



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

I will celebrate my fourth year as rector of St. Paul's at the end of this month. At this time four years ago, I was anticipating with joy a future that I could not have imagined. I walked forward in faith, confident that God was calling me to St. Paul's, Brunswick, Maine. Thank you for a fulfilling four years; my love for you and my work with you has continued to deepen.

This morning the reading in my 12-Step daily meditation book reminds me of a Christian's attitude toward the future. "Openness to the future is a mark of recovery. Confidence in what lies ahead creates an atmosphere of trust and hope that provide a rich soil for growth." Growth, for me has come through trusting God and trusting this parish in many new paths we have taken together and will take together in the future.

I don't think there is a person on earth, young or old who doesn't have the capacity for growth; growth as a human being, growth in goodness and kindness, growth in faith, growth in generosity, growth in showing mercy. There are many pathways to growth and I have thoroughly enjoyed experiencing these paths to growth in myself, helped by you and God's good Spirit.

Right now, many threatening things are swirling around in our culture and in the world. Our brother and sister citizens in Puerto Rico are struggling against the dangers Hurricane Maria left in her wake as our country has been slow to respond with aid, a topic our Vestry discussed at our September meeting. Here's how you can help. www.episcopalrelief.org

I worry that our elected officials are not tending to the real needs of our common good. Do we really need to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and remove healthcare from millions of people? Why not reform what exists? Why has talk of war with North Korea come to the forefront of discourse? Why is there an all-consuming debate over our freedom to acknowledge the flag or not? How does a Christian live, work and behave when there is so much upheaval and hatred?

My prayer today is to ask God for faith and courage. "Faith" because the news threatens my faith every day. And "courage" because I never want to shrink

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Jim Hornor Wins Publishing Prize	2
The Spirituality of Giving	3
Library Help Needed	4
From the Music Desk...	5
A Note from Sherrie	6
What's on Tap for October Adult Christian Formation	6
Christmas Fair Update	7
Birthdays and Anniversaries	11

Sunday
October 1
9:30 am
Bishop's
Visitation

Followed by
Outreach Fair

A Note from the Rector *continued*

from “the courage to change the things I can.” I’m recalling a favorite hymn that quotes St. Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, “We walk by faith and not by sight...” For me, it’s the third verse that is most helpful in times of strife, “Help, then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound, to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found.”

One of the most mysterious and joyful demonstrations of walking by faith is when we worship together. When our bishop comes for his Visitation, Sunday, October 1 at 9:30 am., his presence is a sign and symbol of the our common bond in the “...mystic, sweet communion...,” with the Body of Christ, the diocese of Maine, the dioceses of the Episcopal Church, the Worldwide Anglican Communion and all Christians near and far, the living and the dead. Bishop Lane will be at St. Paul’s Sunday to preach, teach, celebrate the Eucharist and confirm members into the Body of Christ.

Another sign of our common bond with each other is the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis.

Jim Hornor Wins Publishing Prize

St. Paul’s parishioner and church school teacher Jim Hornor has won the Green Writers Press publishing contest with his novel, “Victoria Falls.” His award was announced July 2, 2017 after a two-day presentation with five other finalists in Rochester, Vermont. The six finalists were selected from 70 manuscripts. Jim’s winning novel is based on his travels in Africa during the 1990’s. The setting of the novel is in Zimbabwe and Kenya. Green Writers Press will release Jim’s novel September 1 of next year. Congratulations to Jim on this achievement.

Francis, the beloved Saint, points us all in the direction of caring for the poor and honoring God’s creation. On Sunday, October 8 after 9:30 am Family Worship, the Rev. Mary Lee Wile will read the story of St. Francis and lead a conversation about him. Look for the circle with a candle in the center set up in the Great Hall.

And mark your calendar for Sunday, October 15, 9:30 am for the Blessing of the Pets during Family Worship. Bring your beloved pet in a cage, on a leash, or in a photo or as a stuffed animal to the service so we may bless them that morning.

