

St. Paul's News

Published by St. Paul's, a nonprofit senior living community dedicated to serving the needs of older adults, located at 339 East Jamestown Road, Greenville, PA 16125. 724-588-7610. www.stpauls1867.org

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A Message from Chris Wright

Greetings St. Paul's Family:

I am always grateful for the opportunity to share some insight into life at St. Paul's, especially over these past two years as our opportunities to be together have been limited. We have been blessed in countless ways in 2021, many of which you will read about in this edition of *St. Paul's News*.

Recently, we celebrated our team members and trustees who have dedicated significant years of service to St. Paul's. Although our celebration looked a little different than usual we had the opportunity to be together in person and express our deepest thanks for their dedication and care to the various responsibilities they have held. We also said farewell to some who after many years of service chose this year to retire. We are forever grateful that they chose St. Paul's to be their work family and to invest their time and talents to serve our residents, families and each other. We wish them the best as they move into a new chapter in their lives.

We continue to be blessed by so many individuals who support St. Paul's through their resources as well as their volunteer service. This year, St. Paul's received its largest bequest, which came from a very special individual who cherished St. Paul's, our residents, our team members and our mission. We are deeply grateful for her gift as it will serve St. Paul's for years to come. More importantly, we are thankful that she chose to make St. Paul's part of her life for many years, enriching the lives of so many people she knew and loved.

The Auxiliary at St. Paul's continues to find creative ways in which to raise funds and support the needs of residents. Last year, The Auxiliary supported the purchase of a new 15 passenger bus. This year, its members supported the installation of shade sails for The Villas courtyard. The project has been delayed due to the inability to get certain components but we are hopeful that this beautiful shaded area will be available in the spring for residents and visitors to enjoy.

2021 marked the inaugural year of our newest fundraiser, a Sporting Clay Shoot. The event was a huge success with proceeds of more than \$16,000. In addition, we were introduced to many individuals who had never been connected to St. Paul's. We are thankful for their support and newly found friendship. Proceeds benefitted our benevolent care fund.

As we celebrate upcoming holidays and the New Year, we have so much to be thankful for - especially our residents and families who place their trust in us every day. Thank you for believing in us during these most difficult days.

In closing, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to our team members as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. I am in awe of your commitment to serve our residents and their families in so many ways. You continue to inspire me as you faithfully step up to the ever-changing landscape of health care.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wright".



Daily Words Of ENCOURAGEMENT

Spiritual Services keep positive messages in front of team members

Many things in our daily lives have changed since March 2020. Some changes have been drastic and not very welcomed, but we've adapted. Other changes were subtler and have become "just how we do things now." For many team members at St. Paul's, one subtle and welcome change was opening our email inboxes each morning and reading Pastor Julia Fraser's "Words of Encouragement." Or "WoEs" as she sometimes referred to them.

On March 17, 2020 Pastor Julia, Director of Spiritual Services at St. Paul's, sent out the first Daily Words of Encouragement email to St. Paul's employees. Without fail, the emails arrived daily. There wasn't a lot we could count on over the last year and a half except changing plans, changing course, making it work. But Pastor Julia's WoE emails were a sure thing. They included a lot of thought, wisdom and humor that we all needed.

All told, she sent 385 emails over 78 weeks to the employees at St. Paul's. That's a *lot* of words—and a *lot* of encouragement! Some emails included scripture or lyrics from hymns that she very eloquently expounded upon. In others, she simply shared how she sought pleasure in her free time over the weekend and hoped we all had a chance to do the same. Specific "shout outs" to team members and/or departments for their courage and dedication during this extraordinary time were also featured. All of the emails were beautiful reminders not to forget the simple things and to not dwell too deeply on what is wrong but remember what is still good – and there is A LOT that is still good.

Pastor Julia has been an ordained pastor for more than 35 years and of



Pastor Julia Fraser (left) and Pastor Nathan Seckinger

her daily emails said, "This is some of the most serious work I've ever done." The serious portion was her attempt to create relationships with staff members (known and unknown to her) by writing about areas of common experience and using a newly-created platform to enable consideration of spirituality, mental health, and grief and loss issues with persons from a wide variety of backgrounds.

"This was the part that was different from what pastors are well-schooled in," she said. "What made me happiest were the 'little conversations' that emerged from these emails," she said. "Whether it be in the hallways, in person, or in a "Reply All" email to the entire campus. I will always be glad to have had this opportunity at St. Paul's."

It's true that being encouraged makes one want to encourage others and we saw evidence of that all across campus.

Tina Jones, Resident Care Coordinator at The Ridgewood has been a team member at St. Paul's for more than 30 years. She said, "It was awesome when staff responses

to her words became interactive. It's nice to have a positive experience daily...we all need the uplift."

