

THROUGH THE YEARS

1942

Early in the year of 1942, a new organ, purchased from the C. C. Mellon Co. of Pittsburgh, PA, was installed at the cost of \$1,950.00. It was paid for by the end of March the same year.

1944

On the first Sunday in December 1944, a Christian Flag and the American Flag (both wool) were presented by the Ladies Aid to the Congregation and were dedicated with appropriate services. The Legion attended the services. Oliver Grimm donated and made the base of the flag pole holder out of oak. December 10th, two memorial windows were dedicated. They were presented by the Ladies Aid and the Busy Bee Class.

1945

In the summer of 1945, the Congregation agreed to have Council build an addition to the basement for washrooms.

1946

In early June of 1946, the entire basement was repainted including the floor and was paid for from the General Treasury and duly opened for use at the wedding of Helen Grimm, June 18, 1946.

In October of 1946, a new furnace was installed. The Council voted to set aside money for a Building Fund, especially a parsonage. They were looking forward to creating a separate parish.

1947

In December 1947, Council voted an increase in the pastor's salary of \$15.00 per month to be effective January 1, 1948. A Building Committee was also elected in 1948: Sydney Haas, Kenneth Gibson, Addison Cogley.

1949

In 1949, a new ceiling was placed on the old, after which the walls were refreshed.

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1950

In May 1950, ten new Art Glass Windows were installed at a cost of \$2,350.00. The donors names were etched in the stained glass windows. In 1951, Busy Bee Class donated 2 dozen Communion Service Books, a special Pulpit Edition for the Pastor, and Brass Offering Plates.

1952

During 1952, the Willing Workers donated a new Pulpit made by Oliver Grimm. A new large Bible, Pulpit Edition, was donated for the Pulpit and Lectern. Candelabras were purchased by the Willing Workers Sunday School Class. During the summer of 1952, the church tower was built, flood lights were added to the building, and a new concrete walk was poured. The Willing Workers paid for sanding the church floors. Church pews were purchased from St. Mark's in Butler. The church carpet was cleaned. A gas conversion burner was installed in the furnace. Lightening rods were installed on the roof of the church. The men of the church did all of this work for a trifle under \$2,850.00.

1953

In 1953, with the closing of St. Matthew's Church, eleven of the remaining members transferred to St. Paul's. The bell was brought from St. Matthew's to St. Paul's.

On Thanksgiving, Mrs. Fetterly gave an organ recital and the Congregation served a surprise dinner for the Pastor for his 25th Anniversary. His brother, Rev. Dr. Bernard Fetterly, was present. Council presented the Pastor with a beautiful wristwatch. The Ladies Aid gave him a tree on which hung 25 Silver Dollars.

1957-1959

In 1957, the basement floor was tiled. In December 1958, The Rev. Donald K. Fetterly resigned as Pastor of St. Paul's to take effect June 28, 1959.

On August 30, 1959, the Congregation voted to sever ties with St. Luke's Saxonburg, and call their own Pastor. This took place in early 1960. A Pulpit Committee was set up in late 1959 and plans to build a parsonage were begun October 1, 1959.

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Rev. Oney -- Supply Pastor
1959-1960

Pastor August W. Heide
1960-1967

1960-1961

On September 1, 1960, Pastor August W. Heide became St. Paul's first full-time Pastor and he served until April 9, 1967. On October 9, 1960, Pastor Heide was installed by Dr. Hankey, President of Pittsburgh Synod.

The parsonage was completed in November 1960, at a cost of \$22,000, with much of the labor and materials being contributed by the members of the Congregation. On November 27th at 2:00 P.M., an Open House and Dedication of the parsonage was held.

On April 23, 1961, St. Paul's participated in the county-wide religious census known as the Lutheran Open House. From May 7-11, the Mission Week Evangelism Program was conducted with all churches in the West Conference: the American Lutheran, the Augustans Lutheran, and the Missouri Synod. A missionary, The Rev. Mont O. Bowser, was the guest preacher for St. Paul's.

1962

In January 1962, the loan of \$5,500.00 from the First National Bank of Freeport against parsonage indebtedness was paid off (within a one-year period) partly or largely due to a \$2,000 bequest to St. Paul's from the Estate of John Henry Knoch, a friend of the Congregation.

On February 1, 1962, a General Building Fund was set up. Mr. Francis Toy became Chairman. On September 17, 1962, St. Paul's became part of the newly merged church -- Lutheran Church in America.

