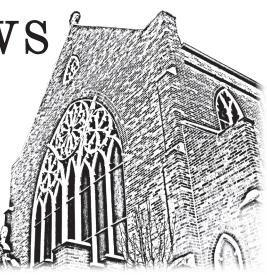
ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

Volume 37, Issue 6 December 2018



Filled with gratitude...

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

In the last few moments, the final SP21Restore project was completed. With the installation of the stained glass trefoil window in the Memorial Garden, the 21-month restoration project of St. Paul's has come to a close. It is a joyous yet bittersweet moment. For I have made great friends on this journey - skilled and generous folks who have cared deeply and with great respect for our worship space. It is clear that God has been present throughout this entire process - providing us with an incredible general contractor in less than 24-hours -- who undertook this bold and challenging project. With tenacity, a great deal of patience and skill, they guided me and many others through each phase of our restoration. I am filled with awe and gratitude for the good folks of Laux – particularly Dave, Kevin, Joe, Chris, their sub-contractors, and the many others who took us under their wing.

In some respects it feels like only yesterday we stood huddled on the Capitol lawn praying our hearts out for the south wall to continue to stand for another minute, another hour, another day. We were filled with anxiety, 'what ifs', and the terror that comes with the possible loss of a much beloved space holding so many memories. Crises have a tendency to bring out the best of us, and this one did! With faith, trust, and love we joined together as a community and did what was needed to be done to care for each other; to continue our worship life together, and to raise the funds to restore the glory and functionality of our incredible sanctuary.

As we bring to close the year of 2018 and a miraculous restoration project, there are so many gifts we have

Find us on Facebook

We're on the web! www.stpaulslansing.org received that I am grateful for – from the Diocesan Trustees and Diocesan Council's generous loans and grants – the prayers and support from those throughout the country including those in our Capitol's offices watching over the work each day – those who offered assistance in any way possible during those first crucial hours including Estes-Leadley, Christ Community Church and temporary office space at Central United Methodist – and for the hard work of the SP21Restore Team and all who have given financially to SP21Restore understanding this is not only for us, but for the many who will walk through these doors in the years to come. I am particularly grateful for Bishop Gibbs' continued presence and support.

My hope is that our 21-month sojourn together has taught us a few things such as – how important we are to each other – how important we are to this community – and how important we are to God. I pray each of you may be filled with gratitude for the incredible gifts we have received and covenant to pass these gifts to others so they too may experience the love of God. Perhaps the best way for us to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child this year, is to be grateful for the hard work of others gifting us with the privilege of worshipping in this glorious space!

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O Come, all ye faithful...

Join us as we travel to Bethlehem to welcome Christ, the Lord. Let us all remember that Christmas is not just one day, but a 12-day season. Allow yourself to slow down a bit to celebrate what this season is truly about. Our worship services to celebrate Jesus' birth and the arrival of the Magi are:

ť	December 20, 7:00pm	Blue Christmas – a worship service recognizing that Christmas can be a difficult time for those who have lost a loved one. Join us as we honor our sadness amidst the joy of the birth of our Lord.
ť	December 23, 8 & 10:00am	Advent IV – Holy Eucharist
ť	December 24, 4:00pm	Feast of the Nativity – Oriented toward families, we gather to celebrate the birth of our savior in the lowly manger.
ť	December 24, 8:30pm	Pre-service Christmas Music
ť	December 24, 9:oopm	Feast of the Nativity – Festal Celebration of the birth of our Lord.
ť	December 25, 10:00am	Christmas Day Service including music
ť	December 30, 8 & 10am	First Sunday after Christmas – Worship and Holy Communion
ť	January 6, 2019 8 & 10am	Epiphany – Worship & Holy Communion
ť	January 6, 2019 4:00pm	Epiphany Lessons & Carols followed by an Epiphany party including the King's Cake; 12 Days of Christmas game, etc.

There will be no Tuesday noon services on December 25th or January 1, 2019

Highlights from the November 19th Vestry Meeting

Clergy Report:

- Book Study on Gratitude of two groups was a life changing experience for some who participated. Author Diana Butler Bass will be the featured speaker at St. Paul's March 8, 9, & 10, 2019
- Search for the next Bishop continues and is confidential
- Mutual Ministry (MMR) will be conducted on February 9, 2019 with Canon Jim Gettle. Assessment of the last 5 years and goal setting are the topics of the MMR.
- Leave Time K. Lewis+ will be on vacation following the annual meeting January 27 until February 5, 2019.
- Shawver Trustee Meeting possibility of hosting 3 town hall lectures beginning 2019.

