

The Messenger

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE....

Looking into our near future as the St. Paul's family

by The Rev. Katie Holicky

Friends, we have all endured a lot over the last year plus while living in the midst of an ongoing pandemic. There are so many things we have missed and longed for. Even as we have tried our best to pivot and find ways to honor our call to care for the most vulnerable and find creative ways to live into who we are called to be as the body of Christ, this year has taken a toll.

Much has changed in the months since leadership shared our last set of guidelines and criteria for gathering with you. We have more scientific data to inform our decisions, and we find ourselves in different places as individuals and in community since then. One of the things I love about serving you all at St. Paul's is the sense of mutuality as the Body of Christ. We know how to share and listen to one another authentically. We trust in one another to work together and live deeply in the call to do so, especially when confronted with hard decisions.

As your current head of liturgy and pastoral care, I have been so thankful to hear what is true for you as we discern what worship looks like when the tent leaves us after our celebration of All Saints Day on November 7. Over the last few weeks, the wardens and I have engaged in a process of sacred listening. You have heard me ask for your input during announcements in worship, and it has been touching to hear from you. I have spent time listening to the Future Planning Committee, Vestry, and Worship Committee. I have heard that we love St. Paul's and the family and community we have in one another. I have heard that folks feel encouraged by the wisdom of science and all we have learned about how to be together more safely. I have heard that the time apart has been hard. I have heard that this time of not being indoors together has been a part of the pain we have endured through the pandemic, and that weighs on our hearts. In my listening, I was reminded just how special a place this is.

It is with love and anticipation that I put before you the following COVID safety guidelines as we plan to return to indoor worship for both 9 am (in the Hall, also on Zoom) and 10:30 am (in the Nave, also on Facebook Live) worship on November 14, 2021. I invite you to be gentle and patient with one another as we are venturing into a new way of being together.

- *A note about 9 am Family Worship: We will be using the space a bit differently in this season. The congregation will sit along the wall with the windows and doors to allow for maximum ventilation. Bundle up for both 9 am and 10:30 am!*
- *Please be sure to read the below updated COVID safety guidelines.*

With love, Rev. Katie Holicky



175 Years of Worship
and Service





St. Paul's Guidance for Indoor, In-Person Worship and Gatherings

Indoor worship begins 11/14

Updated October 19, 2021

Guidelines subject to change as pandemic unfolds.

INDOOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (Digital worship offered as well!).

Based on the most recent CDC instructions, please follow our guidelines for safer in-person indoor worship:

- We will require that you **wear a mask**. (*sanitizer & masks will be at each entrance*)
- We will require that you **sign in** for contact tracing purposes.
- We will encourage **three feet of physical distancing**. (*Seating will be clearly marked and ushers will help us keep our distance. Please only pass the peace to those near you to limit movement around the Hall and Nave*)
- We will say the responses, but **no congregational singing**. (*The choir will sing*)
- We will not come forward to receive the bread or wine; **communion of one kind from pews**.
- We will limit two people or family units in each restroom, masked.
- We will not require a limit on the number of people in attendance and will use the Vestibule for overflow seating at 10:30.
- We will not offer in-person fellowship after worship.

These are reasons we are able to assemble more safely for indoor in-person worship at this time:

- Cumberland County has a high vaccination rate and lower cases than other parts of the state.
- St. Paul's membership has a high vaccination rate, though we are not requiring proof.
- The Nave and the Hall are well ventilated. (**Bundle up!*)
- There will be no congregational singing. (*The choir will sing*)
- There will be no coming forward to receive bread or wine. (*Taken individually while seated in pew*)
- We will continue our contact tracing sign-in upon entering.

INDOOR GATHERINGS AND MEETINGS FOR ST. PAUL'S GROUPS

- Masks are required for all people accessing the building.
- Sign-in for contact tracing is required.
- St. Paul's fellowship and committee groups may meet in the building. (Please no food at this time. If you need to take a drink, please replace your mask quickly.)
- Outdoor receptions may not require masks, but masks are recommended. (We will NOT have indoor receptions at this time.)
- No limit on the number of people inside the building.
- Limit to two people or family groups in each restroom.



