

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

Volume 35, Issue 4

April 2016



Presiding Bishop calls for a season of prayer

March 29, 2016

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has called for a season of prayer for regions of the Anglican Communion which are experiencing violence and civil strife.

"In this season of Resurrection, I call on everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters in areas where there is much burden and little hope," the presiding bishop said.

In addition, in his Easter Message 2016, Curry addressed the situation in Brussels, noting, "The truth is even as we speak this Holy Week, we do so not only in the shadow of the cross but we do so in the shadow of those who have been killed in Brussels, of those who have been wounded and maimed, of those who weep and mourn. And of a world mourning, and not too sure how to move forward."

Citing Galatians 6:2 – Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ – Presiding Bishop Curry called for prayer throughout the holy season of Easter. Beginning on April 3, the First Sunday of Easter, and proceeding through Pentecost on May 15, the Episcopal Church is asked to pray for a particular province or region:

Burundi | Central America | Democratic Republic of the Congo | Middle East | Pakistan | South Sudan

Inside this issue....

Cabaret!	2
Mission and Outreach Ministry	3
Parish News & Events.....	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Diocesan Ministry Fair	6
Calendar	7

...and more!



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

BCP 101

The Gifts Hidden Inside

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

It is true in almost every instance, that when you walk into an Episcopal Church and open up the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP), it will 99 times out of 100, open to page 355.

And what is page 355 you ask? It is the page which we turn to on Sunday mornings to begin The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two.

Did you know that on page 444 is a prayer for the safe delivery of a child? Or on page 461 a prayer in the morning for use by a sick person? If you have ever wondered why we pray for the dead, you could turn to page 862 in your BCP and discover the answer. Or perhaps it is important for your family vacation planning to know the date of Easter in the year 2053 or how in the heck do we know which scripture lesson to read on which day?

If any of these items intrigue you or you have a desire to plumb the depths of the book of prayer that binds the Anglican Church together, join us for a two-week class on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer on **two Wednesdays: April 20th and 27th**. Please sign up if you wish to join us for dinner from The Catered Affaire at **5:30PM**. **Class begins at 6:30 PM**.



CABARET!!!

at St. Paul's

Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 6:00 PM

Dessert Reception to follow

Mission and Outreach Ministry

By Sue LeDuc

Helping Our Neighbors

Since the Open Door Ministry at Central Methodist Church closed, we have been giving food items that are donated at St. Paul's to the food pantry at First Presbyterian Church just down the street. Several Sundays ago, three members of Mission and Outreach Ministry visited First Presbyterian to see the food pantry and find out about other mission projects. It is the committee's feeling that cooperation between churches and agencies means no one has to "reinvent the wheel." We are beginning by focusing on the food pantry. You will be hearing about other opportunities to serve in the near future.

The First Presbyterian pantry serves the area primarily of our 48933 zip code. It is big and well-organized, and open Monday through Thursday. The pantry accepts food donations, and its philosophy is to allow people to come and shop for items of their choice.

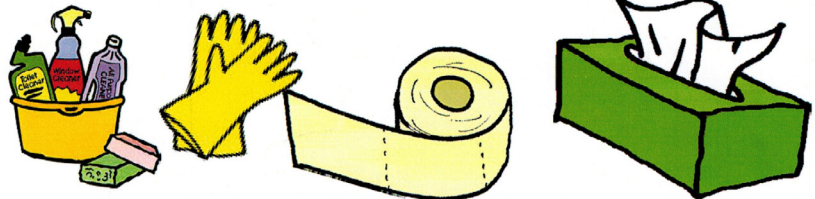
One issue is the chronic shortage of non-perishable items that are not eligible for food stamps. These items fly off the shelves: laundry soap, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, tissues, dish soap, paper towels, bathroom cleaner, shampoo and conditioners, to name a few. If you have been grocery shopping recently, you know how expensive things like Tide are when you have a big family with lots of laundry!

We are designating the first Sunday of every month at St. Paul's for donations of food and, especially, all those household items. There will be baskets available. Please think of our neighbors who need help.

