

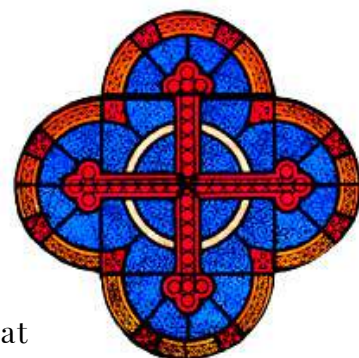
The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2020

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund

You might remember that I reported some great news last October that St. Paul's received a fully-funded grant for my sabbatical from the prestigious Lily Foundation. The St. Paul's sabbatical grant writing team and I submitted an excellent proposal in April that included funding for the theme, "Deepening the Practice of Christian Hospitality."



The grant covers my travel and all expenses for three months away beginning my last Sunday, May 31, 2020, and ending when I return on Sunday, August 30, 2020. I will travel to the sites of the early communities of Sts. Paul and John. My focus will be to understand the ancient roots of Christian hospitality. I'll spend a month living with a family in Armenia and volunteering with the Armenian Volunteer Corps. My focus will be to learn how this earliest Christian country extends hospitality to friend and stranger. For my final month, I'll be renting a cottage Down East and inviting my siblings to join me for periods of time to practice the dishes I learned to cook in Armenia and travel around the Down East area.

The grant also covers a good amount of parish activity that we have currently planned for Lent and during my absence. It is this parish activity that I'm excited to describe to you in this February article. In the grant proposal there is a section for the parish to envision activities that nurture the theme of Christian Hospitality. Let me share with you the part of the grant proposal that describes these parish activities:

"Our congregation is excited for this opportunity for our Rector, and happy with how her interests for the program match a core interest of our community—hospitality. St. Paul's is a congregation that embraces hospitality and plans to continue this mission while the Rector is away. Inclusive and relational are terms that describe St. Paul's. We believe that hospitality fosters faith, and that it needs to be nurtured both inside and out. Knowing that we need to grow our hospitality inside as we take it outside, we will work on a three-pronged approach to expanding hospitality within:

"First, we will begin the leave by attending a weekend retreat at the Society of St. John the Evangelist Guesthouse in Cambridge, MA, where a maximum of 13 parishioners will learn about the brothers' Rule of Hospitality and Welcome. Next, we will gather as a congregation in a one-day program, followed by two Bible studies and Sunday sermons given by Deirdre Good, PhD., New Testament scholar, to learn the historical and scriptural basis for Christian Hospitality and Table Fellowship, ancient hallmarks of Christian Hospitality. Second, we will develop a program of welcomers for each Sunday service to provide one-on-one, intentional outreach and to foster respect, recognition, and invitation.

continued on next page

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



continued from page one

We will engage a consultant from the Episcopal Church Office of Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation to guide us in the area of Welcoming and Connecting. The program will include training a group of Sunday worship welcomers and to deepen our engagement and connection with neighbors and each other. Third, we will expand our all-parish intergenerational First Sundays, Life Together worship and invite all to brunch after the service to extend hospitality.

“St. Paul’s is fortunate to be located on a busy corner in the heart of Brunswick, adjacent to the Public Library and across from the Post Office. We plan to build a picnic table with our youth, memorialized with handprints of the builders, to be placed on our corner to create a community ‘Coffee on the Corner’ for coffee and conversation. And finally, to return to the beginning, we plan to share our learnings about Christian hospitality right here at home, in a facilitated conversation over a meal upon the Rector’s return so that we can learn about her overseas experiences. We will be anxious to hear about the ancient Christian practices, including modern Armenian hospitality and faith, and apply them to our own situation in Brunswick.” (From the Lily Foundation Sabbatical Grant Proposal p. 3)

Currently, as Lent approaches and the Adult Formation Ministry Team led by Pam Nugent desires to incorporate as much of the theme of Christian Hospitality into our Lenten study, you will read in this issue about the content for this year’s Tuesday Lenten suppers around the theme of Christian Hospitality. I have invited my New Testament professor, Dr. Deirdre Good, to lead the first Tuesday Lenten Supper lesson, “I Was a Stranger and You Invited Me In.” (Matthew 25:35)

Dr. Good (Deirdre) has retired to Maine with her wife Julian. They now live in Northeast Harbor and are members of St. Margaret’s in Belfast. She has led many bible studies in the Diocese of Maine since she retired here. Her session with us will include a discussion about the mandate for hospitality to strangers not only in the Bible but specifically in Luke’s Gospel, where she writes, “...what we see is mobile hospitality, not Martha Stewart!”

