

# St. Paul's Mission Newsletter

Spring 2023



To share the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ, by direct involvement with those in our community, and around the world through missionaries.

## *Meet the Mission Committee:*

### **TOM AND ARLENE MALANGA, ANGEL FUND CO-ADMINISTRATORS**

After attending an area church and being very involved for over 30 years, Arlene began attending St. Paul's in 2004. Changing churches is difficult so other than going to church every Sunday, Arlene was hesitant to become any more involved. No one at Saint Paul's knew her history - she had been divorced for 20 years and raised two daughters on



her own. There were lots of times spent down in the valley in those days but those were also the times that she drew closest to God. And He was and is always faithful.

In February 2009, Arlene reconnected with an old friend from 40 years prior. That old friend was Tom, who lived in New York, and had suffered some valley times of his own losing his first wife to brain cancer. He was a non-practicing Catholic who could not draw on his faith for strength or comfort. They communicated mostly via emails and some occasional phone calls. When Tom finally asked if he could come and spend a June Sunday with Arlene at the shore, Arlene explained that she spent the morning down at the beach at pavilion praise. She invited him to join her.

Tom had never experienced a worship service like that. Pastor Twidle gave the sermon that day and explained that "all of our sins, past, present and future, were forgiven by God

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through Christ.” That resonated with Tom and when Pastor Twidle gave an altar call, Tom raised his hand. He had accepted Christ and his life was changed forever.

On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2010, Arlene and Tom were married by Pastor Twidle at Saint Paul's. Shortly thereafter, they officially joined the church, attended several Bible studies together and not long after that they were asked to co-administer the Angel Fund.

In John 13:34-35 Jesus says “let me give you a new command: love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other.” In the book of James, we are told “dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half starved and say, good morning friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit! And walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup - where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?” And in I Peter: 4:7-11 it says “... most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless - cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; If help, let it be God's hearty help. That way God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and He will get all the credit as the one mighty in everything - encores to the end of time.”

After prayerful consideration, Tom and Arlene agreed to handle the Angel Fund. Simply stated, the Angel Fund allows us to put our faith into works and to give God the glory.

After researching and validating every request we receive, we discuss it and we pray. We often help with rent/mortgage, utilities, clothing, medical expenses, prescriptions, assisting with funeral expenses, even something as simple as bus fare for a job interview.

Currently, the Angel Fund accepts requests for assistance from surrounding communities. Once a request is received, the need is investigated and validated. Only then is a check written to a landlord or mortgage company, a utility, a doctor, etc., or a gift card for a grocery store, gas station, etc. is sometimes given out. **NO MONEY IS EVER GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE PERSON IN NEED.** Rather, it goes directly to the vendor. **ALL REQUESTS ARE KEPT COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.** The Fund is supported solely by donations, mostly from our loyal, generous parishioners of St. Paul's.

Those who receive our help are quick to thank us but we are always reminded the glory goes to God and we point that out to them. We often pray with them and always invite them to worship. We don't always see them at church, but we trust that a seed was sown and that God will work things out in His perfect time.

While we feel it is our responsibility to work in this capacity, it is a pleasure and an honor to do so.....and the praise and glory go to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

## *Recent Mission Activities:*

### **Rise Against Hunger**

The Sunday after Easter we hosted our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. This is, hands down, one of our favorite events of the year. It is such a fun and practical way to be the hands and feet of Christ in a very needy world. Thank you to all who donated, we raised \$9500 to pay for this event. Over 115 people came out to help us pack 25,056 meals in under 3 hours. Thank you so much to our team who set up, packaged, and cleaned up after. And a special shout out to the kids/teens who acted as our runners and refill team! We could not have survived this event without you!!



## *Upcoming Mission Opportunities*

### **Staying Connected During the Summer:**

The birds are singing, the trees are green again, and we all have started to pull out our shorts and sandals. During this time the events in our main church building slow down but it doesn't mean we are closed for business! Please continue to join us down for worship service down at the pavilion every morning at 9am. Also, we are currently working on some

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exciting new partnership events with both Rise Against Hunger and Nafasi Project. Keep an eye on the church website, our new Facebook and Instagram accounts, and the bulletin for more information!

Historically the church takes a huge financial hit during the summer months. Despite the drop in giving due to people traveling and splitting the cash offerings with the Camp Meeting, God has always provided. This year, however, our goal is to have the church thrive instead of just survive. We just managed to get our debts under control and we would don't want to back pedal. We ask everyone to continue to support St Paul's so that we can come back strong on the fall, ready to bless our community with God's abundance!

### **Monthly Communion Offerings:**

May: Jersey Shore Rescue Mission

June: Nafasi Project

July: Allison Stump Intervarsity at MU and TCNJ

August - Sept: Summer offering from the Pavilion goes towards UMC Apportionments which supports the United Methodist missionaries and mission programs all over the world.

## *Financial Giving*

Thank you for your generous support these past few months! Our total numbers for last quarter are:

January, Caring Friends: \$660

February, Rise Against Hunger: \$1,571

March, Haiti: \$2,234

April, Interfaith Neighbors: \$1,404

## *How to Give*

There are many ways you can donate to St Paul's. There is the traditional way of donations in the offering or by mail, but for the more tech savvy you may give online or by downloading the Give+ App on your phone.

### **To give online:\**

Go to [www.oceangrovechurch.com](http://www.oceangrovechurch.com) and select the yellow DONATE button.

### **To give via Mobile App:\**

Download the Give+ App