



## Paul Owens, Senior Pastor

Subject to none, Servant to all

As we as a congregation open our doors for public worship again, and as you and I live out our calling among our neighbors, one size certainly does not fit all. Perhaps you have noticed that we are spread across a spectrum: some of us are “more than done” with quarantine... and some of us are still quite cautious. As you and I move out and about and toward our neighbors again, we ought to be the calm ones setting the example.

Our namesake, the apostle Paul, was highly educated and very good at arguing calmly without compromising nor ranting. Paul would debate with religious leaders, philosophers and Roman rulers... and he was right at home and helpful among ordinary sinners and sailors. In the ninth chapter of his first letter to the congregation in Corinth, Paul writes: “For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them” (v.19; it is worth reading his whole testimony in chapter nine). Paul knew something far more important than just defending his spot on the spectrum: “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings” (v.22-23). Far from political correctness, Paul lived under his calling as a winsome witness to Christ Jesus.

The other fellow whose name you and I carry, Martin Luther, said it this way: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian it’s a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all” (On Christian Liberty).

To our church council and to Michelle Rivera and our staff: thank you! ...y’all are doing great at living out this calling. Let’s pray: Dear Lord, as Texas opens up again, make me an example of one who is subject to none, servant of all, that I may win more persons to the name of my Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Paul



## *Preschool*

The pre-k class planted seeds and cared for the garden over the last several months and now the preschool garden has bloomed!!!

“Where flowers bloom so does hope.” -Lady Bird Johnson

*As a Christ-centered, Gospel-driven Congregation, we are called by our Lord Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations. We will be a congregation that engages people in order to help families follow Jesus.*

\* Promote a culture of family ... supporting home prayer & Bible study with parents as key teachers

\* Increase our outreach and mission presence outside our walls\* Strive for excellence in spiritual leadership



**Currently  
Deployed  
Returning  
11/2020**

### *Chip Reynolds, Pastor*

So, I was out and about this past week traveling to see some of my soldiers when we got stuck in a traffic jam. Now, I thought Austin traffic was a bit unpredictable but I never imagined this happening in the desert.

As far as I could see, it was flat and sandy. A strip of highway in front of us for miles and not another car anywhere in site but we were sitting...stopped in the middle of the road...waiting on a herd of camels.

Camels. A 100 of them being shepherded across the road in the middle of the day. Of course, all I could think was, "It's not Wednesday...HUMP DAY!"

It definitely was not how I expected my travels to unfold at the beginning of the trip. Honestly, I was ready for a boring drive across the desert that I had made several times already. And then we stopped...and waited...and acted like tourists that had never seen camels before.



But the whole event gave me pause. I thought to myself how much in my life can simply move along the path just like it always does and then everything comes to a screeching halt. It can be anything like a deployment or a sickness or maybe a world-wide pandemic even. It even happens to us in the church. We get so comfortable and maybe even a little complacent and then all of a sudden, we can't even worship together. For months.

But the truth is that when we are in the midst of those moments where the balance has been upset, God is faithful. Hebrews 10:23 says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." What it doesn't say is hold on to the things that we have always done and experienced because they will be faithful. They won't. Only God will.

So, the challenge is this: Look at the challenges of life as opportunities to see where God is pushing you. It may be uncomfortable. It may not be what you had planned. It may be like a herd of camels that show up in the middle of the road. But His promise to you is that He will always be faithful no matter what. Always faithful.

So be a tourist for a second and take some pictures because your path is no longer the same as it was when you started. Now, see where it takes you and what His faithfulness has in store for you.

In His arms,

PC

#### *Need a Mask?*



Please contact the Church Office (830-625-9191) if you are in need of a mask. We will be happy to provide one for you.

#### *In Need of Financial Assistance?*

Please contact the Church Office (830-625-9191) if you know of anyone that is struggling and in need of financial assistance.





**Tex Brown, President**

The faith of our church family has truly been tested the past few months. COVID-19 has driven behaviors that we never anticipated before this. On-line church and even Facebook Sunday services have become our primary means of worship recently and though not ideal the internet ministry has served us well during this time period. We have actually seen more "hits" and attendees than ever in person. BUT we are slowly coming out of the internet only experience and will be able to actually join together in worship now. We had a 'test service' at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 24, which served as a forerunner to both services on May 31 (Pentecost Sunday) being opened up for attendance in our Sanctuary. A team of servers helped us process a little more than 50 congregants into our church on the 24th to prove the concept of gathering safely for worship inside our walls. Everyone who attended came through the only open doors to the Lobby, had their masks on and then had their temperatures taken. Next stop was the hand cleaning station and/or restrooms and then ushered into the sanctuary where family units sat together and every other pew was used to make for 6 foot or more separation. Once seated and separated, masks could be lowered while in the sanctuary for the service. Offering was dropped into a plate/basket on the way in or out of the sanctuary. Of course the service was still Live streamed and will be for the foreseeable future. Then at the conclusion of the service families exited in an orderly fashion by row with their masks back in place. Another team of workers then sanitized the sanctuary in preparation of the next service. It was SO good to be back together in worship and will be even better next Sunday when many more of us will be present for both services. Come early as the process does take a little extra time. We will continue to be cautious and certainly not take any chances of sickness to any of our congregation. With that in mind anyone who is over 65 years of age and/or with health issues is encouraged to stay home and stay safe and worship online with us as you have for the past two months. Good health and safety are of the utmost concern and we will slowly open up more and more as we can during the summer. For now we are NOT holding in person 9:15 a.m. Bible Studies or Sunday school classes. A few teachers are conducting their classes online which is great!

On another note, the new construction is progressing wonderfully and I anticipate we will have 6 new classrooms for the September time frame. Hopefully COVID will be behind us and will be back in class with additional space for new small groups. Come out and enjoy the fellowship of your church as we begin to gather once again on Sunday mornings. This entire experience has reinforced the message that the church is NOT a building but the Body of Believers. And as Teeta so wonderfully reminded us, the most important 10 Words are "We are saved by Grace and Faith in Jesus Christ."

**Full Steam Ahead for Rocky Railway VBS**

NOW JULY 27-31, 2020

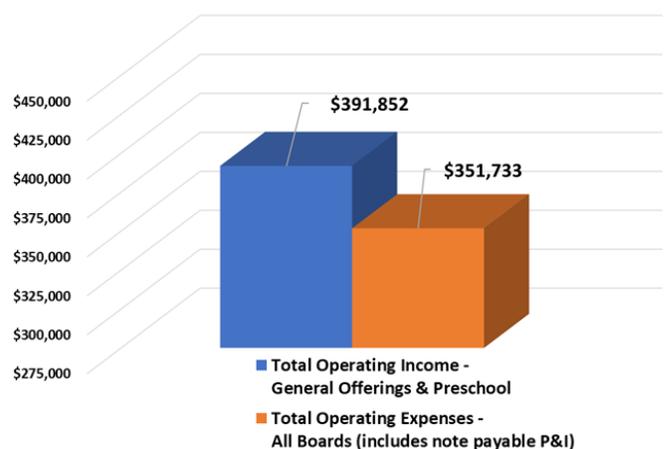


The Coronavirus may try to derail us, but it's full steam ahead for Rocky Railway VBS! Mark your calendars for our new date of July 27-31, 2020. Registration for both participants and volunteers is available at <https://www.nbstpaul.org/faith-formation/children/>. The ride may be a little bumpy leading up to VBS this year, so be sure to stay tuned for additional details as we approach our new departure date.

**A new way to give....**

You may text your tithe to 1-830-505-1736.

Income Versus Expenses  
Year-to-Date March 31, 2020



Senior Pastor - Rev. Paul Owens - [pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org](mailto:pastorpaul@nbstpaul.org)  
Pastor - Rev. Chip Reynolds - currently deployed until November 2020  
Executive Director of Operations & Preschool - Michelle Rivera - [michelle@nbstpaul.org](mailto:michelle@nbstpaul.org)  
Communications Coordinator - Jennifer Burrows - [jennifer@nbstpaul.org](mailto:jennifer@nbstpaul.org)  
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FAX (830) 620-7715

**June 2020**



[www.nbstpaul.org](http://www.nbstpaul.org)

**RSVP for Sunday morning worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on [www.nbstpaul.org/rsvp/](http://www.nbstpaul.org/rsvp/).  
We are continuing to live stream both services on Face Book and our website.  
Currently, there is NO Bible Study hour or Choir meeting.**



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