

THE EPISTLE OF

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

late-August/September 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.



Hello, Everyone. I hope this finds you well and feeling faithful that God will see us through these trying and lonely times. Like you, I find living in the time of a pandemic emotionally and physically draining. There are people living on the margins of society whose lives haven't changed much, sadly, but for those of us who trusted faithfully that life would unfold for us as it always has, things have changed drastically. For me, it is a reminder of how precious community really is – and how fragile.

What I hear frequently, as you can imagine, six months into our changed world is that folks are longing for a return to the foundations of our church community. The physical proximity of our community members means something spiritually to us, even when we might not know who many of them are. There is a feeling of completeness in a community gathered. I have thought about it as I looked into an empty worship space while streaming our services. From where I sit on a typical Sunday morning or Saturday evening, I see faces and know nearly everyone's names. As a member of a worshipping community, you may not know everyone who is present, but you still depend on them to make our worship what it is. We have all known that, but now the spaces we filled in our worship are all empty and we feel the pain of loss. It really is like there has been a death of a pillar of our community and we are all devastated by the loss.

Yesterday, I officiated a funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery for a periphery member of our congregation – someone who didn't worship with us, but who has a connection to St. Paul's. It was a small outdoor gathering with masks and safe distancing required, but that is not the only way it was different. Nobody got to feel the support of a hand shake or the empathy of a consoling hug. Tears flowed and comfort was surely insufficient. I am sure it was the first funeral where I have not at least extended a hand to a grieving spouse.



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It almost felt like I was a robot turned on to say a few recorded lines. It was another reminder that when we see others, things just aren't the same. But there is a surprising comfort in seeing from distance. There were a couple of folks from our community who were there and I found a great deal of joy just in seeing them. I left there thinking, well at least I know those two are ok – and I felt more ok. The confirmation of their health and presence was a blessing. I would not have articulated it that way six months ago, before all of this began.

The worship crew for St. Paul's has been hard at work trying to keep the Spirit alive by continuing the worship of the church. Their commitment to sharing their gifts with you and in God's name for the sake of our community is a mark of their faithfulness. They all know that the services we are streaming are lacking in the element of presence that we have felt with one another. But they have never questioned the fact that they need to continue to share the gifts God has given them. In fact, they are more aware now of the importance of their work than they ever have been. Their intuition is exactly right – not being able to worship in person makes worship more important, not less. Worship over these last few months has been more work, not less. They have had to summon the Spirit to strengthen them to continue to give themselves not to a full worship space, but in order to fill cracks in our longing hearts. They continue to pour themselves into the hearts of the people whose bodies they cannot see.

Our worship team and I will be taking the next two weeks off. Many of us had planned vacations for earlier in the summer. Had things gone differently, I would be anticipating my return, in early September, to our community after my sabbatical. I realize that our timing is not great. We have just had our outdoor service run-through and are ready to open it up for an in-person gathering in the courtyard on Sunday mornings. We will continue to offer that service until the weather makes it too uncomfortable, then we will see what the next step is. Sadly, I will miss our first full outdoor worship while I am away. Please know that my being away for these two weeks does not mean that I am not committed to you, to our community, to our worship, or to our future lives together.

Those of us who have been blessed to be able to continue to share our gifts in our online worship are aware that we are pouring ourselves into a worship experience that for some is imperfect and insufficient. I know that not all of your needs are being met spiritually. I also know, that the only one who can fill the empty spaces in us is God. I know that for those of you are living in your twilight years, this situation is not what you bargained for. But as I have found out over these last few years, you are a strong and faithful lot who is rarely shaken by anything. My promise to you is that I will do my best to help us find ways to build church community in this new normal. I cannot promise that our efforts will fill all of our spiritual needs. But I can promise that even in the imperfections and insufficiencies of all efforts, God is there for us ready to pour into our hearts and bodies the Spirit of living that only He can provide.