During late 1962 and early 1963 the Church Council talked of beginning plans to take care of future needs in terms of a new Parish Education Building. On May 23, 1963, a Congregation Meeting was called and an Executive Building Committee was set up. Mr. Roy Jack was elected General Chairman; Mr. Walter Wiegand, Sub-Committee on Survey; Mr. William Macurdy, Sub-Committee on Worship; Mr. Howard Drescher, Sub-Committee on Education and Fellowship; Mr. Robert Downey, Sub-committee on Finance and Promotion; Mr. Charles Demski, Sub-committee on Land and Construction.

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The White Frame Church on Top of the Hill

In 18 and 64 “Granny Fleming” gathered her neighbors for worship,
And they all agreed a church should be built.

By 188 and 66 they secured a building and dedicated it as
St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The congregation soon doubled the size of thirteen families,
And one thing was clear — they must have more room.
So filled with a holy zeal they decided to build.

They gave of their land, strength, and talents,
And built a white frame church on top of the hill.

By 18 and 70 that church was dedicated,
And we worship there still!

Although there were changes as the years came and went,
Descendents still worship in the church their hands built.

Just as the horse-drawn carriage gave way to the car,
So the high-paneled chancel gave way to
Plastered walls and stained glass symbol windows.

As the membership grew it called for more room,
So once more the men took pick and shovel in hand and began the chore.

In not time at all the masonry was done,
The walls were painted,
And the Sunday School room was finished.

Now the women were eager their talents to share,
So for the altar fair linens were sewn
And the windows adorned with crisp curtains.

Remembering the orphans, the ladies made quilts and comforters,
And gave them from the white frame church on top of the hill.

For ninety odd years our pastors were shared with two other groups,
But in 19 and 60 a parsonage was built,
And St. Paul’s called Rev. A. W. Heide to serve just their church.

How God has blessed us!
Now we must add an educational hall
To that white frame church on top of the hill.

O come, rejoice with us
On this 100th year
In the White Frame Church on Top of the Hill.

John G. Fleming

THROUGH THE YEARS

1964-1965

In 1964, the exterior of the church was painted. In September 1965, a Committee was set up to plan for a celebration of the congregation's 100th Year Anniversary. Discussions were held and a decision was made to purchase a new organ for the church. Mr. Walter McCollim, Chairman of the Worship and Music Committee, was in charge of the program to buy a new organ.

1966

On January 16, 1966, a decision was made to purchase a Baldwin Organ. In the meantime, the interior of the church was painted, floors were sanded, and a new communion rail was built by Walter Altfather, his brother, and Walter's sons. New choir robes were purchased. On Palm Sunday, April 3, 1966, the organ and new flags were dedicated. The basement was painted in May and in early June new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary.

100th Anniversary

June 12-15, 1966 was the 100th Anniversary Observance. Dr. William C. Hankey, President of the Western Penna./West Virginia Synod preached at the Sunday morning services. Pastor Paul Sampsell, St. Luke's Lutheran, Saxonburg, preached at the Vesper Service. Monday evening was a Community Night and Open House. Tuesday evening was Youth Night and Pastor Patrick A. L. Maier, Trinity Lutheran, Freeport, preached. On Wednesday evening, the Congregation had a homecoming picnic supper followed by vespers where Pastor Elmer A. Ortner, former Pastor of St. Paul's preached the sermon.

It was decided at a special June 19th Congregation Meeting, to hire an architect to submit an Ultimate Plot or Master Plan for the present needs as well as the future.

On February 13, 1967, Pastor Donald K. Fetterly, former Pastor of St. Paul's for 29 years, died. He lived near Saxonburg. His funeral service was held at St. Luke's, Saxonburg.

On April 9, 1967, Pastor Heide submitted his resignation as Pastor of St. Paul's to take effect on May 31, 1967.

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Pastor Norman R. Williamsen, Jr.

1967-1971

1967

The Rev. Norman R. Williamsen, Jr. was called to serve as St. Paul's Pastor on July 3, 1967. He took office August 17, 1967. This was Pastor Williamsen's first pastorate.

1968

On November 17, 1968, the Congregation voted to accept the preliminary plans for the educational wing by Dale Redfoot. The cost would be \$120,000 to \$125,000. It was voted (by almost three-fourths of the voting members) to begin a Capital Funds Drive. The Drive started Sunday, November 24, 1968.

