

ST. PAUL'S NEWS

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - LANSING, MICHIGAN

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Rector's Message

By The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

Piled on a table in my living room is a stack of more than 30 books waiting for me. Titles such as *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters*, *Sticking Points: How to Get 4 Generations Working Together in the 12 Places They Come Apart*, *The Art of Community: Building the New Age of Participation*, *The Culture Code: the Secrets of Highly Successful Groups*, *Barna Trends 2018: What's New and What's Next at the Intersection of Faith and Culture*, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*, *4D Impact: Smash Barriers Like a Smart Church*, and *Sideline Church: Bridging the Chasm between Churches and Cultures*.

I imagine the titles alone indicate the topic I'll be immersed in while on sabbatical. How do you create community with five very diverse generations? How do we talk to each other when our vocabulary is different? Do we build relationships in person or on-line? What ways are the safest in which to express our care for each other? What we trust in and how we trust differs for each generation – how do we build trust across the differences? How do we be the Body of Christ at St. Paul's valuing each generation's strengths; recognizing the unique view each brings to our conversation; cherishing our differences and celebrating our oneness in Christ?

Each generation comes to worship with certain hopes, expectations, and needs. Each sees the world with different 'lenses'. The Traditional Generation (known also as the Silent Generation or the Greatest Generation) values consistency and uniformity and have a defined sense of right and wrong. Rules of conduct, respect for authority and following directions are very important

for this generation. Compare the Traditionals to the Gen Z (iGen) generation and you find the world has changed drastically. The average Gen Zer received their first mobile phone at the age of 10 and spends at least three hours a day on their mobile device while the Gen X (Latchkey) folks still read newspapers, magazines, listen to the radio and watch TV – about 165 hours worth of TV a month.

Gen Xers value autonomy and recognition and enjoy flexible work hours/job sharing as they endeavor to balance work and life – work to live, not live to work. Then we have the Gen Y (millennial) folks, those who crave change and challenge, who create constantly and want to know how what they do fits into the big picture – they want to make an impact, seeking active involvement in whatever they do.

So how do we do church with such differing folks? That is what I hope to discover during my time away. I look forward to sharing with all of you my many learnings. In the meantime, be good to yourselves. Remember to go to church, to pray, to care for each other, and to give thanks to God for all things, all the time. Blessings to you and yours, Karen+

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...and more!



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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUNE 10TH VESTRY MEETING

- Certification of Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Convention was signed by the rector and the vestry clerk.
- Proposal to replace Merrifield Room windows – A proposal submitted by Laux Construction was reviewed, discussed and approved by the vestry. Construction will take place in September. The Laux proposal included: Pella windows, 40 year maintenance, wood to match the Merrifield room paneling, obscure glass, the same style as current windows without grilles, and 2 casements per window.
- Roof discussion – Excess water on the flat roof is due the function of the gutter and drainage system. It will be repaired.
- A Maureen Sanders gift was discussed.
- Items/tasks/topics to be addressed prior to leaving on sabbatical – Many items were discussed and planning was initiated to include what the vestry is responsible to do and who will be responsible. A time line was followed for all tasks and duties. Topics covered included the everyday operation of St. Paul's and events that will occur during the sabbatical leave such as the fall pledge drive, MSU concession stand, altar flowers, greeters, coffee hour, SPN, website, If Music Be The Food, Welcome Come back September potluck, Sunday School, annual audit, Silver Bells, snow removal and many other tasks.
- Discussion of homeless population – Homeless and those in need are invited to share our coffee hour and other events with food. Providing cash to those in need is discouraged.

No Summer Vacation for the Needy MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY

By Sue LeDuc

We all take things a little easier and slower in summer....a time for vacation travels to places far and near...a time to enjoy our lovely Michigan lakes. But for those who are struggling with financial, housing, medical, mental health and any number of worries...there is no vacation.

A gentle reminder from your friendly M&O ministry:

Food Pantries - [First Presbyterian Church, MSU and LCC] toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning products, feminine hygiene products are always needed (none of these items can be purchased with food stamps)

Samaritas - unaccompanied minors and other refugee families arrive here with very little but the clothes on their backs...small appliances, shampoo, soap, kitchen items, etc., are always welcome.

Needs Closet - diapers, diapers, diapers...always an expense...[wipes, too] we give to the Community Mental Health Early Childhood Intervention for families undergoing the stress of mental health issues as well as to other families in need.

Street Ministry - if you are cleaning and organizing closets this summer we can always use gently owned coats jackets, boots, hats and mittens.

Graduation caps and gowns - from recent and not-so-recent grads Capital Area Literacy Coalition continues its GED and reading programs in the summer and the GED grads are thrilled to have a real gown and hat....no matter the color!

