

January
2019
Volume
XLVII

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

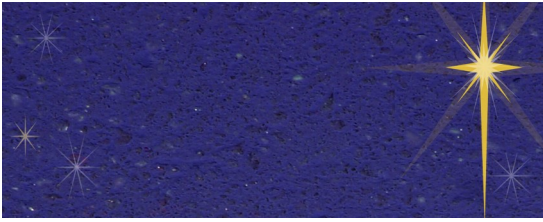


May the God of hope
fill you with all **JOY AND PEACE**
as you trust in him so that
you may overflow with **HOPE**
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Inside this issue

Rector's Corner	2
Sr. Warden	3
Jr. Warden	4
M & O	5
Birthdays.....	6
Choir News	6
ECW	7
Interfaith Dinner	8
Pastor Sarah's Picks...	9
UTO Corner	10
Announcements	11
Calendar	12



Rector's Corner

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Friends,

Christ is born, Alleluia! As I write this letter we are still amid the glory of the 12 days of Christmas. Though I drive by many trees and the detritus of Christmas morning hauled out to the curb for the poor trash men to cart off, WE still celebrate His birth! I do so love basking in the light of the Christmas tree over morning coffee or a glass of wine at night. The lights bring hope and peace to me. Hope and peace are what we all need more of right now and they are best found in the presence of God.

At its best, my prayer life brings me to the presence of God where I find hope and peace, rest for my soul and guidance for my life. Having attended an Advent retreat last month, I'm incorporating some different prayers into my life this year in hopes of being in God's presence ever more this year. Mind you these are not strategies to call God down from some lofty place but to calm my heart and mind so I can slip into the ever-flowing stream of God's presence that is all around us even now.

The meaning of Christmas is that God wants to be WITH us! God was physically present in the person of Jesus Christ for a brief time on earth and we study His life to learn it's great truths about God's love and our need for that love. It's up to us now to make and take the time to be aware of the presence of God and be nourished by that presence. On Sunday for sure when we hear the Word and receive the Word incarnate in the Eucharist. But we are called to enter that stream of God's loving presence as often as we can to be fed, guided and encouraged in our own walk with Jesus.

I'm not much for New Year's resolutions because my human failings leave them in shambles fairly quickly. I do take stock of the past year in my prayers at the beginning of the year and ask God to use Epiphanytide as a time of revelation for where I've strayed in my life, where I need correction, where I've let fear lead me instead of love. Usually, if I've been faithful in meeting God in prayer, by Ash Wednesday I've got a pretty good idea of what the themes of my Lenten journey are going to be. This helps direct my prayers and studies for Lent.

This New Year don't forget to pray as you make your resolutions or look back over 2018. Ask God to show you the blessings and the failings and giving them all to God, ask for guidance for 2019. Whatever comes in the New Year, spending more time in God's presence will make it richer and your love affair with God deeper than you can imagine.

Happy New Year and God's every blessing upon you and yours!
Sarah+



From your Sr. Warden...



Well friends here we are at the end of another year, and a start of a new one! This past month has been very busy. Here are some of the highlights:

The Evening worship on the 3 Thursdays of Advent was wonderful and everyone enjoyed the service, soup and fellowship. I for one, think this should become a yearly tradition at St Paul's. I think it helps to put us in a place that we need to be for the birth of our Savior.

Christmas services at St. Paul's are always one of the highlights of the year. Our young parishioners did a beautiful job helping with the 5 o'clock Christmas Eve service and both the 5 pm and 11 pm were very well attended and enjoyed by all. The annual Christmas Lessons & Carols service is a wonderful tradition also, all our readers were excellent and everyone enjoyed singing our favorite Christmas hymns.

The ECW Holiday Luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson was a wonderful time. I'm thankful for Helen Greene for sponsoring it.

The St Nicholas party was a hit as usual. Thank you, Kyle, for playing St Nicholas. Rev Sarah made her debut as St Nicholas for the Get Real kids on the same Sunday. She did an excellent job, and the kids loved her. As a matter of fact, there is some video of her too. Watch out Kyle you might have some competition!

On the same day there was a group from Spring Arbor University who took videos of our church for a project. It turned out GREAT!! It featured James Grant, Eric Magnusson, and Rev Sarah. Very well done. The Youtube link to view it is in the weekly email. Be sure to check it out.

