

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

February 2021

PASTOR'S PEACE

Over the past month our congregation has been gathering for both on site and live-streamed services every Sunday morning with many of the Advent and Christmas decorations—most notably the two lighted trees flanking the altar—still in place. That wasn't an oversight or accident or laziness on anyone's part. Instead, beyond the customary post-Christmas star which has always continued to shine throughout January, there was a decision to keep everything longer in place for most of the Epiphany season. Since fewer folks made it to the St. Paul sanctuary for Advent and Christmas services due to the pandemic, the idea was to give more opportunity for us all to absorb the beauty of the chancel decorated. Perhaps it's most fitting too. Although we celebrate the story of the Wise Men arriving at Jesus' manger on Christmas Eve and then a couple of weeks later on All Kings' Day, January 6, historians suggest that it was probably long weeks after Jesus' birth before the Wise Men made it to Bethlehem to marvel at what had happened there. This year the take-down of the decorations will really signal that our next calendar season of Lent is soon to begin.

Lent, which comes from an Old English word for lengthen, refers to the fact that in our northern hemisphere the hours of daylight grow longer as we emerge from winter and welcome spring. However, in the symbolic observances of the church it is still a season of shadows as we recall how Jesus in his ministry not only encountered great faith and devotion on the part of those whom he shepherded but also terrible sin and selfishness. That sin and selfishness brings about the dramatic events of Holy Week when Jesus is increasingly challenged and threatened and then arrested, tried, mocked, and crucified—all unjustly. Of course, that's not the end of the story either because Easter follows with the discovery of his empty tomb. The brightest light and hope shines just when everything seems the darkest in the most overwhelming sort of way.

Not unlike Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Lent is going to be different for us this year right from the start because of the pandemic. But the adversity that we all face now can't cancel it. Over the past twelve months since the pandemic first kicked in we've learned how to adjust and adapt and keep going forward positively

and hopefully in faith. Although we will be foregoing midweek Lenten services and our usual Bible study, we will still be worshipping at church on Ash Wednesday with palm ashes distributed, February 17 at 7 p.m., joining for the sacrament of communion on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21 at 10 a.m., and later, as the Lenten season culminates, we will have as always both a Maundy Thursday evening service and a Good Friday noontime service as part of our Holy Week observances that begin with Palm Sunday and bring us to Easter morning. All of these services will be live-streamed too, which will serve us well should any COVID-19 surge compel us to once again temporarily suspend onsite worship.

Significantly, amid continued warnings that we could have some very difficult and sobering winter weeks ahead because of infection spread with new strains, the vaccination program for COVID-19 is expected to accelerate and gain momentum throughout the weeks of Lent and Easter. This backdrop, both tragic and hopeful, is certainly going to inform and shape my own reflections on the meaning of Lent and Easter. These difficult, challenging and promising times can be a further occasion for us all to grow and deepen in our Christian faith as we consider anew what God and his son have to say to us about living life vibrantly and faithfully in the face of death and loss, which are always realities and possibilities. Without being careless as we observe and celebrate these Lenten weeks ahead, may we be courageous, hopeful, and faithful.

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"Where oh where does the time go?" It is true. We become our mothers. I cannot even begin to count the number of times I heard those words spoken by my mother and grandmothers. Some wise women indeed! For certain, time waits for no-one or for nothing. Valentine's Day is about to make her entrance, regardless of the Christmas boxes still awaiting their proper place of storage. In spite of how fast time goes, let us live each one with love, seeking to do good to all people. For as the poet John Freeman states, **We Will Know As We Are Known.**

"Love substance seems to be twain by the natural human brain and will always remain the same as thinking remains on a natural plane.

When human concepts we clip beginning to touch angel wing tips arising from lies, earthly disguise realizing demise, as an angel wing flies.

Agape returns, precept we learn we'll know what we've missed by heavenly love we'll be kissed we'll know as we're known, for by love we'll be honed.

All life is love in action diminished in earth by human faction perfection by heaven loves action diminishes human plane diffraction."

May you ingest, digest and regurgitate unconditional, agape love; The same kind of love given us from our Father in Heaven. Happy Valentine's Day.

