

July
2021
Volume
LXXIII

THE EPISTLE



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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You will go out
IN JOY
and be led forth
IN PEACE.

ISAIAH 55:12, NIV

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Rector's Corner

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Friends,

Can you use some encouragement? Me too. Encouragement is named as a gift of the Holy Spirit and, thanks be to God, encouragers are present all around us spreading joy as they go. When we encourage others God is working through us and when others encourage us we experience God's loving Spirit lifting us up. I hope to be an encourager for all in our congregation through pastoral care, teaching and preaching and through the sacraments. When I am fully and prayerfully present at the Eucharist, I feel the encouragement of being in the presence of Christ and all of you. Now that we get to be with each other physically again, I am encouraged and hopeful for today and our future together.

All of us have had discouraging setbacks in our lives and especially this last year. We have longed to be with one another, suffered the loss of beloved family and friends who have died, lost income and businesses and seen our joy be taken away by personal trials and tragedies. Throughout our suffering, God sends us encouragers to come along side us and help us know we're not alone and we are loved. If you need such an encourager reach out to someone, and if you have no one to call, call on me. If you find your joy and hope fading, then be an encourager for someone else. Not with platitudes and sermonizing but with prayerful presence and kindness for those who are suffering.

This month Dee and I will host my Mother and youngest Niece for our first visit together in two years. I am so excited I can't stop thinking about and planning for their arrival! I've missed my family so much and prayed for their health and safety constantly during the last year and I am so grateful to be able to see them face to face soon. We are encouragers for one another, and I want to encourage them as well as receive encouragement from them. My hope is that you will see your loved ones and give them encouragement soon. May the love of God and the healing presence of the Holy Spirit be with you as you reconnect with others this summer. And just as we experience the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, Jesus will be with us when we are in the loving presence of each other again. This is my prayer for all of us this summer.

Faithfully,

Sarah+

Curate's Report



3

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

Friends in Christ,

We have made it back to ordinary time, yet not much seems ordinary. Thankfully we have been able to gather safely for some weeks and our gatherings continue to grow in number. Something we took for granted for most of our lives seems like a privilege. With this comes opportunity. Not simply to gather as we had, but to embrace what that gathering really means.

The Randalls graciously opened their home to our families with kids to celebrate the end of the school year with a BBQ. The food was great, the fellowship was amazing and the fun was out of this world. We visited with some families we haven't seen in a while. And God was among us. It was the first event of it's kind since we started on a road of rediscovering Christian Education for children and youth at St. Paul's. We know Christian Education and youth group activities will be different as we move out of the pandemic. Being able to gather in different ways, with some different goals gives our children and youth a chance to grow in ways that they need to grow in the world we live in today, with the values our society calls us to in this day and age. It's about embracing the values of Jesus in the circumstances we find ourselves in today.

It is my hope all members of this church community will take up this mantle of intentionally embracing the values of Jesus in the situations we encounter in the present. We have the advantage of leveraging our parish community, instead of working single handedly. In this way, we can all work toward a better world for the generations coming up behind us.

With this in mind Summer Art Camp (formerly known as Vacation Bible School) will be embracing a theme of *Rediscovering God's Community*. Our session themes will be movement with cardio drumming with Dee Hurlbert and art with artist Sheryl Amburgey! Both will be in conjunction with our siblings in Christ at Jackson First Presbyterian Church. It will be fun and challenge our youth on living out the gospel values in stressful times.

I also hope to bring back movie night at Holy Spirit Hall for our kids as well as those of Jackson First Presbyterian Church. July will be a trial run to gauge interest and if all goes well we can run that through the school year as a chance for parents to drop kids off and have a couple of hours to themselves.

Lastly, I would also like to give a big shout of thanks for all those who helped with the ordination service details and all that went into it to make that happen. There were so many details leading up to the day that were well planned so on that day, St. Paul's was a well-run, welcoming place for not just our own parish community, but so many of my friends and family. Please know that my thanks runs deep and I feel very blessed to be a part of St. Paul's. God is good.

Yours in community,
Melissa





From Our Sr. Warden...

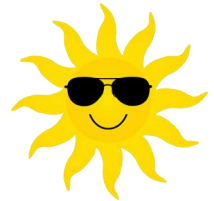
Congratulations to Melissa on her Ordination!! Her ordination was the first one I have attended, and I found the service very moving. If you were unable to be in attendance, I highly encourage you to watch the service via Facebook. It was truly inspiring, and Sarah's sermon was spot on. Thank you to everyone who helped make the service run smoothly; for Melissa and for all the priestly dignitaries we had on hand.

