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THE EPISTLE



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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May his name endure forever;
May it continue as long as the sun.

Psalm 72:17

Inside this issue

Rector's Corner.....	2,3
Jr. Warden.....	3
Curate's Report.....	4,5
Metaphors For Ministry...5	
Farewell Pastor Melissa...6	
ECW.....	8,9
Organist's corner.....	10
New St. Paul's sexton....	11
Announcements... ..	12-13
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	13
May Calendar.....	14



Rector's Corner

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:4

Friends,

I've preached on the curious command to love that we are given by Jesus. We think we need to have warm and fuzzy feelings for someone in order to love them. The Lord says otherwise, and encourages us to love especially when the recipient is hard to love. We are also encouraged to rejoice in the Lord. Paul writes to the Philippians about the need to rejoice even in times of stress and uncertainty. By the act of rejoicing in the Lord we put our cares and worries into God's hands, acknowledging that nothing is too big for God. Philippians 4:4 is followed by well-known verses which talk about not being anxious and giving your requests to the Lord with thanksgiving in your heart. Verse 7 follows this with: "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." What these verses state is that when we rejoice in the Lord, we begin to feel peace in our situations, peace in our hearts and minds, because we understand that God has our prayer requests well in hand and brings us peace until those requests are answered. Just like the command to love, the command to rejoice isn't easy but it is essential for our emotional and spiritual well-being. We must acknowledge that God is in control and give ourselves and all our worries to the One who lovingly created us and this vexing world.

I am rejoicing in the healing of my knee and the skilled hands of my orthopedist and physical therapists. I rejoice in your prayers and well wishes. I rejoice in our fabulous staff who are doing such a good job in my absence. My knee is coming along nicely and I'm excited to be back among you for our Bishop's visit.

I also rejoice in the time we have had with Rev. Melissa first as our seminarian then deacon and now curate. She has grown, learned and led with us and I'm grateful to have had her as a trusted colleague over the last few years. No curate comes to stay and Rev. Melissa has discerned a call with St. Katherine's in Williamston to be their part time priest in charge. She has great skills and compassion to bring to this fine congregation. We will miss her but we know she goes with the leading of the Lord and will be supported in her new ministry.

As we build our future here at St. Paul's, we will have important conversations about the leadership of our children and youth ministries and God will lead us forward together. Please keep this vital ministry in your prayers as we build for the future of St. Paul's.

Finally, we have ever more burdens laid upon us by the state of our world and our own country. Our prayers must be accompanied by praise of our Lord so we remember that we pray not into an impersonal void but to a God who knows and loves us and will help us find our way. As we say each week when we bring our offerings forward to God's altar: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Faithfully,
Sarah

As we continue to wrestle with abortion in our personal and civic lives I want you to know what the Episcopal Church has said and continues to say about this vastly important topic. Your opinion is yours and your church honors that and you. A link to the actual legislation from General Convention is here: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/summary-of-general-convention-resolutions-on-abortion-and-womens-reproductive-health>

A summary statement of this legislation is:

The Episcopal Church teaches that “all human life is sacred. Hence, it is sacred from its inception until death. The Church takes seriously its obligation to help form the consciences of its members concerning this sacredness. ...

In a series of statements over the past decades, the Church has declared that “we emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience.” At the same time, since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them.”

The Church urges dioceses and congregations “to give necessary aid and support to all pregnant women.” General Convention “commends the work and mission of pregnancy care centers which stress unconditional love and acceptance, for women and their unborn children.” ...

At the General Convention in 2018, The Episcopal Church called for “women’s reproductive health and reproductive health procedures to be treated as all other medical procedures.” The Convention declared “that equitable access to women’s health care, including women’s reproductive health care, is an integral part of a woman’s struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being.”

We continue to advocate that “legislating abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that the individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored as the position of this Church.”

Faithfully,
Rev. Sarah

From our Jr. Warden...

