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THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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Rector's Corner

Marketing = Evangelism!

How does an organization increase its visibility and curate its "image" in the community? Most organizations would call this a **MARKETING** question! But many churches are hesitant or neglectful to think about how to "market" themselves to their community.

But for the next few months St. Paul's is going to do just that. Our website needs some updating . . . and needs to be targeted not primarily for our own use but to help people who are looking for a church understand who we are and hopefully, want to come visit. Facebook and Google offers opportunities to manage our profile and our reviews and other marketing tools. And there are other, simple, old-fashioned ways that we can begin increasing our visibility. People aren't ever going to try out a church they've never heard of.

To help us, later in May we will welcome Katie Mulhearn as our summer marketing intern. Katie is a Marketing and Communications major at M.S.U., and she will be working with Father Jadon and Alice for approximately ten hours per week this summer. Please help welcome her.

But what do we want to say about ourselves? How do we say we are? What do we say we're about? These are very important questions. Different churches have different values, perspectives, and priorities. Many people who are looking for a new church want to have a sense of that before they show up in person. Other people may not think they're looking for a church but if they see something about us that is unexpected and interesting to them, their curiosity may be sparked.

Episcopalians often shy away from the dreaded "E" word, but friends . . . all this is one aspect of **EVANGELISM** . . . of spreading Christ's Good News and drawing people to his Church. For example, St. Paul's has a particular heart for spreading a message of inclusiveness (Be You. Be Loved. Belong), and for challenging ourselves to be more and more genuinely/expansively welcoming. But if we're not signaling outside our walls, then how will people who have been excluded by other churches, or who are looking for an overtly inclusive church, know that this is important to us? How do we not hide that light, or other Gospel lights, under a proverbial bushel?

These questions and this work is not just for our staff or our vestry. We'll be looking for your input and your assistance, and I hope you'll be willing to help. You never know who might see an online review you've written or a poster you've put up on a bulletin board and be drawn to God in a way none of us can predict or imagine.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jadon" with a small cross or plus sign at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Meet our new summer intern

Katie Mulhearn!

Katie, who's real name is Kathleen and called "Bear-Bear" by her big brother, and Katie-bug by friends and family, is a first-year student at Michigan State University's Eli Broad College of Business, where she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. She graduated as a valedictorian from Jackson High School in 2022 where she played tennis, and was active in DECA (an organization that prepares students to be leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in business), Youth in Government, and helped start the Jackson Sustainability Team, serving as it's Executive Director.

As a student at MSU, she has joined the marketing team on the student run fashion magazine "VIM" as well as the Michigan State University Marketing Association (MSUMA).

In addition to her internship at St. Paul's this summer, she will also be working as an intern for the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce and taking summer classes at Jackson College.

Katie is a major fashion enthusiast and is particularly passionate about sustainable fashion and supporting ways to reduce the carbon footprint in the industry, as well as improving it's social justice and animal welfare practices.

She also enjoys baking, reading, going out with friends, and loves spending time with her pup Bonnie Mae and kitties Oliver and Ziggy.

New website address for St. Paul's

www.stpaulsjxn.org

The vestry decided at its April meeting to shift to the new address above because it is easier and a little more intuitive to remember and to tell people. The new address is working and the old one will also continue to work to the end of this year. Soon we will also update our staff email addresses as well, but, not to worry, the old ones will also work until a good amount of time has passed.

We have also started to make some updates to our website and will be continuing to tweak and refresh it throughout the month of May. This is something the diocese recommends as part of the transition and search process!



From our Sr. Warden...

April has been a great month at St. Paul's. The Easter celebration with its lead up from Lent has been both innovative and inspiring. The amount of work that went into producing the services was worth the effort. I want to recognize the people that worked so hard behind the scenes to make it happen.

Cheryl Gumper and the Altar Guild kept up with the stripping of the Altar and remaking it for the Easter day celebration. The Church was beautiful. The flowers were beautiful. The work and planning that this team provided set the stage for all that took place after. This group of dedicated workers are people we all know but are seldom recognized for the important role they play. I commend you all for your dedication and expertise.



