

What's happening at St. Paul Presbyterian Church

18901 EAST HAMPDEN AVE, AURORA, CO 80013

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April 2017

The PDF version of *The Epistle* is available at <http://stppc.org/whats-happening/the-st-paul-epistle-newsletter/>.

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FROM THE PASTOR

Did you know that the second most common accident in the home is walking into a plate glass door? I learned this on the radio a few years ago in a segment called *The Mind Bender*. This is something I know about second hand. Of course it had to happen when my parents were gone and I was babysitting my brothers. My youngest brother, Karl, (there must be something about the name), was playing with

our brother Eric. He didn't notice that the plate glass door was closed and ran right through it. The neighbors rushed us to the hospital and he was stitched up while I had my head down, trying not to pass out. He has a nice scar on his forehead as a reminder of that adventure.

Doors *usually* give a very clear message. An open door usually indicates, "It's okay to enter; you are welcome." A closed door indicates, "Do not enter; no one is available," or possibly, "You are not welcome."

Our Presbytery Moderator, Jean Demmler has named this year, the year of *Opening the Doors*. Last week at the presbytery meeting held at St. Paul, the theme was *Opening the Doors.....Radical Hospitality*. How do we not only keep our doors open to all, but radically welcome all? With our New Beginnings decision to feed the hungry and minister to children, St. Paul has boldly moved into the community, asking, "What do our neighbors need from us?"

It is far too easy to gather in our beautiful sanctuary, put out the welcome mat, and wait for others to join us where we are. It is too easy to wait for others to come through our door, rather than us going out the door and into the world. But we have taken great strides in this area. What are the ways we can further reach out into the community and the world? How can we offer radical hospitality?

There is a door I encourage you to step through in these next couple of weeks and that is the doorway of the cross. Pastor Glen Bell wrote an article for *Presbyterian Outlook* called *Easter through the Doorway of the Cross*. Bell says that it is great temptation for us to move swiftly from the waving of the palms to the joy of the empty tomb. We yearn to move from triumph to triumph. We yearn to turn away from the agony of Good Friday. We are eager to live without the pain and to cover the scars we have suffered. But even as we are tempted to turn from our memories of pain, we discover that Christ's suffering provides the framework for Easter.

We cannot live as Easter people until and unless we are shaped by the cross. The cross becomes the shape of our spiritual journey, calling us to encounter the resurrection, discovered in the midst of the world's brokenness. It is only by walking through the door of the cross that we are able to offer radical hospitality to a hurting world. This Lenten season, I urge you to walk through the doorway of the cross and into the glory of the resurrection.

A blessed Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to you and yours,

Pastor Kim

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 9, 2017

At the March 9 Session meeting, the following information was shared and action taken.

Treasurer Wetzel discussed the balance sheet and treasurer's report. There are no serious concerns. She mentioned that approximately \$1,400 in SPY's account will be paid out shortly as these funds were raised in support of "Walking for Water." **We are a bit behind on capital income** but per capita income is increasing, in part due to the distribution of specific envelopes for this annual payment. Members are asked to try to catch up on their capital campaign pledges.

Joann Goss and Ellen Ingram verbally presented the Deacon's report and explained that the Deacons are putting together an assistance team for members who might have simple needs around the house for repairs, moving, etc. The prayer chain is being finalized and should be ready by the end of March. Lenten meals are going well, averaging between 40 and 45 each night.

Judith Sweet was moved to the inactive rolls per her email request of February 23.

Ministry of Building and Grounds will consider a way to secure the propane gas bottle for the outdoor grille so it can't be used by just anyone passing by. The container needs to be controlled and the grill scheduled so that when a group needs it, there will be gas available.

Ministry of Administration and Personnel will begin tracking the use of the copier by creating separate machine use codes for the different Ministry Units, Deacons, congregation and other users. Rev. Graber's performance review date to was changed the end of October to be consistent with her calling to St. Paul.

Session changed the date of the Fall Festival from October 20 to October 27. MCE will coordinate the recycling of the aluminum cans and all funds from this recycling activity will be used for Vacation Bible School and the Fall Festival unless otherwise determined by Session. Peter announced that SPY will be completing some additional fleece blankets. He also reported that Sunrise Elementary School was one of ten schools nationally to receive \$8,000 for the school library as a result of the Follett Challenge which St. Paul help support.

