

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
31 Rider Avenue
Patchogue, New York 11772

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address

Street Number and Name

City, State 98765-4321

Vestry

Wardens: Conni Still and Cathie Pliszak

Emeka Azinge, Diane Butler, Barbara Greco, Charles Klagges, Martin Immel Jr., Maurine Jacobs, Teresa Julian, Ronnie MacDonald, Nancy Western

Clerk: Conni Still

Treasurer: Barbara Lapinski

Editor: Conni Still

Parish

Office Phone: 631-475-3078

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E-mail:stpaulspatchogue@gmail.com

Website:www.stpaulspatchogue.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM Office Closed on Mondays

Rector: the Rev. Elisabeth E. Tunney

Parish Administrator: Ronny Pliszak

Parish Ministers: All the People of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

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SEPTEMBER 2020

St. Paul's Parish Mission Statement: to be a thriving, loving, Christ-centered parish; a parish who knows Christ and makes Christ known.

We take seriously our Baptismal Covenant that says we will respect the dignity of every human being. You are welcome to worship with us, to join with us in fellowship, and in our ministries, regardless of age, economic status, marital status, nationality, race, sexual orientation or gender identity, ability or disability, and wherever you are in your spiritual journey.



A Word from Mother Liz

Good news! The Bishop has given permission for us to begin in-person services of the Holy Eucharist. Distribution will be in one kind only – the bread but it is a start. The Task Force on Re-opening will produce a video explain just how distribution will be done and I believe this will be made available to all parishioners for viewing.

Nevertheless as we continue to deal with the realities of the Covid pandemic I urge you to be vigilant in practicing social distancing and wearing masks when in public. However disappointing, our decision to postpone opening until November is quite practical. We know now that transmission of the virus is primarily through the droplets we exhale while speaking (or singing). Apparently warm moist air, humid air, keeps those droplets suspended in the air making it more likely that they will infect someone else. Therefore the fans that we use to move air around in the church would be really dangerous. The prospect of being in the church when it was still hot, wearing masks, with no fans, was not very appealing. Hopefully we will be better off when the heat comes on and the air is drier.

In the meantime please continue to join us for Zoom worship and if you haven't yet done so please give it a try. I know that we miss seeing each other and this is the safest and best way we can do so until we can be together again in person.

You can also join us on Tuesday evenings at 5:00 pm for Evening Prayer. It will give you a mid-week spiritual and social lift.

After the vestry voted to keep the building closed we made an exception for the Patchogue Soup Kitchen which has been a faithful ministry for more than two decades. When originally founded there were several participants from St. Paul's although that is no longer the case we have a good working relationship with the organization that runs the Soup Kitchen and the standards that they meet in terms of food preparation and cleanliness. Most important is the need that they meet in the community. They will be serving take-out meals and the guests will be asked to take their meals off the property.

I would like to offer a book study of *White Fragility* beginning in late September so if you are interested please let me know and tell me whether Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday would work for

you and whether you would prefer daytime or evening.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Parish pledges are being faithfully paid, keeping our heads above water.

Task Force “Working Together to Worship Together met to continue plans for reopening church and hall.

Vestry voted to postpone reopening church until November 1, 2020, All Saint’s Day.

No outside groups allowed yet, except the Food Pantry.

WiFi has been installed in the church. Will need a person to assist Mother Liz with the camera set up and other tech support.

Martin Minogue will need to train ushers in their new duties and perhaps some more volunteers to usher will come forward.

The Federal PPP loan was finally received, thanks to the perseverance of Mother Liz and Barbara Lapinski.

A Diocesan contractor installed new sidewalks and did work on the driveway in the cemetery.

STEWARDSHIP

Participating in our community of faith through giving

Giving --- a six – month checkup

In this coronavirus, social distancing, era, how are we giving to our community of faith? Let me count the ways:

1. Contributing to the work of the food pantry
2. Keeping up financial pledge payments
3. Giving time and effort to ZOOM gatherings
4. Spending time and energy on the upkeep of our buildings and grounds
5. Thinking about and planning the next steps in this parish’s life
6. Giving time to regular prayer -- private and corporate
7. Managing the parish finances: income and outgoing

9. Communicating with parishioners --- by phone or mail (electronic or USPS) Although most or all of our participation is long – range, we still find a way.

