



June 2020
Volume
LXII

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Phone 517-787-3370
Email: church@stpauljxmi.org
Website: www.stpauljxmi.org



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Rector's Corner

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right,
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give
up. -Galatians 6:9*

I'm currently recuperating from a long-delayed repair to my meniscus in my knee. I am grateful that the peak crisis for the health care system has a break long enough to do the non-life-threatening surgeries like mine. I am grateful for good medical care and health benefits. I'm painfully aware of so many who are out of work and have no income, benefits or security right now because of the economic toll from this virus. I pray daily for our leaders and community as together we make decisions on how we can safely re-enter our society.

Your vestry is having these conversations right now with directives from the Bishop, Governor and CDC as our guide. But we do this work on behalf of you, our parishioners, in the desire to keep us safe when we can return. We don't want to make these decisions without your input so I hope you take the 5 minute survey that was emailed to you. If you're not on email, then a vestry member will call you for a chat about these questions. We wait and pray and plan and ask God for patience and wisdom as we slowly dip our toes into the waters of social life again.

My faith has been shaken lately by the stories and images of police brutality and mob destruction. This spasm of terror is the product of a system plagued with racism and violence against black and brown people in this country. They are routinely suspect, harassed, charged and convicted at rates that bear no semblance of reality in our population. In fact, the economic privations we are experiencing on a widespread level have been a constant plague in the black and brown communities because of our nation's history of Jim Crow laws, discrimination in housing, healthcare, education and over policing.

So I pray but I also act. First to educate myself about historic racism but also about the lives of individual neighbors and colleagues whose lives are so very different from mine because of personal experiences of white supremacy and racist acts. My heart breaks and that is a good thing because if my heart doesn't break for the lives of my neighbors it will not truly beat with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope you take this time that we are in to learn about the folks who are on the street protesting. Learn about the lives of people of color in our own community and listen, listen, listen to them. We are all in this together and the world that comes out of that time must be better for everyone and not just us.

To link to more info on this please visit <https://www.dismantlecollective.org/resources/>

Be gentle with yourself and others right now. Say your prayers and show up for worship online. Remember the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was for comfort, courage, wisdom, unity and above all things love. That same Spirit is available to you today as you pray...

Faithfully,

Sarah+





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

If you would like to join, please call or email Pastor Sarah for
the Zoom link and password.



Our Sunday 10:30 am worship will continue this week on Zoom. Follow this link to watch online or you can call in from any phone to participate each Sunday. Zoom is not hard to use and will allow us to see and hear each other!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99171586189>

No ID or Password Needed

Or dial in by phone at +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID is 991-7158-6189

You can also view the service later on Facebook.

Follow the link: <https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi/>

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW OUR VIDEOS!

From our Sr. Warden...

I am a third generation Texas Ex. I mean that my Grandmother, Father, Mother, and many relatives attended and earned various bachelor and master's degrees from the University of Texas @ Austin. I bleed burnt orange. So, it was exciting to hear that Brene Brown was scheduled to give the commencement speech to the graduating class of 2020. It comes as no surprise that her speech was heartfelt, a bit raw (presented in a gentle and kinder way) and put me through a gamut of emotions. She talks about greatness depending on "*your ability to get up and begin again when your plan fails, the exact number of times that you fall, trip and get pushed down.*"

If you get a chance, please listen to it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMV77xYdEa4>

In addition to this, she is doing a podcast series called Uncovering Us. In her first podcast, she talks about FFTs. You will have to listen to the podcast or read her books to learn what that acronym stands for. However, her kid friendly version TFT stands for Terrible First Times. She talks about strategies for dealing with FFTs to help you get through it. Covid-19 is a collective FFT (her words, not mine). And it has been hugely helpful for me to listen to her strategy and know this: Being uncertain, overwhelmed, exhausted, disappointed, and afraid...it is ok to feel all these things. We don't know when this is all going to be over, but we do know that it won't last forever and, in all reality, this is just going to suck for a while.

Be kind to yourself (note taken), be patient with others and get plenty of rest. Continue to Zoom, reach out to people, do Koinonia, put your toes in the water, ride your bike, hug your kids, make some sun tea, talk to God and practice gratitude.

Pastor Sarah and your Vestry have been working on a survey to help us gauge how the congregation feels about this new environment and how it might look as we start discussions about resuming in person worship. If you have not, completed the survey, please consider doing so. It is anonymous but if you would like to have a discussion with Pastor Sarah or any of your Vestry members, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Congratulations, Melissa, on receiving your Diploma in Anglican Studies! We are so very proud of you and blessed to be a party of your journey. And congratulations to all our 2020 graduates! I wish you success and satisfaction as you go forward.