School supplies - it is amazing how early school supplies go on sale – right after July 4th. Riddle Elementary School (our neighborhood school) has many families and teachers who need supplies

Prayers for those in need -

Loving God, help us to welcome you in newcomers, refugees and immigrants. Give our leaders wisdom and courage to respond to your call to love and care for our neighbor. Be with families in distress and surround them with your presence and protection.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of all, with wonderful diversity of languages and cultures you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people around the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ELECTING A BISHOP

By Amanda Ross

On June 1st, over 300 voting Episcopalians from the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan gathered to elect the 11th Bishop. As someone whose only knowledge of a clerical election is based on Dan Brown's novel 'Angels and Demons' (if you're not familiar with the book- it involves electing a Pope), I walked into the Detroit Cathedral without any idea of what to expect.

The experienced clergy around me gave me the rundown while we waited. The first thing I checked was on the possibility of there being smoke announcing the votes- and I was quickly assured that there would be no smoke bombs in my future. I managed to (mostly) contain my disappointment. Votes would be counted into two orders; Lay and Clergy. A successful candidate must attain a simple majority (51%) in both orders in the same vote.

At the walkabouts I had already been told that the candidates would not be present for the election. Instead, they await the results of the votes at home, with their support system around them. There are no speeches, no corporate discussions of the strengths of each candidate. The day began with worship, communion, and some instructions on the mechanics of turning in our votes in an orderly fashion, and then it was time to vote. Right after some additional prayers and hymns.

Each round of voting began with prayers and hymns as the ballots were handed out. The ballots were collected by order, and then taken to the electronic voting machine for counting. Results were shared with convention, and the shepherds for each candidate were then excused to call their candidate, provide pastoral care, and report back to convention.

After 3 rounds of voting there was an election in the lay order, but without an election in the clergy. Voting continued for two more rounds until on the 5th ballot, the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, Reverend Bonnie Perry, was elected.

I am grateful that you elected me as one of your lay delegates to the special convention, and was fascinated to see the democratic method of electing an Episcopal bishop first hand. I eagerly await the beginning Bishop-Elect Perry's ministry in our diocese next year.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS EVOLVES INTO FACILITY MINISTRY

By Mark Rudd

In last month's issue of the SPN, Bob Merriman introduced you to the Facility Ministry and shared with you our responsibilities. Of course, every one of us who attend St. Paul's is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of this beautiful but aged building. Your Facility Ministry team will simply take the point in ensuring that routine maintenance is done, and that when we need help (like with spring and fall grounds clean up), we will put out an "All call" for volunteers. In addition, we want to make sure to keep the bigger, long term projects in our sights, with a plan for eventually getting them taken care of. If we learned nothing else from when the wall almost went down, it's that we cannot keep putting off building projects until they become a crisis. That doesn't mean unexpected things won't happen, but with the wealth of information from our renovation of what yet needs to be done, we are in a better position to take care of those needs in a prioritized and timely manner.

I am a carryover from the volunteer led "Building and Grounds Ministry Team." We served a similar role in maintaining the building and making recommendations to Vestry about contractual work needs to be done. I see the current Facility Ministry Team as an evolution of that committee. Fortunately, Laux Construction and our own St. Paul's engineering team (Jim Clark, Joe Lehning, and Bob Merriman) put together a notebook of maintenance and future projects. This notebook will be our guide for years to come.

With the rebuilding of the wall, Karen and the Vestry believed it was important to take care of a lot of other structural issues, some of which we knew about, others were newly uncovered. Thanks to your financial commitment through SP21 Restore, most of the major projects have now been accomplished. We have been twice blessed- first, when the wall didn't fall (taking with it our beautiful "Te Deum" window), and second, the renovation of the sanctuary and other parts of the church (including our parking lot). What could have been a horrible disaster instead became a Godsend- a "new" church, and a commitment to keep it well into the 21st century. I believe that we are all in good hands as we move ahead with what next needs to be done. Keep tuned.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

“Who you ‘gonna call?” “Your Vestry!”

By Amanda Ross

‘Who you ‘gonna call?’ “Your Vestry!”

Typically, when we have questions at St. Paul’s our minds go directly to The Reverend Karen C. Lewis. From questions about the church building, to concerns about members of our community, she is our primary touch point anytime something happens. However, over the course of her sabbatical, we’re all going to be working together more to answer questions. So who will you call? That depends!

- Pastoral Care: The Very Rev. Dr. Susan Carter is available for pastoral care needs during The Reverend Karen C. Lewis’ sabbatical.
- Facilities Concerns: Already a member of the Facility task force, Bob Merriman is taking lead on the St. Paul’s facilities.
- Sunday Concerns: Every Sunday a member of Vestry will identify themselves as the Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD). If you have any questions or concerns, your VPOD will be your primary contact to ensure your situation is handled appropriately.
- Announcements: Any announcements that you would like in the bulletin are still due to the office by noon Tuesday. If you would like the Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD) to discuss your announcement during service, please share it with Amanda Ross.
- Communications: Ideas for the St Paul’s News can be shared with Michael Hart, with completed articles sent to Hillary Walilko. Updates and additions to the St. Paul’s website can be shared with Amanda Ross.