Discussion:

- SP21 Restore the trefoil window is the last item to be completed and will be installed soon. There will be a fund raising evaluation meeting on December 4, 2018. K. Lewis+ is recommending public recognition of donors.
- Facititities Repairs have been made to the heating system.
- Ministry Teams Communications will meet Nov. 26 and Community life will meet Nov. 27.
- Audit continuing.
- Stewardship Pledge Drive feedback on activities so far was positive. Rather than a potluck on December 2nd it was decided to have a brownie sundae dessert.

- Nominations for Vestry 2019 4 candidates have confirmed their consent to run. Responsibilities of Vestry obligations will be reviewed with the candidates.
- Life Touch 63 congregational units participated by having photos taken. Those who did not have their photo taken can submit a photo that meets the publisher's requirements. Snapshots will be added to the final document.

Action Items:

- 2019 Draft Budget K. Lewis+ expressed concern about the draft budget due to unfulfilled pledge commitments and declining attendance. Decisions about the 2019 budget will be made after the completion of the Stewardship and Pledge Drive.
- What is going on?" Why are attendance and pledges down? A lengthy discussion identified a variety of possible explanations. The issue is for the vestry to think about what is going on. The vestry decided to meet the goals of communication and invitation by:
 - 1. The vestry members will phone members of the congregation to establish a chain of communication and to invite them to holiday services.
 - 2. The vestry will host a special coffee hour on January 13 with the theme "Meet Your Vestry" with the current vestry and the candidates for 2019.

Vestry Candidates for 2019

Each year at St. Paul's annual meeting, we elect four new members for our vestry. The Vestry consists of 12 individuals elected for three-year terms. These terms are rotating and four are elected each year. Your Vestry are responsible for a number of leadership and management activities including developing and implementing the budget; establish policies, rules and guidelines; elect and call a rector, and in general act as helpers to the rector. At this time, we have four individuals who have presented themselves for election to the 2019 Vestry. They are:

Jane Bryce - Jane was raised on a family farm, one of 6 children. She graduated from Holt High School and Michigan State University. After spending time in California and Pennsylvania, she returned to Michigan in 1976. Jane has a son, daughter and five grandchildren. She married Terry Bryce in 1998 and they live in Delta Township where they are members of the historical society. After working 30 plus years writing programming code for the Actuarial Department, she retired from Auto-Owners Insurance. Jane was baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church where she served in a variety of ministries including council member, reader, counter, historian and choir member. Before Terry and Jane were married, they were active in churches of several denominations. They were drawn to St. Paul's and began attending in January 2017 and were received into the Episcopal Church in May of that year. They feel they have found their church home at St. Paul's and have since joined the Altar Guild. Together, Terry and Jane enjoy traveling and time with their grandchildren. Jane's hobbies include reading, guilting, sewing, needlework and family history research.

Michael Hart – Michael was born and raised in Midland, MI, the youngest of three children in a very close-knit and traditional family. After graduating high school in 2006, Michael received his bachelor's degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He moved to Lansing in 2012 for a job with the state legislature. Michael met his fiancé, Ciera, in 2015 and were blessed with a daughter, Elise, in 2017. Currently, Michael works at the Department of Health and Human Services and is pursuing a master's degree in public administration from Western Michigan University. Michael was baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church and attended Sunday mass on a weekly basis. After moving to Lansing, he had difficulty finding the right church and struggled with his faith. In 2016, a friend prompted him to join him at St. Paul's for Ash Wednesday service. Michael immediately felt at home; Ciera and Elise were baptized together in the fall of 2017 and he and Ciera were confirmed in November, 2018 becoming full members of the Episcopal Church. Ciera and Michael feel extremely blessed to be part of the community at St. Paul's and look forward to raising their family in the church over the coming years.

