



St. Paul Ministries

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St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...



Little David in the Face of GOLIATH

I arrived at St. Paul as the Pastor just over 2 years ago. I came knowing that St. Paul UMC was clearly in the middle of an epidemic when little to no outside attention was being given to heroin. This was abundantly evident because of people we see in our food lines, because a father of one of our afterschool children dies with a needle in his arm, and because the mother with a child who attended church weekly dies. These stories are merely representative of many more. The 45403 and 45404 zip codes where we are located is the national epicenter of the opioid overdoses resulting in death. Our staff has projected that as many as 100 people served in our choice pantry, restricted to just part of 45403, have died from heroin/Fentanyl.

Although many see little St. Paul as poor and less than noteworthy by the usual things that we count, like attendance, membership, money collected, we actually are the little David in the face of Goliath. Where many talk, we tend to do and to reflect on what we are learning. Many, who are big, are often over confident in their abilities where we are dependent on many sectors of the community and heroes who come from the community and from afar to meet these Goliath sized threats.

Here are a few real facts resulting from the collective work being done by Dayton Public Health, our primary nonprofit partner the Life Enrichment Center (LEC), and little St. Paul UMC. One mile away, outside of the Huffman neighborhood, in the middle of the scrap metal business, the Life Enrichment Center (LEC) hosts Public Health. On Fridays people come to exchange dirty syringes for clean ones. This is to reduce the public threat of spreading Hepatitis C and HIV. But it also is to know and build relationships with addicts and to offer a chance to be referred for treatment. Between January 1 and October 12 of this year just fewer than 80,000 syringes have been exchanged at the LEC. Nearly 3000 different persons have exchanged needles. The average age is 37 years old.

St. Paul has a small group called our Council on Ministries which is a combination of partnering UM churches, our outreach staff and neighborhood representatives. Bob Hadley, a long term friend of St. Paul who came from Christ UMC, has regularly spoken up to say that there are two agencies in the US that he is aware of who do work in recovery utilizing sober (non-medical) approaches with excellent outcomes. Bob's best suggestion and his strongest relationship is with the Seattle Recovery Café.

Picking up stones

In the face of all of this, God began to direct a growing number of us not only to try and pick up the pieces of lives and families being devastated, but to look for Best Practices in helping people get clean, stay sober and help others (the 12th Step). Bob, with the help of others, gathered people at the LEC where FOA (Families of Addicts), Oasis House, and the Public Health needle exchange (CarePoint) were already active. *Our first step was to see that LEC, where 3000 addicts had already visited this year, could begin a Recovery Café model and be mentored by the Seattle Washington group. *We were able to enlist Binu Peniel, a candidate in the UMC ordination process, who had just finished his Doctor of Ministry at United and who has a unique capacity for both ministry and pastoral counselling. *Additionally Think Tank Inc. who focuses on alleviating poverty helped St. Paul, utilizing the resources from the Miami Valley District Grant, to acquire a forty hour AmeriCorps VISTA worker. He has over 20 years of life on the streets and several prison terms and ten years of sobriety with certifications in peer to peer counselling. Gilbert Dillard joined the team. With a strong faith-driven group, others both with personal experience of addiction and/or with a call to do something, organized into an Advisory

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Board. *Bob Hadley made contact with the Seattle Group. *The LEC Board determined to adopt this large experience; the lead director of the Seattle program came to Dayton, Ohio to see what we are already doing. *We invited Mike Dewine and his three assistants to a short presentation and the Ohio Attorney General gave us \$5,000 to send three people to be trained and formally connect as a direct link to this Best Practice model based on Circles of Accountability. *LEC agreed to become the host site providing a non-residential, aftercare facility with membership and relationships available for individuals committing for the next 24 hours to stay sober and build a new life in the community of love and care.

Learning how to use a sling

One week ago, Binu, Gilbert and a LEC Board Member in long term recovery, Rene, traveled to Seattle and began training and experiencing the atmosphere of Grace and the approaches of the Seattle Recovery Café program. Although food is provided the primary "meat" is the facilitated Circles of Accountability and the Recovery school offering a number of classes. These are available to Recovery Café Members who often have a primary need to be in a safe place with good boundaries, loving people, positive classes and volunteer opportunities.

Seattle has offered all of the substantive materials for training facilitators, keeping records, and running the Circles of Accountability. Dayton Recovery Café will also receive coaching throughout the year from the Seattle group. AND as our team was getting ready to return to Dayton they were told that the Seattle Group was granting us (totally unexpected) \$100,000 to use over the next two years to launch in Dayton, Ohio.

Next Step/Practice

It looks like in November we will begin a pilot to discover and equip facilitators and develop the spiritual practices of people who have capacity to create this grace space. Although the primary site is LEC, Gilbert has been leading a group at St. Paul's weekly breakfast. Although seed money has come from Seattle, we will still need additional funds for qualified and trained staff, daily food, program resources and volunteer servant leaders. St Paul UMC has been the primary source for visioning, believing that God has called us, finding a few resources, utilizing our "Social Capital" and providing spiritual leadership that is born out of Action and Contemplation. The Servant Leaders here have the clarity of vision and commitment to Press On.

