

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

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April 2018



Expect the Unexpected!

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Well, we did it! With significant effort and some very hard working folks in a very short time period, we were able to celebrate Easter in our restored sanctuary. I know, we are still waiting for the miraculous return of the Te Deum window and its frame, but I think the billboard insert works just fine for now. My thanks to the incredible folks at Laux Construction who told me they could do it – I didn't believe them for a minute – and they pulled it off. Talk about an Easter surprise!

I do not know when the real window will return. It seems the folks in New Jersey struggle with communication skills but we do trust and know it will come back to us one day soon. In the meantime, work on the building continues. A new fire alarm system will be installed the week of April 9th as ours is so old they advised us that the case to the alarm is a collectible! The new system is priced at over \$11,000. We have finally completed the mold and asbestos abatement in three separate spaces in the undercroft to the tune of over \$60,000 – the removed the final air quality equipment this week.

Patching of ceilings need to continue in the cloister hallway; lighting changes, pew repairs, etc. are on the list. The next big undertaking is our parking lot – it is sinking and the sewer pipes are in need of replacement – this project will begin July 9th and continue for the next two months until the end of August. There will be no entry into St. Paul's through our rear parking lot door – all will need to enter through the front doors of either the parish house or the Memorial Garden. We have received a \$10,000 grant

from the Trustees of the Diocese; a \$5,000 grant from the Diocesan Council; and a \$145,000 loan to help pay for this project which will cost close to \$200,000 (including the engineering).

We have come so far and the work continues. With this newly restored building we are now called to prayerfully consider how we are to use it in ministry to our community. This beautiful building is meant to be shared with others – not only in worship but in ministry with others. What and how this will be is for us now to decide. This is our task during the next several months and my hope is all will offer their thoughts. Nothing is impossible! We have learned to expect the unexpected! Thanks be to God!

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...and more!



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

To kneel or to stand, that is the question

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

For the past year, we have been unable to kneel during our worship services. We have learned to stand or sit for prayers and stand to receive communion. Throughout this time, we have discovered that God is present no matter what our posture might be, and the sacrament is still valid.

Upon returning to the sanctuary, each of us will have the opportunity to choose whether to kneel or to stand: for the prayers and to receive communion. As good Anglicans, let's check what has been said in our tradition regarding kneeling. The following statement from the first Book of Common Prayer (1549) summarizes the Anglican position on ceremonies:

"As touching kneeling, crossing, holding up of handes, knocking upon the brest, and other gestures: they may be used or left as every mans devocion servueth without blame."

This statement gave folks permission to do whatever their own personal piety called for, as long as it was done with reverence.

In early times, the Greeks and Romans rejected kneeling. They said that kneeling was unworthy of a free man, unsuitable for the culture of Greece, something that only barbarians did.

In the early church, and in the Jewish worship tradition before that, a person knelt for private prayer but stood for corporate prayer. People prayed with their hands lifted up in the "Orans Position". Soon a pattern developed with private prayers and some public prayers during Lent and Advent – one could kneel as a sign of penitence and one

could stand during the Great Thanksgiving as a sign of joy and celebration. The Council of Nicea decreed that it was a sin to kneel during Eastertide. (*Yikes!*)

In the Middle Ages, people no longer understood the words of the Latin liturgy, so they offered private prayers during it and naturally knelt for these. Sitting was not an option because churches had no seats until the 16th century. The change from standing to kneeling came about through the omission of a command to rise after a short period appointed for silent kneeling prayer. It became customary after the Gloria in excelsis to call the people to prayer and summon them to kneel for private devotions; this was then followed by the invitation to stand. By the twelfth century the period for silent prayer had been eliminated and, as the command to stand was no longer given, the people were left kneeling. (*Think about that one – our practice of kneeling for so much of the service is due to some person simply forgetting to tell us to stand.*)

Later on, the classic Anglican formula was "Sit for instruction, kneel for prayer, and stand for praise." Study of the early Church customs has changed this formula somewhat to "Sit for instruction, kneel for private or penitential prayer, and stand for corporate prayer and praise." This rule, however, always has many exceptions. Our 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* leaves it open to what we do for many of the prayers and to receive communion.

Basically, as good Anglicans, we are able to stand or kneel for prayers – and stand or kneel for communion. What matters most is that the posture you choose, enables you to fully participate in that portion of worship.

SP21 Restore On Track to Meet its Goal!



