



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

September 16, 2015

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Fall (Informal) Parish Meeting This Sunday Following our Morning Worship



We'll start with a covered dish lunch - what else! - and then enjoy the wisdom and wit of our special guest, Dent Davidson, the Bishop's Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts. Expect to sing, laugh, and be thoroughly enlightened and entertained. You don't want to miss this!

Don't forget to bring canned or dry goods to donate to the food pantry!



**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**

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Thoughts from Lori

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Vestry Minutes

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This past Sunday, Bill and I attended the installation of the new dean of St. James Cathedral in Chicago. The Very Reverend Dominic Barrington was seated as the eighth dean of St. James in a beautiful "Celebration of a New Ministry." The preacher was the Rev. Dr. Louis Weil, Professor Emeritus of Liturgics of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. It was a true celebration and the Cathedral and the Diocese were most blessed.

One of those blessings was the special clergy day that followed on Monday with Louis Weil offering some of his wisdom and scholarship related to the Eucharist. I almost didn't go. It was my day off... it meant another drive to the city - two days in a row... but the minute Dr. Weil began to speak, I was so glad that I did! Not only was his scholarship vast and brilliant, but he shared it mixed with humor and personal experience. I left feeling filled to overflowing with renewed love for this sacred meal that we share.

I say renewed, but I have always loved the Eucharist. Having grown up in a decidedly Protestant tradition, one that passed around trays with tiny cups of grape juice and crackers maybe twice a year, the Eucharist was the first thing I fell in love with when I was first introduced to the Episcopal Church. Without knowing how or why, it fed me in some deep way that I didn't even know I had been craving. Over the years, it has never failed to feed me. Even when I doubted God, even when I was broken and wounded - maybe most at those times - I have always been somehow nourished by that small piece of bread or wafer and that sip of wine.

Now as a priest for almost 30 years, I find that is still true. And being the celebrant or presider at the Eucharist is the most profoundly and consistently holy and healing thing I do. It doesn't matter whether it is in the context of a grand service with glorious music, or on a TV table in someone's living room. Jesus is with us whenever and wherever we break bread and share the cup in his name.

Every church I have served has had at least one mid-week service, sometimes two, usually on Wednesdays. A few of the previous rectors of St. Paul's have tried to incorporate a mid-week Eucharist into the worship life here, but it just hasn't become part of the parish's DNA. I'm not sure why;

it just hasn't. When I've brought up the subject, there hasn't been much enthusiasm. Maybe because - and this may come from the rather pervasive influence of Catholicism in this community - the suggestion is heard as an "ought," as a requirement for being a "good" Christian. Allow me, then, to reframe the suggestion as an *opportunity*. That's right: **beginning tonight, I am offering this parish, offering you, an opportunity to experience the Eucharist on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, including the Laying on of Hands for Healing.**

So, who is this service for? Well, it's for anyone who hungers. Who feels drawn by the presence of Jesus in this holy meal. For anyone who wants more. Perhaps you missed Sunday when you were out-of-town or not feeling well or had to work. Maybe you've been inviting someone to come with you to church, but who is reluctant to come to the main service on Sunday morning. This service will be a simple Eucharist; no music, a very brief homily (usually based on a saint's day), all lasting about 30 minutes. The Laying on of Hands for Healing will be available for anyone who desires special prayers for any kind of healing.

Consider yourself invited, not required, but invited. I'll be here. And maybe, just maybe, this will become part of our DNA.

Faithfully,
Loritt

The Bishop is Coming!

The Rector and Vestry are pleased to announce that the Right Reverend Christopher Epting, Assisting Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, will be our Episcopal Visitor on **Sunday, October 18** at our 10am service. A bishop's visit is always a special occasion. This one is an opportunity to hear Bishop Epting preach and have him celebrate the Eucharist for us, but also one during which it's most appropriate for Baptisms and for Confirmation or Reception. Please contact the Rector immediately if you have a candidate for Baptism or if you are interested in being Confirmed or Received.*

*Reception is for adults coming to The Episcopal Church from other traditions and who have already been Baptized and/or Confirmed. If you have questions about which sacrament is appropriate for you, give me a call. lml+



Sunday, October 4th, 4:00 pm
Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
Rain or Shine
On the grounds of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Everyone and all pets are most welcome!
Leashes and/or crates please!



Holy Eucharist- Tonight, Sept. 16, 6:30 pm
(All are welcome!)

Vestry - Tonight, Sept. 16, 7:15 pm

Informal Fall Parish Meeting - Sunday, Sept. 20
Special Guest: Dent Davidson
Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts

Feed ourselves, feed others.
Bring canned or dry goods to donate.

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, September 20th
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 20 - Year B
by the Rev. William McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20. The prophet is concerned about his enemies and those who wish to destroy him, but knows that God judges righteously the "heart and the mind."

The Psalm: Psalm 54. Like Jeremiah, this passage from the Psalter prays for help in the face of adversaries.

The Epistle: James 3:13-4:3,7-8a. The writer warns about envy and selfish ambition and reminds us, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

The Gospel: Mark 9:30-37. Jesus reminds his disciples that people who want to be first must be last and then blesses the children adding, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 379. "God is Love." This hymn was written by Timothy Rees, the Anglican Bishop of Llandaff, a distinguished speaker in English and Welsh and respected hymnographer. This beautiful hymn covers many aspects of God's love and is appropriate for reflecting on Chapter 13 of St. Paul's letter to Corinth. Cyril V. Taylor composed the tune, "Abbot's Leigh," in May of 1941 when he was working for the Religious Broadcasting Department of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Sequence Hymn: No. 635. "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee." This hymn is new to the Episcopal 1982 Hymnal (though almost four centuries old). It was written and composed by Georg Neumark (16 March 1621 - 8 July 1681), a German poet and composer of hymns. In 1640 he began law studies, but fearing the tumult of war, he took a position as tutor instead. This particular hymn was written for himself as much as anyone

else as he feared war so much, "God will give thee strength whate'er betide thee, and bear thee through the evil days."

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. 707. "Take My Life and Let It Be." What better hymn to sing upon sharing God's Holy Sacrament than one of complete and total surrender? This hymn was written by a woman, Frances Ridley Havergal, who was the daughter of an Anglican priest who also wrote many hymns. She wrote her first hymn at the age of seven and suffered from extremely frail health most of her life. She is the author of four hymns in our hymnal and composed the music for "On Our Way Rejoicing" in the 1940 hymnal. The tune is one of over two dozen composed by the Anglican priest-musician, the Rev. John Bacchus Dykes. Its gently flowing melody reflects the offering towards God of our whole person: "Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee."

Recessional Hymn: No. 492. "Sing Ye Faithful,

Sing with Gladness." The author of this hymn is John Ellerton, born in London, December 16, 1826 and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge. Although an Anglican priest, he is better known as a hymnologist, hymn-writer, and translator. The 1940 Hymnal has seven of his hymns and this one is new to the current 1982 Hymnal. The tune, "Finnian" was composed by Christopher Dearnley (1930-2000), British organist and composer. The National Cathedral sung this hymn this past Sunday and can be heard on YouTube by entering the first line in a Google search which will produce the link to the music.

September 20th Servants

Ushers: Rick Carlstedt, Don Jaworski
Lector: Judy Robel
Intercessor: Barb Moriarty
Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Dietmeyer,
Michelle Wiejaczka
Vestry Person of the Day: Marilyn Bell

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore



"Good morning folks... This is Father Gooch live in the living room of Fred Jones where we will learn first-hand why he stayed home from church this Sunday morning!"

100 Ways to Save the Environment
Number 1

Wrap your water heater in an insulated blanket.