

THE EPISTLE OF

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9200 WEST 10TH AVENUE
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October/November 2020

The Mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to live out the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ. We will, with God's help:
Discover God's presence in Word and Sacrament,
Share God's word, Nurture God's people,
Encourage congregational and personal growth on our shared journey, and
Act justly and peaceably.



We've been doing this pandemic thing for nearly nine months now and nobody I know has adapted seamlessly or at all, and if there are those who have transitioned beautifully without some serious discomfort, then, God bless you. I was thinking about this the other day: Why is it that I can't seem to get my head around my community? It was only after one of our in-person communion services that it came to me. What I realized is that I have always relied quite heavily on the short exchanges with all of you as you left worship. It doesn't take much by way of exchange to get a sense of how someone is doing.

Call it pastoral Spidey Sense or some unspoken, spiritual communication, but I get way more information from even the simplest and briefest in person exchanges than I thought. I know this because, before the pandemic, if I wondered how so-and-so was doing, my exchange with them told me something like, "Oh, they seem fine," or a curious "Something is going on," or "That person obviously needs some pastoral care." You could say that nowadays we are all flying blind most of the time. Of course, as I said, I can assume that everybody is having at least some difficulty right now, and, realistically speaking, most people continue to struggle.

So, here's an honest and obvious confession: I miss those personal exchanges. I miss the information I got from them. I miss seeing how folks are doing each week. In short, I miss church as we once knew it.

All that said, I am hopeful and optimistic that we will be back in our building to worship in the future. I don't believe the church doomsayers who predict that the church is done. They have been saying that for millennia. I actually believe that we will be stronger when



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we live through this brief – very brief – time of distancing and will come out of it with better skills for ministry and a renewed commitment to the mission work of the church and our place in it. Until then, we have to rely on the faith we have soaked up in all those years of worship, service, care, and fellowship. Surely all that faith experience has a shelf-life that extends beyond those canned tomatoes in your cabinet.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder. Well, yes. Well, maybe. Well, it can also make the heart sad. But sadness and suffering have always been addressed by the Gospel, most especially in the fourteenth chapter of John. It's a scripture you have no doubt heard at a funeral. Jesus says, "Do not let your heart be troubled." We associate that verse with comforting words for those who have lost a loved one. We have internalized them as words associated with death and loss. Jesus is talking to his saddened apostles whom he has just told that he will die and leave this world.

But there is more. Jesus tells them that they know where he is going, to which Thomas responds, "No, actually, we don't." Then Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the light." (That's another piece of scripture you probably know very well and I hope you will take to heart.) Then a little further into Jesus' address to his sad disciples, he leaves them with something they had forgotten. I commend to your reading the fourteenth chapter of John's gospel, but allow me to paraphrase. As Jesus is preparing to move on from here, he gives some last instructions. "Believe in me and keep my commandments." "I will not leave your orphaned." And, "My Peace I leave with you."

Jesus never let sadness get in the way of hope. He didn't leave his disciples unprepared, without instructions, or without help. (Go read it!) He was careful with those who would continue the work of witnessing to God's love. He cautioned them against their determined nostalgia. He pointed them forward, beyond the present moment. He told them not to be frightened. He said that no matter how dark the world seems, it has no power over Him. He said, I'm not so much as leaving you, "I am coming to you."

I know you are having a hard time. You are yearning for church and the comfort of our community, however imperfect it is. You have worries that our church – or The Church – will not survive. And, Jesus knows your troubles and your fears. He is fully aware of how absence can make the heart grow sadder. Jesus knows all of that. And, yet, his words are as real to us as they were to his disciples, in so many words, You are disciples and disciples are always moving forward. The journey is not over. It is just beginning.

"Rise, let us be on way."

In peace and with faith,
allan+



WARDEN'S CORNER



News from your Vestry:

A couple of updates:

We have successfully served communion in Sunday morning outdoor worship service for the last three weeks. It has been wonderful to be in fellowship with those in attendance. Watch the weekly news as we plan to change the time of that outdoor service very soon. It's a little chilly at 8AM these days.