-Michelle

Horn's Up 



From our Jr. Warden...

Pandemic. Coronavirus. COVID 19. Stay at home orders. Schools closed. Businesses shuttered. Churches closed. Masks. Fear. Panic.

All of the above are only a portion of what we have been living with for the past several months and we are all waiting anxiously for life to return to normal. What we remember as “normal” will not be our new “normal” for quite some time. Society has lived through these pandemics in the past and life continues to thrive and grow. Having lived through COVID 19 we will all have a new appreciation for life and socialization. For many of us not being able to mingle with friends and family has been difficult.

While we understand we must socially distance ourselves from others for our own safety and the safety of others, we need to be careful that we are not emotionally distancing ourselves as well. We need to find alternatives methods for remaining emotionally connected to our friends and family. More phone calls, more face time, more zoom sessions will all keep us connected.

As I was making my calls to parishioners this past week I noticed we spent more time on the phone and made more of a connection. We need to reach out to others and make sure they are doing well. They may need that connection with us as much as we need to connect with them. Don't lose sight of each other.

-Debbie Batchelder

Jr. Warden



Reach out to those in need



Diana Sinclair is faithfully collecting names for our prayer list, so please call **(517-250-9729)** or email her 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.



Seminarian's Corner

With Melissa Congleton

As many of you know Pentecost is my last Sunday at St. Paul's. With my seminary career finishing up I am now in a place of transition. In consultation with Bishop Perry, and consistent with my original learning and serving agreement, I won't be serving or worshipping at St. Paul's for the summertime. I will, however, be keeping you all in prayer.

While leaving a community can be difficult, change and the adaptability to such is the name of the game for a seminarian. The ordination process is meant to give one a broad range of experiences to draw from for the journey ahead. In my case, I have attended Bexley Seabury Seminary in Chicago and received a Diploma in Anglican Studies. In addition, I will be granted a Master of Divinity degree next month from Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. Going to two schools has provided me an extensive range of experience and learning.

Also part of my process was to spend a year at All Saint's, East Lansing, similar to my time here at St. Paul's. That church was a large one like St. Paul's, so I was able to experience a lot there working with youth, young adults, adults as well as Canterbury MSU.

Lastly, and perhaps most impactful was my clinical pastoral education internship. These chaplaincy internships are often done at hospitals or other types of care facilities. The chaplaincy opportunity I chose was at Pine Rest Christian Mental Hospital in Grand Rapids. There each student chaplain is assigned two units to work with. I was blessed to work with the adolescent and young adult groups as well as with StreetReach. StreetReach is the downtown outreach for homeless or housing unstable who have a mental health condition or a co-occurring disorder. A brief clip of this amazing program can be viewed here: <https://www.pinterest.org/services/community-services-outreach/street-reach/>

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me along the way this year. So many offered advice, encouragement, or just plain friendliness. A special thanks goes out to my lay team who helped and coached me along the way – Wayne Frey, Tom Holsinger-Friesen, and Janet Hughes. They have helped to build me up as a member of the body of Christ and I leave with the hope to help to build that same Body of Christ wherever I go.

Your Sister in Christ,
Melissa





"Building communities for youth and young adults to experience and share the love of God through fellowship, formation, worship, and service."

YAYA presents First Friday Film Fun!

Friday, June 5, 2020 at 7pm

Join us on Zoom for a fun family film. Our inaugural movie will be SCOOB!

Information and registration [HERE!](#)

Fun for the whole Family, and a special surprise will be sent to you if you register before May 28th!

Licensing provided by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI)

Programming provided by the Youth and Young Adults Ministry Office.

Eric Travis | Episcopal Diocese of Michigan | (313) 833-4418 | email | Website

Register on the EDOMI website: <https://www.edomi.org/yaya/events/first-friday-film-fun/>

Ways you can SERVE

Chef Jeremiah continues to provide hot dinners each night for the temporary emergency shelter at Calvary UMC. We are so grateful for his faithful work on behalf of our community!

The Jackson Personal Needs Bank is still taking donations and needs volunteers each Thursday evening. Please contact Pat Baumgartner to volunteer. martyb1250@gmail.com

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW

We are now in our eleventh week of Stay Home Stay Safe and we have two more weeks to go yet. These are challenging times as weather improves and the itch to get outside and travel hits us all.

These world events have changed how worship, how we behave, how we celebrate and how we socialize. ECW along with many other organizations has had to adapt to these challenges. Therefore in consultation with the board and in conjunction with the guidelines set forth in the *Directive from the Episcopal Bishops of Michigan* dated May 1, 2020, we have decided to postpone all ECW activities for the rest of the year.