Pastor Nathan Seckinger joined the St. Paul's family as Chaplain in early August 2020. In his words, "Smack dab in the middle of the pandemic!" He quickly jumped into the fray to encourage and uplift weary residents and staff. He describes his time here thus far as "a challenging, yet fun adventure."

"One of Pastor Nathan's greatest strengths," said Pastor Julia, "is relationship building." One might expect that it's challenging to build new relationships when all parties are wearing masks and being socially distant. Nevertheless, Pastor Nathan makes his presence and purpose known to residents and co-workers alike by consistently posing his signature greeting: "how are you **doing?**"

As for what Spiritual Services is doing, after more than a year of daily WoEs, they've recently revamped their messaging from a daily email to a weekly video of encouragement. Pastor Nathan and Pastor Julia take turns at their respective desks filming short videos with encouraging words and lessons.

Their messages, although less frequent, are still something we can count on, and we appreciate it!

So thank you, Pastor Julia and Pastor Nathan, for your time, thoughtfulness and insight. And thank you also for reminding us, among other things, to take deep breaths, count our blessings, and to appreciate family and co-workers. And maybe most important, for reminding us that while this journey is ours, we're not in charge – and we can trust the One who is.

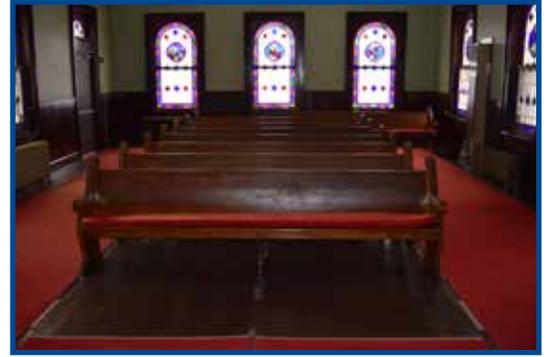
Repurposing Project

January marked the beginning of a significant renovation to The Keifer Building, St. Paul's most historical building on its campus. The Keifer Building was dedicated in 1908 and served as the administration building for St. Paul's Children's Home through 1971 when the Children's Home was closed. Today, the building houses a variety of common spaces including a chapel, dining room, social room – all used by residents who live in The Colony, St. Paul's independent living neighborhood.

The chapel was part of the original construction and was selected as the first phase of renovations. The chapel's last update occurred sometime during the 1980s.

As part of the chapel renovation it was decided to replace the original pews with chairs making the space more versatile for gatherings. The original thought was to donate or sell the pews to a church or organization that could use them.

The idea was suggested that we repurpose the pews using the wood to rebuild new altar furnishings and miscellaneous pieces of furniture as well as save and refinish a few pews to be used in a variety of ways.



Russell Roberts, a resident from The Colony and a carpenter by trade, offered to spearhead the project stating, "One type of woodworking I especially enjoy is repurposing good wood." The pews were made of oak. Russell, along with eight other Colony residents - Irv Milheim, Norm Simons, Bill Sayles, Bill Zimmerman, George Johnson, Nancy Hoffacker, Margie Hays, and Mary Moore - were involved in the project that took approximately six months.

The group had agreed that the 13 pews would be stripped down, planed, rebuilt, stained and finished. The rebuilt pieces were an altar, a podium, and a table, all for the main platform. In addition, other furnishings included a media cart, a large bookcase, and two smaller pews to use as seating in the chapel entrance. Margie Hays and Mary Moore handmade the paraments for the altar, table and podium.

All of the woodwork was completed in the woodshop in Colony Square, a state-of-the-art shop that residents use for all sorts of projects.

When the work was complete, two pews remained and were cut down to smaller pews. Miscellaneous individuals made donations each planning to display a pew in their home as historical pieces of St. Paul's.

Rita Clemente, VP of Community Relations and administrator of The Colony commented, "There could have been no better use for those pews; what once served the chapel for decades as seating will now serve the chapel as furnishings. We are so thankful to Russell and all of these residents who truly invested their time and talents to bring this job to completion. The finished products of their work are priceless."





Eye on the Target

On Saturday, September 25, St. Paul's hosted its first ever Sporting Clay Shoot fundraiser. The event was hosted at Sandycreek Conservancy in Polk, Pa., and brought in a little over \$16,000 to benefit benevolent care at St. Paul's. Benevolent care is at the heart of our mission and supports residents who can no longer afford the full cost of their care. Thank you to all who participated!

