

THROUGH THE YEARS

The Church Office received a second-hand electronic scanner and a used MacIntosh/Lisa Computer. The Ladies Guild raised money to purchase special handmade draperies, a stove, and a refrigerator for Heide Hall.

On January 18, 1987, a special, large Pulpit Edition of the Holy Bible was dedicated in Memory of Ralph Stobert. Blue Advent Paraments were made by Grace Wiegand in loving Memory of Chester Sell.

A special Water Fund Drive began on Sunday, March 15, 1987. A Giant Eagle Turkey Dinner was held on Monday, March 9, 1987, for the purpose of raising funds for the water line. Matching funds were received from Lutheran Brotherhood. In 1987, Heide Hall and the Church Building were connected with the water line of the Buffalo Municipal Authority.

A new wall was installed in the basement of the church, off-setting an area for the Adult Sunday School Class, the Choir Room and an area for St. Paul's Preschool. Storage areas for banners, books, canned goods, choir robes, and Altar linens were built. All materials--dry wall, paneling, painting, and labor were donated by Walter and Ruth Anderson in loving Memory of Howard Frederick.

The upstairs and downstairs of Heide Hall were painted. A dusk-to-dawn light was added to the church parking lot.

1988

In January 1988, Pastor Barnett was involved in a serious automobile accident that left him hospitalized in the intensive and progressive care units for six days. Through the miracle of God's healing power, and the prayers of all, Pastor Barnett was soon on his road to recovery.

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The following was taken from the January 1988, Newsletter:

"As you have probably all heard by now, our Pastor was involved in a serious automobile accident. He spent six days in the hospital in the Progressive Care Unit. He is now at home and resting as comfortably as can be expected after having such painful things happen. He had one shoulder blade cracked and the other shoulder dislocated, eight broken ribs and two cuts in his head that required 120 stitches, plus multiple bruises and abrasions. But with God's help and all of the prayers, he is still with us and doing fine. We ask you to continue praying for him and his family. It is suggested that visits be held off till after the 17th. Then they should be brief and no discussion about the business of the church. We have been blessed by God with such a loyal servant and caring friend. Keep him in your prayers and he will be back on his feet soon. God loves you and so do I."

Your Brother in Christ, Walter Anderson

1989

The congregation grew spiritually and the membership started to increase. In 1989 one project followed another. The Members of St. Paul's provided time and labor for the renovation of the Sanctuary. New electrical panels were installed. Between January 10th through the 13th, the rewiring of the sanctuary and the removal of the old vestibule was done. The entryway was remodeled with the installation of a new heater and new entry doors (beveled glass doors with a red Cross). The insulation project was started on February 13th and completed by February 16th by the K. L. Montgomery Company. Dan Howard Contracting Company varnished the church floors and pews. Eddie Mack and crew painted the interior of the sanctuary (started February 20, 1989). The dedication of the newly refurbished church was held on March 12, 1989.

On February 26, 1989, St. Paul's Youth came in 4th place at the Annual Bible Bowl. A new pictorial directory was published. Office machines were updated: Royal Copier, Heyer Mimeograph, and a folding machine.

St. Paul's hosted a Debt Reduction Spaghetti Dinner for the Sarver Free Methodist Church. In October of 1989 the members of St. Paul's collected food, clothing, money, etc for the victims of Hurricane Hugo.

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1990

In May of 1990, after many years of faithful service, Walter Wiegand retired as Church Groundskeeper. Fred & Karen Pierce agreed to take on this responsibility.

In March 1990, St. Paul's financially co-sponsored a Laotian Family along with other churches in the Butler community. More projects followed. A new sound system was purchased and installed. A sound system cabinet was built by Hobe Kenton. The older sound system was then installed in Heide Hall. On Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15, 1990, sixteen volunteers from the church provided the labor to re-shingle the parsonage roof.

The church bathroom renovations began with the installation of a new roof over the bathroom. The downstairs hallway of Heide Hall was painted in preparation for the Vacation Bible School's mural. The mural was sketched by Sandy Henkel who supervised and guided the children in painting of the mural.

The Sanctuary's center isle pew end torches and brackets were reconditioned. A surprise "40th" birthday party was held for Pastor Barnett by the Congregation. Many of his friends and family attended. Festivities included a square dance by caller, Harry Kelley, and a "This Is Your Life Pastor Barnett".

The adults and children of St. Paul's were involved in a special outdoor Christmas Pageant, "A Christmas Journey," consisting of six scenes of the Christmas Story beginning with Isaiah's Prophecy and ending with the Birth of Christ in the Manger. The journey was held during the evening, behind the church parking lot, down along the road to Kelley's farm. The pathway was illuminated with over 300 luminaries.