St Paul's food distribution outreach is in full swing. St Paul's distributes a week's supply of food on Wednesdays. The 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning, the Food Bank of the Rockies provides food for more than 100 families in our parking lot. The 2nd and 4th Wednesday late afternoon, St Paul's provides food for nearly 40 families. It's a wonderful ministry of the church and so rewarding for all involved. The Food Bank of the Rockies believes that more than 30% of households receiving food have never participated in a food distribution before. That speaks to the amount of food insecurity in our communities.

And from your Senior Warden:

I love the changing seasons. I especially love the fall. The falling leaves, the colors, the smell in the air. It is my favorite time of year.

And as we prepare for those short winter days and the Advent season, we all wonder what it will be like this year. Nothing could have prepared us for life in this pandemic. I still wonder what the rest of 2020 will be like – and I am sure you are also wondering. I sure wish I had answers or even, that there are answers. For many, this is a time of hopelessness. When I start to feel that way, I turn to my favorite book:

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way, and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Wishing you hope,
Jane Barnes
Senior Warden



FOR THE HARVEST

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield you hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering of its fruits, and for all other blessings of your merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we pray, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy and obedient walking before you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen

–Borrowed from Forward Day By Day



Adult Faith Exploration

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” — John 14:26-27

Faith exploration is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. The past few months have certainly provided opportunities for us to learn new ways to express our faith and deepen in our journey with God.

My journey has been up and down. Yours, too, I’d imagine. While I guard against overconsumption of the news, I feel obliged to remain awake and attentive to what others are experiencing outside my bubble. And I’ve also been learning techniques for calming my body and improving my practice of self-care (some might call it soul-care). My prayer life has certainly expanded.

I’ve taken advantage of many opportunities to study with spiritual teachers from around the world ... New Zealand, France, and the furthest reaches of the United States. I’ve been to online scripture circles, an 8-week prayer school, a weeklong retreat on Meister Eckhart, and am now following a 4-week series titled “The Gospel of Politics.” An advantage of Zoom technology.

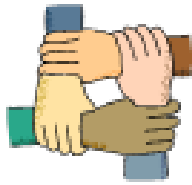
Still, my heart has been stricken by the stories in our church community of the difficulties some have faced and the struggles that continue. Depression, serious illness, grief, loss. Worse, I have not been able to sit across the table from you, touch your arm in sympathy, offer a hug, pray with you.

While it is challenging to create God’s “beloved community” via Zoom, we are beginning some online classes in the coming weeks and months. First will be a discussion group facilitated by Rev. Allan Cole on Thursdays, alternating with the Thurman Conversation Series. We plan to begin in October; look for an announcement. I will also begin a series on forms of prayer, including a close-up study of the Lord’s Prayer. This is tentatively planned as a weekly series on Sunday evenings. I’m hoping to begin an Advent series on November 29th.

May we always journey together with God ~

Saoirse Charis-Graves, Coordinator
saoirse03@mac.com





Loving Our Neighbors

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' there is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31

"Loving Our Neighbors" is the central theme for St. Paul's pledge drive this year. The Stewardship Ministry would like to share a few thoughts about what that means to our congregation as we connect the theme to the St. Paul's mission and how the ministries align with that theme.

The following are excerpts from *What Does it Mean to Love Your Neighbor as Yourself* as published in [crosswalk.com](https://www.crosswalk.com/) by Danielle Bernock. <https://www.crosswalk.com/> We encourage you to go to the website to experience the full measure of the ways we can love our neighbors as ourselves.

Loving your neighbor as yourself is found eight times in the Bible. Not once. Not twice. Eight times. Loving your neighbor as yourself is so important to God that He not only repeats Himself, He makes it a command. Jesus coupled the command to love your neighbor as yourself with loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. But loving your neighbor as yourself isn't always easy. We have to do it on purpose, be intentional about it. This is the essence of our church ministries.

There are so many ways to find meaning in the command to love our neighbor as ourselves. While you will find a much

more extensive list of ways to love your neighbor as yourself in the article referenced above, here are a few that are directly reflected in our ministries.

1. Loving your neighbor means acting with compassion.

When Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" He responded with a story: the Good Samaritan. Even those who have no love for God see the value of the story. What is the bottom line of this story? Who did Jesus say was being a neighbor? The one who had compassion. Loving your neighbor as yourself is being moved to help to the full extent of your ability. Our outreach ministry and our food ministry are compassionate acts to help those in need.

