

THE EPISTLE OF



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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JUNE/JULY 2019

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.

As we head in to the summer months, I have been thinking a lot about sabbath time and how it figures into our lives as a time of rest and renewal, prayer and worship, play and re-creation. The human body and mind, let alone our hearts, don't fair too well long-term when we don't make time for all of those things. I say *make* time because nobody is going to offer us the chance to sit still, disengage from the spinning wheels of our culture, feed our souls, reestablish connections with the important ones in our lives, and get to know our selves and God once again. I know there are those who wear incessant busy-ness like a badge of honor. I once had a retired man tell me he worked seven days and eighty hours a week for forty years and he loved every minute of it. Like a good southerner, I just smiled and said, "How nice." All the while I was thinking how sure I was his wife and his children really loved it, too. Not to mention God.

In all of my wonderings about the proper place of sabbath in our lives, my thoughts keep coming back to the word *commandment*. Making sabbath time seems less about how much we love our work (or hate it) and more about the taking time out of our own attachment to *busy-ness* simply because...God said so! I know, I know, we all hear that phrase and remember when our parents handed us that last word as we (all too many times) realized we had just lost the argument. Those words and the frustratingly powerless feelings they bring back may cause us to want to rebel once again, as we may have when we were younger, against all the authorities that we no longer have to obey because we are now grown-ups.

Of course we are adults, and nobody can make us do anything. We are free. We are autonomous. And, yet, we are well aware down in the deepest parts of our being that, as free as we are now and were created to be always, God still has a claim on our lives. Do we remember that? All too often we forget that what God said in his command was this: "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy (Exodus 20.8)" because "God blessed and



hallowed it” and because even the creator all things “rested from all the work he had done (Genesis 2.3).” By any busy man’s account, the work of creation was a huge responsibility, and *even* the Creator of all things took a break. Now do you remember? Of course. We all do. And we all could benefit from a regular sabbath day when all we are good for is a nice long sit, a thankful prayer, a good laugh, a loving hug, and grateful heart because, well...God said so.

If you think about it, our intractable rebellion against sabbath time makes no logical sense. Even if all we can see around us is a mountain of tasks that *must, must, must* be done, to defy the commandment to let it all go for a day doesn’t even make sense to a child. I am reminded of the television commercial that starts out by saying that each year over four hundred million vacation days go unused. It’s a mind-blowing statistic to which the cutest, little blond haired child you’ve ever seen responds, “That’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard!” For God’s sake, take some time off! Even a kid knows we all need it.

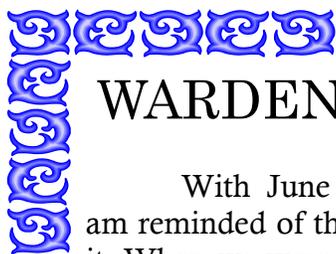
I want to take a moment to give thanks for all of the effort that you, the members of St. Paul’s community, put in to our shared lives. I am a witness to the fact that so many of you take part in our ministries and have helped make them vibrant sources of life and joy. Without going in to everything, let me just say that your participation does not go unnoticed.

In closing, I am sure everyone is feeling the effects of a year’s worth of working hard together and that you could all use some rest. With that said, I truly hope everyone will take some time this summer to get out and enjoy some of God’s good handiwork. I am aware that such an invitation may cause you to miss church here and there, but please know that you have my permission (as if you needed it) to experience God in other places and with other people. I trust that your experiences elsewhere will give you something good to tell us all about when you return. I trust also, that even when you are out and about enjoying the gifts we have been so freely given, you will remember our work and mission, that you are a faithful stewards of your time and treasure, and that our work never stops.

So, please, no matter where you are, remember your church family in your prayers, continue your faithful giving to our shared mission and work, and, as always, give thanks to God for all we have together.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

In Peace,
allan+



WARDEN'S CORNER

With June 9th being Pentecost, I am reminded of the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we were baptized as Christians, we were anointed with oil and “sealed by

the Holy Spirit [...] and marked as Christ’s own for ever” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p.308). Then at confirmation, we renew our covenant made at baptism to be committed to Christ. The bishop asks God to “send [us] forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service [He] set before [us]” (*BCP*, p.309).

These sacraments have roots in

Matthew 28 and Acts 2. When Jesus told the apostles to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything He had commanded them, and later when the Spirit filled the apostles and enabled them to speak in other languages, God is giving us the tools to spread His love to others. And we can share that love through actions by following the second part of The Great Commandment: loving our neighbors as ourselves.