The three people that choreographed the services put a lot of planning into not only Easter but Lent too. Father Jadon Hartsuff, Julie Baglien, and Jeff Wilkinson put together an intricate music plan that was by all accounts well received and, by my own observation, complex. As a member of the choir, I saw it all come together and was impressed with the finished product. The choir, with guest singers, worked to provide well-rehearsed music.

The team of Ushers that were able to provide their time to work the various services during Holy Week are another team that we all know because they are always there when we need them. Thank you for your dependability.

Alice Mulhearn worked tirelessly composing and recomposing bulletins as the plans were adjusted and readjusted. All while answering phones and sending email. Thank you, Alice.

Eston Dawson-Baglien kept up with the sexton duties throughout this time of many visitors on many days in many places in the church. With people come clutter, Eston stayed ahead of it.

Hospitality, starting with Rhonda Rudolph and the group that came together to make our Easter brunch a success. The hall was decorated and set up beautifully. Thanks also to Jeremiah and the crew at Big Guy Catering for providing a fine meal.

As I sat down to write this article, I knew there was a chance that I would miss someone that was deserving of praise. If you are that person, I am sorry. The Easter season illustrates the work that goes into providing church. The Easter day congregation was very well attended, and they got the best we had to offer. The old saying, "it takes a village" is proved by the service provided by sometimes unseen or unknown individuals.

Thank you all,
Barney





Treasurer's Report

At our annual meeting in January, I promised to keep the congregation informed of St. Paul's financial situation on a quarterly basis.

Here is a synopsis of our Revenue and Expenses for the 1st quarter of 2023:

	Jan - March 2023	Jan - March 2022
Contributions	\$ 74,814	\$ 87,768
Endowment Draw	\$ 30,000	\$ 35,000
Misc. Revenue	\$ 318	\$ 1,301
Total Revenue	\$ 105,132	\$ 124,069
Expenses	\$ 100,752	\$ 106,052
Revenue above Expenses	\$ 4,380	\$ 18,017
Endowment	\$ 2,015,602	\$ 2,284,314

Comparing 2023 to 2022, our giving is down almost \$13,000 while our spending is down \$5,300. We have drawn 30% of our scheduled endowment draw for 2023 in the first 25% of the year. Our Endowment is lower due to the stock market fluctuations plus we took \$115,000 out in 2022 for operating expenses (as we have been doing for many years). Many people in the congregation are working to keep our operating expenses to a minimum while making sure our staff, programs, and facilities have what they need to keep everything running smoothly. But with our annual giving lower for the first quarter, the Vestry will be monitoring this on a monthly basis to determine if this is a trend and make expense adjustments as needed.

We have solicited bids from various Money Managers to invest our Endowment funds. St. Paul's has been with Comerica many, many years, however their fees are now higher than others. An Endowment committee is reviewing the bids and will make a recommendation to the Vestry. We want our Endowment to be prudently invested while paying lower fees.

The Vestry will be doing an in-depth financial review in July. I will be convening a Finance Committee soon to review our finances.

I know many of you are giving of your time, talent, and treasure as God has called you to do. If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to do more for St. Paul's, please be willing to hear the Spirit's voice.

Respectfully,

Joe Lathrop, St. Paul's Treasurer

Special Upcoming Sundays...



On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms:

Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers some day and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way—those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; for the earth that bore us and provides our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. Amen.

*from Women's Common Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated
(Morehouse Publishing, 2000)*

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers of St. Paul's!

Join us for worship on Mother's Day Sunday, May 14, 2023

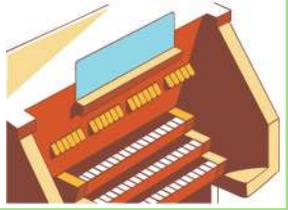
**Pentecost Sunday is Sunday, May 28th,
and all are invited to wear RED for worship.**



Join us for Trinity Sunday, June 4th

Guest musicians will join our St. Paul's Choir for their last Sunday of the season, as we celebrate a wonderful year of music!

Organist's Corner



Singing the Psalms

Beginning with this past Advent, the music staff at St. Paul's has worked to re-introduce the singing of the Psalms. The response from the congregation has been very positive and we appreciate your feedback and support.