In-person services have been running smoothly and our in-person attendance is increasing. The Bishops have decided to allow us to open up our doors even further starting July 1. Sarah will be sending along the new guidelines to everyone, and it is another step toward getting back together. Online services will still be continued for those who are not ready to return, and for those who prefer to worship at home. It is nice to have the option of coming to church or worshipping at home. I am very grateful that we are able to offer both these options.

June has been a very busy month with a funeral, Melissa's Ordination, Confirmation for our youth and the Rowley wedding. Hopefully, July will be a quieter month, but with more activity on Sundays. We are back to offering coffee hour for everyone, but please bear with us as we get organized once again with the new regulations.

Happy sunshine and warmth to you all!

Debbie Batchelder, Sr. Warden



UPDATE TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

- Masks are suggested for people who are unvaccinated or medically unable to wear them.
- All books are back for use in the pew racks and cushions in the seats.
- Capacity restrictions lifted.
- Every other pew remains closed to remain distanced.
- Contact tracing remains in place.
- Blue floor tape is removed.
- Offering plate remains in the back of the sanctuary but the Noisy Offering is back!
- No touching during the passing of the peace remains.
- Coffee hour is back with individually wrapped and plated items available.
- Updates to our guidance around Sunday School and Nursery to come in the Fall.

These new protocols will be in place for Sunday, July 4th.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the office, a Vestry member, or Pastor Sarah.

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

As we enter July, more things are opening up and we are beginning to be able to get together. This is true for ECW as well as we plan our first meeting since Covid restrictions began in March 2020. We will meet at Cheryl Gumper's home, 3801 Stonewall Road on **Saturday, July 10 at 11 AM**. We will have desserts and drinks. Cheryl has a driveway on Stonewall Rd. and on Probert Rd. as she is on the corner. You may also park in the driveway across the street on Probert Road, or in the one next door on Stonewall Road. It would be so wonderful to see you and we hope you all can attend. This will be a social meeting with only a short business meeting.

We also encourage those who would like to submit your dues of \$10.00 for 2020-2021 to Cheryl Gumper, our treasurer, with a check made out to "Women of St. Paul's Church".

Beginning in September, we hope to resume regular meetings at the church on the second Saturday of the month. The Board has discussed some topics for the year. If you have any ideas for meetings or for speakers, please let us know. The current Board members have agreed to serve another year, 2021-2022, since we did not meet during 2020-2021. We still need a secretary. Please consider this important role and contact Sandra Kilian, President, if you are interested.

We continue to keep each and every one of you in our prayers and pray that all are healthy and doing well. May God bless you and may we remember all our blessings.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Kilian, President, ECW



HELP WANTED!



Our tech team is stretched thin and could really use more people to help run our livestream services. They are happy to train you, and running the cameras is easy to learn!

If anyone (youth or adult) is interested in helping to join this very important ministry please contact Nathan Randall. (517) 914-3066 or email: technology@stpauljxmi.org



It was a busy month at St. Paul's with Rev. Melissa's ordination on June 12th, and the Diocesan wide Confirmation at St. Barnabas, Chelsea on June 19th.



A bit of rain couldn't stop Bishop Bonnie!



Organist's Corner



7

E. M. Skinner, Organ Builder

Ernest M. Skinner is one of the great names in early 20th century American organ building. The organ at St. Paul's was originally built in 1926 by the E. M. Skinner Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts. Although our organ has been rebuilt and enlarged twice (in 1958 and 1989 by other companies), if a fellow organist were to ask me what I play at St. Paul's, my answer would be "a 3 manual, 43 rank, updated Skinner."

Skinner was born in 1866 to travelling-singer parents. When Ernest was seven, the family settled in Tauton, MA, where his parents started a light opera company. Ernest had an early diet of Gilbert and Sullivan comic operettas. His introduction to pipe organs came in the pre-electricity days when he pumped air into the organ's bellows so that the organist could practice. When something went wrong one day, Ernest discovered a hinge on one of the folds of the leather bellows had broken loose. Young Skinner was proud of his discovery, so the organist allowed him to go "inside the organ" and study the inner workings of the various parts.

