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THE EPISTLE

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Inside this issue

Rector's Corner.....	2
Sr. Warden.....	3
B & G.....	4
Hospitality.....	5
M & O.....	6,7
Choir News.....	7
Technology.....	8
Birthdays & Anniv. ..	9
ECW.....	10
Pastor Sarah's Picks	11
St. Patrick's Day	11
Ash Wed schedule....	12
Calendar	13
Lenten Prayers.....	14



Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. BCP p. 832

Friends,

Lent is upon us! As we begin this journey together I encourage you to make space to keep Lent in your daily life these next six weeks before Holy Week and Easter. There are so many resources out there to help you keep Lent. Your Lenten journey can be as simple or as complex as you want to make it! Making and taking time each day for prayer, reading the Bible, reading a devotional book, fasting (as you feel led to) from food or social media or harsh words or any number of things can help as well. I usually try to balance Lent by fasting from something and taking something on. If you fast a meal each week then use that money/time/energy to give of yourself to a person or organization in need. Focus your prayers on a person or people whom you are concerned about releasing them to God's loving care. Read a book or listen to a speaker on a subject that brings you joy. Use Lent as the gift it is...time to understand God's love for you and this world we live in.

Lent is not a time for self-help regimens designed to make us better versions of ourselves but rather a time to focus on God's love for us and what we allow to get in the way of living in that love. In the end, we hopefully expect God will help us resemble Jesus Christ rather than polished versions of ourselves. Giving ourselves up to God's love in whatever Lenten practice we take up will allow us to experience Jesus' Way of Love and join Him on that Way.

Please note: it is the custom of the Church to keep fasts for specific seasons but not on Sundays because each Sunday is a Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Our liturgy changes to reflect the season and allow space for silence, reflection and deep connection with God. So, don't skip church because you think it'll be boring! And don't forget to break your fast on Sunday so you can refresh yourself and reflect on the meaning of your fast surrounded by God's love.

As always, I'm available for prayer and conversation during this reflective season as well as the Sacrament of Reconciliation also known as Confession for any individual who desires it. Sometimes our burdens can only be lifted when they are confessed privately to a caring priest. I've used this beautiful Sacrament in my own life many times and am happy to provide it to you should you desire it. I pray you have a blessed and fruitful Lent and ask your prayers for my own Lenten journey...

Faithfully,
Sarah+



From Our Sr. Warden

The Emergency Committee continues to meet on Monday evenings. We are actively looking for people who are willing to commit being on a schedule to help monitor the cameras and hallways. If you or someone you know is interested or willing to help, please let Kyle or any member of the committee know.

Our wonderful Sexton is finally on the mend. I know we appreciate all that Sam does but it becomes apparent just how much he does when we need to step in to help. After coffee hour on the 3rd, Sue Hammett, Dee Hurlbert and myself took to cleaning Holy Spirit Hall, the kitchen and doing the normal “after church” clean up that Sam usually does. Pastor Sarah ran the dishwasher and cleaned all of the plates, silverware, glasses and trays. The following week Barb Markowski, Dee, Pastor Sarah and myself spent time tidying up the church in preparation for one of the funerals. We quickly discovered that we need new mopheads, a super sucker vacuum and more attention to how our wonderful facilities are kept up. Kyle has received one quote for floor stripping in Holy Spirit Hall and the hope is that once the floors are returned to a more original state, the upkeep should be easier. More to come on this.

Many thanks to those who stepped in to help us Sunday, February 24th especially Tom for pushing the vacuum and to John and Jo for helping with coffee hour and clean up. And to Barb for running the dishwasher. And to all who offered to help.

Barney Rudolph has stepped up to lead the team in preparation for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. If you would like to join in the fun and see how exciting it can be behind the scenes, please reach out to Barney. He will most likely need helpers to shop, set up, cook and clean. Thank you, Barney for your leadership.

Even though Mother Nature has tried her best, she just can't keep the drummers and ringers away. Cardio Drumming has been a huge hit. Averaging 12 per class we are at the point of ordering more equipment. We are also adding a second day a week. Classes will be held from 5:15 p.m. – 5:55 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All are welcome. Also, the bell ringers have been working hard. They will be playing the prelude on the 24th. Also, we have ordered a handbell tree stand. This will allow us a “fuller” sound with such a small group. I presented a workshop to the ECW on the bells sharing a bit of history on the St. Paul's set and demonstrating some of the techniques used in ringing. We had six volunteers (five of the volunteers had never rung), and with a little direction, they created some lovely music proving that anyone can play the bells.

Vestry retreat is March 3rd. I will share my thoughts with you all in the next article.