~ *In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education*

Sunday School Children to Bring Valentine Day Cheer

During the Sunday School hour on February 7th and 14th, the children will be making and decorating Valentine Cards for the residence of Applewood Nursing Home. While children will be unable to hand deliver them due to Covid, the cards will be dropped off at Applewood for delivery by staff on Valentine's Day.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship

Worship Wednesday's Young Adult Bible Study & Fellowship

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. - John 6:35

All post-high school young adults are invited and encouraged to join the Young Adult Bible Study group. The group meets at Pastor Schalm's at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday's. However, due to Covid all participants are required to wear a face mask and to maintain a six foot distance. Throughout the month of February the group will be studying scripture as it relates to offense and its attack on the soul. Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship "Heart to Heart" ARC outreach

Instead of the annual ARC Valentine Dinner Dance that is held at St. Paul each year, the youth will be making valentine cards and decorating valentine cookies for drop-off to the ARC on February 13. Youth will be making cards from home and during the Sunday School hour on February 7th. Depending on where we are with the pandemic, the youth will either decorate cookies at home or socially distanced as a group from the church. All interested youth should contact Pastor Schalm

Super Bowl Soup and Bread Youth Fundraiser

In lieu of Super Bowl Sub Sales, Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship will be holding a soup and bread sale. While the group cannot meet in order to prepare subs & soup and to pack orders, we can still salvage some part of our fundraiser. Pastor Schalm will prepare the soups and rolls. Youth are asked to participate by baking cookies and writing a note to add to the orders. If you would like to participate please contact Pastor Schalm for more details. All monies raised will go to cover the cost of a trip to Cedar Point, Kings Island or elsewhere once the pandemic has ended. To order your pint of homemade chicken noodle or broccoli soup and a ½ dozen homemade rolls, contact Pastor Schalm by January 31st (734) 255-0935 or cschalm@stpaulucctaylor.org. All orders will be available for pick-up or delivery on February 7th. Soup: \$5.00 Rolls:\$3.00

Calling all College Students and Recent High School Graduates

Christian Education is in need of addresses of all St. Paul UCC college students and High School graduates enrolled in continuing education programs (trade school, skill programs, apprenticeships, etc.). Please forward addresses to Pastor Schalm or to the church office.

ALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS WILL BE HELD ACCORDING TO CDC AND STATE OF MICHIGAN COVID RECOMMENDATIONS AND LAWS. EVENTS WILL BE MONITORED AND CANCELLED IF DEEMED NECESSARY BASED ON SUCH.

UPCOMING EVENTS

'Desert Christian' Ash Wednesday Service Begins Lenten Season

Jesus' forty days and nights in the desert wilderness and the tradition of the 'Desert Christians' who followed his example of desert retreat will be remembered as our St. Paul congregation gathers for Ash Wednesday worship on February 17 at 7 p.m. Church members and friends worshipping onsite that night will receive as they arrive individualized packets of ashes prepared from last year's palms to join in a ritual of humility in which we acknowledge our personal mortality and our desire for life eternal through Jesus Christ.

Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Pastor Schalm will be sharing the gospel story of Jesus in the wilderness and recounting the wisdom of the Fifth Century 'Desert Fathers and Mothers' who devoted themselves to intense godly prayer amid silence and solitude of the Sinai desert. Along with scripture, their words offer spiritual guidance for our day. Please mark your calendars now for this very special service which will also be live-streamed.

Ashes Offered During Morning Hours

Ashes will be offered during early morning hours on Ash Wednesday, February 17, for those who wish to stop by the church before heading to work that morning. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas will be available from 7-11 a.m. to individually pray with you and offer ashes for self-anointment as you carry on with your day. Those who wish to receive ashes for the first day of Lenten season should use the front door of the church. Please ring the large handbell on the stand at the foot of the chancel steps before joining the pastor at the altar. In keeping with usual safety precautions, masking and social distancing will be maintained.

Wear Purple for First Lenten Sunday Pew Communion

Heralding the first Sunday of Lent, St. Paul members, whether attending onsite worship or participating via our live-streamed service are encouraged to wear something purple on February 21st in honor of the new season. At the start of the service, as the 'Old Rugged Cross' is sung by Music Director Tracy Hoffman, our traditional Lenten cross—fashioned from the last live Christmas Tree ever used in our sanctuary—will be carried down the center aisle of our sanctuary to the region of the chancel steps. Other Lenten hymns will follow. Pastor Geoff Drutchas will be preaching a sermon for that day, entitled "Purple is for Penitence."