Blessings and Peace to you all.

allan+





WARDEN'S CORNER

These are certainly interesting times – for the church and for all of us. As I think back to mid-March, I believed that this was a short-term event much like a naturally occurring weather event. We will all stay at home, get caught up on all our home chores, perhaps even tackle a few of things we have put off for years like cleaning out the basement or the garage. I was wrong. This was and is not a short-term event. Now, we are learning to live differently and to change our expectations of normalcy.

The Vestry met weekly through the month of June via ZOOM and now is meeting biweekly. As did you, we struggled with how to continue church in this environment. What is St Paul's? How do we continue our ministry to our congregation and to our community?

First, along with the Pastoral Care Committee, we made a concerted effort to phone our church members to check in. Father Allan quickly pivoted to stream worship services, offering both the Nishma Saturday evening service and our traditional Sunday morning service. This required trial and error and learning so much about technology. These services have continued to stream into our households every weekend since. While it is not the church we are used to and will never take the place of seeing our friends face to face, we are adapting. Some of us may always prefer “pajama church”. Many thanks to our musicians, Dirk Freeman, and Saoirse Charis-Graves for their work to make these services so professional.

Your Junior Warden, Matt Faber, has

been hard at work keeping our grounds looking great, working to shape up the parking lot, and working on the improvements needed to re-open the church when the time is right. Thanks to Matt and to Don Davenport who tirelessly donate their time to make sure our building is in good operating order and will be a safe place for us to return to someday.

And the Vestry has faced the reality that this is our normal – at least for now. It is time to accept that and plan accordingly. We released a survey to our congregation to learn what you wanted from St Paul's at this time. We were so encouraged. We collected 96 responses from our church members. From that survey, we learned that more than 75% of those who responded were interested in an outdoor worship service. The Vestry submitted a plan for safe, outdoor worshipping to the Bishop's office. Thanks to Hank Head and Tina Blackburn for developing that plan. The plan was approved, and we are holding a practice service at the writing of this article. If it goes well, we will hold regular Sunday morning services in the courtyard as weather permits.

In place of our community meals, we launched a food box distribution program on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings from 5:15 – 6:15 to provide boxes of non-perishable and fresh and frozen foods to those families in need. We partnered with the Food Bank of the Rockies to sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings of each month (9:00 – 11:00 am) in our parking lot. Thanks to Renee Parkhurst and Barbara Engemoen who each stepped up to lead one of these efforts.

continued on next page

Also, from the survey we learned that of those responding:

31% are interested in volunteering with our Wednesday food distribution events

23% are interested in small, in-person gatherings in member's yards

23% are interested in online Bible studies

19% would like regular phone calls

15% are interested in after service online coffee hour

13% in online prayer groups

11% in small in-person gatherings for prayer or bible study.

And many more individual comments with great ideas!

Using your responses, we are working to develop a strong sense of a virtual St Paul's community beginning after Labor Day. We are encouraged by all of you - by your faith, your strength, your commitment to your church, your community, and to one another.

We are social beings. We long for that human contact. We are all struggling in this world where we cannot touch, cannot recognize facial expressions through masks, and spend a lot of time in isolation. We are being given the gift of time. Time to read, to study, to think. I am encouraged by a study I read long ago. A study of great minds in history shows that isolation, time alone with your thoughts, leads to creative and inventive ideas. Much of that isolation was imposed by outside forces, just as we are experiencing today. Take the time to think, to reason, to examine ideas critically.



Take advantage of time to examine and strengthen your faith, study about faith, and pray for yourself, your church, your community, and your family and friends. Explore the power of prayer.

The Vestry of St Paul's Episcopal Church is meeting regularly to continue the work of congregational renewal and to be sure that we are reaching every member of our parish to provide support, information, and a human touch. Please, if you know someone in need or who just would like a friendly phone call, let us know. We feel strongly that the strength of St Paul's lies in our congregation and in the community we serve.

We are strong. We will weather this.

Jane Barnes, Senior Warden
janemcbarnes@gmail.com



EVERYDAY ANGELS

Angels come in many sizes, — large and small, and in disguises.
Some we think we recognize while others are unknown,

But they are with us nonetheless and we are not alone.

Their tasks are varied, to be sure,
a word, a smile, a thought.

These simple things enrich our lives
because they mean so much.

So be yourself but be aware
in all you say and do -

There's some one who unbeknownst to
you thinks you're an angel too.

by *Millie Murphy*



NEEDLECRAFT FOR THE NEEDY



The seamstresses in our group have been busy making masks. We have made over **250** masks for the people of St. Paul's. We are now making masks for the children and teachers at Eiber Elementary. If you are interested in helping please contact Renee at drparkhurst@gmail.com. We do have elastic, patterns and fabric available. Our knitters are still busy as well knitting prayer shawls and extenders for masks.

We have been meeting via Zoom every third Sunday which hasn't worked particularly well. Our participation has been extremely low. If you have any suggestions on other ways to meet virtually please let Renee know.

Stewardship – A Transformation Opportunity

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow Jesus “into a loving, liberating, and life-giving relationship with God, with each other, and with the earth,” as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry describes it. Part of that journey with Jesus and with God is learning to be stewards of our re-

sources in ways that are worthy of those life-giving relationships.

Fr Allan has acted on the need to re-establish stewardship as an actively focused ministry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and has called on a group of lay leaders in our parish to be the Stewardship Ministry. The following parishioners have accepted the calling to serve this important ministry: Bill Bennett, Rebecca Gee, Hank Head and Rod McLenon. The group has been assisted in its formation by Ann Fleming's facilitation and counsel.

In addition to their faith and spirituality, each of these individuals brings a valuable set of skills, knowledge and experience that has already contributed to a great start on a revitalized Stewardship Formation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

The mission of the Stewardship Ministry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is to discern, develop and implement a Stewardship Formation that spiritually moves the congregation to understand, support and celebrate the use of our parish resources to accomplish our church mission. The mission has the full support of the Fr Allan and the unanimous support of the Vestry.

Many of us have a somewhat abbreviated understanding of what Stewardship is and what it means. While it is true that financial resources are a major contributor to our ability to achieve our church mission, the Stewardship Ministry has adopted a much broader view of stewardship.

We believe stewardship is not primarily about funding the budget of our church. Rather the work is about helping people to have an open relationship with Christ

and discovering what really matters to them. We are intent on revealing the stewardship opportunity for people to engage in this work of creating, loving, giving and thus growing into the image of God.

Our ministries go about changing the world around us each and every day. One of our goals is to communicate to our church community about those ministries so parishioners can understand, support and celebrate all that is done to minister to our community. What we do with our resources speaks much more loudly than a mission statement or annual goals. We acknowledge that the congregation is interested to know about the ministries.

In the coming weeks you will continue to hear about the activities and progress of Stewardship Formation at St. Paul's. There are several of the St. Paul's ministries that are continuing to serve the needs of our extended church community thanks to the commitment and creativity of the ministry leaders and volunteers. We will be making information available to the congregation about our ministries so you can see the church is continuing to accomplish its mission. Even though we are not able to gather as we had previous to the pandemic, St. Paul's is alive and well and serving our community!

We are eager to hear from anyone who has experience and knowledge to share that will help us to discern what God intends for us to do to best steward the bounty we all enjoy here on earth. If you have a question or suggestion, feel free to contact any one of the Stewardship Ministry. Each of us is listed in the church directory and can be reached by phone or email.

We look forward to the months ahead as our spirituality is challenged by things we cannot control. We are a vibrant and caring church so our future is blessed by the grace of God even while a bit chaotic as we cope with the pandemic crisis.

