

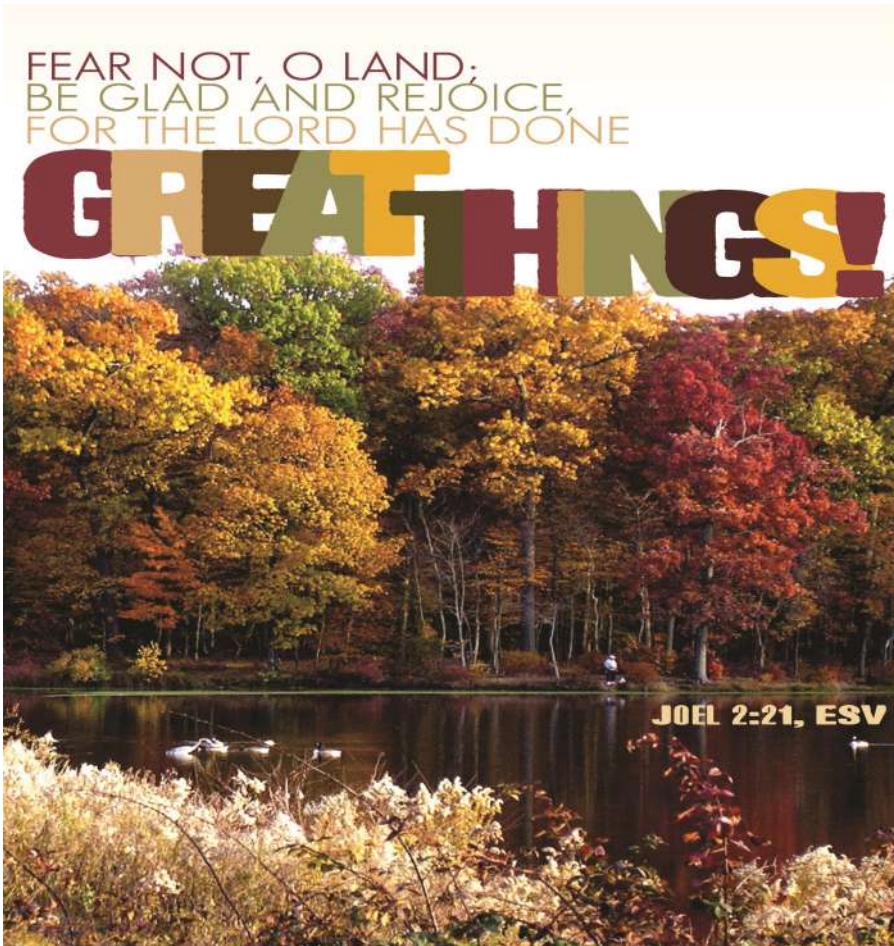


October
2020
Volume
LXVI

THE EPISTLE



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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Rector's Corner

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." – John 13:35

Friends,

Fall is here and I am grateful for the change in season. As our Governor has lifted some restrictions on indoor gatherings, so too our Bishop is following suit. We will be open for public worship at the 10:30am service on Sunday, Oct. 11th! You are asked to wear a mask and sit where the ushers tell you to keep us safe. We will continue to broadcast this service on Facebook live each Sunday for those who desire to remain safely at home. Our 9am worship will be held in Holy Spirit Hall for our non-tech parishioners. Using separate spaces allows for careful sanitization after each service. We cannot yet provide a coffee hour or in person Christian Education, but I do hope you'll join us on Zoom for Adult Forum and Bible Study and on Facebook live for Compline. A calendar and links to these offerings can be found on our stpauljxmi.org website.

Melissa has jumped into leadership with our families with young kids as shepherd for children's Christian Ed. Confirmation for youth will continue as well as fun youth activities. Even though we will not be able to offer our Halloween Trunk or Treat this year we will have a special worship for the Feast of All Saints on Nov. 1st and ask you to send in the names of your recently deceased loved ones so we can include them in our prayers on that day. We are beginning to plan for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany so don't lose hope of marking these Holy days with your church family!

