

January  
2022  
Volume  
LXXIX

# THE EPISTLE

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# January

*Happy New Year*



○ SING UNTO THE LORD  
*a new song;*  
FOR HE HATH DONE  
*marvelous things.*

PSALM 98:1, KJV

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## Rector's Corner

*"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'" Lam. 3:22-24*

Friends,

Happy New Year and happy Epiphanytide! Together we pray for God's blessings on ourselves, our families, our church and all our friends. This winter we hope to be a blessing to those who have no safe place to sleep when the weather is bitterly cold. Working with the Jackson Interfaith Shelter and church volunteers from around our community we will staff an overnight cold weather shelter in Holy Spirit Hall. Beds, bedding and food will be provided by the Jackson Interfaith Shelter and volunteers will come from the churches around our community. We will operate from 11pm to 7am any night that's supposed to fall below 10 "real feel" degrees and coordinate with the MLK Center as they provide shelter during the day.

We have folks volunteering to lead our B&G committee and still need folks willing to help. Please consider giving of your time this year in this vital way.

We had such an amazing Epiphany pageant, and you can see how devoted our kids and families are to Christian Education for all our youth. We need more teachers to work with our children and youth in Christian Education. We have great teachers, so you'll be working with a talented team of adults. We have such great kids and could use more people who want to help support them and their families. Please consider becoming a part of that support system and getting to know our fantastic kids and families!

We will meet on Sunday the 23rd for our Annual Meeting to present our budget, elect new vestry members and celebrate what God did through us last year at St. Paul's. Details about that meeting are forthcoming but do save that afternoon on your calendar. Thank you for your faithful support of your parish as we begin a New Year in faith and hope for all God will do through us. New Year blessings to you all!

Faithfully, Sarah+



# Curate's Report



*“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7*

Siblings in Christ,

With the Christmas season in full swing and Epiphany just around the corner it is an exciting time. We will be ringing in the new year with an old tradition of the Epiphany pageant and vestry complete with new members. We will also be looking to expand leadership for our kids and young families which has become a vibrant and exciting ministry in the parish.

With so much going on and so many balls in the air – ones that we can control and ones that we can't, many of us are looking for a reprieve from rigorous schedules and the busyness of families all home together and other Christmas gatherings to attend and host.

Some of us are mourning the loss of those of ages past, the holiday celebrations that go uncelebrated with our special person, and the traditions which have been impacted by those losses.

Many of us also are also taking up new traditions. Some of these are happening by need, such as due to COVID-19, and some just for new fun. All around, it is an impactful time of year, and one in which we hold tightly in our memories. Some memories we cherish and some we'd rather forget.

For many of us the Christmas season is an ambivalent time. A time of ages and events and traditions and people gone past, as well as a time of looking ahead for more hopeful, joyful, peaceful, and loving times ahead.

At St. Paul's we honor all feelings this time of year brings. We strive to bring Jesus' teachings to each other, and those in the Jackson community and beyond. One thing that binds us together as a community is the ability to have genuine feelings. While we may not always have the same thoughts, we all have feelings that are part of who we are and how we experience life individually and as a member of this parish community.

On January 2nd we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany with our annual Epiphany pageant. Members young and old will unravel the Christmas story for us again as we begin the calendar year. You may notice some small changes in the acting out of the familiar story as we strive to live into the Gospel in a changing world.

I invite you to bring your most genuine self, your honest self, your gifted self, your faithful self, your doubtful self, just you. We will be here to meet you wherever you are coming from.

Blessings as 2022 begins to unfold.

In faith,  
Melissa





## From Our Sr. Warden...

This December feels very different from the last two years. We are still struggling with Covid and it is still present in our community, but we have the option this year of worshipping in person or at home. Being able to celebrate Advent this year with our friends in the church has been very rewarding and spiritual. This Christmas Eve we are able to worship in the Sanctuary with an added bonus of having the choir sing. It will be the first time the choir has been able to enhance the service with music since the beginning of the pandemic. Not only is the choir singing, but Julie Baglien, our full time organist, will be providing beautiful Christmas music on the organ prior to the services. Hopefully you will all be able to enjoy the service, either in person or on line.