This event involved shooting a firearm at flying targets known as clay pigeons. The course consisted of 16 stations and every participant had the opportunity to shoot at 100 clays. Skill prizes were awarded to top individual shooter, Brandon Shaver with a score of 95 and top team, Ridge with an average score of 80.75. Door prizes and raffle prizes were also given away during the event.

Larry Redfoot, St. Paul's board member supported and attended the event with his family. "The best part of St. Paul's first annual Sporting Clay Shoot was spending time with family and friends plus the additional opportunity to support the Benevolent Care Program," said Larry. He is pictured below with his family in the top left photo. (l. to r.) Danny, Ryan, Alan, Matthew, Dan "Red," and Larry Redfoot.

A special thank you for the generous support of all the organizations and individuals listed below. The event was a success because of your help! What a fun day it was, all while supporting a good cause!



Thank you to all of our event sponsors! We appreciate your support!

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Staff & Donor Recognition

The following team and board members were recognized at an Open House on Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Rust Colony Pavilion. Thank you and congratulations to the impressive list of employees for their many years of dedicated service to St. Paul's!

Board of Directors

Dr. Victor Colaiaco (15 yrs)
Julie Hills (15 yrs)
David Reeves (15 yrs)

Dining

Tina Eells (15 yrs)
Joni Diehl (retiree)

Environmental Services

Doris Neal (15 yrs)
Heidi Engel (20 yrs)
Mary Lonsogni (35 yrs)
Kim Bielobocky (40 yrs)
Nancy Bielobocky (retiree)
Rachel Elliott (retiree)
David Mazurkewiz (retiree)
Marlene Randolph (retiree)
Salle Spurlock (retiree)

Life Enrichment

Judy Leskovac (15 yrs)

Maintenance

Jason Irvine (10 yrs)
Kevin Groce (15 yrs)
Don Watt (15 yrs)
David Miller (retiree)

Medical Records

Beckie Bartel (retiree)

The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley

Samantha Solyan (10 yrs)

Nursing

Kara Doddo (10 yrs)
Heidi Emerick (10 yrs)
Casey Parker (10 yrs)
Krystal Hebert (15 yrs)
Melissa Rowles (15 yrs)
Cindy Stoyer (30 yrs)
Deb Yesko (30 yrs)
Dave Butler (retiree)
Deb Calenda (retiree)
Patty Gregory (retiree)

Purchasing

CeCe Corp (30 yrs)

Spiritual Services

Bill Kirker (retiree)

Volunteer Services

Rose Hoffman (retiree)

The Colony

Mariah Corson (10 yrs)
Nadine Buchanan (retiree)

The Heritage

Anita Patterson (10 yrs)
Dena Phillips (10 yrs)
Lori Bartolone (20 yrs)
Kim Bullis (retiree)
Glenna Addison (retiree)
Terri LaMotte (retiree)

The Ridgewood

Barb Good (25 yrs)
Tina Jones (30 yrs)



In 2020, St. Paul's 1867 Society was created to recognize donors who have contributed \$10,000 or more over the course of their lifetime of giving to St. Paul's. After a long delay due to the pandemic, the group was finally able to gather together in person for the first annual celebration on August 26, 2021 in the Rust Colony

Pavilion. Thirty-three members were in attendance to enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvre, wine and conversation, followed by a recognition of members and an in-depth update from President and CEO Chris Wright.

Pictured above are the members who were in attendance. Back row: Jim & Jackie Weyman, Jim & Lynn Chuey, Larry Redfoot, Dick Jones, Mary Ellen Bayuk, Harry McElwain, Steve Hosmer, Rita Clemente, Bryan & Kathy Oros, John Nichols, Victor Colaiaco, Lucy Shaffer, Chris Wright, Eugene Mecklem. Seated: LaWanda Johnston, Margie Hays, Gerry McElree, Judith McElwain, Jean Hodge, Carol Hosmer, Andrea Colaiaco & Jim Shaffer. Absent from photo: Bill Kirker & Tammy Lininger Hause.

Joining Generations



Thiel College Homecoming 2021 kicked-off with a Joining Generations campfire at St. Paul's

A group of Thiel College Alumni – some who also are residents at St. Paul's – along with current students and St. Paul's team members, gathered for an evening of fellowship around an outdoor fire at the Rust Pavilion at The Colony on Thursday, Sept. 30.

The annual event is marked as a kick-off to Thiel College's homecoming weekend and a tribute to the strong relationship between Thiel College and St. Paul's. In 2005, Dr. Jim Shaffer (seated, far right) now a retired Professor of Psychology at Thiel College and current resident in The Colony at St. Paul's, introduced the idea of a partnership between the two campuses—giving current students and residents at St. Paul's opportunities to learn and grow from each other. For more than a decade and a half, the Joining Generations collaboration has been bridging the gap between younger and older adults in our communities and we look forward to many more years of creating meaningful relationships across our organizations.