1991

125th ANNIVERSARY

During 1991 St. Paul's celebrated its 125th Anniversary. The following people served on the Anniversary Committee: *Ken and Dorothy Toy, Walter and Grace Weigand, Clara Falkner, Melvin and Peg Harvey, Paul and Dorothy Schmeider, Henry and Lois Grimm, and Pastor Barnett.* *Sue Marcinko* hand-copied some of the early history of the church from Record Book #1 into a clear and readable form from which the Committee could glean pertinent information. Later history, compilation, and typing was done by *Carolyn Szebalskie*.

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The year of festivity began with a special worship service on Sunday, May 5th, with the Rev. Bishop Donald McCoid as Guest of Honor. The agenda for the year included inviting all of the past ministers and their families to serve as monthly guests on the first Sunday of each month. Each returning minister participated in a special worship service. Following the service, each was honored at a congregation luncheon.

The following is a yearly schedule of events pertaining to the 125th Anniversary celebration:

September 8, 1991	Pastor Williamsen
October 6, 1991	Pastor LaFontaine (Unable to attend due to his wife's illness.)
November 10, 1991	Pastor Raymond Ursin
December 8, 1991	Pastor J. Stewart Hardy

During Pastor Hardy's return visit, the Heide Hall mortgage was burned as part of a special worship service ceremony. This signified that St. Paul's was debt free.

The program at all of the anniversary luncheons included a narration of St. Paul's History given by the Committee Members covering the time of each pastor's ministry at St. Paul's. A special segment called "This Is Your Life" was held for each minister recalling humorous and tender moments in parish life at St. Paul's.

To mark the occasion of our 125th Anniversary, the committee commissioned Carson Castings of Freeport to design a pewter Anniversary Plate--a raised picture of Heide Hall with St. Paul's Church in the center of the plate and the words "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1866-1991" along the outer edge of the plate. These were given as gifts to all returning clergy and made available for purchase to all members.

In 1991 the outside of the church was washed and scrubbed by the church members--youth and adults alike participated in this large task. The restrooms in the church basement were remodeled. The Women of the ELCA assembled care packages to ship to the men and women serving in the Gulf War.

1992

In July 1992, Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios was contracted to re-lead, seal, and install protective coverings for all the stained glass windows of the church. Total cost of this project was \$21,300.00. (It is interesting to note that this same company installed the original windows.)

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1993

Dedication services were held in 1993 for the new Bibles, pew racks, candle lighters, and the three metal crosses on the outside wall of Heide Hall. The church parking lot was paved and a new sidewalk was installed at the entrance of the church.

In November 1993, as the sign of the times, Heide Hall was burglarized. As a result, new locks and dead bolts were installed on the Church Office door and the Pastor's Office door. Limited amounts of new keys were made and given out to the Members of Church Council and Employees of St. Paul's.

The Ladies Guild donated the old set of dishes to Cabot Free Methodist Church and purchased 180 sets of Correll Ware for the Heide Hall Kitchen. A new 1993-94 Pictorial Directory was made by Augsburg Fortress through Olan Mills Studios. Church Council voted to have two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services this year--7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

1994

On Sunday, August 14, 1994, the missionaries from Africa, Sam and Patty Owen and their children, were guest speakers at St. Paul's. A congregation covered dish luncheon was held in their honor. *First Communion was celebrated on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 1994.* This was the first year St. Paul's Lutheran Church shared First Communion with Confirmands before the day of their Confirmation. This practice was instituted as a means of assisting our youth in perceiving confirmation as one more step in maturing as Christians rather than being the time one graduates from Christian Education. St. Paul's participated in the Lutheran Churches of the Butler Cluster Joint Reformation Service held at 1st English Lutheran Church, Butler, on Sunday, October 30, 1994. St. Paul's set aside the month of October for a special offering for missionaries, Sam & Patty Owen. New altar liquid wax candles were dedicated on Sunday, November 6, 1994, in loving Memory of Allan L. Franklin.

1995

May 29, 1995 was the dedication of a new Lectern/Pulpit Bible in loving Memory of Mrs. Anna Cribbs. A gift of a hand-painted picture by artist, Roseanne McCollough, was presented to St. Paul's in loving Memory of Joanne S. Toy and dedicated in March 1995. Purple

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altar paraments were dedicated on Sunday, March 5, 1995. The church parsonage was renovated between the months of February and April 1995. Renovations included the following new items: kitchen cabinets, kitchen floor, carpeting throughout the house, kitchen light, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, stove, sink, bathroom cabinet, and window treatments for the living room. Pastor Barnett painted the whole interior of the house and re-did the woodwork.