Dr. Good is a scholar known worldwide and hopes that we will bring our Bibles for the March 3 Lenten Supper conversation. I’m proud that our sabbatical grant is funding her work with us. She will return to teach a Sunday Bible Study in June and preach that day. (To be announced soon.)

continued on next page



Please enjoy reading about Dr. Good in her bio below:

“Deirdre Good was born in Kenya, grew up in the UK, spent most of her working life in NYC, and lives in Maine. She has degrees from the University of St Andrews in Scotland, Union Theological Seminary, Cambridge University, & Harvard University Divinity School. She is an honorary Canon in the Diocese of Central PA. Presently, she is Co-chair of the UMC Episcopal national dialogue. She teaches Greek, New Testament, & Lectionary courses online for the Stevenson School for Ministry of the Diocese of Central PA. She has published several books on Matthew's Gospel, ‘family values’ at the time of the New Testament, on Mary Magdalene, on the Wisdom figure in Gnostic literature, Studying the New Testament (with Prof Bruce Chilton) and most recently, *Courage Beyond Fear: Re Formation in Theological Education* (with Prof Katie Day). She co-edits with Dean Joshua Davis for Fortress Lexington Press a series “Borderlands of Theological Education.”



How wonderful it will be to learn from Dr. Good this year!

Finally, I'm excited to share with you that the 175th Anniversary Celebration Team, chaired by Carol Martin, is in full swing with planning and programs. Some of these programs of hospitality align beautifully with the Christian Hospitality theme such as “Coffee on the Corner” as a way to reach our neighbors and share the celebration of our anniversary with neighbors. I invite you to read in this issue the many things that are planned for our anniversary celebrations and this Season of Lent.

175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Do you have at home records of any St. Paul's organization? If so, the archivist and the history sub-committee would love to see them. We are trying to build as complete a picture of church life as we can, including details of parish activities. It would be great if you felt you could donate any records; please give them to Charlie Priest (cpriest1@comcast.net). If you want the records back for some reason, please talk with Charlie Priest. Thank you!





FROM THE MUSIC DESK

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

Epiphany arrives on the heels of the sounds and drama and traditions celebrated during Christmastide. Like most Episcopalians, I would find it quite easy to recount many of the Christmas hymns and carols I've sung, conducted, or played over these past decades. On the other hand, telling you which Epiphany hymns or carols I know would be a much shorter list.

Just as many Christmas carols have a historical setting, some texts and tunes dating back as early as the 9th century, we rarely consider how ancient the lyrics or melodies might be, or who had a creative hand in how they have emerged in a modern format. If we did take a closer look, a blend of old and new is quite common.

While doing some cursory research for this article, my inspection was leaning toward all things Epiphany, I was astounded to learn that the origins of an Epiphany hymn in our Hymnal 1982 dates back to approximately AD 150. What is significant is the musicological agreement that this one particular Epiphany song is one of the earliest and most complete, extant examples of what we in the liturgical and musical circles would identify as a hymn.

The text for "O Gracious Light," or "Phos Hilaron," was a hymn to be sung in the morning, in the evening, before meals, and at candle-lighting (hence its nickname: "Lamp-lighting Hymn.") We find a contemporary translation of the original Greek text in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. This particular translation was used by our former Choir Director, G. Cameron Smith, as the lyrics for our February 2, 2020, Offertory Anthem.

The Anglican touch was added to the historicity of this hymn by John Keble, one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement within Anglicanism, in 1834. In 1912 Charles Wood, a famous choral composer, set Keble's text to his 8-voice choral anthem. Our local poetic legend, Henry Longfellow, also created a translation of the original text, which can be found in several other hymnals.

Though our traditional exposure to "O Gracious Light" happens during Vespers or Evensong, there is freer use of this text by various faith traditions during various services and at varying times of the day. The reference to 'vespers' or

continued on next page



continued from last page

‘evening’ seems out of kilter when sung during a morning Rite II service. The reality of our use of candlelight, bringing illumination to the worship space during the darker winter season, lends credibility to the use of those terms even in the morning.

My initial search for translated versions of “O Gracious Light” led me through a linguistic tour of Byzantine, Catholic, and Protestant authorship, some text settings more singable than others. The common thread weaving these literary gems together is the reference to ‘Jesus’ as our ‘light.’ In our Hymnal 1982, you will find two hymn settings of “O Gracious Light:” #25 and #26. Hymn 25 uses a translation by F. Bland Tucker, coupled with The Eighth Tune music composed by Thomas Tallis in the 16th century. Hymn 26 also uses Tucker’s interpretation, but with a plainsong, or chant-like tune entitled “Conditor alme siderum.” To bring this collaboration into our time, organist and composer Bruce Neswick created an organ accompaniment.