In October we ask you to prayerfully consider your pledge to St. Paul's and will gather pledges together in November. We hope you'll pledge if you are not already or increase your pledge as you are able. There is much that we cannot predict about the coming months, but we can recognize the good that is done with the financial blessings we share here at St. Paul's. God blesses so many in Jackson through your contributions and enables us now more than ever to reach out with the love of Christ to our neighbors near and far. Thank you for your continued support of our vital role in Jackson!

Finally, this month we count down the days until the big election in November. We must pray for our country and all who call America home. There is a special resource offered by the Episcopal Church on how to talk across political boundaries. This curriculum will be posted in our weekly email and linked to our website. I encourage you to check it out as part of your prayers during this month. We are all children of God and cannot forget that on Election Day or the days afterwards. Mercy, forbearance, forgiveness and compassion are God's commands to us as well as gifts. By God's grace, let us show Christ to our community in how we treat those who pray, vote and think differently than we do.

Faithfully,

Sarah+

IN-PERSON WORSHIP



Update

This week in conjunction with Governor Whitmer's order changing the guidelines for indoor gatherings, we received an update to our COVID-19 directive from the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and Bishop Perry. Effective Sunday, October 11th:

“Congregations may hold in person worship and gatherings that do not exceed more than 25% of building capacity, or the maximum number of persons while maintaining 6 feet of distancing between households, whichever is fewer.”

You can read the entire Plan for Reentry for Great Lakes Episcopalians at:

<https://www.edomi.org/update-to-covid-19-reentry-directive/>

- Having spoken with staff and our wardens, we are ready to open the 10:30 am service on Oct. 11th for public worship. We will be limited to 50 people and general protocols for COVID-19 safety will be in place. These include: social distancing, contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, and masks for all attending any church activities. Singing continues to be one of the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading the virus, so we will be following the EDOMI directive which advises against it. We will worship together with no Sunday School or Coffee Hour.
- As of this Sunday, October 4th, our 9am worship will move from the Memorial Garden to Holy Spirit Hall. The space allows for warmth, distance and safety for our non-tech parishioners.
- Our 10:30 am service will continue to be offered on Facebook Live as a safe alternative for those who feel safer worshipping from home.

For questions, feel free to contact one of your wardens, vestry or the church office.

Whether you continue to worship with us online or in-person, we love and give thanks for you all!

From our Sr. Warden...

It probably comes as no surprise just how important the love and companionship of an animal can be. It is about that time of year where we celebrate the blessing of the animals and the approaching feast of St. Francis on October 4th. Research has shown that animals can alleviate symptoms of PTSD, provide a powerful distraction from the stress and anxiety of the day and can help lower levels of depression. I can attest to the fact that a little squirrel improved my psychological well-being and helped me through a time of feeling out of touch and lonely due to the current environment. Even today, my King and Bella comfort me in times of fear and high anxiety. They don't judge me, or talk politics, or speak negative words about others. They show me unconditional love and only ask for my love and attention to keep them safe and secure in return. Even if you don't have a pet, you can still find peace in watching the animals in nature...birds, squirrels...even an o'possum running across the yard.

Pray for all animals, especially those who are sick and for those who have crossed the rainbow bridge. Take a moment and hug your pet, watch the antics of nature's critters and enjoy the blessings of the animals around you.

*“All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.”*

Welcome back, Melissa! We are so excited to have you on board as our Curate.

When Sarah asked us to reach out to the folks who were to be invited to the 9 a.m. service, I was so very happy to hear the excitement in the voices of some of those who have been especially secluded during this time. It is important to me that we continue to support those parishioners who have been attending the service in the Memorial Garden and I am in agreement with Sarah that the group is small enough and that we have the space big enough to accommodate this group and take all necessary precautions to keep them safe. I agree that we continue this vital service for those parishioners especially.

