



July 2008

St. Paul's VOICE

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am-2pm

First Word

Month at a glance



SUNDAY, JULY 6

Holy Communion
8am & 10:30am
Summer Sunday
School 9:15am

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Worship 8am & 10:30am
Summer Sunday
School 9:15am

SUNDAY, JULY 20

**SERVICES OF
HEALTH & HEALING**
Worship 8am & 10:30am
Summer Sunday
School 9:15am

SUNDAY, JULY 27

8am & 10:30am
Summer Sunday
School 9:15am

WEEKLY IN JULY

Mon, Wed, Food Pantry 9am
Tues, AA Meeting 6pm
Bible Fellowship 7pm
One Faith Gospel Choir 7pm

My Country `tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty! A grand July 4th Celebration to all! May this beginning week of July sound forth a renewed commitment to freedom with responsibility for all peoples! Sunday worship on July 6th will feature patriotic songs, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and a message about Freedom: 'What Freedom Is and What Freedom Isn't.' Attend worship at 8:00am and 10:30am on the Holiday Weekend!

Services of Healing during the Summertime! For a number of years, St. Paul's has featured Sunday Healing Services in October and March. This year, we're adding a third Healing Sunday during the summer - Sunday, July 20th! Be part of the corporate prayers and the personalized 'Laying on of Hands' that morning. Worshipers are invited to come forward and, on behalf of their own needs or the needs of a loved one, have prayer offered before God. A Hymn Sing and time for reflection make both hours of worship - 8:00am and 10:30am - valuable time for the health and healing of God's people.

Read about an exciting Revitalization Project! Thanks to Chas Harris, a member of St. Paul's Church Council, for the report (Page Four) on the Fifth Street Revitalization Project, of which St. Paul's is a full partner. Begun almost two years ago, under the auspices of the Korean Community Development Services Center (for qualifying purposes), a group of business and community leaders formed an advisory board to direct an effort to enhance the safety and cleanliness along the shopping district of the Fifth Street corridor. St. Paul's has participated in both hosting the Advisory Meetings and contributing to the substance of the plan to improve the overall quality of life along the 'Avenue.' Wayne Lutz, Chas Harris and yours truly serve as Advisory Board members. I'm proud to say that St. Paul's has been described, in a recent publication, as an 'anchor in the community' and has provided key advice throughout this revitalization effort.

'Let's Talk' Series Completed: Let the Conversation Begin! My three-part series, 'Let's Talk,' concludes this month on Page Two. The attempt, in writing these messages, is to stir thinking and encourage conversation among the membership. Such has been the case within leadership circles, yet I hope the 'case' is wider than that! While the series is concluding, the issues under consideration are far from settled. Please read, then re-read my 'trilogy' on these topics: Future, Community Center, Vision Statement. Talk about these important matters with other church members. The time is coming for all of us to greet the future God is bringing!

St. Paul's Church goes on ... all Summer long! While the summer season is the traditional season for vacation and travel, St. Paul's church and its many ministries continue. It's gratifying to learn from our Stewardship leaders that numerous member households have decidedly increased their regular giving! So, if you're traveling this summer - be safe and enjoy! When you're close to home, stay close to church. Either way, remember the God-given work of St. Paul's with your offerings and prayers. Take part in the summer ministries of our congregation!

Pastor Kopp

PAGE TWO

'LET'S TALK ... ABOUT A VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. PAUL'S'

(Third of three 'open conversations' with the congregation)

Every congregation ought to have (and live by) a Mission Statement *and* a Vision Statement. St. Paul's already has a Mission Statement; now is the time to develop our Vision Statement.

The two statements are not the same. Distinguishing between the two and understanding the relationship they rightly enjoy, for the sake of the organization, is critical. A Vision Statement is different from a Mission Statement, in that a Vision Statement grows *out of* an organization's Mission. While our Mission Statement lets people know who we are and what our congregation does, our Vision Statement will showcase our congregation's view of the future. Our Mission Statement proclaims the main point of the congregation's existence; our Vision Statement will articulate what our congregation would want the future to look like. Since we need to 'responsibly navigate our future,' it is time for St. Paul's congregation to develop and embrace a Statement of Vision.

The last sentence of my June Message (St. Paul's as a Community Center) is a good place to begin. It reads like this:

'In the final analysis, such a 'community center' as we are will *radiate* with the presence of Christ, drawing people around Him and sending those same people out to gather more.'

This image of St. Paul's future as a 'radiating center within the wider community of peoples' is the key inspiration toward viewing our future and developing our Vision Statement. As a Lutheran congregation in the city of Philadelphia, St. Paul's is demonstrating itself to be a 'leading congregation,' in that our congregation is willing to *embrace* the uncertainties of the future, because we trust God is leading us. We believe that God wants to use St. Paul's, so that we might become an effective Lutheran presence in this vicinity of God's world. Therefore, our own regard for the future will include these four marks:

- St. Paul's will be an *accessible congregation*, simply meaning that people are able to enter, leave and travel within our facility with relative ease.
- St. Paul's will be a *hospitable congregation*, welcoming all people of varying ages and backgrounds into the events of our life together.
- St. Paul's will be an *equipping congregation*, making use of our resources to teach, train and empower persons toward holistic human lifestyles and vibrant Christian living.

St. Paul's will be a *radiating congregation*, drawing persons unto the Lord Jesus, then sending them out to gather more persons into this spiritual fellowship.

In short, St. Paul's will present itself as a people and place where all persons are welcomed to gather for various holistic ministry endeavors: for worship and learning, for discipleship formation and for the general up building of the quality of human life. As such, St. Paul's will partner with other like-minded organizations in fellowship, training and mutual encouragement. Notice that this view of St. Paul's future is not focused on the self-preservation of the congregation as a goal unto itself, although preserving the future viability of St. Paul's is critical to any worthwhile Vision Statement St. Paul's aspires to honor.

A draft of a Vision Statement as I have summarily described has recently gone to Church Council for discussion, reflection, review and adoption. This same process of discussion, reflection, review and adoption will, in time, be exercised across congregational lines, as well.

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—Pastor Kopp

