

February
2022
Volume
LXXX

THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, Michigan 49201



February



For it is with your heart
that you believe and are justified
and it is with your mouth
that you profess your faith and are saved

Romans 10:10, NIV

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Rector's Corner

"For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."- Col.1:9-10

Friends, this Epiphany is a long one as Easter is later this year and that gives us more time to ponder the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. It's during Epiphanytide that we hear of his miracles, healings and teachings. As he gathers his disciples, we can ponder our own discipleship as well. Jesus was not only the fulfillment of the words of the prophets of Israel, but he was also the catalyst that changed the whole world for those who believed in him.

The freedom of every Christian is that no matter who we are or what we have done, God loves us and will help us overcome all our suffering. We must be willing partners though. God's grace and the Spirit's power are the engine and we must be willing to be changed into the likeness of Jesus. Our views, values and education will be upended as we open ourselves to the Grace of God working in our lives. Many Christians are not interested in being changed though. Many of us go to church for comfort or community but are not interested in being challenged or changed by the Jesus Christ we worship. I suggest that this type of stagnant faith just reinforces the world around us with all it's injustice and oppression. If we seek freedom in Christ we must be willing to have our world changed and to be responsible for making that change happen as our ability dictates.

This is Black History Month and one way you can be open to change is to read a book that challenges your worldview and shows you the worldview of Black Americans. There's a suggested reading list in this Epistle and posted in the church. Take a chance and read one of these books with an open heart and mind and see what God has to teach you or to enliven in you. I promise your identity as a disciple of Jesus Christ will be enhanced as you learn about and love your Black neighbors in a new way. Give it a try!

Finally, as we look to the upcoming season of Lent, I hope you'll join in our parish Christian education offered Sunday mornings at 9:15. This Lent we will join the older kids in a study designed for all ages. More to come on this special offering! Part of our discipleship is to learn and grow in God's grace. Let's learn together!

Faithfully,

Sarah

Curate's Report



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Siblings in Christ,

If you're like me, by now the pandemic is beginning to feel like a bit of an exile, especially as the numbers of those who are sick rise, and it feels like we are making backward progress in combatting the illness. Yet I do believe we have many reasons to remain hopeful for the future.

With a refreshed vestry and some newly elected members along with the wrap up of the last calendar year with the annual meeting, I feel a renewed energy at St. Paul's. I see new people stepping up as wardens on the vestry (Dennis Marsh, Barney Rudolph, and Elaine Themm). James Grant has joined the ranks of Christian Education teachers for our children and youth, and we started the year with a new ministry of outreach to the community with the overnight shelter for cold nights. Many of our own staff and parishioners have taken on extra duties to help partner with the Interfaith Shelter to make this a successful service to those in need in the greater community.

I see a group of children and youth willing to learn and even to help teach by taking part in things such as the Epiphany pageant. And our older youth are a fountain of wisdom for those who are younger as all ages gather to connect each Sunday at the start of church school. Our teachers faithfully help the children and youth to learn and to strive to put into action what they learn in everyday ways.

In the dark of winter and the season of Epiphany we are reminded that the light increases a little bit each day. This expanded daylight is a nice reminder to keep hope growing as we navigate our days, both individually and as a community. It's an exciting time in the community of St. Paul's and I am glad we are all in this together.

In faith,
Melissa



St. Paul's Epiphany
Pageant 2022

Sr. Warden & Jr. Wardens...

We are grateful for Debbie Batchelder's faithful service as Senior Warden these past two years. We will miss her on Vestry and are blessed that she will continue to provide her leadership in other ministries at St. Paul's.

We are happy to announce that Dennis Marsh and Barney Rudolph have agreed to fill in as "Co-Senior" Wardens, and Elaine Themm is stepping in to take the position of Jr. Warden.

Our thanks to you all!



"IN THANKSGIVING"

This month we are grateful for:

Cheryl Gumper for *"Creating a visually beautiful sanctuary, especially during Advent and Christmas"*

&

Cheryl would like to give thanks for:

Harry Strait

Christie Swanson

Dennis Marsh

Rhonda Rudolph

Sally McKinnon

Nathan Randall

John & Jo Alipit

Terry Treadway

& many others!

"who provided lots of help, and I thank them greatly!"

Metaphors for Ministry

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2022 I have an article series running in the Epistle about *Metaphors for Ministry*. Check back each month for a new metaphor. I'd love to hear your own spin on one of these metaphors.

