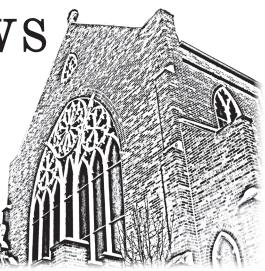
ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

Volume 35, Issue 9 November 2016



Vote!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Perhaps you are as tired as I am of the events surrounding our electoral process this year. Just when I think I have heard or seen everything, something new comes out that shoves me back into a place of disbelief. I'm not clever enough to know or explain why this is all happening, but I do know that it saddens me deeply as I hear the anger and discouragement in so many voices. The name-calling the judgmental statements describing various groups of people—the divisive words spewing forth that make it difficult to hear anything else. There are the disputes about what a true apology consists of; who is the greater liar; who has the worst judgment; who can and cannot be trusted; and who will lead our country into destruction.

To tell you the truth, I am sick and tired of it and would like to just stick my head in the sand and come out when it is all said and done. Other important events are occurring in our world that require our attention, prayers, and energies but those seem to be lost amidst the voices declaring who is right and who is wrong. Yes, we have a lot of issues and challenges to deal with in our country, but I don't have a sense that everything is going to hell in a mink bucket.

And I also know that there is goodness in the individuals who are running for office—I know that as sure as I know that God loves me because I know that God creates nothing that is not good. The challenge for all of us is to find it—as tough as it may be—in each other and in those running for office. How do we see through the anger and spiteful accusations thrown by the candidates at each other? Who are we to believe? Which political pundit and which spin are we to consider most truthful? How do we discern who to vote for?

This time, I'm really going to lean on Jesus. I'm going to ask and consider "What would Jesus do?" As a practicing Christian, I will vote after carefully considering Jesus's words about caring for the poor and the marginalized and clothing the naked and loving my neighbor. I will consider who best will help us live into and celebrate the diversity of our country which is representative of the kingdom of God. I will ponder which of those running for office will help us create a world of justice and mercy for all people and will help me to be a better person by modeling compassion and love for all God's children. I encourage all of you to exercise your precious freedom to vote and celebrate the opportunity we have been given to model the values we all share: love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy. God's blessings on you and yours.

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

Gifts Discernment Exercises

By Jim Milne

On Sunday, September 18, the Rev. Karen Lewis led the congregation through a Gifts Discernment exercise following the 10:00AM service. One of the exercises asked participants to identify their gifts and interests from a list of 45 choices (they could check more than one choice; with number 45 being "other" and they could fill in the blank), ranging from art to youth ministry (zoologists would have to check "other").

Forty responses were turned in, with 32 of them being identified by name. The most popular choices were: listening/discussing (23), caring & compassion (21), social justice (18), communication and music tied (17), organizing/coordinating (16), building consensus (15), while working hard and writing tied (14).

Question 2 asked people to describe their feelings about using their gifts for ministry in our faith community using 11 choices (with number 11 being "other" and they could fill in the blank). People checked more than one choice. The good news is that the top choices were "Glad to use gifts" (19) and "Reasonably comfortable" (18), and that only 5 people chose "afraid" and only 2 people chose "burned out". There's also room for further discernment and educational/formational opportunities with 16 people choosing "Unsure of my role" and 15 people choosing "Eager to grown and learn."

Question 3 asked people their preferences about the size of the group engaging in ministry. Parishioners could choose those where ministry is carried out alone, or with 1 or 2 people, as part of a small group, or as part of a large group. You were only supposed to check one answer, but many people (myself included) checked more than one. In my case, it was because my answer depends on the context and the activity.

- 19 people prefer performing their ministries alone.
- 22 people prefer ministering with 1 or 2 other people.
- 33 chose being part of a small group.
- 14 chose being part of a large group.

Does this mean Tim has to work on overcoming people's fear of crowds in order to recruit more people for the choirs?

Question 4 asked people about their preferences for the duration of their commitments. 15 people chose one-time commitments. 24 people chose short-term commitments. 15 people chose on-going commitments. And the good news is that only 2 people chose "no commitments now."

