



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle

June 26, 2019

New and Notable...

*Please note! The office will be closed Thursday, June 27th.
We apologize for any inconvenience.*

Words from the Wardens

As we venture into the unknown during this period of discernment that St. Paul's is beginning, at times it feels overwhelming and scary. At our parish meeting a couple of weeks ago, we were all asked to list our concerns at this time. Responses were as follows:

- What is St Paul's future?
- What are the resources needed to move forward?
- Do we have those resources?
- What should we be looking for in terms of opportunities available to us?
- What can we do to retain current membership?

I would love to be able to say that we answered each of these questions and now the road before us is clear, but obviously that is not true. The discussion that followed was lively, and as I said in an earlier column, it clearly showed me that the heart that is St. Paul's is beating strongly and is committed to finding our way.

Yesterday, Jeff and I had an experience that showed me how strongly committed we are at St Paul's. We were asked by the Chicago Diocese to host a small group of Episcopalian clergy and laity who are participating in program called College for Congregational Development. This is a training program whose aim is to build "healthy, faithful, sustainable congregations fulfilling their calling to be the body of Christ." One of the events that each person participates in is a congregational visit. We began our visit with a tour of our beloved St. Paul's. The participants were overwhelmingly impressed with what we had to offer – our beautiful worship space, our chapel, our meeting rooms, our columbarium and our parish hall.

As we toured, we told them about our history. After our tour, we sat down with the group for a discussion. They asked us questions ranging from the makeup of our congregation to our outreach ministries. As we talked, it struck me as to how much of an impact St. Paul's had made on so many peoples' lives, both inside our church and outside in our community. Our guests came away feeling God's love everywhere and gave me an overwhelming sense of pride for our little community in McHenry, IL. We talked about our period of transition, and they were genuinely interested in our journey. Each of them gave Lisa their email addresses and asked to be added to our newsletter so that they can follow our progress.

After they left, I was filled with pride for where we have been and filled with hope for our future. We will get through this with God's help because at St. Paul's that is just what we do!!

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Please join us in this journey in whatever way you are able. While we are looking forward, we are reminded of the incredible work that St. Paul's has done reaching out to our community, and we do not want to lose our focus on outreach. Stay tuned for exciting news about our next outreach opportunity!

Andrea Mysen will be returning to St. Paul's on **Sunday, July 21**. She will celebrate the Eucharist with us and then join us at coffee hour for another informal parish meeting. This is a journey we are taking together, and everyone's input is crucial.

St Paul's is Alive and Well!!

Beth Lukas, Jr. Warden



New Outreach Project!

For our upcoming outreach opportunity we will be filling backpacks with school supplies to be given to McHenry Elementary schools. Details to follow soon!



Printed copies of our updated church directory are always available on the table in the narthex. If you'd like one emailed (or mailed) to you, please let Lisa know and she'll send one right out!

Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Wardens - Jeff Zabor (Senior Warden) or Beth Lukas (Junior Warden)

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon Ordinand



The church is in need of a **5 gallon** gas can for the lawn mower. If you have one you're not using, and can donate it to St. Paul's, it would be greatly appreciated!



Episcopal Church Women
Diocese of Chicago

October 11-13: Women's Gathering & Retreat

God's Healing Leads to Wholeness
The Portiuncula Center for Prayer, Frankfort, IL

The Episcopal Church Women-sponsored fall retreat will be held at a new time and a new location! Colleen Willard, noted speaker on faith and healing, will share her personal story of miraculous healing. Our weekend will include healing services, music, movement workshop, private time to meet with chaplains or use the beautiful grounds for peaceful contemplation. This will be a very special weekend. All women of the Diocese of Chicago and their guests – of all faiths - are invited to attend.

Details and registration forms are found on the [ECW](#) website. Special pricing for early registration will be available.

In case you missed it...

You are invited to attend the ordination of
Deborah Lynn Lang
to the Sacred Order of Deacons
on Saturday, July 6th at
eleven o'clock in the morning at
St. James Cathedral
65 E. Huron, Chicago.

Parking

The Diocese of Chicago has parking validation for the following two lots located near the diocesan office at St. James Commons (65 E. Huron): Millennium Centre Self Park 33 W. Ontario Chicago, IL 60654 312.274.0411 Rate: \$9.00 Rush-Ohio-Wabash (ROW) Self Park 50 E. Ohio Street Chicago, IL 60611 Rate: \$14.00 for up to 8 hours.

To receive a reduced-rate parking voucher, please request one from the St. James Commons receptionist. As these rates are subject to change, check the website for the most current parking information before coming <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/our-diocese/parking-information/>.



Did you know....?

We still have St. Paul's polo shirts available! Both Men's and Women's sizes from medium up to 2XL. They are only \$20 and are embroidered with our own St. Paul's logo. They are in the office if you'd like to stop by and check them out!



Our next parish meeting with Andrea Mysen will be on **July 21st**, following the service. Andrea will also be our celebrant again. This will be another opportunity for the parish to address concerns and questions about St. Paul's. Please join us!

Mark your calendar!

Finance Committee - Monday July 15, 5:30 pm
Vestry - Monday, July 15, 6:30 pm
Parish Meeting with Andrea Mysen - Sunday, July 21
Annual Parish Picnic - Sunday, August 18, 4:00 pm
Flea Market / Craft Show - Saturday, August 24

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns for June 30, 2019

(Third Sunday of Pentecost, Year C)

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

The Psalm: Psalm 16

The Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

Offertory Hymn: No. 7. "Christ, whose glory fills the skies"

Servants for June 30th

Rick Carlstedt - *First Reader*

Judy Robel - *Intercessor*

Jeff Zabor - *Gospel Reader*

Beth Lukas - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Doris Gaic - *Altar Guild*

Pam Dietmeyer - *Flower Guild*



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