Shalom,
Michelle



Building & Grounds

February 2019 was full of challenges. Several unscheduled events and weather challenges occurred. However not getting lost in the mayhem we were up to the task. First, the efforts of Daugherty snow service, removing ice and snow was, in my opinion done well and timely, considering the large amounts of ice, rain, then snow as it came and went. It takes trust and communication in keeping the walkways and parking clear for the events as scheduled around our facility. Keep your events scheduled with our “Angel” Alice, as she records and posts the week calendar of events. If Alice has not been advised of your message, it will not be posted, (unless posted on the bulletin by you).

An emergency cell phone call was recorded by 911 to a smell of natural gas emitting from our facility on the Wesley St. side of our property. As it turned out a Holy Spirit boiler was the issue. Safety was not a concern and Aladdin, our contract provider for HVAC, arrived to inspect the ignition system and gave the “all ok”. A broken kneeler in the nave was reported, then replaced by Dennis Marsh, Nathan Randall, Michelle Gibson. Good job team! Motion light in the south room behind the baptismal font is to be replaced. New piano needs water, regularly, especially in the winter. We need a schedule of persons to respond, outside of buildings and grounds. B&G will continue to supply RO water to fill the damper on the piano.

Our Sexton Sam McKaney has been under the weather recently. Many here have been stepping in, helping with the expectation of his return soon. Please pray for Sam’s speedy recovery.

Safety Systems Inc. has yet to complete the install of a remote door release on the South Jackson St. entrance controlled from Admin. Office.

The Safety & Emergency planning committee has been busy. We need folks that have signed up to participate now. The framework is becoming clearer. The future of St. Paul’s response to the adversity of physical or weather-related events will become the responsibility and participation of all parishioners committed to our parish and this committee. We need six people that attended the meeting presented by the Michigan State Police on safety to respond to this call, call Kyle King 745-7569. On the thought as to weather related events, Red Cross of Jackson County has asked about our Parish becoming an Emergency Shelter in the event of a catastrophic event in the Jackson area. The paperwork will be presented to the vestry again in the month of March. You need to provide input as to your questions and or approval prior to their meeting on March 19th. Any questions as to the language of the contract, ask Kyle King 787-1274 or kylekingo8@comcast.net. I have volunteered as primary contact to the RED Cross as contact. Are we ready to offer our facility to others in the future of this unannounced event?

Peace be with all,
Kyle King
Chairperson, Buildings & Grounds





Hospitality

The hospitality committee has a lot on their plate in the next couple of months and need YOU to help with the special occasions that we look forward to enjoying every year. Upcoming events include:

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper - March 5th

Lenten Book Study and Soup Suppers - Thursdays, March 7th thru April 4th

Special St. Patrick's Day coffee hour following the 10:30 am service on

Sunday, March 17th

Easter Sunday brunch following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 21st

Please look for sign-up sheets in the glass narthex for food and volunteers needed for these events, and contact Marianne Fowler at 517-395-4340 if you can lend a helping hand.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Please join us in the church from

5:30-6:00 pm for a hymn sing

Pancakes will be served from

6:30 – 7:30 pm in Holy Spirit Hall

Menu: pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverage.

Donations graciously accepted!

Please invite your family, friends, & neighbors!!!

Workers needed! Contact Barney Rudolph at (517) 474-4367.

Mission & Outreach

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. Paul's Mission and Outreach and Episcopal Church Women are joining forces to host a first annual fundraiser for SOAR Cafe and Farms this Spring!

If you recall, Michelle Cochran, founder of SOAR, was our guest at the Harvest Dinner in November of 2018. She gave her testimony of how she has been directed by God to work with women in our community who have been victims of sex and drug trafficking, sexual abuse and addiction. She created a nonprofit, entitled SOAR Cafe and Farms, that meets women where they are, most often in jail, to provide spiritual support as they navigate their way through the judicial system toward a fulfilling future, free from the bondage of shame, addiction and abuse. As a co-chair of M&O, I was so moved by Michelle's testimony that I invited her to our January meeting. We unanimously voted to support her work and vision for SOAR.

The Women of St. Paul's (ECW) and M&O are sponsoring a luncheon/ fundraiser/awareness event on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 11-1:30 pm in Holy Spirit Hall. The cost of the event is \$20 per person, to cover the cost of the meal, etc. We want to increase awareness of this powerful organization, raise money for their jail ministry and the future dream of a home for these women after they leave jail or prison.

This is where all of us come in...

We have 24 round tables that each seat 8 people. (192 total guests)

We are in need of St. Paul's women to sponsor at least one table of 8. (We already have four table sponsors!!) The event will be the day before Mother's Day, so it is the perfect opportunity to invite the favorite women in your lives, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts, nieces and BFF's to attend this event. It will be a catered gourmet lunch, handbag chance drawing and program.