Regardless of where you fall in the continuum of responses, there's at least one place (and probably many more) where

you can grow and use your gifts within St. Paul's and/or in the larger community. Hopefully you had a chance to learn more about the various ministries at St. Paul's during the Ministry Matters Sundays on October 16 and 23. If you want to continue the conversation about discerning and using your gifts, the joint Stewardship Ministry Team/ Pledge Drive Task Force encourages you to talk to the Rev. Karen Lewis, the Rev. Susan Carter, or any of the members of the joint Stewardship Ministry Team/Pledge Drive Task Force: Keeli Baker, Jim Milne, Mark Rudd, Peter Sheldon, Jeff Kressler, Sue LeDuc, and Chris Couch.

A big thank you to . . .

By Rev. Karen C. Lewis

... Keeli Baker who continues to coordinate our MSU Concession stand activities. She does this with a smile and never looks tired! Also our thanks to all who have given of their time to work the concession stand – particularly Charlie and Chris Krupka and Amanda Ross (inventory is tough). It can get crazy at times but it remains fun and a new way to be in community with our fellow St. Paul folks.

...all those who shared their gifts and talents with us at our Ministry Matters on Sunday, October 16. The success of this event was heightened by our ability to worship in the dark when the power went out—the choir sounded great; the preacher was great; and all joined together to be the light of Christ despite the power outage. This will be a worship service we will long remember.

... those on our Stewardship and Pledge Drive Ministry Teams. They have spent tremendous amounts of time planning our annual gift campaign. This is a tough job that folks do not often want to take on these folks have done it with smiles, laughter, joy, and perseverance. Thank you to Keeli Baker, Pete Sheldon, Mark Rudd, Chris Couch, Sue LeDuc, Jim Milne, Jim & Ree Huber, and Jeff Kressler.

... all of our children who led us in glorious worship on Children's Sabbath. The choir was great; Anna Johnson shone as our presider; and Eric Travis's sermon was something to chew on for weeks to come. Congratulations to all for our hard work and your ability to create the space for all of us to worship that Sunday.

October Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Monday, October 17, for its regular monthly meeting. Topics of conversation included:

- Development of a Young Adult Ministry for those in their late twenties, early 30s. Several folks are interested and excited about creating this ministry as we now have a substantial number of members in this age category.
- Our new field education student, Annette Mileski, who will be with us from November through next June.
- First draft of the 2017 Operating Budget was discussed several expenses are increasing such as our property/liability insurance premium (\$30,000), medical insurance premiums, etc.
- The Vestry Nomination Committee consisting of Chris Couch, Jeff Kressler, Kathy Vogel and Laurie Nevin will start discerning who has the gifts for Vestry membership in 2017.
- Vestry approved painting of the east wall in the Merrifield Room.
- Vestry graciously accept Gloria Sutton's gift of The Lord's Prayer banner and suggested various options for where it could be hung.
- Significant conversation was held regarding what to do next about changing the ceiling lights in the church nave as the expense of scaffolding is estimated between \$9,000 and \$12,000. A straddle kit for a lift to go over the pews will cost \$3,000—this would be used to straddle the pews so that a lift may be placed on top of the pews to change the light bulbs. The group also discussed the possibility of moving directly to retro-fitting and dropping light fixtures into the space—but this would require a special fund-raising effort, as the cost is estimated between \$80,000 and \$100,000. The Vestry decided to ask Bohnet Lighting to provide us with a proposal about options for lighting the space. Grants may be available to offset the cost of new lighting once decisions are made as to next steps.



Ree and Jim Huber provided an entertaining and inspiring kickoff for the fall Pledge Drive/Gift Campaign on Sunday, Oct. 23, at the 8:00AM and 10:00AM services. They passed out compasses to the children to emphasize how God is our compass and will point us in the right direction. They also distributed magnets to the congregation symbolizing our connectedness as a community and the strength we have when we combine our efforts. Parishioners should have already received a letter and gift-giving card in the mail, and a brochure has been made available featuring the faces of some of the many ministries at St. Paul's. A special coffee hour will

celebrate the return of pledge cards and the end of the fund-raising campaign on Sunday, Nov. 6.

