

THE EPISTLE OF

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



June/July 2021



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.



It was pretty incredible to see folks in church in the flesh on Pentecost. I know Pentecost is supposed to be all about the Spirit, but bodily presence - your bodily presence - in our worship space is a powerful force for witness to what that Spirit is actually doing in our lives.

We spend a lot of time in witness whether we know it or not. Where we spend our time and how we spend it has always been an indication of our spiritual priorities. We've all known that. But the last year has exposed a real spiritual dilemma. That is, what do we do when our deepest spiritual practices and connections are blocked? How do we respond then? What will we do in place of going to church or volunteering at a community meal, or whatever other thing our hearts feel called to? The answers, as we've seen, do not come so readily as we would like.

There is always a reason to choose something different than what is most important to our deepest convictions. The pandemic was/is real and scary and we cannot just go along with a business as usual approach - even to our spirituality. It's nice to be getting back to worship in person, but we are still a spiritual people who have to make decisions about our time and our gifts. The decisions we make are tied to how we view ourselves as spiritual people. And the defining question may be, "Am I defined by notions and fears of scarcity, or is my approach to life informed by my understanding of myself as a recipient of God's abundance?"

In the early, frantic days of the pandemic and isolation, I was defined almost solely by fears of scarcity. No people in church. Facebook and YouTube felt like a poor substitute for communal worship. Preaching was stilted and uncomfortable. No communion. No singing. The mantra of "no this and no that" seemed to be defining my life.

We all have days when we fall into stories of scarcity. We become the main characters in a movie about unmet needs set in a barren landscape. Those days are not the days to get down on ourselves for not being grateful enough. They are the days to slow down and take notice of how assuming the role of



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victims of scarcity can undermine our own spiritual well-being. (Just for the record, there are times of real scarcity and sometimes unmet needs become dangerous to our health. But I'm not talking about that).

I am not sure that it is possible to go through life without ever feeling like a victim of scarcity, but I do know that spiritual practice is a way to keep from allowing stories and fears of scarcity to define who we are. A daily practice of prayer and a moment by moment practice of noticing blessings and beauty have always been the best ways to remain a student a God's abundance. This is an important commitment for us as a people. And staying in touch with abundance as a reality to build our lives on is key to our health as a community and the vibrance of our outreach efforts. If we do not think our individual attitudes about abundance and scarcity matter, then we need to reconsider how important each of is to the work and witness of our parish.

Scarcity is a dark story that does not allow space for hope or growth. The problem is that stories of scarcity are easier to tell because they seem to rise to the surface. Noticing and witnessing to abundance takes practice and a has to become an intentional part of our lives so that it does not get lost - so that WE do not get lost.

As we are rebuilding on our bodily presence in worship, now is the perfect time to begin to reclaim and to reshape our lives in terms of God's abundance and all the blessings God has given us. That reclaiming and reshaping might be the most important work of spiritual growth we take on for the foreseeable future. In fact, our future may depend on it. The future of St. Paul's and our mission and ministry are based on God's abundance. As long as we have breath in us, that needs to be the only story we tell.

In peace.
allan+



FOOD DISTRIBUTION DONATIONS NEEDED ON 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS

In place of the weekly donations for the Action Center we are accepting donations for our bi-weekly food distribution. On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays St. Paul's is a Food Bank of the Rockies Mobile Pantry. The FBR brings a semi-truck to our parking lot early in the morning and we unload it, organize the food and hand it out. To supplement this and for people who can't make it in the morning we also have food distribution on 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons. For this we get some food from FBR and some from Benefits and Action. We have been adding to these two sources with donations we get from the congregation. Please leave your donations in the cooler in front of the church from 3:00 until

4:30 on the days of food distribution.

Here are the donations needed for June and July:

June 9: desserts (must be packaged desserts, sorry, no home-made)

June 23: Breakfast bags (a complete breakfast including milk and juice)

July 14: Salad kit and rolls (preferable salad kits with dressing)

July 28: Kid favorites (hot dogs or hamburgers, buns, potato salad or coleslaw and chips)





SUNDAY SCHOOL –

Sunday School is off for the summer. Renee will be mailing out summer activity packets sometime in June. If your kids did not get the packet for Easter, then you are not our list. If your child(ren) would like to be included, please email both St. Paul’s office:

reception@stpaulslakewood.org and sundayschool@stpaulslakewood.org.

