

February
2019
Volume
XLVIII

THE EPISTLE

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Let all that you
do be done in *love.*

1 Corinthians 16:14

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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

Friends,

Epiphanytide is a time of growing light, of increasing knowledge of Jesus as the Christ and of the true meaning of discipleship. As we study the scriptures we are given during Epiphany we see an awakening of those around Jesus to who He was and what that meant for their lives. Reacting to His teaching, healing, feeding and loving, men and women left their ordinary lives to follow an extra ordinary man who wanted nothing more than to change the world.

But what about us today? 2000+ years after Jesus' time we sit in beautiful churches in a country where religious and individual freedom are enshrined into law. We live in such comfort compared to Jesus' first disciples and it's hard to see ourselves dropping everything as they did to follow Him. Thankfully, most of us will never have to endure the hardships they did for being disciples of Jesus Christ. But what about our faith? How are we called to live as Christians in this time and place today? How does your faith affect your daily life? My hope for this Epiphanytide is that you'll ask yourself these questions, engage with scripture and pray for God's love to show you the way.

Changing the world means first understanding the reality of our daily lives. Are we living in gratitude? Love? Generosity? Grace? Do people experience us as peacemakers? Do our lives point to Jesus' Way of Love for our partners, families, friends and coworkers? I'm not talking about being that annoying Bible-thumper who rains on everyone's parade. Do people wonder at how you can be so kind, helpful and joyful? Are folks encouraged by being around you? Do folks come to you for a listening ear or helpful advice? If so then you are living a disciple's life maybe without knowing it. If you can connect your faith in Jesus to living a life of loving service, then you will find the sweet spot of discipleship in your life.

Ask God to guide you as you look at your own disciple's life and find the places that need strengthening, places where you need partnership with others, places where you need to celebrate God's gifts in your life. These prayers can serve as a good guide for the season of Epiphany as we encounter Jesus' ministry and think about how it is reflected in our own lives. If we are faithful at these Holy Conversations with God and others we will find ourselves growing as disciples and ready to enter a Holy Lent in March. God's grace and love surround you so "fear not!" and know that God loves you enough to help you change the world right where you are, starting with yourself. Blessings for this Epiphany and may God take you on a grand adventure of growing discipleship.

Faithfully,
Sarah+





From Building & Grounds..

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Vestry and Fellow parishioners,

Building & Grounds met on January 17th, 2019. Meeting started at 5:30 PM. In attendance were Dennis Marsh, Harry Strait, Michelle Gibson, Nathan Randall, Ed Greene and new member Joe Spotts. We did a year-end wrap up with things left over from 2018 and planned future projects for 2019.

Old business: Remove & replace remaining old exit lights with LED ones with battery backup. Continue replacement of old fluorescent lighting with LED ones.

New business: Due to so much litter ending up on our property B&G will have a listing of members to be responsible to do the pick up by month. Nathan Randall is on for January, Kyle for February, assignments will be given for rest of the year. Gloves and containers will be provided. Any parishioners wanting to help please contact Kyle King at 517-787-1274 or leave Alice (office admin.) a note. Harry Strait has volunteered to check plumbing sinks and traps for proper function. Dennis Marsh has taken on the task of rerouting the boilers exhaust (Wesley St. side) to prevent ice buildup on outside temperature sensor wires. Clean up of B&G areas, Harry Strait has offered his services to begin a "spring cleaning" of specific areas, this will be an ongoing process. Harry was the person that painted the conduit where the new temp. sensor is in the hallway leading up to the balcony, Thank You for a great job Harry. Kitchen grease trap has been serviced. However, people using this sink must be sure no food is on the items to be cleaned. The sprayer over the garbage disposer is where you remove food particles.

Requests have been forwarded to B&G with a concern of the motion light in the Choir Director's "office" inoperable. Request for bookcases moved to the upstairs room next to Finance be secured to the walls. The floor in Holy Spirit Hall and the hallway surrounding it is in dire need of stripping and refinishing. I am preparing a quote for vestry approval to begin the process to maintain the floors due to many years of traffic with no preventative maintenance.

Thru the request of the Safety & Security Committee, we purchased and installed 2 1/2 pound fire extinguishers in several rooms. In the event of a fire in any room, it is essential for an extinguisher to be available to put out the fire, preventing a bigger one. We will arrange soon training for all interested in the proper use of a fire extinguisher. An estimate approved last year (2018) for Safety Systems Inc. to install another remote-controlled unlocking device has not been put in place on the doors leading into the glass narthex from S. Jackson St. Safety Systems (Rob Davis) explained the unit quoted was not compatible to our door resulting in a special order one. I will watch for any difference in the estimate vs. invoice.

