



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

September 9, 2015

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St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

Bobbi's Birthday Bash!

Bobbi Fiali's birthday is this Sunday! - one of those special ones - and she's giving the church a present: a BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST! **Sunday, September 13th** following our 10am service, everyone is invited to breakfast... on Bobbi! Thanks, Bobbi!

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*Please note: The office will be closed Friday, September 11th.*  
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Thoughts from Lori

Today, September 9th, is the feast day for Constance and her Companions. Before I tell you a bit of the story behind this feast day, I'm guessing that you probably didn't know that we have nuns in The Episcopal Church (TEC). We do, and the Sisters of St. Mary's were the first life-professed nuns in TEC. One of their houses is on "the mountain" in Sewanee, Tennessee.

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Quick Links

St. Paul website

Vestry Minutes

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Forward Day by Day

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[See stmary-conventsewanee.org.] "The mountain" is a reference to the Episcopal presence on a mountain top just north of Chattanooga. It's the home of The University of the South, including St. Luke's Seminary. Nearby is St. Mary's convent.

Constance was a sister of that order and the superior of a group that had gone to Memphis to establish a school for girls at St. Mary's Cathedral at the request of the Bishop in 1873. By August of 1878, Yellow Fever struck Memphis for the third time in ten years. Those who could, fled the city leaving the rest, about 20,000, to face this plague. Before it was all over, 5000 had died.

Among those who chose to stay behind to help were Sister Constance and six of her Sisters, Sister Clare of Boston, two Episcopal priests, three physicians (two of whom were also Episcopal priests), two of the Sisters' matrons, and several volunteer nurses from New York. With the help of the Cathedral Dean, they organized a relief effort. According to Holy Women, Holy Men, the Cathedral was located in the heart of the most infected area of Memphis. "...Amid sweltering heat and scenes of indescribable horror, these men and women of God gave relief to the sick, comfort to the dying, and homes to the many orphaned children." Only two of the workers survived. The others, including Constance and the rest, succumbed to the Fever. They are buried at Elmwood Cemetery and have since been known as "The Martyrs of Memphis." The high altar at St. Mary's Cathedral is a memorial to the four Sisters.

My own connection to this story comes from my association with the Convent in Sewanee and the Sisters there. It is the place where I began to learn how to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within me and to find the courage to pursue my vocation as a priest. It will always be an important part of my own story. So when this feast day comes around each year commemorating Constance and Her Companions, I am reminded of the historic ministries of the Community of St. Mary as well as the role it has played in my own life and ministry. Thanks be to God for these holy women.

Faithfully,
Lori

Fall (Informal) Parish Meeting **September 20th** **Following our Morning Worship**

We'll start with a covered dish lunch - what else! - and then enjoy the wisdom and wit of our special guest, Dent Davidson, the Bishop's Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts. Expect to sing, laugh, and be thoroughly enlightened and entertained. You don't want to miss this!

Additions to the Prayers of the People

You will notice some additional prayers when we offer the Prayers of the People. These additions include the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, which is for provinces and dioceses around the world, and the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, which is for deaneries and parishes around the Diocese of Chicago. We will soon add a cycle of prayer for churches around McHenry as well. And in your own devotions, remember to pray daily for St. Paul's!

The Bishop is Coming!

The Rector and Vestry are pleased to announce that the Right Reverend Christopher Epting, Assisting Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, will be our Episcopal Visitor on **Sunday, October 18** at our 10am service. A bishop's visit is always a special occasion. This one is an opportunity to hear Bishop Epting preach and have him celebrate the Eucharist for us, but also one during which it's most appropriate for Baptisms and for Confirmation or Reception. Please contact the Rector immediately if you have a candidate for Baptism or if you are interested in being Confirmed or Received.*

*Reception is for adults coming to The Episcopal Church from other traditions and who have already been Baptized and/or Confirmed. If you have questions about which sacrament is appropriate for you, give me a call. lml+

Updated Directory

Updated Parish directories are available on the table in the narthex. If you'd like one mailed to you, please call Lisa in the office: 815-385-0390.