1996

On Sunday, September 22, 1996, a Congregation Meeting was held under the leadership of Pastor Barnett, Greg Carns (Worship and Music Committee Chairman), and Rob Ciani (Finance Committee Chairman) to approve the purchase of a new church organ. A representative from Gerrero's Music was in attendance to answer questions about the organ. After an informative talk and discussion, the Congregation voted to approve the purchase of a new Allen Organ at the cost of \$35,000.00. The organ arrived and was installed on Tuesday, November 5, 1996. Doris Scott, Organist, received a number of free lessons by the organist from Gerrero's Music.

Wayne Cypher, a member of the Butler County Gideons, gave a special Temple Talk concerning the ongoing scripture placement by the local Butler Chapter of the Gideon Ministry. A small console organ was donated to St. Paul's for use in Heide Hall. Melissa Kenton assumed the position of our new Choir Director. Pastor Barnett was elected Chairperson of the Synod Credentials Committee for the 1996 Synod Assembly at Slippery Rock State College. St. Paul's celebrated a successful Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 17th.

1997

Our Annual Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, January 19, 1997. Another special Congregation Meeting was held on Sunday, November 9th for the presentation of the new, revised Church Constitution. Church Council and Pastor Barnett worked together on this important project.

On Sunday, January 26th, we participated in the nationwide "Souper" Bowl Sunday and collected \$136.72 which was divided equally among the three local food banks. The following luncheons and dinners were held throughout the year: February 9th, Pre-Lenten Congregational Luncheon; March 30th, Easter Breakfast; May 18th, Confirmands and Graduates Luncheon;

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the Mother/Daughter Dinner in May; the Father/Son Dinner in June; the Church Picnic in July; the A.A.L. "Just Say Thanks Luncheon" on September 21st; and a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Sunday, November 16th where we also conducted a "Noisy Offering" (loose change offering) which benefited St. Paul's Tape Ministry.

On October 18th, a Spaghetti Dinner/Chinese Auction was held to raise money for the Pew Pad Project.

Special services were held throughout the year: A 12 o'clock Noon and 7:30 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service; a Community Lenten Service on March 2nd; a Maundy Thursday Service with a special drama, "The Invitation"; a Good Friday Service with a special drama, "The Last Words"; and an Easter Vigil on March 29th.

A dedication service was held on Sunday, April 6, 1997, for the new Allen Organ along with a special organ recital by guest, Dr. Lawrence Roff, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Steubenville, Ohio. A reception followed in Heide Hall.

St. Paul's participated in the Butler Cluster's Lenten Inter-Lutheran Radio Ministry held from February to March of 1997. Pastor Barnett was the guest speaker on this radio ministry during the week of March 17-21st.

In October, Pastor Barnett was re-elected Secretary to the Sarver/Saxonburg Ministerium.

In October, in celebration of Pastor Appreciation Sunday, the Congregation honored Pastor Barnett and his wife, Linda, with an outing to a special ministerial program held in Pittsburgh and sponsored by the Family Christian Bookstores.

New windows were purchased from NAPCO for the upstairs of Heide Hall and were installed on Saturday, February 1, 1997. Church office machines were also upgraded with a new, efficient Gestetner digital copier.

The following projects were also completed by the Property Committee: new tile floor in the church basement; new steps in the stairway of the church; and the removal of a pine tree on the far side of the church parking lot. Pastor Barnett and Walter Anderson delivered a check to Don Amadee for the sewage tap-in fee. St. Paul's received two receipts indicating one tap-in fee for the church property and one for the parsonage property (November 1997).

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Our Annual Talent Show was held April 27th. Vacation Bible School was held June 23-27. Special guest speakers during the summer Sunday School months were Cheryl Young who narrated the slides of her trip to the Holy Lands and Pastor Jim Gordon who spoke on his trip to Nicaragua.

On August 23rd, a Flea Market/Bake Sale co-sponsored by A.A.L. and the Ladies Guild was held at Heide Hall for the dual purpose of helping the needy in our community and for the "Pew Pad Project".

We participated in the "Faith Comes by Hearing" (Bible Tapes) Project which inspired our members to grow in faith and understanding of God's Word. The "Christmas Journey," a special outdoor Christmas play and nativity, was held on Sunday, December 21st, depicting Joseph and Mary's travel to Bethlehem.

