St. Paul's News

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

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# It will be different this year

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Easter is bound to feel different this year. No stained glass windows; no high altar dressed in banks of potted flowers; no brass quartet announcing the good news of the resurrection. All of the familiar 'dressings' of Easter we have come to know and love will not be present – at least not in the way we have experienced for years.

But I wonder... is this not what Easter is about? Newness? Joy in the gift of dislocation? Finding God in the unexpected and unknown—in the stranger on the road? Realizing a stone tomb cannot deter or restrain God's love? Nor will a collapsing brick wall define whose we are and who we are as the Body of Christ.

We have been so blessed in the last few weeks. Notes and calls and emails from near and far offering prayers of support and spaces for worship. Some shared their memories of weddings, baptisms, and funerals at St. Paul's. Others have stepped forward and offered financial and other professional resources to assist in our rebuilding efforts.

In some real sense, our Easter arrived early when a group of parishioners stood vigil overnight praying and hoping the wall would not come tumbling down. Our Easter experience of dislocation and God's unrestrained love began that day and will continue for many days to come as we grow into this new life of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Much like what the disciples experienced after the resurrection—we too may experience fear and anxiety; we may lose patience at the slowness of the reconstruction of some things, while experiencing apprehension at the pace

of change in other areas. We will learn new ways to trust God as we discover additional building issues throughout this process. Our community life and prayer life may be strengthened as we sit closer to each other in worship instead of our normal spreading out in the pews.

The Easter of 2017 brings us much to celebrate! It also brings us a greater awareness of what church is and how we are needed in this community. We have much work to do in the next few months. We will need to make decisions about building issues that are now apparent that were hidden before—a crisis in one area of the building helps bring awareness of other necessitated building repairs into the open. This Easter we comprehend in a very real way our obligation not only to this community of St. Paul's, but to those future generations who follow in our footsteps.

Easter will feel different this year. But that is a good thing! God is good all the time and in this disruption, God's goodness is never more evident. So let us celebrate disruption! And let us give thanks for each other and for God's gift of Jesus Christ. Alleluia! The Lord has risen indeed!

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...and more!



### **Wonderful News to Celebrate**

It seems like only yesterday-but it was really about a year ago-when we received the unexpected news that our Music Minister of only six months had resigned, with his last day being Easter Sunday. We hadn't even had a chance to get to know each other. St. Paul's, with its incredible capacity to pick itself up and move forward, said good-bye to Jeff Walker and wondered what was next.

Instead of initiating a full search, the decision was made to find and hire an individual with the gifts, skills, and talents necessary to help us move through this next music ministry transition for a 12 month period as our Acting Minister of Music. Following the one-year term, we would discern initiating a search process for a permanent Minister of Music. The interviewing process began and, as God is good all the time, we found that talented someone literally across Seymour Street, and Dr. Timothy Flynn joined us in June 2016.

Last month, your Vestry asked the Music Ministry Transition Team (the group that was responsible for the first search following Dr. Lange's retirement in 2015) to meet and provide their counsel and recommendations regarding one of two options: 1) initiate a search process

for a new Minister of Music or 2) offer the permanent position to Dr. Flynn. The team's recommendation to the Vestry was as follows:

"... the members of the team expressed their pleasure with the job Dr. Flynn has been doing as Acting Minister of Music, their desire to continue working with him, and their eager anticipation of what the future of the music program will be under Dr. Flynn's leadership...[The] team voted unanimously to recommend to the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church that Dr. Timothy Flynn be offered the permanent position of Minister of Music."

The Vestry received this recommendation at its meeting last Monday; affirmed it with their own enthusiasm; and encouraged Karen+ to offer the position to Dr. Flynn with great hopes he would accept. And he did the very next day! We are thrilled to have Tim amongst us and look forward to many years of ministry, musical programming for our community and the worship we will share. Welcome aboard permanently!!! We are planning to celebrate Tim's presence in the near-future. Details will be forthcoming soon.

# Holy Week Worship Opportunities

Easter is one of the two major feast days of the Church—the other being Christmas. Each year, celebrating the Day of the Resurrection is essential to knowing who we are and whose we are. This is a day of new birth which is particularly meaningful as we journey through our own death and resurrection embodied in a wall of memories and stained glass

To fully understand Easter—to fully 'get' how much we are loved and valued by our Creator—we need to walk the path with Jesus as he moves from betrayal to death on a wooden cross to new life emerging from a hole in a rock wall. To engage in the celebration of Easter while not experiencing the suffering of a crown of thorns is to deny the fullness of God's love. Consider carefully how you can carve a few hours of time out of your normal life to sup with Jesus, to suffer with Jesus, and to greet our risen Lord.

Palm Sunday 8:00 AM Spoken service – Merrifield April 9 Room

> 10:00 AM Choral service; Blessing of the Palms and choral presentation of the Passion Gospel – Merrifield Room

Maundy Thursday April 13

6:00 PM We will join Central United Methodist in their place for dinner and worship. We will return to St. Paul's at 7:30 PM for the Stripping of the Altar and Procession of the Reserve to the Altar of Repose in the Van Atta Room. A prayer vigil in the Van Atta Room will continue until midnight. Please sign up for dinner at Central. If you wish to participate in the prayer vigil, please sign up for the 30or 60-minute time slot you prefer.

April 14

Good Friday 12:00 PM/Noon Traditional Good Friday service with communion from the Reserve Sacrament in the Merrifield Room

> 7:00 PM A Meditation of Readings and Music for Good Friday—this is a contemplative service of Scripture, prayers and choral music

Easter April 16 8:00 AM The Day of the Resurrection – Merrifield Room

10:00 AM The Day of the Resurrection -Merrifield Room with special music

### Parishioner Spotlight: Bon Voyage!

By Chris Couch



St. Paul's said "Bon Voyage" and "Godspeed" to Chuck and Sue Millar at the 10:00 AM services on Sunday, March 19, as they move to a newly built two-bedroom cottage at the Chelsea Retirement Community, which is near to where two of their children and their families live. The choir sang "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" as a highlight of an emotional send-off.

The Millars have, during their 30-plus years at St. Paul's, blessed nearly every nook and cranny of parish life with their talents and loving and concerned presence. From choir to Vestry, including wardening stints; from adult Christian education leadership to devoted service to the Sudanese ministry; from newsletter editing (Sue) to productions of Amahl and the Night Visitors (Chuck); from Mission and Outreach projects (including the ERD book sale) to Lent book reviews; from comedy skits at Cabaret to sermons from the pulpit (Chuck as the Rev. Charles W. Millar, ordained episcopal priest); from rector searches to the Lange Ensemble —they have been inspirational leaders and good and faithful servants.

Not to mention other aspects of their lives, championing civil rights, helping integrate local schools, patronizing the arts, sailing the Great Lakes (in a homemade sailboat!), growing native plants, and much more. In recent years, they have ended their annual Christmas letter by noting that they "continue to affirm that Christ is God's self-giving, creative love, incarnate and active in our relationship with each other and the world around us."

# Out of the Mouths of Babes... MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

By Sue LeDuc

#### The Peace Pledge

(courtesy of Glencairn Elementary School)

I pledge to use my words to speak in a kind way

I pledge to help others as I go throughout my day

I pledge to care for our earth with my healing heart and hands

I pledge to respect people in each and every land
I pledge to join together as we unite big and small
I pledge to do my part to create peace for one and all

My granddaughter goes to Glencairn Elementary School in East Lansing. Many of the children who attend Glencairn came from Red Cedar Elementary, which was closed but which was the school in the East Lansing district with the most diversity. Every year they have a celebration of the nations with a parade of children wearing clothing from their country of origin. Every assembly they start with the pledge you see above. The pledge was printed on the program and I thought they wouldn't mind if I shared it.

I thought about the words of pledge as I sat at a training for helping refugees, specifically with facts and suggestions for advocacy. I thought about them on Monday as our faithful refugees [now including not just Bhutanese but people from Burma("not Myanmar" as Po Reh forcefully says) and Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia] They are so very grateful to be here! They love to recite the Bill of Rights and they know that the Constitution is the "law of the Land." And especially they know what it is like to live without the protections we often take for granted.

The children know....it is really very simple and they recite it often and know it by heart.

# **Building Threatened following Dramatic Windstorm**

The extraordinarily high winds of Wednesday, March 8, weakened the front wall of the church, and there has been a flurry of activity since then. Parishioners have been kept updated by Karen+ and the main office through regular emails.

Here, along with the e-mailed update from March 29, are a few photos of the damage and work being done to repair it.

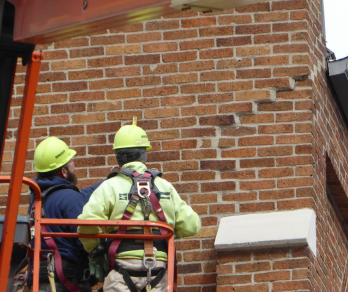


Time for our weekly update! As I have mentioned before, things are pretty fluid here and what I may have shared with you this past Sunday has now changed. The stained glass specialist our insurance agent sent to us from New Jersey, was here this past Monday. His words of wisdom have changed a few of the pre-laid plans.

A stained glass company from Grand Rapids, Pristine Glass Company, is here as we speak numbering window panes and taping glass together in preparation for movement to New York. The entire Te Deum window will be taken down frame-by-frame starting tomorrow. The panels will be crated and shipped to a company in New York who will create an entire new frame for the window out of aluminum. The current frame is wood and has sustained substantial damage. Pretty incredible and impressive!

The stained glass window situated above the Te Deum window has been removed and will also be sent to New York for new framing. This window is much older and we suspect it was part of the original St. Paul's church. The recommendation is not to restore the window to its original place as no one can appreciate its beauty, but rather find a new place whether it be the Memorial Garden or a spot inside our facility where we can appreciate the beauty of the window. The hope is to re-create the pattern of this window in brick or limestone in its original place in the wall.

At the same time we are selecting brick colors for both the interior and exterior walls. The wall being disasembled brick-by-brick really is three walls -- and exterior brick wall, an interior brick wall, and a middle wall made of cinder block and 'junk brick'. The original bricks for both



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the interior and exterior walls are no longer manufactured so it has been an adventure to select new bricks that closely match both color and texture. Imagine, if you will, the exterior wall alone is constructed with four different colors of bricks and we are trying to match each one of them. The same is also true for the interior.

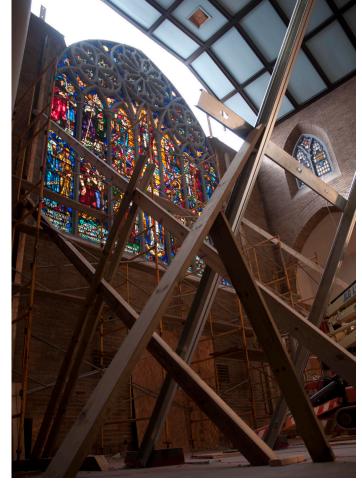
As the masons remove the current wall, many of the bricks are being saved so they can be used to help blend the new wall into the old wall at the pillars. No more bricks will be removed until the Te Deum window is safely down, crated and on its way to New York. Then the masons will return and work from both the inside and outside to remove the rest of the wall. We are still unsure as to how far down the wall must be removed. Hopefully that will be resolved this week.

We will continue to take daily photographs so that you all may see the progression of the work. Each Sunday you will have the opportunity to view either the scrapbook or the photos on the TV. My continued thanks and appreciation for those who are bringing food for the workers (and the office personnel) and for those giving of their time to assist us in maintaining a daily routine when life here is anything but routine.

Please take care of yourselves and give thanks for all of our blessings.