Margaret Schulte – Margaret has lived in Lansing for 37 years. She grew up in Scottville, a small town about six miles east of Lake Michigan. Margaret received her Bachelors of Science in Education and Master's in Public Administration from Central Michigan University. In 1981 she began a 30-year adventure with the Michigan Legislature, working for several state representatives and state senators. She ended her tenure in the legislature working for the Senate Minority Leader. Currently, Margaret is in her 8th year of work for Chalgian & Tripp, an elder law firm in East Lansing where she works in human resources, billing and payroll. She also takes time to volunteer with the Lansing Area Aids Network. Margaret has been a member of St. Paul's for two years after leaving the Catholic church where she was active serving as Choir Administrator for the St. Mary Cathedral Choir and six years on the Pastoral Council. "I made the move 'across the street' and have never regretted it. You all welcomed me with open arms and made me feel like I have always been here. I quickly got involved, immediately joining the choir and eventually reading at the 8 am service and participating on the Mission & Outreach Committee. I hope to continue in an active role with this important faith community."

Gloria Sutton – Gloria was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Paul's by the Rev. George Selway. She and her husband, Max, raised three sons who were active at church, especially in the choir and as acolytes. Gloria participated in the Junior Choir and was involved in Sunday School activities, ECW, BPW and St. Elizabeth's Guild. She worked on the church newsletter, answered office phones, worked on dinners and setup for meetings. Currently, she is on the Altar Guild and serves as an usher. Gloria worked for the Board of Water and Light for 27 years and retired in 1994. During her years with the Board, she was responsible for filing, payroll, main frame and computer work. Since her retirement, Gloria has been active in the community volunteering her time as a neighborhood watch chairperson, McLaren Hospital, and as an election official at polling locations. In her spare time, she enjoys sewing and guilting, cooking and baking for small and large groups.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Bible Study in 2019

After much thought and careful consideration, the Sunday Bible group studying Paul's Letter to the Philippians has decided it is time to mix it up a bit and have chosen to study scriptures involving women. Due to their contributions to our faith tradition, the following women and their cultures have been selected for study (perhaps you have heard of one or two of these) Eve, Tamar, Deborah, Abigail, the Queens (Esther & Vashti), and Mary.

Join us – the group is open to all. If you don't' have a Bible, we will provide you with one. This is a great place to ask questions, learn about our Judeo-Christian heritage, and laugh a bit. We have a tendency to wander off-topic at times, but it is God's gift as we learn much from our wanderings.

We will gather on the following Sundays at 6:30pm in the Van Atta Room:

January 13; February 10th & 24th; March 3 & 17; April 7 & 28

Parking? No Problemo!

Where can I find a place to park during the day at St. Paul's---you ask? We have a parking slot directly behind the church and marked **"Visitor"**. Please do not use the other marked slots behind St. Paul's.

We also have 5 parking places in the lot on the side/back of Central Methodist church. They are clearly labeled **"St. Paul's"**. The entrance to the lot is on Capitol between Christ Community Church (former First Baptist) and Central Methodist. If you get to the corner across from the capitol building you have gone too far. The slots are on the left as you face the government parking ramp.

You will also see two slots marked for Catered Affair. Please do not use them, they belong to our lessees.

From this parking lot, use the sidewalk that abuts the garbage bin to walk across St. Paul's parking lot to the back door of the church.

A final note: after 5:00 pm on weeknights and all day on weekends you should be able to parking in the state employees parking ramp directly behind St. Paul's, with an entrance on Seymour Street.

Save the Date(s)!					
	erous events coming in early 2019 that you will want to calendars to save the date to attend.				
January 6	Epiphany Lessons & Carols @ 4:00pm & Epiphany party				
January 19	Women' March				
Janaury 20	Women' March If Music Be the Food concert @ 4:00pm				
January 27	St. Paul's Annual Meeting following the 10:00am service				
February 4	ERD Book Sale Begins				
February 5	"Back to Basics" Class begins. An opportunity to engage in faithful questioning of the foundations of the Christian faith. Questions asked include: Can we question our faith? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus have to die? Where do we go when we die? Why do bad things happen? Why do I need church? What do I have to believe to be an Episcopalian? This class will meet every Tuesday evening for 10 weeks.				
March 8-10	Living Gratefully with Diana Butler Bass The author of "Grateful" will join us for a Friday evening presentation; a Saturday morning workshop, and preach at both our 8 & 10:00am Sunday services				
March 29-31	Women's Retreat in Holland, MI If you wish to attend this retreat, please give your name to Kathy Vogel. Space is limited.				

