

The Messenger

MAY 2022

175 Years of Worship
and Service

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN.

Dear People of St. Paul's.

The Church doesn't stop celebrating the resurrection of Jesus after Easter Sunday. There is an entire season we observe; 50 days until the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, June 5 when Christians believe that, after Christ ascended to God, he sent his Spirit in the form of wind and fire to his followers bringing them "...into love and harmony with God, ourselves, our neighbors and with all creation." This is Christ's mission to his followers even now. Alleluia!

A small band of Christ's followers at St. Paul's and I have been meeting this past month to have conversations about our faith, worship, prayer, scripture and the meaning of a bishop laying hands on us to confirm our baptism. I've been praying for these six people of St. Paul's who are inquirers of the faith in the Episcopal Church and I invite you to pray for them, too: Billy Boutte, Susan Brown, Rebecca McConaughy, Ken Taylor, Don and Sonia Tyler.

On May 8, Good Shepherd Sunday, Bishop Thomas Brown will be with us to preach, celebrate the Eucharist and lay hands on these followers of Jesus, an ancient practice that calls on the Holy Spirit to continue to inspire and strengthen the baptized person in their life of faith and commitment to Christ.

In our class these weeks, we have covered the history of the Anglican and Episcopal Church, the importance of scripture, prayer, worship and service. Some members who have been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church will be received by our bishop, the term Episcopalians use in recognition that Roman Catholic bishops are in the unbroken line of the Apostles as are Episcopal Bishops. Other members of our class who were raised Protestant and Episcopalian will be confirmed, the term used by our church for the laying on of hands by Bishop Brown to receive strength and power for God's service.

I remember my class to prepare for confirmation in Trinity Church, Lawrence, Kansas by Bishop Grein thirty-eight years ago. I was baptized in the Presbyterian Church and confirmed in the Congregational Church. John, my spouse had been baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. He had attended Catholic schools and knew all the answers our rector asked in the class. John could recite the meaning of the Trinity by heart!

Continued on the next page



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

27 Pleasant St. P.O. Box 195 Brunswick, Maine 04011

Those thirty-eight years ago, the bishop of the diocese of Kansas did not lay hands on John since he was Roman Catholic. John loved that he was “received” by the bishop. The words Bishop Grein said to him as they looked into each other’s eyes always stayed with John, “John, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you.” John loved that blessing!

I hope you will join St. Paul’s for the Bishop’s Visitation on Sunday, May 8. Bishop Brown will dwell with us for the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship in the Great Hall and for the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist in the nave. It will be a festive day because it’s Good Shepherd Sunday, Mother’s Day, and the Bishop’s Visitation! Plan to stay a few minutes after the 10:30 service in the Great Hall for a brief reception and conversation with the bishop.

This Easter Season, as we say our “alleluias,” the strife of war, the deaths of innocent people, division, and brokenness in this world are not far from our hearts and minds. We pray for the end to war and strife as we believe God’s reign means raising up all that is dead. God’s reign means Christ is raised, indeed, and we are raised with him. Our Christian hope is that not even death will “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

But while we dwell here on earth, our broken hearts are inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit for the particular work of the Church in the world. “Christ sent his Spirit to his followers bringing them...into love and harmony with God, ourselves, our neighbors and with all creation.”

What would “love and harmony with God, ourselves, neighbors and all creation” look like for us and for the world? If there is any doubt about what Episcopalians are called to in our faith journey, just read what our prayer book tells us about our mission: “The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love...through the ministry of all its members.” May the Holy Spirit strengthen us all for this mission. Allelulia!

In Easter joy and hope,
Carolyn H. Eklund+ Rector





FAMILY MINISTRIES

by The Rev. Katie Holicky

A reflection on my first in-person Easter morning with you!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I have now been with you for two years. Can you believe it!? It feels like so much longer, and yet such a short time all at once. These last two years have not been what I or I'm guessing many of us, had expected when we first said yes to one another. AND... I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world! Even in the midst of a pandemic, figuring out how to worship safely many times in many ways, finding ways to stay connected, etc. it has always been clear to me that St. Paul's is a place that radically welcomes, strives to walk more closely to justice, gives generously, and loves passionately. It was of no surprise to me to feel all of these things throughout my first in-person Holy Week and Easter with you.

