

# The Messenger

MAY 2020

## A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund



This Sunday we will hear the comforting words of Jesus from the passage of the Good Shepherd from John's Gospel. "...the sheep recognizes his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice." (MSG, Eugene Peterson)

Being called by name by a familiar, trusted voice is soothing, consoling for anyone at any time. But for a time like we are living in right now, we hold this truth in our hearts. I was holding in my left hand my electronic device when news came that 1 million Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus and some 56,000 have died. In just a short two month period, as many Americans died from this pandemic as in the Viet Nam War.

At the same time in my right hand, I was holding the Bible. I looked up this Sunday's passage from John's Gospel, John 10:1-10. I feel consoled by his abiding love. Jesus, the Good Shepherd loves and looks after the people of God. I have no doubt that he knows my name, that he knows my voice and that I can hear his voice reassuring me in these uncertain days, "Take heart. I am with you, Carolyn."

His reassurance is central to our faith as we've had to adapt daily to new routines, acquire new skills and knowledge, and some of us, diminished income and employment circumstances. In our calling to serve and be generous givers, you have reached out to help. You have learned ways to connect with each other and move forward with your ministries. Sometimes, though, moving forward in ministry has meant regrouping and postponing.

At our April Vestry meeting last week, in consultation with the 175th Anniversary Committee and after a good conversation, the Vestry decided to postpone the celebrations and fund-raising that we'd planned to start implementing in earnest this month. We have moved those plans to re-launch in 2021. It's a disappointment to have to postpone these great activities to next year. But who is to say that we can't just keep celebrating once we start?! In childhood, we used to tease one of my siblings for extending their birthday for days, weeks...not quite years! But why not?

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

**27 Pleasant St.**

**P.O. Box 195**

**Brunswick, Maine 04011**

**Phone: 207-725-5342**

**E-mail: [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)**



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I've also had to postpone my sabbatical plans until June of 2021. This is a deep disappointment for us all. Due to the State Department international No Travel recommendation, the unpredictability of border closures, and the cottage that I had rented for August will be closed, I have put our sabbatical plans on hold. I have contacted the Lilly Foundation and they are granting many grantees the flexibility to postpone them.

There are two reasons that I'm not overcome with disappointment. I love being part of our community that is rising to the call of adapting to our ministries, prayer and worship in new and frequent ways. I love being part of a community that is excited and positively challenged by trying new ways to be "together" electronically. I am proud to serve with you as you continue to remember those near to us hardest hit by this pandemic. We have risen and continue to rise to God's call to be a light shining on the threat of this contagion.

The other reason that I'm not overcome with disappointment is your enthusiastic support to bring the Rev. Katie Holicky to be our full-time assistant rector for children and youth. Katie began her ministry Monday and she will be meeting with us very often to get to know us. She invites us to get to know her. Katie will work with us to help strengthen our faith, especially nurturing the faith of our children, youth and parents, serve us pastorally, preach, lead us in worship and help us adapt electronically. I'm looking forward to collaborating with both of our top notch clergy staff members, Katie and the Rev. Mary Lee Wile our deacon.

Our leaders, members of our staff and I are working together to adapt the work of God and worship to safety precautions our medical leaders and elected officials recommend. I don't think anyone realized that we would be observing "Stay at Home" measures for this extended period. At the same time, we are thinking ahead to what our future as a faith community might look like as we begin to plan for a detailed approach to "phasing in" our return which, by the way, may include many alien-feeling new customs and practices.

We will learn more as we begin to plan a phased-in and safe re-entry, continuing to utilize electronic resources. I expect to recruit a team that will help our staff and leadership make a plan knowing that we will be adapting as

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events change and unfold. Oh yes! And that's another thing about this congregation that I love! The way we move forward and cheerfully adapt to new circumstances. Not at all succumbing to chaos or despair; rather moving forward in informed, prayerful, generous, discerning and wise decision-making. It's as if each one of us is calmed by the voice of the Good Shepherd who calls us by our very own name.

“Keep calm and listen to the Good Shepherd!”