January will bring a new year and hopefully the down fall of COVID. If we can at least keep it under control and not escalating, we will all breathe a little easier. It seems every month our church family is extending its reach and expanding our horizons. We will continue to open up our doors and our hearts to our church families and to our community as we all heal.

Everyone stay safe, stay healthy and welcome in the new year with hope.

*Debbie*



## Building & Grounds



A few items linger from December worth noting: Flat roof repairs, or replacement; super-heater repairs on dishwasher, and walk in freezer not working.

The flat roofs were repaired. Fortunately, the weather had been mild for December. The contractor Ace Roofing is expected to provide photos and an estimate for replacement on Thursday Jan. 6th. The super heater for the dishwasher is still not working, misunderstanding the problem contractor will return to do the repair. The original contractor called to repair the walk in freezer has not rescheduled an appointment with our church office. I recommend that our contractor, Aladdin for most other things, be called in to resolve the freezer issue.

On another note, I retired effective January 1st as your Builds & Grounds person and look forward to new opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,  
Kyle King



# Metaphors for Ministry

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2022 I'll 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.

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12.*

The metaphor I'm highlighting this month is "*the light of Christ.*" We've heard this phrase often and this one comes with something tangible – a flame. Recently, we lit candles after the Christmas Eve late service before going out into the world from St. Paul's. We were celebrating the joy of Jesus' incarnation and the ability to take that light out into the world with us.

When we take this light out into the world, we carry it within us. The light of Christ is always within us and doesn't dim. It is something we have available to us. Due the holidays, losses, and other pressures, many are feeling broken. And while it may feel like this light has dimmed, it in fact gives our broken parts more space to hold the light.

In our sanctuary we have some reminders of this light. The altar candles burn to remind us God is with us. The Gospel candle, closest to the pulpit, by tradition never burns alone. That is because the Gospel itself, the accounting of Jesus life and ministry, doesn't stand alone. It is backed by the other pieces of scripture in the bible.

Perhaps the most obvious but sometimes forgotten light of Christ in the sanctuary is the aumbry candle. It signifies the reserved sacrament as consecrated during the Eucharistic prayer during our Sunday service.

With that, light is everywhere, inside, and out. Where do you see the light of Christ in the world happening today?



# The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## ECW

Happy New Year everyone. It's 2022 and we can look ahead with hope and expectation. We go forward with new dreams for the new year. I hope as we move into this year that those dreams will be realized.

Our December meeting was wonderful! For those who may not know we had our annual holiday luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson. Thanks to Helen Green for securing the date and venue. Everyone that came was full of the spirit of the season and the atmosphere reflected that. We enjoyed each other's company and shared many laughs, each table with its own topics and humor. It was a remarkable sight to see so many women coming together in fellowship and harmony. We left the cares of the world and the pandemic behind for a few hours and I don't think there was a one there who did not enjoy the event.

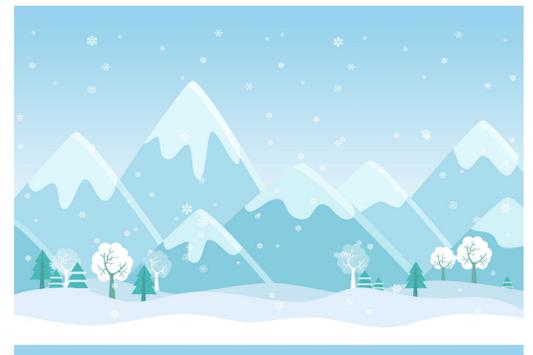
Speaking of the pandemic and COVID, we have decided to postpone the January 8 meeting at the SOAR house. With Omicron spreading like wildfire and the meeting being so close to the holiday gatherings we thought it safer to be cautious and skip a gathering in close quarters. The meeting has been rescheduled for April 2. Please note that this is one week earlier than we would normally meet.

