



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

"The light of Christ. Thanks be to God."

"Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King."

(Easter Vigil, Book of Common Prayer, p. 285)

This joyful invitation is extended to you, your family and friends to mark your calendar and join us for a collaborative celebration of the **Easter Vigil between St. Paul's, Brunswick and Grace, Bath, Saturday, April 15, 7:00 p.m. AT GRACE CHURCH BATH.**

Last year, the faithful of St. Paul's and of Grace gathered outside St. Paul's on Pleasant Street to light the New Fire of the Resurrection. The sun had set. It was breezy. We chanted as the fire sparked and then burned. The Paschal Candle was then lit.

Members of both parishes chanted. We lit our candles from the Paschal Candle, we walked together, unsuccessfully attempting to keep our candles lit in the breeze. (Well, it was more of a gale that night!) Into the dark church we went, finding our seats to sit down and together hear the words of scripture that tell the sacred story of our Salvation. Members of both parishes attended and participated fully in this most glorious Feast of the Church.

Last year was the first collaboration of St. Paul's and Grace to plan and celebrate the Easter Vigil together. Grace parishioners attended in inspiring numbers! We had a glorious time together, just as we had recently for our Lenten Evensong collaboration.

I invite you to mark your calendar for this second Easter Vigil collaboration **in Bath at Grace Church, 1100 Washington Street, Saturday, April 15, 7:00 pm.** Bring your noise makers to clamor at the time the lights come up and we sing *The Gloria* together, "Glory to God in the highest" welcoming the new life

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9:00 a.m.
First Sundays

Life
Together

www.stpaulsmaine.org

April 2

Come learn the story of the "Dry Bones!"

After worship, enjoy refreshments and check out the tomato plants. Have they sprouted?

A Note from the Rector *continued*

from death that Christ brings us in his Resurrection.

The plan is that we will share the first Eucharist of Easter together and then make our way to the parish hall to enjoy fellowship as we make delicious ice cream sundaes. (Bring your favorite topping to share!)

The people of St. Paul's have been studying the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer this Lent as a model for courageously following Jesus and faithfully living in Christian community. In his book, *Life Together* he fondly quotes Psalm 133 as the benefit for the people of God to be in community together. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). He goes on to write

this truth I have found in so many faithful communities that follow Christ, "The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer."

Please join us to experience this joy at Grace Church, Bath, when we will be together to celebrate the Easter Vigil.

We invite members of all parishes near to us in the Mid Coast area to join, that we may be strengthened in our faith and follow Christ wherever he leads us.

Your friend in Christ,
Carolyn+

Schedule of Worship, Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, April 9 – 8:00 a.m.; 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.

Meet in Great Hall for the Liturgy of the Palms.
Then we will process with our palms to our worship space.

Holy Week Daily Offices

Daily Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m. - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Noonday Prayer, Noon - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Maundy Thursday, April 13 – 7:00 p.m.

The Washing of the Feet, the Last Supper and the Stripping of the Altar during which scripture of God's steadfast love for us is read.

Good Friday April 14

Liturgy, Noon

The Passion of St. John is read in dramatic parts and the Veneration of the Cross, followed by the Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament.

Join us at 11:00 a.m.

on Pleasant Street in front of the Church for a public procession of Stations of the Cross around the block.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15, 7:00 pm

Grace Church, Bath, 1100 Washington Street, Bath.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

with special choral and organ music.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for two babies at 10:30 am worship.

Holy Week

On Palm Sunday, April 9, at all three services here at St. Paul's, (8:00 am, 9:30 am and 10:30 am), we will participate boisterously (at Family Worship, I'm sure we will clamor loudly as we wave our palms around the "Upper Room in the Great Hall") to mark the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem on a donkey. We will certainly be waving our palms and singing songs of "Hosanna," a Greek form of the Hebrew prayer, "Save us, we beseech you."

During worship we will tell the story of the way the people enthusiastically embraced Jesus as their Savior, their King and even their Military Leader. Our worship will conclude by the telling of the story of Jesus's passion: the betrayal, the arrest, the mocking, the stripping and beating, the cross, his death and burial, in the dramatic reading of St. Matthew's Passion. We will depart from worship in silence that day to mark the solemn beginning of Holy Week.

Each year our St. Paul's community remembers poignantly the journey Jesus makes in his suffering. His suffering is seen in the struggles of the poor, the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the incarcerated, and the dying. A biblical motif for many of these struggles is found in the Christmas story of the passage from Matthew's Gospel, "The Flight to Egypt of the Holy Family." They were warned by the Magi to flee, for the newborn Jesus was the object of Herod's jealous wrath that commanded all infants be murdered in order to kill the newborn's threat to his power.