YULETIDE MAGIC MARKETPLACE

by Charla Spann

The marketplace is open to parishioners every Sunday through November 28 after both services and by appointment during the week. Find accessories and apparel, holiday and home decor, canned goods, tree decorations, and much more! Make a huge dent in your holiday shopping while supporting St. Paul's outreach program to local charities. You'll find gifts for everyone from babies to grandparents! St. Paul's crafters and fiber artists have been busy! Please stop by, shop, and support the many hours they have contributed to help make your holiday handmade! *Note: Appropriate COVID precautions will be in place.*

All proceeds from the Yuletide Magic Marketplace go towards St. Paul's Outreach ministries. For more information, call Carol Martin (207-844-8133) or Charla Spann (207-844-8220).



CALL FOR NEW HEALING STORIES

by Pam Nugent, for the healing Prayer Team

I hope you have enjoyed reading the various healing stories in earlier editions of *The Messenger*. There have been 7 of them, all speaking of God's healing presence in someone's life. They were shared because the healing prayer team found the experiences inspirational, and also because they showed the variety of healings that God offers—physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual.

We know many more people have had healing experiences, and we hope some of you would be willing to share them in *The Messenger*. If you have a healing story you would be willing to write about, please contact Pam Nugent at momperson458@roadrunner.com or 207-737-2369. If you feel you need help getting started, please let me know; I can help with that. If you prefer to tell the story verbally, someone on our team has volunteered to help by interviewing you and presenting your story in that format.

In telling your experience, you may entice others to reflect on their own stories and share them with others in our parish. All of this builds up the body of Christ and gives glory to God.

COSTLY GRACE

by Rev. Mary Lee Wile

A film-based adult formation workshop on Saturday, November 13, 9:15 – 12:15

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that “costly grace” is a gift that may cost us our lives, but “it is grace because it gives us the only true life.” In every gospel, Jesus tells us that to find our life, we must lose it, whether through literal physical death, or through the giving over of our lives to meet the needs of others.

Most of us aren’t called to the martyrdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but we are called to be followers of Christ and conscience. Bonhoeffer goes on to say that “As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you.”

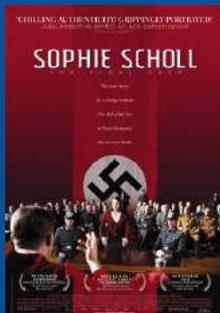
It’s how we respond that matters. I’m sure there are lots of times when I don’t hear, or don’t pay attention, but God keeps on issuing the invitation to prayer or action, situation by situation. Sometimes we have the support of a group or a movement that spurs our conscience and activates our engagement, but sometimes it is as individuals that we are offered the “gift” of costly grace.

The film that we will share together on Nov. 13th, *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*, tells the story of a young woman in Nazi Germany who is now acknowledged as a “national icon” for her individual courage and conscience. It is a German film (subtitled), beautifully filmed and acted.*

Although the film offers another example of “giving up” one’s life, its focus on Sophie’s individual response will help frame our conversation on the ways in which each of us has encountered a time when we were asked to give up our current way of living, or to give over some aspect of our being, for the good of others.

To register for the workshop, please contact me at maryleewile@gmail.com or Pam Nugent at momperson458@roadrunner.com

** The film received three Lolas (German Oscars) including the Audience Award and Best Actress Award to Julia Jentsch for her brilliant characterization of the title role. The film also won two Silver Bears for Best Director and Best Actress at the 2005 Berlin International Film Festival.*





OUTREACH NEWS

by Carol Martin, Outreach

First of all, thank you so much to all of you who have been helping to raise Outreach funding, both by shopping at the Fair and by making donations for this year's distribution of Outreach funds. We're making progress—and huge thanks to our Christmas angel! You've come early!

It could be of interest to investigate the agencies we've supported in the past. Here's a list of last year's recipients, and their websites, so you can easily take a look at the work our funding goes to support. Isn't it good to know that the purchase of a hat or scarf, or a jar of pickled beets, or a pack of hand-made cards, also supports the work of these agencies? Enjoy browsing!