Don't forget that Big Guy Catering is offering delicious meals every Tuesday. Please continue to support our Kitchen Manager in his personal business endeavors. We are in a real partnership with Jeremiah and his food is amazing!!!

From what I hear, response to the Koinonia sign ups has not been impressive. There are several groups who have found creative ways to meet during this time and have done so while practicing social distancing and taking all necessary precautions.

If you or someone you know would be interested but are curious about how some of the groups are meeting, please let me know. I'd be happy to share. We all need to be connected, especially now and Koinonia is a great way to share the love of God and the love we have for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Shalom,
Michelle*



From our Jr. Warden...

Seasons come and go. Summer is over and we are headed into fall, and what a nice fall we have had so far. COVID is here, and it too will fade. Not sure it will ever be totally over, but, as seasons come and go, so too will COVID. We have all been affected and changed by the Coronavirus, and I think many of our "normal" life activities will be changed for a long time.

Our church life certainly has changed and evolved since the virus arrived. The church closed their doors for over 5 months, and we are just beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We started with services being filmed at Pastor Sarah's home on zoom, and once we could have 10 people in the building at one time, progressed to services being broadcast over Facebook. It is wonderful to be able to see our beautiful sanctuary and hear the organ music.

The hope is to be able to open the church even further and offer services with limited capacity in the not too distant future. We will need to take all the necessary precautions and social distance, but we will be able to worship inside the church...hopefully soon. It seems we keep taking baby steps toward in-person church services, but we do keep crawling forward. Luckily, we will still be broadcasting the services on Facebook for those who wish to remain at home. Hopefully we can accommodate most of our parishioners with the in person and online services.

Stay tuned for the next development...

Debbie Batchelder, Jr Warden



Building & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds this month will be concluding the watering program for the garden and other areas. Our thanks go out to Susan Smar for her dedication towards the Memorial garden keeping it in excellent shape. Sue for many years has kept the entire property from being over grown with weeds and invasive growth. Harry Strait's efforts keeping trees & shrubs watered has been appreciated as healthy growth is evident. Please thank Harry for keeping a watchful eye on our properties during this trying time of social distancing.

The roof of the Education building had another leak. The leak was from a rooftop fan housing which has been repaired. The roof is quite old and this has not been the first repair. A quote for replacing the roof will be presented to the vestry this month for consideration.

The heat is on! Yes the boilers are ready for another heating season. Temperatures set may not reflect current or changing demands, please contact Alice or myself with any concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle King

Chairperson Buildings & Grounds.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

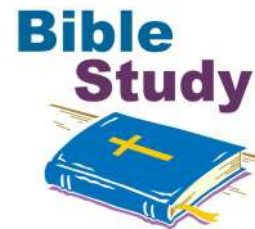
All Saint's Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, November 1st. Please call (517-787-3370) or email the office: church @stpauljxmi.org with names of your deceased loved ones who have died in the past year, so their names can be read at the Eucharist.



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.

This is a lovely way to end your day!



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



Koinonia Groups are forming again for this program year. One group will be a "Pod" whose members adhere to strict guidelines related to Covid to provide the safest possible environment for immunocompromised people. These groups are vital to our mutual support as Christian disciples and help through the loneliness and isolation of these times. Each group will need to make sure best practices around the wearing of masks, sanitization and distancing are adhered to. If you want to join a group please call or email the office.



Currently still meeting at our normal time 9:15-10:15 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



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.

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



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.



The Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, Oct. 4th @ 4pm

Note: Due to this Sunday's forecast of rain, this year's St. Francis Pet Blessing will **not** be held outside, instead it will be streamed live on our St. Paul's Facebook page.

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

Grab your pets and join us, and post photos of them in the comments!



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Well I'm back! I hope you all had a good summer. It's the fall season already! Or as we like to call it the "is it a cold or is it COVID?" season. Trees are starting to turn. Nights are getting cooler and soon we will be inside for the duration.

