

March
2020
Volume
LIX

THE EPISTLE

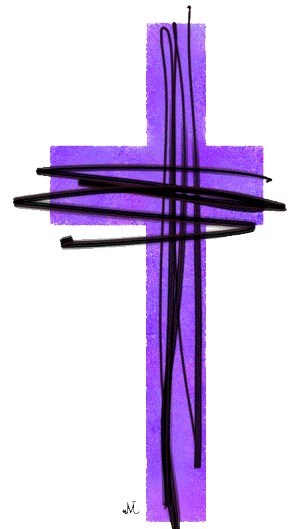
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PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD



Rector's Corner

"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

-1 John 1:9

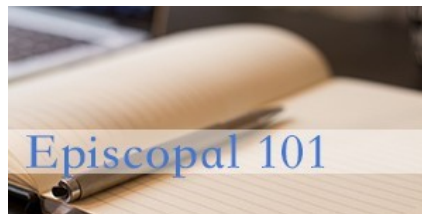
Self examination begins with awareness. We must be aware of what life in the Kingdom of God looks like for us individually, for our community and for the world. Once we know what God wants for us then we see how far our own experience is from Kingdom living.

I chose the book *Just Mercy* for our Lenten study to shine a light of truth on the experience of injustice in our criminal justice system and the humanity of prisoners in that system. Only when we get close up to the lives of others will we be moved to treat them as we would want to be treated as God's children and our siblings.

As a prison town, Jackson's wealth and history are deeply rooted in the prison system. From inmates to officers, lawyers to chaplains and all the rest of the folks whose lives are connected with our prisons, they all need our prayers, support, educated vote and voice on their behalf. My hope is that we are moved to find ways to help all those affected by the broken justice system we have. The suicide rate among correctional officers alone should shock us to our core. Let us pray, let us learn and let us find ways to act as advocates for all people and be the disciples Jesus calls us to be.

Lent can be about so much more than giving up chocolate and Facebook but only if we really participate. Showing up is 90% of life. Will you show up this Lent?

Faithfully,
Sarah



Each Sunday of March and April Pastor Sarah will lead a coffee hour session (11:45 am) of Episcopal 101. This is a class designed for newcomers who want to know more about the Episcopal Church and St. Paul's.

The first class will be Sunday, March 8th.



From our Sr. Warden...

As a youth and again as an adult, I read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and was moved by the lessons of sympathy, faith, understanding, justice and morality. Last week, I decided to pick up a copy of *Go, Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. The title comes from Isaiah 21:6 and reads: "For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth." The story begins with a 26-year-old Jean Louise "Scout" returning home to her aging and ailing father Atticus. Now, I am no Harper Lee scholar but to me, Atticus was the one who fought for fairness and justice. He taught his children to try to understand what others might be going through and to refrain from judgement. Atticus was a moral compass and most especially for the young Scout. In *Watchman*, it doesn't take long before she discovers that what she believed all her life to be true was merely an illusion and that the actual truth, can sometimes be very painful. Not only for her, but for this reader as well.

It has already started, the hard and sometimes painful messages of truth that come during Lent. During this time of reflection and preparation, we are reminded to be attentive to our shortcomings as Christians. We don't always love one another. We aren't always kind. We forget to pray. We sin. I will spend the next 40 days being contemplative and attentive to my shortcomings and focus on being better. I must be my own watchman. I will try to not be disillusioned by my own thoughts, words and deeds and I will try to hold fast to what I know is right and good and do my best to serve to that end.

Saturday, March 7th, your Vestry will be participating in their annual Vestry Retreat. We will be joining other Vestry members from around the dioceses, clergy, diocesan staff and Bishop Perry to discuss building blocks of congregational development. "In addition to prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will consider what gifts, resources and talents we need to marshal inside and outside our faith communities to develop growing and dynamic worshipping communities." I am looking forward to seeing where the Holy Spirits moves us.

Bell Choir continues to be a remarkable time of fellowship. Lots of laughter and love in that group. We welcome some new members Heidi Lathrop (who has been with us a couple of months now), Dana Burkey and Jan Osborn. Our new members, along with Barb Markowski, Sue Hammett, Barbara and Bob Duke, Zoe Baldwin, Kim Perlos and Janet Hughes, are working hard on several pieces and hope to ring for you during the Lenten season.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to talk about St. Paul's, ministries, outreach or anything else that may be on your mind.