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Our Downtown "Neighborhood" MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

Your Mission and Outreach Ministry is concentrating its efforts in our own neighborhood for this next year as we did last year. It's not easy to define "neighborhood" when ours has the capitol, many office buildings, businesses and other churches. But let me give you some examples:

We donate the food we collect to the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church, our neighbor. Many of you may not know that the food goes to locals who live within the same zip code as our two churches.

We donate the warm winter clothing and boots to nearby Riddle Elementary School and Cristo Rey. Marilyn Earley, a member here at St. Paul's, retired as the principal at Riddle.

Samaritas, the agency that helps unaccompanied minors who are refugees, also receives your donations of household items such as bed linens, dishes, etc., for the young people they serve, many of whom are attending Lansing Community College.

Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation -An Inquiring and Discerning Heart

If you are interested in Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or Reaffirmation, Karen+ will be leading a preparation class beginning in early 2019. Confirmation is a sacramental rite for those baptized at an early age (and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop) wishing to make a public affirmation of their faith and recommit to the responsibilities of their baptism.

Reaffirmation is for those who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment and wish to publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reception is a rite for those who have already made a mature Christian commitment in another denomination and wish to be received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion.

Only a bishop is allowed to perform these three rites. Bishop Gibbs will be presiding over this service in our area on May 23, 2019 at All Saints, East Lansing. All those interested in any of these rites, please sign up in the Merrifield Room or contact Karen+. We donate diapers and bedclothes from our Needs Closet to families in crisis being helped by Community Mental Health Early Childhood Intervention. Kathy Vogel, a member of St. Paul's, is a case worker there. Twelve needy families submitted by CMH received our Thanksgiving baskets, too.

We continue to help Maryam and her family, refugees from Syria., who found their way to St. Paul's door looking for help almost 2 years ago.

We are always on the lookout for other neighbors in need. Let us know.

If Music Be the Food January 20th St. Paul's at 4PM

"If Music Be the Food . . ." is a series of benefit concerts which raise awareness and support for the hungry in our local community through the sharing of great music. We are pleased to have been selected to host the first "If Music Be the Food" (IMBTF) event in Michigan on January 20th at 4:00pm.

Founded in 2009 by violist Carol Rodland in Rochester, NY, IMBTF has become a national musicians' movement with wonderful artists creating projects to address food insecurity in their local neighborhoods. All of the musicians donate their services, and we will assist with publicity, stage management and anything else that needs to happen for this concert. There is no price for admission – instead you are invited to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations of any amount for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

The January 20th program will include works by Dvorak, Martinu, Leclair, Bacewicz, and more! Also included will be Evan Chambers' "closed and huddled against vast space" arranged for 9 violins. Featuring Duo Florent (Arianna Dotto, violin & Joachim Angster, viola), Back Pocket Duo (Annie Jeng, piano & Colin McCall, vibraphone), Boulder, CO violinist Leslee Smucker, and musicians from Michigan State University and University of Michigan Graduate Schools.

Mark this date on your calendar as it will be an enjoyable concert followed by a reception. A great afternoon of music to help feed the hungry in Lansing. If you are interested in helping with the concert or the reception, please contact Karen+.

St. Paul's News December 2018

In Gratitude for...

... **the incredible persons** who schlepped hot chocolate, boiled hot dogs and stuffed hot dog buns, hawked ice cream in weather in which no one should be eating ice cream; the persons who counted – cash, inventory, cash and inventory again; the cashiers who smiled no matter what and the many sore feet which deserved rest after a very long time. In particular, we are grateful for the leadership of **Keeli Baker, Jim Milne and Carol Thomas** who kept us in line and on time. Go GREEN!

... the ones who decorated our Merrifield Room with Grateful banners and signs – it is a joy to feel the warmth of the room as it expresses who we are at St. Paul's. Thank you Amanda Ross for leading the charge on our décor. We also thank all who helped make the Bishop's visitation such a great one! The food ... the music ... the service ... the Bishop's Gift.