With this time of year comes our ECW's biggest and only fundraiser – **THE NUT SALE!** It is so important to support this sale as we try to build back our resources. We have donated 100% of our profits to worthy causes over the past few years and need to shore up our depleted accounts.

With that in mind there are wonderful choices to make from our list. We have the huge pecan halves and the walnut halves which are wonderful for baking or just for snacking. Winter will likely bring a few Netflix binges and what could be better than a bowl of deluxe mixed nuts? Or some wasabi almonds to warm things up on a cold evening. This year more than ever is a great time to buy nuts as gifts for family, friends and all the service people in your lives. No stores. No lines. No exposure. Happy recipients. Plenty of reasons and plenty of choices to suit every taste. Please support this very worthy and worthwhile cause. An order form is included in the Epistle. Deadline for orders is OCTOBER 4. Don't miss out! Order today!

It's been a full six months since the shut-down and all meetings stopped at St. Paul's. It will be a number of months still until it is safe to meet again in person. This would be a great time to think about what you miss most about ECW. Is it visiting with women you wouldn't otherwise get the chance to visit with? Visiting with old and dear friends? The content of the meetings? The opportunity to voice an opinion on some of the topics/issues presented? Learning about a topic, organization or issue that you hadn't thought about before? Having the opportunity to help an organization that spoke to your heart or touched your spirit? Perhaps you are moved to serve on the new board which will be voted on next year. Are you someone who doesn't miss it at all? The hiatus is an excellent time to reflect on these things and listen to your heart. Whatever your response or reaction is we'd love to hear from you. You can contact Sandra Kilian with your thoughts. It would go a long way to shaping our agenda going forward.

We pray everyone continues to stay healthy and COVID free. We pray for God's protection over all of you. God is good and will take care of our needs. All He asks is that you help Him out by wearing your masks, washing your hands and avoiding crowded indoor gatherings. By doing so we may be able to keep the anticipated fall and winter spike to a minimum. Healthy autumn!

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice President – ECW.



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW
Nut and Candy Sale
2020**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES DUE TO COVID 19!

We will ONLY order those nuts and candies that are PREORDERED and also PREPAID. Please return your forms and checks to Romelle Frey, 2022 Forest Park Drive, Jackson, MI 49201 by October 4, 2020.

Checks must be written to The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church with "nut sale" on the memo line.

As we have sold the same nuts for multiple years, most of you know what is in each selection. I can give you details if you have any questions – call 517-414-3768. Romelle Frey. (r & s) = roasted and salted

I am sorry, they are not offering Wasabi Almonds & Chipotle Mixed Nuts!

<u>All sold in one pound bags</u>	<u>\$Price/item</u>	<u>#Ordered</u>	<u>\$Total</u>
Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves	11.00		
Smoked Pecans	11.00		
Light Walnut Halves and Pieces	11.00		
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (no peanuts)	11.00		
Giant Whole Cashews (r & s)	11.00		
Colossal Natural Pistachios (r & s)	10.50		
Whole Almonds (r & s)	9.50		
Spicy Party Mix	7.50		
Turkish Apricot Halves	7.25		
Praline Pecans	11.00		
Heart Healthy Nut Mix (raw)	10.00		
Tropical Blend	9.50		
Harvest Medley Mix	11.00		
Sweet & Salty Trail Mix	9.00		
Milk Chocolate Coated Pecans	11.00		
Milk Chocolate Giant Cashews	11.00		
Milk Chocolate Bridge Mix	8.75		
Mixed Yogurt Raisins	7.25		
Giant Malted Milk Balls	8.25		
Dark Chocolate Almonds	10.25		
Dark Chocolate Cranberries	8.50		
Mixed Chocolate Cranberries	8.50		

Total # Bags Ordered Grand Total \$

Name

Phone #

Address

Note: There are limited quantities of chipotle mixed nuts (\$9.50) and wasabi almonds (\$8.50) available, first come, first serve! **Get your orders in ASAP!**



Children & Youth News: From Curate Melissa Congleton...

