St. Paul's Episcopal Church <u>Building</u> Community 1914 - 2014

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218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933

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A Dream.

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Past. Present. Future.

I dreamed I died and heaven's gates swung wide, A smiling angel gently ushered me inside. There, to my great amazement, were hundreds of people I had known down on earth. Some, I judged as unfit and of very little worth. Immediately angry words came to my lips, but never were set free. For as I looked around, not one expected me.

- Anonymous

This anonymous poem was given to me by a good friend a while back. It is a helpful reminder in those moments when I am feeling a bit righteous about myself and thinking that others are not so deserving of God's grace. It is easy to slip into that mode of thinking ... that the good deserve to receive good and that the bad deserve nothing but bad. We want those who do harm to get their just rewards, don't we?

Lent is a good time to remember that Jesus turned this theology upside down when he said "My command to you is: Love your enemies, pray for your persecutors." Lent is a good time to remember that there are to be no limits to love; there is no one we are not required to pray for or intercede for before God.

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

A Dream.

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To exclude certain folks from our prayers, to decide to treat any human being with disrespect or refuse them forgiveness is a terrible sin. We ourselves have experienced God's kindness, love, mercy, pity, forgiveness, and grace. And since we have known such love and care, we must extend this same gift and make it known to others, as hard as that may be at times.

Perhaps this Lent, instead of giving something up, you willingly add something to your daily routine – add a prayer or two for those whom you would not normally pray. Consider gifting someone you may not like too well with a kind word or gesture. Grant respect to those whom you think are not deserving. And give thanks for having experienced God's love so that you may give it to others freely and without restrictions. Blessings to all of you this season of Lent.



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, Marilyn, Susan Brewster, Katie Stoltz, Bill Sheldon, Webb Smith Jr, Kathy Bowland, Ralph and Jo Hoffman, Julie Fletcher, Mason Hill, Van Anderson

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 Ed Benson, who recently passed away.

We pray for those who are expecting:

Kary and Mark Miller Menaldo; Dave and Debbie Parks



Mutual Ministry Matters

By Chris Krupka, Senior Warden

The Vestry and Karen are engaged in a Mutual Ministry Review process, which means we are assessing where St. Paul's stands today and where we are called to go by God. Information obtained from the visioning process, which was held last fall with the congregation, will be utilized in the Mutual Ministry Review. The visioning helped us to focus our mission, and with a clearer mission, we will discern if St. Paul's and Karen Lewis are of like mind and a strong match to do God's work in the Lansing area together. The task of calling the rector is the Vestry's alone. However, we have sought congregational input through open Vestry meetings and the calls Vestry members made to parishioners recently. The Vestry held its annual retreat February 20-21. The bulk of the retreat focused on Mutual Ministry Review, where we asked questions of each other to discern our future. The Vestry takes the charge of calling a rector very seriously. The unique experience of having a Priest-In-Charge has made it possible to get to know each other more deeply than in a typical rector search. We are aware of each other's strengths and weaknesses. Please pray for the Vestry and Karen that God's will is clear as we discern future steps.

A Pitch for Planning

By MaryLea Benson

First, Michelle and I would like to thank everyone who participated and attended the memorial service for Ed. We were overwhelmed.

Secondly, we would like to thank the committee who put together the packet for pre-planning a funeral. Ed and I each completed the packet several years ago when it was still in "draft" form. Even this was very helpful to Michelle and me as without it we wouldn't have had the discussion with Ed.

Because we completed the packet the music which was selected had meaning to both of us and Ed and the service turned out to be perfect.

Planning can mean a lot to the ones you leave behind, so do your families a favor and complete one of the packets, because even if they don't agree with your selections they will at least know what you wanted. Also if completing it starts the conversation process everyone will feel better. The packet also includes places for other important information that is very important to your survivors. I know it helped relieve a lot of stress knowing what Ed wanted.

The packets are available at the church office.

Financial Update.

Financial Information as of January 31, 2015

t the St. Paul's annual meeting on January 25, 2015 the 2014 financial results were presented and the 2015 operating budget was accepted by the congregation.

It was noted that in 2014 the year started with a projected \$133,000 deficit.

To address this deficit the Vestry took actions which were difficult and perhaps not popular but necessary to bring spending in line with revenue.

A second 2014 pledge campaign was also conducted which resulted in additional pledge revenue.

Because of these actions only \$40,000 of the Perpetual Fund was used in 2014. The Perpetual Fund has \$53,000 available for future use as of December 31, 2014.

In regard to the 2015 operating budget the Vestry continued to take action to cut cost and increase revenues. Again very difficult decisions were made regarding staffing but the Vestry felt it was necessary to address our budget deficit.