Bobbi's Breakfast - This Sunday, Sept. 13

Joint meeting of Vestry, Endowment, and Finance - Tuesday, Sept. 15, 7:00 pm

Holy Eucharist- Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6:30 pm
(All are welcome!)

Vestry - Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:15 pm

Informal Fall Parish Meeting - Sunday, Sept. 20



Special Guest: Dent Davidson
Missioner for Liturgy and the Arts

*(Feed ourselves, feed others.
Bring canned or dry goods to donate.)*

Lessons and Hymns

Sunday, September 13th
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 19 - Year B
by the Rev. William McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a. The prophet addresses his adversaries and takes comfort in God's support of his ministry.

The Psalm: Psalm 116:1-8. "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."

The Epistle: James 3:1-12. The writer warns people to be careful of how they speak because "the tongue is a fire."

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-38. Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" He then reminds them to "take up their cross and follow me."

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 525. "The Church's One Foundation." This hymn was written by Samuel John Stone (1839-1900) in response to the liberal interpretation by the Rt. Rev. John William Colenso (1814-1883), the first Anglican bishop of Natal. Bishop Colenso was also a mathematician, theologian, biblical scholar, and social activist. Stone was an Anglican priest who felt deeply troubled by Colenso's ideas about Christianity and especially the interpretation of the Bible. Thus the third verse of his hymn: "Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed; yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, 'How long?' And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song." The tune, "Aurelia" was composed by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876).

Sequence Hymn: No. 574. "Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel." The author of this hymn is William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), the Anglican Bishop of Ripon in North Yorkshire, England. This forms a dramatic poem seeking forgiveness and reconciliation along with personal spiritual growth. "For lives bereft of purpose high, forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry." The tune, "St. Petersburg," was composed by Dimitri S. Borniniansky (1751-1825) and traces its roots to an old Russian hymn.

Presentation Hymn: No. 675. "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said." This hymn was written by an Episcopal priest, the Rev. Charles William Everest (1814-1877), Rector of Grace Church, Hamden, Connecticut (1942-1873). The hymn is based on words of Jesus that appear in all three synoptic Gospels: Mark 8:33, Matthew 16:24, and Luke 9:23. The tune, "Bourbon," attributed to Freeman Lewis (1780-1859), is a five-pitch folk tune from the southern United States.

Communion Hymn: No. 707. "Take My Life and Let It Be." What better hymn to sing upon sharing God's Holy Sacrament than one of complete and total surrender? This hymn was written by a woman, Frances Ridley Havergal, who was the daughter of an Anglican priest who also wrote many hymns. She wrote her first hymn at the age of seven and suffered from extremely frail health most of her life. She is the author of four hymns in our hymnal and composed the music for "On Our Way Rejoicing" in the 1940 hymnal. The tune is one of over two dozen composed by the Anglican priest-musician, the Rev. John Bacchus Dykes. It's gently flowing melody reflects the offering towards God of our whole person: "Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take myself, and I will be, ever, only, all for thee."

Recessional Hymn: No. 473. "Lift High the Cross." This hymn was written by George William Kitchin in 1887 when he was Dean of Winchester Cathedral in England. The tune "Crucifer" was composed by Sydney Hugo Nicholson, Warden of the Royal School of Music in England. This hymn is new to the 1982 hymnal and has become very popular as a processional and recessional hymn. "So shall our song of triumph ever be; praise to the crucified for victory."

September 13th Servants

Usher: Bill Lang
Lector: Judy Robel
Intercessor: Terry Jaworski
Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Charlie Boak
Vestry Person of the Day: Pam Dietmeyer

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore



"If God wanted lawns mowed, he would have made the grass perpetually short!"

100 Ways to Save the Environment
Number 70

Check and fix any water leaks.