Special monetary gifts were given to the church organ fund and a dedication service was held for the new Paschal Candle and an all-silver plated Flagon.

We reached our goal of \$10,000 for the 1997 Benevolence.

1998

The Annual Meeting and Congregation Luncheon was held on Sunday, January 18, 1998.

Throughout the year, the following dedication services were held: February 15th for the new hymnals, "With One Voice"; June 28th for the newly upholstered church pews; and November 22nd for the new white altar linens.

Special services were held during Holy Week. A special drama, "The Lord's Table", was presented on Maundy Thursday; a Tenebrae Good Friday Service; a Saturday Easter Vigil; and then an Easter Morning Sunrise Service and Easter Celebration Service.

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St. Paul's hosted the 26th Sarver/Saxonburg Women's Good Friday Community Worship Service and Continental Breakfast. The Reverend Donald J. McCoid, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod was the special guest speaker.

On Sunday, July 26th an A.A.L. "Just Say Thanks" Luncheon was held in honor of all of St. Paul's Volunteers; a Confirmation and Graduation Luncheon was held May 31st; and our Congregation Thanksgiving Luncheon was held Sunday, November 22nd.

We observed the following special worship services: Rally Sunday, September 13th with the theme "Joining Hands Around Sarver;" Reformation & First Holy Communion, Sunday, October 25th; All Saints Service; Advent Services; Christmas Eve Children's Service; a Youth Service, December 27th; and a Harvest Home Celebration, Sunday, October 18th.

During the Harvest Home Celebration, gifts of food were placed on the Altar and given to help families in our parish who struggle due to unemployment, job down sizing, minimum wage employment, fixed income, disability, etc. Families came to God's sanctuary at various times throughout the afternoon of our Harvest Home Celebration and were encouraged to take what they could use.

Two anonymous monetary gifts were given to St. Paul's. One gift of \$4,000 was to go towards the air conditioning for the church sanctuary and the other gift was to be used towards camperships for the youth of St. Paul's attending Camp Lutherlyn's Summer Camp.

Pastor Barnett, along with the members of the Worship & Music Committee, set up a special Committee for an Alternative Contemporary Worship Service. A Committee was also formed for the re-establishment of a Nursery during Sunday morning worship services.

Pastor Barnett worked with three Lutheran congregations in our area who were struggling with internal strife and ministered to many families connected with these congregations.

Seven new directional signs, (St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church) designed and created by Bruce Cooper, were placed in strategic areas in our community. This was done as part of St. Paul's outreach to the community and to have clear and easy-to-read road markers directing the public to St. Paul's Church.

New windows for the church basement were purchased by St. Paul's Nursery School.

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The Property Committee connected the sewage tap-in for the parsonage, church, and Heide Hall. However, legal problems developed with Sid Haas over sewage hook-up and "deed restrictions" for the parsonage property. Church Council was confident that the restrictions were for the original construction verses ongoing improvements and maintenance. In answer to our prayers, the outcome of the Hearing with the District Magistrate regarding the deed restrictions on the parsonage was "dismissed without prejudice." Pastor Barnett reminded the Congregation that, "We may rejoice in the decision but at the same time we remember the disappointment Sid Haas experienced as he was not able to receive the inheritance his father intended. Thus, we unite in prayer for Sid and welcome opportunities to serve him."

St. Paul's contracted Olan Mills for a new 1998 Church Pictorial Directory.

During the Sunday School hour on June 28th, Dr. William H. Knab spoke on his missionary trip to Honduras. Mary Ann Swanson, a representative from our Synod, attended the November 2nd Church Council Meeting where she spoke on Stewardship.

The following special events were observed throughout the year: January 25th, "Souper" Bowl Sunday; April 5th, Children's Easter Egg Hunt; Easter Breakfast; Mother/Child Banquet; June 21st, Father/Son Social Hour; May 3rd, Talent Show; August 3-7, Vacation Bible School; August 9th, Church Picnic.

The Youth Group and St. Paul's Ladies Guild each made a meal and participated in feeding the homeless at Northside Commons Ministry in Pittsburgh. Items for care packages were packed and distributed to the homeless in Butler. In December, our Congregation participated in the "Angel Tree" Program benefiting the children in the various Glade Run Lutheran Service Homes. The Congregation sent Christmas gifts to the elementary school children who were victims of the Texas Flood. Christmas fruit baskets were given to our senior members and shut-ins. Christmas cookies and goodies were boxed and sent to our college students.