Ministry of Building and Grounds reported that Brad Garwood conducted a walk-through with a heating contractor of our nine furnaces at St. Paul. No one can recall or determine when these furnaces were last inspected. As a result, Session approved the expenditure of approximately \$900 to inspect these nine furnaces this spring. Gary mentioned that we will probably have to service the air-conditioners next year. He also reported that Ginger spent 14 hours hand-watering the garden and grass this past month.

Ministry of Mission and Outreach reported that MMO is planning to re-open the pantry on Sundays between Noon and 2:00 P.M. Volunteers have been secured for the initial Sundays starting March 19.

Peter Moskowitz mentioned that he is working with Rich Hartung to start developing some general safety and security guidelines for us to use at St. Paul. A suggestion was offered that it might be worth St. Paul investigating the installation of a remote camera near the entrance to the Celebration Center so people in the office would see who was ringing the bell before going to open the door.

St. Paul will host the Presbytery Assembly on **March 28.**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Since Ash Wednesday, on March first, we have walked through the season of Lent. During Holy Week we will continue our walk with Jesus through his Passion.

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:15 a.m. – Celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna! All who are able will assemble in the Celebration Center for the Procession of the Palms. We have made this procession every Palm Sunday since the Sanctuary was built and used for worship on Palm Sunday in 2007.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.– Commemoration of Jesus’ Last Supper with His disciples. We will share the beginning of the Vigil of the Final Hours, a dramatic reading culminating this first evening in Hand Washing and The Lord’s Supper.

Good Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. -- The culmination of Christ’s Passion. The crucifixion will be remembered in the conclusion of the Vigil of the Final Hours and a Tenebrae, the Service of Gathering Darkness.

Our journey will culminate, of course, with our celebration of the **Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday, April 16, at 10:15 A.M.!** Christ is Risen, He is Risen, Indeed! A joy-filled service of Alleluias and Praise to celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Please mark these special dates on your calendars and join with others to deepen your faith and find greater connection to the love of our Lord during the special season of Lent.

EASTER DAY ACTIVITIES

Easter Egg Hunt

Calling All Easter Egg Helpers! "The St. Paul Annual Easter Egg Hunt" on April 16th is sure to delight the children. We are accepting plastic eggs (new or recycled) and wrapped candies or small toys for fillers. They can be placed in the box in the Celebration Center starting Sunday, April 2nd. We also need volunteers to help fill eggs during the week prior. Help will be needed to hide the Easter eggs at 9:00 A.M. on Easter morning before Worship. If you are able to help, please sign up on the sheet in the Celebration Center. For questions, contact Sheila Moskowitz at [720.530.8936](tel:720.530.8936).

Sweetbreads

Easter Sunday, April 16, we invite you to join in our tradition of bringing sweetbreads to share for snacks after worship. Everyone bring a sweet bread that you love, and we will share them while the children hunt for Easter eggs.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES will be available during Social Time Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Colleen Green has kindly offered to take individual and family photos to update our photo board during the Social Hour in the Celebration Center. Come dressed in your Easter Finery or your Sunday casual to update your picture. During this time you will be able to update our latest copy of the Church Directory.

THANK YOUS

Thanks to everyone who is using and reloading their King Soopers gift cards. This month we loaded \$3700 which when added to last month's \$3530, means we will be receiving a check for \$361. As long as a card has money on it, it doesn't expire. Cards at a \$0 balance for 90 days are removed from the account. If you have questions or need a new card, please contact Michelle Girard. Cards are \$5 each and come with \$5 loaded on them to begin.

Thank you for your contributions of time, talents and finances towards our Fleece Blankets Mission Workshop to benefit sick children at Children's Hospital. St. Paul Youth will be completing the last 4 blankets, to bring the total to 20. The blankets will be delivered by the youth group in the near future when they receive a tour of the hospital by Elder Beth McCarthy.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

STPPC Information Meeting Scheduled

As many of you know, St. Michael's (the Catholic church across the field from St. Paul) has agreed to sell their portion of the land between the two churches to a developer. On April 6th an informational town meeting will be held at St. Paul from 6:30 – 8:30. Prior to that meeting, a representative from the development company will be meeting with session. We would like to have a special informational meeting for the congregation following worship on April 2 to discuss what we know about this sale. If at all possible, please plan to attend this meeting.