The service for that first Lenten Sunday will finish with the sacrament of communion. Those onsite will be using individually sealed communion cups and wafer distributed when they first arrive. Those worshipping at home are encouraged to use communion bread and juice from their own household kitchens. All communion elements will be blessed and consecrated by special prayer offered at the outset of worship.

In keeping with longstanding tradition, the St. Paul congregation maintains an "open communion" inviting to the Lord's Supper all who reverently wish to walk more closely with Jesus Christ as Lord and Supper. If you have any questions about our communion practice, please contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

Drive-Thru Lenten Fish Suppers Set

Our church's popular Lenten fish suppers are a "go" for the winter season ahead. Six drive thru suppers are planned on Friday's, beginning February 26th and continuing weekly through Good Friday, April 2nd. The suppers will begin at 4:00 p.m. and finish at 6:00 or until the fish runs out. As in past years customers will make use of the horseshoe drive to order and pick the fish suppers from the cashier at the window of our serving trailer brought over to the west side of the church.

Dinner tickets will remain at \$10—the same as in previous years. Each dinner will include three pieces of fish, fries, Cole slaw, and roll. For dessert a choice of apple and cherry pie will be available. No mac and cheese will be served this year because of the greater challenge of keeping it both fresh and warm throughout the evening.

Cole slaw for the dinners will be prepared by volunteers on Saturday, February 13th. Cabbage cutting will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the kitchen, followed by the cutting of peppers and the peeling of carrots at 9:30 a.m. in the West Room. Mixing will be done in Fellowship where there is plenty of space to maintain social distancing. Coffee and individually wrapped donuts will be available for volunteers.

For everyone's benefit health and safety protocols will be maintained on the Cole slaw preparation day and during all fish suppers. Face masks must be worn at all times and six feet social distancing must also be maintained. The West Room will be evaluated for other safety measures, including the possible use of shower curtains for those who must work closer together. Plexiglass will be added to the top half of the take-out for protection as well. Gloves will be required for all volunteers working in the kitchen and West Room.

Local restaurants have been able to successfully manage carry-out service throughout the pandemic and with the right, thoughtful precautions our church leadership believes that we can effectively and safely do so as well.

Volunteers are needed to assist with all of the drive-thru suppers, as well as Coleslaw preparation. Please contact Jim Poet, Tim Ruffner, or Dan Case to volunteer.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Message from our Parish Nurse

May now and going forward in our country and world, be a time of peace, healing, and improved health. We continue to need to social distance with masks/face shields until a time we no longer need to keep each other safe from Covi-19. I pray that you stay as healthy as you can. I look forward to a time in the future when we can go back to our normal everyday life. In the meantime, please reach out and call friends, relatives, and church family members. Call my cell phone if you wish to discuss health concerns.

Covid-19 Vaccination

Persons 65 years and older are now eligible for the vaccine. They are being administered by either Beaumont or Henry Ford Health System in Wayne County. You need to have an on-line MyChart to be able to receive an appointment. Please inform others that do not have an MyChart that they should set one up with a trusted family member or friend that has an email address. Check with the

pharmacy that you get your prescriptions with to see if and when they may be available. For those living in other county's, please check your county health department to see how they will be administered or go to [Coronavirus - Vaccine Locations \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and choose the county in which you reside. This site will also give other Michigan Covid-19 updates as they are available.

Blood Drive in February

Tuesday, February 9, from 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. is our blood drive at St Paul. Enter the west door with a mask on. There is a critical need. You can sign up for a time now by going to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>. Once signed up, you can get a rapid pass on the same day by answering the questionnaire on-line. Print the pass or download it to your cell phone. This will shorten your waiting period at the drive. Contact Kathy if you want her to set up a time for you. There must be at least 56 days between donations.

Exercise via Zoom

If you are interested and able to participate in an exercise class via Zoom contact our Parish Nurse. You must have the internet capability by computer, I-pad, or phone with video availability. You do not have to be on camera during class; you will just need to be able to see the instructor. Classes would be on Wednesdays from 2-3:15 p.m. Delissa Hampton will be our instructor. Please join us. Contact Kathy Williams if you have questions.

Healthy Distant Learning Programs being offered On-line.

We have provided several PATH (Personal Actions Towards Health) classes offered through NKFM, the (National Kidney Foundation of Michigan) in the past. Due to Covid-19 more classes are being done via on-line classes. These can be done on the computer, mobile phone that has internet access or I-pad.

