



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



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BECOMING THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual Becoming the Household of God Conference, set to run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 25, 2012, will touch on Transforming Worship. The day long event (hosted by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit) will feature two keynote speakers, the Rev. Ian Mobsby and the Rev. Karen Ward. The focus of the day will be finding a means of investigating liturgy and mission, in the context of meeting the needs of 21st century parishioners and their communities.

Mobsby is one of the founding members of the Moot Community in Central London, with past involvement in three previous alternative worship/emerging church communities. He is an ordained Anglican priest working with the Moot Community in the Diocese of London. Mobsby is also an associate missionary of the Church of England Archbishop's Fresh Expressions Team and an associate lecturer of the St Paul's Theological Centre in London. He is currently an associate priest at the Church of St Matthew's, Westminster.

Ward is a Seattle-based freelance Anglican Missioner. She specializes in a wide range of methods of reaching emerging churches, including expressions of mission, liturgy/alternative worship, church plants, fresh expressions of church and empowering the next generations in mission. She was recently the vicar/abbess of Church of the Apostles, a creative, emergent, Lutheran/Episcopal Church near Seattle.

Group sessions will occur where participants can build a new worship service. The end result, the Rev. Jim Hamilton said, could be rather eye-opening. "We won't know what the service will look like until it actually happens," he said. "It should be pretty interesting."

The \$40 registration fee (through Feb. 6) includes lunch; after Feb. 6 and up to the day of the event, the fee is \$50. Registration materials are located on the main bulletin board by the Church Office. Scholarships are available. This Conference will greatly enhance the Lenten study program being offered at St. Paul's this year (see next page).

Fr. Larry+

ASH WEDNESDAY

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

The forty-day church season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with two services of Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 and 7:00 P.M. Ash Wednesday is also one of the two days designated as a Fast Day in the Book of Common Prayer.



LENTEN STUDY PROGRAM

Fr. Larry will facilitate a Lenten study program for six weeks, beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 29th (yes, this is a Leap Year!). Titled "An Introduction to Mission Shaped Ministry," this course of study will focus on such questions as "Our world and our lives have changed radically in the last twenty years but has the Church adapted to this change" and "Do we need a changed Church for a changing world?"

Participants will come to understand current strategies of "Fresh Expressions" of church currently being implemented in the Church of England and the United States. A fresh expression of church is a form of church for our changing culture, established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church. It involves principles of listening, service, contextual mission and making disciples.

Fr. Larry and Teresa will be spending the month of May this year in Cambridge, England, studying, participating and observing Fresh Expressions of church and they will bring back a wealth of information that will be shared with the congregation in the hope that a future vision of evangelism and mission can be embraced by St. Paul's Church. This course will "set the stage" for future discernment of creating a fresh expression of church right here in Jackson, Michigan.

Dates and times for "Mission Shaped Intro are: Feb. 29, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, and April 4 from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Fr. Larry+

Parish Annual Meeting 2012

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 22, 2012. The following were elected to the Vestry: Dorothy Kobs, Andrew Uprichard and David VanLoo. Following the annual meeting, the new Vestry met to elect officers. Ron Rowley is Senior Warden, Ed Greene is Junior Warden, Gina Moller is Vestry Secretary and Linda Estill is Treasurer.

Adult Christian Fellowship

Adult Christian Fellowship will not meet during the months of February and March. We encourage all to attend any Lenten programs that may be provided and not to forget donations to the Jackson Interfaith Shelter and the food pantry. Our next meeting will be in April. Please watch for the April issue of the Epistle for details.



Nancy Sunday

Adult Forum

Want some adult conversation about your faith? Come early or stay late and join Adult Forum between 9:15 -10:15 A.M. on Sunday mornings in the small dining room. In February we will be discussing the DVD series "Pursuing God's Love--Stories from the Book of Genesis" with Margaret Feinberg. Each week we will be looking at different chapters from the Book of Genesis and reflecting on how they show us God's love for the world. Come and join us!

Sandra Kilian

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 20, 2012 in honor of Presidents Day



Planning for the Sabbatical

Beginning the new church year often means going back to basics: holding the Annual Meeting, installing new vestry members, senior and junior wardens and appointing a secretary/clerk and treasurer. So, in the spirit of 'back-to-basics', here are the bare bones of the parish Sabbatical Committee:

1. We are: Marilyn Meadowcroft, chair; Carol Scheerbaum, secretary; Ron Rowley, senior warden; Harry Strait past senior warden.
2. The committee continues to meet each Wednesday from 10 o'clock to noon. Guests are always welcome.
3. Our mission: To plan for a smooth and organized transition during our rector's absence. To reassure parish members that the services and work of the church will continue as they might expect and hope.
4. To report the weekly committee meetings in writing and make them available to parish members.
5. To formally report to the Vestry each month.
6. To thoughtfully explore new ideas where our worship and work might be enhanced while maintaining our cherished traditions.
7. To encourage greater lay leadership.
8. To pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us and each of you.