The metaphor I'm highlighting this month is "sheep." We often hear about sheep as a referring to the people who follow God with Jesus being referred to as the shepherd. What many people don't know is that sheep are naturally scared of people. And if we stick with this metaphor, it is not necessarily natural for us to be born having a perfect connection with God. In order for sheep to learn to trust people and not be scared, they need regular connection with people in safe ways. They slowly learn to trust more and more.

And I think our spiritual lives are like this as well. We learn to develop a better connection with God over time. It takes dedication and work. It takes a feeling that we are safe and that we are held in safety.

What's also interesting about sheep is that even after they develop that trust with a person, if they are once again left to their own devices with no contact from people, they revert back to that distrustful view of people. And again, this tells me it's important to continue that connection with God. There are times we all feel like our connection with God is stretched, but the invitation is always there to circle back.

When we think about how the sheep metaphor inform our lives and ministries, we can take the time to put the work into regularly developing that connection with God. That connection is one we can leverage through listening to the Holy Spirit. It is my hope and prayer that this is what drives all we do.

Melissa



Can you help?

Altar flowers are needed for the 3rd Sunday in February (2/20). The cost is approx. \$45 (this includes tax and delivery) per vase.

Please call Cheryl Gumper at 517-789-7982 or contact the church office.

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

February is a busy month all the way around. Celebrations include the Lunar New Year, Groundhog Day, Candlemas Day, St. Bridget's day and Valentine's Day. While the Lunar New Year is an important feast for lots of eastern and southeastern Asian countries, we tend to lean more to the Christian feasts.

February 2 is Candlemas Day and is the feast of the presentation of Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem as described in chapter 2 of Luke's gospel. It is also the feast day of St. Bridget, considered a patron saint of Ireland alongside St. Patrick. With February 2 being halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, pagan tradition viewed it as a day of hope for the coming spring. And of course, what would February be without Punxsutawney Phil to predict the remaining length of winter with his famed shadow or lack thereof!

For ECW, February 12 is our important day. We will be gathering and there will be food! Yea! However, there is a caveat. Masks **MUST** be worn at all times except when eating. Even then it is recommended that masks be put in place between bites. We have a vulnerable population and some people with reduced immune systems. We must do all in our power to protect these people and mitigate the risks of catching and/or spreading COVID. While the Omicron variant is milder than Delta, it doesn't mean that it is mild. It can still be serious for many people who contract it. So please wear your mask during social time and while getting food or moving around.

February is also Heart Health Month and in keeping with that our speaker will be Cathy Glick, M.D. who will give a presentation on women's heart health. Dr. Glick is a very well-known local cardiologist who has studied how differently men and women present when it comes to heart attacks and other cardiac issues. It promises to be a very informative and useful presentation and should not be missed. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the glass narthex and the cost of food will be \$5.

With the new diocesan restrictions resulting in no coffee hour, our nut sales have been adversely affected so profit numbers will be reported at a later date.

We look forward to seeing many if not all of you in February when we gather again. All women are welcome to join us. Winter has arrived and is flexing its muscles with cold temperatures and snowy conditions. Keep warm and stay safe and may God bless us all this month and the months to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rowley, Vice-President, ECW.





Suggested Books on Racial Justice and Equity

So You Want To Talk About Race – Ijeoma Oluo

Between The World And Me – Ta-Nehisi Coates

Just Mercy – Bryan Stevenson

White Fragility – Robin Diangelo

Stamped & How To Be Antiracist – Ibram X. Kendi

The Fire Next Time – James Baldwin

Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? – Beverly Tatum

February
BIBLE READING PLAN

**Understanding
God's love for us
through His Word.**

Day 1: Micah 6:8

Day 2: Matthew 5:44

Day 3: Romans 13:8

Day 4: 1 Peter 4:8

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 2:9

Day 6: John 13:34

Day 7: 1 Corinthians 13:1

Day 8: 1 John 3: 18

Day 9: Proverbs 10:12

Day 10: John 15:12

Day 11: Jeremiah 31:3

Day 12: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Day 13: Deuteronomy 6:5

Day 14: John 3:16

Day 15: 1 John 4:10

Day 16: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Day 17: 1 Corinthians 13:8

Day 18: Proverbs 8:17

Day 19: Colossians 3:14

Day 20: Romans 8:28

Day 21: John 16:27

Day 22: 1 Corinthians 13:13

Day 23: Matthew 22:37-39

Day 24: 1 John 4:11

Day 25: Romans 8:38-39

Day 26: Psalm 13:5

Day 27: 1 John 4:19

Day 28: Ephesians 6:24

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)
BlessingsOverflowing.com

“HOLY GLASS”

