



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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## Weekly ePistle ~ November 4, 2020

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### *From Deacon Deb*

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is the story of the wise and the foolish bridesmaids. We remember that as they are waiting for the Bridegroom to appear, the wise bridesmaids keep their lamps lit and bring extra oil just in case. In the end the foolish and ill-prepared bridesmaids are late to the feast and shut out.

This story has something of a fairytale feel as read on the surface. If we reflect deeper we will find that it has much to tell us of the serious side of our spiritual life. The Bridegroom is symbolic of Jesus Christ and the coming of the Kingdom of God. This is quite clear. The bridesmaids tell us more about ourselves. The bridesmaid is symbolic of our soul, the pure, innocent and radiant part of each and every one of us. As Saint Julian of Norwich writes, the part of us that never has nor ever will consent to sin. The lamps are symbolic of our spiritual life. Our spiritual life is our light; the light by which we see ourselves, our neighbor and the world. This is the light by which we see love. Our lamp, our spiritual life, needs to be fed. It must be cared for and tended. We must keep a reserve to guide us when life gets particularly dark. Our light is cared for through prayer, daily devotions, worship and service to others. Least we be tempted to think the wise bridesmaids selfish for not sharing their oil, consider this - tending to our spiritual life is our life's work; we must do it ourselves. No one can do it for us.

Through the mindful and intentional feeding of our spiritual life we will be prepared. When the Kingdom of God comes, we will be ready in heart, mind and soul to receive it.

In Christ,  
Deacon Deborah



### ***Words from Wardens***

This past Sunday, All Saints Day, was a lovely celebration for St. Paul's. Not only was it our last worship service, but it was also a time for us to remember all who came before us, many of whom are interred in our Columbarium. We reflected on the past while remembering that St. Paul's has always been a parish with an eye on the future. A letter from Bishop Lee that was read to the congregation reiterated this gift of looking forward by talking about the turning points in our life as a congregation by emphasizing how at each step, we "exercised prayerful discernment, careful decision making, and courage". You may read Bishop Lee's letter by [clicking here](#).

St. Paul's has been a church of many new beginnings since the idea of starting an Episcopal church in McHenry, Illinois was discussed at an informational meeting held in December, 1955 at, of all places, First United Methodist Church (a fact recently uncovered while packing our church archives!). From that first meeting, St. Paul's Mission was created, followed by many other new beginnings – an expansion of the original church, the calling of the first female rector in the diocese, a new parish hall, and now, a new home.

The best part of new beginnings is that as long as we have new beginnings, there are no endings for what we know as St. Paul's. With prayerful intention, we are reinventing ourselves with the goal of becoming stronger and a better vision of whom we want to be in the eyes of Christ. This is exactly what we are doing this week as we prepare for our move to First United Methodist Church where we are embarking on a new future. As the community of St. Paul's approaches this new beginning, we will continue to honor all those who came before us by stepping out in faith. Please join us this Sunday, November 8 as we worship together for the first time in our new home. Proclaim the Good News that God is with us as we step out in faith and go forward, just as our Brothers and Sisters in Christ did before us!

Beth Lukas, Senior Warden

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### ***Navigating First United Methodist***

For those of you who are unfamiliar with First United Methodist Church, [click here](#) for a diagram of the building. If you park in the main parking lot, you'll enter in the back door and go up some stairs. There's a large "ENTER" sign above that door. For those that are mobility-challenged, you may park in front of the church on Main St. or on the side off Center St. There is a ramp going up to the front door on Main St.

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Please don't forget to turn in your 2021 pledge cards! You may turn them in at St. Paul's or feel free to mail them to our new address at 3717 W. Main St. These pledge numbers will enable us to plan our budget for next year. Thank you!

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***Servants for November 8  
Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts  
First service at FUMC!  
8:30 am***

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*  
Judy Robel - *Lector*  
Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*  
Al Robel - *Epistle Reader*

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***On the Calendar***

Sunday, November 8 - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts  
***First Sunday at FUMC***  
***New Time - 8:30 am***

Sunday, November 15 - Morning Prayer/Vestry

Sunday, November 22 - Holy Eucharist with Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts

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***St. Paul's Prayer List  
Week of November 8 - November 14***

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 Eleanor

**Current prayers:** Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, and Shirley-Patricia

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Beth Lukas (Nov. 12)

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***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

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## ***101 Reasons to be Episcopalian!***

**#83** *When you count acolytes, Chalice bearers, ushers, greeters, nursery people, altar guild, choir, and so on, there are more people involved in an Episcopal service than in any other. And there are more opportunities to be involved.*

*-- Donna H. Barthle, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania*

**#39** *From Miami to Manchester, from Lima to London, from Brisbane to Birmingham, Singapore to San Francisco, I can go to church and fit right in.*

*-- John F. Schwaller, Diocese of Minnesota*

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