Wow! What a journey through the story our entire faith hangs on. What a gift to share a sermon at 10:30 am on Palm/ Passion Sunday, to experience the intimacy of washing and anointing your hands on Maundy Thursday (I weep at the beauty of it!), to let my heartache on Good Friday as we came forward to venerate that beautiful cross made by the late Claude Brancart, to welcome the new light and shout out with joy at the Vigil, and to celebrate at the table for both 9 am Family Worship and 10:30 am worship. In every one of these services, I felt the core of who we are -- a people who richly exude the love and grace of Jesus. A people who don't shy away from the intense moments, but instead hold fast to God and one another in the midst of them. Doing so trusting that we are growing and being made new time and time again.

In Family Worship we sang/ danced/ played instruments, we prayed, we shouted Alleluias, we wondered about Luke's telling of Easter morning through the homily using objects and artwork, and enjoyed the sacrament of Eucharist. We had MANY gathered... faces I know well, family visiting, faces I had been missing, and new faces that are stepping joyfully into joining our community. What I heard echoed time and time again, was a sense of delight, fun, love, and welcome. Reflections of who we are! One visiting grandparent came up to me after 9 am worship and said, "Wow, that was simply amazing. I really wish we had something like this where I live!" A family of newcomers shared,

Continued on the next page

FAMILY MINISTRIES

by The Rev. Katie Holicky

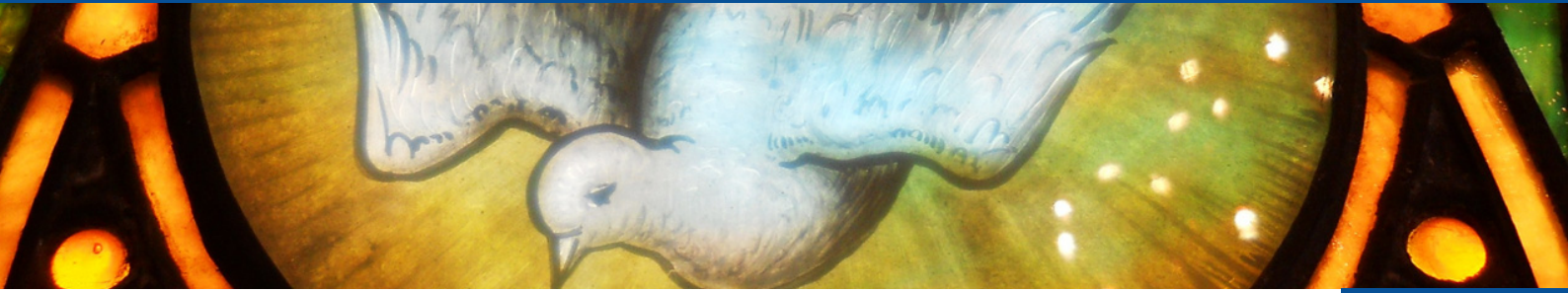
“This was so fun and exactly what we needed! We can’t wait to come back.” A few regulars who usually attend 10:30am joined us at 9am on Easter and reflected, “That really was something! What great energy! We are so glad we came.”

I share these sweet and affirming moments with you, because friends, it is so clear that God continues to be up to something here! In Family Ministries, we are on the cutting edge of the church. We are living into a new way of being that many others have yet to imagine. And it is having a profound impact on the hearts God is touching through us. I am honored to be walking with you in this way. And I am thankful for the many years of foundational work that you have brought into helping us live into this moment and the future of our life together. I give thanks to each of you, and I am thankful every single day to be called to you.

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With a thankful heart and many Alleluias!,
Rev. Katie Holicky, Assistant Rector





PROFILE OF LIFE-LONG JUSTICE WORK

Update from Nick Smith on the Diocese of Maine Committee for Indian Relations and the Maine Legislature

During most of Lent I was in the hospital and rehab to strengthen my ability to walk and to heal from an infection. At the same time, I followed some of the bills being testified to and voted on in the State Legislature. These bills would benefit most of Maine's Indian population, particularly LD1626, that would improve Maine Indian's reservation lives. There was wide support of this bill. But somehow, it was made to be political. Many legislators who voted against it lost sight of the humanitarian and justice purpose of this bill and others that moved through the Maine legislature. While it passed, it did not have the votes required to overcome a veto from the governor. These bills would have relieved the suffering of the Maine Indians.

