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## Clergy Report

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

I begin this article by first expressing my thanks to Hillary for her graciousness in not nagging me about missing the deadline for this month's edition. Writing this article was way low on the priority list during Holy Week. Although I am sure I could have found the time to write, there was too much of my brain space being utilized for our journey with Jesus into death and new life.

Here, on Easter Monday morning, I feel a tremendous sense of relief for having completed the week. Yes, the workload is a heavier one than usual. But even greater than the feeling of relief, is the tremendous sense of joy I have for the many who were my companions with me for those seven emotional days. To travel together through Jesus's last days – the intimate supper with his closest friends as he says good-bye and expresses his deep love through the washing of feet – the horror of a lonely gruesome death – the exultation of his new life – to experience this together is the ultimate gift of God's love lived through our life together.

Such a journey is only possible with the hard work and involvement of so many – the altar guild's constant presence and patience as I changed my mind time and time again – the many who served God's altar as chalice bearers and acolytes – the lectors who read, and read, and read the long scripture readings that lead us together on this journey of Word and Sacrament – the various choirs whose voices and instruments helped us ascend to God's holy place on Easter morning while only days earlier Vicky's voice led us gently, persistently, to the place of sadness and mourning on Good Friday. Then there were our children who traveled the Stations of the Cross – tasting gall, touching the crown of thorns, and wiping the faces of their beloved parents with wet cloths. Their wonder and questions were those that we adults were silently asking. The many who made our Maundy Thursday meal a time of companionship and sharing – good food and good friends sharing their stories, much like Jesus did with his disciples.

This journey of Holy Week was not only Jesus's, it was ours. To live into the darkness of not knowing what is next, but trusting that Jesus's light will show us the way. For it is in the midst of darkness that we discover who we truly are and whose we are. In the darkness, we are wholly dependent on each other and God for the strength and courage to take the next step. In the dark, we must hold hands, trust each other, stay connected, and rely on each other, knowing that the light of Christ will shine at extraordinary moments to show us the way.

My sincere thanks to all who accompany me in the dark. I am blessed to be in community with all of you. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

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# Structural Love

By Sue LeDuc, Senior Warden

I had had a long Saturday...first making palm crosses and setting up the altar for Palm Sunday...always a joy...then spending time with my 96-year-old mother...also a joy but mixed with melancholy...then working on my taxes...never a joy... and I looked at the clock: 4:00 p.m. I didn't really want to go "Mobile in Black and White", but I had signed up to bring a salad so I got everything together and left once again for St. Paul's.

The dinner was our usual great pot luck and then we all trooped to Dart Auditorium and the showing of Rob Gray's film as part of the Capitol City Film Fest. I admit that I am not a film fest "afficionado" although there are a number of local film festivals. I left Dart Auditorium stunned: Rob and his crew had portrayed the face of racism in 21st century America.

The tone was quiet but the evidence was overwhelming. And Rob is right...it is Lansing as well as Mobile...because racism is inherent in many of the structures that make up a large part of our lives together...including the church sometimes. Any attorney who has worked in the criminal justice system recognizes it if he or she is honest. In fact, "Mobile in Black and White" is "exhibit A" that many of us are still kidding ourselves about race, poverty, segregation, and rights. These are issues that can be overwhelming.

On the way home, I thought about St. Paul's and our search for vision. We are in the process of building a community. It will be a community structured in love. With God's grace, it will be a community where we can discuss issues in safety and find ways to respond to challenges with courage and love and to turn that message outward.