The song of the Christian assembly has its roots in the psalms of the Hebrew people, our forebears in faith. Jesus' own prayer relied on the Psalms. The apostle Paul encouraged the faithful to sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God." (Col. 3:16)

Christians through the centuries have sung them daily. Martin Luther considered the psalms the summary of all scripture, speaking to many situations and allowing the expression of a wide range of human response, such as adoration, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, intercession, and teaching. The psalms proclaim hope and faith, yet make room for deep distress and questioning.

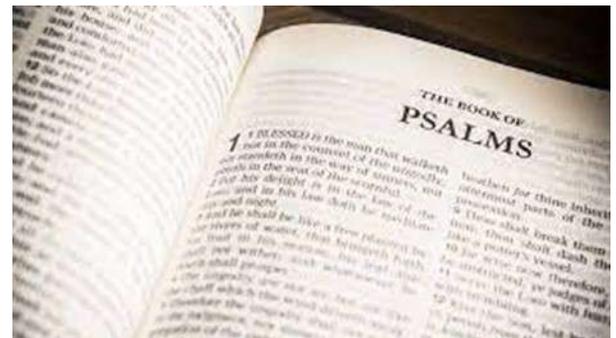
The psalms are intended for singing as their use in worship through the ages testifies. Their meaning can certainly be communicated when spoken or read silently, yet this ancient poetry is inherently musical. There are several traditional methods of psalmody, according to The Book of Common Prayer.

- Direct recitation denotes the reading or chanting of all or part of the psalm in unison.
- Antiphonal recitation is the verse-by-verse alternation between groups of singers or readers.
- Responsorial recitation is the name given to a method of psalmody in which the verses of a psalm are sung by a solo voice, with the choir and/or congregation singing a refrain after each verse or group of verses.
- Responsive recitation is the method which has been most frequently used in Episcopal churches, the minister alternating with the congregation verse by verse.

As we have begun the practice of singing the Psalms, choir director Jeff, Fr. Jadon, and I have spent much time exploring the various resources that are currently available. We have used material from three different sources so far. The choir and music leaders have enjoyed introducing the congregation to a variety of formats in the hopes that each will enrich your worship experience and understanding of the Psalms.

-Julie J. Baglien, Organist/Director of Music

*(Some information quoted from -
The Book of Common Prayer, published by
The Church Hymnal Corporation and
The Seabury Press, and from
Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
published by Augsburg Fortress.)*



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

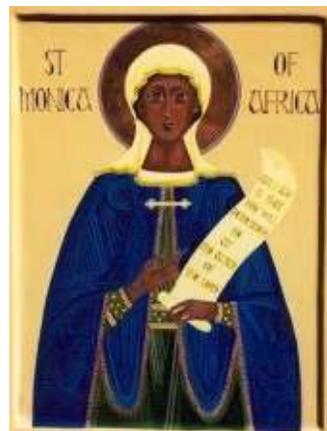
ECW

Easter has come and gone, and the weather is typical of April. But it continues to get warmer, and trees and flowers are blooming as the earth comes back to life again.

There are few things more heartwarming than the cacophony of women talking in fellowship at our ECW meetings. Women connecting and reconnecting and catching up on each other's lives. It is a sound I continue to marvel at, and such was our April 15 ECW meeting.

Our speaker was Dr. Cathy Glick, a local well-known cardiologist. Some technical issues were encountered, but Jim Grace saved the day! With the issue resolved, Dr. Glick was off and running with her presentation on Women's Heart Health and how it differs from men in so many ways. Her presentation, while scary at times, was very informative and educational. Dr. Glick answered many follow-up questions and graciously addressed some women's personal concerns.

Mother's Day falls on May 14 this year and the patron saint of mother's is St. Monica of Hippo. She is the mother of Augustine of Hippo, a pillar of the early church. She was also mother to another son and a daughter, both of whom were called to the religious life. She is known for guiding a lazy and rebellious Augustine through very tumultuous times. She made sure he was educated and finally converted him to Christianity after 17 years of trying. St. Augustine would go on to be bishop of Hippo and is considered one of the most significant Christian thinkers after St. Paul. None of which would have come about if it were not for the ministrations of a devoted mother and Christian.