As I read the St. Paul's Lenten Meditation book, there were good examples of scripture that apply to our current lives. Some of the passages in the Old Testament recounted the suffering of the Hebrew people in Egypt. These sufferings were due to the unjust dealings of Pharaoh of the Hebrew people. That story in particular reminded me of the plight of the Maine Indians.

I am deeply disappointed and so are the many witnesses and supporters of the bill LD1626 as it is threatened to be vetoed. I am writing to thank Bishop Brown who led the diocese of Maine to back the bills supporting humanitarian relief of the Maine Indians. I want to thank the Committee for Indian Relations of the diocese of Maine who led the unprecedented number of testimonies in favor of LD 1626.

I am home now from my stay in the rehabilitation facility. I have often reflected on my life and work to improve the conditions of Native Peoples since 1950. I have indeed seen some progress, but the politicization of bills to improve their conditions seems to have caused improvement to stop. I have many dear friends and stand with the Native Peoples. I ask for prayers to improve their conditions and urge this bill to be signed. Perhaps those against the bills for Maine Indian rights can imagine themselves and their families living under these unjust conditions in the reservations and be transformed in their attitudes.

YULETIDE MAGIC NEWS!

by Pat Wiggett

Great news! The Yuletide Magic Marketplace will be back in 2022. Plans are underway for the return of St. Paul's annual "in person" Christmas fair on Saturday, December 3rd. We are in need of lots of help and hope you will consider getting involved, if you're not already. Please contact Pat Wiggett at 406-2232 or pwiggett@comcast.net if you're interested in helping. Some fun craft groups are planned to make things for the fair. Watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming workshops. We hope you will join us for some or all of them. The "magic" is happening and it's contagious!!!



Stacy Fisher





A SACRED GROUND JOURNEY

by Andrea Lauerman

Great news! The St. Paul's Sacred Ground program has completed the first stage of its outreach, welcoming nearly 50 people from more than a dozen faith communities around Brunswick into dialogue groups about race and racism. It is our hope that the Sacred Ground program can open hearts to a deeper understanding of these issues than is generally possible when learning independently.

As we look to build on this initial stage of outreach, I am excited to announce that the funding for the Sacred Ground program expansion has been extended from a two-year to a three-year term. This means that the expenses of this program, including my role as coordinator, are funded through August 2024. I am so grateful to Rev. Katie and Rev. Carolyn as well as to the wardens and the Sacred Ground advisory council for their support of this project and of me as I wade into unfamiliar waters. I am grateful also to the Sacred Ground facilitators who give so generously of their time and energy to forward this important work, and to everyone who has taken the plunge to participate in a dialogue circle thus far. And, of course, I walk in on-going gratitude to Caroline Russell. Caroline felt so moved by her own experience in the Sacred Ground program that she donated the funds necessary to expand the program. Caroline's legacy means that even more people will now have the opportunity to learn, grow, and be inspired to work for a more just world.

Accordingly, we are now registering participants for new circles starting this summer and fall. Circles consist of 6-8 participants and two trained facilitators, and meet together over ten sessions, creating a space conducive to honest sharing and deep listening. We offer circles both on Zoom and in-person, and we make the schedule based on participant availability. In addition, there will be a "no-tech" circle for participants who are not comfortable using email or accessing course materials online (hard-copy registration forms are available in the office). Sacred Ground is for anyone who wants to understand racism more clearly and envision how we might move forward in a different way. No matter where you are in your understanding of these issues, you are welcome here!

Learn more and register by visiting our website at <https://stpaulsmaine.org/learning-sacred-ground-new/> or by contacting our Program Coordinator at SacredGroundME@gmail.com / (207)295-7856



LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

By Terry Howell

For over twenty years, the Lay Pastoral Visitors (LPV) of St. Paul's have been the link between those who are able to actively participate in the life of our faith community with those who are no longer able to fully participate.

Whether it's a short time away from the church due to an illness or more permanent absence, the focus has always been to make sure our beloved members are not forgotten.

For instance, a hospital stay might make it difficult for someone to prepare meals when they return home. Someone from our committee would check to see if a week or ten days' worth of meals would make life easier. We take turns delivering altar flowers to members not able to attend the service, as well as deliver flowers during the Easter and Christmas season. Friendly phone calls and greeting cards are sent on a regular basis. The smile one receives when delivering a vase of flowers reminds all of us that it is truly "more blessed to give than to receive."