Rev. Kim Graber



**Outlook at Seven Hills - Rezoning, Site Plan and Plat
Southwest corner of E. Floyd Avenue and S. Cathay Street
(Please see Vicinity Map on next page for site location)**

Neighborhood Meeting

You are invited to attend a meeting to discuss a Rezoning, Site Plan and Plat proposed for the Seven Hills property in Aurora, Colorado. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss any issues adjacent property owners and neighborhood organizations may have about this project. The applicant will attend this meeting to present information, answer questions and to listen to your comments.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, yet have specific concerns about this project, please contact the City of Aurora Planner, Michelle Montenegro, 303-739-7112 or mmontene@auroragov.org or, City of Aurora Neighborhood Liaison, Marsha W. Osborn, 303-739-7402 or mosborn@auroragov.org Alternatively, you may put your comments in writing and send them to City of Aurora, Michelle Montenegro, Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora, CO 80012.

DATE: Thursday, April 6, 2017
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
PLACE: St. Paul Presbyterian Church
18901 E. Hampden Ave.
Aurora, CO 80013

To view current development applications, please visit:
<http://aurora4biz.org/developmentplanreviewpub/>



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP APRIL 2017 EPISTLE

Thank you, members! You have answered the call to contribute your Per Capita - many of you have given your \$30. We appreciate it - this means those dollars we paid out of the Operating Fund can go toward other work of the church!

We plan to give you a quarterly update on our budget, but we won't have the figures from March until after this newsletter is completed. So plan to see those figures beginning in the May 1 Epistle.

In the meantime, some of you have paid your entire year's pledge (both Operating Fund and the 3-year Capital Campaign) up front, at the first of the year. So our numbers look good now, but we hope everyone will be able to keep up with their monthly pledge if at all possible. We count on that to pay our bills.

May you all continue to be blessed by that most important form of giving - your time and talents! You are the very best!!

Members of MFS are Joelle Brouner, Kathleen Hall, Rich Hartung, Liz Ludchak, Beth McCarthy (Chair) and Ken Pote.

Food Pantry

Food of the Month - Our featured food item for the month of April will be canned soup, except for tomato and chicken noodle. The food pantry is always in need of pasta, spaghetti sauce and canned fruit.

St. Paul Garage Sale

Coming up, the St. Paul Yard Sale is May 13th, Saturday from 9 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Stay tuned for details.

MORE STPPC ACTIVITIES

The Bible in a Year class will have their final gathering on Sunday, April 2nd, at 9:00 A.M. Pastor Kim will lead a discussion on Revelation.

The **Holistic Health Class** will be meeting on Thursday, April 6th at 9:30 A.M.

The **Agape Women's Study Group** will be meeting on Wednesday, April 19th at 1:00 P.M.

Elderberries will meet on Thursday, April 19th, at 11:30 A.M. at the Café Monet, 10471 S. Parker Rd. in Aurora. Host will be Beth McCarthy.

Books and Brunch will meet on Saturday, April 15th, at 9:00 A.M.

PRESBYTERY ACTIVITIES

April 27 Soul Shop Is Coming! (Phase II of Mental Health Initiative)
Presbytery of Denver

November 10-11 Opening Doors & Crossing the Threshold
Leadership Retreat at Highlands Presbyterian Camp Retreat

Please go to DENPRES.ORG for additional information.

MINISTRY UNIT MEETINGS

Regularly Scheduled Ministry Meeting Dates for 2017

SESSION normally meets at 6:30 P.M. on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
Clerk of Session is Dave Goss.

MAP (Ministry of Administration and Personnel) meets at 1:00 P.M. on the
3rd Monday of the month. Chair is Elder José López.

MBG (Ministry of Building & Grounds) meets the first Sunday of the month at
11:30 P.M. following worship. Chair is Elder Gary Childress.

MCE (Ministry of Christian Education) meets at 5:30 PM on the first Monday
of every month. Co-Chairs are Elders Peter Moskowitz and Bruce Larson.

MMF (Ministry of Membership & Fellowship) meets the 1st Thursday of each
month at 3:30 P.M. Co-chairs are Elders Sue Warner & Mary Apodaca.

MMO (Ministry of Mission & Outreach) meets the 4th Sunday of each month
at 11:30 A.M. following worship. Co-Chair are Elders Jeanne Pote and Luke
Hopkins.

MOW (Ministry of Worship) meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:30
A.M. following worship. Chair is Cleve Dixon.

MFS (Ministry of Finance & Stewardship) meets on the 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M. Chair is Elder Beth McCarthy.