My little book of devotions encourages me during times of trial, “Whatever lies ahead, when we trust in God, will be good. Whatever comes, we are privileged to be walking with Christ.” And these four years, I’ve been privileged to be walking with you.

Walking with you in faith, courage and joy,

Carolyn+

Episcopal Relief & Development works closely with church partners after disasters, equipping them to meet needs of those most vulnerable in their communities. Currently, our staff is responding to areas devastated by multiple Hurricanes, and watching developing tropical storms. Because of our strong diocesan partnerships, Episcopal Relief & Development is ready to assist in the recovery of the impacted areas for as long as necessary. You can help provide critical relief to affected communities by donating to our Hurricane Relief Fund. To donate and read the latest updates, visit episcopalrelief.org/hurricanes2017.



The Spirituality of Giving

A Message from the Rector & Wardens

Have you undergone a conversion? This is probably not a question you expected to read here. Read on.

In the middle of September, the rector, wardens, and others arranged a focus group with selected parishioners to discuss the passion and spirituality of giving. Using the example set by St. Peter's (Rockland), we wanted to ask what passions prompt parishioners to contribute funds to St. Paul's. While we would have liked to invite everyone at St. Paul's, issues of efficiency and time management did not allow it. Instead, we selected a representative sampling (35 invitees) of the parish: all age groups and services were represented.

The rector opened the meeting with a personal reflection on how one experience had compelled her to contribute to the Palmer House in Mississippi. She also made reference to an article: *A Spirituality of Fundraising* by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen describes giving as a ministry that invites others to participate in a mission, to speak where we might remain silent, to provide the means and resources to complete God's mission. Contrary to common misconceptions, this is not secular, it is not tainted, it is not wrong. It is an opportunity to hear a sermon, help the needy, and to share in a community of the body of Christ. Nouwen describes it as a call to conversion. That is: to be drawn together by God, whether by asking for money or giv-

ing it. As Nouwen says, "I ask for money standing up, not bowing down, because I believe in what I am about."

Participation was energetic, spirit-filled, and open. And what passions were described? Not surprisingly, within four separate discussion groups the following arose: community of young and old, outreach, the opportunity to become other-centered (not self-centered). "If not me, who?" There was also a request for continued transparency on how the money is used.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion of legacy giving. Through some research, participants learned more about our endowment funds. More importantly: who established the funds and why. There was universal agreement that this information was inspirational and should be shared with everyone. This will be done as we review questions regarding legacy giving with the parish. Stay tuned.

Very soon, the finance committee and vestry will be planning St. Paul's 2018 budget. Concurrent with this will be a call to the parish for renewed/increased giving, or to others, to initiate a pledge. Until that time, please consider what are your passions as regards St. Paul's. Become converted - drawn together by God.



Passions

- ⇒ community of young and old
- ⇒ outreach
- ⇒ the opportunity to become other-centered (not self-centered). "If not me, who?"
- ⇒ Continued financial transparency

Library Help Needed

The number of people willing to help in the library has dwindled over the years. At the moment two people have volunteered besides me, but those two are temporarily unavailable. I need help.

I know the library is everybody's favorite room for a meeting, and I am thrilled to say that books are constantly being borrowed. Also, a lot of people contribute books—thank you all. In fact, we're getting tight on space, and some hard choices have had to be made. The end result is that our library has become an amazing resource for spiritual and religious books!

This is how the idea of creating a serious library came about. One day Al Niese facilitated an Adult Formation program on Fred Buechner, whom Al knows personally. Al arrived for the program with an armful of Buechner's books, and those who came watched a videotaped interview with Buechner. The program was a big hit, and it was then that I realized that if someone wanted to learn more and read some of what Fred Buechner had written, there was no support for doing that at St. Paul's.