The pledge campaign for 2015 was very successful. Over \$375,000 was pledged for 2015 which is a significant increase in pledge income. After using designated funds to support operating cost it is expected that the 2015 budget will be virtually balanced and we will not need to use any of the Perpetual Fund in 2015.

St. Paul's Joins with LCC to Discuss Why we Still Need to Talk About Race

By Susan Henderson

St. Paul's Mission and Outreach Committee is partnering with Lansing Community College to present a four-part documentary film and discussion series on Why We still Need to Talk about Race. Former parishioner and film director Rob Gray will return to Lansing to open the series on **Tuesday, March 17**. The series will take place at LCC and run on four consecutive Tuesday evenings from 7:00 **to 8:30 p.m.** with refreshments served at 6:30.

Serving as a springboard for conversation, each film in the series takes a hard look at the different ways racism continues to pervade structures and institutions in 21stcentury America. Mobile, Alabama, is the backdrop for these film segments, but the issues addressed go well beyond any specific city.

Below is a brief description of the discussion topics of each evening; a more detailed flyer will be available in the near future.

March 17th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Why We Still Need to Talk About Race"

Many people are passionate in their insistence that race is a topic that we no longer need to talk about. While it is a topic few are comfortable talking about, race continues to affect the fabric of everyday life in America in significant ways.

March 24th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Race in the Twenty-First Century"

This segment is intended to address the issue of what has been called "structural racism."

March 31st 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Racialized Structures"

This segment looks at how institutional inequities in the education and criminal justice systems lead to inequities in the lives and opportunities of people of color.

April 7th 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. "Toward Equity"

This final segment of the series continues the look at education as a central, structural issue that leads to inequitable outcomes for communities of color and is intended to serve as both a conclusion and a call to action.

Related activities will take place at St. Paul's in conjunction with these discussions. Information will be provided in the coming weeks through announcements, Sunday bulletins, and email.

Parish News and Events.

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

When is the next class? We will schedule one to meet your time frame when there are 6-8 persons who want to take a class.

How do I sign up? There is a signup sheet in the Merrifield Room. Sign your name, contact information and date or day with times you are available for a class. When we have 6-8 interested persons, a class will be scheduled.

Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid classes have been condensed and streamlined. Classes are now available online followed by a 2-hour hands-on skill session with an instructor. The fee of \$30 is much less than registering through the American Red Cross (\$90) because we own 4 manikins, have no over head expenses, and have a volunteer instructor.

For more information: Contact Sally Boron – <u>sboron@</u> <u>casair.net</u> or 517–669-9468.

Lenten Book Reviews: Four Mondays in March

By Chris Couch

St. Paul's will host Lenten luncheon book reviews on four Mondays in March. Lunch will be at noon (\$6), with the reviews from 12:30 pm to 1 pm. You should sign up in the Merrifield Room if you plan to eat. There is no need to sign up if you are just showing up for the review. Here is this year's lineup of reviewers and books:

March 2: Sue LeDuc will review *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, by Reza Aslan.

March 9: Chris Couch will review *The Politics of American Religious Identity: the Seating of Senator Reed Smoot, Mormon Apostle,* by Kathleen Flake.

March 16: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis will review *The Carpenter and the Unbuilder: Stories for the Spiritual Quest*, by David Griebner.

March 23: Mark Rudd will review *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings*, by John Philip Newell.

Who will win the GOLDEN HALO?

LENT

Vote at www.lentmadness.org

Follow St. Paul's "Guardian of the Golden Halo" Competition On our website

www.stpaulslansing.org



CABARET IS COMING! Cabaret, an evening of tasty food and even tastier entertainment, will be held on <u>Saturday, March 14</u>: Dinner at 5:00 p.m. and Entertainment at 6:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by the England-bound choristers. Please plan on coming to support the choristers and be entertained by members of St. Paul's parish. Bring your friends and neighbors too! Tickets will be available after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service in the Merrifield Room and in the office: Dinner and Show, Adults \$15.00 and Children \$8.00; Show only is \$7.00.

"Come to the Cabaret!"

Parish News and Events.

A Night of Cool Cuisine and Sounds April 18 - 5:30 PM \$35.00 pp Chef Bradford--CIA Graduate Jeff Kressler and Friends

Choral Evensong

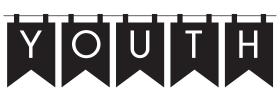
St. Paul's will celebrate a Choral Evensong on **Sunday**, **March 22, at 5:00 p.m.** The Evensong will feature the music of Jeff Kressler, long-time member of St. Paul's who has blessed the parish with special music, especially organ and brass preludes for Christmas and Easter, and his "Jazz Mass", for many years.