Please help me thank our leaders and staff for creating this important trusting climate for our faith community.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

*Carolyn+*

### **Please email the rector, assistant rector or the parish office**

[carolyneklund@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:carolyneklund@stpaulsmaine.org) [katieholicky@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:katieholicky@stpaulsmaine.org)

[stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org) with the name of a loved one who is graduating this month from high school, college or graduate school. It will be important for our parish to recognize them, particularly this year when all is closed down.



### **Important Feasts of the Church in May**

Thursday, May 21 Ascension Day

Join us at 11:00 a.m. for Celebration of  
Healing and Prayer on Zoom

### **Sunday, May 31**

9:30 a.m.

Family Pentecost Zoom Celebration  
Lots of red for the Holy Spirit!

10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer Pentecost Facebook Live Stream Celebration  
Wear your red clothes for Zoom Coffee Hour at 11:30 a.m.





## 175TH CELEBRATION

by Carol Martin, 175th Celebration Chair

The Vestry and the anniversary committee have reluctantly decided to postpone the planned anniversary celebrations until next year. We will continue with excerpts from the Lincoln history in the bulletin and on the website, and we will see what other modest projects we might be able to come up with, but the big events are on hold for now. We look forward to celebrating when we are able to do so without putting anyone at risk.

### **The History Committee of the 175th Anniversary weekly excerpts:**

- 1, As we commemorate the 175 anniversary of St. Paul's Church, perhaps we can look at *The Story of the First Hundred Years of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick, 1844-1944* by Dr. Charles S. F. Lincoln to reflect on earlier challenges. Quoting from the Foreword: "The Story of St. Paul's, like thousands of other small parishes in this land, is that of life itself; a story of prosperity and adversity, of aspiration and apathy, of exaltation and depression; a reflection of the humanity of its people."
- 2, "In January, 1844, the Parish was organized under its present name, and on the 8th its members met in the home of E. Murray Johnson; the parish was legally incorporated..... In March measures were taken to secure a suitable site and house of worship.....Plans were drawn by Richard Upjohn of New York, the foremost American church architect of his day, who also designed the Bowdoin College Chapel, and the First Parish (Congregational) Church, both building at the same time.....The Church was completed at a cost of \$4,000, including the value of the lot. It was consecrated, debt free, July 11, 1845, by Bishop Henshaw."
- 3, As related in *The Story of the First Hundred Years of St. Paul's Episcopal Church*, "The Ladies Sewing Circle [to become the St. Paul's Guild Auxiliary] was organized in January, 1845. From then until now it has been an unfailing source of strength and support to the Church; spiritually in its devotion and example to the men of the Parish, and materially by the usual resources of the S.S.S.— sewing, sales, and suppers. In 1845 they raised \$200 to furnish the chancel with altar, pulpit, reading desk, and chairs; one lady gave the lectern Bible, still used, and another a big prayer book for the altar, too cumbersome to us. Three years later the Circle was largely responsible for the purchase of the organ which was then placed in the gallery, where the choir sat, and which replaced the violins and bass viol previously used to accompany it."



## FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

by The Rev. Katie Holicky, Assistant Rector for Children and Youth

Hello St. Paul's

My heart rejoices to have officially joined you all in this amazing community serving as your assistant rector for children and families! You may have read that I have had a variety of formation positions over the last decade or so ministering to both the young and young at heart. The Baptismal vow to love and respect all human dignity has remained my cardinal direction in my formation work over the years. It tends to be one of the many things I spend prayerful time with as I come into a new community. How might God inspire that love of all people be used in this place? As I find that old rhythm returning to me this week, I also sit in so much gratitude for all that has led me to you. I am overjoyed to be stepping into this journey of life with you in this season.



I'll be the first to admit in the midst of my sheer joy ... there is also a strange feeling that looms as we are still sheltering in place. This Easter season we find ourselves in a time of trusting that as we are journeying into uncertainty down our own road to Emmaus ... we know that Jesus walks with us and that we walk together. That's not to say this is not hard. Yet, we remain the people of God. I join you in your commitment to seeking new ways to honor our call to be with one another, and I am looking forward to all that is sure to unfold in our shared life of beloved community.

