

THROUGH THE YEARS

1999

The Annual Congregation Meeting and Luncheon was held on Sunday, January 24, 1999.

Special Worship Services were held throughout the year: February 17th Ash Wednesday Service; Holy Week Services, Easter Sunrise Service; Easter Festival Service; Day of Pentecost/Confirmation Service; Rally Day Service; Harvest Home Festival Service; Reformation/First Communion Service; and all Saints Service.

On February 14, 1999, a special Ceremonial Worship Service was held at St. Paul's honoring George Scott for receiving the Boy Scout's highest honor, The Lamb Award. Following the service, a congregation luncheon was held in his honor.

On Rally Sunday, a special celebration was held during the Sunday School Hour in honor of Walter Wiegand upon his retirement as Sunday School Teacher.

The first Contemporary Worship Service was held on Saturday, June 12, 1999 at 7:00 P.M. It was well received and the Committee decided to continue holding this service the second and fourth Saturdays of each month throughout the remainder of the year.

St. Paul's hosted the March 10th Community Lenten Service and the Youth Good Friday Pizza Breakfast and Service. Each Tuesday during the Lenten Season, Pastor Barnett conducted a Lenten Forum. Donations from the Lenten Folders were used for Camperships to financially aid all the youth and children of St. Paul's who would be attending Summer Camp at Lutherlyn.

The Property Committee completed several projects in Heide Hall: intercom; step treads and floor tile in the stairwell area; removed and replaced the exterior cross light; replaced the glass in a stairwell window and the glass in one stairwell door; and made repairs to the main floor windows and to the front door hinges. Soffit and fascia was installed by Clair Boring Company. The outside sewer line work area was seeded.

Several events were held throughout the year: Mother/Child Dinner; Father's Day Picnic; Congregation Picnic; Vacation Bible School; A.A.L. "Just Say Thanks" Luncheon; Confirmation Retreat; Youth Dance; St. Paul's Talent Show & Fun Night; Thanksgiving Luncheon; Crop Walk; "Christmas Journey"; and Christmas Caroling to our senior members and shut-ins.

At Christmas time, fruit baskets and cookies were distributed to our senior members and boxes of cookies and other goodies were sent to all of our college students.

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We participated in the Annual "Souper Bowl" of Caring; prepared a warm meal for the homeless at Northside Commons Ministries in Pittsburgh; and packaged and delivered care packages for the homeless in Butler. On June 5, 1999, a Flea Market/Bake Sale was co-sponsored by A.A.L. Butler Branch #6231, St. Paul's Ladies Guild, and St. Paul's Church, with all proceeds going to aid the victims of the devastation from the tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Visiting Missionary, Pastor Kusserow, was a guest speaker at both our Saturday, June 12th Contemporary Worship Service and June 13th Morning Worship Service.

The Ladies Guild sponsored a Tea Party for the members of St. Paul's who are residents of the Concordia Nursing Home and Apartments. The Ladies Guild also collected recipes for a new cookbook to be published in 2000 to benefit the long-projected Carpet Fund for the Church.

We received matching funds from A.A.L. for new tables in Heide Hall. A new printer/fax/scanner for the Church Office was purchased and new church signs announcing "The Christmas Journey" were made by Bruce Cooper.

St. Paul's participated in the ELCA Identity Project which was designed to raise public awareness of Lutheranism, increase membership in Lutheran congregations, and provide encouragement and positive reinforcement to those who are currently ELCA members. Dennis Sample agreed to serve as St. Paul's new Coordinator of Communications at the Butler County Lutheran Church Councils.

On July 25, 1999, St. Paul's participated in the special community-wide "Lutheran/Presbyterian Celebration of Unity in Christ Jesus" at Roebing Park in Saxonburg.

St. Paul's instituted the Lutheran Brotherhood's Stewardship Plan of "Simply Giving." This new, automated giving program from Lutheran Brotherhood is designed to help everyone conveniently, consistently, and joyfully give their financial gifts to help their congregation's ministry.

Members of the Youth Group under the direction of Hobie Kenton, II worked together to establish a Web Site for St. Paul's.