The bell choir has moved from the balcony to the chapel. I think everyone is pleased with the move and hope to be playing for the congregation soon.

While Rev Sarah was out of town last month, we were blessed to have Fr Matthew Lukens share our eucharist. He was quite a pleasure to have with us. Pastor Fred Fritz filled in for one of our Thursday evening advent services and did a wonderful job as well.

Happy New Year to you all!

Sincerely,

Sue Hammett
Senior Warden





From our Jr. Warden...

My Epistle entry this month will be the last one as I will be stepping down as your Junior Warden and Vestry person. Yes, my three years of service are done. However, I will remain if allowed to be the chairperson of Buildings and Grounds, reporting to the vestry. This will open the Junior Wardens position to a new direction, being more of a “peoples” warden as needed not mandated as B&G chairperson. I want to thank the Buildings and Grounds team working to keep our parish in great shape, Harry Strait, Michelle Gibson, Dennis Marsh, Nathan Randall, Steve Baldwin, Clark Hutchens, Barney Rudolph, our garden specialists Lynn Eckerle, Dr. Edward & Helen Greene, and Susan Smar. I cannot remember a year in recent past that this parish has given SO MUCH to so many.

The Safety and Emergency Planning Team have taken steps towards making our parish a safer place to be. Considering the current situation of crime and violence throughout the world we have installed better and more efficient outside lighting, installed a closed-circuit TV camera system monitoring all outside doors, hallways and sanctuary. Have purchased two-way radios for communicating between Sunday school, nursery, ushers and a team member from the Safety and Emergency Planning Team that will monitor the cameras.

We have accomplished much this year and have a plate of new opportunities for 2019! Completing the changeover of florescent lights to LED bulbs throughout the premises including Holy Spirit Hall. Refinishing the floors in Holy Spirit Hall and the hallways around it and the hallways upstairs in the education building. Refinishing the wooden doors leading in to our church from S. Jackson St. replacing the broken window leading up the steps to the balcony will be replaced.

The safety and emergency planning group are looking at plans for evacuation of the buildings in the event of a fire or another event. This will require a change of thinking such as with old wooden doors with door knobs in the sanctuary will be converted to push bars for quick exits, keeping the original doors in place. Being mindful of not placing items in the path of emergency doors or exits. Conduct drills to become familiar with the procedures of exiting quickly. Purchase rope ladders for the second-floor rooms in the education building. So, we have much to do and always welcome new faces!! Buildings & Grounds meet on the last Thursday (5:30PM) before the vestry meetings and Safety and Emergency Planning will resume on Monday's 5:30PM starting January 7th.

Peace be with you throughout 2019!

Kyle King



Mission & Outreach

An enormous thank you to all for your generosity this Christmas season. Because of you, we were able to deliver a carload of Christmas gifts to 18 women and children currently residing in the AWARE shelter. They were thrilled to receive so much love from St. Paul's. We also distributed 9 gift cards to the case workers at Family Services Children's Aid (FSCA). They have very challenging, emotionally fraught occupations and they were also thrilled to be remembered and appreciated. Lastly, we collected and delivered 360 pairs of socks to the Interfaith Shelter! They are also deeply grateful for our generosity to them throughout the year,

Deanna Leicht met with the Director of Interfaith and they have worked out the entire menu for 2019, with plans for fresh cooked dinners, concentrating on nutritious meals with less waste. We are happy to be partnering with them in 2019!