On both Sunday the 23rd and the 30th, representatives of ministries at St. Paul's made brief presentations, and the decorated boxes below the pulpit each represent one of the many building blocks of ministry, with God as the cornerstone.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Dave Bennett in Concert!

St Paul's is presenting the Dave Bennett Quartet in concert on **Saturday, November 12**. A multi-instrument phenomenon, Dave Bennett is a clarinet virtuoso who plays electric guitar, piano, and drums, AND vocalizes.

The Concert begins at **7:00 PM** and has an admission price of \$15. Another level of attendance includes wine & appetizers from approximately 8:30 until 10:00 p.m. The costforthatticket is \$25 and must be reserved by November 4. For purchase of tickets go to <u>https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dave-bennett-quartet-tickets-27959534721</u>

Dave is a blazing clarinet sensation playing the "swing style" of Benny Goodman. Leading His Tribute to Benny Goodman, Dave has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops (2013) and has played the show with 35 other US and Canadian orchestras including Nashville, Detroit, Rochester, Omaha, Toronto, Vancouver, Orlando, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Portland, OR, and Portland, ME. Fifty performing arts centers across the USA have had success with his presentations.

Dave has been featured on NPR Radio's "Jazz at Riverwalk." He made his European debut in 2008 at the The Bern Jazz Festival (Switzerland) in a combo with jazz legends and Benny Goodman band alumni guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli and vibraphonist, the late Peter Appleyard.



Dave is a Mack Avenue Records artist. His 2013 CD "Don't Be That Way" met with critical acclaim. His second CD is currently in production featuring original compositions influenced by Dave's appreciation of jazz, blues, swing, gospel, and pop. It is slated for 2016 release. For more information on Dave, please check out davebennett.com.

Dave will be joined by: Jeff Kressler on Piano, Ed Fedewa on Bass, and Doug Cobb on Drums.

For further information call Lyn Kressler at (517) 290-0588 or contact her at <u>jlkressler@comcast.net</u>.

Volunteers Needed! Fall Cleanup - November 5th!



Volunteers are needed for the fall Memorial Garden and Grounds Cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 8:00AM to 10:00AM (weather permitting). Just bring a rake and work gloves, Hot chocolate and coffee, apple cider and donuts, and lots of leaves will be provided. In case of foul weather, the cleanup will move to the next Saturday morning. This is sponsored by the Building and Grounds Ministry Team. Pictured is Larry Clark from last year's Grounds Cleanup.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Christian Formation Opportunities for Young & Old

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

We are all called to life-long transformation – becoming what God desires for each of us - joyful and faithful Christians. Transformation occurs in a number of ways - participating in worship; sustaining a prayer life; and engaging in learning opportunities. During the next several months, a number of educational/formation events are offered for different ages to assist your transformation.

Eucharistic Practice On the first Sunday of each month following the 10:00AM service coffee hour (approximately 11:20 pm) we will gather in the church nave and learn some new aspect about our Sunday worship service. Each gathering will last approximately 30 minutes - you will also be able to practice what you learn!

November 6 - Pew Aerobics! When to stand, sit, kneel, genuflect. The difference between a simple bow and a solemn bow – and when each one is appropriate, if at all. When do I cross myself - how, when, and why? Do I have to do any of it at all? You will be given a chance to practice the various movements and discern which ones work for you and which ones do not fit your piety!

December 4 - Where is my Ambo? Join us in a liturgical scavenger hunt. Discover our ambo, aumbry, undercroft, piscina, reredos, gradine, etc. Prizes for those who locate the most items in the shortest amount of time.

