



## St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

June 10, 2015

### *In this issue...*

- + Thoughts from Lori
- + Upcoming events
- + Hymns and Lessons
- + Bill's cartoon
- + 100 Ways to Save the Environment



St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church

3706 W. St. Paul Ave.  
McHenry, IL 60050



### *Thoughts from Lori*

Over the years, I've come to think that the most important spiritual practice is prayer. That may seem obvious, but as someone who often *thinks* about praying more than actual praying, it has become more and more important to me to intentionally cultivate the practice of praying. Sometimes prayer is spontaneous, of course, like when we see or hear about something amazing, either wonderful or terrible. "Lord, have mercy!" we might say or think, or "Thanks be to God!" And those are true prayers; one type of praying among many ways to pray.

Some of us may have been taught that there is only one way to pray. For instance, to be real or to be heard by God, one must be kneeling (preferably in a church), hands folded, eyes lowered or closed. And that is surely one way to pray. It provides a quiet space, intentionality, and an opportunity for concentration. All good. But it is not the only way to pray.

815-385-0390

Email:  
stpaulmchenry  
@sbcbglobal.net

## Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

January 2015

February 2015

March 2015

April 2015

Diaper Bank

Episcopal News Service

Diocese of Chicago

Lectionary Calendar

Forward Day by Day

Join Our  
Mailing List

Like us on [Facebook](#) 

Any experience that draws our attention away from ourselves and toward God is a wonderful opportunity to pray, and often pulls one of those spontaneous prayers out of us. Nature can do that to me. Walking along the beach and observing the power and rhythm of the sea... looking up into the night sky at all those stars, knowing in some small measure that the universe is vast beyond my comprehension... are just two such experiences that have that effect on me.

But what about the times in our lives when prayer seems futile; when praying feels flat, empty? When we question if it even matters? What then? Well, that's when we most need to pray. And I firmly believe that those are the most important times to pray *and* the prayers most beloved by God. Like love itself, prayer isn't always about our warm fuzzy feelings, but is a decision; and act of will. I *decide* to pray, to open myself to God, to the light, even when it feels like I'm in the dark.

The decision to pray might mean writing down my prayers, keeping a list of the names of those I'm praying for (including myself - don't forget to pray for yourself!); to use the timeless prayers of the Prayer Book; or to simply sit and be still. In fact, *listening* is perhaps the most basic form of prayer!

We also pray collectively when we come together for worship. From my first Sunday here, I've always loved how someone from the congregation does the Prayers of the People - from among the people! It's easy, however, to depend on that person to do the praying for us. Wouldn't it be even better if we all joined in, adding the names of those we are praying for, giving thanks for our blessings, saying the names of those who have died. I encourage you to do that. Don't worry about trying to take turns, so to speak; just jump right in. If it's a little ragged at times, that's perfectly fine. There is no right or wrong way to do it.

In fact, that's the whole point: there is no right or wrong way to pray. Just do it. I have a little plaque that belonged to my grandfather that says, "Prayer Changes Things." That is certainly true, even if what changes is me! Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

*Loritt*

---

## PULPIT SWAP

No, we're not exchanging furniture, but we are exchanging preachers. Bill and I will be doing a "pulpit swap" on June 28th. He will be here with you to preach and celebrate - and enjoy being back here with you all! - and I will be at Church of the Holy Communion in Lake Geneva getting to know some of the folks he serves.

---

### **What's General Convention For?**

Here's the latest issue of the newsletter from the Diocese:

[Diocese of Chicago newsletter 6/3/15](#)

---

### *An Invitation from St. Mary's in Crystal Lake*

## **Lawn Chair Theologians**

**Sharing Each Other's Faith Journeys & Their  
Snacks**

**7:00 pm**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> - July 21<sup>st</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### **What to Bring ...**

- Your Questions
- An Open Mind
- An Ability to Listen to Others
- Your Lawn Chair
- Your Favorite Beverage
- A Snack to Share
- Friends

Write your questions or a topic on a slip of paper  
Place your questions in the hat  
A question will be pulled at random  
Spend the next hour socializing and discussing topic  
There are no "right" answers

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church  
210 S. McHenry Avenue  
Crystal Lake, IL

If it is raining we'll be in the Great Hall.

---

## ***NEW MISSION STATEMENT***

About two years ago, your leadership determined that our vision statement - that which describes how we see ourselves as a parish - would be this:

**SEEKING God in Christ.  
SERVING other for the sake of Christ.  
GROWING in God's image along the way.**

After a year of discernment about our mission and ministry - and growing clarity that our ministry at this time is about food and hunger - we have identified a mission statement. The purpose of a mission statement is to serve as a plumb line whenever we are considering an activity or program. Here is our new mission statement:

**The mission of St. Paul's Church is to feed  
the hungry in mind, body, and spirit.**

May God give us the wisdom, hope, and courage to do what we are being called to do!