Over the past few years, several of our visitors are no longer able to participate in this most important ministry or have passed through the veil into eternity. If you would like to become one of our Visitors or would like more information, please call or send an e-mail to:

Terry Howell - 729-9306 - jth1@myfairpoint.net

Jean Mulligan - 798-6765 - mulls@gmail.com

Susan McCracken - 846-0150 - Susan.mccracken40@gmail.com

"Visits and phone calls to our parishioners who often feel missed and loved are very meaningful to them, and that warms my heart."

SM

"Whether I'm delivering flowers or a casserole, the response is always the same 'thank you so much for your help'. For me, that's what a faith community is all about." TH





FROM THE MUSIC DESK

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

Attending boarding high school in the early '70s widened my view on many subjects. One area addressed in the biological sciences was a regard for creation and our personal responsibility to care for the planet. I don't recall a specific inroad on this topic in my musical studies, but more of an emphasis given in religion classes.

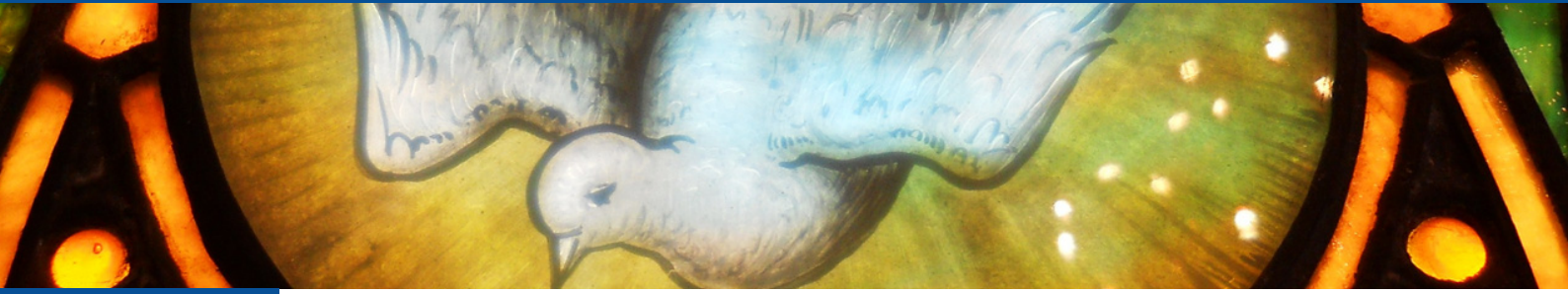
Thus the month of May always brings me full circle to the term 'Mother Earth.' I recall Mr. Coolidge, our history teacher, citing intriguing aspects of Native American spirituality, and opening the door to my understanding of The Great Spirit and much more. Being a lover of comparative religions, combined with my travels in thirty countries over several decades, has formed a global perspective on cultural faith practice.

Throughout these years of exposure to Middle Eastern philosophy, Zionism, Judeo-Christian teachings, and Asian theological influences, dosed here and there with dabblings into New Age resources for further enlightenment, I've come to one or two broad, yet specific conclusions: 1) the human species needs connection both horizontally and vertically, or more specifically, linkage with the Divine and Cosmos as well as this orb we call Earth, or home; and 2) this triad of weaving our relationship with the stars, the Trinity, and Earth, requires an intentional aim at balance along our faith journey.

Where am I headed with these two conclusions? First, these perspectives are universal and spoken throughout most faith traditions. Secondly, the musical resources we use for Episcopal worship allow us access to hymns about "Earth and All Stars, Planets in their Courses," "For the Beauty of the Earth," Christmas hymns about the Immaculate Conception and God sending his Son down to us, eliciting our response in the 8th century carol: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." We state each week in the Creed following the homily we reference the outline of Christ's birth, death, and resurrection.

As we march further away from Holy Week 2022 I will always treasure our Saturday Vigil, a time spent telling the entire narrative of the Gospel. Woven throughout the scriptures and songs sung that evening was the steadfast connection between the heavenly and earthly existence and the link between

Continued on the next page



FROM THE MUSIC DESK

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

the Divine and human. Sin and redemption, joy and suffering, mortality and immortality. We hear of God's direct intervention in the lives of Biblical nations, notably telling Moses to "Go Down, way down in Egypt land," to "tell old Pharoah to let my people go."

We are not left to our own travels and travails. Through songs depicting God's Fatherly love and care for us we can reach out and request an outpouring of that tender regard without measure.

As you journey through Eastertide 2022, I invite you to explore the texts we sing each week. Note the lines that deal with creation, the Trinity, our connection to the heavens. While we continue to emerge from the suppression and isolation of the pandemic, I encourage you to take to heart the songs that will speak of God's connection to you and you to God, along with those lyrics and settings conveying our need to foster connection with each other.

Lastly, I'm thrilled to have some new singers in the choir that will help swell our ranks and expand our vocal leadership in worship. You've brought new joy to those already present, and new connections/relationships that will spawn blessings yet to be heard.

Blessings to all of you as you enjoy the fruits of the earth this spring and summer 2022 and a renewal of our fellowship at St. Paul's.

Grateful for all of you,

Randy Day

Director of Music Ministries





FROM PARISH ADMINISTRATOR DESK

by Randy Day, Parish Administrator

If you were to walk down Brighton Avenue in Portland, eventually you might wander down a section of brick sidewalk next to a pale yellow twin home. And if you passed by today you would see all kinds of greenery and color bursting slowly from the soil in our flower beds. Forgetting what was planted in past springs is a yearly quandary....until certain stems, blossoms, and flowers begin to make themselves known.

From early Monday morning till Friday afternoon there are other notable individuals who arrive at the Union Street and Pleasant Street doors, vendors who have begun the process of repairing drywall, electrical components, plumbing, and carpet. All of these talented and skilled workers are bringing back the beauty we began to see three years ago with our renovation project and are making other improvements along the way.

Mark your calendars for May 2-4, days when the carpet layers will be spending many hours finishing up the repair and application of new, improved adhesive to the carpet squares in the Parish Hall and a new take on the Pleasant Street door entryway.

June 13 we'll also see more special folks coming through our hallways and into the Nave as the Reaching Beyond camera and sound system will be installed. Thank you for your patience in scheduling committees and groups now planning to use any spaces for meeting. I'll look forward to accommodating your needs as well as those of our vendors.

Lastly, thank you for your communication with me regarding buildings and grounds matters, as well as any financial inquiries. Your sharings via e-mail, phone, or personal contact are valued.

Blessings,

Randy Day
Parish Administrator



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

After getting a fresh coat of paint and replacing all the books on the shelves, St. Paul's library is open for business. A couple of the pictures are getting reframed, but it's essentially ready for you to browse and borrow books.

Please remember to sign out any books you want to borrow and to sign them back in with a date when you return them. Put any books you are returning, even ones you pull off the shelf to review while in the library, on the credenza shelf marked "Returns." Members of the library committee will put them back on the shelves for you. Please do not take reference books home. Blank DVD boxes are displayed in the library, and if you want to watch one of them, please see Randy Day in the office, where the actual ones are kept.

Please check whether you might still have books you borrowed from pre-Covid times, and return them if you are finished with them.

We recently acquired three new books for the library. They are prominently displayed on the shelves to make them easy to find.

- *Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church*, by Rachel Held Evans. This book records the spiritual journey of the author who was raised in the evangelical church and who, with vulnerability and honesty, rediscovers her faith. It is clear that it is her commitment to Jesus that causes her to struggle with the present-day church. The book will hold your interest and make you think.
- *Job: A New Translation*, by Edward L. Greenstein. If you remember Dr. Deidre Good's visit with us a couple of Lenten programs ago, this is the book that she highly recommended for a different take on the Book of Job. The author, a well-known Jewish scholar, provides new insights into this ancient book of the Bible. Taken as a whole, it provides a new understanding of Job's relationship with God.
- *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. This book is the basis for the movie Mary Lee Wile showed earlier this year at St. Paul's. Especially because of our long struggle with Covid, the continuing impact of wars and natural disasters, and our own political turmoil here at home, this may be the book for you. Whether you saw the movie or not, you will enjoy and benefit from these two close friends' discussing how to live in our challenging times. You will be blessed.