Virtual Ask an Expert Series

St. Paul's "Ask an Expert" series has been a free educational program hosted at The Keifer Building featuring knowledgeable presenters from our community discussing meaningful topics of interest for older adults and families.

During the pandemic, when large in-person gatherings were discouraged, we developed a virtual format in order to continue to bring our experts and this important information to you.

Since last November, we've been interviewing experts from our campus and beyond and we hope you take some time to view enjoy the videos!

View our new Virtual Ask an Expert episodes on our website at: www.stpauls1867.org/news. Topics and presenters include:

Active Aging – St. Paul's Fitness Specialist Ron Ashbaugh discusses the many benefits of staying active as we age.

Creating an Estate Plan That Works – Attorney Tye Cressman shares three components to creating an estate plan that works.

The Longest Day – Learn about the Alzheimer's Association's "The Longest Day" and other support and educational services they offer.

Music Therapy – Meet music therapist Cindy Legwaila, discussing the benefits of music therapy, particularly for older adults.

Benefits of Volunteering – Meet Wendy Vaughn, Director of Volunteer Services and hear about the many benefits of volunteering.

A Quick Guide to Financial Literacy – Offered by Matt Wilson from Primerica.

Medicare Open Enrollment – A discussion with Debbie Yoos, St. Paul's Billing Specialist.

Investing for Income – Kevin Orsinger from Orsinger Investment Group joins us.

Teamwork & Resilience — the heart of it all.

Person-centered care is at the heart of our mission at St. Paul's and since March 2020, that has taken on a new, more profound meaning in our community. We discovered that we are so much more than our direct care staff giving round-the-clock care to our residents—we became an entire community of caregivers offering support to everyone around us. "We're all in this together" was a mantra around the global pandemic and our community personified that.

"We had never done this before. We didn't have the benefit of foresight," said Tammy Lininger, Administrator at The Villas. But we did have the benefit of a strong team who was willing to pull together and sacrifice for the greater good. "Everybody worked so hard to find creative solutions in impossible circumstances," Tammy added.

Despite the fears and concerns for their own health and that of their families, hundreds of St. Paul's employees continued to come to work and helped keep the deadly virus from getting into our community. And we kept it out for more than eight months. During those months, amidst constant and confusing guidance and information coming "fast and furious" from the CDC, CMS and PA Dept. of Health, plans were put in place to accommodate and care for residents should any become infected. In November 2020, a separate, private neighborhood for residents infected with Covid-19 was opened—and it needed to be staffed.

Twelve brave and selfless team members volunteered to step away from their current positions to work in what quickly became known as "the Covid neighborhood." Rhonda Pipp, who has been an LPN since 2005, moved out of her current administrative assistant role to help and shared about her experience.

"For six solid weeks we were completely shut off from the community," Rhonda said. "We didn't see anyone else besides each other and the residents on our neighborhood." A separate entrance and special parking were designated for those working on the Covid neighborhood so they didn't have to walk through the main building. "A food cart was delivered for our lunch break and set outside the door. It was difficult to have to rely on others to do things that we would normally do for ourselves. I didn't realize how many people I interact with

throughout the day until I wasn't seeing people anymore!"

Employees in the Covid neighborhood worked 12-hour shifts and were tested for Covid twice a week. All were required to wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including gloves, gowns, goggles and N-95 facemasks. "During the winter months, no matter which shift you work, a 12 hour day means you are literally coming to work and going home in the dark," said Rhonda. "It was extremely difficult to communicate with the residents – it was difficult for them to hear, see or understand so much of what was happening because of the PPE."

Each resident who was moved to the neighborhood had to stay there for an average of two weeks. "The residents were sick and all pretty weak, so they needed more help than usual," said Rhonda. The team members were there because they wanted to be and were all working toward the same goal. "Our teamwork here is the best! We all knew how each of the residents were before they got sick and we wanted them to return to their former selves as quickly as possible."

Covid-19 affects everyone differently. A wide range of symptoms are reported, but commonly respiratory problems arise. It is rare that skilled nursing residences have a respiratory therapist on staff – luckily, St. Paul's does. Steve Pugliese is a Board Registered Respiratory Therapist on our rehab team at The Villas and was asked to join the small staff on the Covid neighborhood in early December. "We had a few cases and more positives were coming," said Steve. "There was a lot that we didn't know. It was a frightening time for a lot of people. I knew my skills could help and after I felt that I had one hundred percent support from my family, the decision was easy."

To minimize spread of the virus, the team on that neighborhood was kept small and all hands on deck meant everything from nursing care to meal assistance and housekeeping duties. "Having Steve there freed up some time for us," Rhonda said. Even though Steve is a specialist he said, "I felt more like a helper to the nurses and the aides. I was an extra pair of hands. We worked amazingly as a team. Everyone knew why we were there and we all did what we had to do."



Rhonda Pipp (left) in full PPE and (right) in her office in The Villas. (Below) "The nurses took over the spa," Rhonda said, "we all showered after each shift before we went home. They even had our clothes laundered here so we didn't risk taking any germs home to our families."



Steve said that working on the Covid neighborhood was “much different than my normal days.” He traditionally divides his time between the long-term residents in The Villas and their chronic respiratory needs and the short-stay residents in The Meadows helping them recover and get home as quick as possible. Now his focus was solely on the few residents in the Covid neighborhood. “We had time to spend with the residents and really focus on their special needs.”

“From mild to wild” is how Steve described the range of symptoms suffered by those infected with the virus.

“We all discovered how resilient we are—the staff and the residents,” Rhonda added. “Sometimes my mind was thinking I couldn’t take it anymore, but my body kept going.”

When asked if there were any *positive* outcomes from the pandemic, finding out one’s resilience is a common answer. “Until you’re faced with a certain situation, you really don’t know how you’ll react,” Steve said. “Looking back, it wasn’t that difficult for me to put my personal fears aside to help others in need.”

Outside the Covid neighborhood, all over campus, countless team members also put others’ needs first as they shuffled schedules and workloads to cover vacancies. “Many of our team members had to re-invent themselves on short notice over and over again,” said Tammy Lininger. Guidelines and protocols were changing



Registered Respiratory Therapist Steve Pugliese (right) poses for a photo with Charles Raynes, resident in The Villas.

on a daily basis and everyone from our front line staff to our dining services team and maintenance crews had to “pivot” at any given moment. And just like in the Covid neighborhood, everyone “did what they had to do.”

We’ve called them all heroes—and they are. Not only those caring one-on-one for our residents, but as we’ve discovered just as important, those employees who cared for each other.

A new meaning for person-centered care, indeed.

Direct Care Worker of the Year Nominees

Compassionate, respectful, knowledgeable, reliable, and dedicated are just a few words that describe Jamie Johnson and Luraina Krystek. Jamie and Luraina are St. Paul’s Without Walls Care Partners and were both nominated for this year’s Pennsylvania Homecare Association’s (PHA) Direct Care Worker of the year. Nominations are driven by comments from their peers and clients. PHA has been recognizing caregivers with this honor since 2008. These caregivers provide their personal and professional skills to enable their clients to live independently in their own homes. Even through the pandemic our care partners put their clients’ needs in front of their own providing care and companionship. The time and commitment they provide is simply amazing. Below are some of the feelings shared showing why these two team members are worthy of this award.

“Jamie has a unique sensitivity about her in that she is attentive and very preceptive of her clients’ needs. She demonstrates a respectable work ethic by being flexible, punctual and willing to cover shifts for other team members. While working, she demonstrates to her team how to show dignity, respect and understanding during challenging times.”

When asked how she felt about being nominated, Jamie said, “I feel so blessed and honored to have been nominated for the PHA Direct Care Worker of the year. All of my coworkers are also deserving of this. I just try to give a little piece of myself to each of my clients and team members in the hopes that I can impact their lives in a positive way.”

“Luraina’s attention to detail, her gentle and compassionate spirit, her intuitiveness and ability to see things from her clients’ perspective are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how she demonstrates dignity, respect and compassion for her consumers. She anticipates their needs, often going above and beyond to care for the clients. Luraina always follows through and is not afraid to ask the tough questions. She is always on time for her shifts, and hands in paperwork on time.”

Luraina said, “I really felt honored by the nomination, but honestly, I feel that any one of my coworkers deserves the nomination just as much! I look at it as a privilege to represent St. Paul’s and my WOW coworkers.”

Congratulations to Jamie and Luraina for being nominated and thank you both for your dedication to your clients and our organization!



President & CEO Chris Wright (far left) poses with Without Walls Client and Staff Development Coordinator, Michelle O’Malley (far right) and Luraina Krystek (center left) and Jamie Johnson following lunch and a virtual presentation from PHA of the Direct Care Worker of the Year program and presentation.

Fundraising Re-Imagined

The Auxiliary of St. Paul's
Arms of Love & Service



▲ (May 2021) Ann Fowler (left) and Mary Ellen Bayuk man the table in The Bistro during the first of several bake sales hosted by The Auxiliary.