1971

Pastor Williamsen resigned July 31, 1971 and moved to Chicago.

Pastor Leo S. LaFontaine

1972-1975

A Call Committee was organized to seek and find a new pastor. Walter Wiegand was part of that Call Committee; he went on the trip to Dagus Mines, Pennsylvania to meet and hear the Rev. Leo LaFontaine. Pastor LaFontaine was called to serve St. Paul's on December 12, 1971. He assumed office on February, 1, 1972 and was installed into office on March 5, 1972 by Rev. Walter Galbrath who was assisted by Rev. Bishoff and Rev. Hanna.

The center aisle candles were used for the first time during the Christmas worship service. Brass vases for the Altar were donated and they are still in use today. Sam Falkner built the stand for the offering plates. In October 1971, aluminum siding was put on the church at the cost of \$6,840.00, which was finally paid off at Easter, April 23, 1973. New carpet was installed in the study at the parsonage. A new asphalt shingle roof was put on the church costing \$3,740.00. St. Paul's joined with all other churches in the "Key 73" Evangelism effort. The area around the church was surveyed. Daily bible readings were emphasized. An art, hobby, and craft exhibit was held at the church in 1973 and again in 1974 with most interesting displays of member's arts and crafts.

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The Youth Group helped the church in many ways and each year they sponsored a walk to get funds to help the underprivileged attend Camp Lutherlyn.

The Lutheran Church Women did a lot of volunteer work and many useful things for the church. They conducted monthly visits to the Old People's Home. They cut stamps for the Axtell Nebraska Lutheran Home and enjoyed the yearly Mother-Daughter Banquets. The Ladies Aid also helped.

Each year, on All Saints Sunday, the members who passed away during the year were remembered. Special attention was given to Environmental Sunday. In the Spring of 1974, the nave and basement of the church were painted. The following gifts were given to the church: a new Altar service book, white acolyte vestments, four sets of eucharistic vestments, a candelabra for Good Friday, a credence bracket, new folding chairs and tables, and a sterling silver chalice, paten, and ciborium were added to the church's equipment.

The Congregation supported the Mission Plane in Liberia for a day at \$119.50 in 1973 and again in 1974. They gave money to many other benevolent causes. The Congregation raised \$3,518 (\$78.00 over the quota) for the Old People's Home in Zelienople and paid the balance of the cash early in 1975.

The Rev. Pastor LaFontaine resigned and retired from the active ministry July 15, 1975. On June 29, 1975, the Congregation helped celebrate the Pastor's 40 years in the Ministry of our Lord. He and his wife, Clara, moved to Florida.

Pastor Raymond A. Ursin **1975-1982**

The Rev. Raymond Ursin was serving as the Assistant Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Sharon, Pennsylvania when he received the call to serve as Parish Pastor at St. Paul's (December 1, 1975).

On June 18, 1978, Ronnie Haught (Church Secretary) and Leone Schickline had the honor of transporting the used Confirmation robes from Faith Lutheran Church, Natrona Heights to St. Paul's.

Church Volleyball teams were started in 1979 after the Ministerium's softball leagues became too competitive.

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1980-1982

On August 17, 1980, ground breaking ceremonies for the new educational building followed the morning worship service. The Rev. Jack Rodgers, Assistant to the President, gave the message. Dale Redfoot, architect for the new education/community building, attended. Ferd and Celia Sarver, Anna Deleon, Lynn Hawley, and Pastor Ursin all participated in the breaking of ground. Balloons were released.

During his term the front doors of the church were moved to the outside entrance and a sidewalk ramp was installed for easier access for the elderly and handicapped. Pastor Ursin also had a wonderful Youth Ministry at St. Paul's.

The dedication of the new educational building, Heide Hall, named in Memory of St. Paul's first full-time Pastor, August W. Heide who died in 1973, was held on Sunday, March 28, 1982, at 3:00 P.M. Bishop May assisted in officiating the ceremony. Guests were Mrs. Susan Heide, her son, Karl, and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Williamsen. Special music was sung by St. Paul's Choir and the Sarver Community Choir. A congregational dinner followed the ceremony.

St. Paul's Nursery School was established in the Fall of 1980.