Skinner was hired in 1886 by George Ryder, a Boston organ builder, as a "shop boy." An organ building shop is really several businesses in one. There is a wood working division for the cabinets, air chests, wood pipes, and decorative case work. There is a metal pipe section to cast pipes out of alloyed metals. There must be a "voicing room" to line up the pipes on a wind chest and "shape the mouths" of the pipes so that the desired sound is produced. Finally, organ companies have an erecting room, where they can put the whole organ together before sending it out to the installation site. Organ builders have to be musicians, architects, wood and metal workers, and have the vision to make a marvelous, musical work of art out of thousands of pieces. Skinner became one of the best and most innovative.

Ernest Skinner began his career as an organ builder just as things were changing very quickly. Organs were being designed with stops to imitate instruments of the orchestra and the thicker, louder tones of the Romantic era. Batteries and electricity were being introduced to assist with key action, the wind supply, and volume control shutters. (Skinner once boasted that it was things like this that made it possible for the "weaker sex" to play the organ – but I have forgiven him that comment.) More on some of Skinner's innovations in next month's Epistle!

-Julie J. Baglien, Organist



“HOLY GLASS”

A Tour of the Windows of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Jackson, MI Part 2

This month we are going to look at two windows from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. By this time St. Paul’s congregation had continued to grow and prosper and more memorial windows were beginning to replace the earlier geometric style windows. One of the earliest of these windows is the St. Paul Window in our Sanctuary.

When I began documenting our stained glass windows for the Michigan Stained Glass Society Archives at Michigan State University, I started hearing many comments from St. Paul’s parishioners about the St. Paul Window. Similar comments were also recorded in some of the earlier parish histories. The main issues with the window seem to have been:

1. Jesus, not St. Paul, should always be the main figure in an altar window.
2. The image of St. Paul is not a welcoming figure with his symbols of a heavy sword and bible, and he appears to be stern and “not attractive.”
3. The colors, patterns and architecture are dark and exotic, and depict a middle eastern culture, not our traditional western Christian culture and architecture.

In early 20th century photos of the Church interior, the window was kept covered by drapes.

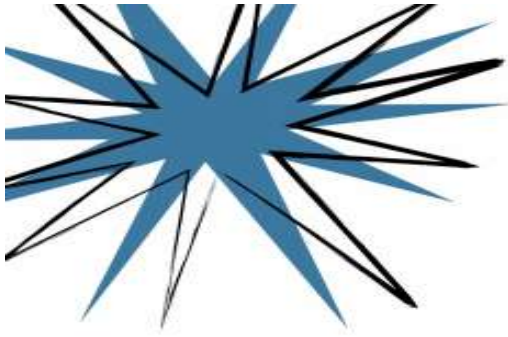


Another interesting aspect of the St. Paul Window is that it came from a “deconsecrated” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Detroit around 1890. That church, which was torn down, was the parish Church of Bishop Samuel Smith Harris, a Bishop in the Michigan Diocese in the 1880’s. He died in 1888. His direct descendent, the actress Julie Harris, visited St. Paul’s in the mid-20th century to view this window.



Continuing on in the 20th century we turn to the Tiffany Window - the 2nd window from the east, on the south wall of the nave. The Tiffany window is best viewed on a sunny morning before the trees in the courtyard have leafed out. When the sun hits the thick layers of glass, it glows with shades of blues, violets and gold. This window is dedicated to Henry Hayden, a former mayor of Jackson and who also served as senior warden at St. Paul’s for many years. When the family of Henry Hayden decided to gift a stained glass window as his memorial, they chose the Tiffany Studios in New York. The process involved having a Tiffany sales representative meet with the family to show them photos of available designs which could then be customized to suit the family’s wishes. The Hayden family chose a window design which is a part of a quartet of windows called The Four Elements and depicts the elements of earth, air, fire and water. They chose the Water window design and customized the figures, window size, and the text. The intensity of the colors is also enhanced by the process of overlaying several layers of glass to add texture and rich colors.