“Shifting gears” and “re-gouping” were common themes that we all experienced throughout the pandemic and The Auxiliary at St. Paul’s is no exception. A full year of scheduled fundraisers had to be cancelled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, but the Auxiliary persevered and re-imagined ways to continue raising funds to enhance the lives of our residents.

It was obvious to the Auxiliary’s president, Mary Ellen Bayuk and Wendy Vaughn, Director of Volunteer Services and staff liaison to the Auxiliary, that people wanted to support the mission. The trick was finding the safest and most effective ways to do so. So they brought back an old stand-by: Bake Sales!

Since May 2021, the Auxiliary has raked in more than \$1,500 by hosting a number of sales on campus. The first few sales were held in The Heritage near The Bistro and more recently (again, due to COVID restrictions) sales have been held in The Cornerstone in The Keifer Building. Word spread quickly that they were selling “high-quality goods,” so residents and team members learned to get to the sales early because they consistently sell out! Specialty sales like a Soup & Bread sale held in October and a Chili & Cornbread sale scheduled for the beginning of December also promise to turn an impressive profit. Thank you to all the volunteers who have contributed their time and talents, and to all who have supported their efforts!



▲ Twenty-seven loaves of bread, 15 bags of rolls, and 9½ gallons of soup sold out in less than 2 hours at the Soup & Bread sale in October. Along with 33 pieces of pie, 20 jars of jam, four containers of peanut brittle and four pieces of angel food cake. Staff and residents are hungry for the homemade goodies being sold by The Auxiliary!

Colby Gift Shop Refreshed!

Most of the merchandise now on display in the Colby Gift Shop consists of handcrafted items made by many talented residents in The Colony. The goods were created and/or arranged with the residents of St. Paul’s in mind. This is great example of naturally blending our gifted residents with fulfilling service to our community. Gift Shop Hours are Monday through Friday 9 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday hours are flexible according to volunteer availability. All proceeds from the shopping season will support the mission and work of The Auxiliary of St. Paul’s. See you in the shop soon!



Auxiliary Quilt Raffle



Back of quilt.

and historically significant quilt will make its way around campus during the fall and winter and at times will be on display in The Villas lobby.

Tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing for the quilt will take place on Friday, March 11, 2022, two years to the day after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.

The quilt fits a double bed. All proceeds benefit The Auxiliary of St. Paul's. If you have questions, please contact Wendy Vaughn, Director of Volunteer Services at wvaughn@sp1867.org or 724-589-9613 ext. 1135.

This beautiful hand-made quilt was donated to The Auxiliary of St. Paul's by the "Let's Make Masks" group composed of members from the Shenango Valley, Greenville and outlying area.

The seamstresses in the group donated their time and talents to keeping our area safe during the COVID-19 pandemic by making masks. The quilt was crafted from the many fabric pieces left over from the masks. Some pieces are only a quarter of an inch wide.

This is Quilt #8 – "Pieces of Love" and was created by Rhonda Paglia.

A lovely backing was added to the coverlet by the Sew n Sew seamstresses in The Colony to finish the quilt. The very colorful



▲ In April 2020, a large gift from The Auxiliary funded the purchase of a new 15-passenger bus. The new bus features a wheelchair lift, easy fold-away seating and a storage rack.

The vehicle is used to transport residents to local community events, for weekly shopping trips and errand runs and on special excursions throughout the year.

Current Project



Finding a shady spot in the beautiful fountain courtyard at The Villas has been a challenge for residents and visitors – until now.



The Auxiliary's current project is the addition of several colorful shade sails in the courtyard. A new concrete pad was poured in late July and the sails will be erected in spring 2022.

Extraordinarily Determined

Autumn Colby lived at St. Paul's for 31 years before her passing in July 2019. Her impact on the Greenville community and her fellow St. Paul's residents during that time is immeasurable.

Diminutive in stature, Autumn was big in heart and her Christian faith. "The biggest thing about her was her faith," said close friend Sharon Nystrom. "That was what guided everything she did. She saw life from an eternal point of view, not a day to day point of view."

That eternal point of view drove Autumn to champion a number of impactful causes through volunteering her time and her financial support.

Autumn devoted hours to serving at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville as an elder, Sunday school teacher, youth group volunteer and Bible study leader. She also volunteered at St. Paul's, the Good Shepherd Center, Downtown Ministries and the Greenville Historical Society.

In addition, she financially supported a number of other Christian conservative organizations, veteran's groups, and St. Jude's to name just a few.

That's why no one was surprised that Autumn made plans to continue her charitable work through her will. After her estate settled in 2021, St. Paul's, her church and Downtown Ministries all found themselves with sizable bequests.

