

# The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2021

## RECTOR'S COLUMN

by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund



During the years of my work in marketing at a pharmaceutical company in North Carolina, my morning drive to work was about 15 minutes. In that time, I would say prayers out loud and prepare for the hostile and competitive environment I was about to enter. At lunchtime, I sometimes sat at a picnic table under the pine trees on the work campus and read my daily devotions, including Bible passages.

As a marketer with responsibility for strategy and communications for millions of dollars of my product, I read the epistles of St. Paul with great admiration. I discovered that his communication style, rhetoric, and mission strategies to communicate the gospel to the gentiles across the eastern Mediterranean and Europe weren't so different from what I was doing to promote an anti-viral drug!

Though you may tire of my constant reference to the body of Christ at St. Paul's, I never tire of talking about it! The most important image Paul communicated in most of his letters was the body of Christ, the Church, the united people of God, each having gifts of the Spirit that united for God's mission. Unity in our diversity of gifts and experiences come together for God's mission in this world. The mission is to "restore all people and unity with God and each other in Christ."

In preparation for my trip to visit the ancient sites of Paul's communities in Europe and the eastern Mediterranean, I'm reading a book by Pauline scholar Michael J. Gorman entitled "Becoming the Gospel: Paul, Participation and Mission." He quotes scholar Bryan Stone from his book, "Evangelism after Christendom," "...the most evangelistic thing the church can do today is to be the church – to be formed imaginatively by the Holy Spirit

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**THE HARVEST FAIR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

**Saturday, October 2**

**with a rain date of Saturday, October 9**

**9 am until 2 pm**

**See page 9 for details & ways to help**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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



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through core practices such as worship, forgiveness, hospitality, and economic sharing into a distinctive people in the world, a new social option, the body of Christ.”

The body of Christ is a “new social option.” I love how beautifully we bring the many gifts of the Spirit together in the body of Christ at St. Paul’s. And, don’t you love that “hospitality” is on this list? The practice of hospitality is our particular calling as we deepen our practice of Christian hospitality, the theme of the Lilly Sabbatical Clergy Renewal grant that is funding our ministries and my sabbatical.

While we are apart from September 13 to December 11, I hope the good people of St. Paul’s reflect on and give thanks for our own individual, Spirit-given gifts and ways in which we share our gifts to the glory of God, the renewal of our faith community and the work of reconciliation.

Our body of Christ is strong. We have kept the faith. And we have worked hard in our distinctive Christian practices these months of the pandemic. We have shared much with each other and our neighbors in these difficult times. My prayers are with you all in thanksgiving for how you have embraced the challenges of worship, nurtured hearts of forgiveness, reached out over and over to our neighbors in hospitality, and shared abundantly not only economically but of your time and talent.

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another...Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.” (Romans 12:4-5; 9-10)

Oh! Let me enthusiastically suggest that you read the entire chapter 12 of Romans! It’s the best passage of Scripture ever written to guide the body of Christ, the Church!

Thank you for this time away to be steeped in God’s Spirit, prayer, love, and to rest. Thank you for embracing our call as a body of Christ to deepen our practice of Christian hospitality. Be assured of my prayers for you as I am certain of your prayers for me.

With steadfast faith and love,  
*Carolyn+*



## THE ST. PAUL'S VESTRY POLICY FOR GIFT-GIVING AT ST. PAUL'S

With thanks to the many people who offer financial gifts to the glory of God and the building up of St. Paul's, Brunswick, Maine, the Vestry has adopted the following policy for gift-giving.

*Adopted by St. Paul's Vestry, March 25, 2021*

### **Report and Recommendation Regarding Gift Acceptance Protocol**

A study group consisting of Cliff Ruprecht, Senior Warden; Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer; and Bob Jackson, Vestry Member, was convened at the call of the Rector to review the Diocese of Maine Gift Acceptance Policies (rev. Feb. 17, 2007) and recommend any policies or protocols advisable for St. Paul's to adopt with respect to gifts. The group studied the Diocesan Policy as well as the history and practices of gift review and acceptance at St. Paul's.

The group agreed the Diocesan Policy is thorough and suitable. St. Paul's should generally follow those guidelines in making decisions about accepting gifts. St. Paul's therefore needs not so much a separate gift acceptance policy as a protocol for implementing the Diocesan policy guidance at the parish level.

**Recommendation:** There shall be a Gift Acceptance Committee consisting of the Rector, a Warden, a member of the Vestry and the Treasurer. That Committee shall review any gift proposed to be made to the parish and recommend to the Vestry whether such gift should be accepted or declined. The following proposed gifts shall not require review by the Committee:

- Unconditional gifts of cash or publicly-traded securities
- Conditional gifts of cash when the sole condition is that the money be placed in an established account or put to an existing approved project or program (e.g. gifts designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund; cash gifts to support purchase of items the purchase of which has already received Vestry approval)
- Donations of items for established St. Paul's programs (e.g. Christmas Fair/Harvest Fair, food drives)
- Gifts that the Rector reasonably determines are de minimis and the nature of which does not warrant the full procedures of Committee review and recommendation to the Vestry

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In reviewing any gift involving any alteration, improvement, repair or maintenance to the physical plant (including the grounds) of St. Paul's, the Committee shall solicit the input of the Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Committee may consult with any other constituencies it deems advisable to consult (e.g. representatives of a particularly impacted constituency). Prior to recommending to the Vestry acceptance of any gift, the Committee shall ensure that the Committee and the donor are in agreement on the manner in which such gift will or will not be acknowledged, and shall communicate that information to the Vestry with the Committee's recommendation. Acknowledgements may involve changes to the physical plant (e.g. plaques, memorial stones, plantings); the Committee shall consult with Buildings and Grounds and may consult any other impacted constituency regarding such forms of acknowledgement.

## TO THE WOMEN OF ST. PAUL'S

From Ellen Hall and Caroline Russell

We are hoping to co-facilitate a new women's faith community for an initial period of 6 months. We are introducing some "touchstones" to guide how participants treat each other.

- We speak from personal experience, knowing that others will respect our feelings.
- We provide a safe space for open conversation, respecting confidentiality.
- Identify assumptions; suspend judgement.
- Each of us is here to discover her own truths, not to fix or correct what we perceive as broken or incorrect.
- Be aware of the difference between intention and impact; assume no member intends harm or discomfort.

Please examine our offerings and share your reactions and input at one of the following: Wednesday, September 14, 2:00pm at Caroline Russell's at 8 Whitney Way Topsham 729-1845 OR Saturday September 18, 2:00pm at Ellen Hall's at 29 Tarrantine Drive Brunswick 603-721-1733 or 373-1113. If you cannot attend either, please feel free to call or email either of us. Hoping for fruitful discussions.



## A NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

by Rev. Katie Holicky

We ARE the Body of Christ!

Ephesians 4:16 says, “The whole body depends on Christ, and all the parts of the body are joined and held together. Each part does its own work to make the whole body grow and be strong with love.”

This last year we have learned so much about what it means to be the Body of Christ in forms we had yet been invited to imagine. We have creatively found ways to stay connected, and we trust that the Spirit isn’t done with us yet! Together we will continue to remain open to how the Spirit is calling us more deeply to strengthen this Body even with the latest changes and uncertainty in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.



It is with great joy that I say to you on September 12th.... Welcome back to Family Worship in the morning! On the morning of September 12, Family Worship will move to 9 am, followed by Family Group. We will stay outside for now and enjoy worshipping and being together in Creation. The morning block of programming will end at 10:15, when we will greet our 10:30 friends as they arrive for worship. (Middle and High School Youth Group will gather on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 12-1 pm)

Coming back together in the morning will continue to strengthen us as the Body as we settle back into a more familiar way of being together while also trying new ways of learning and growing together. We will also be trying new ways of exploring Christian Hospitality in Family Ministries by way of things like making cookies for memorial service receptions and “Coffee on the Corner.” We trust that together we will stay connected and continue to look, listen, and feel for the ways God is calling us to move through life together as one Body!

With love and peace,

*Rev. Katie*



## FROM THE MUSIC DESK...

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

Dr. Albert Sweitzer, a noted humanitarian and musicologist, penned a two-volume set on Johann Sebastian Bach. Volume II is devoted to Bach's choral output, an exhaustive tome covering the many cantatas composed for weekly and seasonal services, as well as the Passions and varied vocal works.

While perusing this piece from my library, a required reading during graduate studies, I found Dr. Schweitzer's take on Bach's contribution to worship music in the Baroque era. Bach's works being newly discovered, celebrated and promoted by Felix Mendelssohn, the perspective of how Bach's music fits into the current musical scene is a curious opinion, given that I read his observations from a 21st century set of eyes.