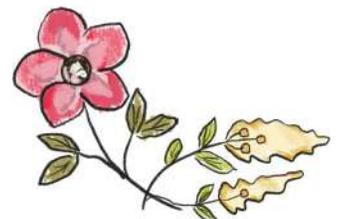
We had a wonderful Easter Day at St. Paul’s. The church was full and the egg hunt was a success. The kids were so excited to look out in the Memorial Garden to see all the colorful eggs for hunting. A big Thank You to all who donated and ECW for stuffing the eggs. It was great to see so many people stay after service for Easter Day coffee hour. The desserts were AMAZING!

St. Paul’s continues to grow in weekly attendance and I am seeing some new faces in the pews. What a wonderful thing to know our parish is growing.

On May 1st we had an all youth tech team. They did a great job!

Looking forward, Bishop Perry will join us on May 8th.
Hope to see you then!

Elaine



Curate's Report



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. -1 Peter 1:3

Siblings in Christ,

Easter season is upon us and with that it feels like we are on the verge of a new normal, at least for the short term. With spring in the air, at least on some days, and seeing well over 100 people in church on Easter I can't help but think of all the good possibilities on the horizon. The faith we cultivated over the Lent season now feels like it is transformed to hope.

We have recently gone back to having the Eucharist in both parts in the service. It was a special Easter surprise for some that the wine was back. We've also been able to add back in bringing up the elements for the celebration of the Eucharist from the back as has been tradition, as well as passing the offering plate. The acolytes have been able to resume their job as servers, assisting the priest preparing and cleaning up the table as well as ringing the Sanctus bells during the Eucharistic prayer. Our worship is looking and feeling more like it did before much of society came to a halt and our worship went to being online based. What a road it has been!

While our folks doing worship related ministries are getting their sea legs back with the new updates to worship, we also have several children and youth taking up new responsibilities as of late. You will see lots of our children and youth doing new roles as they have matured and are taking on new responsibilities. Everyone has shown me a lot of grace as I have been learning the ropes of priestly ministry here at St. Paul's, so I am confident that grace will extend to all those serving as we bring back old roles and new people take on different roles. And now is as good a time as ever to take on a new ministry if you are interested.

Recently we did an intergenerational bible study that was quite a success. Children grades 4 and up joined the adult forum for a five-week bible study related to some of the music and themes from the Broadway musical Hamilton. The lessons provided a lot of time for sharing with different perspectives coming from different age groups.

The children and youth did a service project making cards for the sick and homebound. The ECW helped make the cards as well and the project was spearheaded by our church school teacher Kim Perlos. Over 30 cards were made! The cards went to Arbor Manor and will go to some of our very own parishioners.

The children and youth also gathered with friends from Jackson First Presbyterian Church and Jackson First United Methodist church for a movie night. About 25 kids attended and we watched the movie Prince of Egypt and talked about how this related to what was happening in our current church season.

Curate's Report continued...

The annual Easter egg hunt was a hit for our youngest members although some of our middle age group of kids are growing out of this and wanting to take on more teen friendly activities. This is in line with them preparing for Confirmation at the end of the next program year. Seeing them grow and blossom and learn new skills is a joy. I am thankful for the help of Kim Perlos and Peggy Wilds for preparing the Easter eggs and for all those who donated small toys and candy for Easter for the children and youth. Peggy has also been a dedicated behind the scenes bulletin board angel this program year, preparing beautiful bulletin boards for our changing church seasons. When you see her, please take a moment to thank her for this ministry. She takes care of the bulletin board on the corner of the hallway that leads to Holy Spirit Hall which currently features...ALLELUIA!



Easter Blessings

Easter blessings,
Melissa

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.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. -Isaiah 64:8

The metaphor I'm highlighting this month is "clay and potter." This metaphor speaks in multiple ways. First, as pottery we are created by God. When we think of pottery, we often think about things that are either art or are useful, or both. And it seems God has created us as individual pieces of one of a kind art and that we are here for a purpose. This purpose being to continue the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement. We do this by bringing our unique charisms gifted to us by God.

Separately, this metaphor is a helpful reminder that God is always molding us as we go throughout our lives. Pottery creation is a process. And with that, God is a guiding, shaping force and we choose how we respond to this guidance. How we live is how respond to this molding and transformation offered by God.

As you are out and about this month think about how God is crafting and molding you!

Melissa



Pastor Melissa Answers a New Call

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear St. Paul's friends in Christ,

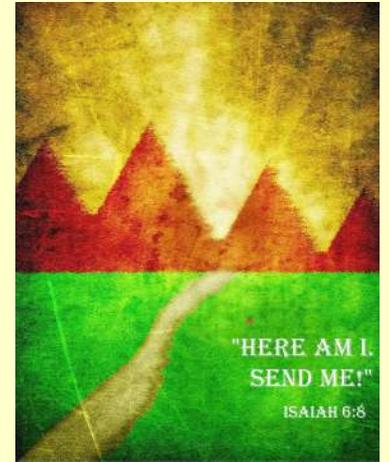
As you have heard from Rev. Sarah, my time as Curate of St. Paul's is drawing to a close. It is a bittersweet time of transition as I have grown to love everyone in this wonderful community. St. Katherine's in Williamston has recently called me as their priest-in-charge.

Since serving at St. Paul's starting in September of 2019 I have gone from seminarian to transitional deacon to priest and curate, even being ordained a priest inside the walls of St. Paul's! These things were made possible with the help and guidance of this community. All of you in the congregation have helped me become the priest I am today, even starting ordained ministry during a worldwide pandemic. I give great thanks for the guidance Pastor Sarah has provided throughout this challenging time and her willingness and inspiration to take on a Curate in addition to all St. Paul's already had to offer.

We have shared much together in ministry. I arrived at St. Paul's thankful to be able to serve and leave with a heart filled with gratitude in being able to do so. We have labored together to make St. Paul's the vibrant, growing community that it is. This will be the start of a new chapter, yet we will all carry the same heart filled with the Jesus movement as we journey forward. Thanks to each of you, and thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

Melissa



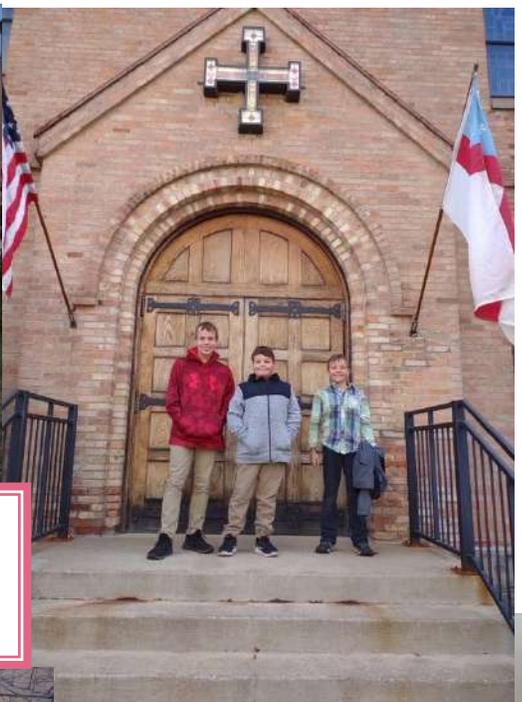
On this Mother's Day, we give thanks to God for the divine gift of motherhood in all its diverse forms:

Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have passed away; for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers some day and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in any way—those who have been our substitute mothers and we who have done so for those in need; for the earth that bore us and provides our sustenance. We pray this all in the name of God, our great and loving Mother. Amen.

*from Women's Common Prayers: Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated
(Morehouse Publishing, 2000)*

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful Mothers of St. Paul's!

Join us for worship on Mother's Day Sunday, May 8, 2022



Easter Egg Hunt 2022!



Youth Service Project:
Making Cards for our
St. Paul's homebound



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

May is replete with observations and the celebration of many saints. We have May Day of course, celebrating spring in the northern hemisphere. There is also the all-important Mother's Day when mothers all over the country are remembered and celebrated. Some of the saints remembered are St. Joseph the worker, Our Lady of Fatima, Saints Philip and James and St Pancreas among many others. It is also the month we remember nurses, police, teachers, and pets – all of whom get their own week. Whew! There is a lot going on in May. Not to be forgotten is Memorial Day when we remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It also reminds us to remember our own loved ones gone before us.