This is, of course, easier said than done. But we don't have to do this by ourselves because we have the Holy Spirit with us. In fact, the next time I say the mission of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, I might add a tagline in my head: live out the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ (and empowered by the Holy Spirit).

For anyone who is interested in some spiritual guidance, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited us to practice The Way of Love at www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. As he quotes from a hymn in his introductory video, "Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew. That I may love what Thou dost love and do what Thou wouldst do."



FROM YOUR JUNIOR WARDEN

St. Paul's workday took place on Saturday, May 11th with 17 volunteers working on various projects inside as well as outside of St. Paul's. Followed by a delicious breakfast prepared by Hank and Sandy Head, Nancy Smith, Susan Hill-

ring and Diane Witaschek, we worked until noon finishing 15 projects. Many thanks once again to Don Davenport for coordinating people to work on the various projects and also obtaining the tools and/or materials to complete the tasks.

Volunteers were Chuck Mitchell, Jon Berquist, Judy Ziemann, Bruce Van Gundy, Greg Wetherbee, Susan and Sven Hillring, Pam Robinson, Shelby Schmidt, Judy Boyles, Aaron Sefton, and Julie, Morgan, and Cassie Wertz. I appreciate all of your help with the many tasks.

Our next workday will probably be in early November. We are always thankful to all our volunteers who keep our building and grounds looking wonderful. If you have any questions please contact me at wkbennett4@qwest.net.

Bill Bennett



School's out and summer is here! Please plan on joining us on the first and third Wednesday of every month between 5:15 – 6:45 p.m. to enjoy a simple dinner and companionship. Community meals are free and are a great way to connect with each other and share some laughs.

It takes many hands to set up the room, put the finishing touches on dinner, and to help put things away. If you would like to help in any way, please let us know. If you prefer to be a guest, simply walk in the door and join us. We would love to spend the evening with you.

Here's What's Cooking in June & July

June 5 th :	Pulled Pork
June 19 th :	Taco Salad
July 3 rd :	Pot Luck Salads
July 17 th :	Sub Sandwiches

If you would like to help in any way with the meals, you may sign up online at by clicking on the month(s) below or on the sign up sheets posted in Royster Hall.

JUNE <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dafa22a02-june>

JULY <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4dafa22a02-july>

Sincerely,
Terrie Fontenot, Sandy Roark,
Robert Young, and Kim Zeiner



PRAYER CORNER

FOR TRAVELERS

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [*in particular*]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Book of Common Prayer, p.831



A MINISTRY OF LITTLE CROSSES

"I come to you in trust, O God." ~ Ps 56:3

You may have seen them ... small wooden crosses in a cloth-lined basket as you enter the sanctuary. They are slightly curved and sized just right to fit in the palm of your hand. The wood is a light color with darker veins, each cross unique. To the side of the basket lie some bookmarks, The Lord's Prayer on one side and on the other a prayer list, a Psalm and a few words about the origins of the cross.

Known by several names — palm cross, holding cross, comfort cross, caring cross — each cross is individually carved from a single piece of beautifully grained olive wood pruned from the olive trees around Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Christians have been carving crosses like this for hundreds of years, originally for pilgrims and more recently for tourists visiting the Holy Land.

The crosses are designed to fit comfortably into the palm of your hand as an aid to prayer or meditation. It may serve as a spiritual companion to ease fears and comfort distress or to help focus prayers for strength and healing.

Over time, the olive wood develops its own patina from the oil of your skin. It can fit in a pocket or a handbag to be carried with you at all times. It can also sit by your bed or with your Bible. Anyplace, really, in your office or home.

The cross presents you with an open invitation of prayer any time you see or touch it. Shared with another, it becomes a blessing sent out to the world.

At St. Paul's, the crosses began as an aid for walking the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Then, they were offered to the Pastoral Care Ministry team for sharing with parishioners we might visit. Next, they became an offering during the Nishma service. And then, glorious accident, we forgot to put them "away" after Nishma and so the crosses became available for everyone!

Stories have been trickling in as the crosses have made their way out into the world beyond our church walls. Some have gone to children for Easter. Some to pastors in other churches. Some to those in need of comfort during a personal challenge, some in need of strength through a time of illness. Mine goes with me to city council meetings to remind me of the true source of peace when feelings may run hot; it helps me breathe more deeply.