Pam Nugent for the Library Committee



THE MISSING GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

I imagine that those of you who have been reading the wonderful meditations in the Lenten book were surprised to see none for Good Friday. I was more than surprised; I was embarrassed beyond measure at the glitch. It must have been omitted during the page makeup process, and I didn't catch the error. So, deepest apologies to Jeanne Tuttle who wrote the meditation for Good Friday, and to all of you who were not able to read it on your Lenten journey. It is printed below in a better-late-than-never attempt to give it the visibility it deserves.

-PN

Good Friday, April 15

Psalms 22, 40, 54

Lamentations 3:1-19, 19-33; 1 Peter 1:10-20; John 13:36-36

In Lamentations 3:19-33 Jeremiah's misery and grief haunt him. "My soul continually thinks of it" (v. 20). In the preceding verses, he is so angry with God. "He has set me in dark places . . . when I cry and shout, he shuts out my prayer" (vv. 6, 8). I picture him squirming, pacing, and yelling angry words at God. But in verse 21 he turns around and recalls what he once knew to be true about God. "And, therefore, I have hope." In verse 22 Jeremiah, the author of Lamentations, recalls, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end."

How did Jeremiah, an angry, suffering, grieving man, find peace in the steadfast love of the Lord? He tells us in verses 27 and 28. "It is good for one to sit alone in silence" (v. 28). I recall the moments and days after my mother's death, rushing to take care of details, pack up her apartment, and contact her friends. I didn't know then about sitting alone in silence—about being with oneself, allowing all the thoughts of grief and busyness to pass by in the deeper silence of being alone with God. I didn't know about centering prayer, which I later learned. I didn't know about the silence of being like Buddha. I only knew how to keep busy.

Jeremiah knew. He sat in silence. In the silence he found hope. In verses 27-28 he remembers, "The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

May we, too, find in silence the peace of the Lord.

—Jeanne Tuttle



FAMILY MINISTRY SUMMER GATHERINGS

St. Paul's, Brunswick

Join us for various activities and outings throughout the summer! Waivers are required for every participant.



Our first summer gathering
is right around the corner!

May 15th

Wolfe's Neck Center for

Agriculture and the Environment

184 Burnett Road Freeport, Maine 04032

Leave after 9 am Family Worship ends, bring lunch or snacks for a picnic, and stay as long as you like!



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May

Happy Birthday

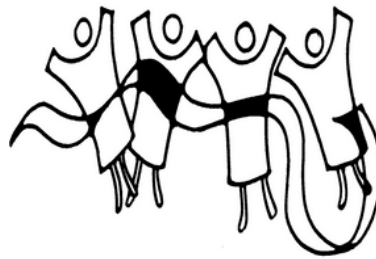
Ruth Appleyard May 15
 Amelia Bolton May 31
 Jay Burns May 27
 Alexandria Collins May 20
 Niko Davis May 09
 Max Golek May 08
 Chrystal Gustafson May 05
 Ellen Hall May 29
 Juliet Hartman May 21
 Michael Heinitz May 10
 Lyse Henshaw May 02
 Frances Herrick May 01
 Rev. Katie Holicky May 11
 Katie Keating May 22
 Rich Lindquist May 13
 Alyssa McCarthy May 26
 Robert Mulligan May 09
 Lily Munro May 17
 Travis Nicita May 16
 Arlo Powers May 10
 Marianne Ray May 10
 Hugo Roberts May 24
 Nina Rochette May 03
 Anna Ruprecht May 12
 Megan Sawicki May 08
 Kevin Schofield May 18
 Thomas Schofield May 02
 Ellen Shaver May 16
 Sophie Springer May 31
 Philip Sumner May 18
 Ripley Swan May 20
 Sara Townsend May 26

Happy Birthday

Art Treffry May 04
 Chloe Troy May 18
 John Tyler May 14
 Alex Ward May 21
 Nate Wayne May 29
 Andrew Wnek May 30

Happy Anniversary

Linda Ashe-Ford James Ford



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 June issue by May 27.**

Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org

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

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector

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

The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon

Cliff Ruprecht, Senior Warden

Jan DeBlieu, Junior Warden

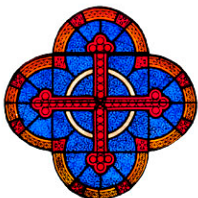
Randy Day, Music Ministry Director & Parish Administrator

Carolyn Farr, Administrative Assistant

Karen Tucker, Communications Administrator

Jane Redlon, Nursery Caregiver

Lynn Johnson, Assistant Nursery Caregiver



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