Dear Friends,

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

-Isaiah 43:19



First things first, I would like to express my gratitude for the trust St. Paul’s has placed in me by bringing me on as Curate. I am truly humbled that you have put this faith in me. It feels like a bit of a homecoming after spending the last program year with you as a seminarian. Yet at the same time I am starting something new and we are embarking on something new together. I’m quite hopeful that this new journey will be an amazing one.

Very quickly I have found that “Curate” is not a commonly understood term. Essentially it is commonly used for the first job out of seminary for an ordained person. In some ways it is like an apprenticeship where I will be working, worshipping, and learning all at the same time. It is my hope that we all will be working, worshipping, and learning together.

My plate will be full with a focus on heading up Christian education, youth group, and Confirmation preparation for our children and youth. We had a successful get together with families to begin talking about how we will proceed with Christian education for this program year. The need for youth programming within the parameters that can be safely done during this pandemic time are evident.

Even in the most challenging times, I find it key to remember we are never alone. We always have God with us in all that we do. And, despite the strains and stretches and awkwardness that COVID-19 leaves us with, we have each other. With the newness of beginning the school year in a pandemic, starting Christian education in different ways than the past, finding creative ways to reach as many people as possible with worship, discovering new hobbies or new ways to appreciate old things, it seems important to remember that we are not alone. We are on this journey together, filled with the love of God for very own. These challenging times call us to find new ways to soak this love in and to pass it on to others.

Please add me to your contacts. I can be reached at Melissa@stpauljxmi.org or 517-410-2328.

Melissa



PURCHASE OF A BELL FOR ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

These Vestry Minutes are located at the Ella Sharp Museum...

Rev. Grinnell, the Rector, had fixed upon Tuesday, January 11, 1853 as the time for Consecrating the New Church; so the purchase was a little after that.

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Paul's held at the office of Samuel Higby, March 29, 1853. Present: Messrs Sumner, Hayden, Anthony, Stanton, Burr & Higby. The Rector being absent Mr. Sumner, being one of the Wardens, presided.

On motion, it was Resolved that Mr. Henry A. Hayden be authorized to purchase for the vestry, a bell for the new church edifice, if he can do so on terms satisfactory to himself, not to exceed a weight 1,500 pounds.

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Paul's held at the offices of the Secretary, May 23, 1853. Present: Messrs Hayden, Penny, Stanton, Sumner, Higby & Anthony.

The Finance Committee made a report in reference to the purchase of a bell. On motion, it was Resolved that said Committee be instructed to purchase of the Messrs Meneely Sons, the bell reported as of the weight of 1,232 pounds and to pay \$200 down - the balance in six months with interest.

Resolved also that a subscription be circulated to raise the necessary funds for the purchase of the bell. Resolutions were adopted and the Vestry adjourned.

This bell was a special purchase
for our present-day brick church.
So when you next hear it ring,
please know that it has stood
the test of time and what that
purchase has meant for all
our fellow parishioners . . .
“The Call to Come to Worship!”



Image: danmeneely.com/bells

Messrs Meneely Sons – the sons of Andrew Meneely – When Andrew died, on August 14, 1851 in Troy NY, the bell casting business continued with his sons, Edwin, already a partner, and George joining with his brother. They were located in Watervliet, New York. The bells were loaded onto barges and ships on the Hudson River near the foundry and were sent around the world.

Results from September Epistle Choir Photo!

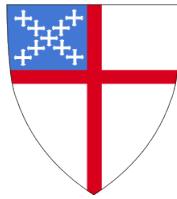
Our own, Diane Lawrence, reported that she is one of the young girls in our youth choir picture. She is the girl at the back of the three girls, standing closet to the right-hand-side of the photo.

(Diane Kay Baker was Baptized at St. Paul's 1946 and Confirmed in 1958, the daughter of Philip R. & Mary (Cheney) Baker.) Thanks Diane!

