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THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Phone 517-787-3370
Fax 517-787-8424
Email: church@stpauljxmi.org
Website: www.stpauljxmi.org



Photo taken by Lynn Eckerle

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Rectors Corner

Isaiah 43:19 “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Friends,

What a blessing to experience the fullness of the joy of Christmas and Epiphany here among you at St. Paul’s! From the prophets of old like Isaiah to the compelling admonitions of the Apostle Paul we hear again and again that God is constantly doing new things in and among God’s people. Today and each day we begin anew and ask God to bless us with the love and courage to live our lives to their fullest potential so that we might see God’s hand working through us to bless and comfort others.

As we begin this New Year together I ask you to keep me and your vestry in your prayers as we dream and plan for our year together. Things will change (they already have and always will) and our goal will always be to show forth Jesus Christ in all we do here at St. Paul’s. Our annual meeting is after the 10:30 service on the last Sunday of this month and we ask you to please be here so you can be a part of the new things God is doing here at your church!

I am grateful every day for each and every one of you! Your thoughtfulness and faithfulness is a light in our community and an inspiration to me each day. As we begin this New Year together we experience the joy of growing light and the miracle of birds and animals braving the bitter cold. God is at work in the world around us even as the temperatures drop!

During Epiphany it is common to remember the Holy Family and their search for a safe home to live in. House blessings are offered during this time to show our gratitude for God providing a safe roof over heads and ask God’s blessings on all who dwell there or are welcomed as guests. If you’d like to have your house blessed during Epiphanytide which lasts until February 14th (Ash Wednesday) please email or call me and I’ll happily schedule a date with you!

God bless and keep you during this New Year and may all your hopes and dreams be realized in 2018!

Faithfully,
Pastor Sarah+



From your Sr. Warden..



Happy New Year to all of you!
When I think back over the past twelve months, what a ride 2017 has been for St. Paul's!!!

In December, 2016 we said goodbye to our longtime faithful office manager, Pat Rutkowski, as she retired after over 22 years of service to this church. We welcomed Jackie O' Connor, who had some pretty large shoes to fill! She has done an outstanding job in her new role as office manager. Thank you so very much for hitting the ground running, Jackie! I could not have made it without you!!!

We also said goodbye to Fr. Rich and Gayle Ressler, as they announced his retirement from the priesthood in March. We were blessed by the supply priests that came to our rescue and led us in worship for the next five months.

We celebrated the lives of too many beloved friends who passed away too soon. They are loved and remembered by all of us. We are blessed by their presence in our lives.



Our choir director, Lori Pelham, resigned in May after five years of service and faithfulness to our parish. You are loved and missed, Lori, and we are thrilled when you pop in occasionally to visit! We were also blessed with the hiring of Genette Gillard as our new choir director! What a gifted musical dynamo she is!! And we also welcome her husband, Jerry PfiEFFle, to the men's section!

Phil Rowland resigned as our organist in July and we have been blessed with several talented musicians who faithfully stepped in to help us out. Sarah and I have discovered that church organists are an endangered species!!

After a long arduous search process, all of our discernment, reflection and PRAYER brought The Reverend Sarah Hurlbert and her beautiful wife, Dee, to our parish in August. And WOW! What a blessing God has bestowed upon us! She is precisely who we need at our helm as we make plans for the future of our church. She brings not only her beautiful speaking voice, but her love, compassion, calm demeanor, and fresh perspective to us exactly when we need it the most. Every week I tell her how fabulous her sermons are and she just keeps delivering them! Thank you, loving God, for your gift of Sarah and Dee to each and every one of us.

From your Sr. Warden...



continued...

The only employee that has not been replaced this year is our beloved Sam McKaney, who cleans up after us every single week. And that, my friends, is not an easy job! I told him he is not allowed to leave us EVER!!! What an enormous blessing he continues to be to St. Paul's. Please know how much we love you, Sam! You are not an employee, you are FAMILY! Thank you!

St. Paul's was the recipient of an enormous generous bequest of the George Bisbee Trust. With that gift of money, we were able to pay off our mortgage, install new windows in the education building, repair the soffits under the church roof, purchase badly needed sound equipment in the church. Through generous contributions of our members, we were able to purchase our shiny new beautiful piano and make expensive repairs to our organ. Under the amazing Buildings and Grounds leadership of Kyle King, our campus has never been in such good repair! You ROCK, Kyle! What love and dedication you have to St. Paul's! Thank you so much!

Last week, we received a \$15,000.00 gift from the Samuel Higby and Margaret Camp Trust to be designated for Mission and Outreach in our community in 2018!

To say that 2017 has been a year of transition is a bit of an understatement, but we have been inundated with blessings!!

With all the fabulous staff in place, necessary repairs made, mortgages paid off, we are in an awesome position to focus our energy and immeasurable resources on meaningful ministry and service to God in our community. Let us join hands, roll up our sleeves in thanksgiving and make use of all that has been bestowed upon us this past year. 2018 will be an exciting time to be a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

THANKS BE TO GOD!!

Barbara Markowski





From our Jr. Warden...

We have much to be thankful for in 2017. Bequeaths this past year have given us the opportunity to complete some major projects concerning outside maintenance. Windows in our 1965 building were replaced, repairs to the soffit & fascia on the Sanctuary were done on schedule with no cost over runs. We continue to be vigilant, being aware of any maintenance or upkeep needed by the Building & Grounds committee.

We have over forty people with keys and alarm codes to enter and lock up the facility. The main issue is the Building not being secured and or lights left on. There will be posted at the glass Narthex door and the "back" door by Holy Spirit Hall a guideline/check list for people being the last one out. Please take the time to review this list to prevent bathroom lights being left on, or Sanctuary lights as well. There are night lights that are labeled to be left on at all times as they are dusk to dawn controlled. In addition, we have a contractor on call if or when an emergency occurs, running water on floor, no power, no heat, etc.

Please call B&G Chair person first to explain the condition. If unable to reach them call the folks at Aladdin, their number will be on the list by the doors. They have a full time 24/7/365 person answering the telephone to respond to our needs.

I look forward to our first year of having a full time priest in many years. The skill set Rev. Sarah brought to our parish is a prelude of wonderful things to come. As well you will see.

Peace be with you , in this New Year!

Kyle King
Jr. Warden





Choir News

Thank you to all our dedicated choir members for many hours of practice.

The music for our Christmas and Advent services was inspiring!

Romelle Frey played her flute flawlessly and added to the spirit.

Our Bells directed by Michelle festively rang in the Christmas Eve service.

As our choir grows, we encourage anyone who would like to try us out !

Happy New year to all.



Lou Scheerbaum	January 3
Valerie Bullen	January 4
Peggy Wilds	January 6
Dee Hurlbert	January 10
Laura Rende	January 13
Josephine Alipit	January 14
Sandra Kilian	January 20
Kim Perlos	January 22



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW



The ECW Holiday Luncheon was held at The Country Club of Jackson on December 16th. Co-President Sue Hammett greeted all and thanked Helen Greene and others for organizing the event.

Sandra Kilian led the responsive prayer Circle Us God with the Women's Episcopal Prayer read by all. Romelle Frey sold nuts taken to the club and gave an update on the great progress of the fundraiser. After enjoying a wonderful meal, a group picture was taken.

Our fundraising Nut and Candy Sale is nearly finished with a profit of \$1,057.50. A final report will be made when the last bag is sold. We have used money from this sale to purchase a dozen new purificators. Purificators are the small linen towels used to cover and then also wipe the chalice during Holy Communion. The cost for the twelve was \$301.00.

With ECW not meeting during the winter months of January or February, please watch for news of our next meeting in March. While on this winter break, it is an excellent time for attending the Holy Eucharist Service at 12:15 on Wednesdays.

Cheryl Gumper, Vice-President





CHURCH SCHOOL

An update on the service projects for December:

With your help the children were able to fill and deliver THREE tubs of toys to the Priceless Gift Toy Store before December 15th. So many families in Jackson are blessed by this ministry, and we are proud to be a part of Making Christmas Special for those with few resources to bring smiles to children's faces on Christmas morning.

The fund raising for Episcopal Relief and Development was amazing! Thanks to your donations and the donations from the students of Zoe Magnussans second grade class, our Kiddo's raised over \$327.00. After counting the funds, the children decided to purchase a goat (\$80.00), and pig (\$100.00), a flock of chickens (\$125.00), and a share of chickens (\$25.00).

We feel it is important to teach the children to share God's love by working and earning toward a goal in the form of service to our community and the world. Thank you all for supporting us.

Next up for the month of January: We will gather and put together "Soup in a Jar" for the local food pantry. We did this last year and it was VERY appreciated by the pantry. Notes will go home with the children with a list of items we need to fill the jars.

January 7th is Epiphany Sunday and we are putting our pageant together... We have asked the children present the last two Sunday's what they would like to be. If your child would like to get involved with this important and FUN event, please let us know. There will be a practice for everyone on Saturday January 6th at 12:00. If we don't see you, calls, emails, and texts' will be coming your way!

In class we have been and will continue to study the coming of our KING! The balance of January will start us on the ministry of Jesus. This curriculum is timely and so teacher friendly, we truly wish you would come join us for any Sunday morning to get to know the kids and how the lessons work.

Class begins at 10:00 with a gathering time for combined classes where we learn songs, play games, and introduce the lesson. Then we split up to our classrooms to develop the lesson. We join the rest of the congregation at the peace each Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to visit and see how this curriculum is working. Maybe you'd like to substitute now and again???

The nursery is now open through the entire service for the convenience of parents.

Your Church School Volunteers

Zoe Baldwin, Molly Fearon, and Kim Perlos



**SOUPER SOUP AND SANDWICH
SATURDAY
JANUARY 27 FROM
4 TO 6:30 PM
ADULT FELLOWSHIP
GAME DAY**

With winter bearing down and the spring still months away it is time to shake off the winter blues and have some fun. The game we have chosen for this first outing is the old time traditional Michigan favorite euchre. A game that is great fun and easy to learn. We will provide a bowl of soup and sandwich fixens.

We are asking for a donation of three dollar per person. (Due to the large amount of cash that will be taken in, we will ask that you check your weapons at the door).

In order to plan the event, a sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer and you may invite as many friends, relatives or otherwise that you like (professional Euchre players are not encouraged).

Child care will be provided. If you have questions call Barney Rudolph
517-474-4367



THANK YOU!!

To everyone that helped make Advent 4, Christmas Eve Services, and Christmas Day Service go smoothly. You did an incredible job!!!

THANK YOU!!

Alter Guild, Choir, Acolytes,
Readers & Ushers!!
You are Amazing!!



Reminder:

Our Annual Meeting
will be on Sunday Jan.
28th after the 10:30
am service with lunch
provided.



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR	2	3	4	5	6
	OFFICE CLOSED	11 am Knitting & Crafting 5:30 pm Mission & Outreach 6 pm Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice		8:30 am EYSJ 10 am Worship Mtg
7 ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAYS	8	9	10	11	12	13
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5:30 pm Building & Grounds 6 pm Handbell Practice		11 am ECW
14 NOISY SUNDAY	15	16	17	18	19	20
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 1 pm Brownell 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice		8:30 am EYSJ
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Big B/S 6 pm Handbell Practice		
28	29	30	31			
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hour / Annual Meeting	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice			