



A Note from the Rector
by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund

THANK YOU FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER FAITH AND BEAUTY

This first week in April I give thanks to God for the many people who serve this parish on the Worship Ministry Team, those who participated in dramatic readings, those who created a beautiful place to worship, those who offered music ministry, our staff, our clergy, our Wardens and Vestry. Thank you all for a most moving and meaningful Holy Week and Easter at St. Paul's. This is my third celebration with you and I continue to be awed by the faith, hard work, prayers, joy and commitment to worship that you give to God's glory and the spiritual welfare of all who join us. Wasn't the baptism of Divi Rivera and William Talmage fun ?!

Care of "This Fragile Earth Our Island Home" Three Church Earth Care Forum, Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick (UUCB)

A few months ago, Lollie Brown and Bronda Niese met with me in my office to discuss an idea they both had been developing on behalf of Earth Care at St. Paul's. They wondered with me, what a public panel discussion might look like if the three pastors of our Three Churches Earth Care ministries got together and discussed the spiritual warrants of stewardship of the earth.

A few weeks later, they confirmed the idea, "The Heart of the Matter, A Conversation among three clergy sharing their personal perspectives about care for the earth" for **Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 pm at UUCB**. I was elated to discover that my friends the Rev. Mary Baard, pastor of First Parish and the Rev. Sylvia Stocker, pastor of UUCB and I will be together in this public discussion on the matter.

Much of our discussion will be our personal perspectives. But we can't fail

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April 3
2nd
Sunday of
Easter

Hear of the
Youth
Mission
trip to the
Dominican
Republic,
Youth and
Adult
Journeyers

9:00 a.m.
First
Sundays

Life
Together

www.stpaulsmaine.org

A Note from the Rector *continued*

to discuss theologians like Sally McFague and her seminal works that reframe creation as the metaphor of the body of God. She writes, “If we imagine the cosmos as God’s body, then ‘we never meet God unembodied.’ This is to take God in that cosmos seriously, for ‘creation is God’s self-expression.’”

We will also surely be discussing portions of Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter *Laudato si’* which was release in May of last year. The word he uses is “home.” “Care for our Common Home” sounds familiar because that’s what we call our earth in Eucharistic

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In the meantime, pray with this beautiful Canticle of the Sun, attributed to St. Francis.

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!

All praise is Yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.

To You, alone, Most High, do they belong.

No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all Your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and You give light through him.

And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!

Of You, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens You have made them bright, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through which You give Your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom You brighten the night.

He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial.

Happy those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape.

Woe to those who die in mortal sin!

Happy those she finds doing Your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve Him with great humility.



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Prayer C, "...this fragile earth, our island home." Pope Francis discusses five areas of care of our "common home."

1. Pollution and Climate Change.
2. The issue of water.
3. Loss of biodiversity (extinction of living things).
4. Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society.
5. Global inequality.

DIOCESE OF MAINE SPRING TRAINING 2016, SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Before I sign off this April "Messenger" article, I want to share another important opportunity with you. This is an opportunity happening right here at **St. Paul's, Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 am to 3:15 pm.** Some 20 workshops are being organized and led by some of our diocese's best lay and ordained people in order to "gather, learn, share." Bishop Lane will be on hand for the day and will lead worship in our own nave.

One of the workshops is called, "Music for Any Kid of Any Age: An Approach to Congregational Singing." Randy Day and I will teach some of the great songs of our intergenerational worship and share strategies for inspiring worship that is inclusive for all. Our parish believes that the best way for our body of Christ, indeed any Christian community that wants to grow together in Christ – all ages – is to make a joyful noise, to sing together in worship and whenever we gather.

Randy and will teach some of our favorite, fun and accessible songs and we will utilize hand instruments and drums. I will



SPRING TRAINING 2016

gather - learn - share

talk about worship planning that maximizes engagement across all age groups.

Please be a part of this important "Spring Training" day at St. Paul's by registering at www.tinyurl.com/springtraining2016 For more information go to the website of the Diocese of Maine, www.episcopalmaine.org.

I hope to see you there!

In joyous celebration of the 50 days of Easter!