**Paper and soap -
that's what we take!**

Donations are collected the 1st Sunday of every month!

- We are looking for:**
- Multisurface Cleaners
 - Tissues
 - Sponges
 - Paper Towels
 - Napkins
 - Bathroom Cleaner
 - Toilet paper
 - Dish Soap
 - Surface Wipes
 - Tissues
 - Toilet Cleaner



Getting to know you...getting to know all about you...



The words and the song from "The King and I" came to me on the way home from our regular Monday meeting with our Bhutanese refugees. We

are getting to know them and they us...and they come from a land very near Siam (Thailand, now) We asked the group to write their stories in English using vocabulary words they had learned.

You should know that we have about 20 to 25 Bhutanese who come and, now, six refugees from MayanMar (Burma) who join in even though only one speaks Nepali-- the language of our translator. I thought you should get to know some of them.

Nar and Chandra are perhaps the oldest attendees. Nar is 72 and Chandra, his wife, is in her late 60's. Nar came from a family of 11 brothers and sisters. They were born in Bhutan, lived and married and had 14 children. Their family was sent to a refugee camp in neighboring Nepal when political and cultural trouble broke out in Bhutan. They were part of a Hindu minority that was declared "non citizens" and ousted from the country.

Both Nar and Chandra and their children spent 20 years in the camp in Nepal (and I suspect several of their children were born there). Now some of their children are spread throughout this country, and some live here in Lansing. One daughter arrived from Nepal just a week or so ago.

These two work very hard to learn about this, their new country. They struggle with a new alphabet and language and are proud to show what they have learned. They and everyone in the class on Mondays is especially fond of "WE the PEOPLE" -- the phrase writ so large on the Constitution -- to show that this country is a country of the people, not a king. They know that the Constitution is the "law of the land."

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Events Fund-Raising: MSU Football Concession Stand

Your St. Paul's Vestry has established an Events Fund-Raising task force to help us find ways to augment our income and to come together in fellowship. We have some exciting and fun ideas in the works. Our first challenge will be to organize volunteers to work an MSU concession stand for the 2016 football season. We will need at least 12 volunteers for each home game and two team leaders who are willing to work every game. Volunteers must be available for the whole day as we will not know the schedule until late summer. If you would be willing to serve as a team leader or volunteer for a game, please contact Sally Lawrence or Keeli Baker. The financial rewards for the church for this effort will be very rewarding. Once our leaders are in place there will be a sign-up table in the Merrifield room for the game days.

Please consider this opportunity to help St. Paul's raise much-needed funds and to get to know your friends at St. Paul's a little better. We look forward to a successful football season for the Spartans and St. Paul's!

Sally Lawrence- 517-323-7211

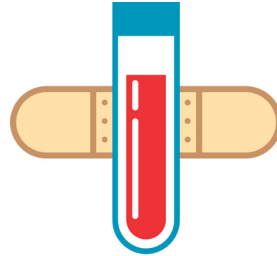
Keeli Baker- 517-896-0870 or keelibaker@gmail.com



The Episcopal Church Welcomes . . .

Christine Overway (confirmed) and Justin Alexander (received), both parishioners from St. Paul's, pictured with the Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, at the gathering of the Capital and Lyster Deaneries at St. Michael's in Lansing on Saturday, April 2nd.

Spring Blood Drive 2016: Calling Volunteers & Donors



The Spring Blood Drive is **Saturday, April 16th from 8AM – 2PM**. We need lots of help!

There are volunteer opportunities for those who would like to help us set-up or tear-down, work a two hour shift during the drive,

make sandwiches to feed the hungry blood donors and workers, and, for those willing, to give blood.

St. Paul's is a changing congregation and as a result some participants and volunteers are no longer able to assist with this Community Outreach Event. If you are new to St. Paul's and would like to participate, please see me at church on Sunday's from now until the Drive. We would love for you to join us.

Thank you. Elisabeth Richardson.