-Michelle Gibson

Live
Lent
with Love

Building & Grounds



Update on heating & air conditioning for the Sanctuary. Several weeks ago the programmer for the church heating system quit working. The system is still running, however not to our satisfaction. Replacement is around \$3,000.00 for a new one. We are still weighing out the best plan for the future. Hot water boilers as in the past or a new unit to supply heat and air conditioning without boilers. This will be decided soon as projects like this have to be planned ahead.

Winter has returned as expected. Our hopes are it will not last long. Snow removal continues with Dewayne's as in the past years. Terry our Sexton has helped with keeping the steps clear as well. We received our last order of ice melt for this season from KSS, please thank Dennis Marsh and Nathan Randall for unloading 49 fifty pound bags and placing them in our storage area.

The hallway and office ceiling lights are on the schedule to be replaced with LED units, saving energy and increasing life time of the bulbs as well.

City water rates: Expect our rates to increase due to a government mandate to replace lead pipe water lines.

Yes, spring is coming, just not soon enough.

-Kyle King

Chairperson,
Buildings & Grounds



The next Kids Movie Night will be on Friday, March 6th from 6pm-9pm in Holy Spirit Hall. Bring your blankets and PJ's, food will be provided.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the glass narthex to let us know if you are coming!



From our Jr. Warden...

For those of you who do not know me, I am Debbie Batchelder and this is my second year on the Vestry. Having been selected as your Junior Warden, I will do my best to serve you, as your “people’s warden.” With that being said, please contact me with any concerns or ideas you may have to better our life with Christ through our ministry at St. Paul’s.

We continue to see new faces and welcome each and everyone and hope to continue to see you amongst us. We have missed some of our regulars as sickness has plagued our community and hope everyone stays healthy and well. Please remember to use the hand sanitizer that is located in many areas of the church to help quell the spread of germs.

Hopefully we have seen the last of the winter storms and will have smooth sailing through our Lenten season. The Shrove Tuesday hymn sing and pancake and gumbo supper were well attended, with over 60 people enjoying the evening. Jeremiah and Ella Hepzibah did an excellent job with the meal and the gumbo was a real treat for all.

-Debbie



Mission & Outreach

St. Paul's continues to be an enormous supporter of SOAR Cafe and Farms. SOAR is in the midst of renovating the old Women's City Club at 300 S. Brown to become the SOAR HOUSE, a home for women survivors of human trafficking, addiction and sexual trauma. It is an enormous FAITH undertaking and we need money, volunteers and prayer to complete God's mission in Jackson. Baldwin Building is the general contractor for the home. Steve and Zoe are doing an exemplary job and are faithful and generous with this project. Thank you so much!

We are beginning our preparations for our second annual Handbags of Love fundraiser to benefit SOAR Cafe and Farms SOAR HOUSE!! Last year's event was such an enormous success, we are doing it again! We raised \$12,125.00 in 2019, so our bar has been set very high but we are ready to SOAR over it in 2020! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Mark your calendars!!! This year's date is **Saturday, May 9, 11:00 am-2:00 pm** in Holy Spirit Hall. It is the day before Mother's Day, a perfect outing for grandmothers, mothers, daughters!!! We sold out early last year so be sure to get your tickets soon!

We are looking for a minimum of 24 table sponsors. We will gladly accept more than one sponsor per table!! Table sponsorships are \$200. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's with SOAR in the memo line.

For our auction we need tons of NEW designer handbags, a minimum value of \$50. We had over 70 donated last year but would love to have 100 this year!! We will happily accept gift baskets full of products that women would enjoy, as well. You may start bringing them to the church office at any time! I have already purchased two handbags...at 40% off. The sales are great right now!!

Please contact Barb Markowski (517) 206-0064 or Brandi Bruckler (517) 240-2441 for more information. We had a blast last year and anticipate even more fun and success this year! This event put St. Paul's on the map!! What a fabulous giving congregation we are!

Mission and Outreach meets the first MONDAY of every month (we voted to change to Mondays at the last meeting) at 5:30 in the church library.

You are very welcome to join us! We have some amazing projects lined up for 2020 and welcome any new ideas!

Yours in Christ,

Barb Markowski and Barney Rudolph



United Thank Offering (UTO)



Today I am thankful for the parishioners of St. Paul's, Jackson...

I have received your **United Thank Offering Ingathering** of **\$832.91.** This gift will be used to assist the Episcopal mission interests and compelling needs of God's people all over the world. May your parish continue to expand their thankfulness by using their UTO Blue Boxes every day.

May God's blessings be with you and your mission work.

