

# THE EPISTLE OF

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
9200 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
LAKEWOOD, CO 80215-4701  
(303) 233-4991



**AUGUST\_SEPTEMBER 2023**



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.

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## Envisioning the St. Paul's of the Future

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The Vestry of St. Paul's is privileged to work on behalf of all the members of St. Paul's. Over the last 18 months we have been working diligently to help the parish emerge from the pandemic as a healthy community. In 2022 we invested time and energy in talking and listening with a large number of parish members to hear about your cares and concerns. With your help, we affirmed that our most important need is to feel a connection with one another. Many of us have worked to create connections through more fellowship events, return of community meals, food donations and distributions, Lay Listeners at all services, and articles and announcements to share what the Vestry has been doing.

At our annual Vestry retreat this spring, the Vestry started a comprehensive conversation about finances. The past two budgets have passed with planned deficits, meaning our congregational expenses outpaced our projected income. St. Paul's is fortunate to have reserves that can temporarily support these deficit budgets. While emerging from a global pandemic, it was prudent to pass these deficit budgets to continue the work and ministry of St. Paul's. Deficit budgets are not a long-term solution.

The Vestry is digging deep into understanding our current financial situation, looking at past years to understand trends, and looking forward to understanding our financial outlook. To guide our congregation into the future, the Vestry intends to embark on a strategic planning process that will set our course for the next 5-10 years.

Any strategic plan is only as good as the input we get from our community. Your voice will help shape the vision and path for St. Paul's. We NEED you! As we embark on this process, we are seeking to understand your hopes, desires, and dreams for St. Paul's. Our questions for the month of August are

**What hopes do you have for St. Paul's?  
In 2028, when St. Paul's turns 80, what will that birthday celebration look like?  
What do you want to see St. Paul's be (feel like) when it turns 80 in 2028?**

*continued on the following page*

We know there are challenging decisions ahead. As you are reflecting on these questions, consider all the facets of our congregation. This includes our services and how we worship, how we gather as a community, how we serve both our congregational and greater community needs, how we steward all our resources, including our building and grounds.

These questions are foundational to laying the vision that will guide us for the next 5 to 10 years. The mission of St. Paul's is "To live out the love of God as seen through Jesus Christ". This vision will not replace that mission, but shines a light on the path to bring that mission to life in our world. Consider these questions so you will be prepared to share with us your hopes, desires and, dreams for St. Paul's.

Please join us as we plan for St. Paul's future to guide our decisions over the coming years.

Ross Fraser, Senior Warden  
Members of the Vestry

## Saturday Café



Did you ever wonder who sits in your pew at the other services or come to a combined service and find someone sitting in your seat? If you answer yes, then the Women of St. Paul's want you to join us at the grand opening of SATURDAY CAFÉ on the 3rd Sat., Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. You are invited to come anytime between 11:30 and 12:30 when we will be serving.

- ◆ Do I have to come for the full hour? No that is up to you. Come whenever you want and share a meal with parishioner from all services.
- ◆ Can I still come if I didn't sign up? Yes, absolutely. We have a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall. Reservations are requested so we have an idea who and how many are coming.
- ◆ What if I sign up and can't make it? No problem, we don't expect you to let us know.
- ◆ Do I need to bring some thing? No just yourself, food will be provided.
- ◆ If you have more questions please talk to Miriam Cake.

SATURDAY CAFÉ will occur on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Saturday through December with the exception of November when it will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>).

### MENU CARD

#### Save the following dates for Saturday Café

- August 19th – **Grand Opening**  
Grilled chicken (vegan option), bean salad, roll and dessert.
- September 16<sup>th</sup> - Garden to Table Bring some of your produce or a favorite dish from your harvest
- October 21st – Octoberfest Brats and other delicious side dishes
- November 11- Veteran's Day To be determined (TBD)
- December 16 – menu (TBD) with a mini cookie exchange

Watch for additional information  
in Sunday Announcements!



## Scripture Circle at St. Paul's — by Saoirse Charis-Graves

Recently, St. Paul's hosted a Scripture Circle for 15 participants. This form of study almost defies description, so most folks showed up with only a hint of what to expect. As we concluded, smiling faces, bright eyes and enthusiastic exclamations indicated enjoyment, excitement, and learning beyond what might have been imagined.

Our time together began by listening attentively to a word or a phrase shared by each person in the room, relating what we've been thinking about or wondering. Based on what was shared, several Scripture passages that might fit those questions or themes were suggested, and the group voted on where to begin with study. We landed on Genesis 50, which offers a story about Joseph and his brothers, the nature of family, and forgiveness.

