

February
2021
Volume
LXVIII

THE EPISTLE

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WHO SHALL
SEPARATE US
FROM THE

*love of
Christ?*

ROMANS 8:35, ESV

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Rector's Corner

Friends,

This Lent feels like it started a year ago and has not let up one bit. As I search out my own soul for what God is pointing out as needing attention, I find that my wants and needs have gotten jumbled again and need correction. Whatever we consume that is unhealthy for us, or done in secret, or done in rebellion needs to see the light of day in God's presence. We are starved of personal contact and affection and so we put lots of other things in place of these very real needs. Lent is a time for halting the process of numbing our fears, frustrations and resentments and sharing them with God so God can heal us.

Fears, frustrations and resentments sum up quite a bit of my experience of last year so there's a lot to be healed in my heart this Lent. I am happy to sit with you and listen if you want to talk with a priest about your struggles and receive counsel and the sacrament of reconciliation. What we all can and should do is take intentional time before God and lay ourselves and our emotions bare in the Divine Presence. God. Already. Knows...Remember that there's nothing we can hide from God and nothing original under the sun when it comes to sin. Also remember God. Loves. You...Not in spite of yourself, but because of your whole self, a self you barely even know. Let. God. Love. You...into health, wholeness, forgiveness and joy. God is always ready to hear us.

There are lots of great options both online and in print for prayer, study and reflection this Lent. I hope you'll take a look at the many offerings given to you and pick something that will challenge and enrich your relationship with Christ. We will be able to mark ourselves with Ashes this year for Ash Wednesday so that as we cannot gather physically together, we can remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are already marked as Christ's own forever so let's remember that and walk into the season of Lent with courage.

Faithfully, Sarah+

Edwina Gateley
Let Your God Love You

Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants
To look upon you
With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your god—

Love you.

Curate's Report



For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 12.12-13).

Here we are with the annual meeting behind us and Lent right around the corner. There is no doubt the vestry will be charging ahead, continuing to lead us through the unprecedented times as a church community. They are a key in keeping St. Paul's functioning as one body despite the physical distance we must keep.

Yet Lent calls each of us to a time of doing individual work as well. Many are saying they aren't prepared to give up anything more with the additional strains and great losses due to the pandemic. And as we approach Lent, it is my hope that we look at it not with dread, but as a time of anticipated growth. This growth can come in the form of a deeper relationship with God and a deeper awareness of our self and our own gifts.

Traditionally we often give up something as part of our Lenten practice with the goal of that thing we give up being something that gets between us and God. Giving that particular thing up then creates room for our relationship to blossom. If this speaks to you, then go for it. And if you are still not a fan of the idea of giving something up, another option is doing something extra. This, too, can be a big ask in a hectic time. But if this appeals to you, more can simply mean devoting more time to God and more time to perhaps think about one's own gifts and how one can leverage those.

As we continue to isolate and spend more time at home, now is as good of a time as ever to discern what our gifts are. Specifically, we can understand our gifts, and learn how those can be cultivated and used in new ways during the continued pandemic time and year to come. For those who are familiar with our gifts, it is likely one can discern a way to utilize those gifts in a new way.

St. Paul's is continuing to build up God's kingdom. And there are always ways to contribute. And those ways clearly change over time. Despite the stagnancy of things around us due to the pandemic, perhaps the challenge this year is to enhance our relationship with God, turn inward, and discern how we can leverage our gifts with a focus on being led by the Spirit. For this calendar year I will be highlighting at least one ministry per month in our monthly newsletter. I invite you to check this out and prayerfully discern if you may have the gifts to help on one of these teams or beyond. Each of us is a key contributor to God's kingdom on earth.

Faithfully,

Melissa



Sr. Warden...

We are grateful for Michelle Gibson's faithful service as Senior Warden these past two years. We will miss her on Vestry and are blessed that she will continue to provide her leadership on Worship Committee and B & G. Thank you!

Stay tuned as we announce who will be stepping into her very hard to fill shoes!

From our Jr. Warden...