Groups like ECW will be allowed to meet at the church during Phase III of the *Plan for Re-Entry for Great Lakes Episcopalians*. We are currently in Phase I. It is unlikely therefore that we would be able to meet on premises much before year's end. We have explored the possibility of an outdoor gathering and also considered a venue. We concluded that in keeping with the rule of social distancing it would be impractical and not at all conducive to conversation or socialization. We also considered how comfortable our membership would feel in such a gathering. Since the majority of our members are in a vulnerable group we again erred on the side of extreme caution and felt the risks of such a meeting far outweighed the benefits.

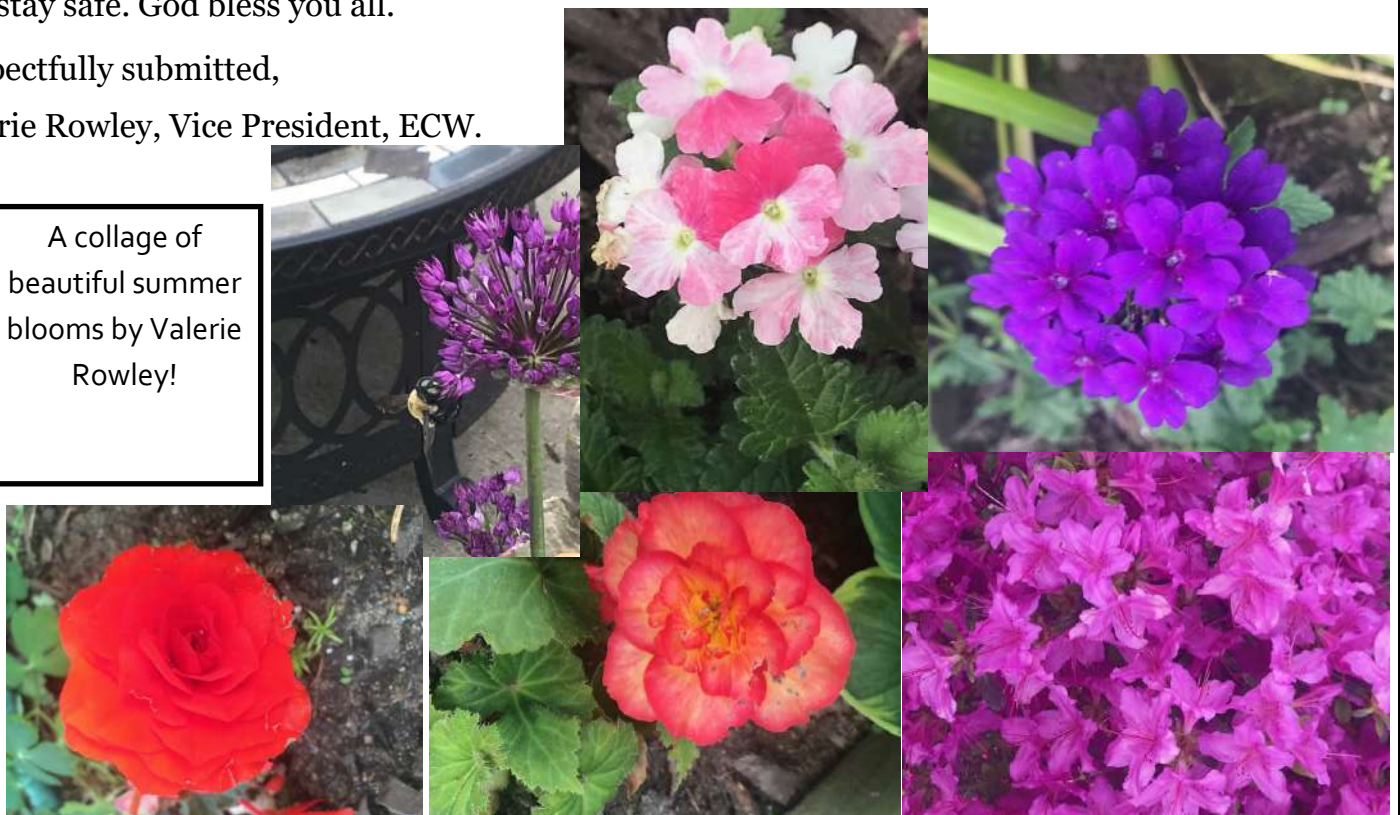
So this is my last article for ECW for the foreseeable future. I miss seeing all your faces and hearing all your news first-hand. I wish you all a happy, safe and healthy summer and whatever activities or travel you engage in I pray you do so safely.

