



THE EPISTLE

March, 2022



The Ways of Sharing

My parents and grandparents were very strict about a few things, one of them was sharing. Anything that I thought was "mine" was quickly and sometimes unceremoniously shared with my friends. At times I was not pleased with having a friend or playmate drop, kick and destroy what I felt was my property, but sharing was an important lesson.

Adults need that lesson too, and frankly God reminds us of our responsibility to share over and over again. When we find ourselves believing that we are responsible for all our great triumphs in life, our Lord has a way of reminding us that we are not alone.

Although it may sound like a stretch, the gospel and our baptismal foundation of sharing is inherently connected to our work with Partners for Sacred Places. With our work scheduled with Partners we will learn how we can share the beauty and space of our building, and the talents of our congregation with our neighborhood and community. We will learn what is needed.

Let us consider some hard facts:

"Government on any level cannot and should not be the answer to every question, and the solution to every need."

"God provides everything we need. There is food enough, no one should be hungry. There is fuel enough, no one should be cold. There are schools, everyone should know how to read, use a computer, balance their checkbook. Yet, this does not happen to some degree because we do not always share.

Now some dreams:

What if St. Paul's became a new center of sharing, of loving, of preserving our amazing history so that our community thrives. We all know that the community that loves its people is a thriving community.

Learning and growing in conversation with our neighbors, assessing our gifts and talents, recognizing how we can share is all part of preparing a new vision for St. Paul's. A vision that has the potential of being a strategic center for spirituality, a bright light of hope for years to come.

Your Vestry and Leadership does not believe that the best of St. Paul's is behind us, nor that our current community depressive state is eternal. Your Vestry believes that being church is more than one-hour a week, sharing is more than a childhood lesson and that from those who have much, much is expected.

The opportunities as we begin this dive into the "how" of our future can be nothing less than exciting and inspiring. With our faces bound-in the glory of Jesus, we know there is much to be done. When we put God first, there is nothing impossible.

Don+

For more information about Partners for Sacred Places, check our website or contact:
partners@stpaulschurchflint.com



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Warden's Wisdom

As we enter the season of Lent, I want to remind you of the words from the Book of Common Prayer recited on Ash Wednesday.

*"Dear People of God,
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the
Church, to the
observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by
reading and meditating on
God's holy Word."*

Lent is a forty-day journey that allows us time to commit to a daily spiritual practice that will strengthen our relationship with God, transform our life and help us to be more fully the person that God intends us to be.

This directive is very clear. We need to plan for how we will embrace the opportunity to grow closer to God during Lent. First, we must unburden our hearts by asking for forgiveness of our sins. Then we can practice daily prayer and learning to listen for God's guidance. Reading and studying scripture, either alone or with a group, is a discipline that will help you more fully understand the message of Jesus. By denying something you love, like a food item or taking on a Bible study group, thus eliminating whatever you normally did at that time will help you focus more on how much you depend on God. I never have been good at fasting, but I have spent many Wednesdays during Lent having a simple meal of soup and bread. I never felt deprived of food and realized it was a discipline that I can follow. Because we know we have a loving and forgiving God, we need to have a goal to do all these things but not get discouraged, or give up if we are not able to do all of the things we intended. Ask forgiveness and start over. This takes practice and by the end of the Lenten season you will have developed a habit that you can make part of your daily discipline.

The Episcopal church has many resources to help you develop a Holy Lent (www.episcopalchurch.org)
Copies of Forward Day by Day are at the welcome center. These devotional readings

with a commentary are a good way to study scripture.

There are also several ways you can join your fellow parishioners at St. Paul's in this journey. (1) Wednesday's at 12:10 we offer a Eucharist and (2) at 12:45 - 2 pm we have a Bible study group lead by Tim Grant ~ offered both in-person and via zoom. During Lent we will be studying the Book of Acts using a study guide by Anglican scripture scholar N T Wright.

Fr Don will be presenting a program following our Sunday morning service.