The stories of Jesus's life, even as an infant, his suffering and his death teach us mercy and com-

passion. The stories of Jesus's life call us to serve those whom many in our culture have condemned: refugees and immigrants. Many are fleeing their homes for their lives and finding that the terrible risks and uncertainties of refugee status outweigh the terrors they and their families are finding at home. Surely, Jesus, as once a refugee himself, calls us to welcome them and help them when we are called.

During Holy Week at St. Paul's, our banner, "Refugees and Immigrants Welcome" will hang inside our building to remind us, the faithful, that we are to affirm our call to live by the teachings of Jesus. We have learned during the season of Lent the paramount importance the Sermon on the Mount has for us as followers of Jesus. Teachings such as, "Do unto others as you would have them to unto you," and "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will see God," and "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy," teach us the way of Jesus.

Jesus suffered on the cross for the world he loved so very much. On Good Friday we call to him, "Savior of the world, by your cross and precious death..." you have redeemed us. He died for us and he died for refugees and immigrants whom we welcome with mercy.

Your friend in mercy and peace,
Carolyn+



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

There are two more offerings from Adult Formation before we break for the summer, both small groups. If you haven't yet experienced the intimacy and fellowship of a small group at St. Paul's, this is your chance. The first, held on five Tuesdays, will be facilitated by one of our deacons, Chick Carroll, and is an exploration of the Bible and the Koran side by side. In reality, how similar and dissimilar are these two Abrahamic faiths? The second, facilitated by Tom Nugent, will use Rick Wile's recent novel, *Requiem in Stones: A Novel of Grief & Grace*, to explore grief and suffering in a Christian context.

Please let the church office know as soon as possible whether you're interested in attending one or both, because books need to be ordered for both small groups. (Some of you may already have a copy of Rick's book, so you will not need to buy one.)

Reading the Bible and the Koran Side by Side



Something unusual will be offered beginning April 18 for five Tuesdays: an opportunity to learn the reality about Muslim and Christian beliefs by looking at the scriptures. This is a time to go beyond what the media says and find out for ourselves the real differences and similarities between the Bible and the Muslim Koran.

Facilitated by Chick Carroll, we will look at five Bible stories that are central to our faith and compare them with corresponding stories in the Koran. Many of us learned so much in the fall by attending the Sunday afternoon program, "An Interfaith Encounter," with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths represented. Here is a chance to explore together and compare well-loved Bible stories with what Muslims believe. Expect some surprises!

Please sign up by calling the church office by April 9 so that a short guide, *Reading Scripture*

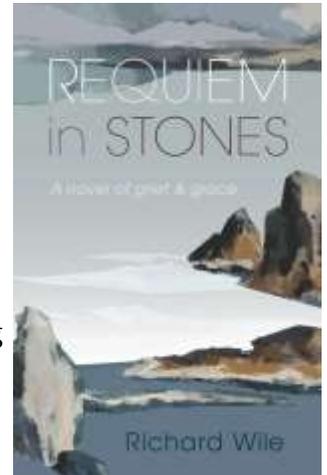
Together (\$8.99) may be ordered for you. If you have any questions, please speak with Chick Carroll.

Facilitator: The Rev. Chick Carroll

When: Five Tuesdays—April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16; 2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.

Requiem in Stones: A Novel of Grief & Grace, by Rick Wile

An understanding of what this novel is about is well described by author Lee Hope: "Rick Wile . . . uses fiction to lead us through a profound, archetypal Christian journey of suffering, bottoming out, and redemption. Following the death of his child, the narrator loses his faith. He grapples with God as his harrowing spiritual path gradually leads him toward surrender, service, and transcendence. *Requiem in Stones* offers spiritual consolation to those who struggle to reconcile grief and belief."



Although the book is specifically about a grief that resulted from the loss of a child, not an uncommon occurrence unfortunately, the story told will resonate with anyone who has experienced a devastating loss of any kind—a spouse, a friend, a pet, a future, even themselves. Loss and grief are universal.

The author will be making a special guest appearance at the last session.

Facilitator: Tom Nugent

When: Five Fridays—April 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19; 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Pam Nugent
Adult Christian Formation

From the music desk....

The Story. This title graced the cover of a hymn-fest compilation I found while attending a worship conference years ago. My brain's catalogue quickly retrieved a hymn title "I Love to Tell the Story." Oral tradition, the telling of stories, has ancient roots. Our Old and New Testaments are primarily story-based. Stories laced with colorful characters and even more colorful plots. We read tales of God's love and frustration while dealing with His people. We identify with the roles played by certain figures, feeling their redemption when the story of God versus sinner, redemption versus sin, lays the groundwork for the telling. Parables, morality plays, and allegorical spins are just three of the literary devices used to tell parts of the story.

Each year as a musician, thinker, and theologian-wannabe I face the challenge of once again telling the story. I'm confronted with the really direct question I prefer to ask someone else: What have you learned about God and His love that you didn't learn the year before? How are you telling the story in different ways?

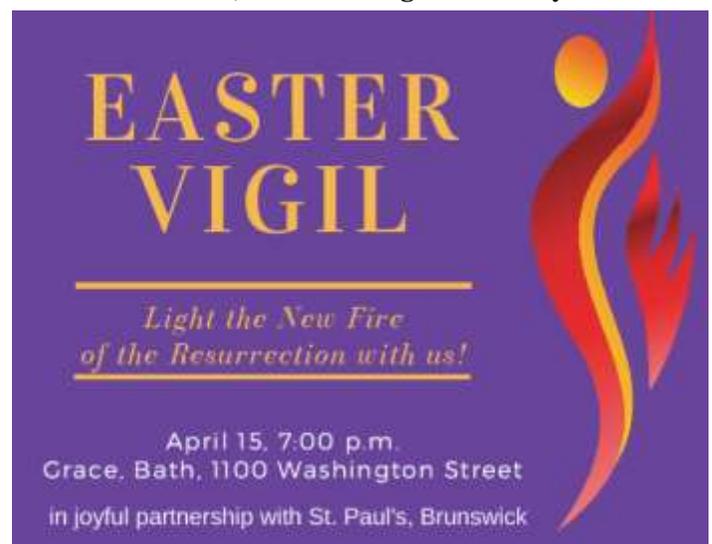
Some stories fade in significance as time marches on. Others like *The Story* have a long shelf-life, bearing the scrutiny by those earnest to know and feel and realize the power of the story for themselves. No stone is left unturned; musical style, instrumentation, and text are considered to be adequate tools for conveying the story. Content usurps rhythm and technique; the do-ability of the music is all-important, for the story is not to be told haphazardly. It is His story, and the story of all time.

Which is why I've grown to love an Episcopal tradition practiced as a major pivotal point in Holy Week, the Easter Vigil. My first experience with this service was Holy Week 2005, and it was overwhelming. For some reason I just wanted to survive the doing of the service, with no concern about who would get it...the 'it' being the story. Not until we planned the Easter Vigil 2006 did I go to the drawing board, pretending the entire service needed to be scrutinized. Our staff looked for ways to make the service more accessible, to make sure we were telling the story more completely and colorfully than ever before.

As bulletin publication deadline approached, I re-read *The Story*, the text of hymns, prayer book selections, etc. and studied the timelines, characters, and other factors that brought the subtopics of forgiveness, salvation, and triumph close to home. From the fire lit in the rear of the Nave at the outset of the Vigil to the glorious ring of handbells as lights came up just before the Offertory Sentences were said I was spell-bound. Within the space of two hours or less I'd heard the entire tale of Redemption. the story in its entirety.

Whether you relish the re-telling of the Creation story, or if you delight in the tales woven about various Biblical characters with all their foibles, all of these anecdotal essays pale when compared to the brightest part of the story's apex – the triumph earned at the cross. No other scriptural narrative quite hits us between the eyes, doesn't knock on our soul's door the way the Holy Week script does. We read of the highest highs and deepest lows. We observe the frailty and vulnerability of those closest to the character of whom the story is all about – Christ.

No matter whether you attend one or all of the Holy Week services, let me spread out before you what's being offered through the music for Holy Week 2017: the jubilation of Palm Sunday, the celebration of Eucharist or Lord's supper on Maundy Thursday, the solemnness of Good Friday and the Passion narrative, the re-telling of the story on East-



(Continued on page 8)

Welcome Sherrie and family!



Sherrie with her family: son, Forest; daughter, Violet; and husband, Kirk.



Carolyn introducing the Holbrooks at the 8 o'clock coffee hour.



The welcome party at 8 o'clock coffee hour.

Notes about the Diocese of Maine

The recent Mutual Ministry Review, which asked Maine Episcopalians their opinion of the Diocese--what they liked and what they thought needed improvement--will soon be released to the public.

Some Maine Episcopalians have asked about Maine becoming a sanctuary diocese. (The Diocese of Los Angeles has declared itself a sanctuary diocese.) The Bishop's staff is now studying the pros and cons of becoming a sanctuary diocese.