Chronic Pain PATH Classes scheduled thus far

1. Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Info Session: January 26, Sessions 1-6: February 2 – March 9
2. Mondays at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Info Session: February 22, Sessions 1-6: March, - April 5
3. Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Info Session: March 25, Sessions 1-6: April 1- May 6 **Kathy will be co-leading these classes**
4. Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m., Info Session: April 20, Sessions 1-6: April 27 - June 1

To register contact 800-633-7377 or visit <http://classes.beaumont.org>

Matter of Balance

These classes will be held on-line in the near future. When classes are available you will be notified.

Go to: Distance Learning | National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (nkfm.org) for more information.

Health Ministry Committee is Looking for More Volunteers

Please consider serving on the Health Ministry Committee. More input on health issues that impact our members and our community are needed. If interested contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams.

Faith and FITness Fun 2020 Results Are In

The final results for the St. Paul UCC Faith & Fitness Challenge were announced at worship service on the second Sunday of January. The lead "Challenge Crusader," Dee Salsbury wracked up 5,445 minutes of exercise between October 1 and All Kings' Day, January 6th. Our first-place finisher was followed by Michele McNeely with a record of 4,661 minutes and Kathy Williams with 3,685 minutes. Also, in a second category of "Gold Gallopers", Patricia Olsen logged 2,207 exercise minutes. A total of 20,478 exercise minutes were posed by church members.

Council President-Elect Tim Ruffner, who coordinated the Faith & Fitness Challenges, has noted that the total congregational minutes logged translates into 156,000 calories burned. "To put that in context," he noted, that's the equivalent of "520 cheeseburgers, 729 Hershey Bars, and 35 Gallons of Ice Cream" hypothetically consumed.

Given the fact that our congregation's goal was 14,177 exercise minutes as the program got off and running, St. Paul members exceeded 170 per cent of the original projection—which is pretty good! It is estimated that the average person will gain ten pounds in weight over the course of the pandemic months due to decreased exercise. Our Faith & Fitness Challenge has helped participants stay healthier and trimmer. Congratulations. Ideas for future activities are welcome.

TOPS, - (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Still on Hold

TOPS is a nonprofit and noncommercial weight loss support group St Paul has been hosting the TOPS Chapter 9744, Taylor. When meetings resume, they will be held on Monday nights with weigh in starting at 6:00 p.m. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and end at approximately 7:15 p.m., in the West Room. There is no cost for the first meeting attended. Contact Kathy Williams if you are in need of more information.

Health/Medical Supplies Available

If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact our parish nurse or the church office.

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

If you are interested in reading, Our Daily Bread, please contact the office. The editions are available in large print and regular print. Please specify the print type that you want. They come every three months. Kathy Williams can send a copy to you via mail until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 Budget Finals

2020 was indeed a stressful year for us all. I am happy to announce that we finished the year with positive income and that our expenses were well below our budgeted amount. This was only possible due to the generous support that we received from our congregation, I personally want to thank you all for your continued support. As we move into 2021 let us all pray that we will be able to worship together and that we will begin a journey back to more normal times.
Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

2020 Donation Statements

The 2020 donation statements were mailed out to each household on Friday, January 8, 2021. If you did not receive your statement or simply have questions regarding your 2020 statement please contact Annette Thie, Financial Secretary or Dan Case, Treasurer.

2021 Donation Envelopes

Many members have come to the Church for our curbside service to pick-up their 2021 donation envelopes. We will continue this service for the month of February as well. All you need to do is call the Church office at (313) 291-1221 and we will have your envelopes ready for you when you arrive. We will keep you posted as to the status of envelope distribution.

2020 Endowment Fund Status



<i>Change in Account Value</i>	YEAR ENDING 2019	YEAR ENDING 2020
Beginning Value	\$143,002.58	\$183,622.55
Deposits/Withdrawals	\$11,060.00	\$5,400.00
Income	\$4,297.29	\$3,992.85
Fees, Expenses	(\$2,222.91)	(\$2,510.52)
Change in Investment	\$27,485.59	\$20,315.97
Ending Value	\$183,622.55	\$210,820.85
%Gain/Loss	19.22%	11.06%

<i>Change in Account Value</i>	Year Ending 2019	Year Ending 2020
<i>Endowment - Capital Appreciation = Endowment Value</i>		
Ending Value Endowment Account	\$183,622.55	\$210,825.84
Asset Sustainment Fund Balance	\$ 45,320.47	\$57,207.94
Adjusted Endowment Account Value	\$138,302.08	\$153,617.90

2021 Membership Directory

The 2021 Membership Directory is at the printer. We hope to have them available for distribution beginning the middle of February.