Jeff has composed new settings of "Song of Mary" and "Song of Simeon" for this service. In addition the choir will sing his setting of "The Lord Is My Light" and a brass quartet will join with St. Paul's organ in playing two of his hymn settings for the prelude and postlude. Jeff will be accompanying the choral works on the organ. Please invite friends and members of other churches to celebrate Jeff's many contributions to the worship life of this parish—as composer, organist, arranger, and brass player—as we praise God through his music.

What is Sin? What is Reconciliation?

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

three-week Lenten Series on sin and reconciliation – Episcopal-style -- will begin on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m. On the nights of March 11, 18, and 25 we will gather to ponder the theology of sin: what is sin, how does Scripture address sin, what does the Episcopal tradition say about sin, and why we don't like talking about it. We'll discuss individual sin vs. "social sin". Plus one cannot talk about sin without immediately following it with conversation on the topic of reconciliation. Why is it so hard to forgive? You do not need to sign up for this series; however, if you would like dinner, which A Catered Affaire will provide beginning at 5 pm, please sign up in the Merrifield Room.



St. Paul's Youth Library



By Barb Lindquist

The only Lenten discipline with which many children and adults are familiar is "giving something up for Lent." That "something" is often a favorite food or abstinence from tidbits of affluence. Today that kind of giving up has little to do with engaging ourselves more fully with God. It is more in the keeping with the spirit of Lent to give ourselves up to something for Lent. The

goal is to do something that will remind us of what God values and make us more the people God created us to be. Keeping Lent with children is to find ways to engage them with God. One way to encourage them to stretch and spread their spiritual wings is sharing stories from St. Paul's Youth Library.

Most of the books in our Youth Library have suggestions on ways the story connects to God. A good question for any book is "Where is God in this story?"

This Lent share a book. All of us do better committing to and keeping disciplines with a partner. Browse the Youth Library in the Reading Corner in the Merrifield room. Pick a book and start the Lenten discipline of exploring through literature ways to make us more the people God created us to be.

Holy Cow! Holy Land!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Join me on **Sunday, March 15** immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service to hear of my pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I'm not big on travelogues so I will try to make it interesting for all of us – which means it will not consist solely of family photographs. I'll share with all my insights, feelings, and "ah-ha's" as I trod the land of our great ancestors. I hope you will be there.

Ministry and Mission. Mission & Outreach

BUILDING A LEGACY

By Carol Miller

There is a time to be born and a time to die. A wise man speaking about this Ecclesiastes verse recently asked, "What legacy will you be remembered for after your death? Will you be recalled for your career accomplishments, financial success, or your 'good' family name, etc.? Perhaps. But as Christians we learn to set our sights on Jesus who teaches us how to live. Therefore, Let LOVE be our legacy."

Just one year ago, St. Paul's congregation planted seeds for a new ministry, the Bed Linen, Towel, and Diaper Needs Closet. Since then, this outreach is growing and blessing both those who give lightly-used items, and those financially struggling people receiving sheets, warm blankets, comforters, towels, diapers and much more.

The following statistics describe Needs Closet activity from its inauguration in May 2014 through mid-January 2015 (a complete report is available located on the donation table in the cloister). St. Paul's members and friends donated mounds of linens; for example, 149 sheet sets, 86 blankets and comforters, 58 towel sets, plus 79 hand and 90 bath towels. Grant monies totaling \$4,280 from the Diocese of Michigan, Capital Regional Community Foundation, and the St. Paul's Mission and Outreach Fund, plus other contributions, enabled us to purchase pillows, mattress pads, and other necessary items. Total clients served during this period include 86 adults, 124 children, encompassing 65 family units. Total items given to these folks include, in part, 149 sheet sets, 74 blankets and comforters, 51 towel sets with an additional 64 hand and bath towels, plus 6,937 diapers.

Social workers from Lansing non-profits request Closet provisions on behalf of their clients. So far, our recipient partnering organizations include City Rescue Mission, Community Mental Health Early Child Intervention, Cristo Rey Community Center, Haven House, Open Door Ministry, Safe Place (MSU), Saint Paul's Bhutanese Support Group, Shared Pregnancy, and St. Vincent's Refugee Services.

Clearly, love knows no bounds. Upon learning about our new outreach, a Lansing area women's Bible Study group gave their annual Christmas charity donation to our Closet. This \$330 gift enables us to purchase much needed bed bug mattress covers for Loaves and Fishes Shelter. MSU's Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel generously donated 40 gently-used queen sheets and towel sets for our supply. Special thanks to these individuals who have assisted with hands-on work with our Needs Closet Ministry: Karen Clarke, Delaine Counselor, Pam and John Irwin, Kathleen Johnson, Sue LeDuc, Chris Krupka, Carol, Doug, and Mary-Katherine Miller, Max and Debbie Pierce, Barb and Libby Richardson, Nancy and Mark Rudd. Thanks to all in St. Paul's congregation for continuing to build this Legacy of Love!