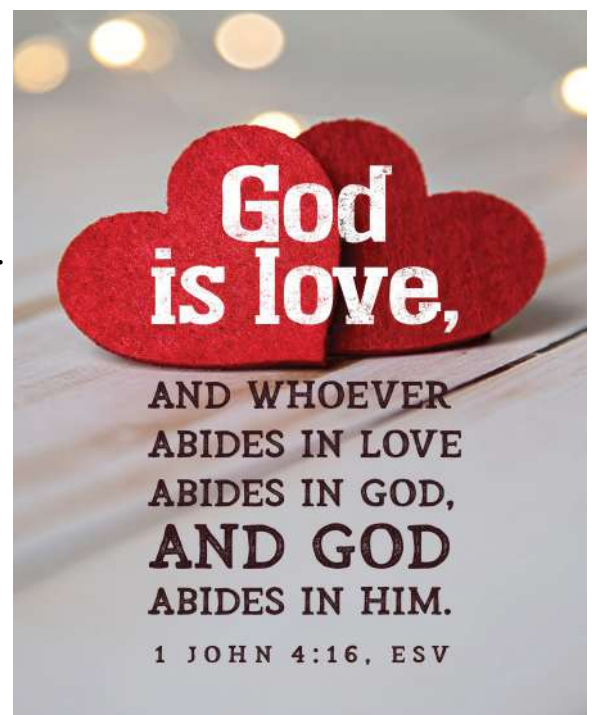
February 2021!! The second month of the new year and a new time for hope. 2020, a year of uncertainty and pandemic, IS behind us. The pandemic, unfortunately, is not yet behind us, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We need to put our faith in God and in our fellow man that life will be better and we will persevere.

The Christmas Eve services were beautiful and very meaningful to many of us and we thank Sarah, Melissa and all how helped bring these services into our homes. Thank you! Another big thank you goes to Melissa for organizing and producing the wonderful Epiphany Pageant. To all the children and their parents and all behind the scenes, including Michelle Gibson, kudos for a job well done! It was beautiful and really touched many hearts.

Last Sunday was our first annual meeting over Zoom! It was great to see so many of you participating in it and helping us take care of our annual church business. Hopefully there will be many more firsts this coming year, but praying that they will be good firsts.

Faithfully,

Debbie Batchelder



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

5

ECW

I'm running out of ways to express my amazement at how quickly time passes. This is the February article already! What happened to January? It was both a long month and it flew. I hope February finds you all safe and well. If not, I hope you will/have recovered from whatever illness ailed you.

February is replete with celebrations, observances and feast days. Freedom Day is celebrated on February 1 and commemorates the signing of the 13th amendment abolishing slavery. It is also the feast day of St. Bridget of Kildare (c. 451-525) also known as a patron saint of Ireland along with Patrick. She has a rich history and is known for the cross which bears her name. February 2, as everyone knows is Groundhog Day, but it is also Candlemas day on which we celebrate the presentation of Jesus in the temple and the purification of Mary. February also contains National Send a Card to a Friend Day (7), Wear Red Day (7), Lincoln's birthday (12), St. Valentine's Day along with National Organ Donor Day and Susan B. Anthony Day (15). It is also Black History month, American Heart Month and Friendship Month.

But let us get down to business! Our church remains on lockdown to help contain the virus in these most prolific months. We so much look forward to an end to the restrictions and coming together again. We have been reluctant to talk about the issue of dues since the pandemic brought our meetings to a halt. We have felt that since we had not offered any in-person enrichment activities we should not ask for dues. However, we have remained in our roles and have continued to plan and fulfil our mission during the lockdown. We have decided therefore, to ask for voluntary dues. If you feel moved to continue to support our outreach efforts and our planning for the future, please feel free to send in your normal dues of \$10. Checks should be made out to Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and sent to Cheryl Gumper in care of the church. Remember dues are completely voluntary and in no way affect your standing in ECW going forward.

In the meantime, we are still looking for women to step forward to be on the next board. Please consider taking a role in the leadership of this wonderful organization. We are still looking for your ideas and suggestions for what we do going forward and what you see the future ECW being/looking like for you and other women. We welcome all suggestions. It is difficult to plan without input so please brainstorm and get back with us. Sandra, ECW President, can be reached at sekilian@sbcglobal.net and I can be reached at varowley1@gmail.com.

With all that February brings remember also that lent starts on the 17th. What plans do you have for lent? Will you be making a sacrifice during this holy time as Jesus did in the desert? How do you plan to focus on Jesus's 40-day withdrawal and fast in the wilderness?

With the vaccine being made available we head into the new year with renewed hope for the future and the resumption of a close to normal life. Meanwhile send a friend a card. Become an organ donor. Wear red on February 7. Send a Valentine card to a homebound person. Make a St. Bridget cross. Read a book about black history or a historical black figure. Learn about Susan B. Anthony's role in women's voting rights. But above all, stay safe. Wear a mask. Avoid crowded places. Wash your hands. And remember, we stay apart now so that when we come back together no one is missing.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.

