

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

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September 2017



By St. Paul's 21st Century Restoration Project Committee

St. Paul's has been a worshipping community in Lansing for more than 168 years. Occasionally, it has been necessary to ask parishioners for extra funds for various projects. From 1942, and the Chapel of the Incarnation, to the Te Deum window in 1963, thru the 2011 Capital Campaign, the people of St. Paul's have generously answered the call. Thank you, thank you. The sacrifice and financial gifts of everyone is appreciated beyond measure.

In the process of fixing the sanctuary wall that nearly collapsed in March, and saving the Te Deum window, we discovered other major structural concerns that require immediate attention. Among them, we found asbestos in St. Paul's undercroft -- the cost for abatement was \$49,000.

As the problems began to mount, the Vestry authorized a complete structural analysis of the "old building" to ascertain what repairs and restoration are required, and to put a dollar amount on these projects. The analysis helps to prioritize what needs to be done immediately and what can be deferred for a year or two.

In May, the St. Paul's 21st Century Restoration Project - or SP21 Restore - was formed to raise funds to complete these vital projects. To date, a "GoFundMe" site has been created to reach out to parishioners and their friends via social media, including Facebook and Twitter.

In September, along with our annual pledge campaign, we will be launching an appeal to the entire community. The SP21 Restore project complements our normal financial needs - keeping the lights on, paying salaries, and maintaining our many ministries. SP21 Restore will allow us to leave a stable, healthy building for the generations that follow us.

During the next few weeks we will share specifics about cost, and the urgency of some of the projects.

The project has already received \$380,000 in gifts, grants and loans toward the restoration, but much more will be needed. The SP21 Restore Team soon will be hosting informational presentations explaining what needs to be accomplished. The Team is committed to providing regular updates on the progress of St. Paul's restoration. There will also be a call for leadership gifts.

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...and more!



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

Missions Come in All Sizes

(or, Mission and Outreach has something for you)

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

By Sue LeDuc

As we begin the hectic church fall calendar, it's important to remember that there are lots of ways we can reach out to help others---some things are "one off" as they say, others are lengthier and require more time, effort, talent and/or money. Reading a article in a recent Lansing State Journal I was struck by how many people see a need and act. A young woman in Meridian Township recognized a need for women for feminine hygiene products for women. She thought of the "little library free boxes" now seen in many neighborhoods with books for the taking or borrowing and set one up stocking it with tampons, pads and other such products there for those in need.

Some mission opportunities that are available:

1st Sunday Food Bank – each month people are asked to donate paper products, laundry soap, feminine products, toilet paper, etc. These items are delivered to the Food Bank at our neighbor, First Presbyterian Church. That branch of the Food Bank needs volunteers.

St. Paul's Needs Closet – we are collecting new and used bed linens to give to Community Mental Health Early Childhood Intervention caseworkers. We also supply them with diapers and pull-ups. The Needs Closet could use shoppers, as well as volunteers to sort and organize our "closet". Check your closet for linens to donate.

Mitten and Coat "Tree" – we've expanded from just mitten and hats to gently used or new outer wear for students and families at Eastern High School. Keep this is mind as many young people have no warm winter outer wear and would be thrilled with things someone in your family no longer needs.

Bhutanese Refugee Group – meets every Monday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM except for national holidays. The group

is growing with the addition of people from Myanmar, South Sudan, and Afghanistan. Conversation, coffee, tea, fruit and sweet breads are offered. St. Paul's has secured a Nepali translator for \$15 to help with learning English, American culture, and preparation for the citizenship test. Volunteers do not need special training. Refugees are thrilled to meet, talk and learn from volunteers. Rain, cold, sheet, snow and bus travel don't not keep the refugees away!

Lansing Community College Fostering Stars – once again we have offered to help LCC students most of whom have aged out of foster care with no support, and who are in need of household items. The coordinator at LCC will be letting us know who and what after the start of the school year. Volunteers are needed sometimes to transport items to the students and/or to pick up items from St. P's parishioners.

Blood Drive – donors are always needed but also volunteers to help Red Cross workers set up and to make sandwiches, etc., to feed donors and workers alike.

Thanksgiving Baskets – each year we donate baskets filled with Thanksgiving dinner items to families in need. Volunteers help to organize and sort food and buy turkeys.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team will keep you posted about opportunities to help those in need throughout the year with SPN articles, email "blasts", announcements in the Sunday bulletin and those ever popular live announcements after the church service. If you are interested in serving see me (Sue LeDuc) or any other member of the Mission and Outreach Team or put a note in our church mailbox.