Autumn's bequest is the largest ever received at St. Paul's to date. This from the tiniest of women, who lived a humble, quiet life and was a savvy thrift store shopper.

Autumn grew up in Corry, a small town in western Pennsylvania, the only child of Lyle W. and Maude (Wright) Colby. She was bright, strong-willed and independent, earning straight As and graduating as valedictorian of her high school class.

Autumn arrived at the University of Pittsburgh during the height of WWII and managed to earn her bachelor's degree in pharmacy in just three years.

After graduation, she joined the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh as a pharmaceutical researcher, later becoming the first person ever to earn her master's degree in pharmacy at Pitt.

Autumn went on to become an Information Specialist for Gulf Research where she retired after 28 years. In her role as a research librarian, she poured over literature to improve the efficiency and

reliability of Gulf's ongoing research projects.

It was at Gulf that she met Catherine Pellkofer, who became her lifelong friend and roommate. Together the two women traveled the world, eventually visiting all

seven continents including Antarctica.

They were making plans to move to a retirement community in Lancaster, Pa., near a nephew of Catherine's, when she passed away unexpectedly.

Autumn found herself unmoored and reconsidering the plan for her retirement. She had no ties to Lancaster herself and didn't have a large family. Both of her parents were orphans, she was an only child and never married or had children of her own. Her closest relative was a cousin of her mother's Lyle McKay and his family, who lived in Erie.

She was visiting the McKays, contemplating what she was going to do when Lyle told her about St. Paul's. She decided to stop on her way home and take a look.

St. Paul's was exactly what she was looking for – faith-based, reminiscent of the small town she grew up in, scenic and most importantly promoted an active and independent lifestyle.

"She really liked it," said Sharon. "So she went back to Pittsburgh and started making plans."

Autumn moved into 1 Gene Drive at The Colony four months later in September 1988. She quickly got connected to the First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, where she was surprised to meet up with an old acquaintance from her Gulf days.

Lawrence Wilson, Sharon's father, was working as an engineer at Gulf at the same time as Autumn. They met one day when he stopped in the library to look up some information he needed. He turned a corner and collided with Autumn, who was holding a cup of tea that went all down the front of his three-piece suit.

Ever after he remembered her as the woman who spilled tea on him right before a big budget meeting. Now here she was many years later attending his church in Greenville.

They became fast friends, and Autumn became a part of his family, spending many holidays, Sunday afternoons and special occasions together over the next 30 years. "She was really a second mother to me and a best friend all rolled into one," said Sharon.

Lawrence and Autumn had a special bond from their time at Gulf, their faith and their love of practical jokes. They carried on an ongoing practical joke between them that went on for more than a decade in the form of



Autumn as a senior in high school



Autumn at age 96 at her last Caring Hearts on Fire Gala at St. Paul's



"Daisy," a painting Autumn had won at a charity event and didn't like.

Over the years, "Daisy" passed back and forth between them at Christmas and on birthdays and even showed up as office decor while Autumn was visiting her dentist Dr. Tom Bost.

It was the gift that kept on giving, just like Autumn.

Sharon was devastated when she lost her dad and Autumn within months of each other in 2019. "She was just a remarkable woman," she said. "A once-in-a-lifetime friend."

Sharon appreciated that Autumn had a very sincere heart and was straightforward and honest. You never had to wonder what she was thinking or what she believed, because she would tell you.

If she took on a project or believed it was her personal mission to help someone, she would carry it through, regardless of the obstacles in her way. "She was an extraordinarily determined woman," said Sharon with a smile and a laugh.

When asked how she thought Autumn

would want to be remembered, she paused for just a heartbeat before saying with conviction, "She would want to be remembered as a follower of Christ. I think that was her sole purpose in life."

Autumn will forever be remembered at St. Paul's for her gracious service and generous giving. Her bequest to St. Paul's was undesignated to be used wherever needed most.

"Autumn was one of a kind," said Dawn Hartman, Director of Planned & Major Giving. "She lived her faith every day with tenacity, benevolence and a good sense of humor. She is greatly missed by her St. Paul's family."

The board of directors, after discussion with the staff who knew Autumn well, chose to designate 80% of her gift to the Keeping the Promise Fund for benevolent care for residents who exhaust their financial resources and 20% to be used to help renovate or improve the Colby Bistro & Gift Shop in The Heritage, where Autumn spent many hours volunteering.

Any residual money will be applied to projects at The Colony, where she made her home for three decades.

In this way, Autumn's generous gift will support several causes that were important to her at St. Paul's. "Someday my gift will benefit other residents of St. Paul's," reflected Autumn in 2011. "Just as the gifts of others may assist me one day."