You'll have noticed on the sign as you enter the Merrifield Room for services each Sunday that we've chosen to use the image of a chalice to represent the SP21 Restore funds that will be going towards the many different projects involved in restoring the church and getting us back into our worship space. The SP21 Restore Committee wants to thank everyone for the generosity in pledging and in participating in the various fundraising activities—such as the brick sales. Many of you have reached out beyond St. Paul's to friends and former parishioners, many of whom have responded. We are being held up in prayer and love by a wide net. Thank you to all.



Save the Date!
Saturday, April 28th

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Events Ministry Team Update

The "Cradles" Claim Victory at Family Feud – Sunday, February 11th showcased the battle of The Cradles vs. The Creasters at St. Paul's game day.

The Cradles, led by team captain Jim Milne, took an early lead, winning the first two rounds. Team members Laura Julier, Karen+ Lewis, Terry Bryce, Jane Bryce, and Sally Laurion were quick to answer questions and take control of the game. The Creasters, Justin and Katie Alexander, Libby Richardson, Margaret Schulte, Barb Richardson, and team captain Jen Humphries quickly recovered to tie up the game, leaving the outcome of the final round to determine the winner. In the end The Cradles pulled away, winning the game by 25 points and beating out the Creasters to play the bonus round. Karen+ and Jim represented their team well in the bonus round, but fell short of winning by 9 points.

We wish to thank our lively "studio" audience for their support and encouragement of both teams and our SP21 Restore committee members for providing a delicious lunch featuring sloppy joes, mac and cheese, veggies, chips, fruit, and dessert. We hope everyone had a fun time!

Upcoming events:

Spring Cravings Popcorn Sales! Salty or sweet – or both? – sign up to buy Cravings popcorn and help support St. Paul's restoration efforts. A portion of all sales will benefit St. Paul's SP21 Restore. Order forms will soon be available.

Spring Dinner at Culver's! Join us on **Monday, April 16**, between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at Culver's in Okemos. A portion of all sales will benefit St. Paul's SP21 Restore. Come out for dinner and help support our restoration efforts!

PLAY miniature GOLF! On **Sunday, May 6**, St. Paul's will host a mini-golf outing in conjunction with church services to be held in at the Hawk Hollow mini-golf course in Bath Township. Church services will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel, followed by mini-golf, lunch, and an auction. \$15/person includes greens fee, putter, golf ball, and lunch; \$10/person for lunch only. Sign-up sheets are available in the Merrifield Room. Invite a friend and join us for

some outdoor fun!

Are You Ready for Some Football? Volunteers will again work concessions for this year's MSU home football games. We need friendly faces to work the sales windows and food prep crew members to prepare hot foods, drinks, and conduct inventory control. If you are interested in being a part of our team, please contact Keeli.

Our ministry mission is to develop and coordinate fundraising events and other activities that support the overall mission of St. Paul's, enrich our congregation, and develop relationships with our community. You are a blessing to our community - thank you for your participation in parish events!

Events Ministry Team

Keeli Baker, co-chair

Sally Lawrence, co-chair

Jim and Ree Huber

Lyn Kressler

Debby Pierce

Amanda Ross



The Altar Guild makes Crosses for Palm Sunday

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



Save the Date!

Community Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Restoration of St. Paul's

In appreciation for all who held St. Paul's in their prayers and supported our restoration

Please join us for a jazz performance by the

Dave Bennett Quartet

Reception following in the Merrifield Room

May 20, 2018 -- Sunday at 4 pm

St. Paul's Hosts the Diocesan 2018 Ministry Fair

On **Saturday, May 5, 2018**, the good folks of St. Paul's will host the annual diocesan-wide Ministry Fair. The theme for this year continues our diocesan initiative on equity, diversity and inclusion, Waters of Reconciliation, Turning Again to Christ. We were to host this event in 2017, however if you remember, we were in the midst of dissembling a wall and stained glass window.

This year's Ministry Fair offers numerous workshops that appeal to a wide-variety of interests and ministry including; Partnering to Meet the Needs of Our Autistic Neighbors, Debunking Immigration Myths, Living into Loving Relationships in Christian Community, Why is it so Hard to Talk about Faith?, etc. This is a great opportunity for us to attend formational workshops that will assist us in our ministry to our community.

In addition to workshops, the keynote speaker is The Rev. Melanie Mullen, Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care for the Episcopal Church. She leads the church's work on domestic poverty, and assists the Episcopal Church staff in relation to racial reconciliation and justice, domestic poverty, stewardship of creation, and the United Thank Offering.