February 5 - Dinnertime! Proper Table Etiquette. We gather at God's table to share in the food God has gifted us with to nourish our faith. But what the heck is going on at that table during the Eucharistic prayer? And, how am I to handle the bread when it is placed in my hands? Do I eat it or dip it? Is it alright to chew it as someone said you shouldn't? Should I kneel, stand, etc.?

Bible Study – The Gospel of Luke We continue our Sunday evening adult Bible Study group. Please join us even if you have not attended any of our previous gatherings. You will catch up, I promise you! No need to sign up. Our next few meeting dates are: Nov. 6 & 20, and Dec. 4.

Handel's Messiah Save your Wednesdays in November! Karen+ will be leading a four(4)-week class on the Messiahwe will listen to selections from Handel's oratorio and then discuss the scripture – examining what the writer meant by his words and what they meant to his first audience; then discerning what they meant to the audience in 1742 who first heard Handel's Messiah. Save the dates of November 2, 9, 16 & 30. Dinner will be offered first at 5:30PM and class will start at 6:30PM. Please sign up for dinner – A Catered Affaire will be providing dinner at a cost of \$7 per person. Daycare will be provided.

Advent Class – 2 Weeks Join Dr. Flynn and Karen+ on two Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, to learn about some of our favorite Christmas carols. Let's discover together the history and meaning behind these songs and how we might incorporate some of our more favorite carols into our daily prayer life as we experience the season of waiting for the birth of our Lord. Dinner will be offered at 5:30PM, and class will start at 6:30PM. Daycare will be provided.

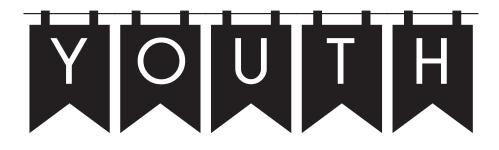


Four F's - Retrofit Your Home to Suit Your Age

By Mark Rudd

Plan on joining us in the Hill Room on Monday, November 21, for a presentation by Michael O'Connor, a local occupational therapist, who will share how you can design and update your living environment to best support your needs and lifestyle at any age. His AARP HomeFit program offers solutions that range from simple do-it-yourself fixes to improvements that require skilled expertise. He has used this presentation at professional conferences, and it is suitable for young as well as more "mature" audiences.

A sack lunch begins at Noon (drinks and dessert provided), followed by a brief Bible study under Karen's guidance, with the presentation starting about 12:45PM. Please sign-up in the Merrifield Room so we know how many will be joining us.



By Jackie Womble



Unlike your typical "living Nativity," A Night in Bethlehem invites adults and children to experience what Bethlehem might have been like! Everyone will create unique keepsakes as they interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. And...they'll love talking to Mary and

Joseph in The Stable—and hearing about the miracle of Jesus' birth

Join us on **Sunday, December 11** during coffee hour for this amazing Christmas program. Families will wander through the bustling Bethlehem marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born.

Silver Bells in the City . . .

Is coming to our city on **Friday, November 18**! St. Paul's Handbell Choir, the Waverly Reflections, and St. Cecelia's Chorale will perform in the church after the downtown parade and fireworks. We will once again hand out popcorn

to spectators that crowd the sidewalks during this popular annual event. We usually fill up the church with downtown visitors.

After the concert it's time for cookies and Max's famous hot chocolate in the Merrifield Room! Sign-up sheets for cookie donations, set up, and clean up are in the Merrifield Room! I hope you can join us for this fun start to the Advent season!!!

Break dates for Sunday School

Over the holidays there will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Nursery care will be available on January 1.

Harvest Home

Join us on **Tuesday, November 22**, for our annual music fund-raiser, the Harvest Home Dinner and Thanksgiving service.

Dinner begins at 6 with our wonderful Choristers lending a helping hand. The Thanksgiving service, which is a beautiful way to end one year and begin a new one, starts at **7:00PM**. We hope to see you there.

The Essentials Mission and Outreach Ministry

By Susan LeDuc

There are some things which our essential to survival: food, shelter, warmth, health...to name a few. Mission and Outreach is looking at three essentials in the next few months. One we already accomplished with the help of lots of volunteers: the blood drive. What could be more essential than blood? Thank you to all who participated in this event.