The original idea was that the library could serve as a support for all of the Adult Formation programs that go on at St. Paul's. Thankfully, the planning committee that designed the new parish house was wise enough to include a room specially designed for a library. The shelves were all there,

but at first there was just a rag tag assortment of books, pamphlets, and old newspapers. As the library has grown in popularity, the appeal of such a resource has gone far beyond the reaches of Adult Formation. Many people, for their own enjoyment and interest, borrow books that have nothing to do with Adult Formation programs. There is also a hefty number of reference books, which should not be taken out of the library, that help people in their study of a particular topic.

Now that the library is well established, the work required isn't great. The main jobs involve keeping the room and shelves looking neat, labeling new donations, and putting them on the shelves.

If you think you might be willing to lend a hand, please speak with me. Thanks to all of you who support our library in a variety of ways.

Pam Nugent

Library Committee



From the Music Desk.....

Preparing for a liturgical service requires good planning, robust resources, and a willing, creative spirit shared by a team that will pull it all together. In the Episcopal tradition we have myriads of resources, but our musical sources for a Sunday morning revolve around 1) *The Hymnal 1982*, 2) *Wonder, Love and Praise*, 3) *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and 3) *The Book of Common Prayer*. For the musical leader there is a fifth source: *The Episcopal Musician's Handbook*. Add to these four volumes a GR (Gospel-related) lectionary guide, and one can begin charting what we experience week by week.

One summer I went cover-to-cover, page by page, through *The Hymnal 1982*. Noticing the hymns and service music that seemed unlikely to ever be used, I mused about the possibilities of how each might be taught and implemented. When I struggled as a musician to sing the melodies correctly at sight, I wondered how an average churchgoer would grab hold of the text, melody, rhythm...or harmony...and make sense of it all, let alone worship. I reviewed my findings with my adult choir in Pennsylvania, asking them to make the same journey. We rated each hymn 1-10, 1 being close to 'don't use,' and 10 being 'the ultimate hymn to sing' as part of our congregation's hymnody.

Then we went through the 'S' (service) portion of *The Hymnal 1982*. My curious mind wondered why so many of the possible selections we might use were never heard. Was it a melody that was overly decorative and hard to sing? Did the range from high-to-low of the melody or harmony parts discourage participation? Were the music and text in league with each other?

What emerged was a comprehensive list made to order for that particular church family. One conclusion was that some material had aged out. Another summation was that a choir presence was needed in order to lead the people in singing, especially with the more difficult selections.

My personal response to the investigation of the 'S' portion of our hymnal was quite cerebral: If I didn't connect with some of the liturgical offerings, why not compose some of my own? Being slightly intimidated by the expertise of some authors and

composers, I gingerly stepped into their role and began composing. What has spawned from that exercise is a short collection of service pieces, each designed to 'fit in' here at St. Paul's.

To date my resultant work is entitled "St. Paul's Liturgical Service." The following elements of a choral service ready to share with all of you are: 1) Gloria, 2) Sanctus, 3) Kyrie – Version A, 4) Kyrie – Version B, 5) Fraction Anthem #1 ("Jesus, Lamb of God"), and Fraction Anthem #2 ("Whoever Eats This Bread"). A sung Lord's Prayer and Trisagion are yet to be completed. Each selection has been composed with sensitivity to how we do and experience worship at St. Paul's, especially in terms of making the music user-friendly for our younger members. Eventually the music will be bound together in some fashion and placed in the Nave's pew racks.

The St. Paul's Adult Choir is currently reading and digesting these pieces as your musical leaders in worship. They are helping me discover hidden pitfalls, weaknesses in the editing, etc. After the Bishop's visit we will begin using different pieces selected from "The St. Paul's Liturgical service." I will work with the rector on when and how we will incorporate these pieces into our weekly services. In the meantime, I thank the choir, and eventually the congregation, for reading and singing!

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel was known for writing this line: "Man (humankind) cannot live without a song." How true.

Blessings to each of you as we continue travelling through this fall of 2017.