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The Annual Congregation Meeting & Luncheon were held on Sunday, January 23, 2000. The members of St. Paul's voted to participate and be a part of the ELCA's Safe Haven for Children. This means that the congregation by formal action stated its commitment to care for the needs of God's children. St. Paul's also received a banner declaring "This Congregation is a Safe Haven for Children" which was appropriately displayed in the large windows of the Heide Hall stairwell. A number of decals with the saying "Children are Welcome Here" were given to the members to take home and display on their windows and doors.

K. Eleanora Fry retired after 50 years of service as Church Custodian at St. Paul's. Throughout her lifetime at St. Paul's, K. Eleanora taught Sunday School, was the Sunday School Superintendent, and the Sunday School Treasurer. May 7, 2000 was declared "Fry Day" in honor of K. Eleanora. A special program, "This is Your Life" was held during the Sunday School Hour. Friends, family members, and former members of the Sarver Choir attended the Sunday School festivities, and the special worship service and social hour held in her honor.

In November, Jane Gasienski was hired as the new Sexton for the Church and Heide Hall.

On January 30th, St. Paul's participated in the "Souper Bowl" of Caring. On March 29th, we hosted the Community Lenten Service. On Sunday, August 27, we participated in the Community Ecumenical Service which was held at Knoch High School Auditorium, and; on October 14th, we participated in the Sarver/Cabot Area Crop Walk.

The following activities were held throughout the year: (April 16) Children's Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Youth Group; (May 6) St. Paul's Talent Show; (May 13) Mother/Child Banquet; (June 20) Father/Child Banquet; (August 12) Strawberry Ice Cream Festival; (Dec. 26) Christmas Caroling. The Christmas Journey was cancelled this year due to the bad weather.

The Learning Committee tried something new this year with Vacation Bible School. It was held in conjunction with Zion U.M. Church at Zion during the week of July 10-14 and proved to be successful.

The Worship & Music Committee was busy in planning the following special services held throughout the year: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Drama, Easter Sunrise, Easter Celebration, Rally Day, Harvest Home Festival, First Holy Communion on Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and the two Christmas Eve Services.

At our Saturday, April 8th Contemporary Worship Service, 'Jews for Jesus' came to speak on "Christ in the Passover."

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On Maundy Thursday, a covered dish dinner and worship were held in Heide Hall. Confirmation was celebrated on Pentecost Sunday along with a luncheon honoring all of the Confirmands and Graduates. The A.A.L. "Just Say Thanks Luncheon" was held on September 24th and the Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 12th.

The Youth hosted and participated in the Annual Youth Good Friday Breakfast. A Confirmation Retreat was held April 28, 29 and 30.

Lenten Soup & Sandwich Bible Studies were held every Monday during the Lenten Season at 12 Noon in Heide Hall. A Lenten Open Forum Bible Study was held every Thursday evening during Lent from 7:30-8:30 P.M.

Earlier in the year, Pastor Barnett instructed the Altar Guild on the proper care of the altar linens and the proper setting of the altar for holy communion.

The members of St. Paul's donated items for the Care Packages which were given to the Butler homeless, the Goodie Boxes which were sent to the college students, and the fruit and cookies for the Christmas Baskets which were given to our shut-ins and senior members.

The Ladies Guild published their new cookbook, "*Scent from Heaven*". Recipes in the cookbook were donated by the members of St. Paul's. Money earned from this project was earmarked for the Church Carpet Fund.

St. Paul's received a bequest from the Helen Chillingsworth Estate. A special memorial for a new sidewalk was established in June in memory of Jim and Ruth Preto by their family.

A new indoor/outdoor carpet donated by A.A.L. was placed outside of the church entrance. Two new chair racks were purchased for Heide Hall. Two new computers were purchased—one for the Pastor's office and one for the Secretary's office. A Web Site was established at Hobie Kenton's home for the church and the Youth Group to use. The Property Committee installed a new vinyl floor in the church basement nursery school area. On February 11 & 12 the interior of the upstairs of Heide Hall was painted. A new hot water tank was installed in the church parsonage. Reusable plastic drip protectors were purchased for the candles for our Christmas Eve Services.

New Christmas Eve wooden lanterns designed to attach to the interior of the church windows were a combined effort of George Scott and Ardell Hawley.

St. Paul's, along with the other Lutheran churches in the Butler area, participated in the "Lutheran Identity Project" whereby Lutheran advertisements were placed on billboards.