Another tradition is the United Thank Offering boxes (UTO). As we reflect on the Biblical readings, we will be reminded of all the good things God has done for us. By contributing our coins to the UTO box, we can express our thanksgiving and help spread the gospel of our Lord and Savior by the work of this foundation. These boxes are made at the SHIMA' of Navajo land Good Shepherd Mission in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Offering employment to Native Americans using natural ingredients from our Mother Earth, Shima'. The UTO boxes will be at the welcome center. If you are not able to attend church in-person, let us know and we can mail one to you. We will have an in gathering of the boxes after Easter.

May we all come together at Easter 2022 with a new found spirit and deeper understanding of our Lord.

For His Sake,
Barbara Mannor

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

HOLY EUCHARIST AND

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

12:10 AND 6:30



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Music Note

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

I often read or notice articles that are about peace and joy. I am not sure why they grab my attention, maybe they grab everyone's attention, that is why there are so many articles about finding peace and joy. I am not sure that my life is really lacking peace and joy, I just always wonder if there are ways to have more peace and more joy....maybe that is greedy.

The song, Trust and Obey is about peace and joy:

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.
Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

As I was reading about this song written by John H. Sammis, 1846-1919, it talked about "implicit trust in God's great love and wisdom with a sincere desire to follow God's leading." Real peace and joy comes in trusting in something bigger than ourselves. We as Christians believe that God is bigger than we are, and that He is involved in our daily lives because we have asked Him to be involved in our daily lives. As we enter the season of Lent, it is important to me to see God in my daily life and I choose to Trust and Obey there is not a cloud in my skies that God cannot drive away. I hope you also find peace and joy this Lenten season.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

During Lent...

Dialogue with Don

An informative adult discussion group that will follow the Sunday service during Lent. When permitted, please bring your coffee to the parlor. The class will run less than an hour.

March 6:
The Search Process

March 13:
Private Devotion and the BCP

March 20
Episcopal Structure

March 27
What is Ministry?

April 3
Stump the Priest



Epistle Financial Update – March 2022

At the February Vestry meeting, the Vestry adopted a change to the 2022 Budget that was presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. The amended budget now includes an additional \$14,000 for the upcoming 150th Celebration of St. Paul's building. The celebration is scheduled to begin this year and carry over into 2023, but the approved amount was for 2022 activities. Details of the planned events will be coming shortly from the 150th Committee, headed

by Walt Peake. Even with adding the additional spending, we expect to have an operating excess at year end due to not having a full-time Rector.

To date in 2022, a total of 47 pledge forms have been returned for a total of \$171,230. This compares to 52 pledges for 2021 for a total of \$181,280, a decrease of 5 pledges and \$10,050. This slight decline in pledges and dollars will require extra attention to how we spend our dollars.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 2022 Results thru February

Revenue	YTD Revenue	2022 Budget
Pledges	\$58,000	\$181,000
Barth Trusts	38,000	202,000
Other Trusts	0	30,000
Endowment	0	123,000
Other Income	4,000	17,000
Total Revenue	\$100,000	\$552,000
Expenses	Dollars of Expense	2022 Expenses
Worship	\$14,000	\$89,000
Education	0	8,000
Pastoral	2,000	12,000
Outreach	8,000	101,000
150 th Celebration	0	14,000
Building/Grounds	44,000	171,000
Communications	12,000	66,000
Growth	1,000	17,000
Diocesan Tithe	7,000	42,000
Total Expenses	88,000	520,000
Net revenue	\$12,000	\$32,000

If you have any questions about the budget, please contact George Gibson, Director of Finance, or Maggie Hart, Treasurer.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

9:00 A.M.

Blessing and Processions begins outside or in
Barth Hall, Holy Eucharist continues in Nave

Holy Monday

Holy Eucharist 5:30 P.M.

Holy Tuesday

Holy Eucharist 7:30 A.M.

Holy Wednesday

Holy Wednesday 12:10 P.M.

Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday

Ecumenical Service, 12:00 Noon
Court Street United Methodist Church

Stations of the Cross 6:30 P.M.

Holy Saturday

Lighting of the Pascal Candle

8:00 P.M.

Easter Day Festival Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM