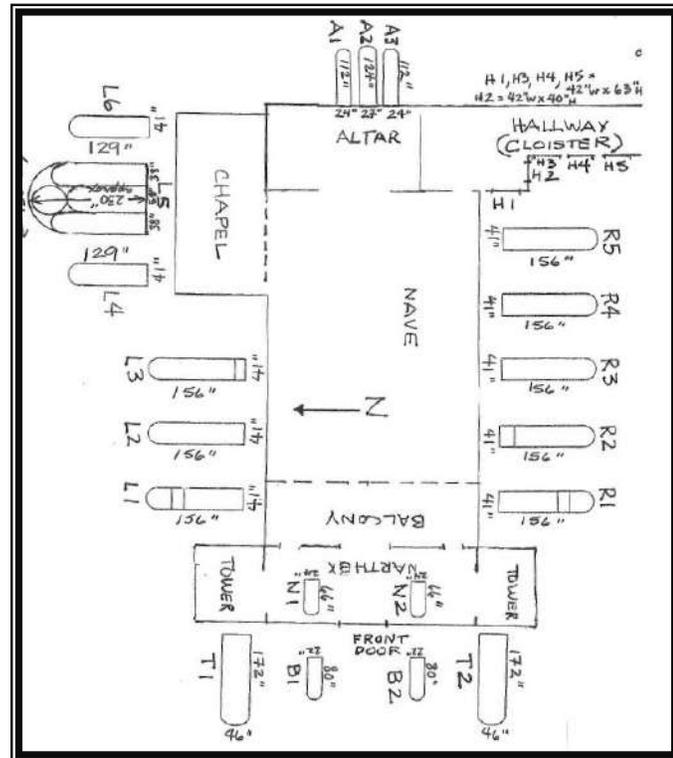
A Tour of the Windows of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Jackson, MI Part 7

Welcome back to our tour of the windows of St. Paul’s.

This month we will be looking at two of the later windows to be donated and installed in the Nave of St. Paul’s Church. The first of these windows is known as the Ordination Window and is located in the L-2 position. It was created and installed in the 1950/60s by the Lamb Studio. We know that at this time Fr. Brownell was eager to finish replacing all of the remaining geometric windows. In keeping with prior windows, these newer windows would primarily depict the sacraments.

In the Ordination Window we see the Bishop dressed in violet robes placing his hands on the head of the Ordinand who kneels before him. The images in this window are quite contemporary – short hairstyles and beardless characters as opposed to the more historic styles we have seen previously. The Ordinand’s hands are bound, symbolizing the binding of himself to Christ and the Church. A Deacon stands beside the Bishop and holds the Bishop’s crozier (staff). In the panel above, the image of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends in blessing. The inscription in the panel below reads: A Priest in the Church of God. The borders of this window contain floral and geometric decorations including the Lamb Studio stylized cherub logo. This window was donated “To The Glory of God, A Gift of the CHABUT Family.”





Our second window for this month is located in the R-3 position and is known as the Confirmation Window. In it we see the Bishop laying his hands in blessing upon the head of the kneeling Confirmand. The two sponsors stand nearby. A Deacon stands beside the Bishop holding his crozier, while the Confirmand, in white, kneels before him. Both the Deacon and sponsors hold personal Prayer Books, a traditional gift at Confirmation. In the upper panel, tongues of fire (symbolizing the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost) descend from above. A vase of spring flowers, in the foreground, symbolizes a new life in Christ. The upper border contains the Lamb cherub logo. The panel below reads, "Defend, Lord, This Thy Child — to the Glory of God, a Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Tygh."

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Please enjoy our windows!

Joyce Grace, February 2022

Organist's Corner



Composers of the Hymnal 1982 Service Music

As someone relatively new to the Episcopal Hymnal 1982, I was really interested in learning more about the composers of the service music, or liturgical pieces, in the front of the hymnal (S-1 through S-288). We have recently used S-124 as the Sanctus and S-154 as the Fraction Anthem. Both of these pieces are composed by David Hurd and come from his *New Plainsong, A Mass for Unison Voices and Organ*.

Dr. David Hurd was born in 1950 and started his church music career as a boy soprano at St. Gabriel's Church in Hollis, Long Island, New York. He attended the Julliard School, Oberlin College, and the University of North Carolina. As a young organist in 1977, he was awarded the First Prize in Organ Performance by a panel of international judges. The next day, another panel of judges awarded him First Prize in Organ Improvisation. Within a two-day period, he was awarded the two most prestigious organ prizes in the world at that time, and was the only person to ever win both prizes in the same year.