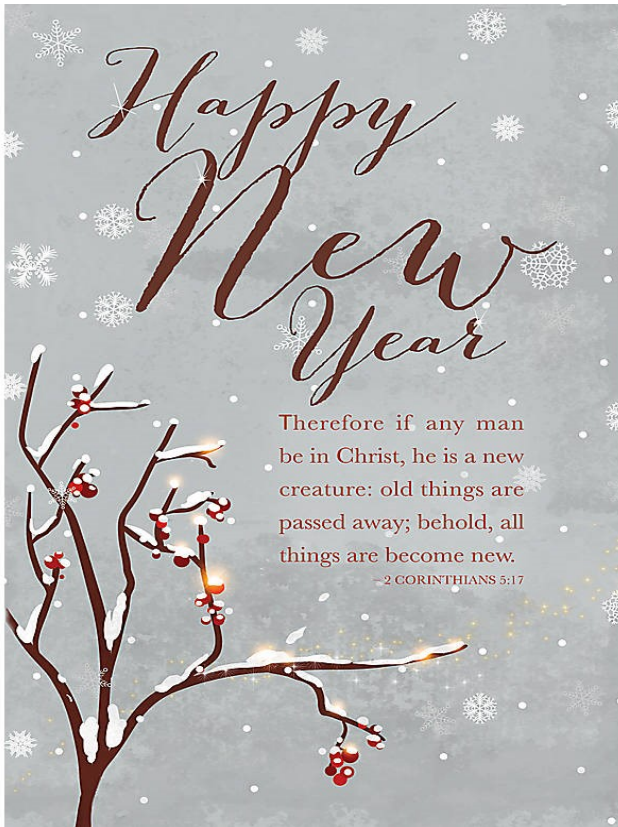
On behalf of the M&O committee, we wish you the best that 2019 has to offer. Please look forward to our annual M&O report, which will be distributed at our annual meeting in January!

Blessings and thankfulness to you all,

*Barb Markowski, Barney Rudolph,
and the entire M&O committee*

PS: We are always looking for more members for M&O!





Choir News

Wishing a Happy New Year to all at St. Paul's from the choir!

We would love to have new members join our choir, no matter your ability! We especially need you ladies!



January
BIRTHDAYS

Valerie Bullen	January 4
Peggy Wilds	January 6
Dee Hurlbert	January 10
Laura Rende	January 13
Josephine Alipit	January 14
Dana Burkey	January 19
Sandra Kilian	January 20
Kim Perlos	January 22

Have A
Blessed
New Year!

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ECW



Happy New Year! Hard to believe it's January already!

December was a busy month for everyone. One of the highlights was the annual ECW Christmas Luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson. It was a beautiful day and 30 women came out to enjoy food and fellowship as we celebrated the first week of Advent and the beginning of the Christmas season. We were honored that Rev. Sarah was able to join us also. Those women who were unable to make it were greatly missed. A very special thank you to Helen Green for arranging the wonderful venue. The hats scarves and gloves collected were given to Priceless Gifts for distribution to area children. Thank you to all who donated for this special cause.

The Nut sale this year was mainly through pre-ordering with some extras for those who were unable to get their orders in on time. We are delighted to report that as of this writing we only have seven bags left out of 45 cases ordered giving us a profit of \$1084. This is a wonderful outcome as it's our main fundraiser. Anyone interested in what's left please contact Romelle Frey. Act fast as they're going quickly!! Romelle is standing by!

We continue to make plans for the year ahead. Our next meeting will be January 12, 11 AM at the church. Our speakers will be Leigh Robertson and Karen Hale from the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. They will give us some insight on the Unitarian Universalist church and will also have a video as part of their presentation. Leigh is a seasoned, dynamic public speaker and both she and Karen are active in and passionate about their church. It promises to be a very interesting presentation. Our February presenter is Michelle Gibson. Michelle will give a presentation on our collection of bells and the bell choir. If you've ever wondered about the bells, where they came from, how they work, how the choir works or who is eligible to be in the choir then this is a presentation you should not miss. Mark your calendar now for February 9 at 11 AM. We look forward to hearing all about it. Stay tuned as we continue to add interesting, timely and relevant speakers and topics to our schedule.

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas season and were able to spend it with loving friends and family. We wish you a very happy and blessed year ahead and we hope you will be able to spend some of it with us in ECW. And remember as always all women regardless of church affiliation are welcome to join us at any ECW meeting.

Valerie Rowley
Vice President, ECW.

Interfaith Dinners...



Jackson
Interfaith Shelter

Leading St. Paul's in providing the Interfaith Shelter dinners for the 4th Tuesday of the odd calendar months it has been a joy. My conversations with the Shelter staff have been very informative and based on their input we are making some changes to our menu and how we serve it that will benefit all.

Meals will be healthier, with lower sodium and fresher ingredients and so our what we ask of our congregation will be different. We found out that Gordons provides fresh salad items to the shelter and so we will not be providing salads for the dinners because the Shelter staff will provide it.