Pastor J. Stewart Hardy

1983-1986

1983-1984

A call was sent out to The Rev. J. Stewart Hardy, a recent graduate of the Gettysburg Seminary. He was invited to come to St. Paul's on Sunday, March 20, 1983, to give a trial worship service and sermon. He and his wife, Barbara, and son, Mark, stayed with the Ardell Hawley's for the weekend. A Congregation Meeting was held after the morning worship service on March 20th where the members unanimously voted to call Pastor Hardy to be St. Paul's Pastor. The Hardy's accepted and were able to move into the parsonage on May 24, 1983. His first worship service was held on Sunday, May 29, 1983, with a special tureen dinner following the worship service.

Pastor Hardy's ordination was held on June 11, 1983, at Thiel Collge, Greenville, PA. Many from St. Paul's car-pooled to Thiel College for this occasion.

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On Sunday, July 10, 1983, the Rev. Dr. J. Stewart Hardy was installed as St. Paul's fifth full-time pastor and twenty-first in line. This was his first pastorate. A special ceremonial service was held at 6:30 P.M. Invitations were extended to the Sarver/Saxonburg Ministerium, all the District Lutheran Ministers, and members of the Pittsburgh Synod.

A surprise "40th" birthday party was held for Pastor Hardy by the congregation.

Under Pastor Hardy's guidance, St. Paul's grew and prospered. The Ladies Guild raised money through various fund raising events (quilt shows, craft shows, and soup sales) toward the completion of the kitchen in Heide Hall.

Peg Harvey was the recipient of the "Friendship Quilt" given away at the September Quilt Show. The Ladies Guild published the "St. Paul's Country Kitchen Cookbook." In Jan./Feb. 1983, the Ladies Guild contracted Don Herald to build the kitchen cupboards in Heide Hall at the cost of \$3,250.00.

Mrs. Barbara Hardy, with the help of Joyce Ciani, designed and made the Funeral Pall (white with a gold cross). This was given in Memory of Mrs. Joan Cooper.

The Church Office was furnished with a desk, chair, filing cabinets, and a used Xerox copying machine. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson made and donated a long, wooden counter top cabinet and book shelves. The Pastor's Office was furnished with handmade wooden book shelves and a telephone answering machine.

New carpeting was installed in the Pastor's Office, the Church Office, the Library, and the Nursery. An anonymous gift of a piano was given for the sanctuary.

In November 1983, the Rev. Dr. Ortner gave a \$1,000 Gift Annuity to St. Paul's. During 1984, chairs in the Pastor's Office were reupholstered by Grace Wiegand. A brass Baptismal Candle was given to the Glory of God and in Honor of Mildred and Howard Drescher by Marlene Drescher. On December 2, 1984, a blue Advent Stole and Chasuble was presented to Pastor Hardy by Blanche and Ernie Sell.

1985

During 1985, the Ladies Guild, under the direction of Deann Sanner, sponsored a monthly newsletter column of a collection of memoirs of St. Paul's Senior Members. (These, are located at the end of this Presentation in the section entitled "Preserving the Past.")

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In May 1985, a tornado struck the Sarver/Saxonburg area. Congregation members helped the victims in our community with clothing, food, and household items. Work teams went out to various homes and farms to help clean up the debris. Money was raised and matching funds were set up through A.A.L. and Lutheran Brotherhood to financially aid the victims. Also, the Boy Scout Troop of St. Paul's, under the leadership of Hobe Kenton, went out into the community to cut and clear debris.

1986

In June 1986, Pastor Hardy, along with the Church Council, initiated the Heide Hall Debt Reduction Drive.

Pastor Hardy tendered his resignation in August 1986, to accept a position with Christ Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, PA. On August 17, 1986, a farewell party was held after the morning worship service in Heide Hall.

On August 17, 1986, the painting, "The Resurrection" was given in Memory of Janet Toy by the Toy Family and Friends. The artist was Roseanne McCollough.

In the early Fall of 1986, a Call Committee was appointed by the Church Council. On November 8, 1986, a potluck supper was held in Heide Hall to welcome Pastor-Elect, Emery L. Barnett, and his wife, Linda, and their two daughters, Allison and Rachel.

Pastor Emery L. Barnett

1987

January 11, 1987 was the Barnett Family's first Sunday with us in their new home at the parsonage in Sarver. A Welcoming Tea was held after the 10:10 A.M. Worship Service.

On Sunday evening, March 1, 1987, the Rev. Emery L. Barnett was installed as Pastor of St. Paul's. In attendance were the Rev. Lawrence R. Camberg, Assistant to the Bishop, and other Synod Representatives and Ministers of the Sarver/Saxonburg Ministerium. The church continued to grow under his devoted and compassionate care.