That's the bare bones of the Sabbatical Committee and its work this year. We ask for your continued questions, suggestions.....and prayers. We believe 2012 can be a wonderful and invigorating year for St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Ron F. Rowley,
Senior Warden

Save the Date: Sunday, March 11, 2012

We are a caring church community. Our Mission and Outreach Commission is sponsoring an informational meeting about a Latin American Mission. On March 11, Lori McDonald will be at both services to share the details of **The Nicaragua Project**. This outreach started with The Rev. Joe Summers, Church of the Incarnation, Ann Arbor. It now flourishes among other churches within our area, with a church in Catarina, Nicaragua, and the border community of Nicaragua and Michigan. This project's mission is to bridge the divide between wealthy and poor by providing opportunities for growth. They are building an Intercultural Center and hotel overlooking the El Mirado (Crater Lake). Lori's presentation will explain the details of this special project and its progress.

After the 10:30 service, we will have a brunch with Nicaraguan food and Lori will give a power point presentation about this project and have Nicaraguan art for sale. For more information contact Peggy Wilds.

Peggy Wilds

FITTING WORDS FOR THIS NEW YEAR SEASON

An excerpt from the July 9, 1922 edition of St. Paul's Messenger with words which still ring true today.

A visitor from another planet coming to the earth would notice two characteristics about human life, haste and strife. The spirit of the age is rushing faster every year. People seem to have lost the sense of leisure. There is something humiliating about the scramble and bustle of modern civilization. It is all so artificial.

Nothing great or serious or lasting can be done in a hurry. Education must always be a slow, deliberate, gradual thing. Nature rebukes our human eagerness with the example of her inexpressible patience. Her work is matchless, because she has taken millenniums to finish it. She counts a thousand years as one day.

Genius cannot afford to be driven. The artist rarely hurries over his picture or poem. The principle which common sense justifies in common affairs and which necessity enforces in education, science and art hold good even more absolutely in religion. Faith and Hurry are mutually incompatible. The one must finally banish the other from the soul. Our Lord's life is full of strange, serene leisure. His Father's business was done for thirty quiet years at Nazareth. The Son of Man served so long an apprenticeship of patience before his ministry began. Afterward when he became the vortex of eddying multitudes he never showed a trace of hurry or excitement.

Our Lord went through life in the tranquility of perfect trust.



The watchword of his Gospel is not haste but Rest and Peace.

The strife of the world is growing fiercer every age. We are born into a bewildering universal conflict, and we are implicated and compelled to take part. Civilization, in many respects, has only intensified competition. In our modern industrial society men struggle more feverishly than ever for the prizes of success and take more anxious thought than ever about the grievous risks of failure. The first gift, which Christ holds out to men, is rest of the heavy-laden. His last bequest to His Disciples was his own unbroken peace. There is a most real and vivid sense in which life is constantly strenuous alike in spirit and in action. Christ, himself, calls us to daily tireless battle against our own selfishness. He enlists us in the eternal war, which he wages upon all injustice, oppression, cruelty and corruption. But the final benediction of the Christian is described as their inheritance in the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, which the word can neither give nor take away. **“Come unto me and Rest. Be still and know that I am God.”**

Not Haste and Strife but Rest and Peace are what we long for today.

James Hughes, Archives

St. Paul's Archive Ministry is looking for pictures of the 1965 Education addition as it was in the process of being built. If you have pictures you would share with us, we could make copies of them and return them promptly back to you. Thank you...we would be so appreciative!

If you have older pictures on any subject relating to the life of St. Paul's Parish, the same holds true.

UTO Report

Members of St. Paul's Church, thank you for your generosity. Our United Thank Offering for St. Paul's was \$495.00. Even in these challenging times you were able to give thanks to God for your daily blessings.

The key word here is DAILY. Yes, if we use our UTO boxes on a daily basis, putting in it even a nickel or dime, we would surprise ourselves. At the UTO Ingathering time there would be \$18.25 or \$36.50. A check for this amount or a rounded number could be an example of our thankfulness. Our diocese has given over \$23,000 for the year 2011.

The UTO box is there to remind us to be generous and to spread our blessings to others here and far. I encourage you to place this box in obvious places, the laundry room, catching all the loose change; on the kitchen table, making thanksgiving an active part of each meal or on your car dashboard, thanking God that you arrived safely. Every penny of the United Thank Offering goes to helping others. See the UTO website: Episcopalchurch.org/UTO for examples of the grants awarded.