Looking ahead to Lent...



- On Ash Wednesday (February 17th) we will have drive-up “Ashes to Go” (weather permitting). More details with time & location to come soon.
- There will be an evening Ash Wednesday liturgy that will be posted on Facebook.
- A small in-person worship service will be available at **noon** for “non-tech” parishioners (like our 9 am service) for those unable to view online services.
- Big Guy Catering will offer a special takeout Shrove Tuesday Supper (February 16th) with Pancakes or Gumbo as options. You will be able to pre-order through their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BigGuyCatering) or by calling Ella at (517-945-8197).
- Resources for personal prayers for individuals and families during Lent will be mailed/mailed to each household. Pastor Sarah encourages you to sign up for a Lenten course entitled “Episcopal Women Worth Knowing” Each Thursday evening during Lent. The course is on Zoom and the link will be in the weekly email and on our webpage.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

If you did not get a copy of the 2021 Annual Report and would like one, please call or email the office and request a copy via email or ask to have one mailed to you.

You may also view it via the homepage of the St. Paul's website:

<http://stpauljxmi.org/>

Thanks to all who attended the meeting via Zoom and made the meeting a success.



Join us each Sunday at 10:30 am for the Facebook Livestream of our service from inside our sanctuary!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view the service later on Facebook.



Diana Sinclair is faithfully collecting names for our prayer list, so please call

(517-250-9729) or

email her at finnikki96@aol.com to add anyone for whom you'd like the Church to pray. We are so grateful for the prayers of this Church family and join with you in asking God's blessing on those we love and all who are fighting to keep us safe and healthy.



Pastor Sarah's Weekly Zoom Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10am

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>
No Password required



The peace of all peace
be yours this night

Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at **8pm on Facebook live**
<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi> for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

Adult Forum

Note the new time:
9:00 am-10:00 am on Sundays
via Zoom-

All adults are welcome to join!
For the Zoom meeting link and more info contact:

Eric R. Magnusson,
Email: emagnusson75@gmail.com

Cell: 248-842-1859

Meeting ID: 992 3997 8197

Passcode: Adult Forum

Building & Grounds

January was a mild month concerning temperature and snowfall. Up until now, Terry our Sexton has handled any snow accumulation. In the event we do have a large amount of snow in a short period of time we do have a backup with snowplows to clear large amounts of snow. We purchased another load of ice melt on 1-15-21, hope it will get us thru this season.

Sanitizing our buildings has been effective since the purchase of the portable electrostatic backpack. It holds 4 gallons of bacteriostat. This eliminates sprays and wipes by producing a mist with a range of 15 feet. Sanitizing large areas like the Sanctuary and Holy Spirit Hall becomes quick and efficient to clean between services or events.

We will continue to improve our need to exit the Sanctuary quickly if necessary. A push bar type door latch will be installed on the door next to the Baptismal font. This door leads out to the Memorial Garden in the event of fire or any other emergency.



Respectfully submitted,
Kyle King -Chairperson, Building & Grounds



Our faithful sexton Terry Treadway using special equipment to sanitize our sanctuary. He works hard to keep our building clean and safe!



An Introduction to the Pipes of the Organ

The organ at St. Paul's is a marvelous 43 rank organ built originally by the E.M. Skinner company in 1926. It was rebuilt and enlarged in 1958 by a German company and again in 1989 by the Muller Pipe Organ company from Ohio. I dearly love the organ at St. Paul's, so I thought I would share some of its attributes with you.

An organ keyboard plays 61 notes and there is one pipe for each note in a set called a "rank." An organ generally has several ranks of pipes that make different sounds. These pipes are of two general types, flue pipes or reed pipes. A flue pipe produces sound through the vibration of air molecules and has no moving parts. The air, under pressure in the wind chest, flows into the pipe and then over a little "open window" and against the sharp lip of the pipe. A reed pipe uses a vibrating brass strip, known as the reed, to make its sound as the air flows through the pipe.

The length of the pipe determines the pitch. To match the pitch on the piano, the lowest note on the keyboard has a pipe that is eight feet long. The pipes get smaller as you go up the keyboard, but all the pipes in this group are still referred to as an 8' rank. Organs have ranks that are 16' and play an octave lower than a piano, 32' ranks that play two octaves lower, and sometimes a 64' rank. Going the other direction, there are usually 4' ranks (one octave higher), 2' ranks (two octaves higher), and sometimes 1' or 1/2' ranks. There are also ranks called "mutations" that produce sounds that are usually a third or a fifth above the actual note being played. Finally, there are ranks of pipes grouped together in a "mixture" which plays multiple pipes at one time, usually in consecutive octaves and fifths.