On March 27 and 28, The Maine Episcopal Network for Justice, the Maine Council of Churches, The Preble Street Advocacy Network, and The Capitol Area and Winthrop Ministerial Associations are sponsoring a two-day interfaith advocacy training program in Augusta. This will train you to advocate for the Christian prospective and

action on healthcare, poverty and hunger; the environment; and homelessness and housing. Registration is \$20 for two days, and you should contact John Hennessey at the Maine Episcopal Network for Justice to register.

Spring Diocesan Training for 2017 will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, April 29th. The October Diocesan Convention will be a one day business convention, and so training workshops, which used to be held at the Convention, will instead be held this April.

Charlie Priest
Delegate to the 2017 Diocesan Convention

Oblations and The People's Offering

At each meeting of the Finance Committee and Vestry, the treasurer and members discuss our financial status and where we stand with regard to our budget. At a recent Finance Committee meeting, there was a discussion that centered around practical questions about the Sunday collection. "Does our use of automatic deposits take away the satisfaction and meaning for some parishioners of placing money in the plate? Does it remove the example for others that placing money in the plate is a quite welcome symbolic action?" This topic carried over into discussions between the rector and wardens and later at a vestry meeting. We found these discussions helpful and meaningful, and something that we wish to share with the parish.

One part of our budget is called "Plate Offerings," money that is offered to God from the collection plates. During Sunday worship there is a time just before the Great Thanksgiving called "The Offertory" a formal part of the liturgy that gives each person a chance to make a contribution to the collection plate as it is passed down the pew. Generally, these are un-pledged funds offered up in gratitude for St. Paul's.

"Oblation" is another word that can mean "offering," but it has a broader meaning. Our Prayer Book (p. 857) offers this definition: "an offering of ourselves, our lives and labors, in union with Christ, for the purposes of God." Examples of oblations that parishioners offer of themselves in union with Christ in Brunswick include time, food, skills, etc. In addition, many people find deep symbolic meaning in

*"...an offering of ourselves,
our lives and labors, in
union with Christ, for the
purposes of God."*

the act of placing money in the collection plate at the time of the Offertory. Others find deep meaning in taking the bread and wine to the altar as symbols of our "lives and labors" that are oblations to God.

There is also a practical and financial aspect to the above. In the budget, we hope to collect \$20,000 annually from the collection plate; we depend on those offerings as well as our annual pledged offerings. Moreover, offerings from the collection plate (on the second Sunday of every other month) constitute a major source of the rector's discretionary fund - moneys offered to help others in need. On Sunday mornings, our rector will invite us to a renewed understanding of offering our lives and labors to God when she says at the Offertory, "Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord." Please consider how your offerings and oblations will make a financial and spiritual difference here at St. Paul's.

A joint message from the Rector and Wardens

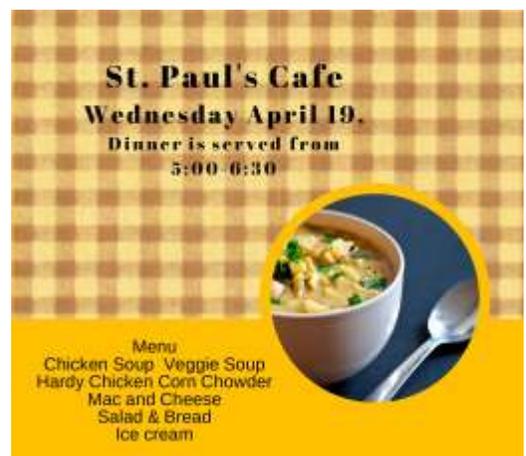
St. Paul's Cafe

Please join us for St. Paul's Café on Wednesday April 19.

Dinner is served from 5:00 to 6:30. The first café in March was a fun event with over 30 people joining us for dinner and conversation.

Don't miss out on the fun. All are welcomed and all you need to bring is yourself and an appetite for food and fellowship.

Donations will be gladly accepted.



A Lenten Thank You

This is a huge thank you from the Adult Formation group for all of you who helped make this Lent so meaningful for everyone in the parish. Forty of you began your involvement during Advent 2016 by agreeing (an act of bravery for some of you, I know) to write one of the meditations for our Lenten Meditations booklet. Every year I hear the comment that “this is the best year ever,” and somehow it always seems to be true. Thank you so much for your commitment, your time, your wisdom, and your sharing. You bless us all.

We had a great turnout this year for the Bonhoeffer program. Its success would not have been possible without our four presenters—Charles Arnold, The Rev. Carolyn Eklund, Macauley Lord, and Sarah Arnold (who was the overall coordinator of the program). The DVD was excellent (and will be available from the church office if you missed it), and the small- and large-group discussions were

dynamic and stimulating. The first dinner and all the subsequent weekly set up and clean up were thanks to our Hospitality Ministry, led by Nancy and Michael Keating. Food for the second, third, and fourth weeks was provided by participants, who took turns. The food was uniformly delicious, and I know others agree with me because I saw lots of recipe swapping going on.

It was just a great Lent, and I am already wondering how our ministry group can come up with an equally appealing program next year. Thank you for the support you all give us.

Pam Nugent
Adult Christian Formation

From the music desk.... continued

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er Vigil, and the conclusion of the story: the resurrection. Join the clergy, altar party, musicians, and other volunteer leaders as we help guide you in the experience of hearing the story once again. Grab hold of something you hear that’s new, or something old in years yet replete with present-day application. And in the retelling of the story in 2017, may you glean and hear the reason for why the story has been shared again. “Love’s Redeeming Work is Done.” God’s gift to us of His Son has paid the price. We are redeemed, cleansed, made new, and given the promise of celebration with those who we now consider Saints. Indeed, “Love’s redeeming work is won. “Alleluia!!!!!”

Randy Day



Habitat for Humanity's 24th Annual Spring Walk

Spring is really on the way! Habitat for Humanity's 24th Annual Spring Walk to Build is Sunday, May 7 at 2 p.m. 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. A team from St. Paul's will fundraise as part as our covenant commitment to Habitat and will walk together from St. Charles Church on McKen St. to the Hope Lane development. Information on how to join and sponsor the St. Paul's Walk Team will be available at coffee hour and posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Pledging online is easy and secure. Use this link to support our team: <http://tinyurl.com/HabitatTeam17> Or support individual walkers with cash or checks. Questions? Contact Madeleine Msall 607-4049 or MadeleineMsall@gmail.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

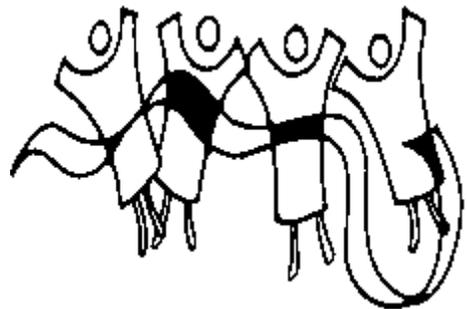
4/2 Corbet Munro
4/4 Julia Walker
4/5 Karl Joslin
4/6 Andrew McCarthy
4/10 Beth Barnes
4/10 Allen Springer
4/13 Linda Ashe-Ford
4/13 Andrew Cadot
4/13 Donald Labonte
4/13 Sophia Smith
4/14 Ande Smith
4/15 Liam Bailey
4/15 Terry Leitzell
4/15 Kate Nicita
4/16 Ethan Ford
4/18 Cody Baker

4/18 Phil Studwell
4/21 Cameron Hughes
4/23 Lawrence Arnold
4/24 Liam Kent
4/25 Lynn Joslin
4/25 Jonathan Koehler
4/26 Rick Wile
4/28 Emma Barhydt
4/28 Dwayne Robinson
4/29 Abigail Manny
4/29 Duane Peck
4/30 Emma Levy

Happy Anniversary!

4/3 Linton & Bonnie Studdiford
4/7 Richard & Anne Brautigam
4/8 George & Duane Peck
4/10 Claude & Leslie Brancart

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let the office know so that we may update our files.



The Messenger is published monthly, excluding January and with a combined July/August issue. It is emailed to the parish. Paper copies are available at the church for those who prefer them. It is also mailed to those who do not have email. **Please send submissions for the May issue by April 21.** Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the parish office.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
APRIL 2017

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The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon
Paul Womer, Senior Warden
Johanna Wigg, Junior Warden
Sherrie Holbrook, Christian Formation Director
Randy Day, Music Ministry Director
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator
Melanie Chicoria, Administrative Assistant
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton

We're on the web!

www.StPaulsMaine.org
and Facebook



April 2

All-parish worship
and special activity for all ages.

9:00 a.m. We will gather as an entire parish at 9 am. Seating for families with small children and those with disabilities will be reserved. Come learn the story of the "Dry Bones!" Worship-under-an-hour!

After worship, enjoy refreshments and check out the tomato plants. Have they sprouted? Are they ready to transfer to our homes? What will they look like? How are these sprouts like the "dry bones" coming alive? Do sprouts tell us that God gives the miracle of growth?

