



## St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

May 6, 2015

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St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church



### ***Women's Wednesday is tonight!*** **7:00 pm in the Parish Hall**

Tonight, Wednesday the 6th, is Women's Wednesday. After a very successful Women's Tea in February, attendance at this monthly gathering dropped off - in fact, vanished. If there is still an interest in this expression of community, please come tonight and let's discuss its future. I will bring information about the results of our donation to Episcopal Relief and Development (from the proceeds of the Tea) and about African Team Ministry, another opportunity to support women in developing countries. Bring a little refreshment to share and enjoy the company and conversation.

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## Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

January 2015

February 2015

March 2015

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Lectionary Calendar

Forward Day by Day

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## ***A Call to Ministry***

Every now and then we take a look at our life and realize that seemingly unrelated events are as related to each other as pieces of a puzzle.

Each piece looks different but fit together to create a cohesive whole. As I have reviewed my life I have come to realize that perhaps the pieces are leading to the wholeness of ordained ministry. With the blessings of my family and of Lori+ I intend to enter the process to discern a call to the diaconate. Discernment is a public process. What this means for you, my friends, is that some of you may be asked to be part of a discernment committee. This official task usually lasts for a duration of six months or so. At the end of this period the discernment committee determines whether or not to recommend me to the vestry as having a call. As we move forward, you will be kept abreast of our progress and we'll engage in education and conversation about the diaconate and the role of deacons in the church.

I welcome any questions and ask for your prayers.

Thank you,

*Deborah Lang*

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*Thoughts from Lori*

As you've just read (above), Deb Lang is about to enter the process that is likely to result in her ordination as a deacon. I'm aware that this parish has already been served by two different deacons in the past, but I'd like to add my reflections and understanding of the role of a deacon.

It is an ancient title, mentioned early in the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen being the first. His role was to distribute alms to those in dire need, and that role set the

stage for the ongoing ministry of deacons. As an order - that is, an identity set apart by ordination for a specific purpose - deacons are by definition those who minister to the poor, the needy, the oppressed. They are to represent the Church to the world, and the world to the Church; to carry the love of God to those outside the church, and to carry the needs of the world back to those inside the church.

Although the Order of Deacons was largely lost for a while, at least in The Episcopal Church, it was restored and encouraged by The General Convention in the last decades of the 20th century. Within the basic canons regarding deacons, each bishop has the authority to shape the ministry of deacons in his or her own diocese. In this diocese, the expectation is that deacons are raised up within a parish; are identified by their passion for some specific outreach ministry; and who are recognized and supported by the parish and the rector.

Deacons are only rarely on the paid staff. More often, they have secular jobs while exercising their ministry on behalf of the parish on a non-stipendiary basis. They "belong" to the bishop and serve at his or her pleasure under the authority of the parish's rector. In the liturgy, the deacon reads the Gospel, announces the confession, sets the table, may assist in the administration of the Bread, and does the ablutions (clears the table).

In the next few weeks, I will be forming a discernment committee to meet with Deb monthly for the next six to eight months. The task of that committee will be to help Deb in her own continued discernment, and to prayerfully consider their discernment of her call to this vocation. The next steps, given this committee's recommendation, will be for the vestry to nominate her to the Bishop, after which she may be named a Postulant. She will be required to undergo physical and psychological testing, and to participate in a supervised internship.

As you can see, this is not a process to be entered into lightly. Deb and her family will need our prayers and support. Thankfully, I know she can count on that.

Faithfully,

*Loritt*

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Our meetings will begin Tuesday May 12th, 7:00 to 8:30pm and will run for four weeks. The topic will be "Building Healthy Relationships," and as always with LC, in the context of wellness and balance. A donation of \$10 is requested for supplies. Space is limited. Sign-up today! Watch for more information about a day-time group that will begin later.



### ***Final Affairs Fair***

St. Paul's is offering a Final Affairs Fair on Saturday, May 16th from 9am to noon. There will be presentations by a local lawyer on legal matters such as Wills, Power of Attorney, medical directives, and estate planning; by a representative of the Illinois Cremation Society; and on the traditions and customs of funerals in The Episcopal Church. Materials will be provided for funeral planning. This is not just for elders! Everyone should plan and provide for your own peace of mind and for your families. **Sign up in the narthex on the sheet provided so we have an idea of how many will attend.**



### ***Mobile Food Pantry Opportunities***

In preparation for our first Mobile Food Pantry here at St. Paul's, we will have a meeting for volunteers at 6:30pm on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at St. Paul's. There are two opportunities to see how other places are doing this: one is on Friday afternoon May 15<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1320 Dean Street, Woodstock, from 1 to 2:30pm. The other is Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 to

6pm, First United Methodist Church, 236 West Crystal Lake Avenue, Crystal Lake.