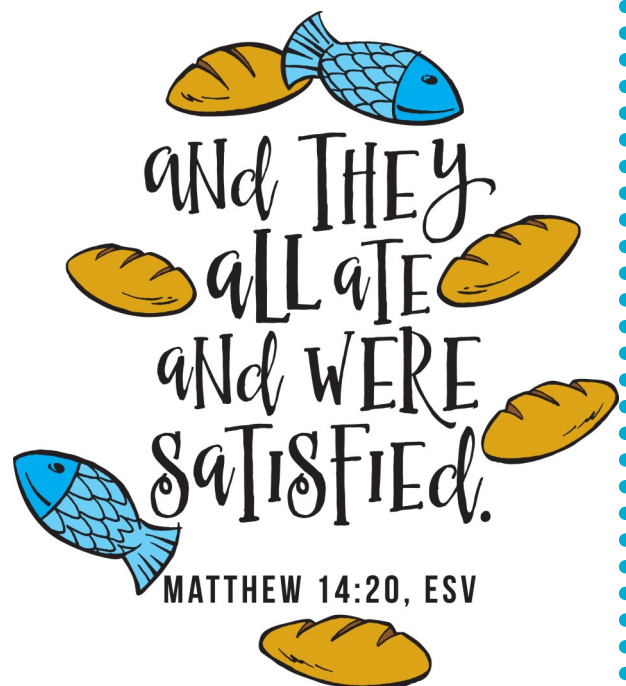
We are soliciting fresh meat and frozen vegetables for the winter months from local grocery stores to great success and during the hot summer months, we will set up a cookout when the weather is appropriate, so we can bring a grill to their facility and do a variety of items. We are already getting some fresh vegetables and fruit donations from local farmers and stores and the most asked for item from the residents is fresh fruit which we will make sure to provide each time we serve.

So look for changes in what we ask of you for this dinner. Cash donations and specific fresh items will be suggested as well as an increase in the amount of people needed to prep dinner on our Tuesdays. Servers are always needed and we encourage families to sign up to serve as there are jobs everyone can do! Sign up sheets and announcements will let you know what is needed.

Thanks so much for your continued generosity and we'll see you at our January Shelter Dinner on the 22nd.

Sincerely,

Deanna Leicht



Pastor Sarah's Picks!



Friends,

Some of you know one of my favorite pastimes is going to the movies. I've loved them ever since I was a kid and love losing myself in a delightful story or visual journey. I want to share some of my movie-going experiences with you as a fun column for our 2019 newsletters. I'm in no way an expert or a critic you should follow I just know what I like and have fun talking about movies with others. So here goes, hope you enjoy it and see you at the movies!

They Shall Not Grow Old

Famed director Peter Jackson is the only person who could've made this remarkable film. As a child, having heard stories about his grandfather who was a veteran of WW1, Jackson was fascinated by the history of the Great War even making his own 8mm film about it as a young boy. With his wildly successful Lord of the Rings trilogy, he amassed wealth, talent and a great creative empire based in New Zealand. He also collected WW1 memorabilia like uniforms, regimental records, war magazines and even some canons from the period! So when the British Imperial War Museum approached him in 2014 about making a film out of their huge collection of silent film reels from the war and audio recordings of WW1 veterans, Jackson jumped at the chance.

The product of 4 years of hard work (the length of the war itself...) was They Shall Not Grow Old. Creating computer programs as they went, his creative team were able to take the shaky, grainy old films and restore them to the right speed and resolution and even brought in an expert American group to colorize them with realistic beauty of the countryside and the horrors of the battlefield. He brought in expert lip readers to interpret the silent film segments and then hired actors (with accents proper for the regiment who were filmed!) to do the voice overs. He then took the hundreds of hours of audio interviews the BBC had done with WW1 veterans during the 60's and 70's and threaded a narrative of the everyday British soldier's experience in the Great War from the day war was declared to Armistice.

The result is nearly miraculous. Flat, grainy images of grubby soldiers marching at a comical pace become flesh and blood portraits of young men and boys off to war straight from their parents' home, from the farm or factory with no idea what they're about to experience. Jackson, doesn't try to include a little bit of every part of the war, instead he follows a few regiments as they deal with the mud, death and decay of every day on the front. What he produces brings humanity to old images which have been moldering in museum archives for a century. The boys who leave spoiling for a fight come back (if they're lucky enough) men who have experienced the horror and futility of war and understand it's unholy disregard for God's greatest gift. Life...