Gratefully yours,

Peggy Ann Wilds

UTO Diocesan Coordinator

Choir News



We greatly appreciate the fine musicians that make up our organ team, Julie Baglien, Bob Badertscher and Karen Annable. They put in endless time working with the choir, the director, and preparing special music. The prelude and the postlude are a chance for the congregation to hear this special music. If you have the time, stay and enjoy the postlude after the service. It will add to your worship experience and let them know that we appreciate all that they do!

-Genette Gillard, Choir Director

"Everyday Minister"

With

Melissa our Seminarian

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For the everyday minister this month I chose those that participated in the ordination and consecration service for our new Bishop, Bonnie Perry. Those everyday ministers are Samuel and Leah Holsinger-Friesen, Dennis Marsh, and Bob Fowler. The reason for this choice is that being an everyday minister means we take those values and beliefs that we learn and relearn each week at St. Paul's out into the world. In this case, those values were translated into ministries at the consecration of the Eleventh Bishop of Michigan. This event was held at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Samuel and Leah helped by adding water to the baptismal font during the remembrance of baptism at the start of the service. The water was from each of the Great Lakes as well as the Jordan River near the Holy Land, the seas surrounding the Western Isles of Scotland, and other places from around the world. Youth from throughout the diocese added the water from distant places and it was a real sign of coming together.

Dennis Marsh was able to work as one of the Eucharistic Ministers for the crowd of over 1000 people! Dennis was pleased to be able to volunteer for the event. This could even be a once in a lifetime ministry experience.

Last but not least, Bob Fowler served as a vergers. While St. Paul's hasn't had a vergers for some time, vergers played a very important role in the organization of this event. According to the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church vergers are, "A lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions." There were seven vergers for this event from around the diocese. Bob led the fourth procession and was responsible for getting the bishops where they needed to go! Other than leading the procession, vergers in churches like St. Paul's have a role in the organization of the service such as ensuring all needed people are present and prepared for their roles for the service at hand.

Thanks to all those who participated and showed those at the consecration service how we do everyday ministry as members of St. Paul's out in the world!



St. Patrick's Day, March 17



St Patrick Prayer!

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before
me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of
everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen

Saint Patrick pray for us!

<https://7sorrowsrosaries.com/blogs/news/saint-patricks-day->



March
BIRTHDAYS

Barb Duke	March 3
Bob Duke	March 5
Betty Thomas	March 8
Ed Greene	March 9
Zoë Magnusson	March 12
Suzanne Gould	March 16
Greg Darling	March 23
Leah-Holsinger-Friesen	March 25
Marianne Fowler	March 26
Rhonda Rudolph	March 29
Thomas Draper	March 29
Eric Magnusson	March 31



March
ANNIVERSARIES

Nathan & Christy - March 21
Randall



Daylight Savings time to spring forward is
Sunday, March 8th!!!

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW

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February might be a short month but a lot has happened since January. It's official now – we have a new bishop! The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry was consecrated 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan on February 8. Exciting times ahead for our church as new blood flows through the diocese.

February also brings the Lenten season starting with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Hopefully you made it to the hymn-sing and pancake and gumbo supper signifying the final indulgent meal ahead of the more simple eating habits of lent. February 8 was also our last ECW meeting with the speakers from Get Real giving a presentation on all they do with the kids during the duration of their program. Please read the submission by Janet Wesch which outlines in detail what the presenters spoke about.

Speaking of lent the ECW Lenten retreat is scheduled for March 14. The retreat will be led by Lori Tate, DMin. Lori is a life coach, retreat and spiritual director of Soul Dig (souldig.org). The retreat will go from 9 am till noon and is designed to give us a firm base as we enter the more spiritually introspective Lenten season. There is a sign-up sheet in the glass narthex and we look forward to seeing a great turn out for this special meeting. There may be journals available for an additional charge (\$5-\$10?).

In an effort to assess numbers a sign-up sheet will be available on March 15 for the April 18 “fun” ECW meeting. It is important to let our presenter know how many are coming so she has enough materials for all attendees. We are also asking that the \$25 fee be paid ahead of time. Don't forget that scholarships are available through Rev. Sarah for anyone who might find this unusually high amount beyond their reach. Please also feel free to invite family or friends to this fun activity. A photo of our selection is attached so you know what to expect on the day.

The SOAR luncheon will constitute our May meeting. The individual cost per plate this year is \$25. The ECW board has voted to sponsor a table at the luncheon. The seats will be either donated or sold to help increase the profit for SOAR. Volunteer opportunities abound including purse set up on May 8 so please keep that date in mind.