Cold weather is upon us. When the temperature is below 10 degrees, we need to keep inside doors open in the church. this includes the fire doors leading from/to church narthex to the glass narthex, the doors from/to Narthex into the Nave, the glass doors leading to hallway in front of the offices. All doors on both sides of the altar to be left open. Our heating units are functioning well however the mini split AC/Heating units can stop working below 10 degrees. The mini splits are the units mounted on the wall in the Sacristy. I have left the sink faucet in the Sacristy on to a slow drip as the water lines are below the floor. You may be bored by now, so I will stop here.

Anything you see that needs attention please let anyone on the B&G team know.

Kyle King
Chair, Building & Grounds

From our Sr. Warden...



It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve this year as your Sr. Warden. I know that I follow in the footsteps of some amazing people like Barb Markowski and most recently, Sue Hammett. I am proud of where they have led us and look forward to what this next year has in store for our congregation and community.

I have been a lifelong Episcopalian spending most of my formative years in various Dioceses of Texas. I have served as acolyte, member of J and SEYC (Jr and Sr Episcopal Youth Community), lay reader, lay Eucharistic Minister, children's choir director, choir member and so much more. I attended St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin where I was part of a global student body representing many different religions and cultures. We held chapel four times a week and sat side by side exploring our neighbors' and our own faith in harmony. On the St. Stephen's website, they write:

Episcopal Identity

St. Stephen's Episcopal School welcomes students, faculty, and staff from many religious backgrounds and practices. We are a diocesan school of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and our daily chapel services are in the Episcopal tradition. However, we thrive on diversity, emphasizing the value and dignity of our students' diverse individual religious practices and spiritual needs. We encourage members of every spiritual tradition to seek clarity about their own beliefs and to honor their own traditions more fully and faithfully in their lives.

The Episcopal tradition values reason as a way to wisdom and understanding. We encourage students to pursue their own questions, while integrating what we have inherited from the past.

Our mission is also to "strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being." We value service to the local and global communities, respect for the earth, and the uniqueness of every member of our community.



~Outside chapel overlooking the hills beyond Austin

"...emphasizing the value and dignity of our students' diverse individual religious practices and spiritual needs".

These words resonate so strongly with me. In the last year, we have welcomed numerous new people to our congregation. Some come from different religious backgrounds. Some just come from a place of spirituality and are curious to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Some come to us from a place of feeling burdened and unloved. We are so glad you found us. You are loved and you now belong. It is a thrill to see our church growing and I am excited to see where this year will take us.

My hope is for St. Paul's to continue to be a place where "we emphasize and value the dignity of all our members". "Where, together, we strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being". At the risk of sounding trite...*Love Wins, y'all*. And at St. Paul's I am constantly reminded of how well we embrace this mantra. Thanks be to God!

So, first up for the new Vestry...we will have our first full meeting on February 14th at 6:30 in the small dining room. All are welcome to attend (you do not need to be a Vestry member to join us).

March 2nd, we will be attending the Diocesan Vestry Retreat in Lansing. There, we will be joining with the Vestry members from other churches in our diocese to build on the diocesan theme of Fire of Renewal. I look forward to reporting back to you on the exciting discussions that come out of that gathering.

I would like to end with a simple request...if you are interested in getting more involved in a ministry or activity at St. Paul's, please let me know. We have so many wonderful ministries and fellowship opportunities for you to experience. I want everyone to feel as much a part of this wonderful community as I do.

Shalom,
Michelle



~St. Stephen's Chapel on the Hill. Luminaries lit just prior to the service of Lessons and Carols.



Absalom Jones Celebration

Saturday, February 16, 11am
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit

Please join us for the diocesan celebration of the Reverend Absalom Jones, the first African American pastor, pioneer and priest ordained in the Episcopal Church.

The Rt. Rev'd Jennifer Baskerville Burrows will be our guest preacher



The Rt. Rev'd Jennifer Baskerville Burrows is the Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis. Bishop Jennifer is from New York, and is a graduate of Smith College, Cornell University and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. She has expertise in historic preservation and a passion for issues including gun violence, social justice, and racial and class reconciliation. She also maintains a focus in guiding others through spiritual direction.

**Blessed Absalom Jones offering to assist
Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities**



**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS**



**FEBRUARY
ANNIVERSARIES**

Cassandra Lagow	February 3
Nathan Randall	February 8
Loren Swanson	February 15
Mishele Wilkins	February 17
Harry Strait	February 18
Evelyn McCann	February 19
Valerie Rowley	February 20
Marianne Kincaid	February 21
Donna Kurcz	February 23
Diane Worthing	February 24
Chris Scheele	February 24

Rev. Sarah & Dee Hurlbert
February 18
Elaine & Benjamin Themm
February 14



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW



Time for another ECW update already! The Annual Parish Meeting is behind us now and we congratulate those elected to the vestry and thank those who have served well for the past three years. With new blood comes new ideas and we look forward to continuing progress and change in the future.