As we get to know each other I would love to invite each of you to reach out! Please contact me via email at [katieholicky@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:katieholicky@stpaulsmaine.org) and we will find some time to connect for coffee via Zoom or over the phone. I would love to hear more about your journeys of faith and all that you love about and hope for St. Paul's. I am so excited to spend time getting to know you all!

In the coming weeks keep an eye out for additional ways we will be connecting online. From lessons and worship, to games and some "getting to know you" time... we will be invited to gather through play and prayer alike as we keep an eye out for all of the ways God is surely moving in our lives. I look forward to "seeing" you online soon as we deepen our relationships with God and in community.

Much peace and many blessings,



## FROM THE MUSIC DESK

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

It's the merry month of May....Mostly. Why? Well, because of the 'P' word, or the 'C' word we've been hearing daily, sometimes hourly, via media. Like the scrim used to hide the female performers trained by Antonio Vivaldi, beautiful music aside, our present life and worship has been 'colored,' or perhaps 'scrimed' by the medical issue at hand.

What I do find merry in this month of May is the inventive, creative spirit emerging all over, like the tulip bulbs that fully opened yesterday in my flower beds, along with the bleeding hearts, and quite a few other floral companions. To see how the human hearts of St. Paul's parish have circumnavigated the viral parameters to function as a parish has poked holes in the scrim, letting these 'little lights of [ours]' shine. Hope for a more normal tomorrow abounds. From my heart, thank you.

Perhaps my first note of appreciation goes to Rev. Carolyn who accepted my challenge to join her in her home as a step toward fuller worship while live-streaming each Sunday. 'Can't worship in the Nave? No one told me we couldn't do it at home!!' Now there is the St. Paul's Remote Dining Room Chapel, the Eklund Hallway Conservatory, and the Liturgical Lounge used during the Homily (Carolyn's TV room). And the sweetest part of all, beyond connecting with all of you by word and sound, is the accompaniment of our four-legged assistant, Sophie. How I wish you had a visual of her standing at Carolyn's side, ogling her with longing for attention, or maybe nursing some anxiety, or charging up and down the staircase just beyond my music, her necklace ware jingling quietly, her sniffs sometimes audible. More special is having her sit by me in the Liturgical Lounge or by the bench while we sing hymns. You just can't duplicate that in the Nave!

In the gap until the scrim is fully retracted and we experience worship in the Nave, be assured that creative avenues for worshiping together are still being explored. We are working on the technical aspects of involving more persons in the presentation of music and scripture. The St. Paul's Choir, with able assistance and direction from Al Hipkins and Susan Tyler, are aiming for a virtual choir set-up and audio mix of our individual voices, maybe presented through the now more-common Zoom format, yet via a link on the Facebook page.

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I don't understand the technicalities by which all of this will be done, but the same human spirit that will not allow a scrim to mask a fuller worship of our God, or limit life by social norms brought on by disease, will triumph. Know that all of you are sorely missed, and I can't wait to hear all of us sing noisily in the Nave...as soon as possible!

Longing for you,  
Randy

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

On Sunday, April 26 at 11:30 St. Paul's held it's first virtual coffee hour using Zoom. It was wonderful to see each others faces and enjoy a bit of catching up. Plan on joining in! Sundays, at 11:30, see your Friday email for the link or email [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org) for more information.





## FROM EARTHCARE

by Martha Burt, Earthcare Ministry.

As we are all finding, this is a time of heightened introspection, and it's corollary of reaching out. It's a time when many people are listening intently to scientists, and hearing from all over the world that in the past few months, pollution is diminished; animals are sensing the lessening of human noise and activity: whales are able to hear each other over longer distances, and so seem to be communicating more, and seem to be venturing into habitat that is usually not very welcoming.