We need women to purchase designer handbags for donation. (minimum \$50 retail value) Tickets will be sold to guests for chances to win the designer handbag of one's choice! All handbag ticket sales will be donated to SOAR. We would like a MINIMUM of 30 handbags! There are fabulous sales online and in stores right now, as the seasons are changing. I just purchased my Coach purse donation, \$150 retail for \$36, including shipping!! If you cannot afford to purchase a handbag by yourself, go in with a friend or two to make this happen.



Mission & Outreach cont'd...

We would also like to invite local businesses and parish members to make a financial donation to comp the cost of the catered meals. If we can raise that money, we can donate the event ticket sales, as well!

Michelle Cochran and other SOAR members will be the guest speakers at this luncheon. Their testimonies are so very powerful and God led. There will not be a dry eye in the house. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us. Sponsor a table, purchase a handbag, make a cash donation to cover expenses, volunteer to help us, promote and attend the event! Thank you for everything you continue to do in this generous, loving parish and community in the name of Christ!

To learn more about SOAR, go to www.soarcafeandfarms.com.

If you would like to find out more about this project, my contact information is listed below.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara Markowski c: (517) 206-0064, h: (517)531-5045, RLMHeartsgirl@aol.com

Choir News



I would like to give a shout out to our dedicated choir members! You all are so dedicated and wonderful.

This is for you !

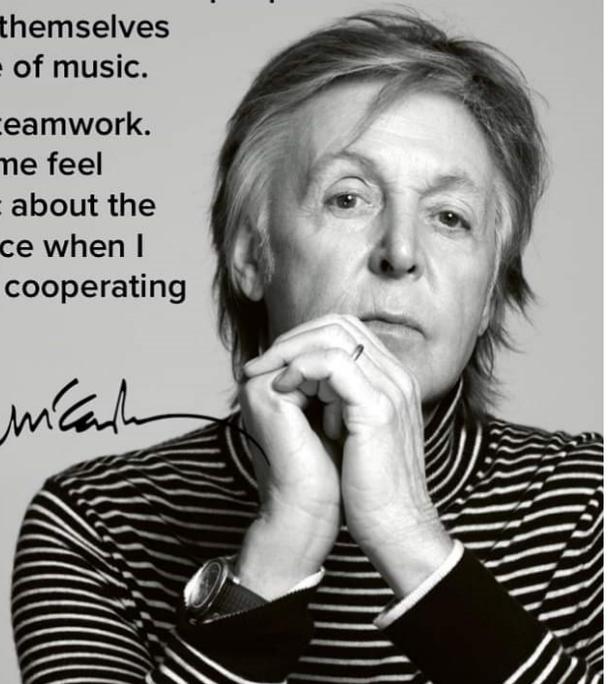
-Genette Gillard,

Choir Director

'I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music.

I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.'

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul McCartney".



Technology Report



This winter brought the inauguration of a new group serving St. Paul's: the Technology committee. Pastor Sarah welcomed Nathan Randall, James Grant, Jim Grace and myself in late January, emphasizing that technology touches all members of the parish.

Our first meeting began with approving a mission statement, as follows: The St. Paul's Technology Committee seeks to aid parishioners in embracing Christ's presence by facilitating healthy technology systems. There are three basic ways we will accomplish this mission. One, we will operate A/V systems for parish events. Two, we will research and implement IT solutions for administration and outreach. Three, we will facilitate education, repair and upgrades for all parish systems. These are some big responsibilities, but we are beginning with bite-sized chunks.

We started work by reviewing needs identified by the 2017 technology audit, Pastor Sarah, and individual team members. In the first quarter of 2019 the group is focusing on the following projects: replace the security system monitor in the office; inventory items throughout the church and dispose of/recycle legacy technology; and explore current pricing for mesh Wi-Fi throughout the building. I will give updates in future newsletters as we make progress toward these goals.

Members of the committee are eager to hear from you in our first months of work. If you know of needs we should add to our list please don't hesitate to reach out!

-Christy Randall





MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

Barb Duke	March 3
John Kurcz	March 3
Bob Duke	March 5
Betty Thomas	March 8
Ed Greene	March 9
Zoë Magnusson	March 12
Suzanne Gould	March 16
Greg Darling	March 23
Marianne Fowler	March 26
Susan Freer	March 26
Rhonda Rudolph	March 29
Thomas Draper	March 29



MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES

Nathan & Christy - March 21
Randall



Daylight Savings time to spring forward is
Sunday, March 10th!!!

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Bell Ringers Extraordinaire!!! The Women of St. Paul's ECW stepped up to play the St. Paul's bells after a wonderful introduction by Michelle Gibson on February 9th. Michelle shared how the bells are made, what the different sizes mean and how they sound, and how to play them to elicit all kinds of different tones. Then she showed us how to use them and invited us up to try them ourselves. And we did!! What fun, and now we all have a new appreciation for our bell ministry and all the bell ringers at St. Paul's.

In our previous meetings we had decided that this year we would share the proceeds of the nut sale with organizations in town that serve women and children. After voting from a number of options, we chose to split the money equally with the Jackson Friendly Home, a place for elderly women that has housed some of our own parishioners, the Aware Shelter, serving abused wives in Jackson, and Priceless Gifts, a ministry that provides an opportunity for parents to pick free toys for their children at Christmas. The nut sale netted around \$1100.00 and each group will receive roughly \$370.00. We plan to send a letter from ECW with each check. Thank you for your purchase of nuts!

As we enter the season of Lent we reflect on our spiritual lives and our relationship with God and one another. ECW has invited Natalie Magnusson to lead us in a Lenten Meditation to prepare us for our journey through Lent. She will be our guide at our March meeting on Saturday, March 9 – social time at 10:30 and meeting at 11. Come with open minds and open hearts. All women are welcome!!

Future meetings include April 13 – Connie Fridd with a look at the Opioid Crisis in Jackson from a personal perspective. June 8 – pot luck and picnic and a look at our questions from September meeting as we plan for the future. July 13 – I'm hoping for a colleague of mine to present on Doctors without Borders and her time in South Sudan. Still waiting to hear back from her.

The biggest meeting will be on May 11 when ECW will partner with M & O to present a luncheon and fundraiser for SOAR Café and Farms. We would love to have everyone participate. At the luncheon, we will be raffling off designer purses, theme bags, and theme baskets, which we hope members will provide. Please see Barb Markowski for more details or contact anyone on the planning team – Barb Markowski, Sandra Kilian, Brandi Bruckler, Jo Alipit, Janet Wesch, and Donna Thomas. We will also discuss it at our March meeting.

-Sandra Kilian
President, St. Paul's ECW



Pastor Sarah's Picks!



The Green Book

Best picture winner for this year's Oscars...Not so sure I would've chosen it over other movies, but I liked it a lot. If you've never heard of The Green Book that is, the actual book then rather than this movie, I'd recommend viewing the recent documentary of the same name. In fact, I hope to host a viewing of it here at St. Paul's in the coming weeks! The movie is more a buddy picture about two very different men who are thrown together by chance and become great friends in the process. There is history to learn about the Jim Crow era of our country for sure but not enough detail to truly be changed by the movie. The actors were great and both leading men had great buddy chemistry with each other, but I'd recommend learning more about The Green Book and how it came to be and the racial realities it reflected through the documentary. More to come on this soon...



Join us in worship on St. Patrick's Day,
Sunday March 17th at 10:30am.

Foxtree Band from Ann Arbor will be playing hymns during worship and coffee hour. Bring your friends for a fun filled Irish Sunday!



Lenten Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday on March 6th with “Ashes to go” at 8 am; and Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm.

Lenten Book Study and Soup Suppers on Thursday evenings, March 7th thru April 4th at 6:00 pm.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri-	Saturday
					1	2
						8:30 am EYSJ
3 BIRTHDAYS & ANNI-	4	5 SHROVE TUESDAY	6 ASH WEDNSDAY	7	8	9
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour 4 pm Get Real	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Craft 5:30 pm Hymn Sing/ Pancake Supper 6 pm Toastmasters	8 am Ashes to Go 11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir 7 pm Holy Eucharist	6 pm Lenten Book Study/Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		8 am Judson Center 10 am Worship Committee 10:30 am ECW
10 NOISY SUNDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
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 & Craft 5:15 pm Cardio Drum 5:30 pm M & O 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm B & G 6 pm Book Study/ Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
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 11 am Knitting & Craft 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 1 pm Brownell Lunch 6:30 pm Choir	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm B & G 6 pm Book Study/ Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		8:30 am EYSJ
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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 & Craft 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir	5 pm Big B/S 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm B & G 6 pm Book Study/ Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		8:30 am Judson Center
31						
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour						



Ideas For Lent From Rachel Held Evans

1. When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?
2. Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next 40 days?
3. Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?
4. I read somewhere to begin my Lenten fast with asking God what He wants me to "pick up" from Him, and that will help me discern what I should "put down" for Him.



Prayers for Lent

Psalm 51, Litany of Penitence, Compline from the Book of Common Prayer:

"O Lord and Master of my life, grant not unto me a spirit of idleness, of discouragement, of lust for power, and of vain speaking. But bestow upon me, Thy servant, the spirit of chastity, of meekness, of patience, and of love. Yea, O Lord and King, grant that I may perceive my own transgressions, and judge not my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages. Amen." (prayer used during Great Lent in the Eastern Orthodox Church, submitted by Bryan Michael Maes)

*It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.
-Madeleine L'Engle*