Chris Couch was instrumental in the monthly process of pulling our SPN together. From editing articles, to taking photographs, to suggesting lay-out options, his voice and expertise were key to the success of this publication. We, as all of you, mourn the loss of this gifted man and are better people for having him among us. The publication of the SPN will continue as Chris would have wanted it to, and we will endeavor to live into the high standards he set for this newsletter. Thank you, Chris, for your many gifts.

I see, I believe, and so I wonder...

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

During the summer when things slow down a bit, I have an opportunity to ponder and consider a number of items. I share with you my most recent ponderings.

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church I see . . .

... a worshipping community composed of gifted individuals who care for each other.

... a rich history – one filled with successes and the courage and capacity to overcome challenging and painful situations.

... those who are dedicated to ensuring the health and life of St. Paul's.

... individuals giving of their time and talent to worthy organizations in our community.

... many who are seeking to grow in their faith and relationship with God.

... those who struggle with their faith, wondering if they are good enough to be loved by God and accepted by us.

... those among us who are tired; who are worried and struggle with the massive changes in the Episcopal Church over the last two decades.

... those among us who struggle with the on-going changes at St. Paul's and the knowledge that it will never be like it was even 10 years ago.

... that we struggle at times in trusting each other.

... a community for which I have come to care for deeply and for which I give thanks to God on a daily basis.

I believe ...

... that God keeps his promises ... despite our mistakes, despite our sinfulness, despite our lack of focus on his never-ending generosity.

... that God continues to seek us out; asking us to join Him in the divine creative work of reconciliation so desperately needed in our world today.

... that God continues to offer us grace and forgiveness and the sure knowledge of our own eternal life through the death and rising of his own son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

... that God does not see us through human eyes nor measure us with human measurements – all God requires is that we say 'yes' when we are called.

... that none of us are capable of fulfilling the impossible demands of discipleship without God's free gift of grace and forgiveness.

... that anything and everything is possible at St. Paul's if we see God's direction and say 'yes' when we discern it.

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... this will take hard work, it will take all of us, and it will require transformation.

And so I wonder...

... what would it be like if we prayed for each other and for St. Paul's on a daily basis? A humongous prayer group made up of all past and current members and all those who are connected to St. Paul's in some manner – that lift up to God each member of this church?

... what would it be like if every member of our faith community was involved in their own spiritual development through Bible Study, or adult education opportunities or small group gatherings asking the hard questions of where is God in war, diseases, natural disasters, refugee crisis, etc.?

... what would it be like if we gathered as a faith community on a regular basis on days other than Sunday? For fun or fellowship or formation or to give thanks and rejoice?

... how we can encourage each other in our faith; intentionally sharing our joys and sorrows?

... how we can be more engaged with our neighbors. To know who lives down the street, a few blocks over and invite them to share in our blessings and community?

... how we can share our love of each other in ways that let's each one of us know we are one of God's beloved children?

... if at times God is asking too much of us? At other times I wonder if God is not asking enough.

... if we have the strength, trust and belief to accept God's invitation for ministry in this portion of the kingdom?

... if we are open to our future wherever it may lead us?

... if every decision we make can be grounded in the question, "Does this glorify God?"

I wonder if we can all pray each day ...

Receive our gratitude, Holy God, for the years through which you have led us, and open us to the future you promise. In the years that lie ahead, grant us your encouragement in the work of ministry, your consolation in our defeats, and your challenge to our complacency. Give us such trust in your abiding Holy Spirit, that we may find joy and peace in our common life, strength and courage to live in the world for your reign, and hope in the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

-- Author unknown --

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Summer Fun!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

I trust everyone is enjoying their summer. My hope is you are finding time to rest, relax and appreciate the warm weather and sunshine. Too bad there is not a way to bottle it up so that we might pour out a little sunshine during the dark days of winter.

Perhaps you are traveling this summer . . . heading south to Disney World or “up north” to your cottage. My hope is that you will remain safe, remember God, remember to say your prayers, and remember to pay your pledge! During the summer months it is easy to forget to write that check to the church but our utility companies and suppliers don’t seem to have the same forgetfulness about expecting payment. So, here is your summer reminder to catch up on your pledge so that we can continue to pay our monthly bills on time. God bless and stay safe!