Carolyn+

St. Paul's Easter butterflies



Dominican Dinner and Presentation on the Youth Mission Trip

Friday, April 29, 2016

5:30—7:00 pm

Great Hall, St. Paul's Church

Please mark your calendars for a special dinner, followed by a presentation by the teens who made their service journey to the Dominican Republic in February. Teens, parents and youth group leaders will prepare and serve authentic dishes from the Dominican culture, in a festive atmosphere that will include music, stories and images from the trip. This is a free offering to the parish, but we do ask that people pre-register so that we have a sense of numbers. Sign-up opportunities will take place after Sunday services beginning in April.

Please come share our journey!



Christian Formation

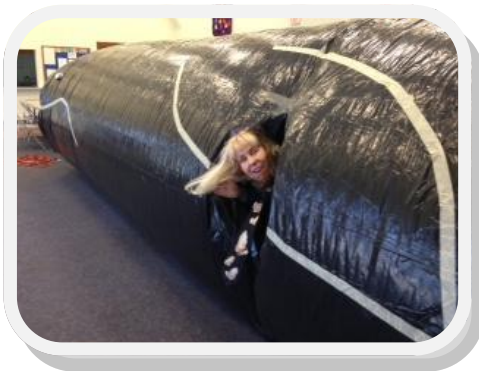
Hooray! And congratulations to Arthur Peck-Moad! Arthur plays goalie for his hockey team and they won their tournament! Hooray!

And congratulations to cousins William Talmage and Divi Rivera, the newly baptized! Thanks to Divi also for volunteering to lead the procession as our Easter BUTTERFLY!



The WHALE! Many folks enjoyed seeing the giant whale which was first assembled in 2011 by parish members with Kristin Agudelo. Thanks you to Nancy Johnson and Susan Tyler for assistance with whale's

assembly how-to, to Paul Womer for the fan, and thanks to Rev. Carolyn Eklund, Linda Ashe-Ford, and Nate Wayne for participating in the story-telling of "Jonah, the Backward Prophet".



Thank you to St. Paul's parish for your support which enabled me to go to the Episcopal Church's annual gathering of Christian educators, the 2016 FORMA Conference in Philadelphia, PA.! The Wolf Fund and Maine's Christian Ed. Collaboration also helped to fund this trip which proved to be very inspiring creatively and spiritually for me.

NOTES FROM THE FORMA CONFERENCE: A recurrent theme during the conference was the church's need to get out into the community. In the first Plenary Session: The Future of Formation, C. Andrew Doyle said that most parishes spend 80% of their time on liturgy, and 20% on outreach and that *Jesus's disciples were formed spiritually by follow-*

ing Jesus around, watching him minister. Then he sent them out two by two, to be dependent on the generosity of strangers, giving his blessing and the authority to heal, cast out demons and proclaim the Kingdom of God. He (or it may have been another speaker) went so far as to say that being more concerned about serving one another at the altar than about going out and sharing Christ, needs to be confessed as sin! He also said that when Jesus went to the well, he hadn't tried to set up a situation with the Samaritan woman to create a teachable moment.... "Jesus went to the well, because HE WAS THIRSTY." He went to get a drink, he struck up a conversation, throwing out a provocative sentence or two, and waited for the questions, then he answered them. Since attending FORMA I'm asking myself: *Where am I thirsty? "Where are we people of St. Paul's thirsty? Where are we as a diocese thirsty? Where shall we go with our children and youth to simultaneously quench our thirst and share our faith?your ideas?*

Broderick Greer in "Plugged into Chaos: How Baptism Makes us Dirty", citing Ferguson as an example, mentioned the brain's frontal lobe holding shared trauma. He says that the baptismal impulse "puts us into the places of deep pain and suffering, confusion, chaos,not necessarily leading, being led...."

In Jerusalem Greer's "Liturgy of Life - The Spiritual Practice of Slow Living" she said "*We must say NO to some really good things*" "stop running.. dig deep into what's right here." The information I received in her workshop entitled Family Vocation: Helping Families Create a Rule of Life, is full of great ideas that I believe are also applicable and helpful for individuals or parishes.