---



### ***Altar Flowers***

Please contribute to the beauty of our worship by dedicating the altar flowers. The suggested donation is \$35, and your dedication may be "in memorial for..." or "in thanksgiving for..." There is a calendar of Sundays on the bulletin board in the narthex where you can sign up. Your dedication will be listed in the Sunday service bulletin on the appropriate date. Thank you so much for adding to our worship in this way.

---



**Endowment** - Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 pm  
**Holy Eucharist** - Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 pm  
**Vestry**- Wednesday, June 17, 7:15 pm

**Women's Wednesday** - July 1, 7:00 pm  
**Office closed** - Friday, July 3  
**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, July 6, 8:00 am  
**Office closed**- July 13 through July 17<sup>th</sup>

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, August 1, 8:00 am  
**Women's Wednesday** - August 5, 7:00 pm  
**Annual Parish Picnic** - Sunday, August 9, 4:00 pm  
**Holy Eucharist** - Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 pm  
**Vestry** - Wednesday, August 19, 7:15 pm

---

**Lessons and Hymns**  
**Sunday, June 14th**  
**Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proper 6 - Year B**  
*by the Rev. William McLemore*

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:**

***The First Reading:*** Ezekiel 17:22-24. Here we find the image of planting a tree to describe the nurture of God.

***The Psalm:*** Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14. This psalm offers thanksgiving to God for many blessings.

***The Epistle:*** II Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17. For Paul, in these passages, faith is a journey in which we share the blessings of our faith and look for a new creation with God.

***The Gospel:*** Mark 4:26-34. Jesus tells the parable of the planter of seeds as an image of God's kingdom as well as one of the mustard seed-small but grows very large.

## THE HYMNS:

**Processional Hymn:** No. 525. "The Church's One Foundation." This hymn was written by Samuel John Stone (1839-1900) in response to the liberal interpretation by the Rt. Rev. John William Colenso (1814-1883), the first Anglican bishop of Natal. Bishop Colenso was also a mathematician, theologian, biblical scholar, and social activist. Stone was an Anglican priest who felt deeply troubled by Colenso's ideas about Christianity and especially the interpretation of the Bible. Thus the third verse of his hymn: "Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed; yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, 'How long?' And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song." The tune, "Aurelia" was composed by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876).

**Sequence Hymn:** No. 302. "Father, We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted." This hymn was written by Francis Bland Tucker (1895-1984) and is based on an important teaching manual for the Early Christian Church, "Teaching of the Twelve Apostles." The prayers used in this hymn are considered much older than the "Teaching" and may very well date back to the 1<sup>st</sup> century and the formation of the Gospels. Dr. Tucker was born in Norfolk, Virginia, the son of a bishop and brother of a former presiding bishop. He was ordained a priest in 1920 and served as Rector of Christ Church, Savannah, for 22 years. The Diocese of North Carolina elected him as a bishop in 1945 but he refused the nomination saying he was devoted to serving his parish in Savannah.

**Presentation Hymn:** No. 657. "Love Divine All Loves Excelling." Here is a famous Charles Wesley hymn which he published in a pamphlet titled, "Hymns for Those that Seek, and Those that Have Redemption in the Blood of Jesus Christ." Some of the symbolic imagery of Revelation is found in these words, "Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise." The tune, "Hyfrydol," composed by Rowland Hugh Prichard, has some delightful harmonies and movement.

**Communion Hymn:** No. 711. "Seek Ye First" This hymn is based on Matthew 6:33 and was written and composed by Karen Lafferty. Karen is a well-known Christian musician who lives in New Mexico, but travels around the world spreading the faith through music. She says that after years of singing in bars and saloons, she felt she needed to get closer to God. Somehow, she read this passage in Matthew and "the hymn simply fell together, along with the alleluias!" She has produced many hymns now and can be found on Facebook.

**Recessional Hymn:** No. 535. "Ye Servants of God. "Charles Wesley, the son of Samuel Wesley, was born at Epworth, Dec. 18, 1708. He was educated at Westminster School and afterwards at Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. In 1735, he took Orders and immediately proceeded with his brother John to Georgia, both being employed as missionaries of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel of the Church of England. He returned to England in 1736. For many years he engaged with his brother in preaching the Gospel. He died March 29, 1788. This great hymn calls forth our outreach, sharing Christ with others-a prominent aspect of the Epiphany season. The spirited tune is from a 1765 melody in a German Catholic hymnal.

---

### **June 14th Servants**

Usher: Bill Lang  
Lector: Michelle Wiejaczka  
Intercessor: Terry Jaworski  
Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Charlie Boak  
Vestry Person of the Day: Pam Dietmeyer

---

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



"Well, the hymnal does say to  
'Sing with feeling!'"

## 100 Ways to Save the Environment Number 72

*Don't wash dishes with the water  
running continuously.*