We will start up again this fall. Its starting to look like we can resume meeting in the church basement. More to follow.



From the Senior Warden...

The hope of Easter has arrived! I don’t know about you but the blue skies, green graze, blooming flowers all have a deeper and more reverent meaning for me this year. It has been a long 14 months and the joy of new life is almost overwhelming! If only I had a great voice, I would break out in song like Julie Andrews in the Sound of Music singing “The Hills are Alive”. Coming out of a year that felt heavy on all our hearts and souls, this spring is more special than ever. Did our God postpone our spring this year so it would coincide with the opening back up of our “normal” world? I have to wonder.....

It is an exciting time for St. Paul’s. We are back to in-person worship. Our Bishop, Kym, just released new guidelines for the Colorado Diocese. Our vocalists, if fully vaccinated, can sing without a mask if they have 10 feet between them and the congregation! Our sanctuary looks different with video and audio streaming equipment. That represents the flexibility and the hard work of our Rector, Allan, the musicians, and all of you as we continued to worship as a community from our own homes.

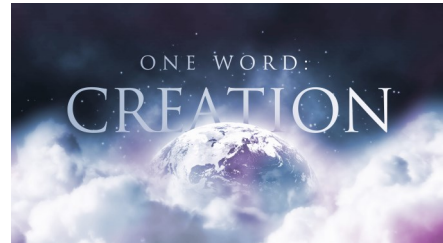
The Vestry is working through decisions on opening other areas of the church to those organizations who love and appreciate the use of our building. It is so

important for those 12 Step Groups to meet in person. I can only imagine how hard isolation has been on those recovering from substance and alcohol abuse. The strong support of one another is the key to success in those situations.

The Vestry has started work on updating our bylaws. Some of the language is outdated and St. Paul’s has changed a bit since the last revision. Thanks to David Ebner for chairing this committee. The proposed changes will be brought to the congregation for approval when the work is complete. It’s a very thoughtful and slow process so please be patient.

Youth Works returns this summer and will be filling our building with young people. Beginning in early June through the end of July, we will have 60 or so teens sleeping and eating in our building.

It is exciting to get back to work – and to be able to see our friends once again in person! We are coming alive again! Praise God!



STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us, we pray, ever thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account, we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.



BACK IN ACTION:

ECW to Resume Events

As I write this, it is May 18, and we are in the midst of several days of predicted spring rain showers. I am eager for the sun. I am eager to see how green the grass will be, how lovely the flowering trees will be, and how rejuvenating the warmer air will be. Lots to look forward to!

Included in that is the prospect of returning to in-person church services and the opportunity to reunite with those we haven't seen or hugged for over 15 months! I, like you, am so grateful to those who have helped us remain a vital parish throughout the pandemic. Thank you for keeping the church building in good condition (inside and out), thank you for the Saturday and Sunday communion online services, thank you for the week day Zoom services, thank you for making masks to be distributed, thank you for the community food distributions, thank you for the calls and cards to keep in touch. And so much more!

During this time, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women Board members have continued to meet each month via Zoom. We have been disappointed that our usual events could not be held, but we are now looking forward to planning for the near future when we can act on our commitment to bring the women of the church together in community. Stay tuned for event announcements.

We would like to thank outgoing Board President, Kathy Breit, for agreeing to serve an extra term during the pandemic and quarantine period. Kathy's faithfulness and resilience kept this group together and forward-thinking while we adhered to the many Covid restrictions. Thank you, Kathy!

Those serving on the Board for 2021-22 are

Carol Davenport and Barbara McLenon,
Co-Presidents

Kathy Breit, Recording Secretary

Jan Josselyn and Nancy Colligan, Co-Treasurers

Cindy Rutledge, Correspondence Officer

Renee Parkhurst, Garage Sale Chair & Publicity

Karen Van Gundy, Chaplin

Alison Buckley, Bake Sale Chair

BJ Burleigh, Event name tags

Also serving on the Board is Louise Freeman.