ECW went to the SOAR house on April 2 last. It was an amazing experience. SOAR was founded to help women who are in prison and have been trafficked in the past. This life often leads to addiction to blot out the pain from the terrible experiences these women go through. The founder, Michelle Cochran, gave a wonderful presentation on what the organization does to help these women recover and become productive members of society. Michelle has been hampered in her efforts by the pandemic and the regulations set in place in prisons and jails. They currently have two residents one of whom is scheduled to graduation this month. This graduate has so far been a huge success and is scheduled to go on to MSU to complete her bachelor's degree. Her hope is to become a social worker and help other women like herself. Their main fund-raising dinner is scheduled for May 6 at 5:30 at Cascades Manor House. Cost is \$35. This is a very worthwhile organization and worth supporting.

As part of our support of Together We Can Make a Difference, we will be collecting for their Baby Pantry. We are asking for donations of diapers in sizes 4,5 or 6 (no smaller), powdered formula, gently used or new baby clothes, and baby wipes. Any support you can offer will be greatly appreciated and brought to the pantry for distribution to the needy mothers. Make a difference in the life of a mother and baby by donation what you can.

On the subject of support, our nut sale is over! We cannot thank you all enough for your support of this vital annual fund-raiser. It allows us to donate to organizations like Priceless Gifts, Habitat for Humanity and SOAR. Our final profit is \$1,067.60. We went over the magic thousand and we are very pleased with that. Thank you all again!! We couldn't do what we do without you.

We are still in desperate need of a secretary for ECW. It is just for the meetings and NOT for writing the Epistle article. Please search your conscience and your heart and consider stepping up to this position thus easing the burden of the current board. Thank you!!

ECW continued...

Don't forget our May meeting on the 14th which will be our painting session. Our instructor for the session is Elizabeth Wray, of Creative Juices and it promises to be a lot of fun. Plus, you get to take your artwork home to display in your home. Cost is \$25 with financial assistance available if it is outside your budget. Sign-up sheet is in the glass narthex. Please join us for this fun project. The more the merrier. Painting ability not required which is part of the fun of it all.

Looking ahead, in June, Sandra Kilian will give an overview of the Old Testament. Sandra does a very good job of this, and you will see the Old Testament in a very different light. July is our annual picnic which will be held at my home. There will be more details coming but mark your calendars for these future meetings.

Happy Mother's Day to all the women out there. Whether we have children or not we have all been a mom to someone at one stage or another. If there is a woman you feel is missing from our congregation or from your own social circle, please remember them with a note or card.



Respectfully submitted, Valerie Rowley, Vice-President ECW.



“IN THANKSGIVING”

This month we are grateful for:

Christie Swanson - *for her faithfulness on Altar Guild; and for not hesitating for a second to run down to the office and fill in when Secretary Alice had to run out for a family emergency!*

Pastor Melissa - *for holding down the fort while Pastor Sarah was out on medical leave!*

Our new Sexton Eston - *who has been hard at work making St. Paul's shine!*

Organist Julie - *for helping Alice give the bulletin board in the glass narthex a much needed facelift!*

Sue Smar – *who has started working on our flower beds again!*



Mother's Day



In May, we celebrate Mother's Day. This year, it is a very special one for me because my first grandchild was born on April 19. Although he was two weeks early, little Walter was a healthy 6 lbs, 15 oz. and is an absolutely delightful baby.

Previously, I wrote about the importance of hymns in shaping our faith. This month, I wanted to share the poem that my second son, Ethan (baby Walter's father), wrote for me some time ago when he was a 12-year-old. It tells in his words how a hymn that expresses our faith helped us through a very difficult time.

A Tribute to My Mother

By Ethan Dawson-Baglien, 7th Grade



This is a poem to my Mom,
Julie, who taught me courage.

With blond hair and blue eyes
and fairly average height,
my mom was someone who I
always held dear.

But around two or three years
ago, the doctors told us that
she had cancer. Up until then,
I had never come close to
losing someone close to me,

But Mom told me not to worry,
and that the doctors would
take care of it all.

But Mom was wrong. Two years later,
she had a recurrence.
But Mom was brave. Even
though she was scared, as I was.
But she kept on acting
like everything was normal.