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Pat Riley

St. Paul's participates in the Open Door Ministry next door at Central United Methodist Church by serving lunch on the second Thursday of the month. If you want to help in this valuable ministry, sign up in the Merrifield Room.

Just a few reminders for March and April. We can now meet at the side door (Capitol St.) of the Methodist Church at 11:45 am. Someone needs to bring the shopping cart (or bags of food) over to Central Methodist from the vestibule of St. Paul's (near the parking lot door). If you use the cart please bring it back. Make sure you dress comfortably. The Health Department requires you to wear closed toe shoes. If for some reason you can't do the time you signed up for, please find a substitute. If you can't find any one to cover for you, call Pat Riley at 517-8831691. We need 6 people for this ministry for every session.

Thank you to all who volunteer for this ministry. Your commitment reminds all of us at St. Paul's what God created us to be.

Altar Flowers

By Barb Lindquist

Thank you for your support of St. Paul's Altar Flower Ministry

> Jim and Barbara Clark – January 11 Bruce Helmer – January 18 Nancy Berger – February 1 The Family of Ed Benson – February 8

Barbara and Kirk Lindquist – February 15

Calendar.

MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Lent II Rev. Lewis Away 8:00 AM Morning Prayer in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Morning Prayer Service	2 Rev. Lewis Away 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch-n-Book Review w/Sue LeDuc	3 Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM Morning Prayer Service 5:30 PM Prayer Group - Chancel 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team	4 Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry 6:30 PM High School Choir	5 Rev. Lewis Away 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	6 OFFICE CLOSED Rev. Lewis Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting	Rev. Lewis Away
8 Remember! Time Changes Baptism Anniversary Celebration Lent III 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 2:00 PM AGO Recital Practice 4:00 PM AGO Recital	9 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch-n-Book Review w/Chris Couch	10 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 5:00 PM Buildings & Grounds 6:00 PM B&PW Dinner & Meeting	11 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 4:30 PM St. Aelred's Committee - Van Atta 5:00 PM Family Night Dinner 5:30 PM Cherubs, Boys & Grace Choirs 5:30 PM Community Life Committee - Library 6:00 PM Lenten Program w/Rev. Lewis 6:30 PM High School Choir	12 10:45 AM Open Door - Serving Lunch 5:00 PM FFA Dinner w ACA 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	14 6:00 PM Cabaret
15 Lent IV 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 11:30 AM Holy Cow! Holy Land w/Rev. Lewis 11:30 AM Youth Christian Education Committee 6:00 PM Bible Study w/Rev. Lewis 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!	16 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch-n-Book Review w/Rev. Lewis 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	17 LENT V - Feast of St. Patrick 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:30 PM Mobile in Black and White @ LCC		19 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:30 AM Rev. Lewis @ Fresh Start Program 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	20 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	21 10:00 AM Confirmation Class
22 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion 5:00 PM Evensong	23 MSU 4-H Capitol Experience- Merrifield, Van Atta, Library, Conference Rooms 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch-n-Book Review w/Mark Rudd 5:30 PM Liturgy & Music Ministry Ge:00 PM Recycling Ministry Team	24 MSU 4-H Capitol Experience- Merrifield, Van Atta, Library, Conference Rooms 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:30 PM Mobile in Black and White @ LCC	25 FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION MSU 4-H Capitol Experience- Merrifield, Van Atta, Library, Conference Rooms 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	26 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	27 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	28 9:30 AM Altar Guild Meeting - Palm Crosses - Hill Room
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in the Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion	30 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield	31 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:30 PM Mobile in Black and White @ LCC		2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Dinner 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting 12:00 PM Good Friday Service 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross-All Rooms	4 SPRING CLEAN UP

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933



We want to know how you want your St. Paul's News delivered.

The SPNews is available now:

- **Electronically, through an all-parish email blast
- **On our webpage at stpaulslansing.org
- **On our Facebook Page

**At church, in the cloister tract rack and various other places in the Parish House

Plus, about 40 homes still receive a hard copy through the US Mail because they have requested it. (And they will continue to receive it this way regardless of this survey.)

Obviously, it is more cost effective not to mail the newsletter but instead to make it available through electronic means. But it is also important to get it into the hands of parish families.

We want to know how you would like it delivered. This month, we are sending it out to parishioners through the US mail, as well as using electronic means.

If you want to continue receiving a hard copy, call (517-482-9454) or email the office (<u>office(a</u> <u>stpaulslansing.org</u>) to let us know, or else sign a sheet that will be available for that purpose in the Merrifield Room during the next month or so.