Second, we have a tradition of making Thanksgiving baskets for families in our community to share our abundance with others in remembrance of that first Thanksgiving Day. On **Sunday, November 20**, we will ask you to bring food items to share with 10 families. Watch for more details to be announced.

Third, we are continuing our coats and warm outer wear drive for the students at Eastern High School and their family members. It might seem "in" not to wear a jacket or boots to school...until our cold Michigan winter comes. Gently used or new winter coats, parkas, scarves and hats are all greatly appreciated. You will also see the arrival of our mitten tree in November for mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for those who need them.

Let's not forget that love and sharing are "essential" to what it is to be a Christian.

Calendar

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 30 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 3:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 3:45 AM Sunday School 0:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 3:00 PM G Rapids Men/Boys Choir Concert 3:00 PM GR Men/Boys Choir Reception 	31 Karen-Repairers of the Breach 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group- Merrifield	1 ALL SAINTS DAY 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team - VanAtta	2 NO CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 4:00 PM St. Aelred's Guild - Hill Room 5:00 PM EIP Classes (Drive Defensive)-VanAtta 5:30 PM EIP Classes (Drive Defensive)-VanAtta 5:30 PM Meission & Outreach Ministry - Library 6:30 PM Messiah Class w/the Rev. Lewis-Merrifleld Room 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	3 NO YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 5:30 PM Sparks/Cramer Rehearsal-Sanctuary	5 8:00 AM Fall Grounds Clean-up 3:00 PM Sparks/Cramer Wedding
5 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME OOD BANK SUNDAY/UTO SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 11:20 AM Eucharistic Practice w/the Rev. Karen Lewis 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lange Ensemble 5:00 PM St. Decelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM St. Decelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM St. Geney - Hill Room 5:30 PM Bible Study - VanAtta Room	7 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group- Merrifield	8 Election Day 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:00 PM B & PW - Hill Room	9 NO CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM Messiah Class w/the Rev. Lewis-Merrifleld Room 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	10 6:00 PM Communications & Technology Ministry- VanAta 6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 OFFICE CLOSED Special Events Set Up - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta	12 MSU/Rutgers Concessions Special Events Set Up - Merrifield Room, 7:00 PM Dave Bennett Concert
13 Baptism Anniversary Celebration 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lange Ensemble	14 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group- Merrifield 6:30 PM Building & Grounds MinistryVanAtta Room	15 9:00 AM Dave Kollar - Sanctuary 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 2:00 PM Investment Committee-Rector's Office 6:00 PM Stewardship Meeting - VanAtta Room 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!	16 Joyce Renfrew away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 2:30 PM Clericus @All Saints East Lansing 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM Special Events Committee - VanAtta Room 6:30 PM Messiah Class w/the Rev. Lewis-Merrifield Room 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	17 The Rev. Lewis - Fresh Start 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast 6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 5:00 PM MI St. Police/Silver Bells-VanAtta & Hill 5:00 PM Silver Bells- Sanctuary	19 MSU/Ohio State Concessions 9:00 AM Larissa Clark Student Recital Sanctuary/Merrifield
20 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM Youth Group - Hill Room 6:30 PM Bible Study - VanAtta Room	21 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group- Merrifield 12:00 PM Four FsHill Room 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	22 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service 6:00 PM Harvest Home Dinner 7:00 PM Harvest Home Service	23 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	24 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING	25 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta	26
27 ADVENT I 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion in Sanctuary 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 PM Lange Ensemble	28 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group- Merrifield 6:00 PM Recycling Ministry TeamVanAtta	29 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service	30 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM Messiah Class w/the Rev. Lewis-Merrifield Room 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	1 6:00 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting- VanAtta	3 9:00 AM First Aid Review Class = VanAtta Room 10:00 AM Lange Ensemb Rehearsal-Sanctuary 7:00 PM Purse Night Out Merrifield Room

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