Our January meeting included a very educational presentation by Leigh Robertson and Karen Hale on the Universalist Unitarian church. We learned a lot and both Leigh and Karen were very generous with their time, their faith stories, and answering all our questions.

I talked last time about our February presentation. Does it ring a bell yet? Yes, that's right! It's Michelle Gibson's presentation on the church's bell collection and the bell choir. You might think there isn't much to learn about the bells and if you do, you will be pleasantly surprised by this presentation. We hope that many of you will be able to attend this informative meeting.

In keeping with our mission to serve women's spiritual growth our March meeting will include a contemplative interlude that will help bring us into the Lenten season and sustain us through Lent toward the promised resurrection of Easter. This will be a welcome change of pace from our otherwise busy schedules and will help us all pause and reflect on Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer. Perhaps we can consider how we might learn from His experiences during His time in the wilderness.

Other upcoming events include the May luncheon for the women's group SOAR. This luncheon will be jointly sponsored by ECW and Mission and Outreach. You may recall that SOAR was represented at our harvest dinner where one of the women they help, who was a victim of human trafficking, shared her story. If you would like additional information about this event, please contact Barbara Markowski.

February brings the feast of St. Valentine of Rome. He was a third century priest martyred in Rome for his faith. He continued to marry couples defying a decree by Emperor Claudius who believed men weren't joining his army because they had strong ties with their wives and families. His celebration of secret marriages (among other things) earned him the distinction of patron saint of young lovers and couples. He died on February 14 which in time became the day that lovers all over the world proclaim their love (secret or otherwise). He is rumored to be buried at Whitefriar Street church in Dublin, Ireland. Who knew??? Full disclosure – his burial is also attributed to a cemetery in northern Rome. Either way, Happy St. Valentine's Day to you all!

ECW meets the second Saturday of the month in the small dining room (unless otherwise stated). All women of St. Paul's are members and are welcome to attend our meetings. We also welcome women from outside of the St. Paul's circle.

Valerie Rowley
Vice-President, St. Paul's ECW

Church School



Share God's Word

● Brrrr! It is cold outside and we are so happy to have the opportunity to “Whirl” up with Jesus each Sunday morning!

● Attendance has been increasing... must be the wonderful stories Gods' Word brings us each week. Here is a rundown of topics for the month of February:

● Jesus Walks on Water (Theme: Doubt)

● The Parable of the Vineyard (Theme: Generosity)

● Jesus Turns Water into Wine (Theme: Abundance)

● Mary and Martha (Theme: Distraction)

● No Wonder the Children Want to Be Here! We are always welcoming volunteers to help teach/teach or visit a class to get to know our youngest members. If you feel called in this direction PLEASE let us know.

● It's time for another movie night! Valentines Day lends itself nicely for a date. We are going to watch the movie “Secret Life of Pets” on Friday, February 15th. The time is 6:00-9:00, and we will provide pizza, fruit and veggies, beverage and popcorn (during the movie). Kiddos are welcome to wear their pjs and bring a blanket or sleeping bag. First Presbyterian and Immanuel Lutheran children and families have been invited, as always. This is a great opportunity for parents to have some time to themselves, knowing their children are safe and loved. Please let us know if you will be here.

● -Zoe Baldwin and Kim Perlos



A Note from Our Choir Director...

Love to all the dedicated choir members. They are all so wonderful and add so much to our worship service. - *Genette Gillard*

This photo was taken just before our Christmas Eve services.



You can view the 2019
Annual Meeting Report
on our web-site
www.stpauljxmi.org or
pick up a copy, located
at the back of the
church.



The LORD your God...
will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love.

Z E P H A N I A H 3 : 1 7 , E S V



FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

SHOW YOUR MONEY WHO'S BOSS!

**Defeated by your empty
bank account?**

Paycheck-to-paycheck living is no longer an option. Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to take control of your money.

Sign up for this *Financial Peace University* group today!

Group Link: <https://FPU.com/1080096> Location: Calvary UMC (925 Backus Street)

Coordinator: Ron Brooks Contact Info: (269)779-6131

Day/Time: Thursdays @ 7-8:30pm Start Date: February 7th

Pastor Sarah's Pick's!