As with any checkup we leave with a prescription – in this case, to improve our spiritual health. In the midst of problems brought to us by COVID-19 (health, social life, finances), we are still called upon to give thanks for all God gives us. Look at the list above; we seem to be getting there.

“This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you.”

(The Gospel according to John; J B Phillips trans.)

Phyllis Voegeli, for the stewardship committee:

Laura Cooley, Scott Harris, Martin Minogue, Conni Still, Phyllis Voegeli

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dee Laffin and the Working together to worship together committee for moving forward with our plans to reopen.

Dee Laffin for coordinating the re-keying of the locks for the parish hall and church.

Dave MacDonald for trimming the hedges in front of the rectory.

Congratulations to the Food Pantry for receiving another grant from COAD.

Bishop Provenzano for approving work in the Lakeview cemetery.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Committee members walked around the parish property to continue to pick up sticks and other small debris remaining from the recent tropical storm.

Remaining larger tree limbs were moved to the curb for town pick-up.

Clothing, trash and other personal items were removed from the bushes in front of the church and in front of the exterior Parish Hall kitchen door. .

Tentative plans for removing the trees and shrubs surrounding the front sign on the church yard were discussed, but will be delayed until the weather is cooler.

Some weeding and other routine, grounds maintenance was completed by committee members, individually, throughout the month. Committee “thanks” goes out to Mo. Liz for her assistance after the recent storm. Her significant “stick” removal from the Rectory area, and back of the church, gave us a jump start on clearing the lawns for mowing. A donation, this month, of an additional garden cart assisted us in this effort.

It was suggested that we send out an “ask” for help from parishioners who may want to tackle one or more of the outstanding grounds keeping tasks.



Bill Beebe, Diane Butler, Gail Davis, Scott Harris, Teresa Julian and Dee Laffin



“Christ has ... no other hands but yours”
St. Teresa of Avila

Raise the Roof

Thank you to all who have contributed to this and who continue to do so. We have sent out an update since we only have one year to go. It’s not too late to begin to pledge, the work is ongoing, see the office for a pledge card.

Please include in your prayers this month:

Craig, Dylan & Family, Ed, Linda, Mike, Marcy, Janis, Nikki, Martin, Bill, Jeannine, Pauline, Dawn, Joanne, Kenny, Janine, Tony, Mother Liz, Peggy, Robert, Marilyn, Matthew, Liz, Val, Kim & Family, Margaret, Linda, Bob, John, Buddy and Mary, Alice, Tony, Jim, Jack, Shirley, Michael, Michael, the people of Beirut, the victims of the wildfires in California, and for those we name now.

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Pray For Those Who Have Died

August 30, Ronnie Silverberg, our crossing guard

Thrift Shop Doings

We look forward to reopening soon and pray that everyone remains healthy. God Bless Us All.

Food Pantry



The Food Pantry needs food. The Food Pantry serves families by bag and grab until the quarantine is over. The number of clients are getting larger each week. We have been serving 90 families weekly, before COVID we served 50-60 families weekly. Please leave a message in the office to find out when you can leave a donation of food.



Back to School – whatever that means!!! is right around the corner and Dee Laffin is collecting notebooks and supplies for the Easter Farmworkers' children. Please consider contributing to her efforts on their behalf. Leave a message in the office if you are able to help.

Please join our Zoom service on Sunday, September 6 for a blessing of the backpacks.



SAVE THE DATES!

The 154th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island **will be held** virtually and will convene on **Saturday, November 14, 2020, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.**



From the Editor

Mother Liz has been able to get our Sunday Service hooked up for Zoom in the church. It was so nice to see the familiar walls and beautiful stained glass windows as we participated in Morning Prayer together. It is excellent to have so many participate and enjoy the coffee hour afterwards. Please encourage your friends to log in and join us and have our on-line congregation grow to keep in contact and hear the wonderful sermons that we have been missing!

Thanks to Ronnie, Dave MacDonald and the B&G committee for all the great landscaping they have done!