Yours,

Randy Day

Director of Music Ministries

A Note from Sherrie

Dear Families,

It has been an exciting few weeks for us! We kicked off the church school year with a very well-attended and vibrant celebration - Blessing of the Backpacks.

Kids, young and older, received a blessing and a keychain, a tangible reminder that God is always with us.

In our first two coffee house discussions we have explored two tenants of faith: being inclusive in the world, and being courageous, with God at your side. The discussions have been deep and meaningful, and I'm touched by your ability to be vulnerable with each other. Our work allows us to get to know one another on a deeper level, to care for each other, and support one another. And, as we feel supported, we can go out into the world and continue to offer love and support.

I look forward to us being a community of learners together. It is not just our children who are in formation; we all are. I am learning too! Young children and older adults, teenagers - all ages! - have been participating in our coffee house discussions. As time goes on, I hope to find others who wish to teach a group lesson. Mary Lee will be hosting a story and discussion about St. Francis on October 8th.

For our first service project we gathered donations of dry pet food for Animeals. We worked as a group, after the 9:30 Service, to package up this food which will be given to Meals on Wheels recipi-

ents. People were very generous with food donations - and with their time, especially on a hot Sunday!! I am so thankful.

I look forward to an exciting Blessing of the Pets celebration on October 15. Children and families can bring their pets (dogs, cats, rabbits, - even a photo of a pet, if you'd prefer) to church for a special blessing at 9:30a.m. . I'm sure there will be lots of laughter and smiles as we greet each other's furry creatures. My own kids look forward to this service each year.

Another upcoming event is our Pumpkin carving on October 29th. We'll gather at 4pm to carve pumpkins and share a meal. Invite a friend!

So, as we continue to move forward and grow together in our faith, I hope I'll see you somewhere along the way. I know it isn't realistic for most families to come to church each Sunday, but we want you to know you're always welcome - and we'll always be glad to see you when you Can come!

peace,

Sherrie



What's on Tap for October? Adult Christian Formation

Because the Lenten program this year was so popular, we thought we'd bring you more of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Sign up through the church office for this small group facilitated by Sarah Arnold and Macauley Lord. There is only room for 12 people, so don't wait too long. It will meet for five Tuesdays: October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14 from 3:00 to 4:15.

Bonhoeffer Revisited

At the Lenten series last spring, based on the documentary film about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, many ex-



pressed an interest in learning more about Bonhoeffer's writings. Perhaps part of the interest in Bonhoeffer stems from the utterly courageous marrying of belief and action that Bonhoeffer demonstrated in his life, a union that led to his death. Sarah Arnold and Macauley Lord have agreed to facilitate a small group on Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, a short book he wrote to guide the students at his

small, illegal seminary in Germany during the Nazi reign.

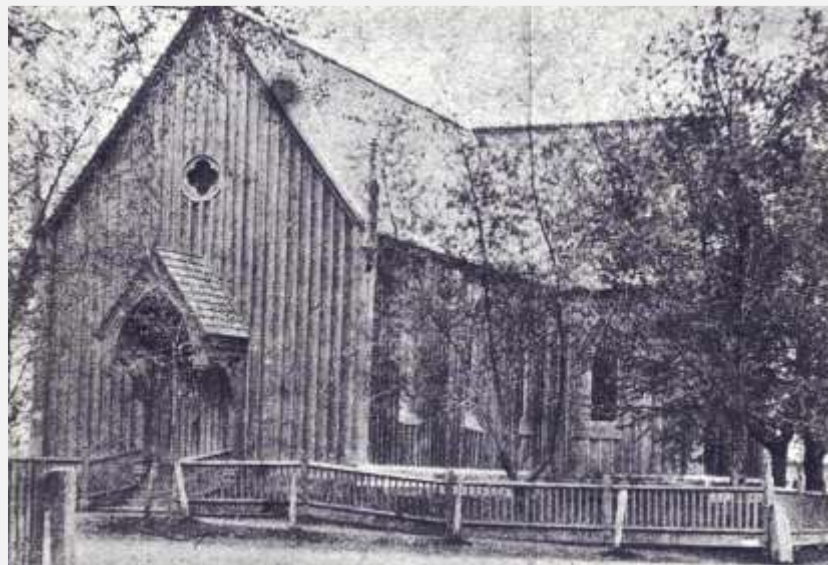
The book is rich with Bonhoeffer's theological insights, but it is also full of practical guidance for Christians living in community, as we do at St. Paul's. There is no need to purchase and read the book, because the group will look at and discuss excerpts during our time together. In his book Bonhoeffer poses hard questions about how we can understand some of the difficult biblical texts that we read, such as those in the Psalms, while at the same time he celebrates the gift of God's mercy and what it means to be a community in Christ. As one of Bonhoeffer's former students said in the documentary we saw in the spring, "He [Bonhoeffer] spoke to us as no other teacher ever did." Please join us.