2018 Ministry Fair booklets listing the available workshops are in the Merrifield Room on the sign-up table. Included in the booklets are registration forms. The cost to attend the Ministry Fair is \$15.00. If you wish lunch, it is an additional \$10.00. We will be glad to assist in paying your registration fee if needed. We are also in need of volunteers to assist

with hospitality that day – please consider volunteering your time to welcome all who will be visiting our facility. **There are two shifts available: 8:00AM – 12:00PM and 12:00PM – 4:30PM.** A sign-up for volunteers is located in the Merrifield Room.

How Shall we be Remembered?

At **3:30PM on Sunday, May 20th**, we will insert into the front wall of St. Paul's our new time capsule. It will be placed into the exact same spot from which we removed the lead box placed there during Eastertide 1913. Our new time capsule is constructed of state-of-the-art steel with rubber seals – in fact the capsule includes its own plastic gloves for use by whomever opens the capsule one hundred years from now – 2118!

What are we to place inside this capsule? What small remnants of our life will let folks one hundred years from now understand who we are? What our lives are like? The joys and challenges of the Episcopal Church? Of St. Paul's? The time capsule is not large so whatever we place inside, must be small in nature.

What are your thoughts? What ideas do you have? Please send all of your suggestions to Karen+ at rector@stpaulslansing.org. Join us at 3:30PM on May 20th as we seal into the wall our messages to those of the future. Then join us afterwards for the celebration community concert at 4:00PM with the Dave Bennett group!

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Supporting Undocumented Minor Refugees

By Laura Julier

At a recent monthly meeting, St. Paul's Mission & Outreach Committee got to know Michelle Haskell and the work she does at Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services) with refugee youth who are aging out of foster care. Samaritas's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program works with children and youth who have arrived in refugee camps—a pretty horrible place to be under any circumstance—with no adult family member. These youth are typically 14 to 18 years old, from countries all over the world, having experienced the unimaginable trauma of war, famine, and loss. They go through all the processing to enter the U.S. that any refugee does, and Samaritas works to place them in foster families.

Mission & Outreach chose to assist Samaritas with supplies for the boxes of household items that it gives to each

youth when they move into independent living. We are especially drawn to this program as a way of continuing the work started at St. Paul's several years ago by the late Deacon Bill Fineout, who was passionate about supporting youth aging out of foster care and into independent living.

Cards with items that we'll be collecting will be available on a table in the Merrifield Room. Items range from new pillows and sheet sets to smaller things like a toothbrush or silverware or can opener. We have already donated quite a bit of bedding from the Needs Closet, and we'll continue to collect items for Samaritas all year long. Donations can be dropped off at the Needs Closet table in the hallway. You can learn more about Samaritas at www.samaritas.org.



Altar Flowers for Pentecost

By Theresa Milne

Pentecost Sunday is coming May 20th and promises to be a great celebration. We have baptisms in the morning, burial of the new time capsule, and the Dave Bennet concert and community celebration in the afternoon. Let's celebrate with some glorious flowers at the altar in the sanctuary. Please submit your dedication request by Sunday, May 13th.

Pentecost Flower Fund – Dedication Request

I would like to contribute \$ _____

This contribution is from:

Name: _____

Dedication: The flowers are given to the Glory of God and in

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate or placed in the Parish mail box outside of the Parish office.
Deadline: Sunday, May 13, 2018

YOUTH

By Christine Overway

Escape Room Outing Recap



Thank you to Katie Alexander and Theresa Milne for chaperoning the escape room outing! The Game of Espionage room proved to be a challenging event and while the group did not escape within the allotted 60 minutes, they had a fun time solving puzzles.

Family Resource: *Quiet Power* by Susan Cain

Are you a quiet teen, know a quiet child, or even just know a quiet kid? In today's society that prefers outgoing personalities, being an introvert can often mean being misunderstood. Susan Cain's bestseller, *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Can't Stop Talking*, had such welcome response that she wrote a follow-up specifically for kids and teens. *Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts* is exactly the book I wish I had read during adolescence.

Cain's guide goes beyond navigating social situations to staying true to one's self while even harnessing the strengths of being an introvert. The real-life stories are easily relatable for youth. The "Manifesto For Introverts" at the beginning sets a great stage for the advice that follows it.

Ways to Deepen Our Support of Hannah's House

We recently received a thank you note from Hannah's House for our contribution last October. Our financial support helps them further their mission of serving women and children who are homeless during the crucial prenatal and postpartum seasons. Did you know that Hannah's House has several events throughout the year? They just hosted a bowling fundraiser with youth groups and anyone wanting to support them in a fun way. In May, there is typically a 5k race to raise awareness and more funds. Do you like to run? Sending a team from St. Paul's would be a fun way to show extra support. See Christine Overway or email her at youth@stpaulslansing.org if you are interested!