2017 Fall recycling Events in Mid-Michigan

Tired of looking at all that stuff you’ve accumulated in your house or garage since recycling last spring. Your St. Paul’s Recycling Ministry Team has discovered a few recycling events being held near you this FALL. Please be sure to “google” the event, or go to their website to see what items they take, and do NOT take. Thank you for helping the environment by cutting back on landfill waste.

Free For Fall Event – Saturday, September 30, 2017 from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Granger’s Facility located at 16980 Wood Road in Lansing. Clinton County residents only. More information will be posted as this date gets closer.

Meridian Fall Regional Recycling Event – Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Chippewa Middle School, 4000 Okemos Rd. in Okemos.

SAVE THE DATE!!

First Aid /CPR / AED Training Coming!

November 11, Saturday, 1:30 – 3:30 pm OR

December 2, Saturday, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Details in the next SPN.

St. Paul’s Brick Project

By Jim Huber

Would you like to own a part of St. Paul’s 103-year-old wall? Now is your opportunity. Bricks from both the outside church wall and the inside church wall have been refurbished and will be available for purchase on September 17—the day we begin our pledge drives for the SP 21 Restore Project and our Annual Pledge Drive. Each brick will have a silver plaque with an engraved picture of the front of St. Paul’s with the dates 1914 – 2017 indicating the date our beautiful church was completed to the date the wind damaged wall was taken down. Also included with each brick will be a card giving an historical explanation of the south wall of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. This wall needed to be taken down and rebuilt from the ground up. This brick is part of the original wall, which held the Te Deum window and is over 103 years old.

Individuals refurbishing the bricks are John David Hawkins, Allan Boron, Jim Clark and Jim Huber.

This project is designed to raise money for our church restoration projects and to raise awareness of the incredible heritage of our church building.

Inside bricks are \$50.00 each and outside bricks are \$75.00. At the present time, there is a limited number of only 100 bricks for sale. There is a sign-up list to purchase bricks available in the Merrifield Room. Own a part of history.



Flat St. Nick is on the move! Here he is at the Quilt Fest in Shipshewana Indiana in June.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Have You Noticed the Altar Flowers?

By Theresa Milne

Have you noticed the altar flowers this summer? Quiet as a church mouse, Tim Flynn has checked all summer to see if there is a dedication and flowers for the altar each Sunday. On Sundays with no dedication, Tim has brought in all the lovely flowers we have been able to enjoy. When you get a chance, be sure to thank Tim for making our Sunday mornings a little brighter with this gift. The beauty of the flowers brings us some normalcy to the chaos that comes with living in a construction zone. Thank you Tim!

The flowers each Sunday are a gift, an offering each Sunday from a parishioner or parishioners. You can find to whom they are dedicated by looking in the Sunday bulletin. In case you are wondering how you can contribute for altar flowers; the answer is really quite easy. Just fill out an Altar Flower Request form and turn it in to the office.

Each dedication request requires a donation of \$50 (while we're in the Merrifield Room) and \$70 when we return to the Sanctuary. All dedication requests for a given Sunday will be honored. We no longer carry over dedications from year to year. Please have your requests in the office by the Monday prior to the Sunday of your dedication. No altar flowers are provided if no dedication has been made for a given Sunday. The altar flower ministry is self-sustaining. If no dedication has been submitted for a given Sunday, there will be no flowers.

Why do we put flowers at the altar? To remind us year round of the Easter Springtime that fills our hearts; to remind us that even as God cares for the lilies and wild flowers of the field, He cares for us too.

Men's Breakfast Invitation

By Mark Rudd

MEN- You are cordially invited to participate in St. Paul's Men's Breakfast group. This is not an exclusive club but just a bunch of guys who like to have a good hearty breakfast once a month, solve the world's problems in a friendly atmosphere, and do a little Bible study. Sound fun? You bet!

We meet on the **third Thursday each month, September through May, from 7:00-8:00 AM** in the Hill Room for breakfast and spiritual discussion. And at \$7.00, our breakfasts are still the best deal in town!

We will continue reading and discussing "The Gospel of Matthew," starting with a brief review of Chapters 1-5. And don't worry; our highly trained facilitators will make sure that you have what you need to competently discuss any topic.