She wanted the stellar legacy of caring at St. Paul's to continue for generations to come. "I've seen loving, loving professional care all the way around," she once said of her home. "I thank God for St. Paul's."



Sharon & Autumn

Honoring a Loved One

If you are pleased with the care at St. Paul's, please consider "paying it forward" with a gift to support St. Paul's charitable mission.

As a non-profit, St. Paul's depends on the generosity of donors to ensure a resident never has to worry if they run out of financial resources. They can continue to live at St. Paul's receiving the same quality care.

Remembering St. Paul's with memorial donations after a loved one passes away is a thoughtful way to do this. Your loved one's memory will live on through these kind gifts, helping their neighbors and friends.

Celebrating a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary? Consider making a donation in honor of your loved one to St. Paul's. You can designate it for a purpose that is important to them, such as benevolent care, or designate it to wherever needed most. Your loved one will receive a letter letting them know that a gift was made in their honor.

Another unique way to honor or remember a

loved one is to help beautify the outdoor space at St. Paul's. With a gift of \$150, an ornamental shrub can be planted with a marker showing the shrub is in memory or honor of your loved one.

For a gift of \$400, a tree will be planted, offering shade from the sun, with a ground marker honoring your loved one.

You are able to choose from a list of different trees and shrubs that will flourish on our campus, and we will work with you to determine the location.

Another option is a memorial bench for a donation of \$625 that can be placed where residents and visitors can relax and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Each bench will feature a message of the donor's choice on a 4x6-inch plaque.

If you are interested in making a gift in honor or in memory of a loved one, please contact St. Paul's Charitable Giving Office at 724-588-7610 and speak to Dawn Hartman or Teresa Findley.



2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's

Back to an in-person event, the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's was held on a beautiful, sunny Saturday (Sept. 18) at Buhl Park in Hermitage, Pa.

Forty walkers represented St. Paul's in person and one was with us virtually, chatting on FaceTime the entire way around the park!

St. Paul's was, once again, the lead fundraising team, raising more than \$19,000 in the fight against Alzheimer's. We were very proud to have four of the top 10 individual fundraisers on our team. One of them was the leading individual fundraiser who, alone brought in \$10,000 — AMAZING!

Thanks to all who participated and donated to this important cause. See you next year!

Ann & Bill Evans were our newest team members this year. Thanks for joining us! ▶



▼ Sheila Wasser, team member in the Social Services Dept., makes the Walk to End Alzheimer's a family affair. Below, she is surrounded by her son, Nolan and (from left) her uncle Gerald, cousin Travis and father Phil.



◀ Tammy Lininger holds out her phone so that virtual walker, Adele Lehosky, can say hello to her teammates.



▲ Dick Jones & the Kopp family – who are neighbors – traveled from St. Mary's, Pa., for the event. Back row from left: Lynn Chuey, Mark Kopp, Rob Hartman and Dick Jones. Front row from left: Carmen, Heather and Julian Kopp, Margie Hays and Dawn Hartman.

Making Spirits Bright!

The holiday season is upon us and is the perfect time to make spirits bright. There is nothing like that warm, cozy feeling we get around the holidays to make our days brighter.

This past year and a half has been difficult at St. Paul's because of the ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic. We could use your help to infuse peace, hope, joy and love to the residents this Christmas.

You can spread the love by making a gift to St. Paul's annual resident Christmas Appeal. By donating you are ensuring that every resident at The Villas, The Heritage and The Ridgewood receives a Christmas gift this holiday. For some, this could be the only gift they receive. Any additional money raised will go toward resident "wish list" items for all residents to enjoy throughout the year.

Please help us to make this a Christmas to remember at St. Paul's. For more information please contact Teresa Findley, Director of Annual Giving at 724-588-7610 ext. 1237 or tfindley@sp1867.org. Thank you in advance for your support!

Peace

Hope

Joy

Love



To Donate:

1. Send a check made out to St. Paul's to the Charitable Giving Office at 339 E. Jamestown Rd., Greenville, PA 16125.
2. **TEXT-To-GIVE** using your cellphone, you can text the word **SPCHRIST21** to the number 44-321.
3. Give online by scanning the QR code to the right.





339 East Jamestown Road
Greenville, PA 16125

www.stpauls1867.org

OUR MISSION

The mission of St. Paul's formed and sustained by the Judeo-Christian faith, and historically related to the United Church of Christ, is to provide meaning, richness of life, health care, and other support services, while maintaining and enhancing the dignity of human life.

OUR VISION

To create a sense of belonging and purpose by providing a nurturing environment in the place you call home.

OUR CORE VALUES

Security • Compassion • Person-Centered

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 869