Please enjoy our windows!
-Joyce Grace, June 2021



July

Freedom

Day 1 – Isaiah 61:1
 Day 2 – Isaiah 42:6-7
 Day 3 – Colossians 1:13-14
 Day 4 – John 8:32-36
 Day 5 – Romans 8:1-4
 Day 6 – Revelation 1:4-6
 Day 7 – Romans 6:1-7
 Day 8 – Ephesians 2:1-5
 Day 9 – Hebrews 2:14-15
 Day 10 – Romans 5:12-17
 Day 11 – Romans 7:21-25
 Day 12 – Romans 6:11-14
 Day 13 – Romans 6:22-23
 Day 14 – 2 Peter 1:2-4
 Day 15 – Galatians 5:1
 Day 16 – 1 Peter 2:13-17
 Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
 Day 18 – Romans 6:16-19
 Day 19 – Romans 8:19-25

Day 20 – Galatians 3:21-22
 Day 21 – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
 Day 22 – Galatians 5:13-15
 Day 23 – 1 Corinthians 10:13
 Day 24 – Psalm 119:44-46
 Day 25 – Galatians 3:23-29
 Day 26 – Galatians 4:4-6
 Day 27 – Ephesians 1:6-8
 Day 28 – 1 Timothy 2:5-7
 Day 29 – Psalm 68:5-6
 Day 30 – John 3:16-17
 Day 31 – Psalm 116:15-17



alysajhoward.com

So grateful we were
 able to celebrate this
 special day with Rev.
 Melissa here at St.
 Paul's!



A Year of Thanks

-by Curate Melissa

For the calendar year of 2021 I'm emphasizing a year of thanks to some of those ministries which help make St. Paul's be all that it is. Each month this year you will see me highlight one or more of the ministries and thus ministers of our parish community. Stay tuned to see if your ministry is one highlighted!

I am going to go outside the box a bit this month to give thanks to the many ministries that helped for the larger events in June as we started to open back up to more activity inside the church. We had a large funeral, my ordination, and a wedding. The altar guild has worked tirelessly to have the correct color for our altar, lecterns, flowers, and more. They have also had double duty in preparing for communion – in larger numbers than we've seen in over a year! Ushers have helped to contact trace and get our visiting neighbors to where they need to be, whether it was the vesting room for clergy or guests to the sanctuary and Holy Spirit Hall. Our acolytes really kicked up their game for the ordination service coming with four, a number of acolytes for one service we haven't seen since perhaps Christmas 2019. Additional lectors were also used for the services. All the while the building and grounds crew has been keeping the building in ship shape inside and outside in order to welcome guests and make way for these events. Our technology team has been keeping up with these extra events and making it possible for friends, family, and neighbors from near and far to join these services. Others helped by jumping in as hosts and hostesses for the ordination luncheon.

We also give thanks for Pastor Sarah's ordained leadership as well as the tireless upkeep of the building by Terry. And we give thanks for the talented Chef Jeremiah and Ella for providing food for coffee hour and the ordination lunch. Last but certainly not least, we give thanks for Alice, for her persistence in keeping the office running, bulletins printed, and so much more behind the scenes.

Are you wondering what your ministry is or where your gifts may best be put to use while giving you the maximum joy? Many of our ministries that have been on pause due to the pandemic are ramping up safely. Let's talk if you'd like to brainstorm about where you might be called to serve as things open up more.

A big, huge thanks goes out this month to everyone who makes St. Paul's all that it is. That includes those who pray with and for St. Paul's, those who worship with us, and all that find some way to be a part of this wonderful, Christ centered community, even if from afar. Thanks to all of you, and thanks be to God.



COFFEE HOUR IS BACK AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

With the opening of Holy Spirit Hall to Coffee hour, we are in need of people who would be willing to host/hostess a Sunday. Hosting can be done by one person, two people, or a group of people (ie – youth group). The host / hostess is responsible for bringing a sweet item only that would serve 25-30 people (at this time). In addition, it is requested to bring a gluten free item for our church family members who have dietary restrictions. Jeremiah Hepzebah of Big Guy Catering, provides a salty/savory item each Sunday.



Team Leaders

- Jo Alipit
- Debbie Batchelder
- Dana Burkey
- Romelle Frey
- Rhonda Rudolph
- Maybe you?

The Coffee Hour Ministry is blessed with a dedicated group of Team Leaders who will work with the host/hostess each Sunday to ensure the Sunday Coffee hour activities are completed. A list of who is on call will be posted on the wall next to the serving area. Anyone who wants to become part of this ministry, male or female and become a team leader is encouraged to contact Rhonda Rudolph.

Directions / Guidelines on what is expected in greater detail will be provided in the green signup book that is located at the end of the serving table for treats. The following will assist anyone who is thinking about hosting a Sunday and are a brief list of what may be required. Team leaders assist in these activities.