What better way to start your day whether you are headed off to work, or home to cut the lawn/shovel snow, or hit the couch for that morning nap. Our first breakfast is scheduled for **Thursday, September 21st**. The sign-up sheet can be found in the Merrifield Room.

Please contact Mark Rudd (517-614-2537, or mrrudd57@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. We are looking forward seeing you be a part of Men's Breakfast!

Toiletries for Maywood Women's Shelter

Maywood Women's Shelter (a division of the City Rescue Mission) is in need of personal care samples or those you don't use at a motel/hotel.

Large containers of personal care items can go to the Needs Closet.

Please place in the labeled bag in the cloister.

Thank you for your generosity!



YOUTH

EYE Oklahoma Trip

By Hope Milne

EYE stands for the Episcopal Youth Event held every 3 years by the National Episcopal Church in the United States. Youth from all over the world come to experience EYE. It consists of many workshops, speakers, and lots of fun! This year I had the opportunity to join over 1,400 EYE participants at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. We gathered from July 10th to the 14th.

Before going to EYE I was worried about being the only one from my church going and not knowing anyone. I was also nervous about all the new people from all over the world I was going to meet during EYE. However, I didn't need to worry because the people in my diocese were very kind to me. I made friends from Indianapolis and from all over. When I arrived in Oklahoma there wasn't much to do since it was the first day and everyone was getting checked in. There were inflatables that we could jump in, but they were so hot that it burned your feet. Every diocese had to bring something that represented their state, we brought flat Jesus. It has become a tradition for the diocese of Michigan to bring flat Jesus to EYE. So when we'd meet people from different states we'd give them flat Jesus. In return, they would give us something like a bracelet, or a pair of sunglasses.

We had an opening Eucharist on Tuesday. There was amazing music in the Service; violin, drums, guitar, bass guitar, saxophone, and a flute! The music was so upbeat and we had fun dancing. Sometimes people even started

limbo lines. What was also cool about the service, is that they did some of it in Spanish, and even had a Spanish song everyone

loved to sing. They did this because many people that came to EYE didn't speak English and spoke Spanish. They would

have kids come up to participate and speak parts of the service in Spanish.

During the sermon I was amazed at how much energy Bishop Curry had! He was moving all over the stage, and even splashed holy water on the front row. His sermon was all about how you can change the world if you follow Jesus. In fact he said "If you want to change the world, follow Jesus" so many times in his sermon that you could not forget that statement even if you wanted to.



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Welcome Back!

Our Youth Christian Education Program year will begin **Sunday, September 10th at 9:45 AM**. One change we've made this year is the high school class will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM.

Save the Date!

The Children's Sabbath Celebration will be **Sunday, October 22nd** during the 10:00 AM service with a Parish Potluck to follow. More details to come!

Recap: Parish Book(s) Study

By Christine Overway

Last spring's book study discussed *White Trash* and *Hillbilly Elegy*. I was in the *White Trash* book group and enjoyed how we connected some dots from author Nancy Isenberg's history lesson on 400 years of classism in the United States to historic world events, current news and our personal stories. We took the book study questions and, in Karen's words, we colored outside the lines. Some of us began to see more clearly how poverty and class issues have affected our family histories; some of us also realized that through class privilege, we have judgmental attitudes towards those labeled 'white trash'. I am glad to have had the chance to listen to fellow parishioners' thoughts and experiences concerning class, race and poverty.

It was both eye-opening and uncomfortable for me to discover unspeakable parts of our American history that have shaped the class of society deemed as 'white trash'. Isenberg states that "daily injustices in average people's lives go ignored. But that does not mean that poor people are numb to the condition of their own lives. Politicians have been willfully blind to many social problems. Pretending that America has grown rich as a largely classless society is bad history, to say the least." In an effort to unlearn 'bad history' and take up my share in

correcting 'daily injustices', I am now asking myself: Who am I not seeing? Who am I not hearing? One parishioner at the last book study meeting shared that she looks into the eyes of each person and sees Christ. It would be hard to ignore anyone with that attentive practice.

On several occasions, we asked where we can find authentic voices of 'white trash'. One parishioner suggested we look in folk music. Karen shared an article entitled "My Mother Wasn't Trash" by Joshua Wilkey. For a primer on understanding class issues while working within our communities, I suggest Ruby K. Payne's book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*. For anyone still interested in catching up on *White Trash*, an audio version is available with Capital Area District Library's Hoopla privileges. In case anyone wants a condensed version, we agreed that the last chapter is a good summary.