At first, I worried we might "run out." I don't worry about that anymore. God's love is abundant. And so is our supply of Little Crosses. We have all we need, and more. Enough for everyone.

Saoirse Charis-Graves,
Coordinator, Adult Faith Exploration



ECW

New Season Arrives for Episcopal Church Women (ECW)!

It's almost summer and that marks the beginning of a new season for St. Paul's ECW.

The upcoming 2019-2020 officers will be:

President – Kathy Breit
Vice President – TBD
Secretary – Barbara McLenon
Treasurer – Jan Josselyn and
Nancy Colligan
UTO Treasurer – Louise Freeman

We are all grateful to outgoing president, Barb Guest, for her leadership during this past year, as well as to the Board members who assisted her.

Our Mission

All women at St. Paul's are considered members of ECW. The ECW at St. Paul's is one of the very few remaining in the United States. And of course, its specific practices have evolved over time, reflecting the changing roles of women. However, we strive to remain true to our written mission:

- to participate in the missionary program of the parish to the community and the world,
- to enrich the spiritual life of all church women,
- to enlist women in service and action in the parish and diocese,
- and to foster church fellowship and leadership

Through its variety of organized events during the year, ECW raises funds that are then designated to in-house needs of the parish, the diocese (i.e., Cathedral Ridge), world relief (i.e., United Thank

Offering, the Episcopal Relief Fund) and approximately six non-profit local organizations. A mighty task!

There are multiple ways that you can actively participate in the ECW goals and activities. Be sure to watch for further information coming in August.



ST. PAUL'S LITERARY SOCIETY

Do you like to read and have a certain genre that you like? The great thing about a book club is that it challenges you to read books outside of your norm and then discuss the good and the bad. We read and discuss books, both fiction and nonfiction in the context of faith, spirituality and Christianity. Some books may not have an overt religious/spiritual nature but create great discussion when viewed from a Christian/faith perspective. Everyone is invited.

On September 4 we will discuss Tess of the d'Urbervilles: A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented by Thomas Hardy. "It initially appeared in a censored and serialized version, published by the British illustrated newspaper The Graphic in 1891 and in book form in 1892. Though now considered a major nineteenth century English novel, Tess of the d'Urbervilles received mixed reviews when it first appeared, in part because it challenged

the sexual mores of late Victorian England." Amazon Review

We do not meet June, July or August. Please contact Carol Davenport with any questions.



ST. PAUL'S 12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Dates: Friday & Saturday,
November 22 & 23

History: This thriving ministry was started by Deacon Charlotte Shepic as part of the Outreach Committee as a means to bring the community together and provide some financial benefit for outreach missions of the church. Currently, the Bazaar is administered by a stand-alone ministry.

Ministry Members: Kathy Breit, BJ Burleigh, Alison Buckley, Carol Davenport, Barbara McLenon, Nancy Pallozzi, Jeanie Porter and Karen Van Gundy

What the Ministry Does: The members meet several times a year to plan for the Bazaar. Some of the tasks include: creating and sending out registrations, planning for set up, publicity, discussing ways to improve the Bazaar, setting up and running of the Bazaar.

Donations: Through fees charged for ta-

ble rentals and donations from some of the vendors, the Bazaar donated \$1200 to St. Paul's kitchen renovation project from the 2018 Bazaar. A donation from this year's Bazaar will be made to help fund youth going to Cathedral Ridge Summer Camp. The Bazaar relies not only on the work of the ministry members but also on all the wonderful members of the congregation that volunteer to help with this fun and rewarding project each year. We couldn't do it without you - thank you!

If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry contact any of the members.



A Gaelic Blessing

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

*~ origins from an ancient Gaelic rune,
adapted*

Dream Big
READ!



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JUNE/JULY 2019

WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m. Holy Education 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion
TUESDAYS	6:00 p.m. Centering Prayer
THURSDAYS	11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 12:15 p.m. Centering Prayer
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
Meg North, Social Media Coordinator
Susan Hillring, Verger
David Parkhurst & Pam Horiszny, Treasurers
David Ebner, Esq., Chancellor
Joe Montano, Sexton

Vestry:
Rachel Sefton, Sr. Warden
Bill Bennett, Jr. Warden
Rod McLenon, Eric Richardson, Debra Meglio,
Susan Hillring, Barbara Engemoen, Hank Head
Tina Blackburn, Jane Barnes, Rene Parkhurst
Clerk of the Vestry: Pamela Blome

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