC	-3,360	-12,240	27%	-12,240
Repairs & Maintenance	1,645	34,570	5%	34,570
Property & Liability Insurance	2,683	10,000	27%	10,000
Church Utilities/Phone/Email/Dumpster/Pest	7,432	32,375	23%	36,000
Utility CoPayments from PS, BGC	-1,800	-7,200	25%	-7,200
Church Furnishings/Computers	839	800	105%	800
Office Equipment Copiers/Printers	3,649	7,000	52%	6,000
Van Maintenance	573	600	95%	600
Van Replacement	0	6,000	0%	6,000
Carpet Replacement	0	4,000	0%	4,000
Building Loan Expense	19,919	78,756	25%	78,756
<b>Total Trustee Expenses</b>		<b>\$38,725</b>	<b>\$185,061</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>District Missions Tithe</b>		<b>\$11,392</b>	<b>\$58,456</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$93,099</b>	<b>\$584,558</b>	<b>16%</b>

**Financial Plan Activity for 2017 through March**    **\$20,825**    **\$48,713 Monthly Giving Goal to meet Financial Plan**  
**Monthly Giving Need to meet conservative spending**    **\$45,361**

+	Preschool Ministry - more in than out at	\$6,319	2016 Giving	\$117,855	→	-\$3,931 less 2017 giving	YTD Giving	\$113,924
++	Boys & Girls Club more in than out at	\$1,748	2016 Expenses	\$92,887	→	\$213 more 2017 expenses	Shortfall	-\$22,158
	<i>included summer fees inflates the programs' amounts</i>						Current Surplus	\$20,557
							Where that leaves us as if 03/31/2017	-\$1,601

## Elder Report - Voters meeting - April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come." 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:17  
Sinner & Believer are not the same. John 3:16 - "That who so ever believeth would not perish ... ."

"To invade a country without military force, one only needs to undermine their spirituality, morality, and patriotism." Joseph Stalin Where are we today?

Fellow congregants:

Trials and tribulations filled much of our lives this past several months yet, resulting in most favorable results: Welcome Pastor Kretzschmar, Erin and Grace.

Mini Flocks were revamped to alphabetical grouping, with out regards to service style, Mini Flocks are posted by the mail boxes. Your elder will be calling you at least twice a year for briefings and or questions. During the remainder of the year about every 3 weeks, each Mini Flock will be invited to Pastors' house for a social/ fun gathering. You will receive an invite through the mail as well as a call from your elder.

First Fruit Giving has been down for nearly a year, which raises the question do we give to the church or do we give to God? Having an interim or no Pastor, nation wide, effects church attendance yet, being an outreach / disciple congregation expense goes on.

Communication still seems to keep many of us in the dark although we have 7 main sources to get the information out to you, 1. Epistle 2. weekly Bulletin 3. one call now (robo) 4. announcements at church 5. mail box 6. web site 7. e-mail. Do we want to know or know just when it is convenient to find out?

Pastor John Ninke, of Hartselle, has been helping Tim Herfurth with the confirmation class, and has been much appreciated.

Every member survey on church style service went well, with informative feedback and discussions. The majority of responders favored an 8:15 Sanctuary, Bible classes, followed with and 10:45 ARC contemporary. Thanks again, for everyone's input.

Help us with knowing / forming our shut in list so we can better serve them with personal visits and serving communion.

I am a church member A good read on the church population today, and their effect on the church field across the Nation. You do realize the church family nation wide is on a decline? May want to read this short book. All the elders were given one, some copies available by the office.

A Man Named Martin , a documentary, Part I has had two showings during March. Part II will be shown in May: one session May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> with the second session May 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> : 6:00 in the Fellowship Room. Informative and deeper than movies, prepared by The Lutheran Hour.

While God is good, He is just,

Your elder team: John Covington, Jeff Pittman, Mark Blaske, Jimmy Muller, Mike Widmar,  
Phillip Corlew, David Graham, Jeff Morgan, Tim Herfurth, Jerry Alldredge

" A person's character is determined by his motives, and motive is always a matter of the heart."

John Eldredge, Theologian

The Bible says that Jesus, our Lord, knows us by our hearts.

Martin Luther's Definition of Faith:  
An excerpt from  
"An Introduction to St. Paul's Letter to the Romans,"  
Luther's German Bible of 1522  
by Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
Translated by Rev. Robert E. Smith  
from DR. MARTIN LUTHER'S VERMISCHTE DEUTSCHE SCHRIFTEN.  
Johann K. Irmischer, ed. Vol. 63  
(Erlangen: Heyder and Zimmer, 1854), pp.124-125. [EA 63:124-125]  
August 1994

Faith is not what some people think it is. Their human dream is a delusion. Because they observe that faith is not followed by good works or a better life, they fall into error, even though they speak and hear much about faith. "Faith is not enough," they say, "You must do good works, you must be pious to be saved." They think that, when you hear the gospel, you start working, creating by your own strength a thankful heart which says, "I believe." That is what they think true faith is. But, because this is a human idea, a dream, the heart never learns anything from it, so it does nothing and reform doesn't come from this 'faith,' either.