Bach's music was considered supremely classical yet expressive when combined with text. His use of chromaticism and varied keys, along with ornamentation and symbolic musical motifs, lent a depth and poeticism to his music that was advanced for his time. During his lifetime, critics hearing his music bemoaned his use of tried and true contrapuntal technique, such as we hear in all of his Fugues. Personally, I find some organ works to be self-entertaining and technically fulfilling but not as aesthetically pleasing to others as I would hope.

Leaping into the late summer of 2021, Bach's music can still be used as the source of tunes for our hymns in the 1982 Hymnal. Organ music, especially when we can do live-stream services from the Nave or when we return to indoor worship, will continue to inspire. The timelessness of Bach's melodic skill is supported by his incredible gift for using the pedals to weave a cello-like bass under existing harmonies or fugal subjects, even putting the cantus firmus, or tune to be played by the feet, is remarkable to hear and to play these centuries later.

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As we have progressed through the pandemic and are now looking forward to whatever might be ahead for us in worship at St. Paul’s, my prayer is that we will continue to use the music of both old and new to express our faith, to utter through sound, rhythm, and text the gospel narrative that provides courage, hope, and uplift. Till we can meet indoors and beyond the outdoor canopy, a fabulous and temporary blessing, I look forward to hearing your corporate outpouring of music.

Be well. Be at peace. Keep a song in your heart.

Blessings,  
*Randy Day*



St. Paul’s Zoom  
 Exploring the Sermon  
 will resume after 10:30 a.m.  
 ‘picnic Eucharist,’ approximately  
 11:40 a.m. on  
 Sunday, September 19.  
 Please join us for a lively  
 conversation about the sermon  
 each week on Zoom!



## WINDOWDRESSERS

**Volunteers and participants needed. No experience necessary!!**

**Window  
Dressers**

As with many aspects of our lives, WindowDressers was impacted by the covid pandemic in a big way. There was no season at all in 2020, but this year a full season is planned. This could change depending on how the recent pandemic surge unfolds, but at this point, measuring is well underway, and we are expecting to have a community build.

### INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS

In association with WindowDressers, St. Paul's and the Earth Care Committee will be hosting the Bath/Brunswick community storm window build again this year. The dates are October 18-22. It's earlier than usual, and we are a bit nervous about not having enough volunteers. WindowDressers is committed to following Maine CDC covid guidelines and, of course, will comply with anything St. Paul's requires. At this point, it looks like we will hold the volunteer numbers to 10 people per shift and expect everyone to be vaccinated and masked.

WindowDressers, a Maine-based non-profit, will supply all the materials and tools. Recipients of the inserts and other volunteers will build them. This year we will again be assembling the frames and wrapping the inserts as we have done in the past. In 2019 we gave away more than 40% of the inserts to families who did not have the means to pay for them, and this year we are on pace to have another banner year for low-income recipients.

This is an all-volunteer project, and we hope you will sign up for a 4-hour shift. If you want to help and don't have 4 hours, any time you offer is welcome. If you wish to contribute and don't think building is for you, we also need snacks for each of the 4-hours shifts. We can guarantee you will have a good time if you volunteer - it is a wonderful community-building effort. And it helps the environment by saving the energy required to heat Maine homes every winter.

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Dana Baer is leading the local project, and he will be on hand to manage the actual build. Please ask any questions you may have - Dana can be reached at 207-319-4992 or [baerdana@msn.com](mailto:baerdana@msn.com).

Volunteering is easy using the signup genius at [windowdressers.org](http://windowdressers.org). Just click on the “Volunteer” link at the top of the page, choose Brunswick, and pick your times! See you at the workshop. Thank you!

## THE HARVEST FAIR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

by Jan & Jeff DeBlieu



For 84 years, St. Paul’s has held an annual Christmas Fair, and for the past 20 years, all proceeds have been used entirely to fund the parish’s Outreach ministry. This year will be no different, although it will be held safely outside in the fall for the second season in a row. All proceeds – every penny – will be given to community groups to help those in need, including the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the newly arrived, and others here and abroad.

Set for Saturday, October 2nd, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. (rain date October 9), the Harvest Fair gives each and every one of us the opportunity to participate directly in this important work. And here’s a well-known secret: It’s fun to work together for such a great cause! The fair is an annual celebration of what all the people of St. Paul’s can do together.