As always these days, wear your mask, keep your distance, wash your hands, don't touch your face and stay safe. God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.

A collage of
beautiful summer
blooms by Valerie
Rowley!



St. Paul's yard signs are in! If you haven't picked one up or had it delivered yet, call or email the office and we will be happy to deliver one to you!



We now have an easier way to donate online!
You can use our new "Give Now" button on our website.

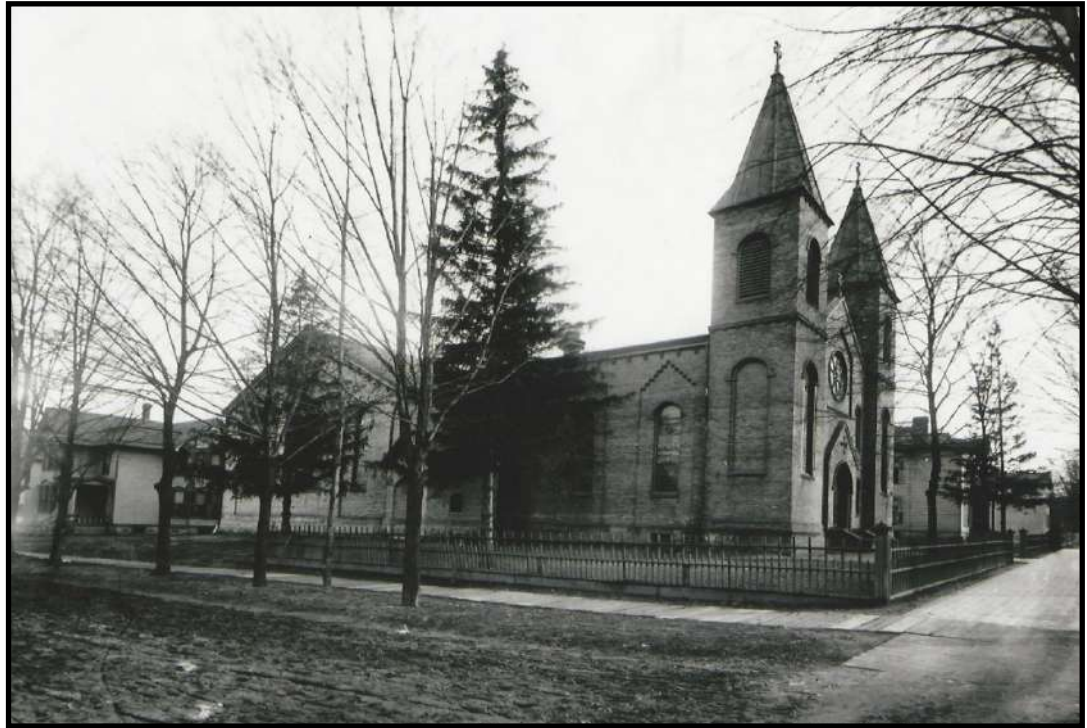
<https://stpauljxmi.org/>

Thank you for your faithful generosity!





OUR CHURCH'S
HISTORY



This photograph was given to St. Paul's Episcopal Church from the collection of Ray and Nancy (King) Hartsuff 2019

What Do We Know About This Picture?

- The transept has been added to the East side of the church, and it was completed in 1888, the fifth year of the Rev. Balcom (1883-1902).
- Washington Street is dirt and the sidewalks are of board construction, so photograph taken before 1900's.
- Our Rectory is facing St. Jackson Street just south of church, and it was completed in September 1869.

It is our conclusion that this picture is Circa 1890. It is the oldest actual photograph we have of St. Paul's church to date, other than in a postcard version.

We would like to thank Ray Hartsuff for passing this precious photograph along to our St. Paul's Archives in 2019. We have hung it in the glass narthex and hope you will enjoy seeing it once we can all get back to meeting in our building!

Respectfully submitted by Janet Wesch

This Choir picture was taken at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in what they called the Parish House. This building was built in 1898 and dedicated in 1899. It was considered a meeting hall and this window was in that hall. In later years, we came to know this building as Camp Hall.

The priest in the middle of the fourth row was the Rev. Ralph E. MacDuff, he served as our Rector from 1902 – 1910. All the boys in the front row appear to be about eight to ten years of age so the year it was taken would be ca. 1904/05.

- This photograph was donated by Harry G. 'Sparry' Sparks Jr. in 2019:
- His father, Harry George Sparks Sr. is seated front row L-R: second.
- His father's friend, James Sterling Wickwire Sr. is seated front row L-R: fifth.
- Harry was born 15 Aug 1894 to William 'Cap' & Matilda J. 'Tillie' (Peters) Sparks.
- In the 1900 U.S. Census record Harry George is listed as 6 years old.
- James was born 11 Dec 1895 to Henry E. & Inez (Dunning) Wickwire. In the 1900 U.S. Census record James Sterling is listed as 5 years old.