2. Loving your neighbor means looking out for their well-being.

To look out for them is to pay attention. You notice if they need something and then you help. We at St. Paul's are connected to local schools and the community; seeking to understand their needs and how to contribute to their well-being.

continued on the following page





Loving Our Neighbors cont.

3. Loving your neighbor means serving them.

Serving from the heart is kindness in action. Kindness is one of the attributes of love listed in [1 Corinthians 13](#). The funny thing about kindness, though, is you can do acts of kindness without kindness residing in your heart. If the kind thing is done out of duty then it isn't love. For you to love your neighbor as yourself, you'll have a heart to serve them. Living out the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ is our mission and we realize that mission in serving our neighbors in the community.

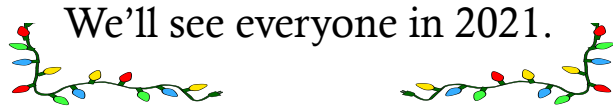
4. Loving your neighbor means sharing in their joys and sorrows.

Celebrating can be difficult for us at times, especially if our neighbor is getting something we have longed for. For example, a new job, a raise, or a pregnancy. Celebrating with them in spite of our own pain is a strong show of love. Likewise, mourning with our neighbor can be hard if we don't know what to say, or have recently lost something or someone ourselves. Loving your neighbor as yourself is showing up and being there with your heart open, allowing them to be what they are and support them. Our outreach ministry and pastoral care are examples of this expression of loving our neighbors.



St. Paul's Holiday Bazaar

The 2020 Holiday Bazaar has been cancelled.



We'll see everyone in 2021.

WEEKLY SERVICE
SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

10:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer
11:30 a.m. Out-door Communion

MONDAYS

8:30 p.m. Online Compline

TUESDAYS

10:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAYS

8:30 p.m. Online Compline

THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m. Online Morning Prayer

FRIDAYS

8:30 p.m. Online Compline

SATURDAYS

6:00 p.m. Online Nishma



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Statement of Income and Expense by Minor Group
September of Fiscal Year 2020**

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-01-Pledge & Plate Offering	22,276.33	24,276.50	243,828.97	230,224.54
00-02-Miscellaneous Receipts	5,071.13	740.00	24,367.65	20,154.72
00-04-Dedicated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	27,347.46	24,016.50	268,196.62	250,379.26
Expense				
00-01-Administrative Expenses	1,764.29	1,707.13	18,222.09	14,659.84
00-02-Clergy Expenses	11,834.39	11,045.94	100,789.67	99,413.46
00-03-Personnel&Contract Labor	7,256.08	5,748.30	64,722.72	54,235.31
00-04-Plant Expenses	2,637.27	1,405.27	36,727.20	31,661.22
00-05-Programs Expenses	2,380.27	2,045.14	23,344.47	19,239.76
00-06-Columbarium Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
00-07-Diocesan Pledge	2,156.67	1,955.00	19,410.03	18,261.90
00-08-Front Range Region Pledge	539.17	473.00	4,852.53	4,548.40
Total Expense	28,568.14	24,379.78	268,068.71	242,019.89
Income Less Expense	-\$1,220.68	\$ 636.72	\$ 127.91	\$ 8,359.37

Month: Income \$25,016; Expense \$24,379; Net income +\$636.

2020:Net income \$8,359.

Bottom line is that income and expense nearly balanced this month, and we are ahead about \$8,000 for the year. In general, monthly income is down, but monthly expenses are also down. We are about \$8,000 better than our budget YTD. We also have a PPP loan for \$25,800 that should be forgiven. So far, so good. We miss you all. Thanks for keeping up your giving and pledges.

David Parkhurst and Pam Horiszny
Treasurers



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October/November 2020

See inside for current Weekly Online Services

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
	9:15 a.m. Adult and Youth Christian Education
	10:30 a.m. Holy Communion & Elementary Education
THURSDAYS	11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
SATURDAYS	6:00 p.m. Nishma/Holy Communion

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Allan Cole, Rector
The Rev. Alwen Bledsoe, Assistant Priest
The Rev. Robert A. Buck, Rector Emeritus
Kati Oltyan, Director of Office Ministries
Susan Hillring, Verger
David Parkhurst, Treasurer
Pam Horiszny, Treasurer
David Ebner, Esq., Chancellor
Joe Montano, Sexton

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