Once we dug in, our facilitator — Rabbi Noah Ullman, a rabbi who travels both nationally and internationally teaching Scripture Circles — guided us through language roots and threads that run from Genesis 50 to other texts. Rabbi Noah warned us he would ask a lot of questions, questions that invite us to wrestle with our human experience and our relationship with God. The room was filled with exclamations, ahas!, and more questions. Every person participated, offering thoughts, stories, experiences. We even witnessed a spontaneous role-play between a couple of participants! There was gravitas but there was also laughter.

This is NOT your typical "Bible study!" This is an ancient and beautiful way of attending to the story of God in the Scriptures that is dynamic and responsive to whatever community brings forth in the moment. Personally, my life and faith have been revolutionized by this form of study, so much so that I am studying to become a facilitator myself.

Scripture Circles can be as short as 30 minutes for kids to as long as a three-day retreat weekend. Generally, weekly Scripture Circles last 90 minutes, whereas monthly Circles are 3 hours in length. Some are held in many different places, including outdoors. Some Circles are held online, with participants from across many locations. Cost varies according to the experience of the teacher, and is usually offered on a sliding scale of paying what you can or are able to pay.

As I understand it, Scripture Circle is best summarized as "*journeying together in sacred community, guided by the Holy Spirit, grounded in God*". I hope to bring Rabbi Noah back to St. Paul's in the future. Perhaps I'll see you there!



Deep gratitude to all the folks who participated in Adult Faith Exploration this year. We've shared questions, prayers, curiosities, book titles, websites, inspiration, joys, and occasional challenges. We've welcomed some new folks and enjoyed the stimulation of guest speakers and facilitators. We've explored the boundaries of what we think we know as well as some new practices for engaging with our faith. All while creating a sense of community in the name of deepening our relationship with God.

We'll miss one another this summer, and we'll return in September with new vigor for continued study and exploration. **Thank you** to everyone!

*thank you*

# Women of St. Paul's

*The mission of the Women of St. Paul's, through our faith in God,  
is to promote spirituality, strength, support and service to our church and community.*

When women gather, we gather as daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, and friends. We share our spirituality, our ideas, our experiences, our laughter and ourselves. A new group has formed at St. Paul's to engage and bring women together.

On March 11, 2023, approximately 40 women of St. Paul's met to determine the future of a women's group at St. Paul's. With the help of facilitator, the Rev. Lou Blanchard the *Women of St. Paul's* came into existence. It was gratifying and inspiring to see the ideas and commitment these women exhibited. The crux of the meeting, besides a new group, was a new operating system. The new *Women of St. Paul's* consists of two groups: the Coordinating Committee and the *Women of St. Paul's* (WSP) Ministry Leaders.

The Coordinating Committee consists of Carol Davenport, Kathy Breit, Kay Filak, Barbara McLenon, Susan Hillring, Karen Van Gundy and Tara Tippitt (Vestry Liaison). The purpose of the Coordinating Committee is to oversee finances, coordinate with the organization and other church ministries, provide publicity for events and help the WSP Ministries as requested. The Coordinating Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.

The WSP Ministry leaders are as follows:

**Events** - Renee Parkhurst and BJ Burleigh

**Pastoral Care Support** - Kristin Sesko

**Community Service** - Miriam Cake

**Retreats** - Kim Zeiner (lead) with Cindy Rutledge, BJ Burleigh, Carol Davenport, Kay Filak, Tara Tippett, Sue Macaskill, Diane Granish, and Kristin Sesko

**Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale** - Alison Buckley (lead) with Judy Henderson and Margie Grimsley

**Abundant Gifts Bake Shoppe** - Billie Brown

In the months to come, I will highlight each WSP Ministry. So, stay tuned.



**Events for the remainder of the year are:**

Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> - **Grand Opening** of

Saturday Café

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> - first Abundant Gifts

Bake Shoppe

September 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Café

Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> - Corn Maze

October 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday Cafe

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> - CSU Spur Tour

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Café

Friday & Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Holiday Bazaar Bake Sale

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> - Advent Retreat

**Ongoing** - Bag Ladies Tuesdays - brown bag lunch  
the last Tuesday of the month

Abundant Gifts Bake Shoppe - the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of  
the month

In the coming days and months more information about these events will be placed in the church weekly email, the Epistle, the bulletin, posters and sign up in the church, table tents in the parish hall and through an email sent out by our very own Karen Van Gundy.

Still need information? Check the web site under the menu heading Connect or send an email to *Women of St. Paul's* at [wsp@StPaulsLakewood.org](mailto:wsp@StPaulsLakewood.org).

Please join us for one or more of the above events and consider joining one of the WSP Ministries.

Put your talent and passion to a good use.

We are great as individuals, but we are magnificent when we come together!



## Growing In Faith Together...



### Time, Talent and Treasure

It frees our spirit of gratitude when we accept that all we have, everything we have learned, all the experience that has led to the collection of skills, knowledge and wisdom we have accumulated are gifts from God. The grace that arises from that gratitude results in generosity. As we consider living our faith through generosity and love to others, we are passing on bits of what God has gifted us. Your time, talent and treasure are God's gift to you...what you do with them is your gift back to God.

As we continue to reconnect with each other and the surrounding community, please find your gift(s) and commit to share them. In the sharing, we live faith together. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is on a wonderful path toward strengthening our commitment to a loving and caring St. Paul's community.

There are important discussions in progress to identify and detail a financial picture for the future. In the meantime, the expenses continue, and we sincerely thank you for your continued support of the ministries and your gifts that support all we do as a church community.

When we choose to share time, a particular talent or to share a bit of the treasure God has gifted to us, we are **Growing In Faith Together**.

In gratitude,  
The StewMinCrew  
(Kathy, Bill, Nancy, Ross, Allan, and Hank)

## An Invitation to Learn More about How Listening Can Strengthen a Caring, Connected Community



Those of us who have been deeply involved in learning about empathic/deep listening hold it as a foundation to developing the caring, connected community the St. Paul's congregation is longing for. We believe *The Listening Life* by Adam S. McHugh captures the concept in a way that is both intellectually and spiritually supportive of our church mission. Each of the Vestry members has read the book and participated in development of the basic skills and practices while connecting with members of our church community. We would like to extend an invitation to all in the congregation to enjoy the same spiritual lift and excitement. We have begun discussion about how to accomplish that.

**The following quote is guiding our thinking...**

"This is not a book outlining seven easy steps to becoming a better listener; this book is an invitation into a spiritual life marked by deep listening in all components of the Christian life. *The Listening Life* is a book not to be rushed through, but a book to be savored, prayed through, and discussed in community." (Englewood Review of Books, Andrew Camp, February 6, 2016)

We are interested in hearing from you about your interest in participating in a reading and discussion group and how that could be accomplished. If you are interested in hearing more about this invitation or have a suggestion about how to organize a reading and discussion group, please contact one of us (James Buck, Saoirse Charis-Graves, Fr Allan Cole, Ross Fraser, or Hank Head). We will be available to listen after services or you can call any of us any time.





**Outreach** continues to work on supporting organizations in Lakewood and the greater Denver area. The first half of the year, support was given to charities in Lakewood. For July and August, the loose plate is going to **Clothes To Kids**, a metro based organization that provided clothing the children in need throughout the ten metro counties. This includes families at risk, children in foster care, immigrants and refugees. The focus of providing outfits is for school age children, from 3 to 21. It helps young people trying to complete their GED. When a child visits, they are allowed to shop the store and each child leaves with twenty-one pieces of clothing, their own wardrobe. Clothing includes underwear, socks, shoes, tops, pants, and a coat.

Since the founding of Clothes to Kids fifteen years ago, more than one-hundred thousand wardrobes have been provided. In addition to the loose plate, Outreach is collecting socks and underwear. There are collection bins in the narthex. All sizes from children's XS to adults XL are welcomed. Thank you for your support of this organization.

## Mark the Date



Abundant Gift Bake Shoppe - AGBS (sponsored by the *Women of St. Paul's*) is returning to St. Paul's in the Fall. To the many individuals who are bakers get your ovens ready for some baking days ahead. As I am writing this the temperature in Denver is suppose to be 99° most of the week, yes a very hot week.

Time to start gathering the recipes, ingredients that are needed for your baking days to come, and be ready for the return of the **Abundant Gift Bake Shoppe - Sunday, September 10, in the Parish Hall between both services.**

For those of you how would like update your calendars the AGBS will be on the second Sunday of the month. *In Peace, Billie Brown*

*(Rest assured, donuts will still be available to consume with your coffee as you greet one another!)*

## Adult Faith Exploration

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord.  
Teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4)*

This offering has gone by a number of names at St. Paul's. Adult Sunday School. Adult Faith Formation. In recent years, we have been using the name: *Adult Faith Exploration*. Why? Because our **faith** unfolds and deepens as we **explore** scripture, listen to the weekly sermons, and reflect with one another on the meaning of what we are experiencing in our daily lives.