Deacons meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 P.M. Co-chairs are Joann Goss and Ellen Ingram.

MEETING TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE MID-WEEK UPDATE OR WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR CHANGES IN MEETING DAYS AND TIMES.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2017

Saturday, April 1

10:00 AM Landmark Ministries

Sunday, April 2

9:00 AM Sunday School (All Ages)

9:00 AM Bible in a Year Extended – Book of Revelation

10:15 AM Worship

11:20 AM Informational Meeting

11:20 AM Social Time

11:30 AM Ministry of Building and Grounds

11:45 AM Spy - C

10:00 AM Landmark Ministries

Monday, April 3

5:30 PM Ministry of Christian Education

6:30 PM Ministry of Finance & Stewardship

6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 63475

6:00 PM Landmark Ministries

Tuesday, April 4

9:00 AM Food Pantry

6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2423

6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 3

6:45 PM Landmark Ministries

Wednesday, April 5

6:00 PM Lenten Dinner & Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Landmark Ministries

Thursday, April 6

9:30 AM Holistic Health Discussion
3:30 PM Ministry of Membership & Fellowship
6:30 PM Neighborhood Meeting

Friday, April 7

OFFICE CLOSED
5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 550
7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 1327

Saturday, April 8

9:00 AM Landmark Ministries

Sunday, April 9

PALM SUNDAY
9:00 AM Sunday School (All Ages)
10:15 AM Worship
11:20 AM Social Time
10:00 AM Landmark Ministries
12:00 PM Spy

Monday, April 10

6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 63475
6:30 PM Landmark Ministries

Tuesday, April 11

9:00 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2423
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 3
6:45 PM Landmark Ministries

Wednesday, April 12

7:30 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Landmark Ministries

Thursday, April 13

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service
6:00 PM Landmark Ministries – Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 14

GOOD FRIDAY / OFFICE CLOSED
7:00 PM Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 15

9:00 AM Books & Brunch
10:00 AM Landmark Ministries

Sunday, April 16

9:00 AM EASTER SUNDAY
No Sunday School Today!
10:15 AM Worship
11:20 AM Sweet Breads / Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 AM Landmark Ministries

Monday, April 17

1:00 PM Ministry of Administration & Personnel
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 63475
6:30 PM Landmark Ministries

Tuesday, April 18

9:00 AM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 2423
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 3
6:45 PM Landmark Ministries

Wednesday April 19

1:00 PM Agape
6:00 PM Midweek Gathering
7:30 PM Choir Practice
6:00 PM Landmark Ministries

Thursday, April 20

9:30 AM Holistic Health Discussion
11:30 AM Elderberries Café Monet
10471 S Parker Rd. Parker
6:30 PM Session
6:30 PM Landmark Ministries

Friday, April 21

OFFICE CLOSED
5:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 550
7:00 PM Girl Scout Troop 1327

Saturday, April 22

Sunday, April 23

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|----------|--------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Sunday School (All Ages) |
| 10:15 AM | Worship |
| 11:20 AM | Social Time |
| 11:30 AM | Ministry of Mission & Outreach |
| 12:00 PM | SPY |
| 1:00 PM | Confirmation Class |
| 2:00 PM | Downen Baby Shower |
| 10:00 AM | Landmark Ministries |

Monday, April 24

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|---------|------------------------|
| 6:00 PM | Girl Scout Troop 63475 |
| 6:00 PM | Landmark Ministries |

Tuesday, April 25

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|---------|-----------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Food Pantry |
| 6:00 PM | Girl Scout Troop 2423 |
| 6:00 PM | Landmark Ministries |
| 6:30 PM | Boy Scout Troop 3 |

Wednesday, April 26

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|---------|---------------------|
| 6:00 PM | Midweek Gathering |
| 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |
| 6:00 PM | Landmark Ministries |

Thursday, April 27

Friday, April 28

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| | OFFICE CLOSED |
| 5:30 PM | Girl Scout Troop 550 |
| 7:00 PM | Girl Scout Troop 1327 |
| 8:30 PM | Girl Scout Troop 1327 Sleepover |

Saturday, April 29

Sleepover (cont. to 10:00 AM)

Sunday, April 30

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Sunday School (All Ages) |
| 10:15 AM | Worship |
| 11:20 AM | Social Time |
| 1:00 PM | Confirmation Class |
| 10:00 AM | Landmark Ministries |