For those called to be Bold, grow and mature in Christ, and live prophetically, I encourage you to worship with us where we both seek to model and share the Good News.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Gill

St. Paul UMC semi-annual steak dinner

Saturday, November 4, 2017

4:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Adults — \$10.00

Children (12 & Younger) — \$5.00

Reservations Accepted

Come dine with us!

MENU

**Cubed Steak with Mushroom Gravy • Baked Potato
Green Beans • Tossed Salad or Applesauce • Dinner Roll
Homemade Desserts • Beverage**





We recently said goodbye to super donors, Rita Reeve and her daughter Adena, who relocated to Oregon. For many years, Rita covered the costs monthly for three cases of toilet paper for the food pantry. In addition, she and Adena donated feminine products monthly for the food pantry. They would often surprise us with special purchases when chicken or other food items were on sale. For several years, Adena provided backpacks for all the children in YPC. They were very thoughtful in their generous giving and they will be missed.

Fall 2017

Pantry needs:

Canned beans or dry beans (all kinds)
Canned vegetables (EXCEPT green beans)
Toilet paper/feminine products
Jelly
Cereal
Hot chocolate
Boxed potatoes

Dates to Remember

Regularly-scheduled activities

- **Sunday Morning Group Study** - 9 a.m.
- **Sunday Worship** - 10 a.m.
- **Tuesday Worship** - 11:40 a.m. followed by lunch at Noon
- **Thursdays** - 11:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study and Lunch
- **Fridays** - 9 a.m. - Centering Movement and Prayer
- **Saturday Breakfast/Recovery Group** - 9 a.m.
- **Hispanic Ministry:**
Sunday Fellowship and Worship (Spanish) - 6 p.m.
Thursdays - Las Amigas (Spanish) - 6:45 p.m.

Seasonal activities

- **Nov. 4** - Steak Dinner - 4:30-7 p.m.
- **Nov. 19** - Church Conference during worship - (10 a.m.)
- **Nov. 20** - YPC Family Dinner
- **Nov. 21 & 22** - No YPC
- **Nov. 23, 24** - Thanksgiving break, Church closed

Office Hours:

M-F 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Food Pantry:

M, W, TH: 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Stuff Shoppe:

M, W TH: 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

T: 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

August-September Worship Attendance:

8/06/2017	34
8/13/2017	42
8/20/2017	24
8/27/2017	26
9/03/2017	24
9/10/2017	32
9/17/2017	32
9/24/2017	30

Saturday Breakfasts

in November:

- 7 St. Paul Community
- 14 Normandy UMC
- 21 Bellbrook UMC
- 28 Harmony Creek UCC

Tuesday Lunches

in November

- 4 Belmont UMC
- 11 Englewood UMC
- 18 Normandy UMC
- 25 Community UMC

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Young Peacemakers' Club 2017-18 begins . . .

The 2017-2018 school year began for the **Young Peacemakers' Club** on September 11. We welcome three new U.D. work/study students and one returning student.

Taylor Loudon, a junior at U.D., is from West Chester, Ohio. She is working toward a degree in Middle Childhood Education as an Intervention Specialist. She is on the dean's list and also has a major leadership role in the Big Brother/Big Sister Program at the University of Dayton.

Robin Olesinski, a sophomore at U.D., is from Medina, Ohio. She is working toward a degree in Chemical Engineering. She also participates in intermural soccer and basketball at U.D.

Shelby Hughes, a sophomore at U.D., is from Xenia, Ohio. She is working toward a degree in education as an Intervention Specialist. She is on the dean's list and also participates in the U.D. Marching Band, Flyer Pep Band, and University Jazz Band.

Natalia Hernandez is a native of Puerto Rico and was with us two years ago. She is now a senior, and her degree will be in International Business and Finance. Natalia is bilingual so she is very helpful with our Hispanic children.

The YPC Program is so enriched because of the many talents these young women bring to St. Paul.



The **Parents' Christmas Shop** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 9**. The event is an opportunity for parents/guardians of St. Paul children to *purchase Christmas toys and clothing at an affordable price*. Donations of new toys, clothing, shoes, sports equipment, electronics and gift cards are needed for children infant-17. Cash donations are also needed for the staff to purchase toys. **Please, no violent toys!** In addition to giving our children Christmas joy, this ministry gives pride to the parents who are able to provide Christmas for their family.

The **Children's Santa Shop** will be set up the **week of December 11**. Each child will be able to shop for all the people in his/her immediate family. New gifts in the \$1 - \$5 range are needed for men, women, teens and children. This ministry gives the children an opportunity to experience the joy of giving as well as receiving.

Please consider helping St. Paul make these two programs happen. *Also consider spreading the word of our need to groups and businesses who might wish to donate.* Many people and groups are looking for a meaningful alternative giving experience. All the presents will be gift wrapped by volunteers.



At a glimpse...

In September, with your support, St. Paul UMC

- served 1,234 hot meals on Tuesdays and Saturdays;
 - provided groceries to 542 people for 8,130 meals;
 - placed over 350 pieces of clothing and household items in the hands of grateful people; and made \$170 for the Outreach Ministry.
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