What Church Music is for

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

The following is excerpted from a sermon by John Andrew, XI rector of St. Thomas Church in New York. I don't think it could have been said better. This offers all of us something to ponder as we enter once again a time of transition in our music ministry.

WHAT is the purpose of a choir? It's not to perform difficult music before a silent and intimidated (or irritated) congregation. It's not there to impress the faithful. It's there to encourage the faithful to find their voices to praise God in his holiness. It is there to give the people their voice. It is what we call a ministry: it's what St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians means when he says: "I entreat you then . . . as God has called you, live up to your calling . . . each of us has been given his gift, the due portion of Christ's bounty." You heard it read today (Ephesians 4:1-11). The ministry of music is to get the people's imagination going, to offer God something they perhaps hadn't realized they had in them. Music can take them out of themselves. It makes people cry, when they feel overwhelmed by the sheer force of its beauty. I know it's true. I confess to being vulnerable to this when a great hymn or its descant's majesty sweeps me off my feet. Just ask the boy choristers. I don't apologize for it. That's not cheap emotion. It's God's people finding their voice, their response with their uplifted hearts.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

The Sudanese Well Project & OTC Medications for South Sudan

By Chuck Millar

News regarding last summer's Sudanese well-digging project St. Paul's has financially supported has been slow in coming, but I now have a clearer picture of the situation.

As you may know, serious inter-tribal fighting erupted in South Sudan last year. Even though Daniel Akuol's home area of Aliab/Pulawer was spared direct involvement in the fighting, it was overrun by large numbers of refugees. This turmoil and uncertainty made digging a well impossible last summer.

Today, the conflict and influx of refugees continues; inflation is threatening to overwhelm Sudan's economy; and the goal of digging the well has become unrealistic. The local Sudanese leadership, however, has suggested a feasible alternative: create a karak instead of a well.

A karak is a traditional, hand-dug depression a few feet deep and twenty or thirty feet across which fills during annual flooding from the near-by Nile. Because Aliab is a low-lying grassland, karaks fill and retain enough water to meet the continuing needs of a local community's cattle. With a bulldozer it would be possible to create a karak of sufficient size and depth to provide dependable water for the whole community as well as its livestock. Obviously, water from a source used by cattle has to be boiled before anyone can safely use it, but this essential practice is well-understood and followed there.

Of further importance: Because bulldozing a larger than usual karak is less expensive than digging and equipping a well, the funds we have may be sufficient to create more than one of them.

If you have comments or questions, please let me know. If I can't answer them, Daniel can.

Finally, Daniel will be returning May 6 to South Sudan and

Another Successful Book Sale

By Sue Millar

With your donated books, and with the help of many volunteers to set up and sell the books – because of YOU, your efforts and your commitment -- Episcopal Relief and Development will have over \$1,000 to use bringing hope and help to those who suffer and are in need. We thank all who cleared their bookshelves. We thank those who purchased books to provide delight and learning. All good works with a great outcome.

St. Paul's News April 2016

staying for the summer. As he has in the past, he will be taking with him a supply of over-the-counter medications. (Incidentally, Daniel has some basic medical training.) The cost of these medications is always a problem; however, the women of St. Paul's have in the past generously purchased medications for him to take. If you would like to help again this year, the following is a list of the medications he can carry with him:

- Pepto-Bismol
- Tylenol/Acetaminophen
- Motrin
- Aleve/Advil
- Band-aids
- Pain-relieving and antiseptic creams
- Imodium
- Liquid Tylenol or Motrin for use with children

(Please stick to Daniel's list as the above items meet the most common needs and are relatively easy to take with him on the plane.)

Financial Update

By Jeffery Irwin, Treasurer

Financial Information as of February 29, 2016

Pledge income was \$74,901 for the two months ending February 29, 2016. February is 16.7% of the year and this is 24.1% of the budget pledge amount. However, it should be noted that \$17,742 of this amount was paid in 2015 as prepaid 2016 pledges.