Other things to keep in mind going forward – we need officers for next year. The secretary and vice president positions will be open and we need people to step up to fill them. Also we are looking for ideas for next year's slate of presenters or ideas for meetings. We would like to have a secondary source of income so ideas of future fund raisers would also be much appreciated. These topics plus other decisions will be on the agenda for our June meeting.

And in closing don't forget March includes St. Patrick's Day. St. Patrick was a fifth century Christian missionary and yes, he is famous for bringing Christianity to Ireland but more importantly it is our opportunity to gorge ourselves on the more famous corned beef and cabbage dinner not to mention the Irish coffees! It's all about priorities people! All kidding aside beannachtai na Feile Padraig oraibh! Happy St. Patrick's day to you all.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.

ECW News continued...

The program portion for ECW on February 8th was the **Get Real Program**. This program is sponsored through the Jackson County Health Department and was introduced to St. Paul's by our Mission and Outreach Commission several years back. The speakers for this meeting were Kimberly Pickett and Nacoya Weathersoon. **This program is all about Empowering Youth Today!**

We asked the speakers to tell us a little about the program in our short time frame, and about what they are trying to accomplish. They told us this program is about teaching youth and children in and around Jackson about relationships, volunteering, respect and community service and how they each might have some fun doing it alongside their peers.

Kimberly and Nacoya told us about what a beautiful move it was to be able to start using St. Paul's facilities, and to feel comfortable working with the M&O volunteers in coordinating a few projects. They stressed the safety of being able to meet in our building, which is very much appreciated on their part. It is a “safe building” they said almost simultaneously! They have even taken many opportunities to use the grounds outside for holding a car wash with profits going to the Jackson Co. Animal Shelter, picnics, exercise and community service.

There are those fantastic trips to Lake Michigan that M&O has been able to make possible two years in a row. They explained what a trip outside of Jackson is to these children, as most have never seen a large body of water or experienced such a trip. Donations came in like beach towels and toys by our parishioners, volunteers making lunches and going along on the trips to serve them. The program having access to a washer and dryer to use in drier emergencies, and our staff at St. Paul's helping them in so many ways during the six weeks the program is in session. St. Paul's facilities might be a great fit for them – but they are also a great fit for us through our M&O.

When Rhonda introduced them, she said, “These women are not public speakers, they are hard working women!” The program they presented was fantastic, informative, and exciting. We viewed a new DVD of pictures they had put together this past year while meeting in and around St. Paul's. They left us with a copy, so we are hoping everyone in small groupings will be able to connect with it.

Kimberly and Nacoya seem to put in real effort and passion making the program's mission of 'Empowering Youth Today' a reality! While speaking to our group and working in this building they have shown a real interest in their career path of leading youth and children – they might be really hard working women but they **are** also very good public speakers, they are the best – and can even make a video with music. It is a delight to watch!!

- Respectfully submitted, Janet Wesch

“A big thank you from The Woman of St. Paul's Episcopal Church”

All Parish project - Making blankets for the Interfaith & Aware Shelters. We made 16 blankets!



2/23/2020



Blanket delivery!

MARCH

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI	SATURDAY
1 Birthdays & Anniv.	2	3	4	5	6	7
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour/ Worship Committee	5:30 pm M & O	10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 5:15 pm Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Handbells		Vestry Retreat— Lansing
8 Noisy Sunday	9	1	11	12	13	14
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour/ Episcopal 101		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 5:15 pm Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm B & G 6 pm Handbells		9 am ECW Lenten Retreat
15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour/ Episcopal 101		10:30 am Bereavement 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg 	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 1 pm Brownell Lunch 5:15 pm Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Handbells		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour/ Episcopal 101		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 5:15 pm Lenten Book Study 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Handbells Practice		
29	30	31				
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour/ Episcopal 101		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters				

Ideas For Lent From Rachel Held Evans

1. When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?
2. Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next 40 days?
3. Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?
4. I read somewhere to begin my Lenten fast with asking God what He wants me to "pick up" from Him, and that will help me discern what I should "put down" for Him.



Prayers for Lent

Psalm 51, Litany of Penitence, Compline from the Book of Common Prayer:

"O Lord and Master of my life, grant not unto me a spirit of idleness, of discouragement, of lust for power, and of vain speaking. But bestow upon me, Thy servant, the spirit of chastity, of meekness, of patience, and of love. Yea, O Lord and King, grant that I may perceive my own transgressions, and judge not my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen." (prayer used during Great Lent in the Eastern Orthodox Church, submitted by Bryan Michael Maes)

*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.
-Madeleine L'Engle*

