



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ September 23, 2020

Words from Wardens

On September 12, 2020, a letter went out to the parishioners of St. Paul's informing them of the sale of St. Paul's property located at 3706 W. St Paul Ave. in McHenry. The Buyer presented a cash offer with generous negotiated terms for closing and occupancy of the building. While our desire was to be able to find a tenant to share our space, this was an offer that the Wardens and Vestry of St. Paul's felt was in the best interest of St. Paul's to accept in order to insure the future of our beloved church. In addition to staying together, we will be able to pay off our mortgage and still have a large sum of money to invest in our future. Our monthly expenses will be greatly reduced, and it will give us the time we need to chart a path towards our future.

We are currently working on securing a new home. Several options have already been presented, and a committee has been formed to research all options. We will keep you informed as this search continues.

While the closing will be occurring as soon as this week, we have negotiated occupancy until 12/31/20, with the hope of moving before the end of the year. We will be sharing some of the space with the Buyer, but we will continue to worship in our Sanctuary until a suitable new location is found.

One of the most important areas of concern is our Columbarium. Our Deacon, Deb Lang has formed a committee to address the handling of this very sacred space. More information about the Columbarium is included in this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have worked so tirelessly and faithfully throughout this process. There is still much to be done, but I can assure you that your Deacon, Wardens and Vestry, along with many lay people, have worked to make this a smooth transition in the life of our parish. We all know that change is a part of life, and over the years we have seen many changes at St. Paul's. While change is often hard, it is also change that brings tremendous opportunities. Without the sale of our property, there would be no opportunities for St. Paul's; in our current financial

situation, we would have exhausted all of our resources which would have meant the closing of our doors within a year. We now have an opportunity to envision a future. Our beloved building will be gone, but we are still here together as a parish. We have time to discern our future, and just like we did in the 1950's when St. Paul's was formed, and in 1997 when the leadership of the church expanded St. Paul's, we can create a new future for St. Paul's. I hope you will join us on this exciting journey, and in the meantime, please reach out to us with any questions and concerns.

Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)

From Deacon Deb

Friends,

From the moment we began considering the sale of our building we were aware of the sensitive nature of the future of St. Paul's Columbarium. No one anticipated that the sale would be complete within a two month period. We did anticipate that notifying families with an interest in the columbarium and subsequent re-internment would take time. As such, it was negotiated with our buyer that we would have 12 months from the date of closing to complete these tasks.

We have sought the input of experts to determine what is necessary to facilitate the removal of cremains in a prayerful and respectful manner that honors all concerned. I have contacted the McHenry County Coroner's Office, the McHenry County Public Health Department and several local Funeral Directors. We have asked our attorney to review state and local ordinances. So far we have learned that much depends upon the decision of the family for future internment.

We are contacting other Episcopal churches with a columbarium to determine if they have niches available and their process. We intend to provide families with a resource of options available. We will work with each family on an individual basis to tend to each particular need.

Our next priority is to contact families and individuals regarding next steps. In the meantime, we ask that you give your plans some thought and contact the church office with any questions and concerns.

We are all saddened by the need to move those who were resting in peace. Please pray for God's guidance and grace as we move through this delicate time.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah

Do you have knowledge of the history of items around St. Paul's?

In light of the changes we are facing at St. Paul's, we're very interested in any information you may have. If you know the stories or history of anything in our church, please share them with a vestry member, wardens, or the office.

***Servants for September 27
Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*
Judy Robel - *First Reader*
Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*
Al Robel - *Second Reader*
Beth - *Vestry Person of the Day*

On the Calendar

Sunday, September 27 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***
Saturday, October 3 - ***Men's Breakfast, Sam at Brunch Cafe***
Sunday, October 4 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***
Sunday, October 11 - ***Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts***

***Holy Mowers
September Schedule***

Week 1 - Jeff Zabor
Week 2 - Ashley Pecoraro
Week 3 - Jeff Lynaugh
Week 4 - Bill Lang

***St. Paul's Prayer List
Week of September 27 - October 3***

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Ann, Amy, Tim, Bren, Brady, Jim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Cindy

Current prayers: Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Peter, Debbie, Peter, Owen, Patsy, and Camilla

For those celebrating birthdays: Doris Gaic (Sept 30), Yasmin Brown (Oct 2nd)

Questions or concerns?

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

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

101 Reasons to be Episcopalian!

#28 We have the liturgical beauty of the Catholics combined with the local authority of the Southern Baptists. -- Cynthia McLeod, Diocese of East Tennessee

#50 As an Anglican I can be myself. I can be authentic and feel accepted and respected. -- Glauco Soares de Lima, Bishop Primate of Brazil

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