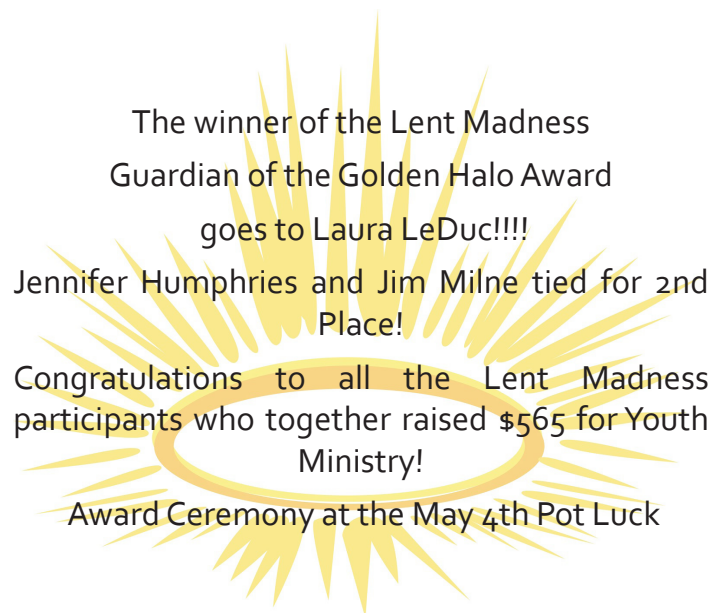
## Dedicated Leaders

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

The Vestry has been spending a lot of time together lately. These are the folks you have elected to lead us and make the many decisions necessary for our life as God's community. It is a group of gifted, experienced folks – many who have served on Vestry before and others who bring their wisdom and experience from their vocational work. It is not always fun when we meet, as we struggle to discern what is best for the future of St. Paul's. Yet this is a group that has learned to speak honestly and openly, caring for the others present and for our community. I write this note to publicly thank them for their dedication, care, and willingness to make the hard decisions.

In addition, my thanks to all of the committees that meet regularly to ensure the ongoing life of St. Paul's. Committees are the creations of Vestry – they report to Vestry with their suggestions and recommendations. Each committee has a Vestry member as a liaison to ensure that all of their conversations and recommendations are carried to Vestry for final decisions.

Please, when you get an opportunity, express your appreciation to these many people who give so graciously of their time and talents for God's ministry through St. Paul's.





# Parish News

## Celebrate the Liturgy with Flowers!



All members and friends of St. Paul's young and old are encouraged to participate in the Altar Flower Ministry. Our altar flowers each Sunday are

an important part of our liturgy celebration!

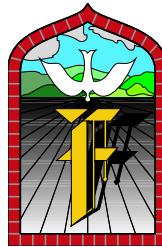
Teens, a flower dedication to parents or grandparents would be a wonderful way to surprise them on a special occasion, or simply to give your thanks to them! Parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends can recognize children on a birthday, on the anniversary of their baptism, for a job well done, or to express your appreciation and/or Thanksgiving for them!

Remember all dedications are honored for the Sunday you select. This is truly a ministry in which everyone can participate!

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.

## 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!

May 19 – Picnic, Book Suggestions, and Planning. It will be held at Nancy Sheldon's home (10933 W Jolly Rd, Lansing). Please sign up in the Merrifield Room or call Nancy (393-9165) to make a reservation.

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## YOUR BOOK PURCHASES ADDED UP!

By Sue Millar

Your book purchases – in addition to generous donations over and above the price for the books -- allowed us to send a check of just over \$1000 to support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief and Development. Well done! And many thanks to all who supported this effort by donating books, and then purchasing "new" ones. This whole project is a group effort and it couldn't have happened without the helping hands that sorted and sold the books. Thank you!

## Website Training for all Guild Leaders and Ministry Leaders!

**When?** Choose one of the first 3 Wednesdays in May: **May 7, 14, or 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

**How Long?** About half an hour (but longer if more help is needed).

**Who?** AJ Walilko and members of the Communications and Technology Ministry.

**Why?** So guild leaders and ministry leaders can learn to maintain their individual pages on the new St. Paul's website soon to be implemented.

**New Website?** Ministries and guilds will have their own pages on the new website and designated representatives will have access to post, update, and delete information.

## What's Happening Around the Diocese of Michigan?

By Sally Boron

Did you know that there are many events happening all around the Diocese of Michigan? Some are music events; others include special services and/or programs. How does one find out what is happening?