There are many wounds related to classism in America that requires the Church's urgent attendance. I look forward to learning more about class relations and seeing how the *White Trash/Hillbilly Elegy* book study informs our work in the community. I also hope to see you at the next book study!

EYE *continued from Page 6*

Another experience I had was being invited to a lunch only for minorities. There were so many people there, Asians, Latinos, African Americans, and many more. The room was so fancy with big chandeliers, it was like a giant ballroom. At the lunch they showed us a presentation on how different ethnicities practice their religion. Towards the end they showed us how much each of our ethnic backgrounds would grow in the next 50 years. Some of us wouldn't be minorities anymore. We discussed the diversity in our church with our table. I would say that was the one of the highlights of EYE for me.

If I had the opportunity to go to EYE again, I would. Everyone there are so friendly and interesting. I didn't realize how many kids were Episcopalian around the world. Thank you all who supported me and helped me go to EYE. It was a fun experience to have, I made so many friends over the course of 5 days that I sometimes wish EYE was longer. I hope in the future, some of my younger friends from St. Paul's will go and experience EYE for themselves.

SP21 Restore *continued from Page 1*

As SP21 Restore unfolds there will be "fun-raising" events and activities for everyone. We are confident that, as a community, we will meet this challenge and grow closer, stronger, and more loving.

Feel free to reach out to the St. Paul's 21st Century Restoration Team with your questions, ideas, and suggestions to help us meet these important goals. We also welcome your participation. Working together, we will emerge a stronger worshipping community.

Faithfully yours,

The SP21 Restore Project Team

Lyn Zynda and Jeff Kressler, co-chairs

<i>Keeli Baker</i>	<i>Barb Clark</i>	<i>Jim Clark</i>	<i>Kathy Gut</i>
<i>Ree Huber</i>	<i>Jim Huber</i>	<i>Jen Humphries</i>	
<i>Laura Julier</i>	<i>Jim Milne</i>	<i>Libby Richardson</i>	
<i>Amanda Ross</i>	<i>Mark Rudd</i>	<i>Bobbi Tisdale</i>	

Calendar

Important Upcoming Events

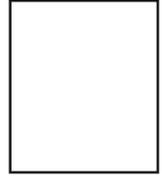
Summer is our planning time for the church program year and we now have dates for you to put on your calendar. We offer you this information now so that you can block off the time for all that will be happening at St. Paul's.

September 10	Return to 8:00 & 10:00 AM services Sunday School returns; commission Sunday School teachers Parish Potluck	December 2	Red Cross Blood Drive
September 17	Bible Study returns at 6:30 PM; we will be studying the book of Judith	December 3	St. Nicholas Sunday/Advent I
October 1	Blessing of the Pets @10:00 AM service	December 9	Safeguarding God's Children & People Training
October 22	Children's Sabbath	December 17	Advent Lessons & Carols @ 4:00 PM
October 25	Four-week evening series begins on The Lord's Prayer	December 21	Blue Christmas service @ 7:00 PM
November 5	All Saints' Sunday – baptisms	December 24	Advent IV – one service only at 10:00 AM
November 11	Training for all licensed liturgy ministries: lectors, chalice bearers, and Eucharistic visitors	December 24	Christmas Eve – 4:00 & 8:30 PM services
November 21	Harvest Home Dinner & Service		

If you, or someone you know is pondering being baptized, please have them contact Karen+ either by phone or via email at rector@stpaulslansing.org. There are five baptismal dates scheduled each year: All Saints Sunday, Baptism of our Lord, Easter, Pentecost and when the Bishop visits. Baptism is possible on other dates after conversation with Karen+. Baptismal prep is generally required except in emergency situations.

**For the complete calendar visit
www.stpaulslansing.org**

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



ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Rector

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter

Deacon

The Rev. Dcn. Jeanne Stout

Acting Minister of Music

Dr. Timothy Flynn

Parish Administrator

Theresa Milne

Youth & Family Missioner

Jackie Womble

Sexton

Jeremy Alexander

SPN Editor

Hillary Walilko

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Keeli Baker, Sr. Warden

Jim Milne, Jr. Warden

Justin Alexander

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Sally Lawrence

Christine Overway

Amanda Ross

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