

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Building Community
1914 - 2014

Volume 34, Issue 1
January 2015

Past. Present. Future.

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A Blank Page...

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Each attempt at the written word begins with a blank page. A fresh sheet of paper with no marks, erasures, crossed-out words or strung-out sentences. Rather the blank page presents an opportunity for new beginnings – new ideas, new words, new thoughts, new possibilities of what might be.

The year 2015 begins as a blank page . . . a chance for us to begin anew . . . to create new ministries, new ways of being in relationship, new ways of caring for each other and new ways of doing the work of the church. If we have the courage to accept this wonderful gift of new beginnings, anything is possible.

I look forward to joining you in writing a new chapter in our long history. I relish the idea of creating new ministries and new opportunities to be God's servants in this part of town. I give thanks for the chance to start a new year with a blank page, both personally and professionally.

May you experience the joy of the new year's blank page. May you be energized to start life anew with everything possible. May you stop for a moment and give thanks to God for your own blank page on which you may write into being the year 2015. Many blessings to you and yours for this new year.

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We're on the web!
www.stpaulslansing.org

Where Do We Go From Here?

By Sue LeDuc, Senior Warden

On Thursday, December 10, the vestry met with Jim Gettel, Canon for Congregational Life for the diocese. We wanted to discuss where we are in the transition process of preparing for and calling a permanent rector. As much as we all think we know what the process is, we can all benefit from hearing about it and separating fact from supposition. We (the vestry) certainly made the most of this opportunity...it was a long meeting. But no question was too "dumb" or too "obvious" to ask. So let me share with you some of what we learned.

Jim explained to us that a "priest-in-charge" is in the middle between an interim priest (who is temporary and may not become a permanent rector) and a permanent rector (who has a tenured position). A vestry may call the priest-in-charge to become permanent rector, with the bishop's permission.

The priest-in-charge helps prepare and strengthen the parish community for the next stages of our journey together. We have done some very practical work; for example, making our budget sustainable and backing it up with strong stewardship this year. We are also working at discerning where we are going as a community:

(1) Who is God calling us to be as a community?

Where are we?

What are we here for?

(2) How will we respond to God's call?

We have come a long way in this process as well. The results of our "Visioning" have been turned over to a task force to analyze and set some priorities. We will hear more of that in the new year.

We are discerning what we need from ourselves and our clergy to move us towards the future into which we believe God is calling us. During this time, Priest Karen is also discerning God's call to her. We have begun a process of reflective sharing, reverent listening, and prayerful discernment, and during our meeting with Jim we asked one another about what areas and questions we still need to explore.

Based on being stronger in practical ways, and being clear about where we hope to go, we may discern to continue the journey together as priest and parish community. Key is creating a Christian community that nurtures and sustains loving interpersonal relationships. Key also is prayer. We need your help, your suggestions, but above all, your prayers.

Kudos to...

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

... Mark Rudd, Keeli Baker, Isaac Francisco, and Chris Couch for pulling together our successful pledge drive, Give Glory to God!

... for St. Nicholas and his helpers who filled our shoes with great stuff! St. Nicholas seemed to be in a particularly jovial mood this year.

... to the Audit Committee who are overwhelmed with paperwork and continue to somehow find their way through the morass of numbers and make sense of it all.

... to all who made our Harvest Home Dinner a success once again!

... to the many generous people of St. Paul's who give of their time, their talent, and their treasures to aid those who are facing challenges.

... to the SPN volunteers who produce a great issue each month despite the challenges of dealing with late article submissions.

... to all who donated money toward our Christmas flowers. The sanctuary's beauty honored the birth of our Lord.

Financial Update.

By Jeff Irwin, Treasurer

- Financial Information as of November 30, 2014
- Pledge income was \$302,385 for the eleven months ending November 30 which is 92.3% of the revised 2014 budget for pledge income. It appears reasonable to expect 100% of the budgeted pledge revenue to be collected in 2014.
- Operations had a loss for November of \$2,421 to bring the November 30 year-to-date total to a loss of \$78,800.
- In November, the market value of the designated and restricted funds increased \$9,796 for a year to date net market gain of \$50,513.
- The 2015 operating budget is being developed for presentation at the annual meeting in January. Preliminary information indicates that, through the reduction of expenses and increases in pledge commitments, the operating budget will be in much better shape than it has been for many years.

