

# ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

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## A New Year — Update

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

It is a new year with new possibilities and new opportunities for ministry at St. Paul's. So I find it interesting that I begin this new year with an update on the last 10 months on what has now become known as 'the wind event'. Our new year finds us still in the process of restoration – but tremendous progress has been made and there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

If you were to walk into St. Paul's sanctuary at this moment you would find all of the brick walls have been cleaned, tuck pointed, and cracks filled by mortar injection. The side walls have received new meshing, primer, two coats of plaster (making it as smooth as a newborn baby's bottom), and two coats of paint. All of the stained glass window frames have been painted and caulked while the entire ceiling has been painted a soft white color reflecting the light from our new light fixtures. While looking up, you would discover the stunningly large Te Deum window spotlight has been replaced by six small spotlights located on the upper side walls – three on each side.

The new sanctuary wall has been stained to match the 'old walls'; three new radiators have been installed to replace those which were damaged by the wall movement; a new limestone window sill has been inserted for the Te Deum window, and the hole where the window will go remains sealed with insulation and board awaiting arrival of the new framed and window panes.

The carpeting has been removed and the wooden floors are undergoing repairs – stress cuts are being made around pillars and in other places to relieve tension in the floor.

Some areas where shifting has occurred in the flooring will be repaired from underneath – cutting and installing additional support to level the floor. The final step with the wood floors will be sanding, patching and sealing of the wood. Once all of that is completed, the new carpeting will be installed.

As I've reported before, 'the wind event' provided us with the opportunity to discover the other work necessary to restore St. Paul's facilities for use by many generations to follow. This has included a new drainage system and re-landscaping of the Memorial Garden, front and side yards including new exterior hand railings for all three entrances to be installed this week. The roofs and gutters have been repaired where necessary and the chapel wall damaged by roof leaks has been repaired, re-plastered and re-painted.

Often during this restoration, just when we think we have discovered all that can be discovered, something new pops up. In the last two weeks, another small room adjacent to the undercroft has been discovered to be filled with mold and asbestos. We are awaiting a bid to conduct

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...and more!



We're on the web!  
[www.stpaulslansing.org](http://www.stpaulslansing.org)

# Annual Meeting January 28<sup>th</sup>

Each year we gather as the worshipping community of St. Paul's to share a meal and engage in the administrative work of the church. At our 2018 Annual Meeting on January 28th immediately following the 10:00 am service, the 2018 Operating Budget will be presented; delegates to the 2018 Diocesan Convention and four new Vestry members will be elected. All are invited to join us as we gather; to vote, according to church canons, you must be a member-in-good standing. Please sign up on one of the sign-up sheets to let us know what dish you will be bringing to share and how many of your family will be eating. This information is helpful in planning adequate seating for everyone. We will also have sign-up sheets for those of you willing to help set up the tables/chairs immediately after the service and those willing to assist in clean-up following the meeting.

## What did you think?

Did you know that the Eucharistic Prayer(s) we use each Sunday must be approved/authorized by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev'd Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr? This year he authorized for use a new group of prayers for our use. Did you notice that during the months of September, October and most of November, we used for each of our Sunday worship services, a Eucharistic Prayer written for that specific day based on our scripture readings for that day? What did you think? Did it make the worship more meaningful as the Liturgy of the Table (celebration of Holy Communion) was directly tied to the Liturgy of the Word (scripture readings)? Or was it disruptive and left you wishing for one of the Eucharistic Prayers from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer? It certainly kept the clergy on their toes as each Sunday was different; but it wasn't overwhelming.

Let us know what you think – should we continue to use these new prayers all the time; during certain church seasons, or only once a year? Your thoughts will help us plan for the future. What is most important is your presence and participation as we gather in our Lord's name.

# Lent Arrives on February 14<sup>th</sup>

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent – a season of repentance, penitence, reflection, contemplation, fasting and self-denial. Our liturgy on this day has its roots in the Old Testament, where covering oneself with sackcloth and ashes was a sign of repentance and mourning. Early Christians also used sackcloth and ashes as a sign of their repentance. The imposition of ashes during this service is intended to give ceremonial embodiment to the theme of penitence. Ash Wednesday was also the day public penitents were admitted to their penitential discipline, so that they might be readmitted to communion before Easter. Taken together, these rites remind us that we stand before God as sinners doomed to die, and that it is only through God's merciful gift that we can hope for anything else. Themes of repentance, penitence and reflection are prominent throughout the Lenten period.

**Our Ash Wednesday services will be at noon and 7:00 PM on February 14, 2018.**

## A New Year *continued from Page 1*

abatement in that area. And in early spring, we hope to begin the driveway and parking lot project – if you have been here recently, you will note the parking lot is sinking a bit.

