

Deadline to submit articles for "The Epistle" is the 15th of each month.

The Parish Office is reopening with these hours: Tues - Thurs, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Hours will change at any time if need arises. Remember, emails and phones are monitored daily.

Please keep social distancing and wearing masks!

Masks and "Forward Day by Day" publications are available on tables outside the office door from Tuesday to Thursday.

Vestry Meeting • June 23 • 5:15 p.m.

## News from Your Vestry

(Meetings March 17, 25, April 28, 19)

After much discussion during the March 25 meeting, the vestry made the decision to cancel the Mission and Ministry Festival, rather than reschedule it. We plan a return to the festival May 1, 2021, the Lord willing. Meredith Roberts is working on a graphic we can post to Facebook and our website, encouraging folks to contribute to Love's Kitchen and Care Lodge, which would be the recipients of our proceeds from the festival.

At the April 28 meeting, Wayne Wuestefeld, Vestry Finance Chair, introduced Bob Coffin and Scott Hudson, who gave us a detailed report on our endowment funds with a recommendation for two small changes. Both changes would give us access to more funds while reducing international exposure and reduce costs and the transfer of our Schwab account to Wells Fargo Diversified Stock Income plans. The recommendations were adopted.

At the May 19 meeting, the vestry received several committee reports demonstrating that the vestry members are busy not only planning for this month, but for the rest of this year. We had reports from Pastoral Care and the new Outreach sub-committee, chaired by Jamie Smith. The Outreach sub-committee is checking on homebound parishioners and running errands as needed. Additions to the homecare list can be sent to

Fr. Austin and the church office. Michelle Lewis has her Christian Formation committee engaged and planning for Sunday School this fall. They are planning for flexibility for online and in-person classes. Lee Loeb has found a chairperson for Newcomers, Welcoming and Evangelism. Katie Pigford (Stewardship) has also recruited a chair and members to organize our Stewardship this year. The Administration and Communications Committee presented a report for the vestry to study and act on at a future meeting

We have also been planning for the safe re-opening of our sanctuary and have entrusted the many facets of the physical guidelines for doing this to Brandon Dunn (Risk Management) and Rob Calcote (Jr. Warden). Fr. Austin will be planning for worship, liturgy and directing of staff. Tim Hanschke and Bob Covert have graciously accepted the tasks of getting our audio and video updated so we can continue to offer online services.

Our treasurer reports that we are pretty much on target so far this year. Online giving will go live very soon. There were a couple of minor glitches' in going "live" so that slowed us down a bit.

God's Holy Spirit is with us as we seek to love and serve Christ in these challenging days.

## Held Together by God's Love

*"Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"*

John 20: 20-22

On that very first Easter Sunday, the very day of the Resurrection, Jesus' disciples were locked inside and fearful; unable to go out because of danger and not knowing what was to come. There was plenty to be fearful and upset about. Being locked in that upper room protected the disciples from the crowds and the violence, but it also increased their isolation and fear. They had barred the door to keep all the danger out...

*and Jesus walked right in and said "peace be with you."*

It is the peace of God that Jesus brings — that peace which surpasses understanding — that banishes panic and makes it possible to live as God created. Even when our anxieties are based on real things, valid things of which we should be concerned, or even afraid, these don't get the last word.

This story shows what Jesus had already said about giving them the Holy Spirit: *"Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn but the world will rejoice. You will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. So, you have pain now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."*

Jesus gave his disciples the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit was given to them not just for those inside, but to be shared for the whole world. We are all held together by God's love — extending beyond our immediate church family, our neighborhood, or our city. Our church, our neighborhoods, our country, our world — we are all God's beloved. Christ came into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through him all the whole world might be saved.

And we are summoned, if we continue to listen to follow him, love him and serve him in all things and above all

things and as we set out to serve as God's kingdom breathing out from us.

Soon, oh very soon, will open our doors. We are waiting for 14 days of decreasing cases. In the meantime, we will continue to live, not for ourselves but for each other. As the Presiding Bishop said this past Sunday, "the greatest pandemic of humanity is self-centeredness," we will love selflessly. I will wear my mask and wait for in person worship to resume because of you, not for me. It is because of the love for you, not for me that I do this. Sacrificial love poured out for all. It is the pattern of true life at the heart of everything.

We know that this trying season has revealed how much we depend on another. What a gift it is to simply gather and share in life. As the pope said, "No matter how difficult it is... life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you."