<https://dansalyers.files.wordpress.com>

Speaking of mothers, we are starting to collect the items for the Baby Pantry through Together We Can Make a Difference. There will be a box in the glass narthex to deposit the items you have purchased. The items needed include baby formula, baby wipes, size 6 diapers and new or gently used baby clothes.

May 13 is the big painting day!! We will have Elizabeth Wray coming to lead us through a lovely painting of a dahlia. It will be a beautiful canvas to either gift a mother in your life or bring home for yourself. These painting parties are great fun, and we hope to see many of you and all the women you want to bring along too. I will need the numbers to give to Elizabeth two days before the event so that she has enough supplies to accommodate us all. So, get your name on that sign-up sheet in the glass narthex. We are looking forward to a great turn out for this one ladies.

I hope you all have a wonderful Mother's Day. We are all mothers one way or another and we should embrace that on our special day. Looking forward to seeing you all on May 13. And always remember, all women are welcome to our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President, ECW

Mission & Outreach



We're getting excited for the opportunity to work alongside our neighbors for Ward 5 Clean Up Day, Saturday May 6. St Paul's will pitch in with other community volunteers, business owners and neighbors - specifically in the portion of Ward 5 that encompasses Jackson Street to First Street, and from Michigan Avenue to Morrell Street.

Ward 5's Cleanup Day is being organized by Christy Davis – a working single Mom who also leads a Girl Scout troop – who has been inspired to reach out and serve her neighbors in tangible ways.

Plans for May 6 include a morning shift (starting at 8am) and afternoon shift (starting at 1pm) of volunteers who will help with anything from picking up trash, raking leaves / weeding / mowing, possibly hauling larger items to a central location for recycling, etc. Even if you can't help for a full shift, come out and walk the neighborhood and pick up trash for an hour or two. Your presence will be a blessing!

Sign up for Clean Up Day on the bulletin board in the Glass Narthex.

ECW's Baby Pantry collection will take place throughout the month of May, and we all want to support this ministry of Jackson's "Together We Can Make a Difference." Items needed for the Pantry include: powdered formula (any brand); Size 6 diapers (other sizes are already provided); wipes; Baby blankets and baby quilts; New or gently used clothing for children under 2 years of age. Let's make a difference for this important and caring ministry.

In faith,

Dana Burkey and Heidi Lathrop





Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

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

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

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view our videos.)

Adult Forum

9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson: emagnusson75 at gmail.com for more info or questions.

Bible Study



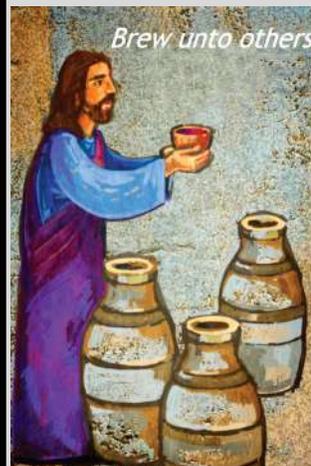
Join us for a lively Bible Study Group, led by Natalie Magnusson, on Wednesdays at **10:30 am** in the Small Dining Room.



Wednesday - Holy Eucharist Schedule

There will be communion at 12:15 pm on Wednesdays, May 3rd-May 24th.

***No Communion 5/31 or 6/7**



All are welcome to join us for a 'Pub Theology' evening.

We meet at Ironbark Brewery every Wednesday at **6:30 pm.** *

Questions? Email Tom at: [holsingerfriesen at gmail.com.](mailto:holsingerfriesen@gmail.com)

Bible Study



The Wednesday morning (10:30 AM) Bible study is always a rich time of learning, laughter, and fellowship. We have made the long journey through the book of Acts and should complete our study by the end of May. We have discovered many stories that would make for great theater or film! The beginning of June would be a great time to join, as we will move to a different book of the Bible at that time. However, newcomers are welcome anytime!



Our St. Paul's choir will be taking a break for the summer after Trinity Sunday, June 4th.