And whenever she got
too worried, she played
the hymn, "Healer of Our Every Ill."
I now know that song
by heart.

And now, I like to think
it's all over. And it
probably is. But if it
happens again, I have that
blue hymnal, just in case.

So I write this for courage,
healing, and for you,
my mother, Julie.





Meet our new Sexton, Eston Dawson-Baglien!

Eston is the youngest in a family of four brothers. He grew up in Onondaga and went to school at Springport, Jackson College, and Michigan State. While at Springport, he was in choir and band, serving as drum major his senior year. Eston was also on the Quiz Bowl/Quiz Buster teams there. He has been playing ice-hockey since he was 9 and has also ran cross-country, track, and played football. Eston is a part-owner of the Green Bay Packers. He loves his dog, Daisy Mae, being in the outdoors (especially in the UP), and good music ranging from Vivaldi to the Beatles.

We're happy to have him on our St. Paul's Staff Team!

SAVE THE DATES
SUMMER ART CAMP
JUNE 21, 22 & 23
5:30-8:00 PM

@St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 with Jackson First Presbyterian Church
 and
 Jackson First United Methodist Church



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Masks are recommended, but not required.

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



**Wednesday @ 12:15 pm -
Holy Eucharist in the chapel**



Join Pastor Sarah each **Wednesday 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.

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.



may BIRTHDAYS

Sally McKinnon	May 1
Debbie Batchelder	May 3
Joanne Johnston	May 8
Evelyn LaGow	May 11
Susan Howe	May 22
Joette Rabaskas	May 27
Elaine Hale	May 30



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Diane Scheele	May 4
Floyd & Barb Covey	May 17
Joe & Heidi Hosler-Lathrop	May 18
Bob & Marianne Fowler	May 19
Barney & Rhonda Rudolph	May 23
Thomas & Sandra Kilian	May 25
James & Carrie Heider Grant	May 28
Eric & Natalie Magnusson	May 31



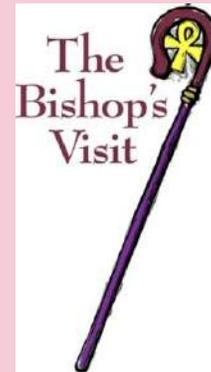
May

Take 10 minutes...
Being Redeemed

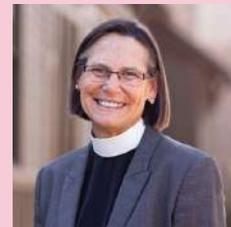
Take 10 minutes each day to read that day's Bible verse and the surrounding passages. Write it in your journal and pray over it. Ask God to reveal to you what He wants to show you through His word.

1 st - John 11:25	16 th - Acts 24:15
2 nd - 1 Peter 1:3	17 th - 1 Corinthians 15:12-32
3 rd - 1 Thessalonians 4:14	18 th - Mark 16:1-7
4 th - Romans 8:11	19 th - Philippians 3:10
5 th - John 6:40	20 th - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
6 th - John 11:25-26	21 st - Romans 8:34
7 th - 1 Corinthians 6:14	22 nd - Job 19:25-26
8 th - Romans 6:4	23 rd - Romans 6:8-11
9 th - Luke 14:14	24 th - Acts 4:33
10 th - Isaiah 26:19	25 th - Romans 10:9
11 th - 1 Thessalonians 4:16	26 th - Romans 4:25
12 th - Daniel 12:2	27 th - Psalm 16:10
13 th - John 14:19	28 th - 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
14 th - Acts 3:15	29 th - John 6:54
15 th - Luke 24:1-53	30 th - Romans 6:5
	31 st - Luke 24:6-7

www.womanofnoblecharacter.com



Bishop Bonnie Perry will be visiting us this Sunday, May 8th!



She will be meeting with our vestry between services and with our youth during a special coffee hour.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthdays & Anniversaries	2	3	4	5	6	7
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline			
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour Bishop Perry's Visit		4:30 pm Clergy Mtg 6 pm Toastmasters	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline		10 am Questers Stained Glass Tour	ECW 10:30 am
15	15	17	18	19	20	21
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	10:30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 8 pm FB Compline			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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29	30	31				
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