The movie is in limited release now but will surely come to dvd or an online service later. If you have an interest in military history, are a Peter Jackson fan or just want to see the amazing technology at work in today's film editing world...I recommend seeing They Shall Not Grow Old. You won't be disappointed!

Episcopal 101 Class

Pastor Sarah will be hosting an Episcopal 101 class every 2nd Sunday of the month through 2019. Grab your coffee after the 10:30am service and we'll meet in the Small Dining Room to learn together. This class is especially good for newcomers, folks new to the Episcopal Church, folks who want to be baptized or confirmed and anyone who's just curious! We'll have a lesson plan each month and include time for any questions you might have. So save these Sundays on your calendar for your questions and let's learn together!

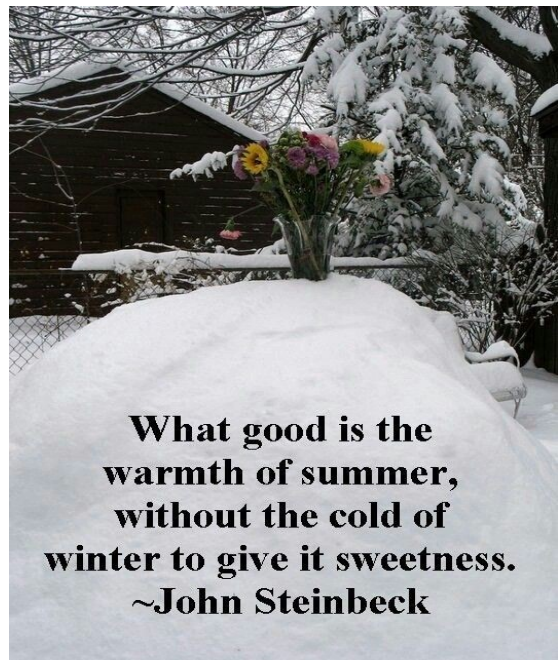


United Thank Offering
(UTO)
Corner

Yes!

Winter is a season of Blessings & Thankfulness!

WINTER SNOW
Boots Baby Its Cold Outside
Sleigh Riding ❄️ Scarfs
Jack Frost Nipping At Your Nose
Cold ❄️ Snowmen
SNOWY Mittens ❄️
SNOW DAYS Slushy
Snowball Fights Windy
SNOW Slippery
❄️ December ❄️ ICICLES
Freezing Let It Snow Sled JANUARY



**What good is the
warmth of summer,
without the cold of
winter to give it sweetness.
~John Steinbeck**

What are you thankful for this month?

THANK YOU!!

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

THANK YOU!!

Alter Guild, Choir, Acolytes, Readers & Ushers, and a special shout out to the wonderful children of St. Paul's who helped out on Christmas Eve.

You are Amazing!!

Reminder:

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday Jan. 20th after the 10:30 am service with lunch provided.



Happy
NEW YEAR!

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"
SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD
AND NOT FOR DISASTER,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE"

JEREMIAH 29:11

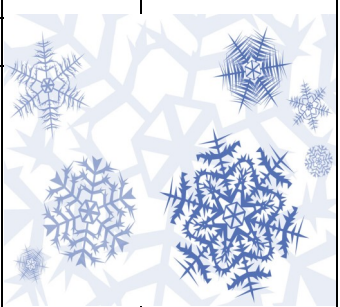
The St. Paul's Epiphany Pageant will be held at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, January 6th.

&

We are looking for volunteers after the Epiphany Pageant to help remove the greenery from the church.

January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		OFFICE CLOSED	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist	6 pm Handbell Practice		8 am Judson Center 10 am Worship Committee
6 ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAYS	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour / Epiphany Pageant	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 5:30 pm Mission & Outreach	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5:30 pm Building & Grounds 6 pm Handbell Practice		11 am ECW 12:30 pm EYSJ
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee / Episcopal 101	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 1 pm Brownell Lunch 6:30 pm Choir	6 pm Handbell Practice		8:00 am Judson Center
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Annual Meeting	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Big B/S 6 pm Handbell Practice		
27	28	29	30	31		
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice		