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Next on the list...

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

As you begin to read these words, our Annual Meeting will have passed and I will have shared with you my reflection of not only the past ten months but some of my thoughts for the next year. It is hard to imagine that our short time together has flown by so quickly . . . and yet, we have accomplished much since I appeared on the doorstep last March.

So, we first need to stop and give ourselves thanks and appreciation. Many of you have worked hard to keep up with me, to slow me down, and to walk with me as I learned of the ways of St. Paul's. There are too many folks for me to thank in this article, but I do want to acknowledge both Mark Rudd and Sue LeDuc. These two have led you well as your wardens; they have offered me tremendous guidance, have held my hand, laughed at my feeble jokes, and dried my tears in those rare moments. This is a good congregation and we have much to be proud of, so let us rejoice in all that we have, all that we do, and all that God is calling us to be.

And as we give thanks, let us not forget that we still have more to do. We are in the midst of a significant transition . . . our financial challenges have forced us into a place to look at how we do things, how we spend the financial gifts we receive from all of you, and how we respond to the needs of God's people both inside and outside of our doors. There is a sense of urgency around this – for many years we have relied upon our savings or the gracious bequests to offset our expenses. But we are unable to do that any longer. We will now look carefully at each expenditure . . . we will ask these questions before each purchase "Does this create and nurture relationships with God and each other?" "Does this expense invite others to invest in God's kingdom in Lansing?" You will be receiving regular updates regarding our finances and some of the options Vestry considers along the way. As the year progresses, we may need to make some difficult choices about our expenses and it is important you share in that information.

In September, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church building. This is a great opportunity to look back and see what the saints before us had hoped for and accomplished through both good times and bad. But this is an even greater opportunity for us to look toward

the next 100 years – to gather together in faithfulness and tremendous hope wondering and dreaming into being what the next decades will be for us and those who follow in our footsteps.

So, next on our list . . . to continue to celebrate and rejoice in all that we are as St. Paul's. To continue to grow spiritually and faithfully through formation, fellowship and worship. To intentionally invite others to join our community and be part of the kingdom of God. To engage the use of social media so we may communicate clearly with those of other generations. To be a community of

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Next on the list...

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forgiveness and love so that we may witness Jesus Christ to the world. To generate the resources needed to engage in God's ministry while carefully expending those gifts in the most judicious way possible. To join together to envision our future through a congregation-wide visioning process resulting in a clear mission and desired outcomes that will focus our efforts.

We have much to do. Thanks be to God. We have much to give thanks for – thanks be to God. We have much to hope for – thanks be to God. We trust and believe that God has much more in store for us – thanks be to God!

Treasurer's Report Information as of December 31, 2013

By Jeff Irwin

As of this writing, the 2013 accounting was not final. The financial reports for 2013 will be presented at the parish's annual meeting.

However some highlights for 2013 can reported.

On a positive note, over \$321,000 of pledge revenue was booked in 2013. That is \$26,000 more than budgeted.

However, significantly more money was spent then collected. As a result it was necessary to use \$80,000 of Perpetual Fund money in 2013.

We also used \$58,000 from other restricted funds. Included in that amount is \$21,000 from the Shawver fund to support the salary of the Youth Coordinator and \$18,000 from the Memorial Fund for sanctuary improvements including, carpeting, draperies and the altar improvements.

The restricted funds received \$29,000 in contribution in 2013. The restricted funds also recorded \$108,000 in investment earnings in 2013.

The Capital Campaign spent \$222,000 in 2013. This includes completion of the metal roof project, a tuck point project and installation of a new security and phone system.

The Capital Campaign has collected over \$426,000 in contributions since it started in 2011. As we enter the final year of pledge payments an additional \$114,000 is expected to be collected in 2014.

There was not sufficient cash in the Capital Campaign Fund to complete all of the projects that needed to be completed in 2013. Accordingly the Vestry approved a \$75,000 loan from the Perpetual Fund to the Capital Campaign. This loan is intended to be repaid as parishioners pay their Capital Campaign pledge payments. As of December 31, 2013, \$35,465 of the loan was repaid to the Perpetual Fund leaving the balance of the loan from the Perpetual Fund at \$39,535 at year end.

Going in to the year 2014 we are looking at deficit operating budget.

The current draft of the 2014 operating budget shows a deficit of approximately \$150,000. The safety net of the perpetual fund is expected to have \$90,000 available. This includes repayment of the Capital campaign loan noted above.

The Vestry has been working on this issue and has identified many innovative and creative ideas to address the deficit. We are confident that with the support of the whole congregation we will resolve our financial deficit.

Parish News

Lent is Not Far Off!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is not too far away. **March 5th** begins our season of Lent with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist at Noon and 7:00 p.m. services. We will experience significant changes in our worship environment – no more “Alleluias!” – no more flowers on the altar (really on the reredos) – no more metal communion vessels on the altar – and the color purple becomes prominent.

We will once again have our Monday book reviews and also Karen Lewis+ will teach a Wednesday night series on Death, Resurrection, and Hope. Please try to clear your calendars so that you may participate in these and other Lenten opportunities as we enter the time of repentance and reflection in preparation for our Lord’s death and resurrection.

Lenten Lunch-n-Book Reviews

St. Paul’s will continue its annual tradition of having book reviews on five Mondays during Lent. Lunch (provided by A Catered Affaire for \$5 per person) will be offered at noon, with the book review to follow from 12:30 to 1:00 pm. (You do not need to read the books ahead of time.) The reviews will be held on:

March 10: Martie Repaskey will review *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell.

March 17: Nancy Lange will review *When “Spiritual But Not Religious” Is not Enough* by Lillian Daniel and Stephen Lange will review *Scripture and the Authority of God: How to Read the Bible Today* by N. T. Wright.

March 24: Karen Lewis will review *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister.

March 31: Dorothy Marsh will be the reviewer.

April 7: Carol Miller will review *Mandela’s Way: Fifteen Lessons in Life, Love, and Courage* by Richard Stengel.

Choir Updates

By Dr. Stephen Lange



February 2: Boys’ and Grace, High School, Chancel

February 9: High School and Chancel

February 16: High School and Chancel

February 23: High School and Chancel

Special Dates to Note

Saturday, February 22—Cabaret. All members of Cherubs, Boys’ and Grace, and High School Choirs will be performing for Cabaret—a fund-raising activity for the England trip in the summer of 2015. Tickets are \$15 (adults) for meal and entertainment; \$8 (Children) for meal and entertainment; and \$7 for entertainment alone. Dinner, which will include salad, main course, roll, beverage, and dessert, will begin at 5:00 pm and Entertainment about 6:00 p.m.



St. Paul’s choristers will present CABARET 2014 on Saturday, February 22, at 5:00 pm. Cabaret is an evening of fine dining (salad, main course, roll, beverage, and dessert) followed by entertainment provided by choristers of the church. They will present a wide variety of acts, including instrumental solos, songs from musicals, and other acts. Tickets are \$15.00 (adults) for dinner and entertainment, \$8.00 for children, and \$7.00 for entertainment alone. Please join us for this fund-raising activity of the England choristers for the trip of 2015 and invite friends and relatives! Tickets are available in the office or at the coffee hour on Sundays.

Parish News

Stewardship Ministry Team

By Ree and Jim Huber

Do you remember the \$1 bill Karen gave us at the start of the Annual Stewardship drive? She asked us to use it wisely and thoughtfully as we gave it away. We thank all 113 of you who have given a wise and thoughtful pledge to help support

St. Paul's. We now have a total pledge amount of \$292,191.00. Dollar by dollar we are adding to the budget to help support St. Paul's. On Sunday, February 2, we will give thanks and praise to all the children bringing their mite boxes up for the MITE BOX BLESSING. Thank you for all your generous pledge contributions.



Confirmation Classes

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Classes for anyone who wishes to be confirmed, received or reaffirm their baptismal vows will be held on Sunday evenings beginning March 9, 2014. I have been asked if you must be at least 16 years of age to be confirmed – my sense is if you are younger and believe you are ready to confirm the baptismal vows taken for you as a child, then chat with me and we'll decide together. These classes are also for those folks who have not yet been received into the Episcopal Church from another faith tradition. And lastly, for those who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows as a result of some life transition. The schedule for classes are as follows:

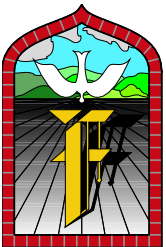
Sunday evenings 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 27; May 4

The service of confirmation will be **Thursday, May 8**, at All Saints, East Lansing. Please contact Karen Lewis (rector@stpaulslansing.org) if you are interested in attending these classes.

4F'S UPCOMING EVENTS

(Faith, Fellowship, Food, & Fun)



12:00 Noon Lunch (\$5.00)

12:30 PM Bible Study (with Steve Lange)

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Program

Please mark your calendars now for these dates.

February 17 – St. Paul's High School Choir goes to England. Steve & Nancy Lange will introduce us to an insider's guide on traveling with teenagers for three weeks. Who does the planning, how is it funded, what do the kids do during the day, where do they stay, how often do they go to church or sing in cathedrals?

The Langes have been doing this for many years and will show us some videos of these adventures.

March 10 – April 7 - Lenten Book Reviews every Monday. There will be no No 4F's programs.

April 21 – A Special Tour of the Broad Art Museum on the Michigan State University campus. The exhibits are changed throughout the year, so even if you've been there before, a docent will give us a look at the mission of this wonderful building.

May 19 – Picnic, Book suggestions, and Planning. It will be held at a home to be announced at a later date.

Greeters Schedule

The greeters for February will be the Men's Breakfast Ministry. March greeters will be the Mission and Outreach Ministry. Leaders, please send the names of the greeters to Kathleen so she can put them into the Sunday bulletin.

St. Paul's Ministries

Altar Flower Ministry

By Barb Linnquist

The beauty of flowers plays an important part in our worship at St. Paul's. Your gift of flowers not only provides for the adornment of our altars and proclamation of the resurrection, it also serves as a pastoral blessing to those who receive the flowers delivered to them after our worship – typically those who are shut-in by virtue of illness or crisis or those with some milestone celebration. It is truly a multi-faceted gift.

Thank you to the following people for the part you play in adorning the altar with flowers to celebrate the beauty of God's creation.

February 2014 Altar Flower Dedications

February 2 The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Don Berger, Steve Berger, and Mary Masters by Nancy and David Berger.

February 9 The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Lane Jessop by Virginia, Debby, Cindy and Becky.

February 16 The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones and family by Helen Deliyanne; and in loving memory of the ladies of the Jambor, Majancsik, and Senko families by the Jambor and Senko families.

Please remember to send in your monetary donation to St. Paul's.

If you would like to make a donation, simply fill out and submit an Altar Flower Request Form that is found on the sign-up table in the Merrifield room, and on the St Paul's website. All dedications for a particular Sunday will be honored.



The New 2014 Flower Chart is Here!!

The Altar Flower Ministry at St. Paul's needs you! We are truly blessed to have God's Altar so beautifully adorned each week. Did you know that those flowers are made possible by the generous donations of parishioners and friends of St. Paul's?

Please add your name to the Flower Chart (by the elevator) outside the Merrifield room. All dedications for a particular Sunday are honored. More than one name per Sunday is encouraged! Complete a Flower Request Form and turn it into the office.

There is a suggested minimum donation of \$25, but all donations, large or small, are appreciated. The Altar Flower Ministry's goal is to make it possible for all parishioners to be active in this ministry! These donations (tax deductible) are essential for St. Paul's to continue to have altar flowers each Sunday. Checks (write Flower Fund on the memo line) need to be made payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing, MI 48933, and should be mailed or placed in the collection plate.

Dedications must be received in the church office no later than Wednesday before the date of the dedication to insure inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. Donations to the Flower Fund do not require a dedication! Simply give to support the ministry!

After the 10:00 am Sunday service, flowers from an altar bouquet are available to parishioners to be delivered to those who are shut in or those with some milestone celebration. An Altar Guild member can provide a non-breakable bud vase to transport flowers. Your participation in the Altar Flower Ministry is truly a multi-faceted gift.

St. Paul's Ministries

Altar Guild



For 31 Years St. Paul's Altar Guild Has Supported Programs for the Needy!

Lavina Miles-Alice Jennings Fund distribution began in 1982 Mrs. Lavina Miles, a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, included a donation to the Altar Guild within her will in 1968. Mrs. Alice Jennings, a long time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church Altar

Guild, also included a donation within her will. The resulting Lavina Miles-Alice Jennings Fund is a restricted asset of St. Paul's. In 1982, the Altar Guild, working with the Rector, began disbursing annual fund growth so these women's donations could "be in turn given to the needy" in according with their wishes.

Through this fund years over \$39,000 has been donated to help with various needs in our community. During the past 31 years, donations have been made to: Advent House, Consumer Energy People Care Project, Economic Crisis/Haven House, Eve's House, Harvest House, Lansing Food Bank, Lansing Habitat for Humanity, Lansing Rescue Mission, Loaves and Fishes, Maplewood Center, Salvation Army Energy Fund, Youth Haven Ranch, and Volunteers of America-New Hope Center. In addition to these community efforts donations have been made to St. Paul's Clergy Discretionary funds, St. Paul's Christmas & Thanksgiving Baskets, St. Paul's rotating shelter program, St Paul's street ministry, St. Paul's England Chorister scholarships, and St. Paul's Youth Ministry program.

In 2013 over \$900 each was given to Maplewood Women's Center, Loaves and Fishes and Rev. Karen's discretionary fund. In addition to the fund distribution, the Altar Guild collects toiletries (many from motel / hotel visits) at the holiday time for distribution to Lansing area shelters.

St. Aelred's

By Chris Krupka

St. Aelred's Pastoral Care continues to visit members who are unable to make it to church regularly. We have expanded our services to include bringing meals to those that are recovering from illness or surgery. If you would be willing to take a meal to a parishioner in need please contact Chris Krupka @ cekrupka@yahoo.com or 517-204-5303.

We also need you to be our eyes and ears. If you know of someone in need please assume we are unaware and let us know by calling Karen directly @ 517-482-9454. If she is not in, ask to leave a message on her voice mail.

In the pews, please find cards that may be completed for prayer requests. These cards may be put in the offering plate or directly in the office mailbox. When a card is received, we will be sure to add the requested person to the prayer list.

Weird Animals!

That will be our theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. **VBS will be June 16-20.** It promises to be such a fun, faith-filled experience for everyone involved! Volunteer forms will be available Sunday, February 2. All volunteers are welcome and if you have never joined us but wondered what it was like, just ask! We love to talk about VBS! So put on your Vacation Bible School hats and think about weird animals! See Jackie Womble if you have any questions or would like to volunteer!

One World, Many Stories

St. Paul's Youth Library



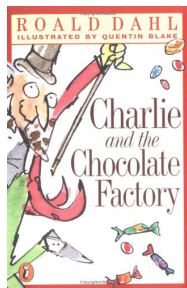
Why should children be reading fiction instead of Bible stories?

Good literature can vividly confirm and nurture knowledge of what is good and true. Good fiction allows us to vicariously experience conflicts between good and evil and thereby grow in wisdom. Jesus used parables to teach his disciples.

A good story inspires, instructs, and opens up new worlds of interest and activity. A child's character and beliefs can be deeply strengthened by the books they read.

Here are lectionary links for two books (or movies) that you probably have in your home library—Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.

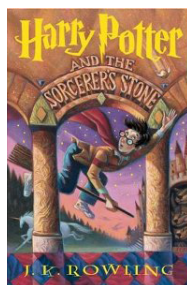
Year A: 5th Sunday after Epiphany



First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Comment: In today's text, we hear that following God's commandments leads to prosperity and life in the Promised Land; the outcome is not so hopeful for those who disobey. "But if your heart turns away and you do not hear... you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess." For the children with golden tickets, Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory might just be the Promised Land. They too make choices that carry consequences. Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregarde, Veruca Salt, and Mike Teavee find their time in the factory cut short because of their greed and unwillingness to follow Mr. Wonka's instructions. Soon, only the timid, loving, obedient Charlie Bucket and his grandpa remain; because of Charlie's actions, he is given the chocolate factory, where he and his family are invited to live for the rest of their lives.



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Comment: "The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose... we are God's servants, working together." Paul is explaining to the Corinthians that his work is not in competition with Apollo's, but that each person's task is part of what it takes to serve God. In the church people may have different jobs—teaching, cooking, cleaning, counting money, etc.—yet everyone is working together for God's purposes. In Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Harry and his friends work together to keep the Sorcerer's Stone from the Dark Side. It takes Ron's skills at chess, Hermione's logic, and Harry's nerve and courage to help them accomplish their purpose.

St. Paul's Events Calendar

FEBRUARY 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 26 ANNUAL MEETING 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 11:30 AM St. Paul Feast Brunch 5:00 PM Lange Choral Ensemble 6:00 PM EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room | 27 5:30 PM Liturgy & Music Ministry | 28 9:00 AM St. Vincent Refugee Program - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service | 29 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 6:30 PM High School Choir | 30 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir | 31 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA Meeting | 1 10:00 AM Vestry Retreat @ Rev. Lewis' home |
| 2 FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION/CANDLEMAS 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting 5:00 PM Lange Choral Ensemble 6:00 PM EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room | 3 Rev. Lewis Away 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee | 4 Rev. Lewis Away 9:00 AM St. Vincent Refugee Program - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM Noonday Prayer w/Steve Lange 5:30 PM Prayer Group - Chancel | 5 Rev. Lewis Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 6:30 PM High School Choir | 6 Rev. Lewis Away 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir | 7 Office Closed Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting | 8 Rev. Lewis Away |
| 9 Baptism Anniversary Celebration Rev. Lewis Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion w/Rev. Andrew Shiota 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion w/Rev. Andrew Shiota 11:30 AM Communications Committee Meeting 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting 1:00 PM L.A.E.P. Youth Outing 5:00 PM Lange Choral Ensemble 6:00 PM EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room | 10 Rev. Lewis Away 5:30 PM Liturgy & Music Ministry | 11 Rev. Lewis Away 9:00 AM St. Vincent Refugee Program - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 5:15 PM Buildings & Grounds Committee 6:00 PM Business & Professional Women Dinner & Mtg. | 12 Rev. Lewis Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Executive Vestry Committee 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 5:30 PM Finance Committee 5:30 PM Parish Life Committee 6:30 PM High School Choir | 13 Rev. Lewis Away 10:45 AM Open Door - Serving Lunch 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir | 14 Office Closed Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting | 15 Rev. Lewis Away 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!! |
| 16 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Acolytes Meeting 11:30 AM Youth Christian Education Committee 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting 5:00 PM Lange Choral Ensemble 6:00 PM EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room | 17 Pay it Forward Event 12:00 PM 4 F's Luncheon & Program 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm | 18 9:00 AM St. Vincent Refugee Program - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service | 19 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach - Van Atta Room 6:30 PM High School Choir | 20 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM Rev. Lewis @ Fresh Start 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir | 21 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA Meeting | 22 9:00 AM HOUSEHOLD OF GOD CONFERENCE - DETROIT 5:00 PM Cabaret Dinner 6:00 PM Cabaret |
| 23 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Youth Group Meeting 5:00 PM Lange Choral Ensemble 6:00 PM EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room | 24 | 25 9:00 AM St. Vincent Refugee Program - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service | 26 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 6:30 PM High School Choir | 27 6:00 PM Quilty Kats - Hill Room 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir | 28 Office Closed 12:00 PM AA Meeting | 1 9:30 AM Altar Guild Meeting |



We pray for those who are sick and in need: Kathy Bowland, Katie Stoltze, Dave, Debra Staal, Tara Farhat, Kent Riley, Webb Smith, Jr., Adam, Ashley, Dick, George Nama, Patty Lindholm Bayes and Max Sutton.

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Bill, John & Grace Hawkins, Tom Foltz, Jake Cook, Sebastian Cuesta, Joe & Judy Manson, Marge Cook, John Sleight, MaryLea & Ed Benson, Marilyn, Ellie Doersam, and Kaleel VanVorhees.

We pray and remember those in the Military, who are serving in dangerous areas: Andrew Foltz, Jeff Doorlag, Sam Foltz, Zachary Bellinger, Tyson Carter, and Sam Montie.

We pray for comfort and peace: for the family and friends of Ray Hotchkiss and Jane Armitage who recently passed away.

We pray and give thanks for: Mason Scott Nichol who was recently baptized.

We pray for those expecting: Anna & Ben Hoffman and Jennet & Isaac Francisco.

We pray for: The Most Revd. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our bishop; and Karen C. Lewis, our priest-in-charge.