All of you are in our prayers as you navigate these uncertain times. Trust in God and we'll get through this together...forever transformed and stronger in our faith.

Faithfully,
Stewardship Ministry



YOUR EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WOMEN
UPDATE

Since our in-person meeting in early March your ECW Board has been meeting every month using ZOOM. Much of our discussion has been on how to best use available funds. We have decided to make the balance of the funds raised for the kitchen project (\$2,907.96) available to St. Paul's for unexpected expenses in opening up the Church for worship. You may have noticed a request for comment in the Weekly Email Blast. A few people responded with positive comments on the plan.

In June Fr. Allan attended our meeting to talk about the possibility of holding the Garage and Bake Sale in mid October and hosting a luncheon in December. It was a definite NO to the **Garage Sale** and we'll have to wait until closer to December for a decision on the Holiday Lunch.

Part of our yearly budget includes donations to various charities and in July we decided to donate \$1,200 to the 32nd Ave. Jubilee Center.

As you may remember, *UTO* is a program operated by the Episcopal Church Women. We hope to have an in-gathering of boxes and envelopes in November, so please keep saving those coins and dollars.



Peace be with you,
Kathy Breit, ECW President



Do you know someone that is homebound and needs food? St Paul's has partnered with Benefits in Action, a Lakewood non-profit, who delivers boxes of food directly to households in the metro Denver area. If you, or someone you know, is homebound and needs food, you may sign up at <https://BIAAction.org> or call 720-221-8354. It is quick and easy - few questions asked. If you are interested in volunteering to deliver food to households, please call 720-221-8354 or send an email to info@benefitsinaction.org.



FOR OUR COUNTRY

From The Book of Common Prayer

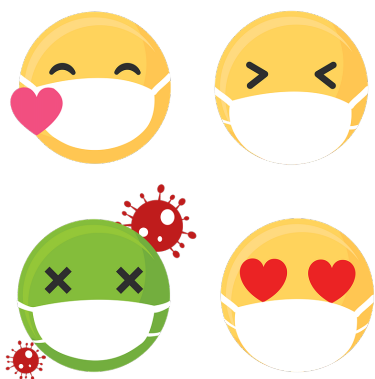
Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for this fall is still in the planning stage. It looks like it will be virtual Sunday School at least to start the school year. We will do something similar to what we did in the spring. There will always be a bible story that we read together and discuss, a craft and a few virtual games or puzzles. It will last approximately 30 min. We will start out with a one-room school format, so kids from pre-K to 4th or 5th grade. If we have enough kids to split into two groups (younger and older) we will do that. If anyone is interested in teaching or helping in some way, please contact Renee Parkhurst at

drparkhurst@gmail.com.



St. Paul's Covid-19 Response

Through out the COVID-19 crisis, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women and the Needle Craft women have provided cotton masks to all who ask for one. Recognizing there was a need, the hard working women of St. Paul's jumped in immediately to help meet the demand. Our Episcopal Church Women have been providing masks since the time when Amazon was stressed with orders and local markets were being pushed to capacity to provide masks for health care workers and individuals with underlying health conditions. Masks have been mailed to folks who follow us from out of state and we are currently working to provide extra masks for area schools.

All of the sewing has been coordinated by Renee Parkhurst. She has had the support of Alison Buckley, Sally Stevens, Kim Zeiner, Judy Henderson, Pam Blome, Debbie Robertson, Regina Elsner and The Rev. Judy Ziemann. Advertising and distribution has been handled by Karen Van Gundy. Our current count of distributed masks well exceeds 200.

The Board of The Episcopal Church Women offers sincere, heartfelt thanks to all who have worked tirelessly to provide the all important masks to our people. The only scientifically proven ways to slow this pandemic is to wash hands frequently, social distance and WEAR A MASK! The Episcopal Church Women and Needle Craft will continue to provide what help is needed.