Another Interesting Archive Fact -

In the Spring of 1981, The Rev. Debbie Semon was the first women to be sole celebrant of the Eucharist at St. Paul's. She worked part-time as an assistant of the rector because of gifts from ECU, St. Nicholas Guild and Chancel Guild. During that same time period Jacqueline 'Jackie' Blake became one of the first female Lay Readers.

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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pledging FAQ's

Your commitment in response to God's blessings makes our worship, community life, and outreach possible. We hope these "frequently asked questions" will be helpful to you as you consider your pledge.

What is a pledge?

A pledge is your commitment to make a financial gift that supports the mission of St. Paul's. Pledging is a response to God's abundance in our lives. It is both a statement of thanksgiving and a lived decision to give others as God gives to us.

Why do we need annual pledges?

Your pledge supports everything we do – from paying the salaries of our staff to supporting our outreach ministries, our pastoral care, our worship, our education programs, and our music. In order to know what we can do each year, we need pledge commitments to develop an annual budget.

Can't we just rely on our endowment?

We do have an endowment generously left to us by previous generations of St. Paul's parishioners. It would quickly disappear, however, if we relied on it as our primary source of parish support.

How much should I pledge?

At St. Paul's, every pledge, no matter what amount, makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry. We ask each parishioner to prayerfully consider making a pledge that is both responsible and significant based on their financial situation.

Our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. A tithe (10% of your income) has long been held as the standard of each Christian giving. For most it is a goal to be reached through incremental increases each year. To calculate your pledge or tithe, the following chart may help:

Annual Gross Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%
\$10,000	\$200	\$400	\$600	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,200
\$20,000	\$400	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,400
\$30,000	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000	\$3,600
\$40,000	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$3,200	\$4,000	\$4,800
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$12,000
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000
\$200,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$24,000

When and how should I pledge?

Pledges are welcome throughout the year, but we would prefer to receive them before December 1st so we can plan for next year. You can make a pledge by bringing pledge card to church, by mailing it in, or by contacting a staff person or member of the Vestry.

Do I have to pay when I pledge? Can I pay in installments?

A pledge is a promise to pay. You may fulfill your pledge with as many or few payments as you wish. Pledges are to be fulfilled on a calendar year basis, beginning January 1.

Can I pay by a gift of stock, a donor-designated fund, or through other means?

We welcome all kinds of pledge payments. You may pay by a gift of stock or financial securities, or through a donor-designated fund. To find out how, contact **Marco Shehab**.

What happens if I can't give as much as I pledged?

While it's a commitment to your church and your fellow parishioners, God's grace abounds. If your circumstances change, let the church know that you need to change your pledge. If you've received unexpected additional income, you are always welcome to increase your pledge.

Who knows how much I pledge?

We hold all pledge amounts in the strictest confidence.

Thank you for all you do to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. For more information, please contact our Sr. Warden, Michelle Gibson (832) 445-4461 or Treasurer, Marco Shehab (517) 937-4912, financial@stpauljxmi.org or any of the St. Paul's Vestry Members.



Larry Bullen	October 2
Garry Trammell	October 3
Cynthia Rider	October 4
Teri Utz	October 4
Evan Lagow	October 5
Chuck Sinclair	October 7
Sue Smar	October 7
Sue Hammett	October 10
Laura Orr	October 10
Dominic Themm	October 11
Autumn Boody	October 20
Michelle Gibson	October 26

Don't Forget
Daylight Savings
Time on
November 1st!



Congratulations go out to St. Paul's very own Cassie Meyer & Heather Youell as they celebrate their upcoming nuptials this Saturday, October 3rd.

**Cheers to the soon to be
Heather & Cassie Youell!**



Altar Guild



WE NEED YOU!

Altar Guild is looking for additional members to set up Holy Communion and clean up afterward now that services are being held in our church building again.

Please call Cheryl Gumper, 789-7982, Co-Altar Guild Director, to find out more.