- Anyone working in the kitchen is required to wear gloves when preparing or serving food
- Sweet items can be purchased or homemade. Gluten free items should be marked as gluten free or the package placed next to the item. FYI- Rice Krispie treats are a good option for gluten free sweets.
- Food items, including those prepared by Jeremiah, should be served individually wrapped or plated.
- Coffee (regular and decaf) has to be made and cups, creamer, sweeteners set out.
- Juice, water or other beverage should be provided for those individuals who do not drink coffee.
- Hot water can be provided for tea upon request.
- Donation basket has to be set out and money received has to be counted at the end.



Any questions or comments should be directed to Rhonda Rudolph, (517) 474-4368 or rlrudolph@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to consider volunteering in this valuable ministry to our church. It is an opportunity to meet, greet and provide fellowship for current family and potential new family (visitors) members.



You can still worship at home:

Watch the Facebook Livestream of our 10 :30 am Sunday service from inside our sanctuary:

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

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at

<https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view the service later on Facebook.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT TO VIEW OUR VIDEOS!



Bible Study will be in person at **10:30 am** in the Small Dining Room beginning **Wednesday, July 7th**. (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

Wednesday 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist will begin again in the chapel on **Wednesday, July 7th also.**



Join Pastor Sarah each Wednesday at **8pm on Facebook live**

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi> for the service of Compline from the Book of Common Prayer with the commemoration of saints that day.

Adult Forum

9:00 am-10:00 am on Sundays
via Zoom-

All adults are welcome to join!
For the Zoom meeting link and more info contact:

Eric R. Magnusson,
Email: emagnusson75@gmail.com

Cell: 248-842-1859

Meeting ID: 992 3997 8197

Passcode: Adult Forum



Fitness at St. Paul's from **Persist**

Let me begin by honoring the losses and traumas that have affected every one of us over the last year. I give thanks to God and the keepers of the ways of Jesus Christ at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the hope and joy that is available to us TODAY in this new era of worship, fellowship, and wellness. Namaste. Peace be with you. ~Dee

DRUMMING PLUS+ Seated and Supported Standing Fitness Foundation for Older Adults

For those who want a gentle re-start + balance and stability + energy and joy! Chair, assisted standing, or standing.

Monday and Friday at 11:00 am at St. Paul's in June 15-July 22 series.

Sliding-scale based on ability to pay: \$60 - \$144 for a **6-week series** (12 classes, \$5-\$12)

If you or someone you love uses a walker, cane, or chair, this is a class you can do too! Your support allows me to provide this service and assure no one is turned away due to an inability to pay. **CALL OR TEXT me directly for more information and to register 517-290-0305.**

St. Paul's Drum Corp

**Drumming will return to early evenings once an instructor becomes available*

What Precautions Are In Place for COVID Infection Control?

Participant will maintain distance of 10 feet apart, as recommended by the CDC for group fitness. I am vaccinated and wear a mask or a clear face shield at all times. I request that only vaccinated persons participate in my group fitness classes. I now have a wireless headset and portable amplifier for group and in-home training. This device helps to maintain physical separation while assuring I can be HEARD by all.

Participants should wear a mask while at St. Paul's and in group fitness – HOWEVER – participants may remove a mask if and when necessary to stabilize breathing during exercise. Classes are designed to minimize surface as well as particulate air-flow transmission.

Other Services by Appointment

- **Private Fitness Training & Senior Active Living Companionship.** In-home options available! Customs routines based on your needs and interests. We can meet in your in your home, at St. Paul's, or another public location. Indoors or outdoor.
- **Wellness and Fitness Consultation.** Always free for members of St. Paul's!

Coming this Summer to St. Paul's

SilverSneakers Circuit Training (Bun Camp) will also be returning soon! *Stay tuned!*

517.290.0305 [**deepersists@gmail.com**](mailto:deepersists@gmail.com)



Rev. Sarah & Rev. Melissa at Diocesan Wide Confirmation service, St. Barnabas, Chelsea
6.19.21

The Church office will be closed on **Monday, July 5th** in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.



Sending you lots of blessings
and prayers this Independence Day.

Happy 4th of July!



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SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Fellowship dinner will be
on Friday, August 20th
At the home of Sally McKinnon.
More details to come soon!

Jeff Thomas	July 6
Natalie Magnusson	July 9
James Grant	July 10
Parish Secretary Alice's Birthday	July 19
Romelle Frey	July 24
Sheryl Foor	July 24
Jeanne Draper	July 26



Ron & Valerie Rowley	July 8
Bob & Barbara Duke	July 11