During this 175th anniversary year, we will be exploring ways to reach back in time, implementing music that may (or may not) have been used in first services at St. Paul’s. And even if we miss the mark a bit, how wonderful to see how different voices and hearts have been combined to provide light in our modern era, illuminating the One whose Story we continue sharing week after week. My hope as a musical leader of worship is that this information provides an avenue to greater understanding and inspiration.

Keep singing!

Randy Day
Director of Music Ministry





ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:30 am Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

Noon Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist with Choir



ASHES TO GO, AGAIN!

by The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020

The ritual of being marked in ash with the sign of the cross goes all the way back to the Middle Ages. Besides being a reminder of our mortality, it's a sign of penitence, a private acknowledgment of our brokenness made public by its visibility.

Starting in 2012, Episcopal Churches around the country began taking their ashes out to soup kitchens and street corners and campuses, extending the frontline of their churches by sharing this ancient act of penitence with people right in the midst of their busy, broken lives. This will be St. Paul's seventh year of participation in the Ashes to Go movement as we take to the streets of Brunswick, ashes in hand.

Over the years of offering Ashes to Go, we've come to appreciate what a tremendous gift it can be for those who accept the invitation to receive ashes. Many have lost track of the liturgical year, but this public witness reminds them not only that it's Ash Wednesday, but it also reminds them of their own brokenness, and of God's unending grace.

If you would like to be part of this year's Ashes to Go, please talk with our deacon, Mary Lee.



LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

by Pam Nugent, Adult Christian Formation Chair

The Lenten Meditations Booklet

Thanks to forty volunteers, Adult Formation is once again able to make available the Lenten Meditations booklet for your Lenten reading. Every year I am able to say with a straight face: This is the best booklet yet. I don't lie; that's really how it feels to me. This year's is a wonderful collection of thoughtful, insightful, and inspired readings to accompany you on your Lenten journey. Please let the authors know if they touched your heart by what they wrote.

"I Was a Stranger and You Invited Me In" (Matthew 25:35)

The topic of our Lenten program, which will be held every Tuesday in March, is hospitality, a ministry at the very heart of Christianity. Our rector, Carolyn Eklund, has been promoting hospitality as a theme for the year, and although we have adopted the same theme, we are going to look at hospitality through a slightly different lens. Carolyn has been urging and modeling how we extend hospitality as a church; the Lenten series will look at the hospitality we individually offer and receive outside of St. Paul's.

It has been said that hospitality is a remedy for fear, anger, and suspicion. Jesus, of course, was famously accused of associating with the "wrong" kind of people—the marginalized, the forgotten, the rejected, and the misunderstood. The kind of hospitality Jesus modeled is not about social graces. His kind of hospitality is about mutual reverence, which stems from the belief that every human being is sacred; every life is holy ground.

In the ancient world hospitality was about protecting people as they traveled. It was about saving lives, and it still may be about saving lives—healing and rejuvenating them. Hospitality requires an open heart and a desire to be available. It's about acceptance, but that's not the same as tolerance or even approval. Acceptance is about receiving the other rather than judging the other. It's not about condoning but about welcoming, listening, receiving, and embracing the other. Grand gestures are not necessary to show hospitality. Hospitality may involve seemingly small and ordinary actions, such as a friendly conversation with the person bagging your groceries at Hannaford or stopping to admire a new pair of boots on a small child making her way to the Family Service. Showing hospitality can change everything.

*I Was a
Stranger
and You
Invited
Me In*

Matthew 25:35



Extending hospitality means that we allow the other the freedom to make mistakes. In some measure hospitality refers to interactions with those who are outside of the security of our comfort zone, which often means a stranger. In those interactions we give them room to be who they are rather than who we want them to be. Hospitality enables us to joyfully make room for another inside our open heart.

Each Tuesday in Lent will present a different aspect of hospitality, according to the following schedule:

Tuesday, March 3: "The Biblical Basis for Hospitality," Dr. Deidre Good

Tuesday, March 10: "Listening," Ellen Hall, Pat Ryan, the Rev. Mary Lee Wile

Tuesday, March 17: "Hospitality to Strangers in Our Homes," Macauley Lord,
Johanna Wigg

Tuesday, March 24: "How Does It Feel to Receive Hospitality?" Linda Ashe-Ford,
the Rev. Chick Carroll, Carol Lord

Tuesday, March 30: "Hospitality to Foster Care Children," Tammy Cutchen,
Lynn Johnson, Theo Lucas-Wallace

We invite you to come for a simple soup/salad/bread dinner at 5:30 on the nights listed above. The program begins at 6:15 and ends at 7:30.