Epistle deadlines

*October/November issue

Tues., Sept. 22

*December '20/January '21

Tues., Nov. 17

Pastoral Care Ministry

We all are finding life in the time of CoVid challenging for a host of reasons: social distancing, masks, washing our hands, and having an adequate supply of hand sanitizer and toilet paper to name a few. . One of the hardest thing we, the Pastoral Care Ministry experience is the absence of physical contact with St. Paul's congregation. We are looking into different ways to increase the connection throughout St. Paul's. While we look into the best way to increase connection please know we are still here for you. If

you or someone you love is in need of prayers or if you are feeling disconnected please let us know! You can send an email to

PastoralCare@StPaulsLakewood.org or call any member of the Ministry. The members are: Carol Davenport, Barbara McLennon, Carole Granger, Robert Young, Dirk Freeman, Saoirse Charis-Graves or Barbara Engemoen.

Blessings, Carol Davenport



WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m.	Out-door Healing Service
	10:00 a.m.	Online Morning Prayer
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 Holiday Bazaar

The 2020 Holiday Bazaar has been cancelled.

We'll see everyone in 2021.

Check out the Weekly News from St. Paul's

Each week, we put out an email newsletter, containing all the goings-on at our church! Look for links to our Facebook and YouTube channels for streaming services, info about Outdoor Worship, volunteer opportunities and much more!

Make sure you check the *Weekly News* every week to stay up-to-date with everything happening at St. Paul's!

If you do not receive the Weekly News Email, contact Kati in the office.

office@stpaulslakewood.org

(303) 233-4991

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

	Current Month		Year-to-date	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income				
00-01-Pledge & Plate Offering	22,276.33	18,775.00	199,276.31	186,398.04
00-02-Miscellaneous Receipts	5,877.17	629.64	18,239.93	19,084.72
00-04-Dedicated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	28,153.50	19,404.64	217,516.24	205,482.76
Expense				
00-01-Administrative Expenses	1,774.44	1,400.09	13,079.99	10,347.95
00-02-Clergy Expenses	11,076.63	11,045.94	77,878.65	77,321.58
00-03-Personnel&Contract Labor	7,256.08	7,148.30	50,210.56	41,734.21
00-04-Plant Expenses	2,624.95	774.52	26,636.32	23,596.17
00-05-Programs Expenses	2,830.27	2,499.00	18,583.93	15,375.59
00-06-Columbarium Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
00-07-Diocesan Pledge	2,156.67	1,906.05	15,096.69	14,429.40
00-08-Front Range Region Pledge	539.17	474.47	3,774.19	3,606.32
Total Expense	28,258.21	25,248.37	205,260.33	186,411.22
Income Less Expense	-\$104.71	-\$5,843.73	\$12,255.91	\$19,071.54

Month: Income \$19,404; Expense \$25,248; Net income -\$5,843.

2020: Net income \$19,071, due largely to annual pledges in Jan and Feb.

Bottom line is that expenses were about \$6,000 more than income this month. In general monthly income is down, but monthly expenses are also down. Overall we are about \$7,000 better than budget YTD. We also have a PPP loan for \$25,800, that should be forgiven.

Thanks to all who have kept up their giving through these tough times!

David Parkhurst and Pam Horiszny
Treasurers



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LAKEWOOD
9200 WEST 10TH AVENUE
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THE EPISTLE
late-August/September 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. 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

Vestry:
Jane Barnes, Sr. Warden
Matt Faber, Jr. Warden
Saoirse Charis-Graves, Tina Blackburn,
Barbara Engemoen, Hank Head,
Susan Geiger, Susan Hillring, Rod McLenon,
Renee Parkhurst, Dick Roark
Clerk of the Vestry: Pamela Blome

Epistle E-Mail: epistle@stpaulslakewood.org
Editors: Judy Henderson, Kathy Breit

Church Office: 303-233-4991 Fax: 303-233-
268E-Mail: office@stpaulslakewood.org
Web: www.stpaulslakewood.org



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