Faithfully,

Karen+



### PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

# Keep Reading! Discussion Groups Begin April 26th

For several months St. Paul's members have been invited to read one or both of the following books: Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis and White Trash. The writing styles of the two books are very different from each other and one is a bit more challenging to read. Both examine culture, class, and the American dream of working class white people. Both books will spark interesting conversations and reflections, particularly when viewed with Christian lenses.

We will gather on Wednesday evenings beginning April 26th for four weeks beginning at 6:30pm. We will split into two discussion groups—one for each book. Conversational guides will be offered to both groups with questions offered for reflection. The groups will also meet as one body during the four-week session to consider how the books are similar and different in their perspectives. We will consider such questions as "What surprised you?" "What frightened you?" "What angered you?" "What do we do with this information?" "How does this information influence St. Paul's future ministry?" Please sign up for which book group you prefer, and for those who wish to have dinner at 5:30pm, please sign up so A Catered Affaire will prepare adequate food for all.

#### Chairs and More Chairs!

By Rev. Karen C. Lewis

The maroon patterned chair it is! After test driving two options of new chairs for the Merrifield Room, the votes were overwhelmingly for the maroon chair. They will arrive sometime prior to Easter. What a great Easter gift to purchase for yourself or your child or your best friend at St. Paul's. Give them a lift by buying a chair or two. Each chair is regularly priced at \$80 but we are able to purchase them for only \$30 with no additional shipping costs. The brown chairs have done their duty and provided seating for a number of years. They are now worn and weak in the legs from use and age.

# St. Paul's Antique Festival Coming this Month

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 22**, and the first St. Paul's Antique Festival.

The day will feature Fred Muse and Kathy Branche from Elite Estate Sales, who will be on hand that day starting at 10 am to appraise your special "treasures." We will also conduct a silent auction and serve a light lunch of chili, cornbread, drink, and desert.

This should be a fun day, so bring in that treasure that Aunt Mary left you and you always wondered about, and have lunch with your friends! If you have an item you would like to donate to the silent auction, please contact Sally Lawrence or Keeli Baker.

Time 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Suggested donations: \$10 per item for appraisal; \$5 for lunch.

# Financial Update

By Jeffery Irwin, Treasurer

#### Financial Information as of February 28, 2017

Total pledge income through February 28, 2017 was \$88,940. This is 28.5% of the budget. However, only \$19,966 was collected in February, and \$35,633 of the total was collected in 2016 as prepaid 2017 pledges.

We did record \$23,233 more expense than operating revenue in February 2017. Notable expenses in February include \$9,106 in utility expenses, \$2,898 in building and grounds expense, and, perhaps most importantly, we paid our quarterly general insurance invoice of \$7,225. For the two months ending February 28 we have recorded an operating gain of \$8,529.

The designated and restricted invested funds had a \$14,498 gain in market value in February, bringing the year to date gain to \$27,319.

At February 28, 2017 there was \$85,146 of cash in the bank.

It is my understanding our insurance company will pay for the entire cost of the repair to the south wall after we pay a \$1,000 deductible.

### PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

#### Blood Drive a Success!!!

The Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Paul's on Saturday, March 25, produced 39 units of blood, exceeding targets. As ace organizer Libby Richardson says, "It absolutely takes a village to put on a blood drive," and she thanks all those who helped with the set-up and take-down, prepared sandwiches and sweets, made reminder calls, staffed the Merrifield Room to help the Red Cross workers, and, of course, donated blood. Pictured above staffing the sign-in table are two of the St. Paul's "villagers": The Rev. Deacon Jeanne Stout and highschooler Emma Clark.



### Do you have...

. . . any building plans from the far past, recent past, or last year? When the wall started moving, we went digging into our archives with great hopes of finding drawings or other architectural renderings and plans of the building and its foundation. What we found was limited at best and not of much help to our structural engineer or contractors. We also discovered we have no schematics or drawings of the plans for the Te Deum window.