2021 Pictorial Directory

The current plan is to host the photo sessions for the 2021 Pictorial Directory on October 21, 22 and 23. This will give you an opportunity to get that special photo for your 2021 Christmas cards or that Christmas gift. More information will be available at the Semi-Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 11, 2021.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Safety and Security Ministry

We are looking for volunteers to serve as part of the Safety and Security Ministry. The purpose of the Safety and Security Ministry is to provide and promote a safe and peaceful environment for all who attend St. Paul United Church of Christ. The ministry meets five times each year and has three to four special training sessions. This year's training includes: proper usage of fire extinguishers, proper evacuation of the building in case of emergency and hopefully an active shooter training in conjunction with the Romulus Police Department. If you are interested in serving on the St. Paul Emergency Response Team, please contact Dan Case (313) 558-2585 or any member of the Safety and Security Ministry.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund:

In Memory of: *Leland & Mary Prill* From: Steve & Deborah Wilkerson

In Memory of: *Velma McGee* From: Monday Night Ladies Card Club, John & Barb Smith

In Memory of: *Irene Church* From: Miles Church, John & Barb Smith, Dennis Schlemmer

In Memory of: *Karen Dickelman Grzywacz* From: Margo & Gene Charette

In Memory of: *Doris Hilliker* From: John & Barb Smith

Endowment Repayment Fund:

In Memory of: *Doris Hilliker* From: Jane Dykowski

BOF Memorial Fund:

In Memory of: *Velma McGee* From: Larry & Loretta Kurtzel

In Memory of: *Clayton Opificius* From: Larry & Loretta Kurtzel

Facility Improvement Fund:

In Memory of: *Velma McGee* From: Dan & Deb Case

In Memory of: *Darlene Wangbickler* From: Dan & Deb Case

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Darlene Babin, Bob Barley, Kim Beyar, Liz Bechtol, Kirk Blanchard, Marion Bolen, Kristi Caruso, Debbie Case, Margo Charette, Mary Fairemouth, Oren Forsyth, Dan & Kathy Galeski, Maggie Hall, Kyle Hard, Carrie Hill, Ollie Hilliker, Lyn Hogan, Wayne Jones, Gerri Lynn King, George Koster, Arnold Knofske, Dave Kulhanek, Larry Kurtzel, Loretta Kurtzel, Ciera Mack, Neil MacEachern, Jeffrey & Maria MacZink, Jim Nault, Judy Nieman, Shirlen Powell, Lil

Roscoe, Jennifer Ruffner, Morgan Schalm, Sheryl Schwab, John Smith, Sue Spears, Dianne Sturgeon, Helen St. Louis, and Bert Thompson.

Extended Family: Dawn Sturgeon Anderson, Paul Bachran (son, Sharon Leonard), Marcie Bolen (daughter, Ron & Marion Bolen), Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Cassidey Wangbickler-Congelierre, Mary Jane Fliss (sister-in-law, Arlene Wolfram), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Richard Janztsen (son, Ann Anderson), Kevin & Steven Johnson (grandsons, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), Courtney McEachern Matthews, Kim McEachern (daughters-in-law, Helene & Neil McEachern), Toni Oliver, Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Joseph Smith (husband, Cheryl Smith), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Rick Thie, Bruce Vernor (father, Eileen Vernor Drutchas), Bob Wright (father-in-law, Charmaine Wright), and Victoria Whitcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

Congregations' Parents: Robert & Diane Brainard (parents, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother, Julia-Joy Miller), and Carol Hoffman (mother, Tracy Hoffman).

Church Members & Friends in Nursing or Rehab Care:

Donald Babin - Carolyn's Corner, 17890 Parkridge Dr., Riverview, 48193; Terry Dyer - Heartland Healthcare Center, 9150 Allen Rd., Allen Park, 48101; Lindley Hogan - Applewood Nursing Center, 18500 Van Horn Road, Woodhaven, 48183; Esther Perry - Bellbrook Assisted Living, 873 West Avon Rd., Unit 209 H, Rochester Hills, 48307; Eleanor Rossi - Maple Heights, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, 48101; Melissa Rossi -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125.