We are asking as many parishioners as possible to volunteer in some capacity – from baking or knitting or canning to donating items for the Jewelry and Treasures tables or the Silent Auction, to helping prepare and clean up before and after Fair Day, to cashiering, to helping out at one of the tables. Do you have a few hours? Please come and lend your time and effort, along with browsing our wonderful wares. To sign up for various volunteer activities, contact Jeff DeBlieu at [jeff.deblieu@icloud.com](mailto:jeff.deblieu@icloud.com) or 252-548-0001 – or reach out directly to a member of the organizing committees listed below.

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- **Treasures** — Have some household items or want to help at our Treasures Table? Please get in touch with Nancy Johnson at [johnsonne2@hotmail.com](mailto:johnsonne2@hotmail.com) or 978-387-6058.
- **Jewelry** — To donate or get involved with the Jewelry Table, contact Bonnie Labonte at [bonny\\_labonte@comcast.net](mailto:bonny_labonte@comcast.net).
- **Silent Auction** — We need people to donate unusual and lovely items, as well as activities and services. These have included boat rides, play tickets, nights on the town, and fly-fishing lessons in past years. We also need volunteers to set up the Silent Auction area and break it down later. Please get in touch with Nancy Whitehouse at [nancyw797@gmail.com](mailto:nancyw797@gmail.com).
- **Country Store** — Is your garden overflowing? Please save some of your canned creations for our Country Store. Contact Carol Martin at [cmartin@northpark.edu](mailto:cmartin@northpark.edu).
- **Fiber Arts** — We have received a generous donation of yarns and fabrics, so the items at this table will be richer and more varied than ever. For information about making items to sell or volunteering in other ways, please contact Charla Spann at [chaspenn13@gmail.com](mailto:chaspenn13@gmail.com).
- **Baked Goods** — If you have contributed to the Baked Goods table in the past, we need you again this year. If you haven't but enjoy baking, please contact Donna Thivierge at 729-3511 or [thivierge\\_ralph@comcast.net](mailto:thivierge_ralph@comcast.net).

All of our parish's best efforts will go into the fair Saturday, October 2, with a rain date of Saturday, October 9. Hours will be from 9 am until 2 pm. Please come help us with one of the most fun and fruitful activities of the year!

MANY THANKS, Jan and Jeff DeBlieu





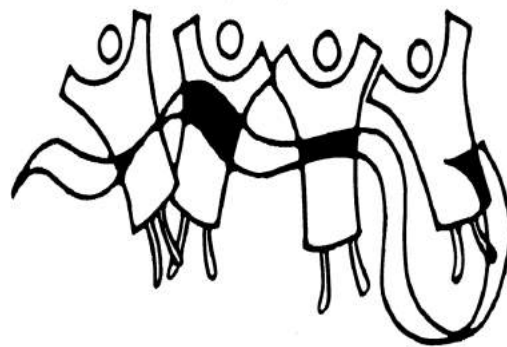
## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Birthday

- Leslie Brancart 9/4
- Dick Brautigam 9/9
- Bob Walkling 9/11
- Al Niese 9/12
- Bill Edman 9/14
- Nicholas Henshaw 9/17
- Patty Melander 9/18
- Bronda Niese 9/18
- Nancy Whitehouse 9/18
- William Talmage 9/21
- Charlotte Loveless 9/25
- Bonnie Studdiford 9/26

### Happy Anniversary

- Bonny & Don Labonte 9/13
- Abigail & Bob Patterson 9/19



**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.

## RAIN GARDEN

St. Paul's has a rain garden. It's located on our grounds to capture roof runoff and cleanse it before flowing to the river.

Pictured here are two people who helped make it happen, Deborah Goodwin, Earth Care and Vestry member, and Nancy Whitehouse, Treasurer and Master Gardener.

Check it out the next time you are here.



*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 October issue by September 20.** Articles may be emailed to [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)

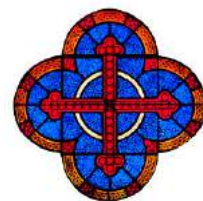


## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

- 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
- Jan DeBlieu, Junior Warden
- Randy Day, Music Ministry Director
- Karen Tucker, Parish Administrator
- Carolyn Farr, Administrative Assistant
- Andrea Lauerman, Sacred Ground Coordinator
- Jane Redlon, Nursery Caregiver
- Lynn Johnson, Assistant Nursery Caregiver

### 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



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