Our good fortune is to have space to be outside and observe. I walked this morning to the estuary down in back of the Harpswell school. I came quietly, slowly, around the bend so as not to flush anyone. But no one was there. Then, as I walked toward the bridge, I saw the head a white bird emerging beyond a ridge of sand. Just as I lifted the binoculars, it flew over to a grassy edge to a catch of water. So I had a perfect view. It was "just" a snowy egret, but so easy to watch standing silent, and hunched. Suddenly another flew in next to it. What was so interesting to me was that they turned toward each other and then touched their bills. They did this for awhile, seeming to click [I must have only imaged I heard it]. As I watched, 3 dark birds flew along the outlet in my direction. At first I assumed ducks; as they got closer, I thought, no - cormorants. But as I began to really see their shapes, I could clearly see long downward curving bills. They were so sleek and elegant in flight. I checked the Sibley guide once I got home, and the silhouette of the glossy ibis exactly matched my image. I know this is nothing unusual for birders. But for me, it was a complete delight, a fine start to the day.

Last week, walking in the woods near home I was stopped short by the song of a winter wren. If you don't know it, you can find it [of course] on YouTube. It is high and sweet and silvery and goes on and on... the music and blessing for all creatures.

As this pandemic has laid bare so many injustices and neglects in our culture, many strong voices are calling for attention and change, especially around our healthcare, our work situations, and our relationship to the earth. Maybe we are listening more carefully? We know we have to get to the work of healing now and aggressively.

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Alongside the many personal things we are all trying to do to be more mindful of the environment, there are many organizations working to make change, to restore health. Many of those organizations are trying to work with government. In spite of so much frustration, there have been many successes. I write of this because I think that supporting environmental organizations gives us the chance to pool our funds where they are most helpful. Of course writing and calling members of congress and the state legislature about specific bills/actions grows more and more important. So here are one national, and one local possibility.

I've been trying to follow **HR 763: the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019** [this is a fee on carbon production at the source, an idea that began with Secretary of State George Schultz in the 1980's]. It is on hold as Congress attends to the Covid-19 issues, but there is global consensus that we must incentivize the transition to a clean energy economy with strong measures such as fees, taxes or tariffs. The "carbon fee" legislation is meant to ensure that large-scale producers and users of fossil fuels (manufacturing and transportation industries) will be paying their fair share of what pollution is costing the rest of us and, thereby, creating an incentive for those massive industries to embrace more climate-friendly operations.

More locally, the **Natural Resources Council of Maine is supporting: LD 2104: An Act to Support and Increase the Recycling of Packaging.** This legislation seeks to support Maine's cities and towns struggling to pay for greatly increased costs of recycling waste. As with the carbon tax, some of the burden would be shifted to companies, in the hope of motivating them to reduce excessive packaging.

Job 12:7-10

*"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."*



## FINANCE REPORT OF FIRST QUARTER 2020

by Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer

The Balance Sheet shows the financial standing of St. Paul's as of March 31, 2020. Total current assets consisting of the checking account, rector's discretionary account and savings account, total \$174,764. Included in the Rector's Discretionary account is the Lily Grant of \$44,300 for the Rector's Sabbatical. Total fixed assets including buildings and equipment total \$,774,240. Total other assets which include our investments in Genesis and Endowments held by the Diocese total \$1,400,022 bringing St. Paul's total assets to \$3,349,026. Liabilities and equity balance the assets.

Income Statement gives a picture of total income received January through March of 2020 with the monthly budget, the variance and the total annual budget. Please note that on the income side a negative number indicates that we did not collect income to match the budgeted figures. Total Income for this quarter is \$148,898, budgeted income was \$123,280 giving a positive variance of \$25,619.

On the expense side, a negative amount indicates that we have not spent as much as was budgeted for the quarter. For example, Account #5100 Salaries & Housing is under budget because we did not have an Assistant Rector for the first quarter. Total expenses were \$114,525, budgeted was \$124,160 giving a variance of (\$9,635) according to budget.

Net Ordinary Income was \$34,373; budgeted a negative (\$880)

Other income and expenses are those items not subject to the Diocesan Assessment.

St. Paul's Income & Expense	Jan - Mar 2020	YTD Budget	Variance	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · General Donations	117,149.35	98,614.50	18,534.85	394,458.00
4001 · Prior Year Pledge Offerings	3,204.57		3,204.57	
4120 · Rector's Discretionary Offering	775.16		775.16	
4200 · Seasonal Offerings	239.00	500.01	(261.01)	2,000.00
4300 · Great Hall & Other Revenue	436.80	500.01	(63.21)	2,000.00
4355 · Rent & Usage Fees	2,055.00	2,640.00	(585.00)	10,560.00
4370 · Endowment, Interest & Dividends	14,738.24	10,650.00	4,088.24	42,600.00
4411 · Special Contribution-Operations	300.00		300.00	
4410 · Special Contributions	10,000.00	10,374.99	(374.99)	41,500.00
Total Income	148,898.12	123,279.51	25,618.61	493,118.00
Gross Profit	148,898.12	123,279.51	25,618.61	493,118.00
Expense			-	
5100 · Salaries & Housing	48,655.14	65,360.46	(16,705.32)	261,441.78
5200 · Travel, Pensions & FICA/Tax	11,985.42	9,935.34	2,050.08	39,741.46
5300 · Insurances - Med/Dent/Life/WC	9,201.84	8,044.56	1,157.28	32,178.24
5351 · Rector Education	672.78	375.00	297.78	1,500.00
6000 · Worship & Care	3,146.59	3,051.54	95.05	12,206.00
6710 · Wedding/Funeral Expenses	492.05		492.05	
7000 · Diocesan Assessment	16,678.50	16,678.50	-	66,714.00
7110 · Utilities	9,180.64	6,789.24	2,391.40	27,157.00
7120 · Insurance	1,493.75	1,200.00	293.75	4,800.00
7130 · Repairs & Maintenance	3,317.73	5,375.01	(2,057.28)	19,900.00
7160 · Real Estate Taxes	2,324.99	1,149.99	1,175.00	4,600.00
7200 · Office Operations	4,681.80	3,400.05	1,281.75	13,600.00
8100 · Other Expenses	2,693.47	2,799.99	(106.52)	11,200.00
Total Expense	114,524.70	124,159.68	(9,634.98)	495,038.48
Net Ordinary Income	34,373.42	(880.17)	35,253.59	(1,920.48)
Other Income/Expense			-	
Other Income			-	
4377 · Unrealized Gains (Losses)	96,421.62		96,421.62	
4425 · Youth Special Projects	280.00		280.00	
4506 · Annual Christmas Fair	505.81		505.81	
Total Other Income	97,207.43	-	97,207.43	-
Other Expense			-	
6425 · Youth Special Projects Expense	170.00		170.00	
8015 · Christmas Fair Outreach	39,300.00		39,300.00	
8200 · Rector's discretionary fund exp	2,254.00		2,254.00	
8610 · Lily Grant Expense	9,280.51		9,280.51	
Total Other Expense	51,004.51		51,004.51	
Net Other Income	46,202.92	-	46,202.92	-
	80,576.34	(880.17)	81,456.51	(1,920.48)



BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON		Dec 31, 2019	Jan 31, 2020	Feb 29, 20	Mar 31, 20	Difference
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Current Assets						
Checking/Savings						
1005 · BSI-Checking	64,535.63	49,192.04	55,958.47	55,615.93	(342.54)	
1006 · BSI-Rector's Discretionary	54,090.46	54,265.46	52,252.90	47,786.63	(4,466.27)	
Total 1060 · Savings Account - BSI	59,292.35	84,576.65	114,615.65	71,361.33	(43,254.32)	
Total Checking/Savings	177,918.44	188,034.15	222,827.02	174,763.89	(48,063.13)	
Total Current Assets	177,918.44	188,034.15	222,827.02	174,763.89	(48,063.13)	
Fixed Assets						
1500 · Church Property						
1501 · St. Paul's Building & Land	3,035,655.24	3,035,655.24	3,035,655.24	3,035,655.24		
1502 · St. Paul's Equipment	1,166,391.89	1,166,391.89	1,166,391.89	1,166,391.89		
Total 1500 · Church Property	4,202,047.13	4,202,047.13	4,202,047.13	4,202,047.13		
1510 · Barnes Building & Land						
1515 · Computer Equipment	3,659.44	3,659.44	3,659.44	3,659.44		
1516 · Sound System	23,882.00	23,882.00	23,882.00	23,882.00		
1517 · Furniture, Fixture & Equipment	4,164.05	4,164.05	7,852.05	8,195.57	343.52	
1550 · Accumulated Depreciation	-2,748,320.00	-2,748,320.00	-2,748,320.00	-2,748,320.00		
Total Fixed Assets	1,770,208.90	1,770,208.90	1,773,896.90	1,774,240.42	343.52	
Other Assets						
1800 · Genesis (Root Fund)						
1900 · Diocesan Endowment Funds						
1901 · Operating - unrestricted princ	448,632.99	448,632.99	506,879.94	506,879.94		
1902 · Rector's Housing	621,054.01	621,054.01	649,250.29	649,250.29		
1903 · Building Maintenance	27,907.02	27,907.02	29,132.52	29,132.52		
1905 · Bowdoin Scholarship	173,439.39	173,439.39	174,520.72	174,520.72		
1906 · Outreach	20,545.42	20,545.42	28,216.98	28,216.98		
Total 1900 · Diocesan Endowment Funds	1,291,578.83	1,291,578.83	1,388,000.45	1,388,000.45		
Total Other Assets	1,303,600.32	1,303,600.32	1,400,021.94	1,400,021.94		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,251,727.66</b>	<b>3,261,843.37</b>	<b>3,396,745.86</b>	<b>3,349,026.25</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>						
Liabilities						
Total Current Liabilities						
Long Term Liabilities						
1260 · Prepaid Funerals	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00		
Total Long Term Liabilities	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00		
Total Liabilities	63,586.47	55,691.40	46,523.08	42,038.92	(4,484.16)	
Equity						
3000 · Net Assets						
3025 · Scheduled Maintenance Reserve	4,721.59	4,721.59	4,721.59	4,721.59		
32000 · Retained Earnings	140,579.69	115,552.97	115,552.97	115,552.97		
Net Income	-25,026.72	18,010.78	162,081.59	118,846.14	(43,235.45)	
Total Equity	3,188,141.19	3,206,151.97	3,350,222.78	3,306,987.33	(43,235.45)	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>3,251,727.66</b>	<b>3,261,843.37</b>	<b>3,396,745.86</b>	<b>3,349,026.25</b>	<b>(47,719.61)</b>	



## MEN'S GROUP IN THE WORLD OF COVID19

by Rev. Al Niese, Hugh Savage, Rick Wile & Paul Womer

Greetings from those members of St. Paul's and other parishes who regularly meet on Wednesday mornings at St. Paul's as "The Men's Group." Or least we did until COVID-19 forced us to regroup, dust off (or in some cases, learn) our computer skills as we dove into the world of virtual meetings using Zoom. When "physical distancing" was first implemented, several of us pondered how or even whether to continue meeting. Conference calls? Real time email exchange? Do nothing? We settled on Zoom, but for several of our members this meant entering a brave new world. Greg Millert, Hugh Savage, Rick Wile, and Paul Womer discussed format with our leader, the Rev. Al Niese and via phone calls worked to bring everyone up to speed. Some were admittedly frightened and hung back. The first session was complete with missteps, learning how to view the others (Gallery or Speaker View?), the importance of muting one's microphone, learning that one's controls on an Apple laptop might not be the same as someone's PC or iPad. Yet, within three weeks, we began to hit a stride. Meetings took on the feel of what had occurred in the library. Members learned to raise their hands, eschewed interruption, participated in reading a prayer or psalm while others read along silently. In doing so, we were once again able to share our concerns, feelings, and hopes in confidence without fear of being corrected or quizzed. Admittedly, the current reality of isolation was on everyone's mind, but talking among ourselves helped. And this new reality caused us to discuss our purpose in this faith community and consider how we might best help others in these stressful times.

