

Priest-in-Charge Report **Submitted February 22, 2022**

- 1. Truly a Gift** Ed Henneke was a true gift to St. Paul's and the two other Episcopal Churches where he and Donna (and family) attended. I join everyone on the vestry in saying that I will truly miss him, his smile and near giggle, and his determination and stubbornness. I am deeply thankful that we had a few delightful conversations in which Ed informed me that he knew he had a terminal but chronic disease. If we ever do make this room into a real conference room with the ability to use it for Vestry, Committees, Adult Education and anything else, I pray we fix it up and name it in honor of Edward G. Henneke a true gift to our parish and our diocese.
- 2. Disturbed** I am disturbed by my sickness as of late. I share this with you not because I am interested in receiving sympathy for my ills, but because it is my responsibility to share with you about my physical readiness. In the second week of January, I began having symptoms of a typical winter cold. "Dang" said I, as I was not in the mood. It got much worse as time went on, and I was in some distress at the Annual Meeting albeit propped-up with OTC meds and Theraflu. I had tested negative for COVID.

The week after the Annual Meeting I managed to get a Rx for Antibiotics and began to feel much better. After the round of antibiotics, I felt as if I had broken it, and all would be fine. I still had a few symptoms, but nothing much. YEA!

Not so fast, I discovered as the cold, not designated as a sinus infection came roaring back with a vengeance. I felt rotten when conducting the funeral for Collin Birnie and retook the Covid test Monday morning...negative again. This time I was prescribed an old time Sulfa drug that I remember from my youth, but this one did not have that "odor" to it (thanks be). I managed, with help, to get through Ed's service Thursday, and although not myself, I was grateful to be there.

The week before Captain Birnie's service I was in the office everyday but Tuesday, while this last week I made it in briefly on Wednesday and most of the day Thursday. I am feeling a slightly better level of rotten today, so I hope I will be on the mend.

Interestingly and unrelated, both of my parents talked about having colds after they had undergone open heart surgery and that they did not bounce-back as quickly. By that time, they had older "bouncers" which may have been part of their issue, but I cannot help but wonder.
- 3. Peace and Reconciliation** This has not worked out as well as I had hoped (see #2). We will keep trying. I anticipated a little if not more pushback in proposing and planning these events the way I did. I expected questions. I did not receive either, and I am not sure if I should be pleased or scared about that. It is not easy rebuilding an aircraft while it is flying. That may be what I am asking you all to do. Heather brought you the theory, now we re-enter the real deal. We will keep working on this.

4. **Pleased** I continue to be mighty pleased at the work of 150th Intersection group. If we keep our eyes open and focused, I think we should see gifts from the Partners work giving practical cues to the 150th and the search process. No organization can do redundancy better than the church and what's worse they do it more than once. My sincere commendation and thanks.

5. **Tasked** With the appointment of the Reverend Tracie Little as Canon to the Ordinary beginning next month, she will be leaving St. Jude's in Fenton. Michael Spencer is now on his way to Cincinnati (was you evuh) to be the Canon for transitions and Congregational Development in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. I have been asked to be the assigned diocesan consultant to St. Jude's for their search process which I expect would begin sometime in the spring.

With this tasking I can say without question that my plate is full. In addition to St. Paul's and interaction with St. Jude's, serving on the Standing Committee and the Building Bridges Steering Committee where I chair the Governance Sub-group, and working with the people of Grace Church, Standish on their legal issues representing the standing committee. Yup... plate full. St. Paul's will be working with Canon Little.

6. **Copier** I have given the "go" to lease a new copier as we are past our end of lease with our current one.

7. **Committees** Please re-read a recent email I wrote about Committees and how they work. I used the word Committee, but please use whatever term you like such as ministry, or team unless it is specified in policy or by-laws. I believe our by-laws are not all that helpful as they call groups by different names. I would stress that, except for Finance and Building and Grounds, I think it best to have non-vestry members as chairpersons, and vestry members as fully participating (non-voting members). It is the Vestry who gives the direction to Committees, setting their boundaries and it is the Rector who manages them. The Warden and Rector are members (ex-officio [because of their position]) of all committees. They should be invited to every meeting. With the exception of the wardens and treasurer, every vestry member should be involved on a committee and be the liaison or representative of the vestry to that committee. The chairperson of the committee, or the vestry representative should report back to the vestry whenever the committee does something.

This is my current list of committees:

150th Intersection (Chaired by Parish Archivist)

Building and Grounds (Chaired by the JW)

Diversity

Finance (Chaired by the Treas)

Outreach

Pastoral Care and Hospitality (includes Tuesday Lunch and OSL)

Search Committee (to be appointed by Senior Warden)

Technology (includes live-streaming, AV, Computers, Office Equipment)

Worship and Music

8. **Policy two way**

Talking about Michael's move to Cincinnati helped my mind to drift to Skyway Chili or Cincinnati five-way chili. Thinking about it makes me check my supply of Tums.

Policy writing is not exciting. I have attached some general policies that the vestry could adopt. Remember that policies can be brought into existence by a majority of the vestry and taken out of existence by a majority of the vestry depending on how you write a policy about policies. While they can be a pain, they also can be a true gift. Following a policy may be just the ticket to thinking before making an impulsive decision. Policies rank below by-laws and there are limits as to what they can and cannot do. Example, the vestry could pass a policy that stated that "Onward Christian Soldiers" cannot be sung at St. Paul's Church. In reality that policy would be moot because the Vestry has no authority in regard to music. The Rector could make that policy until the next Rector comes to town and sings it every Sunday.

Service time is sadly one of the most argued issues in parish life. I wish it could be more important who we pray to than what time we pray. One vestry and rector were at odds over the time of the Sunday service. The Vestry, with the urging of the Bishop, finally understood that the Rector was in charge of worship and thus made the decision of when the service was to be held. The Vestry agreed but in a vengeance like move, turned off the power and the heat for the hour, as they had the authority to do so. Silly – but true. There are at least two ways to work on this: a) appoint three to develop and present a policy book (everything is written, just discussion and wordsmithing) or b) bring them all to the vestry and get-er-done. I typically read the title of each policy – if anyone objects, we will discuss it, if not we adopt it and then go and pick-up the ones we wish to discuss.

9. **Election**

The election to fill the unexpired seat on the vestry will be held at our next meeting. If you find a person willing to serve (they must give their assent) please inform the vestry by sending a message to vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com. If we have no nominations, the election will continue to be on the agenda until we do.

10. **Junk, Spam, Filters**

I am aware that new filters are becoming more and more suspicious of email sent out by an email management service like we use (Google for Non-Profits). This means that software from our group addresses like vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com or news@stpaulschurchflint.com are being automatically dumped into one's junk or spam folders. I received a note telling me that putting my note in her spam folder was not very nice. This is not a huge problem, but it can be aggravating. I have found that adding vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com or news@stpaulschurchflint.com and rector@stpaulschurchflint.com to your contacts will instantly solve the issue. There are other methods, but they are different depending on if you use email client software or receive your email off a webpage. I wish there was something I could do.

Faithfully,

Don