Organists spend years learning about the sounds of different kinds of pipes and how to mix and group them together to create the best sound to accompany congregational singing or to perform a piece written in 1735 by Bach or a piece written in 1875 by Franck. It is a challenge and a great joy to find the perfect mix of sound.

-Julie J. Baglien, Organist





FITTING WORDS FOR THIS NEW YEAR SEASON

An excerpt from the July 9, 1922 edition of St. Paul's Messenger with words which still ring true today. *

A visitor from another planet coming to the earth would notice two characteristics about human life, haste and strife. The spirit of the age is rushing faster every year. People seem to have lost the sense of leisure. There is something humiliating about the scramble and bustle of modern civilization. It is all so artificial.

Nothing great or serious or lasting can be done in a hurry. Education must always be a slow, deliberate, gradual thing. Nature rebukes our human eagerness with the example of her inexpressible patience. Her work is matchless, because she has taken millenniums to finish it. She counts a thousand years as one day.

Genius cannot afford to be driven. The artist rarely hurries over his picture or poem. The principle which common sense justifies in common affairs and which necessity enforces in education, science and art hold good even more absolutely in religion. Faith and Hurry are mutually incompatible. The one must finally banish the other from the soul. Our Lord's life is full of strange, serene leisure. His Father's business was done for thirty quiet years at Nazareth. The Son of Man served so long an apprenticeship of patience before his ministry began. Afterward when he became the vortex of eddying multitudes he never showed a trace of hurry or excitement.

Our Lord went through life in the tranquility of perfect trust.

The watchword of his Gospel is not haste but Rest and Peace.

The strife of the world is growing fiercer every age. We are born into a bewildering universal conflict, and we are implicated and compelled to take part. Civilization, in many respects, has only intensified competition. In our modern industrial society men struggle more feverishly than ever for the prizes of success and take more anxious thought than ever about the grievous risks of failure. The first gift, which Christ holds out to men, is rest of the heavy-laden. His last bequest to His Disciples was his own unbroken peace. There is a most real and vivid sense in which life is constantly strenuous alike in spirit and in action. Christ, himself, calls us to daily tireless battle against our own selfishness. He enlists us in the eternal war, which he wages upon all injustice, oppression, cruelty and corruption. But the final benediction of the Christian is described as their inheritance in the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, which the world can neither give nor take away.

“Come unto me and Rest. Be still and know that I am God.”

Not haste and strife but Rest and Peace are what we long for today.

Submitted by James Hughes, Archives 2011

Respectfully submitted again by Janet Wesch, St. Paul's Archive Ministry, 2021

Words from (1922) almost a 100 years ago which still ring true even today.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

**Note: "I am assuming the author of this excerpt was the Priest, because there was no author given otherwise. Per the date on the article, that would have been Rev. Edward M. Parrott (Rector 1921-1925). Usually there would be an author at the bottom of article if it wasn't the priest." -Janet Wesch, St. Paul's archivist*



Rev. Edward M. Parrott
1921-1925

An Interesting thought...

On 2 Oct 1921, Rev. Parrott, in a letter to a member of the Vestry writes the following:

“I find the Messenger very interesting. I rejoice that you are so well organized and that the parish societies have demonstrated their capacity to run themselves. I feel that the less responsibility for maintaining organizations a parson has the more he can indirectly stimulate them by trying to see outside and around them to the way they all may fit into an effective spiritual whole. My experience in developing institutional parish life in Trinity Church, Rochester, led me to dread too much personal responsibility in keeping alive parish societies. I had rather try what seems to me my opportunity in St. Paul's being a sort of stoker to keep steam up.”

A Year of Thanks

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2021 I'd like to emphasize a year of thanks to those ministries which help make St. Paul's all that it is. Each month this year you will see me highlight one or more of the ministries and thus ministers of our parish community. Stay tuned to see if your ministry is one highlighted!

The ministry I am highlighting this month is the ministry of Altar Guild. This is a group of truly unsung heroes of St. Paul's. They have a hand in so much that happens, even during the pandemic. Week in and week out they prepare the altar and sanctuary for worship. Although they may not realize it they were "stagehands" for part of the virtual Epiphany pageant this year with so many of the still pictures coming from their preparations! They also take down and secure all the items used for the Eucharist and can tell you all the fancy names for all the vessels and such – they are a wealth of knowledge. If you want to know just where we are in the church year, just ask an altar guild member!