Pam Nugent

Adult Formation Chair

Image from the past

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Photograph from
Mrs. Ellen A Bowker
1919



Christmas Fair Update

St. Paul's Annual Christmas Fair is Saturday, December 2nd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

100% of the Fair Profits is used for Outreach in the Greater Brunswick area and Beyond.

What you can buy at the fair: Christmas cards, Advent calendars, baked goods, treasures, wreaths and other greens, Christmas decorations, jewelry, Rada knives and kitchen utensils, American Girl clothes – particularly St. John's school outfit, St. Paul's Cookbooks (bargain priced at \$1 each), bid on Silent Auction items, Fish Chowder and other lunch foods, and so very much more.

What can I do to help? Volunteer to help with set up, clean up, or work the day of the fair, decorate wreaths, donate goods for us to sell, and **BUY** our donated items. Tell your neighbors and friends about St. Paul's Fair. Our profit depends on donations and selling. Our goal is to Net \$15,000. We have not met that goal yet but keep trying! Please help if you can.

Bonny Labonte, Abbie Van Doren, and Lili Ott

Suggestions for donations:

Baked Goods	Knit & gift items	Jewelry	SURPRISE US!
Wares for Country Store	Your specialty craft	Christmas Decorations	Desserts for lunch room
Treasures of all kinds	Religious items	Previously loved Art	Cash for fair expenses
Fresh Green for the Greens table	Unique items for the Silent Auction	VOLUNTEER YOUR VALUABLE TIME	Unexpected & Unique Items



Christmas in Autumn??

Not quite, but it is time to start saving dried seed pods, pine cones, acorns, etc. for our use in decorating wreaths for the Christmas Fair. If you do not want to hold on to them until decorating time, bring them to church and I will keep them with my stash. Questions or for pick up call Nancy Whitehouse at 777-5665 or 346-1493.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

10/02 Craig Rendell	10/31 Linda Baker
10/08 Abbie Van Doren	10/14 Gregory Millert
10/10 Elizabeth Butler	10/27 Adam Lindquist
10/11 Tinker Barron	10/01 Kately Martens
10/14 Tracey Peck-Moad	10/28 Alison Kennedy
10/16 David Hawkins	10/19 Samuel Dunning
10/17 Lynda Chandler	10/20 Zachary Collins
10/18 Pat Forsyth	10/11 Lucas Hartman
10/18 Al Hipkins	10/31 Lucy Redlon
10/20 Laura Lindquist	
10/20 Julia Walkling	
10/26 Angela Clegg	
10/27 David Gardner	

Happy Anniversary!

Bob & Cristle Judd 10/01
Paul & Charlotte Loveless 10/26
Peter & Susan McCracken 10/26



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 November issue by October 20.** Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the parish office.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
OCTOBER 2017

27 Pleasant St.
P.O. Box 195
Brunswick, Maine 04011
Phone: 207-725-5342
E-mail: stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector
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

Sunday, October 1

9:30 am

**The Right Reverend Stephen T. Lane
Bishop's Visitation
Confirmations & Receptions**

Followed by
Outreach Fair