

# May Tidings 2017

St. Paul's Reformed Church  
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## Pastor's Musings

St. Paul's has for many years been an advocate for the full inclusion of members of the LGBT community in the church and society. So much so, that we were one of the founding congregations of Room for All and still serve as the physical address for the headquarters of Room for All.

As a result of our stance, we have also been at the forefront of forming a working relationship with the United Church of Christ, a denomination that has supported full inclusion of gays and lesbians for decades. This new relationship will lead to our being both a congregation of the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ. On May 4th, I will be one of the signers on the papers for formation of the Reformed Association, and St. Paul's will be listed as one of the founding congregations.

In our ongoing effort to support and stand with the LGBT community, the consistory has voted to have the congregation march in the 2017 Long Island Pride Parade. The parade is part of the larger Pride weekend, a time for members of the LGBT community, their families, friends and supporters to gather and celebrate the gift of diversity and voice support for the continuing efforts to end discrimination.

The parade will be held on Sunday, June 11 from 12:00pm till 2:00pm in Long Beach. So that we can participate, the Consistory has voted to hold the Sunday Worship Service at 9:00am so that we can be on our way to Long Beach at 10:00am.

There will be a meeting on Sunday, May 14 at 11:30am to discuss plans for our participation in the parade. We as a congregation have taken very seriously the teaching of the prophet Micah:

What does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.





### **Thank-you Dinner**

The members and friends of St. Paul's are invited to a dinner hosted by the Jesus Witness Way of Holiness Church that shares our building. The dinner will be held on Saturday, May 13 at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of good food and fellowship.

### **Book and Bagels**

On Sunday, May 21 at 11:00am over coffee/tea and bagels Pastor will lead a discussion on the book Revival by Stephen King. It is a story that wrestles with the struggle between good and evil and, our place in the universe.

### **Prayer Service**

We will hold a prayer service on Monday, May 8 at 7:30pm. All are invited to join in this service during which we will lift up in prayer those named on our prayer list and other concerns shared by those at the service.

### **Prayer List Updates**

If you have placed people on the prayer list, please make any necessary updates before the May 8th service.

A reminder: when a person is placed on the prayer list, they remain on the list for 3 months and then are removed unless we receive a request to keep them on.

### **Community Food Pantry Garden**

This garden, which John Altieri, loving and faithfully oversees, last year supplied fresh vegetables for those coming to our food pantry. Over and over again thanks were expressed when people were given some fresh vegetables to enjoy.

If you would like to help with this project, here a few ways you can: donate red mulch - bags can be left by the garden  
donate dried manure - bags can be left by the garden  
donate your time to weed and/or water - contact John or stop by on a Saturday morning.

### **Christian Education**

Confirmation Sunday is May 28th.

Children's Sunday will be held on June 4th. The children will be running the service. This will be the last day of Sunday School year.

Our 10am Sunday School will be in need a teacher beginning in September. If you are willing to volunteer your time for our Sunday School please let me know. I will be able to answer any questions you may have about our program.

The Women' Study Group will meet again on Tuesday, May 16th at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your lunch. Refreshments will be provided.





## **St. Paul's Reformed Church Highlights of April Consistory Meeting**

### **Finance: (Pastor Strauch)**

Current financial sheets gone over. Pastor spoke with Classis-their concern is the financial stability of St. Paul's. Several suggestions were made by Classis on our financial situation. Denise will be crunching numbers and Consistory will be looking at feasibility and decisions made to present to Congregation. There will be a meeting with Preschool on enrollment for the New Year. Preschool has to have enough enrollments to take on cost of custodian.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Book & Bagels- 4/23/17. American Flag and Flagpole donated by N. Babylon Chamber of Commerce will be installed and on April 30, following worship there will be a dedication. June 11-worship service will be at 9AM so St. Paul's can participate in the Gay Pride Parade and festivities in Long Beach.

### **Worship: (C. Lavarota)**

Church cleanup was held on 4/8. Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bake Sale were on 4/15. Senator John Brooks stopped by. Very interested in our Food Pantry. All holiday services were well attended. Working on getting sermons recorded. Confirmation will be 5/28.

### **Property: (J. Altieri)**

Garden coming along. 5/13, Lion's Club will be helping plant garden.

### **Preschool: (B. Milligan)**

To date, 9 children registered for next year, 28 possible. Children have been quite busy with lots of activities and trips. Getting ready for graduation. Registration ongoing.

### **Family Care: (D. Olsen)**

\$386.00 raised at Easter Bake sale.

### **Christian Education: (C. Lento)**

Children will be singing in church on June 4th. Need of a Sunday School teacher for September.

### **Mission: (D. Miller)**

The mission for May will be the Food Pantry. It will be on May 21.

### **Stewardship: (B. Walters)**

Barbara will be working with Denise to get Stewardship information to get this year's program started. May have guest singer for Mother's Day. Food pantry has been recipient of several food drives. Pantry serving 349 people.



7	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Fellowship Hour
8	7.30pm	Prayer Service
13	6.00pm	Thank you Dinner
14	9.00am	Confirmation Class
	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Fellowship Hour
	11.30am	Pride Parade Meeting
17	7.30pm	Consistory Meeting
21	10.00am	Worship Service
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Book and Bagels
23	12.30pm	Women's Study Group
28	10.00am	Worship Service: Confirmation
	10.00am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 5
	11.00am	Fellowship Hour