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On January 21, 2001, the Annual Congregation Meeting was held. A Sub-Committee from Church Council had prepared a Computerized Report to determine whether it would be feasible in spending considerable funds to maintain our current church building or build a new church building. This report was projected upon the front wall of Heide Hall so everyone could easily follow their presentation. A motion was made giving Church Council permission to begin doing a Feasibility Study looking into the possibility of building a new church building. A special Congregation Meeting was held on May 20, 2001 to hear the Feasibility Study Report.

On March 19th, Pastor Barnett met with Pastor Jim Higgins regarding information about building a new church.

At another Congregation Meeting held on October 7, 2001, the members voted to purchase property from Wayne and Marge Kelley at \$15,000/acre.

On Sunday, June 24, 2001, the congregation honored Pastor Emery L. Barnett on the occasion of his 25th Year in the Ministry with a special morning worship service followed by a luncheon and pie & ice cream social hour. Members of the congregation signed their names around the boarder of a black and white hand-sketched drawing of St. Paul's Church. This framed and mounted picture was presented as a gift to Pastor Barnett. Also, a monetary gift of \$300 was given to Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in honor of his Anniversary.

Dedication of the Biblical Herb Garden (Gift of the Herbal Thymes Club and work done by Brosnetch Brothers) and dedication of the Keystone Yuma Bench given in memory of Fred & Hazel Demski by Richard and Geraldine Demski was held on Sunday, October 14, 2001.

Liquid Wax Advent Candles given in loving memory of Beatrice N. Barnett and Glenn Negley and Pew Candle Sticks and Glass Globes given in loving memory of Cliff Harvey were first used during the 2001 Advent and Christmas Eve Services.

Two funds were established: The Matthew John McGinninis Memorial Fund to be used for a new stained glass window (preferably in the new church) and the establishment of the A.A.L. Scholarship Fund for students wishing to enter St. Paul's Nursery School

Deborah Jean Speicher was hired as the new Nursery School Assistant.

Vacation Bible School was held in conjunction with Emery Chapel. The students met at St. Paul's and the adults met at Emery Chapel.

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The Property Committee was busy again this year with the following projects:

- Met with the Kelley's and Church Council regarding the impending property purchase.
- Met twice with Jeff Spann, the Synod's Construction Consultant. We took notes regarding various formulas and ideas concerning design, how to approach and plan for a construction project. Design-build versus hiring an architect, master plans, Department of Labor and Industry standards, as well as capital campaigns were discussed.
- Met with W. K. Thomas regarding cost data to construct a new Sanctuary.
- Re-striped the parking lot.
- Repairs to the Heide Hall roof.
- Repairs to Heide Hall fascia
 - Clair Boring was hired to do the soffit and fascia on Heide Hall.
 - Eric Smith donated the soffit and fascia.
- Cleaned up basement closet in Heide Hall.
- Installed spare kitchen cabinet at the utility sink in the basement of Heide Hall.
- Contracted electrical up-grades to Heide Hall, specifically new circuits at the kitchen and the coffee areas to solve chronic breaker tripping during large dinners in Heide Hall. The work was completed by Kosecki Electric.
- Contracted termite monitoring for traps surrounding the Church.

A new Youth Sunday Morning Bible Study was formed under the direction of Hobie & Melissa Kenton and Larry & Jennifer Huss. Kid's Club expanded to include Kindergarten through 6th grade. New leaders: Sherry Ventura, Terry Carns, and Sue Ann Mariotti.

The Ladies Guild sponsored a circus theme Family Night Banquet held on May 15th. Many members of the Ladies Guild made lap robes and donated them to the needy in the nursing homes and at St. Paul's.

Goodie boxes were sent to the college students and fruit baskets were given to all of St. Paul's shut-ins and senior members.

The Lenten Season started with two services held on Ash Wednesday. We hosted the March 21st Community Lenten Service. Pastor Barnett conducted Lenten Studies: Ancient Secret Videos Curriculum Series.

The Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Youth was held April 8th. The Annual Talent Show was held May 5th and our Congregation Picnic was held July 15th.

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Confirmation was held on Sunday, June 3rd with the Confirmand/Graduates Luncheon following the service.

Holy Week services were held with special dramas on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning. The Service Committee sponsored the Easter Breakfast.