LET US ALSO KEEP IN PRAYER THOSE PROVIDING EMERGENCY

'FRONTLINE' SERVICES as police officers, nurses, and EMS workers during the ongoing pandemic. We want to especially remember church members and friends Tricia Nault, Kim Arndt, Wendi Wioncek Ashby, Rick Barnosky, Jennifer Babin, Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Dana Wioncek Barlage, Chelsey Eisenga, Joshua Eisenga, James Hubert, Debbie Lyles, Amy McGahey, Jarod MacZink, Ciera Mack, Marci Magnuson, Sam Martin, Lexi Mellin, Michelle Mellin, Brenda Murphy, Inez Kurtzel Ogonowski, Amber Ostrowski, Rebecca Ostrowski, Samantha Pedersen, Eric Poet, Trudy Clark Schiller, Rachel Tank, Emily Wangbickler Baggett, Jillian Wangbickler, and Sarah Wangbickler.

St. Paul Council Nominee Slate – 2021

The following men and women of our congregation are being presented in nomination for elected service on our St. Paul Church Council. Please keep them in prayer for the days and weeks ahead...

David Lange (Second Vice President – 3 year term)

Dave Lange, who has been nominated to successively serve as second and first vice president and in a third year as president, is well-seasoned for the role. He has previously served as Council president and two terms as a church elder. A life-long member of St. Paul United Church of Christ, Dave grew up in Romulus. He attended both Heidelberg College in Ohio and the University of Michigan. Since 1982 Dave has been an insurance manager and agent for the Zervos Group. Dave is married to Pam Lange, who is also a past Council president. Together they have 6 children and 12 grandchildren. They lived in Redford Township.

Beverley Gunther (Secretary – 3 year term)

Beverley Gunther is a retired professional secretary. For at least ten years she was employed as on-staff secretary for Southminster Presbyterian Church in Taylor. She has previously served as St. Paul Council secretary, taking minutes of all meetings. Both Beverley and husband Al Gunther were originally members of our sister congregation St. James United Church of Christ but transferred membership here to enroll their children—all now grown—into our Sunday School and Scouting programs. Beverley and Al Gunther have four grandchildren.

Barbara Schultz (Elder – 3 year term)

Barbara Schultz, who is being nominated for a second elected term as elder, grew up at St. Paul United Church of Christ as a daughter of the late Reverend Leonard Weigel (1950-1965) and Louise Weigel. She is a graduate of Taylor Center High School and was professionally employed for 29 years as an Executive Assistant at the Ford Motor Company. Barb has been active at St. Paul Church in many different roles, including a year as Council president in 2001. She is a past member of the Taylor Board of Education and continues to serve as a director for the Taylor Public Schools Foundation for Educational Excellence. Barb has two grown children and three grandchildren.

Jennifer Ruffner (Deacon – 3 year term)

Jennifer Ruffner is nominated for her first term of service on the St. Paul Church Council as a deacon. She grew up in both Carleton and Coldwater, Michigan, and is a bachelor's degree graduate of Eastern Michigan University. Professionally, she is a Background Investigator for Paragon Systems, a company retained to validate information necessary for employee security clearances. Married to incoming president Tim Ruffner, Jennifer is the mother of two young daughters, Eleanor and Elizabeth, who are enrolled in our Sunday School program. Jennifer enjoys reading, travel, and family time together. The Ruffner family lives in Belleville.

Frederick Miller (Trustee – 3 year term)

Fred, who is a past St. Paul Council president twice over, is nominated to serve as a trustee. He and his wife, Mary, who live in Taylor, have been active members for the past 18 years. However, Fred's own membership extends much deeper and longer. Fred spent his professional working career at the Ford Motor Company, many of those years as an electrician for the Research and Engineering Development Center. In addition to his volunteering at St. Paul Church, most recently as "printer's devil" for the publication of our monthly Tidings newsletter, Fred is president of the Taylor Housing Commission and a member of the Board of Directors of the Taylor Community Development Corporation. Both Fred and Mary Miller are active in state-wide Masonic and Eastern Star activities as well, providing vital leadership to that fraternal and philanthropic organization.