This painful time has the possibility, and only the possibility of crafting new ways of life. And it's only too timely we again hear Jesus saying to us "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

This pandemic has also laid to bear inequalities of our way of life. We are fighting an additional pandemic; one that has been around for hundreds of years and there is no vaccine in the immediate future. Systemic racism is infectious across our country and in our city. It includes racial violence, protesting and riots, people blaming one group or another because people can't see beyond themselves. We can't see the other as a child of God, equally deserving of grace and love. The issue at play is about

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## Together

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someone made in the image of God who died in custody, nothing else. We are as close to those problems in Minneapolis as we would be if we were out shopping, going to school and coming to church. The demons of hate and racism are as real as COVID-19.

Remember your Baptism. When we were baptized, we renounced “Satan, and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God” and “the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God.” Among those evil powers are hatred and racism. Renouncing racism is a spiritual struggle for all of us, it is ongoing, and can only be won by the Holy Spirit. That is the reason the disciples rejoiced when Jesus came into the room. Jesus shows up after dying for his friends, not himself. They rejoice because selfless love is the most powerful act in the universe. Jesus brings the courage and compassion not overwhelmed by fear, panic or anger when the work is the most difficult.

God knows the work is hard right now for all of us in so many ways. Staying in isolation, seeing the fall of our economy, wearing masks in the hot summer, not receiving in the bread and the wine, naming my white privilege. Being a Christian and doing the difficult work loving selflessly will most definitely bring pain and weeping. But without the suffering, there can be no rejoicing for all of God’s children. Without pain, Christians can’t be inspired to act. Without weeping, we cannot band together and go about making on earth as it is in heaven. It is only when the disciples see Jesus’ scars that they rejoice.

But we will keep going knowing the Holy Spirit is among us. It holds us together. With it, we can face the challenges of our time; to stand up and be the church. In the middle of hate and fear the world needs our prayers and our action of breathing the Holy Spirit into the world.

I imagine I am not alone when I write that I cannot stay silent anymore. I want to show there is more at stake in this world than taking care of me and my own that I will speak for my brothers and sisters who need me to say something. I want to grow in selfless sacrificial love each day, without asking anything in return except for the happiness of another human being. And I need you with me in this work. We are sent together as the Body of Christ.

What will St. Paul’s say and do during these days? What do we do, in our locked places where Jesus appears and says to each of us “Peace be with you? As the Father has sent me, so I send you... receive the Holy Spirit.”

Faithfully,

## Kids Will Enjoy Camp-in-a-Box

We will all be missing our beloved Camp Bratton-Green this summer, so we decided to do something about it! We have a great, hands-on way to enjoy activities without being at the actual camp.

Every camp-aged kiddo at St. Paul’s will be receiving a “Camp Care Package.” These boxes will contain the supplies for many of the activities our campers enjoy at Camp Bratton-Green. Everything from yarn, popsicle sticks, flashlights and more will be delivered to houses the second week of June by Father Austin and Claire Hasselle. Be on the lookout for this fun offering!

Then subscribe to the YouTube channel for videos of activities by visiting this link: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCyjf7o3N41Dh00GLPTF-avuw/videos>.

## A Thank You From the Family of Mary Irby:

I just want to say Thank you to our St. Paul’s Family for all of the love shown to us during the past few months. My mom loved St. Paul’s and always talked about how she enjoyed the Midday prayer service when she would bring Mrs. Nancy Hobart and was also working in the nursery. We can’t say enough to everyone — whether you brought food, called, texted prayed or whatever — it was wonderful, and we thank you. You all don’t know how much joy that brings us.

I was going to wait until we came back to the nursery, but the Lord laid it on my heart to say thank you now. Tomorrow is not promised. We love you all and again Thanks for remembering my mama!

—Necie, Rita, Bri and Rodney

## VBS Coming to a House Near You!

As we are all aware, our traditional summer activities will have to look different this summer. We aren’t letting that stop us from having a fun and educational Vacation Bible School! Each child from pre-school age to 5th grade will have a VBS kit delivered right to their house!

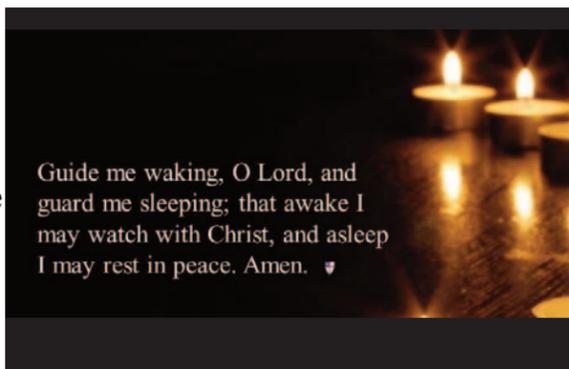
The theme this year is how to live a peaceful life. The VBS kit will have a packet for each day of the week complete with scripture, activities, coloring pages and even the supplies to complete the craft of the day. We are so excited to be able to offer this at-home ministry.