**We would love more members for next season though!
Please see choir director Jeff on Sunday or email him
at: Jeff at stpauljxmi.org**

Knitting group

Note: New schedule starting May 1st!

The knitting/crafting group will be meeting on Monday evenings 6pm-8 pm and on Tuesday mornings 11am-2pm. All ages and any type of crafting (crochet, jewelry, embroidery, etc.) are welcome to come! Please contact Elizabeth Rogers (517) 206-4613 or Melissa Velandra (517) 581-0805 for more info.



If you missed the last session of Safe Church Training, you have an opportunity to sign up again! Another session will be held on **Saturday, May 20th** from 9 am to 12:30 pm here at St. Paul's in the Small Dining room. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Contact Jr. Warden Elaine Themm (517) 414-8484, or the church office for more info, or for the link to do the training online on your own. This will be the last session held before summer.



Sally McKinnon	May 1
Debbie Batchelder	May 3
Joanne Johnston	May 8
Evelyn LaGow	May 11
John Leicht	May 18
Olivia Brethauer	May 20
Susan Howe	May 22
Joette Rabaskas	May 27
Elaine Hale	May 30



Chris & Diane Scheele	May 4
Floyd & Barb Covey	May 17
Joe & Heidi Hosler-Lathrop	May 18
Bob & Marianne Fowler	May 19
Barney & Rhonda Rudolph	May 23
Thomas & Sandra Kilian	May 25
James & Carrie Heider Grant	May 28
Eric & Natalie Magnusson	May 31

Healing Handbags Event
 Friday, May 12, 2023
 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 Cascades Manor House
www.soarcafeandfarms.com

Church Office Hours

**Mon-Thurs from 10 am-2 pm
 Closed Fridays**

Around St. Paul's...



Improvements are being made inside St. Paul's with new light bulbs being replaced inside the church by the lectern and pulpit. The memorial plaques will be going back up soon also.



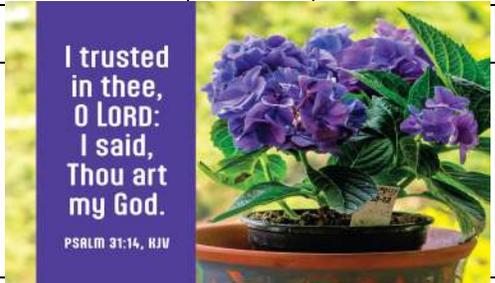
Outside, the grounds of St. Paul's are looking beautiful thanks to our St. Paul's Building and Grounds, who along with Save Our Youth Jackson, had a work day April 15th. Our sexton Eston has been busy on our property mowing and planting spring bulbs, and our gardener Sue Smar is back hard at work clipping and weeding.



What a blessing to celebrate the baptism of Madisyn Hughes on Sunday, April 16, 2023



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6 pm Search Comm Mtg pm Knitting Group	11 am Knitting Group 6 pm Toast-masters	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Pub Theology at Ironbark Brewery	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		12:15 pm Underground Railway Tour
7	8	9	1	11	12	13
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	6 pm Search Comm Mtg 6 pm Knitting Group	11 am Knitting Group 6 pm Toast-masters	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Pub Theology at Ironbark Brewery	5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		10:30 am ECW Meeting
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15	16	17	18	19	20
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	6 pm Search Comm Mtg 6 pm Knitting Group	11 am Knitting Group 6 pm Toast-masters 6:30 Vestry	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Pub Theology at Ironbark Brewery	5 pm BB/BS 5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		9 am Safe Church Training
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8 am Morning Prayer 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Forum 10:30 am Morning Prayer/ Coffee Hour	6 pm Search Comm Mtg 6 pm Knitting Group	11 am Knitting Group 6 pm Toast-masters	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Pub Theology at Ironbark Brewery	4:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Hand-bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
28 PENTECOST	29 	30	31	 <p>I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God. <small>PSALM 31:14, RJV</small></p>		
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	Memorial Day - Office Closed	11 am Knitting Group	10 30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Pub Theology at Ironbark Brewery No 12:15 Eucharist			