Also, please put the meeting of February 12 on your calendars. February is Heart Month, and we will have Cathy Glick, M.D. to give a presentation on Women's Heart Health and how their symptoms can often be different to those of men. Dr. Glick is a well-known local cardiologist who has studied the effects of coronary heart disease in women and how it presents. She will have a lot of valuable information to share with us all.

The nut sale continues until stock is depleted. We continue to inch up on our profit margin and will share full details when the sale has ended, and final numbers are tallied. Thanks, to Romelle Frey and Christie Swanson who spearhead this great fund-raising effort. Great thanks are also due to our wonderful President Sandra Kilian who does trojan's work behind the scenes to make sure all our speakers and events go off as well as they do. If you see these women in your travels stop and let them know their efforts are appreciated.

So, in this New Year may the Lord bless you in hope, faith and gratitude. We have faith there is light at the end of this long dark tunnel. Hope that it comes soon and gratitude that we came out of it intact.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.





*ECW Annual Holiday luncheon  
December 11, 2021*



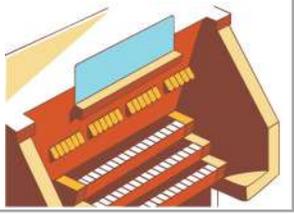
**Can you help?**

Altar flowers are needed for the 5th Sunday in January (1/30). 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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

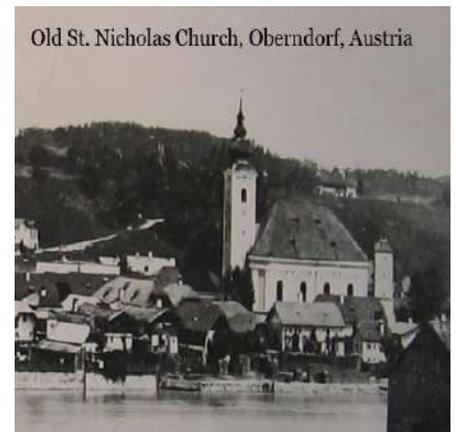
# Organist's Corner



## A Broken Organ and a Beautiful Hymn



One of the most beloved Christmas hymns, Silent Night, came into being as the result of a broken organ. In 1818, the Church of St. Nicholas in the Austrian Alps was newly constructed and ready for Christmas Eve services. The curate, Joseph Mohr, had carefully prepared a service with beautiful music. However, the organ was not working, causing worry that the service would be ruined. (One tale says a hungry dormouse had chewed on the organ's bellows. Others believe the repeated river flooding that eventually destroyed the chapel was the cause.) Either that day or sometime just before Christmas Eve, Mohr had written the text of Silent Night. (Although some suggest the text was written two years earlier, perhaps to celebrate the liberation of Salzburg.) He took the text to the organist, Franz Gruber, expecting the kind of miracle that only organists are capable of. Mohr asked Gruber to come up with a tune that would only utilize voices and a guitar. The tune was written and performed that night. The two men sang the hymn while Mohr played the guitar and the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.



Later, the organ repairman heard the story of the near-musical-disaster and asked for a copy of the new hymn. He helped spread the hymn through the Alpine region of Austria where it was sung by many traveling families of folksingers. The Strasser family had their four children sing it in front of their parents' booth at fairs and festivals in order to sell their chamois-skin gloves. The Ranier family once sang Silent Night before an audience that included Franz I of Austria and Alexander I of Russia, helping to assure the Christmas carol's fame.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) was born to a father who was a mercenary soldier and a mother who was a seamstress. The priest in his local parish became his foster father and saw to Joseph's education. Father Mohr sang in the Salzburg Cathedral Choir and served many parishes. The translator of Silent Night, John Young, was an American Episcopalian who attended Virginia Theological Seminary and served many churches before being named bishop of Florida in 1867.