Many St. Paul's members have been involved in building projects over the years—perhaps you were part of the committee refurbishing the organ; or installing a new roof on the church and parish house; or the remodeling of the Merrifield Room. If you have any of the plans, photographs, designs, materials, contacts, etc. of any of St. Paul's building projects stuck perhaps in a file drawer or a box in the basement, please bring them into our office. Barb and Kirk Lindquist have performed an incredible job of organizing our archives, which is an invaluable resource. So check your file drawers, boxes, desks, for any of St. Paul's plans and we'll preserve them for use by future generations.

#### Women's Retreat this Month!



The **last weekend of April** will be an opportunity for women to gather for retreat at Geneva Camp & Retreat Center in Holland, Michigan. Our hope is to provide all with a chance for rest, reflection, and a bit of tending to their souls. We will leave for Geneva Friday evening and return Sunday afternoon.

At this time the retreat is full, but a waiting list has been created. Please email either Kathy Vogel <a href="kathyvogel@ymail.com">kathyvogel@ymail.com</a> or Karen Lewis <a href="rector@stpaulslansing.org">rector@stpaulslansing.org</a> to be added to the list.

The cost for the retreat is \$75 and financial assistance will be available. Participants are encouraged to pre pay for the retreat so the church can write one check a head of time. Please make your check to St. Paul's, with Women's retreat on the memo line.

# Calendar

## **April**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 LENT IV 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM Lange Ensemble - Merrifield Room		28 Jackie Womble Away 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	29 Jackie Womble Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal- Choir Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM Lenten Series w/the Rev. Lewis 7:00 PM LDCA- Hill Room	30 Jackie Womble Away 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	31 Jackie Womble Away OFFICE CLOSED	1 Jackie Womble Away
2 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Jackie Womble Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 6:30 PM Bible Study - VanAtta Room		4 Jackie Womble Away NO NOON SERVICE The Rev. Lewis @ Clergy Conference 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team		6 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta	8 9:00 AM Altar Guild-Palm Crosses - Hill Room 9:30 AM CPR training - VanAtta Room 9:30 AM Safeguarding God's Children-Merrifield 1:00 PM Safeguarding God's People-Merrifield
9 Baptism Anniversary Celebration PALM SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	10 HOLY WEEK 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - VanAtta Room 6:30 PM Building & Grounds Ministry - Merrifield Room	11 HOLY WEEK 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 6:00 PM B & PW - Hill Room	12 HOLY WEEK 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service at Central Methodist 7:45 PM Stripping of the Altar - Merrifield Room	14 GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy 7:00 PM Good Friday Service of Readings & Music	15 HOLY WEEK 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	17 OFFICE CLOSED	18 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	19 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM White Trash Book Study w/the Rev. Lewis 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	20 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast	21 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 5:30 PM Set up for Antiques Festival- Merrifield	22 10:00 AM Antique Festival - Merrifield Room
23 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 5:00 PM Youth Group - Hill Room 6:30 PM Bible Study - VanAtta Room	24 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM 4Fs - Hill Room 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30pm	25 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 12:30 PM St. Elizabeth Guild	26 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting VanAtta 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 6:30 PM White Trash Book Study w/the Rev. Lewis 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	<b>27 7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 OFFICE CLOSED Women's Retreat W/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta	<b>29</b> Women's Retreat W/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland
30 Women's Retreat w/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM St. Cecelia's Chorale Rehearsal 4:00 PM St. Cecelia's Choral Concert	1 9:00 AM Bhutanese Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - VanAtta Room	2 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service VanAtta Room 5:00 PM Lange Ensemble Rehearsal - Sanctuary/Choir Room 6:00 PM Stewardship Ministry Team	3 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 5:30 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner - Merrifield Room 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry 6:30 PM White Trash Book Study W/the Rev. Lewis 7:00 PM LDCA - Hill Room	4 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta	6

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

### ST. PAUL'S STAFF

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The Rev. Susan Carter

Deacon

The Rev. Dcn. Jeanne Stout

**Acting Minister of Music** 

Dr. Timothy Flynn

**Parish Administrator** 

Theresa Milne

Youth & Family Missioner Jackie Womble

Annette Mileski

Field Ed. Student

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