As overwhelming as this has been at times, the folks of St. Paul's and many of its friends, have stepped forward to provide the resources necessary to do this work. As part of our SP21 Restore Project, we have received \$100,000 in grants to date; \$41,046 in gifts and \$560,050 in pledges – totaling \$701,096. Incredible, right? This is all due to the generosity of many, many folks and the hard work of our SP21 Restore Project volunteers. We are not done but we have made great strides toward funding the numerous projects which will create the safe and beautiful space for ministry for another one hundred years.

I believe it is okay to start this new year with an update – as this update celebrates much that has been accomplished and all that will be done in the next few months. Oh, one last thing – the hope and plan is for the Te Deum window to return to its proper place sometime late April. We'll let you know when we will have the grand celebration. My continued thanks to Laux Construction – our general contractor. God has been very good to us – we could not be in better hands. Blessings to all!

# Our Next Book Study

## *THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD* BY COLSON WHITEHEAD

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Our next book study will be *The Underground Railroad*, a novel that tells the story of Cora and Caesar, two slaves in the southeastern United States during the 1800s who make a bid for freedom from their Georgia plantations by following the Underground Railroad, which in the novel is an actual subway as opposed to a series of safe houses and secret routes. The story is told in the third person. The following is an excerpt from a review of the book:

"Cora is 16, maybe 17; she's not quite sure. The protagonist of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* is a slave on the plantation where her grandmother, Ajarry, died while picking cotton, and her mother, Mabel, escaped from years ago. In her time on the Randall farm in Georgia, she's been worked to the point of sickness, beaten, raped, forced to watch her fellow slaves tortured to death. She remembers every horrible incident, even — especially — the ones she'd rather forget: "There was an order of misery, misery tucked inside miseries, and you were meant to keep track."

When Cora is approached by another slave, Caesar, about escaping from the plantation, she initially demurs: "White man trying to kill you slow every day, and sometimes trying to kill you fast. Why make it easy for him? That was one kind of work you could say no to." But after being

viciously attacked by a sadistic farmer, she agrees to light out with Caesar under the cover of darkness, destined for a station on the Underground Railroad.

When Cora and Caesar first see the railroad, they're stunned. It's an actual tunnel, stretching miles in either direction to God knows where. They board the train not knowing where they're going, ending up in South Carolina, a state that prides itself on a relatively more enlightened attitude toward race than its neighbors. There they meet other former slaves, each haunted by their past: "It lived in them. It still lived in all of them, waiting to abuse and taunt when chance presented itself."

*The Underground Railroad* was a critical and commercial success, hitting the best seller lists and winning several notable prizes. It won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, the 2016 National Book Award for Fiction, the Arthur C. Clarke Award and the 2017 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence. It has been longlisted for The 2017 Man Booker Prize.

We have ten books available for purchase in the Parish Office. Please sign up if you wish to purchase a book – scholarships are available to assist in the purchase price of \$26.95. We'll establish meeting times in the new year.

## Confirmation, Reaffirmation or Reception An Inquiring & Discerning Heart

Karen Lewis+ is inviting all those interested in receiving confirmation, reception or reaffirmation to join her for conversation and instruction. Confirmation is a sacramental rite for those baptized at an early age to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism. Reaffirmation is for those who wish to reaffirm their Confirmation commitments; and Reception is for those baptized/confirmed in a different faith tradition who wish to be officially received into the Episcopal Church. We will establish our meeting dates at our first brief gathering immediately following the **10:00 AM service on January 14th**. Grab a cup of coffee and join Karen+ in the Van Atta Room. Bring your calendars! The most challenging activity we will have during our time together is establishing meeting dates. If you have any questions, please contact Karen+ at [rector@stpaulslansing.org](mailto:rector@stpaulslansing.org).

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

## Name Tags!

We hope everyone has a nametag and is wearing it every Sunday. It is a great gift to give to new folks and for those of us who may be challenged in recalling names. If you do not have a nametag, a sign-up sheet is located on the table in the cloister where the nametags are located. Please write your name on the sheet the way you wish your name to be printed on the nametag. Important to note: Please make every effort not to lose your nametag as each one costs \$18.50 to make. Many folks return their nametag to the table as it is easy to remember the next Sunday. Others may put their nametags in their purses or clipped to the window shade in their car. Wherever you place your nametag for safe keeping, don't forget to wear it on Sunday!