This is a group of dedicated people who work in teams and take turns, normally once a month, to come in for a time on Saturday to be sure things are in order for Sunday. If you are interested in exploring being on altar guild, please contact Cheryl Gumper at 517-789-7982.

Please allow me to give a special thanks to current altar guild members, some of which are on a break due to the pandemic:

Cheryl Gumper & Christie Swanson – Co-Directors

Diane Billingsley

Jeanne Draper

Barb Duke

Sheryl Foor

Sue Hammett

Janet Hughes

Sandra Kilian

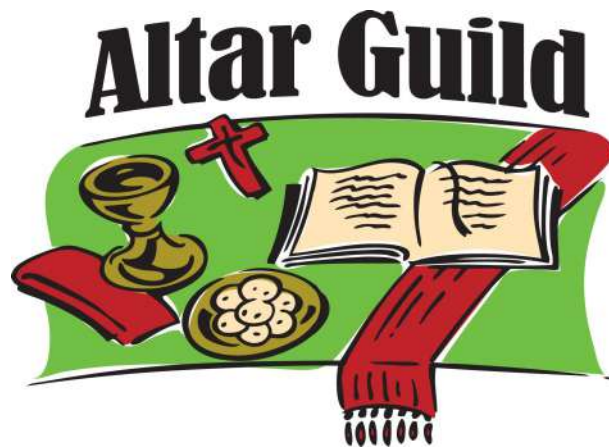
Dennis Marsh

Sandy McKinnon

Valerie Rowley

Rhonda Rudolph

Helen Greene - Laundress



Thank you to the Altar Guild, past, present and future members.

“Marked by Ashes”



Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day...

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home
 halfway back to committees and memos,
 halfway back to calls and appointments,
 halfway on to next Sunday,
 halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,
 half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday,
 but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes —
 we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:
 of failed hope and broken promises,
 of forgotten children and frightened women,
 we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
 we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with
 some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes
 anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —
 you Easter parade of newness.

Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us,
 Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom;
 Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth.
 Come here and Easter our Wednesday with
 mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

-Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933)

*For over thirty years now, Walter Brueggemann (b. 1933) has combined the best of critical scholarship with love for the local church in service to the kingdom of God. Now a professor emeritus of Old Testament studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, Brueggemann has authored over seventy books.

(Taken from his *Prayers for a Privileged People* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008), pp. 27-28.)

February

BIRTHDAYS

Cassandra Lagow	February 3
Nathan Randall	February 8
Lillie Wells	February 10
Loren Swanson	February 15
Mishele Wilkins	February 17
Harry Strait	February 18
Evelyn McCann	February 19
Valerie Rowley	February 20
Marianne Kincaid	February 21
Donna Kurcz	February 23
Diane Worthing	February 24
Chris Scheele	February 24

February

ANNIVERSARIES

Melissa Congleton &
Tammy Rees -February 2

Rev. Sarah & Dee Hurlbert
February 18

Elaine & Benjamin Themm
February 14



February

The Love of God

Day 1 – John 3:16–17
 Day 2 – Romans 5:8
 Day 3 – 1 John 4:7–8
 Day 4 – Romans 8:35–39
 Day 5 – Zephaniah 3:17
 Day 6 – Galatians 2:20
 Day 7 – 1 John 4:16–19
 Day 8 – 1 John 3:1
 Day 9 – Jeremiah 31:3
 Day 10 – Ephesians 2:4–5
 Day 11 – 1 Peter 5:6–7
 Day 12 – John 15:13
 Day 13 – Ephesians 3:14–19
 Day 14 – Psalm 86:15
 Day 15 – Isaiah 54:10
 Day 16 – Psalm 136
 Day 17 – Romans 5:5
 Day 18 – 1 John 4:9–11

Day 19 – John 13:34–35
 Day 20 – 1 Corinthians 13:4–8
 Day 21 – Deuteronomy 7:9
 Day 22 – Isaiah 49:15–16
 Day 23 – John 15:9–11
 Day 24 – Lamentations 3:22–23
 Day 25 – Psalm 103:8–17
 Day 26 – Titus 3:4–5
 Day 27 – Luke 12:6–7
 Day 28 – Ephesians 1:3–6