Mary Poppins Returns

So, I was really nervous going to see this film because Mary Poppins is my favorite movie of ALL TIME! I know it by heart, every line, every song and have watched it too many times to count! I was skeptical, at first, that a sequel could possibly work and then I started to read who was involved in it. Frankly, they had me at Lin-Manuel Miranda. Creator of the smash success, Hamilton, Miranda is this generation's Gene Kelley and Rogers and Hammerstein all rolled into one. He acts, sings, dances, writes lyrics and music in two languages! With that kind of talent and playing the role of "Jack" (today's Bert character) I knew he'd make the show a hit.

And then of course who should play Mary?! I've enjoyed Emily Blunt in every movie I've seen her in and, frankly, she LOOKS like Mary Poppins! She really captures the stern, direct governess as well as the magical pied piper of fun and adventure that make up this iconic character. The original movie was a smash success technologically as well as musically. Disney perfected the art of animation along side of live action characters in Mary Poppins. The sequel doesn't disappoint in that aspect as well and rather than completely computerizing the animation which would be easier and cheaper these days, Disney used artists and CGI to create the same wonder of the original movie with live action and beautifully animated characters along side each other. From an undersea adventure in the bathtub to a carriage race across a porcelain vase, this movie provides incredible action that keeps you on the edge of your seat. The story is wonderfully engaging as well. Jane and Michael Banks have grown up and are experiencing some real grown up crisis of their own and who better to come help than Mary Poppins the nanny they're almost convinced was a part of their childhood imaginations. Bad guys, hilarious relatives to visit and sweet, dear moments between a grown-up Michael trying to raise his three children on his own keep you fixed on the story as well. This movie has everything you want and is fun for the entire family! Don't miss it in the movie theater and come tell me how you liked it afterwards!

On The Basis Of Sex

Though I love a good tall tale, I'm especially drawn to biographical stories like this movie about the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Raised by a strong mother who kept pushing Ruth to use her incredible intellect, Ruth finds an incredible husband (Martin) who knows she's the smartest mind in any room and supports her goals every step of the way. At a time when a woman couldn't open her own checking account or get a credit card without her husband's approval, Ruth was moving through Harvard Law and then Columbia Law schools. At the time she was also having and raising children and caring for Martin through cancer surgeries and treatments helping him get his own Harvard Law degree as well! What an amazing story about an amazing woman and couple way ahead of their time! Felicity Jones captures the spirit, grit and struggle of many women during the 60's and 70's striving for equal rights and justice for women. Arme Hammer plays Martin, a man who was a true partner and mate ahead of his time and the kind of guy you want on your side during a tough fight. Take your tweens and teens to see this movie and then talk with them about how every right we have today was the result of someone fighting for our future and stepping outside the box they had been put in. What an amazing story!

The Body

We are one body,
Eyes, mouth, and ears.
We need each other,
So do not fear,
The people different
From yourself.
Do not stuff them,
High on the shelf,
Where you forget them.
Welcome them in.
Let them be part of the body,
And then,
You will feel joy
Inside yourself
Because their part of the body
Can be felt.

By: Melaina Magnusson



SAVE THE DATE!

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be March 5th with a Hymn Sing at 5:30 pm and pancakes served after.

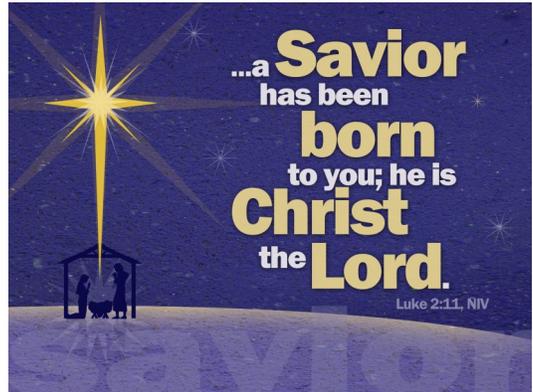
Ash Wednesday will be on March 6th with "Ashes to go" at 8 am; and Holy Eucharist and the imposition of ashes at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm.



Weekly cardio drumming classes are on Tuesdays from 5:30-6pm in Holy Spirit Hall for St. Paul's parishioners. Come and check it out!



St. Paul's Epiphany Pageant
January 6, 2019



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10 am Wor-ship Commit-tee
3 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	4	5	6	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 Cardio Drumming Class 5:30 pm Mission & Outreach 6 pm Toastmasters 7 pm TOP Program	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice		11 am ECW 12:30 pm EYSJ
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/ Joyful Noise rehearsal	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Craft 5:30 pm Cardio Drumming Class 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Judson Center 5:30 pm Building & Grounds 6 pm Handbell Practice		8:00 am Jud-son Center
17	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 5:30 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 pm Judson Center 6 pm Handbell Practice		9:30 am Girl Scout event
24	25	26	27	28		
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 5:30 pm Cardio Drumming Class 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		