Since 1976, David Hurd has worked at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York City, first as Director of Chapel Music, and later as Professor of Church Music and Organist. In recognition of his contributions to church music, he has been awarded honorary doctorates by three other seminaries. He is currently the Director of Music at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin located in Times Square in Manhattan. He has served as Vice Chairman of the Standing Commission on Church Music of the Episcopal Church for a number of years. Hurd has over 100 organ and choral compositions in print. One of his recent compositions was a commissioned anthem for an Episcopal church in Atlanta, based on a modern, gender-neutral translation of Psalm 100. He is in demand as a recitalist and his schedule for 2022 includes a recital at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis (a wonderful organ that I have practiced on) and a November recital at Grace Episcopal Church in Holland, MI. Dr. Hurd is one of the world's most successful and visible African-American organists.

In studying the Hymnal 1982, one can see that Hurd has composed seventeen pieces of Service Music. He is also the composer of eight hymn tunes, one of those appearing twice with different sets of lyrics. As I played through those eight tunes, I was amazed to find that, even though I know hundreds of hymn tunes, I was not familiar with a single one of his hymn tunes. It was an interesting learning experience for me. Dr. Hurd is also credited with arranging or adapting four other hymns in the Hymnal 1982.

Julie J. Baglien,
St. Paul's Organist





Cassandra Lagow	February 3
Joyce Grace	February 7
Nathan Randall	February 8
Lillie Wells	February 10
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



Melissa Congleton &
 Tammy Rees -February 2
 Rev. Sarah & Dee Hurlbert
 February 18
 Elaine & Benjamin Themm
 February 14

Looking ahead to Lent...



Ash Wednesday - March 2

Holy Eucharist - 12:15 pm & 7:00 pm

Shrove Tuesday - March 1

TBD (awaiting direction from the Diocese)



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am. Due to updated covid protocols from the Diocese, masks are required, regardless of vaccination status. Contact tracing remains in place.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook



Join Pastor Sarah each **Wednesdays at 8pm** on our St. Paul's

Facebook page for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

All are welcome to join us for a 'pub theology' evening. We meet at Ironbark Brewery **every other Wednesday at 6pm**. Questions? Email Tom at holsingerfriesen@gmail.com.

Bible Study



Bible Study is in person on Wednesdays at **10:30 am** in the Small Dining Room.

(It will continue to be on Zoom also for those who would like to still attend online.)

Follow this link to Zoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005898502>

No Password required



Wednesdays @ 12:15 pm - Holy Eucharist in the chapel

Adult Forum

9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson (emagnusson75@gmail.com) for more info or questions.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A Perry, 11th Bishop of Michigan,
Cordially Invites You to Attend



Feast of Absalom Jones
A Service Commemorating the Life and Ministry of
The Rev. Absalom Jones,
Prophet, Priest and Pastor

Sunday, February 20, 2022 at 4 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church

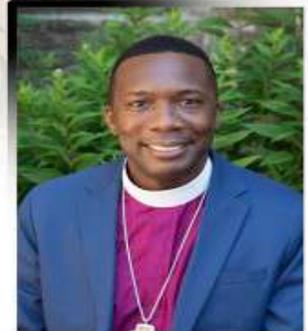
960 E. Jefferson

Detroit, Michigan 48207

*All are welcome, join us
in-person.*

Christ Church hosts the Diocesan celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones, featuring guest preacher the Right Reverend Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of Missouri. Bishop Johnson was previously the Rector of St. Paul's, Brighton and is a veteran Episcopal priest with deep experience in social justice issues and ministry to gay and lesbian communities.

Bishop Johnson is well known throughout the Church for his inspired work as a liturgist. He has served in many positions in the wider church and the community, and continues to serve on the Taskforce for Liturgical and Prayer Book revision and as a consultant with the Office of Black Ministries. He has written liturgies for a variety of services and celebrations for the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Diocese of Michigan. We are happy to welcome him back to the Diocese of Michigan.



THANKS !

to all who attended this year's annual meeting!
And a grateful shout-out to our tech team for making it possible for our folks at home to participate as well.

If you did not get a copy of the 2022 Annual Report and would like one, please call or email the office and request a copy via email or ask to have one mailed to you. You may also view it via the homepage of the St. Paul's website:

<http://stpauljxmi.org/>



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study (ZOOM) NO Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline			
6 Birthdays & Anniversaries	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist		4:30 pm Clergy Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study NO Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbell Practice		10:30 am ECW 3 pm Speers Memorial
13 Noisy Sunday	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist		5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbell Practice		
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		4:30 pm Clergy Mtg 5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbell Practice		
27	28					
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist						