I look forward to a productive Sabbatical time as a congregation, with the opportunity to grow closer as a community as we come even closer together to continue to support the ministries of St. Paul’s over the next months.

Calling on Coffee Hour Volunteers

By Margaret Schulte

I’ve learned a great deal about the Episcopal Church since joining three years ago. And one of the important parts of the Sunday morning ritual is the coffee hour. There must be a coffee hour!!!! And that time can consist of coffee, juice, ice water and donut holes, or it can be a pretty elaborate spread with all sorts of drinks along with cake, cookies, cheese, crackers, veggies and fruit, nuts and mints. It all depends on the occasion or the person(s) signed up to “take charge”. The sky’s the limit.

But, what’s available on the table isn’t what’s most important. It’s the conversations going on during the coffee hour that are. It’s a place where friends can catch up with each other. It’s an opportunity for new members to get acquainted with long-standing members and get questions answered and fears calmed. It’s a place to follow-up on church activities and events.

Taking charge of a coffee hour gives you a chance to participate and help continue this important weekly gathering. It’s a plus for you in many ways, allowing you to interact with everyone coming through the coffee line as they grab a cup of coffee or a tasty treat; it’s a great way to contribute; and you are first in line to get that needed cup of coffee.

So, here is your chance. Go to the sign-in table in the Merrifield Room and pick an open Sunday (there are many). Grab a friend or family member to do it with you. If you want to just offer drinks, Jeremy, makes it pretty easy as he sets up the coffee and lemonade (a summer offering). If you’d like to provide cookies or donuts or some fruit that would be great but not necessary and please don’t be put off by the elaborate spreads we’ve had on occasion. Again, it’s the coffee and conversation that makes this time together priceless.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Saturday, July 27th 11am-4pm | Emrich Retreat Center, Brighton

Join us for our annual diocesan picnic at Emrich Retreat Center! There will be food, games, face painting and a petting zoo. Cost: \$5/person, maximum \$20/family.

Sign up at edomi.org/picnic

As part of the picnic the diocese is also collecting backpacks filled with school supplies to donate to local ministries and organizations. All those who bring a backpack will be entered to win a set of Tigers tickets or a gift basket!



Project Laugh and Play | M&O Outreach Ministry

By Carol Thomas

Project Laugh and Play got off to a hilarious start on Sunday, June 9th. This community outreach effort by the Mission and Outreach Committee supports Lansing Intentional Community, a non-profit organization supporting independent living options and support for developmentally disabled young adults. LINCS has established an intentional community on Jerome Street, not too far from St. Paul's, with the purchase of a home and a vision to purchase another house in the near future.

What a fun activity on a Sunday afternoon! Our first group consisted of members and family of M&O, LINCS board president and family and LINCS residents and parents.

Please consider joining us. We meet the second Sunday of each month, 12:00 to 2:00, in the Merrifield Room. Your hosts are Carol Thomas, for the laughing part, and Bob Merriman, for the drumming part, assure a good time for all. If you own a drum, bring it along. See you July 14th.

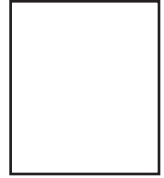


Calendar

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45 AM Summer Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	1 Jeremy Alexander Away	2 Jeremy Alexander Away No Noon Service	3 Jeremy Alexander Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	4 Independence Day Jeremy Alexander Away OFFICE CLOSED	5 Jeremy Alexander Away OFFICE CLOSED	6 Jeremy Alexander Away
7 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Jeremy Alexander Away 8:45 AM Summer Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	8 Jeremy Alexander Away	9 Jeremy Alexander Away No Noon Service 9:30 AM ChemDry cleaning Choir Room/Elevator/Upper Hallway 4:00 PM Islamic Programing Meeting w/The Rev. Lewis	10 Jeremy Alexander Away 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	11 Jeremy Alexander Away	12 Jeremy Alexander Away OFFICE CLOSED	13 Jeremy Alexander Away
14 Baptism Anniversary Celebration Jeremy Alexander Away 8:45 AM Summer Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room 12:00 PM LINCS Laugh & Play - Merrifield Room	15 Jeremy Alexander Away The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 12:00 PM Facilities Ministry Team Meeting - VanAtta 6:00 PM Vestry Dinner - Meeting @ 6:30 pm - Hill Room 11:59 PM SPN Deadline!!	16 No Noon Service The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 5:30 PM Pastoral Care Ministry - VanAtta Room	17 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	18 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	19 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	20 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical
21 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 8:45 AM Summer Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	22 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	23 No Noon Service The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	24 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	25 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	26 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	27 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical
28 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 8:45 AM Summer Sunday School 9:00 AM Worship & Holy Communion - Merrifield Room	29 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	30 No Noon Service The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	31 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical 12:00 PM AA Meeting - VanAtta Room	1 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	2 OFFICE CLOSED The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical	3 The Rev. Lewis on Sabbatical

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