There is a weekly email that you can subscribe to with lots of information for Episcopalians and the public. It will pop into your email box and keep you informed letting you make choices for participation or not.

How to sign up: visit <http://www.edomi.org> under the main heading, left side, almost in the center – look for "Weekly Connection: Get our weekly e-newsletter". Select and sign up!



# Youth News

By Barb Heany

**New Beginnings #9** – On March 14-16 Alyssa McConnell and her friend Hannah, along with Kaitlyn Narezo, joined 35 other youth from around the diocese for three days of reflection, fun, and fellowship. New Beginnings is a fun, fast-paced retreat weekend designed for youth in grades 6-8, which is held twice a year. This was Kaitlyn's first year as a team leader. Through song, skits, and discussion within their "family" groups, the youth reflected on important relationships in their lives with friends, family, and God. This spring's New Beginning retreat was held at St. James in Birmingham, Michigan.

**Nightwatch: Detroit 2014** – Unfortunately, due to lack of registration (most likely due to conflict with Spring break) this year's Nightwatch: Detroit, scheduled April 5-6, was cancelled. The theme was to be: "Finding God's Abundance in a Hungry Games World" – a focus on homelessness and hopelessness in our own communities and the blessings that can be found all around us. Eric Travis is hoping to reschedule this event in the Fall. Emily Irwin, Kaitlyn Narezo, and Barb Heany, who were part of the design team for this year's Nightwatch event assures all that this will be an experience you will not want to miss!



*New Beginnings*



## One World, Many Stories St. Paul's Youth Library

Good books for children are a rich and untapped resource for proclaiming and interpreting Christian faith for ALL ages. The books in the St. Paul's Youth Library belong to anyone concerned with Christian communications. Both old and young can be enriched by these stories. Books can be a bridge to a faith-expanding experience.

For instance, *Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney, a well-known board book for toddlers, is a beautiful description of both God and Christ's love for humankind. It touches on the fact that people cannot earn God or Christ's love, but rather are given it freely because we are God's children. The pictures in the book physically show how "deep" and "wide" the love of God truly is. Read Ephesians 3:18-19, and Psalm 127:3 for scripture connection.

Most of the books in the St. Paul's Youth Library have faith talk suggestions and connections. Check it out. We hope to expand the literature available specifically for the nursery. A wish list of board books has been compiled. This is a part of the May nursery shower. If you would like to make a monetary or book donation, contact Jackie Womble.

# St. Paul's Ministries

## St. Paul's Mission and Outreach Ministry

By Carol Miller

### Just Say Alleluia!

Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister and leading voice in spirituality, notes that one of the oldest anthems of the Church, *Alleluia*, means simply "all hail to the One who is." It is the arch-hymn of praise, the ultimate expression of thanksgiving, the pinnacle of triumph, the acme of human joy. It says that God is Good--and we know it (Uncommon Gratitude, p.ix). At St. Paul's, our hearts are filled with gratitude for opportunities to reach out. So, shout Alleluia for Open Door Ministry, our neighborhood day shelter ministering to homeless and hungry people and for those in our congregation who recently served lunch there: Karen Clarke, Chris Couch, Mandy Lawton, Carol Miller, Barb Richardson, Pat Riley, Mary Rose Siebold, and Maria and Ray Wawro!

Alleluia for St. Paul's new Needs Closet and the folks who will be warmed and comforted by bed linens and towels donated by our parish family. Sing in grateful exhilaration for the St. Paul's Blood Drive, organized by Libby Richardson, which helps save lives and for our Used Book Sale benefitting Episcopal Relief and Development, especially the time given to ensure its success by Sue and Chuck Millar, Barb Hamm and others!