Recycling Ministry News

By Mark Rudd



We recycle here at St. Paul's! Your "Recycling Ministry Team" is holding another bottle/can return fundraiser Sunday, January 4th. Your contributions in October helped us raise \$70 which went into the General Fund, and took some deposit/no-deposit

recyclables out of commission. THANK YOU! What better way to start off your New Year's Resolutions than bringing in your bottles and cans after celebrating the coming of 2015 on Thursday. We will still take them on Sunday the 11th if you forget or can't bring them in until then. We are also holding a third bottle/can return drive on Sunday, February 8th, so save those returnables after your big Super Bowl party. Caring for our environment, which is our gift from God, is what we should all really be concerned about. Thank you for your contributions.



Parish Events.

ERD BOOK SALE!!

The time has come to bring in your books, CDs, DVDs, or audio tapes that you would like to donate to our USED BOOK SALE. All funds we raise are sent to Episcopal Relief and Development. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 or more (and more is better in this instance).

Please leave your books in the red bin near the elevator. January is our gathering-in month and the sale Sundays are **February 8, 15, and 22.**

If you would like to learn more about ERD's work of "Healing a hurting world," visit their website, www.episcopalrelief.org. There you will find, as well, the catalog Gifts for Life that gives us the opportunity to "gift" a loved one while doing good in our hurting world.

Please remember: We can't handle magazines or manuals.
If you have questions, call Sue Millar, 517-675-5665.

4F'S WINTER SCHEDULE

(Faith, Fellowship, Food, & Fun)



Please sign up for 4F's programs in the Merrifield Room or by contacting Kathleen at the church office (482-9464), or Nancy Sheldon at (517-449-4583) or ncsheldon5762@gmail.com. Our schedules is:

12:00 Noon- Lunch (\$6.00 lunch from A Catered Affaire)

12:20 to 12:45 pm – Bible Study with Steve Lange: "Using hymns as one of our spiritual resources"

12:45 to 2:00 pm – Program

January 20: The Rudds and the Langes will share one of their special travelogues with us - "The Wonderful World of Paris & Normandy". They took a river cruise from Paris through the Heart of Normandy and then spent extra days in Paris afterward.

February 16: "An Insider's View of the Workings of our City and State Governments". Joan Bauer shares with us what she has learned from government service, having held offices on the Lansing City Council from 1995 to 2006 and later in the State House of Representatives. She recently filled a vacancy on Lansing's Board of Education.

Want to Take a CPR / AED / First Aid Class?

By Sally Boron



St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an Authorized Provider of American Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid classes. Thirteen persons were successfully trained in November and December. Many ushers are trained to respond should there be a medical emergency

during church services. Trained first responders are available during Church School and in the Nursery. Other members of the congregation were trained as volunteers. How about you?

Red Cross classes have been condensed and streamlined. Classes are now available online followed by a two-hour hands-on skill session with an instructor. Taking a class is not just about saving a life. It is also about knowing what to do in an emergency and how to provide basic first aid for an injury. Do you know what to do?

St. Paul's has the freedom to schedule classes at our convenience. The fee of \$30 is much less than registering through the American Red Cross (\$90) because we own four manikins, have no overhead expense, and have a volunteer instructor.

When is the next class? We will schedule one to meet your time frame when there are six to eight persons who want to take a class.

Want to get trained?

- Contact Sally Boron – sboron@casair.net or 517-669-9468. OR
- Sign up on the "CPR/AED/First Aid Create A Class" form in the Merrifield Room – indicate your name, date for a class, and contact information.

Ministry and Mission.

Mission & Outreach: God's Work

By Carol Miller

Mission and Outreach at St. Paul's involves all of us. It's about you and me being aware of other's needs and "showing up" to help meet those needs as best we can. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we all worked together to provide abundantly full and thoughtful food baskets to 10 needy families working with caseworkers through Community Mental Health.

After that 10 am service, we experienced the Merrifield Room buzzing with activity as parishioners spontaneously joined in to sort the mounds of canned goods, fresh fruits, and vegetables, dairy products, pies, and much more that were so generously donated by all of you. The next morning, ten plump frozen turkeys arrived, followed by the social workers who joyfully picked up their family's

baskets and delivered them to the appropriate homes. Following up, two social workers said that their families were overwhelmed by the amount of food given to them and the thoughtfulness of including the laundry baskets, the foil turkey roasting pans, and the thanksgiving themed paper goods. All involved are deeply grateful.

Special thanks especially to Deb Pierce who organized and contributed much to this event. Generous monetary donations from our congregation covered the cost of turkeys, as well as an additional blessing: eight whole hams given to Open Door Day Shelter Ministry to help feed over 200 people at their annual Christmas Luncheon on December 18!