One of the needs of introverts that Cain emphasizes is having "safe spaces -calm retreats for relaxing and recharging," also known as a "restorative niche." Explained further, "a restorative niche allows you to return to your true self....Going to this place is like pressing our restart button." As a faith community, we honor the need for a restorative niche by honoring the need for a weekly Sabbath. My hope is that St. Paul's youth may also find in their church a place of refuge from the hustle and bustle of their weekly lives.

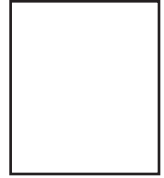
Parents may find the "Quiet With Family" chapter and "A Guide For Parents" section in the back particularly helpful. I also recommend Susan Cain's TED Talks.

Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 EASTER SUNDAY FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Men of Orpheus Rehearsal-Choir Room</p>	<p>3 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 7:00 PM SP21 Restore Meeting</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 6:00 PM Confirmation Class - VanAtta 6:00 PM Women's 12-Step Recovery-Hill</p>	<p>5 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room</p>	<p>6 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta</p>	<p>7 MSU Concessions The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 9:00 AM LAAN Women/Girls HIV/AIDS day - Merrifield/VanAtta</p>
<p>8 Baptism Anniversary Celebration Noisy Offering The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:45 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Youth Laser Tag & Pizza at Spare Time 2:00 PM St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield</p>	<p>9 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 9:00 AM Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Underground Railroad Book Study & Brown Bag-VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Luke/Theology Small Group-VanAtta 6:30 PM Men of Orpheus Rehearsal-Choir Room</p>	<p>10 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner before Class - Merrifield 6:00 PM B & PW - Hill Room 6:30 PM Underground Railroad Book Study</p>	<p>11 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry-VanAtta 6:00 PM Women's 12-Step Recovery-Hill</p>	<p>12 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room</p>	<p>13 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta</p>	<p>14 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away</p>
<p>15 The Rev. Dr. Carter Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM Wrinkle in Time Movie Reaction - Hill Room 11:45 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield 6:30 PM Bible Study-VanAtta Room 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!</p>	<p>16 Clergy Conference-PM 9:00 AM Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Underground Railroad Book Study & Brown Bag-VanAtta Room 6:30 PM Men of Orpheus Rehearsal-Choir Room</p>	<p>17 Clergy Conference NO NOON SERVICE 5:30 PM Family Dinner before Class - Merrifield 6:30 PM Underground Railroad Book Study</p>	<p>18 Clergy Conference 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 6:00 PM Women's 12-Step Recovery-Hill</p>	<p>19 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast - Flap Jack Shack/Frandor 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room</p>	<p>20 OFFICE CLOSED Women's Retreat w/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta</p>	<p>21 Women's Retreat w/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland 12:00 PM Parks family party - Merrifield Room</p>
<p>22 Women's Retreat w/the Rev. Lewis @ Geneva in Holland 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 11:45 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield</p>	<p>23 9:00 AM Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Underground Railroad Book Study & Brown Bag-VanAtta Room 6:00 PM Luke/Theology Small Group-VanAtta 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm 6:30 PM Men of Orpheus Rehearsal-Choir Room</p>	<p>24 12:00 PM St. Elizabeth Guild at Gloria Sutton's home 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner before Class - Merrifield 6:30 PM Underground Railroad Book Study</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 6:00 PM Women's 12-Step Recovery-Hill</p>	<p>26 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room</p>	<p>27 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta</p>	<p>28 Red Cross Blood Drive - Merrifield/VanAtta The Rev. Lewis at St. Paul's Jackson-Safeguarding God's People/Children</p>
<p>29 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion-Merrifield Room 11:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal 2:00 PM St. Cecelia Chorale-Choir Room/Merrifield 6:30 PM Bible Study-VanAtta Room</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM Refugee Support Group-Merrifield 12:00 PM Underground Railroad Book Study & Brown Bag-VanAtta Room 6:30 PM Men of Orpheus Rehearsal-Choir Room</p>	<p>1 SPN Publish 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - VanAtta Room 5:30 PM Family Dinner before Class - Merrifield 6:30 PM Underground Railroad Book Study</p>	<p>2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta 6:00 PM Women's 12-Step Recovery-Hill</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room</p>	<p>4 OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 PM AA Meeting-VanAtta</p>	<p>5 Diocesan Ministry Fair</p>

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