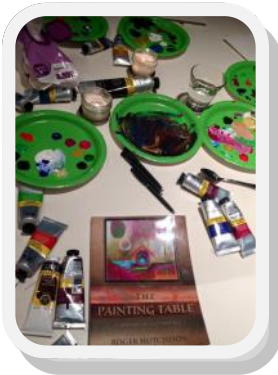
In a workshop entitled Millennials and Faith, presenter Ginny Wilder encouraged us to go where they are, support the work that they're doing and engage them,



making collaborative connections, "Millennials want to do deeply meaningful work AS they learn" "We must give them the opportunity to teach us....They haven't left us, we left them."

A game designer who works with Middle Schoolers presented on The Game as Formation. He gave me a card game he created named "Polity" based on the Episcopal Church's structure, and a list of recommended games. At his parish, regular game nights where kids invite their friends serve as a fun means of outreach, and their whole parish often plays games together!

A painter who gives (usually adult) participants paper and acrylic paint and limits them to using their fingers instead of brushes to paint with, has found this to be very therapeutic for most, especially victims of trauma. Most of the conference's participants tried and enjoyed it. A short workshop on cartoons was light-hearted and up-lifting. A tiny improvisational-



theater workshop affirmed and underlined ideas and experiences concerning "teachable moments".

Of this three day adventure, the most ecstatic experience I enjoyed came during our first evening together via the fabulous music of St. Thomas Philadelphia's Gospel Choir! The surprising fact was that all but a few conference participants remained seated at their tables while this large group of joyous, rocking, energized... how was that even possible? Is this why we need to be instructed whether to stand, and when to sit during our worship services... or is it because we're instructed? ...another chicken/egg question!

Other important words:

"Vocation is where your deep gladness and the world's great need meet."

"That which is, has already been; that which is to be, has already been, and God seeks that which has been driven away." Ec.3:15

Jane Burke

St. Paul's Kitchen is Going Green...

Beginning after Easter, we will be using our "china" cups at coffee hour (and any other time coffee is available to us) - this in an effort to reduce some of the vast quantities of paper products we now dispose of or recycle every day. Please help us achieve this first step towards a "paperless kitchen" by using the cups and mugs available and by not bringing paper products into the kitchen. The Hospitality Ministry thanks you and so will the beautiful green earth.

Nancy Keating



From the Music Desk...

“I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.” Familiar words? If not, this scripture verse is excerpted from the Easter section of Handel’s oratorio “Messiah” and the aria containing the text. The melody and accompaniment are joyfully paired with the confident ring to this statement of belief.

What does it mean to ‘know’? To unequivocally, without a doubt, be certain of something? If we as Episcopalians declare ourselves to be an ‘Easter people,’ how so? On what is our truth founded? We must believe in events we’ve never witnessed, a Son of God we’ve never seen, and a Story that’s been passed down through multiple centuries, perhaps embellished or edited as time has passed. How then can we really ‘know’ that our Redeemer lives, and that the story will end with His feet ‘upon the earth’?

During these opening hours of Holy Week I’ve been questioning my own ‘know’-ing about this Holy Week story and the musical settings that for years have been part of my annual pilgrimage through this narrative. Like my niece who questioned her first hearing of Handel’s “Hallelujah Chorus”, wondering why so many words had to be repeated, do we really need to rehearse this narrative each year? Indeed, can’t we just tell the story once and be done with it?

The answer? No. Just as we share pictures and stories of children and grandchildren, tales from ancestors long buried, and historical fodder for review, we revel in re-telling. In the multiple tellings of these stories is the cementing of our ‘knowing’. We invest energy, emotion, time, and self in the declaration. The

story becomes a part of us that we yearn to pass on to others. Listeners can see in our faces and hear in our voices how much the persons behind the tales mean to us. Just like the delighted grandmother who once again showed me pictures on her cell phone of adorable granddaughters, we are given a glimpse of what brings us joy at each sharing.

How many annual Holy Weeks does it take to really ‘know’ the Story backwards and forwards? Do we pick up on new details or become re-acquainted with those we’ve forgotten? Is that why we re-do these services each year? Yes. We must. Like our weekly taking of the bread and wine at the Eucharist, we need this annual ritual of speaking, singing, playing, and re-enacting the Story, our Redeemer’s story. Jesus invited the disciples to continue celebrating the Eucharist until His second advent. He encouraged them to keep His memory alive, to keep Him alive. We Easter people continue that practice.

Therefore, He lives. You and I can truly believe that He does. For it has been written and declared. May we all revel in the Story that continues to inspire, encourage, and give us hope for the future. May this Eastertide season 2016 cement our knowing and our belief in the One who was, the One who is, and the One Who is to come. Amen.