As of the end of February, we recorded \$11,399 more operating revenue than expense. This was primarily because of the pledge revenue exceeding the budget amounts.

The designated and restricted invested funds had a year to date loss in market value to \$15,228 as of February 29, 2016.

On February 15 the Vestry passed an operating budget for 2016. The budget has a potential deficit of \$33,733. If the deficit comes to pass, funding for the deficit may come from \$68,606 of unrestricted funds available at December 31, 2015.

Page 5



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS

THE 2016 MINISTRY FAIR

MAY 7, 2016

9:00 AM -- 4:00 PM

AT THE DIOCESAN/CATHEDRAL CENTER, DETROIT

FEATURING THE REV. BECCA STEVENS

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE AND PRIEST

WITH WOMEN FROM THISTLE FARMS

Excellent Workshops will be offered on a variety of subjects related to our diocesan theme of Race Relations and Diversity

Registration is \$15 with a box lunch available at an additional cost of \$10.

A vegetarian option is available.

Register securely online at www.edomi.org/household-2

or mail your registration and check to:

Jennifer Michalak, 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201

jmichalak@edomi.org

Learn more about Becca Stevens at thistlefarms.org.



Waters of Reconciliation:
Race Relations and Diversity
Ministry Fair 2016

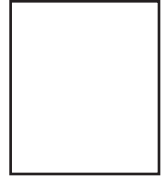
"Our learning together continues."

Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Christopher Hart away PM EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary	28 Christopher Hart Away OFFICE CLOSED	29 Christopher Hart Away 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service	30 Christopher Hart Away Joyce Renfrew away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting	31 Christopher Hart Away 10:00 AM Jamelia Manson Visitation 11:00 AM Jamelia Manson Funeral 12:00 PM Jamelia Manson Family Fellowship Luncheon	1 Christopher Hart Return AM OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	2 11:00 AM CONFIRMATION - St. Michaels
3 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 11:15 AM Cabaret Rehearsal 4:30 PM Lange Ensemble 6:30 PM Bible Study	4 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield	5 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team	6 Joyce Renfrew away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 4:00 PM St. Aelred's Ministry 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry	7	8 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	9 Diocesan Council
10 Baptism Anniversary Celebration 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 11:15 AM Cabaret Rehearsal 11:30 AM Communications Committee 11:30 AM Newcomers' Class & Potluck 4:30 PM Lange Ensemble	11 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 6:30 PM Building & Grounds Ministry	12 NO NOON SERVICE The Rev. Lewis at Clergy Conference - Evening 8:00 AM Michigan Equal Pay Day Coalition 6:00 PM B & PW	13 The Rev. Lewis at Clergy Conference - All Day 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM Children's Choir 5:30 PM Community Life Ministry - Library	14 The Rev. Lewis at Clergy Conference - All Day	15 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting 6:45 PM Cabaret Dress Rehearsal 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!	16 CABARET Spring Blood Drive
17 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 4:30 PM Lange Ensemble 5:00 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Bible Study	18 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Four Fs 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	19 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:00 PM Lange Ensemble Rehearsal	20 Jackie Womble Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM BCP Class w/dinner 5:30 PM Children's Choir	21 Jackie Womble Away 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM Youth Choir	22 Jackie Womble Away OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	23 Jackie Womble Away 10:00 AM Lange Ensemble Rehearsal
24 Jackie Womble Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 5:00 PM Lange Ensemble 7:00 PM Lange Ensemble Concert	25 Jackie Womble Away 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 5:30 PM Liturgy & Music Ministry 6:00 PM Recycling Ministry Team	26 Jackie Womble Away 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 12:30 PM St. Elizabeth Guild at Pierce's	27 Jackie Womble Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting 5:30 PM BCP Class w/dinner 5:30 PM Children's Choir	28 Jackie Womble Away 6:00 PM Youth Choir	29 Jackie Womble Away OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting	30 Jackie Womble Away 9:00 AM Grounds Clean UP 9:30 AM League of Women Voters

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St.
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