St. Aelred's

Please pray for the following individuals:

Those who are sick and in need:

Carla, Jane Diehl, Peggy, John and Grace Hawkins, Jim, Maurice VanAuken, Tom Foltz, Sebastian Cuesta, Joe and Judy Manson, Ed Benson, Marilyn, Susan Brewster, Katie Stoltz, Bill Sheldon, Webb Smith Jr, Kathy Bowland, and Ralph and Jo Hoffman

Those who are serving in the Military:

Tyson Carter, Brendan Moody, Erin Ehn

We pray for comfort and peace:

For the family and friends of Debra Staal, who recently passed away.

We pray for those who are expecting:

Kary and Mark Miller Menaldo

Altar Flower Ministry

With Glory To God - Your gift of flowers to the Glory of God provides adornment for our altars and a proclamation of the resurrection. It also serves as a pastoral blessing to those who have flowers delivered to them. Remember to submit an Altar Flower Dedication Request Form to support this ministry. Request forms are available in the Merrifield room or may be downloaded from the St. Paul's website. Contact Barbara Lindquist (517-347-0367) for additional information.

St. Elizabeth

Sunday, December 14th was our last gathering for 2014. We attended the 8AM Service and then enjoyed breakfast followed by Carols with Karlene Bach.

Thanks to all of you for helping me this year; it is greatly appreciated.

Our 2015 meetings will resume on Thursday, April 28. Have a great Holiday and Winter.

~Debby Pierce, President

YOUTH

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

By Jackie Womble, Youth & Family Missioner

Epiphany is one of the three oldest and most important festival days of the Christian Church, along with Easter and Christmas. Its prominence lies in the fact that it symbolizes three "firsts" in Christ's life. His three major epiphanies - the Visit of the Magi, Baptism in the River Jordan, and the Miracle at Cana - were said to have two remarkable things in common: all involved divine intercession and all three occurred on the same day, January 6, though in different years.

Join us on **Sunday, January 11** after the 10AM service to celebrate Christ being the light of the world. We will enjoy King's Cake, complete with hidden objects, and crown our King and Queen.

Local Red Cross Scholarships for St. Paul's Youth!

By Sally Boron

Mid-Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross provided six scholarships to St. Paul's youth in December! On December 23, Anna Johnson, Emma Clark, Sara Niven, Paulie Niven, Hope Milne and a friend of Anna's were recipients of the six scholarships and successfully completed the American Red Cross Babysitter Training course at no expense. The girls are now all official Babysitter with the American Red Cross. The scholarships were made available because St. Paul's is an Authorized Red Cross Provider and has a certified Red Cross Babysitter Instructor who facilitated the class. Thank you Mid Michigan Chapter!

By Barb Heany

CROP Walk 2014 - Thank you St. Paul's for your generous support! St. Paul's raised a total of \$1,450 for this year's 38th Annual Greater Lansing CROP 10k Walk for Hunger. Proceeds support Church World Service hunger-fighting developments around the world, with 25% of the funds supporting local community hunger-fighting programs.

Making Christmas Cards for St. Paul's Homebound - This year the church school children in Grades 1-6 created 60 cards for our parish homebound. The children used their creative imaginations to design the covers of the cards which held a special St. Paul's message within.

Snowman Soup for AJ Fletcher - St. Paul's Church School children in Grades 1-12 assembled packets of Snowman Soup to raise funds to help AJ Fletcher (a former St. Paul's youth) attend the Auschwitz 70th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony, which will be hosted by Holocaust survivor Eva Mozes Kor. Ms. Kor presents a message of hope and healing through forgiveness. AJ has promised to bring this experience back to St. Paul's in a presentation of her journey.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A heart felt THANK YOU to all who contributed donations for the Family Growth Center! The children were very excited to see new toys and books, so excited that they were playing with them before we could take them to the office! I know the Family Growth Center would love for gently used items! If, after Christmas, you find you need clean out your children's toys, please remember them! I'm happy to run any donations over. Thanks again! ---Jackie Womble

YOUTH

Why Celebrate Epiphany? - St. Paul's Youth Library

By Barb Lindquist



*There are two
Gifts we should
Give our children;
One is roots, and
The other is wings*

The joyful energy of Epiphany has always inspired games and pageants, music and meals. It's a multicultural celebration because the Three Kings who followed the star to find the Holy Child came from different cultures and continents.