## Bible Study Continues in 2018

We continue our Bible Study group in 2018. We meet on Sunday evenings twice a month – we will complete our study of the Book of Judith on January 7th and begin our study of St. Paul's letter to the Philippians on January 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the Van Atta Room in St. Paul's. All are welcome to join us – if you are in need of a Bible just let Karen+ know. All levels of knowledge and education are present in the group – no question is too small or stupid. We laugh, learn and pray a bit. Our meetings begin at 6:30 PM and are scheduled for the following Sundays in 2018:

**January 21st**

**February 4th & 18th**

**March 4th & 18th**

**April 15th & 29th**

## SPN Volunteers Wanted!

The Communications & Technology Committee is looking for new members, particularly to assist with production of the St. Paul's News. If you are interested, please email Hillary Walilko at [walilkoh@gmail.com](mailto:walilkoh@gmail.com).

## Allergies & Anaphylaxis

Allergic reactions to a variety of environmental issues and foods tend to become more progressive over time. What may start as an irritating itch may eventually become a life threatening allergy.

What are the signs and symptoms of allergies? Itching, hives or rash, site of contact becomes swollen and red, stuffy nose, red or watery eyes, sneezing, blisters, sore or swollen throat, difficulty breathing, wheezing and chest tightness, and / or Anaphylactic Shock, which is life threatening.

What are the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis?

- Difficulty breathing
- Hives or swelling
- Nausea and vomiting
- Wheezing
- Drop in blood pressure
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness
- Confusion
- Rapid or weak pulse

Action needed: If you have an allergic reaction that is progressive on subsequent exposure, it is imperative that you seek medical attention. Your physician can prescribe Epinephrine, commonly called an Epi Pen or epinephrine auto injector. Carry it with you at all times.

How to administer an Epi Pen –

- Check the label
- Locate outside middle of one thigh
- Grasp the Epi Pen firmly and pull off the safety cap
- Hold the Epi Pen at 90 degree angle to the outer thigh
- Quickly and firmly push the tip straight into the outer thigh
- Hold firmly for 10 seconds
- Remove the Epi Pen and massage the injection site for 10 seconds.
- Monitor the person's condition and response to medication
- Call 911

*Thank you to everyone that participated in the Holiday Blood Drive for the Red Cross. We collected 39 units! Thanks to those who gave blood, made sandwiches, helped with set-up and tear down, and those who worked the drive. This semi annual event cannot happen without community participation. Thank you all!*

***The Spring Drive is set for Saturday, April 28th. Please mark your calendars.***

*Thanks again. Libby Richardson.*

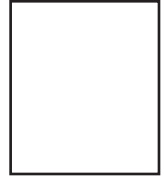
# Calendar

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>31</b> The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter Away <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room	<b>1</b> FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter Away	<b>2</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>5:30 PM</b> Mission & Outreach Ministry <b>7:00 PM</b> LDCA - Hill Room	<b>4</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>5</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta	<b>6</b> FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY <b>10:00 AM</b> Feed My Sheep/Pastoral Care Training - VanAtta Room
<b>7</b> ANNUAL REPORTS DUE <b>FOOD BANK SUNDAY</b> Noisy Offering <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>9:15 AM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>11:15 AM</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>11:45 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>2:00 PM</b> St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Refugee Support Group-Merrifield <b>6:00 PM</b> Luke/Theology Small Group-VanAtta	<b>9</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>7:00 PM</b> LDCA - Hill Room	<b>11</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>12</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>6:00 PM</b> Alexander/Johnson Wedding Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Alexander/Johnson Wedding
<b>14</b> Baptism Anniversary Celebration MLK Sunday <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>9:15 AM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>11:15 AM</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>11:45 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>2:00 PM</b> St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield	<b>15</b> MLK DAY OFFICE CLOSED <b>11:59 PM</b> SPN Deadline!!	<b>16</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>7:00 PM</b> LDCA - Hill Room	<b>18</b> The Rev. Lewis @ FreshStart <b>7:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>19</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>9:15 AM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>11:15 AM</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>11:15 AM</b> The Rev. Lewis meeting w/confirmands <b>11:45 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>2:00 PM</b> St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Refugee Support Group-Merrifield <b>5:30 PM</b> Liturgy & Music Ministry <b>6:00 PM</b> Luke/Theology Small Group-VanAtta <b>6:00 PM</b> Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm	<b>23</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	<b>24</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>7:00 PM</b> LDCA - Hill Room	<b>25</b> FEAST OF ST. PAUL <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>9:15 AM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal <b>9:45 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room <b>11:15 AM</b> Children's Choir Rehearsal <b>11:45 AM</b> Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>2:00 PM</b> St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Refugee Support Group-Merrifield	<b>30</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room	<b>31</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta <b>7:00 PM</b> LDCA - Hill Room	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	<b>2</b> FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION/CANDLEMAS OFFICE CLOSED <b>12:00 PM</b> AA Meeting-VanAtta	<b>3</b>



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
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## ST. PAUL'S STAFF

**Rector**

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**Associate Rector**

The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter

**Deacon**

The Rev. Dcn. Jeanne Stout

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