Instead, faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. (John 1:13). It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active and powerful thing, this faith. Faith cannot help doing good works constantly. It doesn't stop to ask if good works ought to be done, but before anyone asks, it already has done them and continues to do them without ceasing. Anyone who does not do good works in this manner is an unbeliever. He stumbles around and looks for faith and good works, even though he does not know what faith or good works are. Yet he gossips and chatters about faith and good works with many words.

Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire! Therefore, watch out for your own false ideas and guard against good-for-nothing gossips, who think they're smart enough to define faith and works, but really are the greatest of fools. Ask God to work faith in you, or you will remain forever without faith, no matter what you wish, say or can do.

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Rev. Robert E. Smith

**Parish Outreach Committee Report  
Voters Assembly Spring, 2017**

Parish Outreach formed a separate **Reformation Committee**.

Members include Jackie Joiner, Beth Hornish, Ron Fritze, and Dan Jones.

- We worked with the Trustees to set up posters of the **95 Theses on the front door and in the Lobby** by the ARC. We also set up a few other Reformation posters in the church.
- We have added "**Faces of the Reformation**" to the Sunday bulletins as information about people involved in the Reformation. These come out monthly.
- Ron Fritze has been writing very informative and **outstanding essays on the Reformation** for our **monthly newsletter** and on the **website** via a link on the Home Page.
- On April 30<sup>th</sup>, we are presenting a **Narrative Service based on the original Deutsche Mass by Luther**.
- Future activities include showing the **Luther movie as a family movie night and a German dinner** in the fall.
- We are also exploring **t-shirts with a Reformation theme & St. Paul's logo**.
- On Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, St. Paul's will have a **Family Fun Fest: A Reformation Celebration**. This will be a church-wide activity that St. Paul's hosts and invites our neighbors and the community. We will have food, inflatables for different age kids, other kid and adult activities, and entertainment. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share our Lutheran heritage in action! We are looking for a magician to do a show for the kids, so if anyone knows of a magician, please contact Jackie Joiner. If anyone is interested in helping to plan this large event, please contact any member of the Outreach Committee.

We will be working with **Austinville Elementary** again to help with **School Supplies** for students at the start of the school year. Be watching for the list of supplies this June and July.

Parish Outreach is coordinating an effort to take **flowers to Veterans in a few local nursing homes**. Some florist shops and funeral homes are donating leftover flowers, and we will be delivering them on a regular basis to the Vets.

Reverend Eric Johnson, Southern District Mission Executive, presented an **Outreach Workshop** at COR in April. Pastor Kretschmar & Dave Burrell attended. We will be using information learned from that to explore better and more effective ways to reach out. We may try to see if we can get Eric Johnson to come to speak at St. Paul's.

Jackie Joiner  
Parish Outreach Committee

# Children's Ministry Report

January 12, 2017

## Sunday School

- Everyone enjoyed the Easter studies! We are back to the regular What's in the Bible for the 1-4 grades. The preschool-age children also studied Easter with the Just Us Little Guys program and are now studying the Early Church.
- I'm looking ahead to summer and trying to decide what to do—and who will teach it.

## Preschool.

- The teachers and Pastor have taken over Chapel for me during my chemo.

## Boys & Girls Club

- Pastor and Charlotte have taken over God's Place, and I understand that it blesses Pastor as much as it did me!

## FaithLinks

- The kids finished up their God and Family and God and Me programs and were presented with certificates in church on Palm Sunday. To finish out the year, first they will study Ehud, the left-handed judge and then they will have a study with their parents on being created in the image of God.

## VBS

- I'm fired up for VBS! We are striving to get the entire church involved by offering a meal, then everyone meets for the video portion, then the kids break off for their rotational study featuring activities, games and crafts. Adults will learn how to share their faith, how to lead others through the tricky parts of the Bible, and how to engage them in God's redemptive mission in the world, then all meet back up for Bible What's It with Chester Wiggins—a quiz to bring back to mind all the points made during the evening.
- I'm working on finding leaders for the kids' groups and activities. I'm going to concentrate on trying to find adults who don't have kids in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> so that they may attend the adult portion of the VBS.
- I'm also working on a team to do the meals—I'm thinking that continuing the style of FaithLinks where different groups within the church head up a day. Carole Rikard has indicated that she would spearhead the meals.
- I've already purchased most of the supplies and am working on getting that all organized.

God willing, I plan to continue to work “behind the scenes” as Children's Ministry Director, leaving the “close up” work to others who don't have to worry about their white blood count! I miss the hugs, but it seems to be working!

Faithfully submitted,  
Paula Brown