Thanks be to God for our church members who bring non-perishable food items to church and those people who will be nourished by it. Praise our risen Jesus for our Bhutanese support group members who are growing in confidence, English development and knowledge about U S citizenship under caring and friendly instruction from Jack Baker, Linda Craven, Marge Ebright, Sally Lawrence, Sue LeDuc, and Pat Riley.

And Alleluia for the tough, honest dialogue about racism on April 12 when St. Paul's folks and friends viewed the documentary *Mobile in Black and White* at Dart Auditorium, an event co-ordinated by our own Rick Laub! We then resound with All Hail to the One Who is!

For information about participating in St. Paul's outreach opportunities please call or email Carol Miller @ 614-0570 or cemiller756@gmail.com.

## St. Elizabeth Guild

The last meeting of this year will be on Tuesday, May 27 at 12 noon. This is our Annual Salad Luncheon and we will be meeting at the home of Sally Lawrence.

We will resume meeting in September.

If you are interested in finding out about our Guild, please let me know.

Debby Pierce, President  
maxpierce@prodigy.net or 485-5446

## Altar Flower Ministry

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.

### May 2014 Altar Flower Dedications

#### May 4

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ruth Alice and Walter Schaefer, and loved ones from their daughters and by the Business and Professional Women's Guild in memory of deceased members.*

#### May 11

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Harriett Aikman, Helen Boulton, and Ann Abel by Joanne and Jim Boulton.*

#### May 18

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her mother Vivian Sherman Stanley by Roberta Stanley.*

#### May 25

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of our 42nd wedding anniversary by Barbara and Kirk Lindquist.*

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

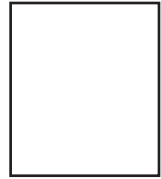
If you would like to make a donation, simply fill out and submit an Altar Flower Request Form that is found on the sign-up table in the Merrifield room, and on the St Paul's website. All dedications for a particular Sunday will be honored.

# St. Paul's Events Calendar

MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>9:45 AM</b> Church School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>1:00 PM</b> Max Sutton Visitation <b>2:00 PM</b> Max Sutton Memorial Service <b>5:00 PM</b> Lange Choral Ensemble <b>6:00 PM</b> EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation Class	<b>28</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room <b>5:30 PM</b> Liturgy & Music Ministry <b>6:30 PM</b> Recycling Meeting - Van Atta Room	<b>29</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Pay Equity Group Meeting - Merrifield Room <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Lange Ensemble	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>5:30 PM</b> Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs <b>6:30 PM</b> High School Choir	<b>1</b> Kathleen Johnson Vacation <b>6:30 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> Office Closed <b>9:00 AM</b> Ministry Fair Set-up <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> Lange Ensemble	<b>3</b> DIOCESAN MINISTRY FAIR @ ST. PAUL'S <b>3:30 PM</b> Cleaning Crew <b>7:00 PM</b> Lange Ensemble Choral Concert
<b>4</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>9:45 AM</b> Church School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Congregation Potluck <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room <b>6:30 PM</b> Confirmation Class	<b>5</b> Kathleen Johnson Vacation <b>9:00 AM</b> Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room <b>6:00 PM</b> Stewardship Committee <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Conversations in Van Atta Room	<b>6</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Prayer Group - Chancel <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Conversations in Van Atta Room	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>5:30 PM</b> Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs <b>6:30 PM</b> High School Choir <b>6:30 PM</b> Vestry Conversations in Van Atta Room	<b>8</b> <b>10:45 AM</b> Open Door - Serving Lunch <b>3:30 PM</b> St. Paul's Golf League <b>6:30 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:00 PM</b> Western Regional Confirmation @ All Saints' <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> Office Closed <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Children's Sabbath Rehearsal
<b>11</b> Baptism Anniversary Celebration Mothers Day <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>9:45 AM</b> Church School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Communications Committee <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room	<b>12</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Executive Vestry Committee <b>11:00 AM</b> Executive Vestry Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> AGO Scholarship Auditions	<b>13</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service <b>5:15 PM</b> Buildings & Grounds Committee <b>6:00 PM</b> Business & Professional Women Dinner & Mtg.	<b>14</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>4:30 PM</b> St. Aelred's Guild-Van Atta Room <b>5:30 PM</b> Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choir Picnic <b>5:30 PM</b> Finance Committee <b>5:30 PM</b> Parish Life Committee	<b>15</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>3:30 PM</b> St. Paul's Golf League <b>6:30 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir <b>11:59 PM</b> SPN Deadline!!	<b>16</b> Office Closed <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Larissa Clark Students Recital - Sanctuary <b>12:00 PM</b> Larissa Clark Students Reception - Merrifield Room
<b>18</b> CHILDREN'S SABBATH CHOIR RECOGNITION Youth Adventure Golf & Cookout @ Heany House <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Choir Banquet <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Christian Education Committee <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>2:00 PM</b> Men of Orpheus <b>4:00 PM</b> Men of Orpheus Reception <b>6:00 PM</b> EFM Meeting - Van Atta Room <b>7:00 PM</b> Evensong	<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room <b>12:00 PM</b> 4 F's Luncheon & Program <b>6:00 PM</b> Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	<b>20</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service	<b>21</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>5:30 PM</b> Mission & Outreach - Van Atta Room <b>6:30 PM</b> High School Choir	<b>22</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Rev. Lewis @ Fresh Start in Plymouth <b>3:30 PM</b> St. Paul's Golf League <b>6:00 PM</b> Quilty Kats - Hill Room	<b>23</b> Office Closed <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion <b>11:30 AM</b> Coffee Hour in Hill Room <b>11:30 AM</b> Youth Group Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> Hawkins Reception in Merrifield Room	<b>26</b> MEMORIAL DAY - OFFICE CLOSED <b>9:00 AM</b> Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room Room <b>5:30 PM</b> Liturgy & Music Ministry	<b>27</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> St. Elizabeth Guild Salad Luncheon @ Sally Lawrence's <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service	<b>28</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting <b>6:30 PM</b> High School Choir	<b>29</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Rev. Lewis @ Interim Group <b>3:30 PM</b> St. Paul's Golf League	<b>30</b> Office Closed <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting	<b>31</b>