Peggy Wilds, UTO Coordinator, St. Paul's



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|---------------------|-------------|
| Alice Manning | February 3 |
| Marion VanLoo | February 8 |
| Al Warwick | February 9 |
| Katie Wittman | February 14 |
| Valerie Rowley | February 20 |
| Marianne Kincaid | February 21 |
| Diane Worthing | February 24 |
| Chris Scheele | February 24 |
| Katelyn Faith Glynn | February 28 |

Ray & Nancy Hartsuff February 3

If you would like your special day listed in our newsletter, call the parish office, 787-3370, and give us your information.

Church School

In January, we learned that Jesus first called Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, (all fishermen), to be "disciples". Each one left what they were doing without a thought and followed. Next it was Matthew, a tax collector, that no one particularly cared for, to say the least. As February begins we see that Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were a vital part of Jesus' ministry in providing housing, food and fellowship for Him and His disciples. Following will be a few lessons on the true FACT that "Jesus really loves us all", starting with the children. Join us, won't you? There is always room for more children, and parents, and extra teaching hands. Sunday's at 10:10, seen you then.

Zoe Baldwin



Habitat for Humanity

I would like to thank all of you who have provided food for the Habitat for Humanities volunteers' lunches. These volunteers make a big difference in the lives of those who get a chance to own a safe and many times barrier free home for their families. The volunteers work construction all winter long and all summer long. A hot lunch in winter and a refreshing lunch in the heat of summer keeps them going. They appreciate our effort tremendously. I would also like to thank Peggy Wilds for all her help serving the lunches.

We will again feed the Habitat volunteers in 2012 alternating months with the Shelter dinners. The sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board. Please consider supplying one or more of the foods. Our day to feed the crew is always on a Monday so you can bring your contribution to church on **Sunday or by 11:00 AM on Monday. Thank you so much.**

Our dates: February 20, April 16, June 18, August 20, October 15, and December 17.

Romelle Frey

Mission & Outreach Commission Member

Chancel Guild

Nut and Candy Sale profits are currently at \$878.39. Thank you to so many of you for purchasing. We have a remaining inventory to sell and will add this money to the above profit. Hoping that you can check your cupboards and see bare space for these yummys. The money will be spent on this guild's mission to assist with the cost of the cleaning and purchase of vestments and paraments. So please watch for our Nut and Candy Sale in Holy Spirit Hall after Sunday church services.

On Thursday, March 1, lunch in the small dining room will follow our guild attending the 12:15 PM Eucharist and Healing Service. Carol Scheerbaum and her committee of Marianne Kincaid and Cheryl Gumper will prepare and serve this for us. \$5.00 will be collected to cover lunch expenses. Lisa Cole will present the program "The History of St. Paul's Church." A short business meeting is planned to present the slate of officers for 2012-2013. Shirley Herendeen and her calling committee will contact members. Guests are always welcome and may contact Shirley for a reservation.

Just a reminder that Chancel Guild does not meet in February.

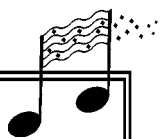
Cheryl Gumper, Vice-President, Chancel Guild

St. Nicholas' Guild

Members were pleased to come together on Monday, January 23, as November and December meetings were not planned because of the busy holiday months. The lunch committee, Marianne Kincaid, Chr., Peg Noble, and Fonda Warwick, served chili, all the trimmings, and brownies. A business meeting followed with discussion of opportunities to generate income needed for the benefit of St. Paul's children and youth. Nine members were present, and guest, Linda Estill, St. Paul's treasurer, was welcomed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, 11:30, beginning with a lunch in the small dining room. Those attending are requested to bring a sandwich, and the committee of Evelyn McCann, Chr., Carol Scheerbaum, and Peggy Wilds will do the rest. A business meeting will follow. Please speak with our President, Fonda Warwick if you have questions or would like to join us for lunch and attend the meeting. We celebrate new members who are interested in our mission.

Carol Scheerbaum, Secretary.



***Coming...March 4 - Jazz Mass
Details in next Epistle***

A Trivia Quiz for Episcopalians - True or False

1. The Vestry, as a body, is the legal agent for the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and relations of the parish to the clergy.
 2. No one shall be ordained priest until reaching the age of 21.
 3. No one shall be ordained and consecrated bishop until the attainment of 30 years of age.
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1. TRUE - The vestry does serve as legal agent for the parish. (Title I, Canon 14, Sec.2
 2. FALSE - The youngest age at which a person can be ordained to the priesthood is 24.
(Title III, Canon 7, Sec. 10)
 3. TRUE - A person can be consecrated a bishop as early as age 30.