The above gives a hint at what we are and how we conduct ourselves. It might also help to understand what we are not. We are not a discussion group per se, but a faith group. Even though we read from the gospel on alternate weeks, we are not a Bible discussion group. We are not a book group, but on "non-gospel days" members are encouraged to bring a reading from any source to share with the others. There are no reading assignments, except on rare occasions. We are not a coffee hour. We try not to correct, fix, or become involved in two-way discussions. Instead, issues are presented "to the center of the table" and may be followed up or not depending on how others perceive it affecting them. The mantra is: "Opinions Divide. Experiences Unite."

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Because effective participation in Men's Group demands discipline, it is best to approach it with a basic understanding of how it functions. Many have tried it and decided it was not for them, but we continue to average between a dozen and 20 participants each week. Before COVID-19, the one basic assumption was that "we meet," period. During bad weather, maybe only two show up, maybe more. Although we rely on clergy to guide us, the group's self-discipline keeps us within our prescribed norms. First 30 minutes: initial prayer and/or psalm readings, intercessions for ourselves and/or those in our lives, check-in (or not, long periods of silence have taken place). Second 30 minutes: On alternate weeks, reading and discussion of the upcoming Sunday gospel interchanged with a reading brought in by a member on the following week. The reading can cover most any topic, but is one that the contributor found important for whatever reason he states.

Returning to the thought above, can we help others? This topic prompted an extended session in late April. Do we include the Zoom link on the parish web site or weekly email? Do we rely on word of mouth or the casual mention of "Men's Group in church communications or bulletins? In the end, we decided to share what we are and what we can offer and leave it to you the reader to decide if Men's Group is something for you or someone important in your life; if interested, please reach out to anyone of us for more information.

With blessings and in peace.

## BIKE DONATIONS

Bath resident and retired physician, Mark Wheeler, has been collecting unwanted bicycles and repairing them for asylum seekers. In the past three years, he has delivered about 25 bikes to these appreciative people. If you have a bike you do not want and would like to donate it to this project, call him at 443 5712.



*Some happy recipients.*

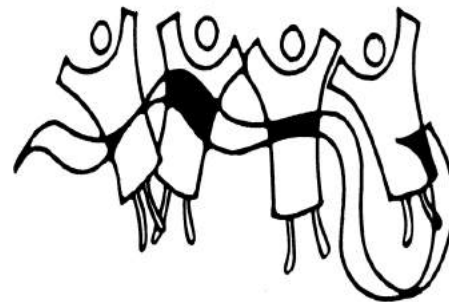


## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Birthday & a Belated Happy Birthday to those in April!

Ciro Roberts 4/1  
 Corbet Munro 4/2  
 Allen Springer 4/10  
 Linda Ashe-Ford 4/13  
 Andrew Cadot 4/13  
 Donald Labonte 4/13  
 Sophia Smith 4/13  
 Ande Smith 4/14  
 Phil Studwell 4/18  
 Jonathan Koehler 4/25  
 Rick Wile 4/26  
 Emma Barhydt 4/28  
 Jeff DeBlieu 4/28  
 Dwayne Robinson 4/28  
 Abigail Manny Patterson 4/29  
 Art Treffry 5/4  
 Chrystal Gustafson 5/5  
 Robert Mulligan 5/9  
 Anna Ruprecht 5/12  
 John Tyler 5/14  
 Ruth Appleyard 5/15  
 Travis Nicita 5/16  
 Ellen Shaver 5/16

Lily Munro 5/17  
 Philip Sumner 5/18  
 Ally Collins 5/20  
 Juliet Hartman 5/21  
 Alex Ward 5/21  
 Sara Townsend 5/26  
 Ellen Hall 5/29  
 Nate Wayne 5/29  
 Amelia Bolton 5/31



### Happy Anniversary

Bonnie & Linton Studdiford 4/3  
 Dick & Anne Brautigam 4/7  
 Claude & Leslie Brancart 4/10  
 James & Linda Ashe-Ford 5/11

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 June issue by May 15.**

Articles may be emailed to [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)

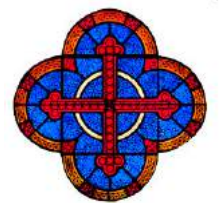


## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

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  
 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)