... our annual pledge drive task group: Isaac Francisco, Jim Milne, Carol Simpson and Pete Sheldon. These folks are willing to tackle the challenging task of asking you for money and all that is involved. We all are grateful for your hard work and reminding us of why St. Paul's is worthy of our financial resources.

... **Bob Merriman**'s grace and leadership in handling our work with Lifetouch photos and the gathering of all needed for our pictoral directory. It is somewhat like wrangling cats but you did it! Thank you, Bob!

... the folks on our **Audit Committee** who gave a great deal of their time to insure we are good stewards of our financial resources and your monetary gifts. Our audit came back clean – which means we are good to go for another year. Thank you to **Jeff Irwin, Claudia Hamlin, Kirk Lindquist and Margaret Schulte**. It was fun to have you in the office for a few days. ... Libby and Barb Richardson! How could we have a Red Cross Blood Drive without them? Also, thanks to all who gave of their blood; made sandwiches and cookies; and handled set up and clean up. Although you may never know whose life you saved with your donation, it was received with tremendous gratitude I guarantee.

... Sally Boron's continued giving of her experience through her Red Cross teaching. We are all better prepared for medical emergencies due to her guidance and education. Thank you Sally.

... Marilyn Maloney's quiet ministry of collecting your food and paper donations and transporting it to First Presbyterian Church. A thank you to the men who collect our paper and other recyclables on a weekly basis – Allan Boron, Jim Milne, Craig Sparks and Bob Merriman.

... **the ushers and Altar Guild** who gave of their time to ensure the Diocese of Western Michigan had a great Diocesan Convention Eucharist at St. Paul's. Thank you! You did us proud and you created a great space for their worship.



The MSU Concessions team at the first game of the season

A Thank You Note

Bishop Gibbs' last official visitation prior to his retirement was November 4th. The loose offering gathered during our service was given to his discretionary fund. We recently received the following note of thanksgiving:

"Dear Members of St. Paul,

Thank you so kindly for your generous gift from the congregation to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund in the amount of \$268.58. It is gratefully received and I thank you for your thoughtfulness and continued support. May God bless and keep you this day and always.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr."

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Calendar

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary	26 6:00 PM Communications Ministry - VanAtta Room 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	27 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - Chapel 5:30 PM Community Life Ministry - VanAtta Room 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	28 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	29 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	30 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 PM Altar Guild - Merrifield Room	1 Fall/Winter Blood Drive - Merrifield/VanAtta Rooms 9:00 AM The Rev. Karen Lewis - Bishop Search Committee
2 FOOD BANK SUNDAY The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary 11:30 AM Ice Cream Social @ Coffee Hour 2:00 PM St. Cecilia Chorale-Choir Room	3 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room 7:30 PM SP21 Meeting - Merrifield Room	4 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - Chapel 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	5 9:30 AM American Cancer Society - Merrifield Room 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	6 FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 9:00 AM Altar Guild - Merrifield Room 9:30 AM Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Class-VanAtta
9 Baptism Anniversary Celebration St. Nicholas Sunday 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary 2:00 PM St. Cecilia Chorale-Choir Room	10 4:30 PM Feed My Sheep - VanAtta Room 6:15 PM Men of Orpheus - Choir Room	11 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - Chapel 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	12 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room 5:45 PM Mission & Outreach Ministry - VanAtta	13 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 7:00 PM Jeremy Alexander at class	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!
16 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 9:45 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary 2:00 PM The Rev. Karen Lewis - Bishop Search Committee	17 5:30 PM Men of Orpheus Potluck- Merrifield Room 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm - Hill Room	18 12:00 PM Worship & Healing Service - Chapel	19 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room 5:00 PM Greater Lansing Insurance Professionals- Merrifield Room	20 The Rev. Karen Lewis - FreshStart 7:00 PM Blue Christmas Service - Sanctuary 8:15 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22
23 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary	OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 PM Worship &	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary		27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter Away 8:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Chapel 10:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary	31 OFFICE CLOSED	1 FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OFFICE CLOSED	2 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5

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

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

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Associate Rector The Rev. Dr. Susan Carter

Minister of Music Dr. Timothy Flynn

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SPN Editor Hillary Walilko

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