VBS boxes will be delivered the first week of July by Father Austin and Claire Hasselle.

## Join us twice a week for Evening Prayer

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 5 p.m.

Tune in each week as Betty Melton leads Evening Prayer Rite II via the St. Paul’s Facebook page. Betty goes LIVE at 5 p.m. If you can’t tune in live, just check back on our Facebook page (or Betty’s) to see the service. Services will include Meditations on the Daily Office written by The Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton.



## We Remember in our Prayers

**Our Parish family:** Dixie Pigford, DJ Wells, Edgar Morrison, Jerry Greene, Jo Van Devender, Ivy Jane Sutton, Milo Joseph Sutton, Margaret Van Dyke, Mary Scott, Norma Veach, Peggy Carrico, Robin Hall, Scott Carmichael, Terry Rush, and William Godwin.

**In our senior living communities:** Deannie Carmichael, Elise Leach, Joyce Welsh, Linda James, Lora Jones and Nita Neville.

**For Extended family and friends:** Alice Miller, Ally Gressett, Allyson Furr, Amanda Lockey, Amanda Rainey, Anita Sumrall, Anna Meyers, Barbara Hopper, Barbara Robinson, Baston Geiger, Beverly Bryson, Bill Selman, Bob Hill, Bobby Dale, Brooke, Brooks Moore, Charlie Smith, Charmin Edwards, Chelsie Abston, Christina Harris, Clay Hamilton, Cory Gaylord, Diane Dunn, Delroy Ming, Edesser “Dess” Reid Ward, Rob & Aislinn Ward, Elise Higbe, Frank Baker, Frank Barrett, Freddie Bea Watson, Gary Dawkins, George Farr, George Ferguson, Helen Valentine, J.T. Lee, Jada Dooley, James, Jim Bateman, John, Joy Richardson, Justin Site, Ken Fisher, Kim Lovette, Kylie Temple, Lee Davis Thames, Leigh Ann Key, Lillie Alford, Lou Dubose, Marilyn Mohr, Martha Mazingo, Mary Hallwell, Mary Ann Howell, Michelle Nelson, Mike Lundy, Mike Stanton, Noah White, Norman, Patty Fishburn, Rick, Sandra Nicholas, Ronald Carozza, Sandy Carrier, Sallie Gercens, Hannah Thompson, Seth Thompson, Theodore, Tom Schram, Tony Sansone, Wanda Farr, Wanda Scott, Wilfe Manning and Zack Martin.

**We pray for those who have died especially:** Lida Nell Vaughan Hester, mother of Tim Hester; Dorothy Manker Pearson, sister-in-law to Mary Dunn; The Rev. Cecil Jones Jr.; Sterling Weems; brother-in-law of Mary Weems; and Bridget Mann.

**We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces,** for all who serve overseas and their families, especially Andrew Behm, Shum Benson, Connor Covert, Graham Ford, T. J. Melton, Nick Mullen and Zack Thomas.

**We pray for our Bishop Brian,** our Rector Austin and his family and our Deacon Betty.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 2 .....Delena Avara, Katie Hasselle

June 3 .....Gary & Barbara Boone

June 4 ..... Hardy & Dottie Graham

June 5 .....Scotty & Albree Florey,

Robert & Lee Loeb

June 8 .....Robert & Missy Bailey,

Duncan Chalk,

Jim & Cindy McGinnis

June 10 .....Michael & Mary Lawrence Crowe,

Mary Dunn

June 11 ..... Tom & Joy Greer, Karen Rea,

Cooper Tibbetts

June 12 .....Anthony & Leslie Hiatt

June 13 .....Lisa Howell

June 14 .....John & Linda Carrier,

Caroline Compton

June 16 .....Woodie & Helen Abraham

June 18 .....Dana Lawyer, Page Sikes

June 19 .....David Fitzgerald

June 20 .....Anne Chalk

June 21 .....Chad & Dixie Tibbetts

June 22 .....Larry Nowak

June 23 .....Elaine Sanders

June 24 .....Greer Holladay, Jean Merrell

June 27 .....Peggy Carrico, Olivia Lewis,

Mary Scott