



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
January 23, 2019

New and Notable..

Annual Meeting RESCHEDULED AGAIN to February 10

Due to more severe weather predicted for this upcoming weekend, the rector, wardens, and vestry have postponed the Annual Parish Meeting until **February 10**. We do know that we will have frigid temperatures on Sunday again. All that is likely to suppress attendance, and we do want everyone to be safe! **Plan to bring a covered dish and stay for the meeting on February 10.**

We will have our service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday for those who can get here safely.

Thoughts from Bill

A Sabbath Custom

In the Gospel for this coming Sunday, we read, "When he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath which was his custom." (Luke 4:16a) Jesus from an early age attended a place of worship regularly. In the fall of 1958, I enrolled at Florida State University in Tallahassee, and my first Sunday I attended the Episcopal College Center Chapel service. As a child and now as a young man, I always wanted to attend church. If there was an Episcopal Church near where my Father was stationed, I would go there. If not, I went to another denomination. Regular church attendance was important to me.

The Episcopal Chaplain that Sunday preached a sermon on II Corinthians 4:7: “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us.” His point was that the church is the earthen vessel—human beings responding to the treasure. The treasure is all that God has done in creation and sending Jesus to live and die that we might learn the value of true love and forgiveness. He added, we should never confuse the treasure with the church.

The people who attended that synagogue in Nazareth had a sabbath worship they will never forget—just as I had my faith strengthened by the sermon that Sunday. When we attend church we are placing ourselves in an earthen vessel—we worship with fallible human beings in an institution which will never be the treasure. But worship is a place where we are as close to the treasure as we be on this earth. Hopefully, on occasion, we will be wonderfully surprised by God’s treasure of love and forgiveness forever.

Faithfully,

Bill

In case you missed it...



Help is needed!

We have openings for both Flower Guild and Altar Guild coming up for the 2nd week of each month. Training will be provided. Please let Lisa know (lisa@stpaulmchenry.com or 815-385-0390) if you feel called to help in these wonderful ministries!

The usual fare...

On the Calendar...

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, February 2, 8:00 am
Shrove Tuesday / Taco Dinner - March 5
Ash Wednesday - March 6

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, January 27, 2019

The Conversion of St. Paul (Year C)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Reading: Acts 26:9-21. This tells the story of the conversion of St. Paul on the road to Damascus. **Psalm 67.** “May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his

countenance and come to us." This opening verse reminds us of the light which shown at the conversion of Paul. **The Epistle:** Galatians 1:11-24. Paul refers to his conversion from being a persecutor of the faithful to becoming a believer. **The Gospel:** Matthew 10:16-22. Jesus sends his disciples out to contend with angry and resentful people in the name of the Gospel of God.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: 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: No. 255. "We sing the glorious conquest." This hymn was written by John Ellerton on February 28, 1871, for the commemoration of the Conversion of St. Paul in the SPCK'S Church Hymns, 1871. The words both recall the dramatic conversion of Saul and calls for us to respond with our own vocations and callings. The tune, "Munich," is an old German melody harmonized by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847).

Presentation: No. 577. "Here In Christ we gather." This hymn was translated from the Latin original by James Dominick Quinn, S.J. (1919-2010), a Scottish Jesuit priest, theologian and hymnwriter. The words of this hymn call forth a Christian community based on love rather than discord. The tune, "Ubi Caritas," was composed by Gregory Murray, O.S.B., (1905-1992) and is best sung with spirit and movement.

Communion: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer." This is another Taize community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Bertheur (1923-1994) in 1991, shortly before he died. The Psalm reads, "Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble."

Recessional: No. 539. "O Zion haste, thy mission high fulfilling." The author of this hymn, Mary Ann Thomson, was born in London, December 5, 1834, and became the wife of a librarian in Philadelphia, John Thomson. She wrote many poems and hymns published and used widely in the Episcopal Church. She died in Philadelphia, March 11, 1923. She says the hymn came to her while tending to one of her children, sick with typhoid fever, but it was three years before she could come up with a suitable refrain: "Publish glad tidings: tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release." James Walch wrote the tune especially for this hymn.

Servants for January 27th

Jim and Beth Lukas - *Ushers*

Jim Lukas- *Lector*

Barb Moriarty - *Intercessor*

Pam Dietmeyer - *Eucharistic Minister*

Bill Lang - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Angie Lang - *Children's Crucifer*

Marilyn Bell, Marilyn Reihansperger - *Altar Guild*

Marilyn Bell, Kathy Biggerstaff -*Flower Guild*

From the studio of William P. McLemore



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