Faith exploration is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith. The challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world.

At St. Paul's, we study individually and together, dive into our weekly readings, and learn about the foundations of our traditions. Together, we question how we can do more to live out God's mission in our parish community and in our communities outside the church doors. We might read a book, engage with a devotional, view interviews/videos with authors and scholars, or dive into a theological reflection on challenging questions such as "Is the God I believe in the same God you believe in?"

In these challenging times, we are being asked to "double down" on what we believe and in our commitment to a just world, including our commitment to creating God's "beloved community." This is hard, and it is important that we do this work of discernment together.

We offer **weekly sessions on Sunday mornings** at 9:15 in the church library from **September-May**. All are welcome to attend!

Look for notices in the weekly news update, in the announcements that come with your bulletin or mentioned by the Vestry Lay Listener, or sign up for email notices of the topics we are studying.

Saoirse Charis-Graves, Coordinator  
adultfaith@stpaulslakewood.org



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
Statement of Income and Expense by Minor Group  
June of Fiscal Year 2023

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Income</b>				
00-01-Pledge & Plate Offering	18,033.50	18,718.53	128,588.50	133,933.12
00-02-Miscellaneous Receipts	929.33	186.00	6,857.78	10,773.91
00-04-Dedicated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>18,962.83</b>	<b>18,904.53</b>	<b>135,446.28</b>	<b>144,767.03</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
00-01-Administrative Expenses	1,588.30	2,393.94	9,864.19	11,844.90
00-02-Clergy Expenses	12,247.24	11,758.32	71,883.44	71,049.96
00-03-Personnel&Contract Labor	5,637.09	5,406.78	35,620.36	26,670.94
00-04-Plant Expenses	2,932.30	2,517.50	38,594.03	36,562.43
00-05-Programs Expenses	960.16	1,233.44	7,776.25	7,695.68
00-07-Diocesan Pledge	1,438.36	1,497.48	10,237.18	10,703.44
00-08-Front Range Region Pledge	<u>359.59</u>	<u>374.37</u>	<u>2,559.33</u>	<u>2,675.87</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>25,163.04</b>	<b>25,171.83</b>	<b>176,534.78</b>	<b>167,203.22</b>
Income Less Expense	-\$ 6,200.21	-\$ 6,267.30	-\$41,088.50	-\$22,436.19

Month: Income \$18,904; Expense \$25,171; Net income \$-6,267.  
2023: YTD net income \$-22,436.

We lost over \$6,000 in June. The only redeeming feature is that we were almost exactly on budget for the month in both income and expense. Similarly, we have lost over \$22,000 this year, but are over \$18,000 better than budget. Summer months are often low in income, so the next couple months could be difficult. Help us through the summer with automated donations even if you are out enjoying a vacation. Check out online giving at <https://www.stpaulslakewood.org>. We also have registered with Zelle®, where you can make regular donations through the email address treasurer@stpaulslakewood.org.

**David Parkhurst and Gretchen Colbert**  
Treasurers



### An Advent Retreat:

#### Making and Praying the Anglican Rosary

The *Women of St. Paul's* invite all women to a special Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 2 starting at 9:00 a.m. with a light continental breakfast. We will learn about the history of prayer beads and specifically the introduction of the Anglican Prayer Beads in the early 1980's. We will teach you how to make your own Anglican Rosary and discuss the various types of prayers you may use to pray on your rosary. Prior beading experience is not required. All materials will be provided for a nominal donation of \$10. Look for more information and sign-up to come.

Please join us for this inspiring opportunity to expand our prayer life.



### Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart [and especially the hearts of the people of this land], that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD  
9200 WEST 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
LAKEWOOD, CO 80215-4701



*THE EPISTLE*  
August/September 2023



WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<i>beginning Sept. 10</i>	9:30 a.m.	Adult and Elementary Christian Education
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
<i>beginning Sept. 10</i>	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:30 p.m.	Online Compline
Tuesday, Thursday	8:30 a.m.	Online Morning Prayer
SATURDAYS	6:00 p.m.	Nishma/Holy Communion

*ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF*

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The Rev. Robert A. Buck, Rector Emeritus  
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