We participated in the August 26th Ecumenical Worship Service celebrating Christian Unity held at Knoch High School, and we also participated in the October 14th Crop Walk.

A.A.L. and Lutheran Brotherhood matched dollar for dollar the funds that St. Paul's collected to aid the victims of the September 11th disaster. We joined with the other churches in the Sarver/Saxonburg Ministerium by participating in the Community Project Christmas Presents for New York City.

Since the date of the World Trade Center's Disaster, the Worship & Music Committee established a patriotic opening for our Sunday morning worship services—open with a patriotic hymn, the pledge of the Christian flag, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Rally Sunday, the Sunday School presented a special program — Vanna & Her Wheel of Fellowship. Our Annual Food Drive was held in conjunction with the October 21st Harvest Home Festival. Reformation Sunday and First Communion were celebrated on October 28th and a Thanksgiving Luncheon was held on November 18th.

The Youth sponsored Christmas Caroling and on December 16th the Learning Committee sponsored a Children's Christmas Program which was preceded by a Pot Luck Luncheon.

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Over the years, under the able leadership of many pastors, there has been a steady growth and development in the Congregation. The Congregation also has maintained a fine record in Synodical Benevolence and has striven to remain debt free.

As of 2001, the Congregation numbers 468 baptized members.

To date the members are working with their present pastor in setting and meeting new goals and reaching out into the community.

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St. Paul's has been served by the following Pastors:

1866	J. H. Fritz
1867-1871	J. K. Melhorn
1871-1881	J. H. A. Kitzmiller
1882-1885	H. K. Shanor
1885-1889	Nathanael Scheffer
1890-1891	C. A. Fetzer
1891	Philip Doerr
1892-1895	Herbert Martens
1895-1901	N. N. Harter
1901-1903	D. B. Stahlman
1903-1908	J. A. Beighey
1909-1911	J. A. Frischkorn
1912-1921	Herbert Martens (2nd term)
1922-1926	G. J. Diener
1926-1930	Elmer A. Ortner, D.D.
1930-1959	Donald K. Fetterly
1960-1967	August W. Heide
1967-1971	Norman R. Williamsen, Jr.
1972-1975	Leo S. LaFontaine
1975-1982	Raymond A. Ursin
1983-1986	J. Stewart Hardy, M.A., Ph.D.
1987-	Emery L. Barnett

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Church Organists

Olive Mochel Gaulding	Irma Falkner Shearer
Bernice Falkner Nauman	Nancy McFarland Ruser
Lucille Nixon	Marilene Falkner Kradel
Bertha Martins	Nancy Sanner Murphy
Emily Sauter (pump organ)	Marlene Drescher Lacanic
Elizabeth Freehling	Lillian Cogley
Ruth Garbrick	Nancy McFarland Ruser
Nancy Fleming Davidson	Diane Henkel
Delores Bicker	Heather Young Lux
Clara Falkner	Dennis Sample
	Doris Scott

Interesting Fact: Nancy Fleming Davidson began playing the church organ at St. Paul's at the age of 12. For many years, she was organist for both St. Paul's and Emery Chapel. On Sunday mornings, she traveled by horse and buggy from Natrona to first play the organ at St. Paul's Church and then Emery Chapel, located in Ekastown. When the morning services were finished, she traveled back home on her horse and buggy. She was paid a total of \$0.50 per week for her labor of love!

Church Custodians

Mrs. Haas	During the 1920's
K. Eleanora (Haas) Fry	
Jeannette Frederick	During the 1930's
Clara Fleming	1959-1966
Clara Falkner	1966-1972
Grace Wiegand	1972-1981
K. Eleanora Fry	1981-2000
Jane Gasienski	2000-

Heide Hall Custodians

Emma MaCurdy
Bonnie Gundlach
Cheryl Young
Sue Marcinko
Dianne Zier
Jane Gasienski

Church Secretaries

Clara Falkner
Kathryn Haas
Walter Grimm
Janice Wiegand
Alice Schmeider
Mindy Beers
Ronni Haught
Shirley Lasich 1981
Carolyn Szebalskie 1982-2002
Melissa Kenton 2002-

Church Choir Directors

Clara Falkner
Dana McCoy
Diane Henkel
Lynn Baker
Melissa Kenton

Nursery School Teachers

Toni Wilson
Eunice Kenton