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem	afedj.org
Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund	studentaidfund.org
Clothing Garage	
Maine Paws for Veterans	mainepawsforveterans.org
Episcopal Relief and Development	episcopalrelief.org
Family Focus	familyfocusme.org
The Gathering Place	brunswickgatheringplace.org
Habitat for Humanity	habitat7rivers.org
MidCoast Hunger Prevention Project	mchpp.org
MidCoast New Mainers Group	mcnmg.org
OASIS Free Clinic	oasisfreeclinics.org
Preble St. Resource Center	preblestreet.org
Safe Passage	safepassage.org
Sanctuary Baking	sanctuarybaking.org
Seeds of Independence	seedsofindependence.org
TEAN	emergencyactionnetwork.com
Tedford Housing	tedfordhousing.org
Trinity Jubilee Center	trinityjubileecenter.org
Tree Street Youth Center	treestreetyouth.org
Window Dressers	windowdressers.org
Center for Wisdom's Women	wisdomswomen.org
Rector's Discretionary Fund (St. Paul's)	



FROM THE MUSIC DESK...

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

One of the few regrets I carry is the giving away of most of my hymnal collection just before moving to Maine. Why? I've always been intrigued by what other denominations and composers and lyricists are creating and using to speak the Gospel in newer text and melody. One specific volume I left behind was the Lutheran publication entitled *With One Voice*. Nearly 20 years ago a Lutheran parish in Berks County, Pennsylvania introduced me to this work. One hymn that spoke to me at that time, and again in these days of year two dealing with Covid, was "Gather Us In," one of the four most sung by composer and lyricist Marty Haugen.

The inspiration for this hymn came from the first hearing of a text by Dutch theologian and poet Huub Oosterhuis bearing the title of "What Is This Place?" Haugen sensitively crafted a second-person gender approach and referred 'to' God and not 'about' God.

In the first stanza, we find hope by being part of a community named 'Christian,' an ensemble of souls taking in 'the lost and forsaken' and the 'blind and the lame.' No matter who or what we are, the name given at our baptism ensures our sense of belonging.

Stanza two continues a description of this inclusive gathering: young and old, "rich and the haughty," "proud and the strong." Stanza two also indicates that this is a community that has a history and that the purpose of this community is to "be [a] light to the whole human race" (Matthew 5:14-16).

Stanza three articulates that we are a part of a sacramental community where we receive the "wine and the water" and "bread of new birth." This nourishment gives the members of this community strength "to be salt for the earth" (Matthew 5:13). This nourishment frees us to show compassion and "fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true."

The concluding stanza clarifies that the work of the kingdom takes place neither "in the dark of buildings confining" nor "in some heaven, light years away." The work of the kingdom takes place now. Right here in 2021 at St. Paul's. +

Haugen also marries a dance-like melody based on a modal melody, bathing the four verses in a joyful dance of celebration.

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Why does this hymn speak to me today? Simply put, because of the ‘gather’ aspect of the lyrics. From our initial lock-down of St. Paul’s and a move to the rector’s dining room and foyer, we have navigated during the pandemic to the possible and realistic way of ‘gathering,’ though not in the Nave as desired, yet still together outdoors for picnic Eucharist. Though masked, we’ve been able to see the smiles in the faces of those we’ve missed, bumped elbows, dared to hug, bouncing back from solitary confinement and Zoom/Facebook live service options.



Members of the St. Paul’s choir have begun gathering each Sunday these past few weeks, enjoying the delight of shared humor, prayer, worship, and hearing a blending of voices silenced too long. Masked or not, the joy of ensemble, the act of gathering, has re-ignited a flame, a type of musical Pentecost among us. We all leave more joyfully from each Sunday’s 10:30 worship, embracing the gift of having been together in person.

Typing “Gather Us In” in the search bar of your choice will bring up multiple videos, allowing you choices of how to hear the music and text. I invite you to become acquainted with this hymn, one encouraging us to be together, no matter where, and no matter who or what we are. Because we should. Because our God invites us.

To any parish members who still feel safer being home and taking part through electronic means, I honor your choice. My prayer is that our being together, gathered in the Nave, will be an option for all sooner rather than later. In the meantime, remain healthy and praise God in the most prudent manner possible.

Grateful to be among you,
Randy Day

GATHER US IN Marty Haugen

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EARTH CARE MINISTRY

by Deborah Goodwin

Inevitably, we turn our minds to Thanksgiving Day every November. This year, like last, may be difficult for many people, since medical guidance still suggests that we keep indoor gatherings small and “select.” With such unwelcome, continuing changes in our lives, it’s hard – for me anyway – to maintain a spirit of gratitude.

In her wonderful book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, botanist and Potawatomi tribal member Robin Wall Kimmerer describes the Thanksgiving Address, or “Words that come before all else,” with which the Haudenosaunee people (members of the Iroquois Confederacy) open their days. It forces me to consider what my days would be like if they began this way, acknowledging with gratitude everything that makes my life possible. It begins:

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give greetings and thanks to each other as People.

Now our minds are one.

We are all thankful to our Mother, the Earth, for she gives us all that we need for life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. It gives us joy that she continues to care for us as she has from the beginning of time. To our Mother, we send greetings and thanks.

Now our minds are one.

We give thanks to all the Waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us with strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms – waterfalls and rain, mists and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of water.

Now our minds are one.

Then the fishes, animals, birds, plants, and trees are thanked. The sun, moon, and stars, too. Kimmerer writes that the Haudenosaunee people are famous for their skills in diplomacy and negotiation. Their decisions are reached by consensus.

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It's easier to achieve, she notes, when we together acknowledge that we each depend on the health of all things that surround us – when we agree to this fundamental truth and affirm “Now our minds are one.”

The Thanksgiving Address concludes:

Now we turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send greetings and thanks for the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we gather our minds together as one and send our choicest words of greetings and thanks to the Creator.

Now our minds are one.

We have now arrived at the place where we end our words. Of all the things we have named, it was not our intention to leave anything out. If something was forgotten, we leave it to each individual to send such greetings and thanks in their own way.

Now our minds are one.

Kimmerer suggests, the Thanksgiving Address might help to put other differences in perspective and to better align our gifts with our responsibilities. She writes, “What would it be like to be raised on gratitude, to speak to the natural world as a member of the democracy of species, to raise a pledge of interdependence?...In the Thanksgiving Address, I hear respect toward all our nonhuman relatives, not one political entity, but to all of life. What happens to nationalism, to political boundaries, when allegiance lies with the winds and waters that know no boundaries, that cannot be bought or sold?”

May our minds and hearts be as one, this Thanksgiving season, and always.





202nd DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Episcopal Diocese of Maine held its 202nd Convention on Zoom, Saturday, October 23, 2021. You can find information on all the business conducted on the Diocese webpage episcopalmaine.org

The Diocesan Youtube channel: youtube.com/c/episcopalmaine features complete recordings of the meeting, The Bishop of Maine's Annual Address, Diocesan Worship, offerings from the Diocesan Choir, and more.



A Year in the Life of the Episcopal Diocese of Main...



Lebanon to Lincoln - Diocesan Convention 2021



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy

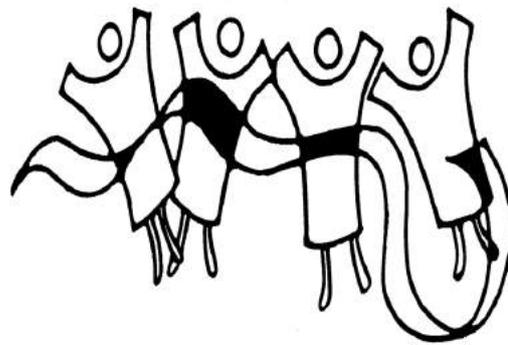
Birthday

Jean Chiquoine 11/4
 Beverly Nickerson 11/4
 Claude Brancart 11/5
 Ariana Edwards 11/7
 Randy Day 11/8
 Priscilla Rooth 11/9
 Caroline Savage 11/14
 James Talmage 11/14
 Asha Leigh 11/15
 June Nering 11/15
 Robert Patterson 11/15
 Sam Waddle 11/18
 Gavin Caesar 11/24
 Pam Frampton 11/30

Happy

Anniversary

Tom & Pam Nugent 11/15
 Stephen & Lynda Chandler 11/27



**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 December issue by November 20.** Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org



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The Rev. Katie Holicky, Assistant Rector for Children & Youth

The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon

Cliff Ruprecht, Senior Warden

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Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

Karen Tucker, Parish Administrator

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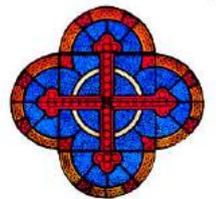
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Jane Redlon, Nursery Caregiver

Lynn Johnson, Assistant Nursery Caregiver

Stay in touch!

- Check out our website for more details!
stpaulsmaine.org
- Follow us on Facebook!
- Sign up for our weekly emails!
- 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