***Final Affairs Fair*** - Saturday, May 16th, 9:00-noon  
***Food Bank Volunteers*** - Tuesday, May 19th, 6:30 p.m.  
***Vestry*** - Wednesday, May 20th, 7:15 p.m.  
***Mobile Food Truck*** - Saturday, May 30th, 10:00-noon

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## **Lessons and Hymns**

**Sunday, May 10th**  
**(Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year B)**  
*by the Rev. William McLemore*

### **THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

***The First Reading:*** Acts 10:44-48. This passage recounts the experience Peter had with the Holy Spirit causing him to baptize others to receive the same Holy Spirit.

***The Psalm:*** Psalm 98. This psalm calls for people to rejoice with music, voice, and joy to God who has done "marvelous things."

***The Epistle:*** I John 5:1-6. The writer acknowledges that Jesus comes not with water only, but the gift of the Holy Spirit.

***The Gospel:*** John 15:9-17. Jesus calls his disciples to "abide in His Love," affirming that "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

### **THE HYMNS:**

***Processional Hymn:*** No. 191. "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts and Voices Heaven-ward Raise." This hymn is one of two Easter hymns in Christopher Wordsworth's "Hymns for Sundays and Holy Days" published in 1862. Bishop Wordsworth was the primate for the Diocese of Lincoln in England and the nephew of the poet with the same name. He was born October 30, 1807 and died March 21, 1885 shortly after he resigned his episcopate.



The tune, "Lux Eoi," was composed by Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900) around 1874.

***Sequence Hymn:*** Instead of a traditional hymn, we will sing a Celtic Alleluia before the Gospel throughout the season of Easter.

***Presentation Hymn:*** No. 376, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." This hymn was written by a well-known Congregationalist minister, the Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke. His son tells the story that his father, while on a preaching visit at Williams College, came to breakfast and placed a manuscript on the table before President James A. Garfield and said to him, "Here is a hymn for you... Your mountains [the Berkshires] were my inspiration. It must be sung to the music of Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy.'" As you sing this hymn you will invariably see the magnificent Berkshire mountains in your heart: "All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee." Henry van Dyke said of this hymn: "These verses are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires in this present time-hymns of today that may be sung together by people who know the thought of the age, and are not afraid that any truth of science will destroy religion, or any revolution on the earth overthrow the kingdom of heaven. Therefore this is a hymn of trust and joy and hope."

***Communion Hymn:*** No. 178. "Jesus Is Lord of All the Earth." This hymn was written by Donald Fishel, born in 1950, a graduate of the University of Michigan, and a consummate musician. In a biographical sketch he writes that after college, "I then embarked on a career in music publishing and began writing the Christian songs for which I am best known. My songs *Alleluia No. 1* and *The Light of Christ* can be found in the hymnals of the Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic Churches." The tune name is the "Alleluia No. 1" and was composed by him and arranged by Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) the wife of the Rev. William Graham Pulkingham an Episcopal priest who lived from 1926-1993.

***Recessional Hymn:*** No. 344. "Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing." This hymn is attributed to the Baptist minister and hymn writer, Rev. Dr. John Fawcett (1739-1817). He wrote some 160 hymns, many designed to be sung following a particular sermon that he preached.

Another one of his popular hymns is "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Again, we have the image of being on a journey as we sing this hymn, "O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness." The tune, "Silician Mariners," is an old folk melody of Sicily.

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### **May 10th Servants**

Usher: Bill Lang  
Lector: Michelle Wiejaczka  
Intercessor: Barb Moriarty  
Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Charlie Boak  
Vestry Person of the Day: Marilyn Bell

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From the cartoons created by  
*the Rev. William P. McLemore*  
1965 - 2014



"Oh no... Not angel food cake again!"

## Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian Reason 2

*"You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized."*

Robin Williams  
Comedian