Epiphany comes at the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas—on January 6.

Although American tradition

focuses on Christmas Day as the primary day to give and receive gifts, in some southern European and Latin American cultures, Epiphany is actually the accepted time for gift giving. Instead of expecting Santa Claus to deliver presents on Christmas Eve, children wait for the Three Kings to bring them gifts on Epiphany. And if, by chance, you are separated from your children (or grandchildren) on Christmas itself, you still have the chance to share this very special holiday together.

Check out the following Epiphany themed books in the St. Paul's Youth Library!

Small Camel Follows the Star by Rachel W. N. Brown

Comment: The story, told from Small Camel's perspective, is an imaginative telling of the travels of the wise men. As Small Camel carries the gifts for Jesus on his back through the desert all he can think about is that he is tired and wants to go home. When he meets Jesus, he forgets how tired he is. He is filled with happiness and knows that he is truly in the presence of a king.

Where the River Begins by Thomas Locker

Comment: The opening of Genesis describes how all things began: everything was formless and void, but God was there. God is our beginning. Whatever comes after, heavens and earth, light and darkness, days and nights, all of it is rooted in God. In *Where the River Begins*, a boy and

his grandfather are interested in the river that runs near their home. They decide to embark on a trip to find out where the river begins. They are searching for its origins, and in the meantime, they enjoy the beauty of the river and one another's company. When we search for our origins as people of faith, we enjoy the story of Scripture and of saints who came before us, and God is through it all, speaking and creating. And when we find the beginning, we find that in the beginning was God.

Old Turtle and the Broken Truth by Douglas Wood




Comment: "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him." In Wood's story, the truth exists in the world, but the people do not know its fullness. They grasp instead to a broken, beautiful, but not incomplete truth. Old Turtle says that the broken truth will only be mended when we see ourselves in one another. As followers of Christ, we see how this truth is mended when we see the light of Christ in one another. Jesus Christ is the truth, the Light of the World that makes God known to us.

The Beatitudes: From Slavery to Civil Rights by Carole Boston Weatherford

This is a story of African American history in the United States from slavery to present day. The author highlights 13 historical figures and shares a bit about their story through the lens of the Beatitudes. The illustrations are specific to each story shared, portraying life-like portraits and accurate accounts of the stories of each person. The book begins with an overview of African American history and the sharing of the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and then carefully moves through the unique stories of the historical figures.

Calendar.

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 NO 8 am Service Steve Lange Away 9:45 AM NO Church School 10:00 AM Morning Prayer w/Greg Wortley	29 Parish Office Closed 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room	30 NO Noon Service Parish Office Closed	31 Parish Office Closed 12:00 PM AA Meeting	1  FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME Parish Office Closed	2 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	3
4 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM NO Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion	5 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room 5:30 PM Finance Committee 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team	6 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 5:30 PM Prayer Group - Chancel	7 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 6:30 PM High School Choir	8 10:45 AM Open Door - Serving Lunch 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	9 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	10
11 Baptism Anniversary Celebration 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Communications Committee 11:30 AM Epiphany Celebration	12 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room 4:00 PM Executive Vestry Committee 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	13 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 5:00 PM Buildings & Grounds 6:00 PM B&PW Dinner & Meeting	14 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 4:30 PM St. Aelred's Committee - Van Atta 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 5:30 PM Community Life Committee - Library 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry 6:00 PM Vestry Mtg. 6:30 PM High School Choir	15 Jackie Womble Away 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Rev. Lewis @ Fresh Start Program 7:30 PM Chancel Choir 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!	16 Jackie Womble Away OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	17 Jackie Womble Away
18 Jackie Womble Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Youth Christian Education Committee	19  Jackie Womble Away MLK, JR. DAY OFFICE CLOSED Rev. Lewis Away 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room 12:00 PM 4 F's Luncheon & Program	20 Jackie Womble Away Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM Morning Prayer Service	21 Jackie Womble Away 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	22 Jackie Womble Away Rev. Lewis Away 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	23 Jackie Womble Away OFFICE CLOSED Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting	24 Jackie Womble Away Rev. Lewis Away
25  ANNUAL MEETING CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL Jackie Womble Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 11:30 AM Potluck Luncheon	26 Jackie Womble Away 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield Room 5:30 PM Liturgy & Music Ministry 6:00 PM Recycling Ministry Team	27 Jackie Womble Away 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 12:30 PM St. Elizabeth Guild	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 6:30 PM High School Choir	29 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	30 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	31

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