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
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• The greeters for May will be **St. Aelred's and Worship Leaders Ministries**. May greeters will be St. Aelred's on Sundays May 4 & 11, and Worship Leaders for Sundays May 18 & 25. June greeters will be the Sunday School Teachers. Leaders please send the names of the greeters to Kathleen so she can put them into the Sunday bulletin.  
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We pray for those who are sick and in need: Katie Stoltze, Debra Staal, Kent Riley, Webb Smith, Jr., Adam, Ashley, Dick, Patty Lindholm Bayes, Jamelia Manson, Kaleel Van Voorhees, Ed Remick, Angela, Pat, Dave & Sue Metzger, Matt Mann, Jim, Orville, Joi Luckadoo-Villa, and Bill Sheldon.

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Kathy Bowland, Blain Coghill, Dave, Mason Hill, Marsha Macholz, Bill, John & Grace Hawkins, Tom Foltz, Jake Cook, Sebastian

Cuesta, Joe & Judy Manson, Marge Cook, MaryLea & Ed Benson, Marilyn, and Ellie Doersam.

We pray for peace and comfort: for the family & friends of Marjorie Belles, who recently passed away.

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

We pray for those expecting: Jennet & Isaac Francisco and Julia & Justin Heany.

We pray for those preparing for confirmation, reaffirmation and being received to make their hearts and minds ready to receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit: Keeli Baker, Sela Bauman, Sally Boron, Larry Clark, Larissa Clark, Emma Clark, Christopher Hart, Jennifer Humphries, Barb Lindquist, Jim Milne, Theresa Milne, Hope Milne, John Nevin, and Frankie Nevin.

We pray for: The Most Revd. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop; Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., our bishop; Karen C. Lewis, our priest-in-charge; and all other worship ministers and staff at St. Paul's.