Randy Day

Adult Christian Formation: What's on Tap for May ?

We had a wonderful Lent, I think. I heard lots of people say that they really enjoyed the Lenten Supper, Study, and Sharing. We had a great turnout, a really faithful crowd. Thank you all so much for supporting it with your participation and your yummy food donations. I also heard lots of appreciative comments about the meditations booklet. I hope you let the writers know how much you enjoyed their effort and sharing. In case you were wondering, the binding was not supposed to be done with staples, which made it impossible to keep the book flat and open, but we had huge problems getting the books printed at all, and we were glad to have anything available in time for Ash Wednesday. We're going to look elsewhere next year for a vendor who will follow our instructions better.

As you all know by now, we had to cancel the small group Prayer: Our Dialog with God. It will be rescheduled for the fall, and I hope you will take a serious look at it then, because the book (which costs well less than \$10) is terrific, as is the author, Ronald Rolheiser. The facilitators, Liz Messler and Sarah Arnold, are both experienced in small groups.

Chaplains: On the Front Lines of Faith

We have one more program to offer this spring on Saturday, May 7, 9:00 a.m.-noon, with lunch



following, a movie called *Chaplains: On the Front Lines of Faith*. Macauley Lord, a Bangor Theological Seminary graduate and chaplain with several years of chaplaincy experience, and Myrna Koonce, a chaplain-in-the-making, will facilitate the showing. Both are ready to augment what you see in this award-winning film with their own real-life experiences.

Here's a description of the program:

Emmy-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier produced this PBS documentary, which explores the role of chaplains in a variety of professional settings.

Chaplains come from their own faith traditions, but their job requires that they provide comfort and support to people from other faiths and to those who may not follow any religion at all. And yet, wherever they work, they often minister to people at extremely vulnerable times of their lives, when they struggle with the ultimate questions of life and death. Whether they work in the military, in a hospital, in a prison, in a work place, or a variety of other settings, chaplains are called to fulfill the spiritual needs of those in the communities they serve. In describing what chaplains do, one who works in the maximum-security Oregon State Penitentiary said this: "What a chaplain does is lean into the painful places."

In this film you will meet chaplains in a variety of work settings, and you will hear stories and insights from two people in our own St. Paul's community who have gone or are going through the required clinical pastoral education. With their hands-on experiences, they will bring their own stories and insights to add to this thought-provoking film. This is not just a film for people interested in chaplaincy training. It touches on the core of what it means to minister to one another, something we all do.

If possible, please let the church office or one of the facilitators know if you intend to come. Although not essential, having a rough idea of attendance will help us plan the lunch.

Pam Nugent

St. Paul's Window Dresser Build

Once again St. Paul's will sponsor a window build during the week of Sept. 19-23. For those that participated in last year's build, you know how rewarding and fun this experience was. Now there will be another opportunity to offer your help and support to this wonderful project. If you or anyone you know would be interested in getting interior window inserts for your home, this is the time to sign up. This can be done either by going to the web site at www.windowdressers.org or by calling Anne Banks at 729-6592. Inserts provide an affordable solution to a common problem in many Maine homes: drafty windows. Homeowners can see fuel savings of up to 25% or more, depending on the other insulation fac-

tors in the home. There is a % of our budget that will allow for windows to be built for those who might not be able to afford the regular price. Please do not hesitate to let us know of anyone who could benefit from these window inserts. This was a mild winter; however the winter of 2015 will not soon be forgotten. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Measuring will begin in May.

Anne Banks

Mark your calendars!



First Sunday
May 1
Followed by a
Ministries Fair

Habitat for Humanity's 23rd Annual Spring Walk to Build and Home Groundbreaking at Hope Lane is Sunday, May 1st.

A team from St. Paul's will walk the 2 mile route from St. Charles Borromeo Church in Brunswick to the building site on Hope Lane. This year Habitat will break ground for two new houses! Information on how to join and sponsor the St. Paul's Walk Team will be available at coffee hour on April 19th and on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Our congregation supports the 7 Rivers Maine chapter of Habitat for Humanity, which seeks to show God's love in action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Questions? Contact Madeleine Msall 841-6028.