Except for the first night with Dr. Deidre Good, the format will begin with a presentation interspersed with questions and discussions, followed by small-group discussions. Please come to hear the stories of hospitality the presenters will share with you and offer your own in return.

Child care will be provided from 5:30-7:30.



FROM EARTHCARE

by Martha Burt, EarthCare Ministry

On two Saturdays in January, Earth Care hosted films on climate change, [along with a delicious lunch of soup and bread.] The movies presented footage of environmental threats around the world and initiatives to address these situations. Thoughtful and energized discussions followed the films, which included ideas for action.

We counted over 40 people at each session, including people from St. Paul's and many other community members. Attendees included Jill Standish from Citizen's Climate Lobby, which is working with Congress to reduce carbon output by requiring a carbon fee at sources of fossil fuels.



Part of our work in Earth Care this spring will be to connect with initiatives outside the parish, such as a Faith-Based Community Solar Farm, and The Natural Resources Council of Maine's work on packaging and recycling needs.

As the year gets underway, we will be discussing other possible ways we can be involved in stewarding our earth, such as working on church gardens.

Please join us at our February 9 meeting at 9:30 a.m. if you have ideas and would like to sit in. Or contact a member of the committee.

Once again, we thank parishioners for your enthusiastic embrace of the program for reducing waste and using compostable materials. We also thank all the folks who work in the kitchen and help to make it work. It has been a growing success over the year. The program has significantly reduced both waste and recyclable materials and put compostable material to good use.

continued on next page



The following is a prayer from Pope Francis' encyclical which we shared at the climate films:

A prayer for our earth, from Pope Francis (Laudato Sí)

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Amen.

Annual Meeting 2020

St. Paul's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Following All Parish Worship with 110 in attendance and a brief fellowship time the meeting was called to order. Here are the results of the parish elections
Senior Warden:

Cliff Ruprecht, 2-year term

Vestry:

Carol Martin, Bob Jackson, David Treadwell for the 3-year term

Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Pat Ryan, Charlie Priest, Charla Spann, Andree Appel.

Alternates:

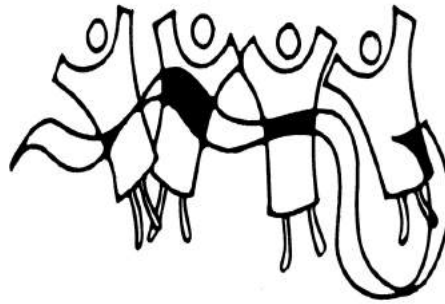
John Ott, Lili Ott, Madeleine Msall



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday

Shirley Arnold 2/1
 Liz Glover 2/2
 Thomas Nugent 2/2
 Dan Warren 2/4
 Stephen Chandler 2/5
 Charles Priest 2/7
 Cam Smith 2/8
 Kevin Wilson 2/11
 Carol Bondy 2/12
 Ellis Taylor 2/12
 Joanna Brown 2/13
 Nicole Severance 2/13
 Ada Moore 2/15
 William Nicita 2/18
 Eleanor Steele 2/19
 Helen Nicita 2/21
 Sue Nickerson 2/21
 Karin Jackson 2/27
 Thomas Kelley 2/28



Happy Anniversary

Alan & Ellen Shaver 2/1
 Al & Bronda Niese 2/5
 Tom & Pat McCabe 2/18

Think about signing up to host
 Coffee Hour on the Sunday
 closest to your birthday!

Don't
 see your
 birthday or
 anniversary?

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 March issue by February 21.**

Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the Parish Office.

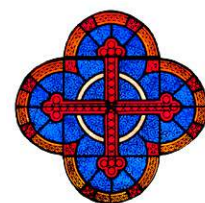


STAFF & LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector
 The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon
 Cliff Ruprecht, Senior Warden
 Johanna Wigg, Junior Warden
 Randy Day, Music Ministry Director
 Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator
 Carolyn Farr, Administrative Assistant
 Jane Redlon, Nursery Caregiver
 Lynn Johnson, Assistant Nursery Caregiver
 Aubrey Farmer, Sexton

Stay in touch!

- Check out our website for more details! stpaulsmaine.org
- Follow us on Facebook!
- Sign up for our weekly emails!
- Check out our Youtube channel: St Paul's Brunswick Maine
- Please consider enrolling in electronic giving, It is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church. See stpaulsmaine.org to enroll



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