We always welcome others who would like to work with us to serve the parish and community. Please talk with any one of us to let us know how you would like to help.

With great hope and anticipation I sign off by saying, "SEE YOU SOON!"

Barbara McLenon

NEEDLECRAFT:



We are going to start meeting up in the parish hall beginning the third Sunday in June. We meet the third Sunday of the month from 12:30 to 3:30. It's advised that we don't have any potlucks just yet. So, on June 21 and July 19 feel free to bring your own lunch and we will meet up in the parish hall. We will provide drinks. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to be or would just like more information, please contact the office (reception@stpaulslakewood.org) and they will pass your name on.



Stewardship Ministry Update

Why Stewardship Ministry and who do we serve?

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 church's mission, in a sense, is to "care for the people entrusted to us by God." (1) We do that at St. Paul's by living out the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ. Moreover, we are affording those people entrusted to us by God a way for spiritual growth as they seek redemption through Jesus Christ and reconciliation with God and each other.

What is Stewardship?

Broadly speaking, stewardship is the "utilizing and managing the resources that God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."(2) Those resources include our time, our skills and talents as well as our financial resources that we contribute to do God's work and give back some portion of the gifts God has given us.

Your gifts at work!

This past year has been a significant challenge for all who are engaged in the various ministries at St. Paul's. We must thank the leaders of each of the ministries and the volunteers recognizing the initiative and creativity they demonstrated in continuing to serve people in need.

The Feeding Ministry adjusted to the pandemic restrictions on gathering for meals by partnering with the Food Bank of Colorado and Benefits In Action to distribute food to those in need. As a result, the ministry provided nutritious food for thousands of people in our community throughout the year. The Youth Faith Formation has continued to provide a Christian education opportunity by converting its gatherings to an online format and many young people have benefited during a stressful time for them and their families. The Pastoral Care Ministry has continued to provide comfort and care to those in need even though many times it depended on phone calls and meetings online in place of in-person contact. The Outreach Ministry has distributed funds to ministries and causes outside the church that were previously benefitting from our plate offerings. These are but a few examples of how your contributions have ensured St. Paul's continued to accomplish its mission. Thank you!

Financial overview

In terms of stewarding the financial resources of the church, it has been no less difficult over the last year. Our Pledge Drive last Fall yielded significantly less than previous years. The interim budget for the first half of the year was shared at the parish meeting early in the year. The income we would have gotten from organizations that use our church for meetings and training sessions did not occur. On the positive side, we were able to obtain a Payroll Protection Plan forgivable loan that helped offset some of the shortfall in gifts and other income. Unfortunately, we have not been able to fill vacancies in important parish roles due to scarce resources. The Vestry, with excellent guidance from the Finance Committee, has been quite diligent in monitoring the income and expenses of a reduced budget the first half of the year. With the lessening of COVID19-related restrictions we are looking forward to regaining some of the income from use of our building in the second half of the year.

continued on next page



Stewardship Ministry Activities

The Stewardship Ministry has been participating in Spring Stewardship Training Sunday afternoons over a six-week period from April 18th-May 23rd. The emphasis of that training has been fund-raising as a ministry and while we may feel a little reluctant to talk money, your gifts make it possible to continue the worship, the ministries and the facility use that is so important to all the people entrusted to our care. We cannot thank you enough for sharing God's gifts with others in need.

The Stewardship Ministry has defined its plan and goals for the year as part of the training mentioned above. We will continue to communicate in the Weekly Newsletter with scripture, inspirational thought and updates on our activities through the rest of the year. As always, we appreciate your input.

Questions and Suggestions

Please contact Hank Head at (317) 750-1041 or hwhead@gmail.com if you have questions or suggestions.

References

Cormode, Scott, *"The Innovative Church: How Leaders and Their Congregations Can Adapt in an Ever-Changing World"*, 2020, Baker Publishing Group.

Bugg, Charles, "Stewardship" in *Holman Bible Dictionary* (Holman: Tennessee, 1991)



The Stewardship Ministry Needs You!