Franz Gruber (1787-1863) was born in Austria to a family of linen weavers. Franz left the linen trade at age 18 and trained to become a school teacher. He also studied violin and organ and at age 20, he became organist at St. Nicholas's Church where he composed Silent Night.

It is estimated that the lyrics of Stille Nacht have been translated from the original German into 140 languages. The hymn is also reported to have been one of those sung during the World War I Christmas Truce of 1914, when many troops on both sides of the conflict unofficially ceased fighting in order to celebrate the holiday. British, French, and German soldiers on the Western Front shared greetings and songs, played soccer, exchanged prisoners, and buried their dead. What a fitting use for a hymn that so beautifully tells of peace, calm, and the birth of our Savior.

*Julie J. Baglien,*  
St. Paul's Organist



JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS

Peggy Wilds	January 6
Margaret Lloyd	January 9
Dee Hurlbert	January 10
Josephine Alipit	January 14
Dana Burkey	January 19
Sandra Kilian	January 20
Kim Perlos	January 22
Tom Holsinger-Friesen	January 22

January

Starting the new  
year in God's Word.

## BIBLE READING PLAN

1. Jeremiah 29:11
2. Proverbs 16:9
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. Psalm 98:1
5. Isaiah 43:18-19
6. Proverbs 23:18
7. Psalm 90:12
8. 1 Peter 1:3
9. Ecclesiastes 3:11
10. Psalm 51:10
11. Isaiah 40:31
12. Matthew 6:34
13. Ezekiel 36:26
14. Proverbs 3:5-6
15. Psalm 20:4
16. Philippians 3:13b-14
17. Proverbs 19:21
18. Romans 12:2
19. 1 Chronicles 16:11
20. Joshua 1:9
21. 2 Corinthians 4:16
22. Psalm 56:3
23. Mark 9:23
24. Lamentations 5:21
25. Psalm 37:37
26. Ephesians 4:22-24
27. Micah 7:7
28. Matthew 7:13-14
29. Romans 8:18
30. Acts 3:19
31. 2 Corinthians 4:18

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 (NIV) BlessingsOverflowing.com



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am. Capacity Restrictions are lifted and masks are not required, but are still strongly suggested. 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 account to view our videos.)

## 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**



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](mailto:holsingerfriesen@gmail.com).

## Adult Forum

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

Email Eric Magnusson ([emagnusson75@gmail.com](mailto:emagnusson75@gmail.com)) for more info or questions.

## THANK YOU!!

To everyone that helped make the Advent and Christmas services go smoothly. You did an incredible job!!!



AND... to

The Altar Guild, Organist Julie, Choir, Acolytes, Readers & Ushers; and a very special shout out to the wonderful children of St. Paul's who helped out on Christmas Eve.



AND... to our talented St. Paul's youth and their families for their beautiful presentation of the Epiphany Pageant!

**Thank you** Rev. Melissa, Kim, Dana, Sally, Julie, Romelle, Michelle, all our parent helpers & more, for your hard work coordinating it.

You are Amazing!!



## Reminder:

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after the 10:30 am service on

**Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**More details to come soon!**

Vestry and committee leaders please email your **annual reports** to [alicemulhearn@stpauljxmi.org](mailto:alicemulhearn@stpauljxmi.org) **no later than Jan. 18th.**

We need people who are willing to serve on the Vestry and 3 members of St. Paul's to be our delegates for the annual Diocesan Convention.

Please contact Rev. Sarah or a Vestry member if you are interested.



# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Birthdays & Anniv.	3	4	5	6	7	8
8am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour <b>Epiphany Pageant</b>		5:15 pm Cardio Drum 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline			
9 <b>Noisy Sunday</b>	10	11	12	13	14	15
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		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		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	MLK Day <b>Office Closed</b>	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		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ <b>Annual Meeting</b>		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 pm Big B/S 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbell Practice		
30	31	1	2	3		
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		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		

