

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Parish Administrator: Ronny Pliszak

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

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

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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.



The decorations look lovely and you cant's see where the squirrels have already chewed holes in the pumpkins!

A Word from Mother Liz

Oh how wonderful it is to be back in our church building to celebrate the Eucharist!

It felt so appropriate for our reopening to take place on All Saints' Day when we could honor not only the saints and martyrs who have been models for our faith but also the saints of saint Paul's who made possible for this place to be here and to be what it is today.

Our living saints like Dee Laffin and Martin Minogue have worked diligently to create a safe environment for us to come together, replete with hand sanitizer stands, wipes on all the pews, roping to designate seats for the 8:00 and 10:00 congregants, and with constant reminders to socially distance when entering the church. Sometimes in our joy at greeting one another again it is easy to forget the safety precautions but we must try to remember for everyone's sake.

So far we have had 8 people at the 8:00 service and 12-13 at the 10:00 service so there is room for more. Our capacity is 28 at each service so don't be shy about registering to attend. We all look forward to seeing you!

COVID has changed our understanding of how to worship together forever. If you had told me a year ago that we would be making our services available on line, I would have laughed at you. And yet here we are.

We continue to Zoom the 10:00 service and are acquiring additional microphones so that all speakers can be heard by those attending on line. In addition we are emailing copies of the services and sermon to all parishioners, posting these on our website, and snail-mailing them to those who don't use the internet.

COVID also changed the way that the Food Pantry has been distributing food but not its volunteer's commitment to serving those in need. Once again the Food Pantry is preparing for Thanksgiving, collecting frozen turkeys and negotiating frozen turkey storage with many people and organizations. Please see pages 4-5 of the Epistle for information on how you can contribute to this year's Thanksgiving Food Drive.

COVID has also changed the format of our interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Since there was no safe way to host a large service this year the local clergy decided that we would leave the format of the service up to each congregation to offer as it felt appropriate but that we would offer a compilation of "homilies" that would be available on video to play during the service. Since I will be away for Thanksgiving I will lead a Zoom service on Wednesday evening, November 25 at 7:00 pm for any who wish to join.

May you have a peaceful, celebratory, and safe Thanksgiving.

Collect for Thanksgiving

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the

provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. BCP pg 246



The Saints of S t. Paul's on the display board in front of the altar. It's not too late to send a picture to the office – we can get ahead of the curve for next year!



Roping helps designate where worshippers can be seated safely

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- Bishop GERALYN Wolf visited St. Paul's October 11, 2020 for a Zoom service and met with the vestry afterwards where she got to know a little more about our parish.
- Our plans are set to reopen on November 1, 2020 with two services of the Holy Eucharist at 8 am and 10 am. The 10 am service will also be zoomed for those parishioners not able to attend in person.
- Reservations must be made through the parish office.
- **MASKS MUST BE WORN!**

- Ushers will instruct parishioners how to enter and where to sit. Volunteers are needed to usher. Please bring your personal Book of Common Prayer or let the office know if you would like to borrow a copy.
- Remember your Pledge Card
- The Monday Soup Kitchen has reopened providing take out to patrons.
- Nominating Committee was appointed for the Annual Meeting.
- We will be voting to reduce the size of our vestry at this year's Annual Meeting.
- Blue Point Brewery planning a Halloween tour of Lakeview Cemetery.
- Ronnie MacDonald attended a pre-convention meeting.
- Buildings and Grounds continue to trim and maintain the property. Volunteers appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP

Participating in our community of faith through giving

Gratitude has become something of a mantra among psychologists today, and research is showing that practicing "thankfulness" is actually good for you. Grateful people have higher levels of positive emotions, life satisfaction, vitality, optimism and lower levels of stress. There is even some evidence that gratitude is good for your heart!

So, gratitude and the practice of gratitude have positive benefits. This is not to say that life is perfect or we should ignore our burdens, complaints and hassles. But when we look at life as a whole, gratitude encourages us to find some level of goodness in our lives. Research shows, if we can practice the art of thankfulness, it could lead to happier, healthier lives.

The act of Stewardship, the source of it, is gratitude. As people of faith, we are encouraged to express our gratitude at every opportunity, in the morning, at noontime, at the end of the day. We are challenged to figure out how we can express our gratitude, by saying and living, “thank you,” by sitting at the table and figuring out how, and how much of, our money we want to give in gratitude.

The Bible says a tithe. The church has repeatedly said a tithe is a good start. What happens in times of anxiety (often when contemplating money), is that Stewardship changes from people’s need to give into the church’s need to receive. Gratitude gets trumped by obligation. And our giving becomes an exercise of what we think we can afford, rather than opportunity to discover deeper gratitude and generosity.

I hope and pray – for myself and all of us – that we will take time this fall to claim the gifts given us by God and consider how best to use these gifts to do God’s work in the world. How we exercise our Stewardship and how we let ourselves be drawn into the gift of gratitude determines how we participate in our community of faith. This is primary work, the main work of the church, and takes time and prayer. Let’s bring Stewardship into the center of our lives and minds, so it can be the main work of our faith-driven, gratitude-filled lives.

Laura Cooley

From St. Paul’s Stewardship Committee

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

THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dee Laffin, Martin Minogue, and the “Working Together to Worship Together Task Force” for making it happen.

- Cathie Pliszak for decorating the outside of the church
- The Food Pantry Volunteers
- Ronny Pliszak for coordinating the storage of frozen turkeys and writing all those “thank you letters” for Food Pantry donations
- Those who are coming to in person worship.
- Those who are attending Zoom worship.
- Those who continue to prayer wherever they may be.
- Martin Minogue for preparing the pledge cards.

All those who have returned pledge cards. Michael Daly for continuing to provide us with music.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



Bill Beebe, Diane Butler, Gail Davis, Scott Harris, 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 our campaign and who continue to do so. We have only 5 months to go.

Please include in your prayers this month:

Craig, Dylan & Family, Ed, Linda, Mike, Marcy, Janis, Niki, 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, Jack, Shirley, Michael, Gail, Joanne, Wilma, John and Christine

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. BCP pg 817



Thrift Shop Doings

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

Food Pantry



The St. Paul's Food Pantry is our most active ministry and it needs your support. We hope to provide at least 90 families with the complete fixings for a Thanksgiving Dinner. We have already

been given the turkeys, so all we need to provide are the fixings. Food can be dropped off at St. Paul's on Wednesday evening, November 18th between the Hours of 5pm and 7pm. The distribution will take place on Tuesday, November 24th.

The following items are needed:

- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Potatoes
- Sweet potatoes
- Rolls
- Veggies
- Pies (apple only)

Christmas Giving – it' early I, know!

Last year thanks to your generosity we collected \$793 more than we actually spent for our Adopted Family. That money was set aside for this year and at the beginning of the year the vestry decided that we should direct this year's Christmas Giving to residents in nursing homes. No one wants to be in a nursing home and because of COVID the isolation they experience has increased even more than in normal circumstances. Moreover, those on Medicaid receive only a small allowance to purchase necessities because any additional funds (which is not usually much) go to offset the cost of their care.

I know that giving practical gifts (socks, underwear, etc.) is not as much fun as shopping for toys but I think we can really make a difference for those who are often forgotten by society.

I am looking for someone to coordinate this effort by reaching out to a nursing home or homes to find out what would be needed and then to coordinate the shopping.

Please contact me if you are interested

Mo Liz