If you are coming out of the last year with a desire to do something significant to help St. Paul's grow as a church and better serve the community through the stewarding of God's bounty in service to others, the Stewardship Ministry is that opportunity.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is poised to emerge from the last year of pandemic difficulties as a church that is stronger in its collective faith and re-energized in accomplishing its mission to care for the people entrusted to us by God. The ministries have found innovative ways to serve those people that few would have imagined previously.

The Stewardship Ministry has engaged in training over the last six weeks that will strengthen our ability to steward the bounty God has graced us with. We would like you to join us! There is a wonderful opportunity for you to participate in this ministry to steward our collective time, talent and treasure to grow St. Paul's capability to improve the human condition of those in our church community.

A member of the Stewardship Ministry is a person who is spiritually motivated and lives out stewardship in their life. We are comfortable talking about stewardship with others and can tie together the concepts of time, talent and treasure. We definitely need members who have skills in communication, project management or fund-raising.

If you are interested in more information about this calling to serve, please contact Hank Head at (317) 750-1041 or hwhead@gmail.com.



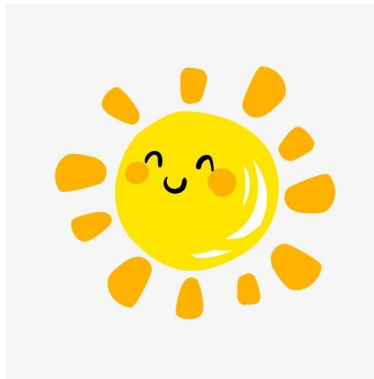
St Paul's Episcopal Church
Statement of Income and Expense by Minor Group
April of Fiscal Year 2021

	Current		Year-to-date	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income				
00-01-Pledge & Plate Offering	20,200.87	27,750.38	85,098.25	99,071.23
00-02-Miscellaneous Receipts	1,141.67	196.00	6,016.68	4,527.56
00-04-Dedicated Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	21,342.54	27,946.38	91,114.93	103,598.79
Expense				
00-01-Administrative Expenses	1,575.00	1,386.83	6,300.00	5,985.86
00-02-Clergy Expenses	11,127.41	11,102.94	44,509.64	44,411.76
00-03-Personnel & Contract Labor	3,550.83	3,736.59	17,851.32	15,321.58
00-04-Plant Expenses	2,000.00	1,411.30	14,000.00	14,516.94
00-05-Programs Expenses	2,754.18	2,731.85	10,516.72	9,021.44
00-06-Columbarium Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
00-07-Diocesan Pledge	1,570.00	2,220.03	6,280.00	7,925.70
00-08-Front Range Region Pledge	392.50	555.01	1,570.00	1,981.43
Total Expense	22,969.92	23,144.55	101,027.68	99,189.71
Income Less Expense	-\$ 1,627.38	\$ 4,801.83	-\$ 9,912.75	\$ 4,409.08

Month: Income \$27,946; Expense \$22,969; Net income \$4,801.

2021: Net income \$4,409.

We are ahead \$4,400 for the year, which is much, much better than we had expected at the beginning of the year. Thank you all for your pledges and donations. More good news, our PPP loan for \$25,800 has been completely forgiven. Looking forward to normal services and maybe even coffee hour. Donate online at <https://www.stpaulslakewood.org/giving-to-st-pauls>.



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THE EPISTLE
JUNE/JULY 2021



WEEKLY ONLINE SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Communion
MONDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Online Compline
TUESDAY	8:30 a.m.	Online Morning Prayer
WEDNESDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Online Compline
THURSDAYS	8:30 a.m.	Online Morning Prayer
FRIDAYS	8:30 p.m.	Online Compline
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
Susan Hillring, Verger
David Parkhurst, Treasurer
Pam Horiszny, Treasurer
David Ebner, Esq., Chancellor
Stevie Montano, Sexton

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Jane Barnes, Sr. Warden
Matt Faber, Jr. Warden
Judy Boyles, Saoirse Charis-Graves,
Ross Frazier, Hank Head, Bill Meulengracht,
Renee Parkhurst, Dick Roark
Clerk of the Vestry: Jenny Freeman

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