Does anyone else have any further information or family appearing in the photo?

If so, please let us know!

We would like to thank Sparry & Nan Sparks for the donation of this beautiful photograph to our St. Paul's Archives, it gives us such a wonderful look into the past! This picture has been hung in the hallway at St. Paul's for your enjoyment!

Respectfully submitted by Janet Wesch



Building & Grounds



Due to the Government shutdown, little has been done regarding buildings & grounds. In the past week construction and “trades” people are allowed back to work. We have had discussions with Aladdin, our provider for heating/air conditioning and mechanical repairs. No emergencies are looming. However, the scheduled maintenance is many weeks behind. They were given the green light to proceed. The work being done is a semi-annual project covered under our contract with them, inspections, changing filters, lubricating bearings, checking motors and belts, etc.

We will need to schedule an electrician (non-contracted) to make some outside repairs. Once materials are in, we will coordinate a time for their entering the building as needed. I will advise as to the date and time.

Our lawn mowing team is back on the job, same rate as last year. Our gardener Susan Smar is back on the job as well.

I spoke with our provider of cleaning supplies and disinfectants. They have in stock, reserved for us, more hand sanitizer. Other items available at reasonable pricing are masks, gloves, disinfectants, as well as our normal products we require. Some items are on back order.

We have had conversations with concern of maintaining reliable electrical supply in the Sanctuary, creating cold winter mornings and very warm summer days due to electrical supply to air conditioning and heating systems. A quote to change over to a new system was presented last year totaling \$80,000.00. Another approach is being investigated, at a much more reasonable cost. More to share on this as information becomes available.



B & G cont...

At this time no plans are made for planting flowers in the garden due to no one being allowed on the property and no date seems imminent.

Confirming Chuck Sinclair is working with B&G with guidance from our Bishop to plan for a re-opening of St. Paul's. All of us know communication will be important to streamline the process as the days move forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyle King
Chairperson,
Buildings & Grounds

Our gardener
Sue, who
keeps our
grounds
looking
beautiful!



A look back a year ago...

"I'm celebrating with a grateful heart, our being confirmed into the Episcopal Church, on May 23rd, 2019. I'm thankful for former Bishop Wendell Gibbs, our priest Sarah Hulbert, our sponsors Ron F. Rowley and Valerie Mathews Rowley, new and treasured friends Jan Osborn and Dana Burkey, old friends Joe Lathrop and his wife Heidi, Bob and Marianne Fowler, and all of our church family at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Jackson." -Garry Trammell

Congratulations all on your 1 year anniversary!





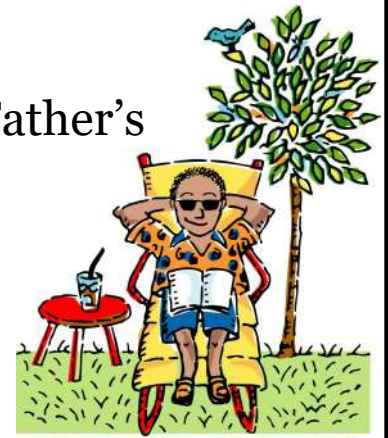
Christie Swanson	June 4
Diane Lawrence	June 6
James Grace	June 8
Cheryl Williams	June 9
Kayla Randall	June 11
Dennis Marsh	June 15
Catherine Rowley	June 16
Carrie Heider Grant	June 18
Lavinia Rogers	June 18
Robert Muller	June 24
Sarah Holsinger-Friesen	June 27
Bob Reynolds	June 27
Nancy Trammell	June 29
Cassandra Coburn	June 30
Benjamin Themm	June 30



John & Diane Billingsley
June 9

Jon & Suzanne Gould
June 26

Have a blessed Father's
Day-
June 21st!



FATHER'S
DAY



We at St Paul's have a Golf Fellowship that meets each Thursday at about 9:00 AM at Ella Sharp Golf Course for nine holes of golf. At the present we are not permitted to use the carts so we must walk the course. Bob Duke generally sends out an email to all of the guys on Tuesday or Wednesday before with weather predictions and reminders.

If you are so inclined to join our fellowship please contact Bob and you will be added to our fellowship. Bob's email is :

radserv@sbcglobal.net and his cell phone # is **517-262-2658**.

Did we miss you or a family members birthday or anniversary? We may not know it! Please call or e-mail Alice at the church office so we can put it on our list for next time!