



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle
January 9, 2019

New and Notable...



ANNUAL PARISH Meeting

All are cordially invited and urged to attend
St. Paul's Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 20, following our morning worship.

The meeting begins with a COVERED DISH luncheon after which we will review the business of the parish. Please bring a covered dish to share. Also remember to bring canned or dry goods for our grocery basket in the spirit of "Feed ourselves, feed others."

Thoughts from Bill

Holy Spirit and Fire

"I baptized you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire." (Luke 3)

I recall attending a local ministerial association meeting when one of the clergy came in saying, "I was really fired up this past Sunday." He went on to tell us how he surrendered in the pulpit to the Holy Spirit and has little memory of what he said. He only wished he had recorded his great homily so he could hear for himself what the Holy Spirit said through him.

The rest of us, after he finished, silently reflected on what sermons we had preached that same Sunday. I figure that since I began my ministry in 1965 I have written and preached four to five hundred sermons. There have been some which I've deviated from my manuscript (Holy Spirit?) but I never recall being "on fire." I have heard our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry preach (as in the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle at St. George's Chapel, in Windsor Castle). He probably comes as close to preaching with Holy Spirit and with Fire as any Episcopal homily I've ever heard. Most of the congregation at the wedding looked shell shocked.

For me, when I think of Jesus baptizing with Holy Spirit and Fire, I think of a wonderful sense of warmth as a person is embraced in baptism and empowered with God's love. As the beautiful baptism prayer says, "Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works." (Prayer Book p. 308).

Yes, I think that's what Holy Spirit and Fire mean in baptism!

Faithfully,

Bill



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Lori and Bill,
"Quizzie", the Cornish Rex Cat,
"Addie", the Bernese Mountain Dog,
and "Rev" the Vizsla!*

Thank You!

Thank you so much for the generous purse you collected and gave me for Christmas. Your love and kindness never cease!

Lori +



Advent Baby Baskets

Tuesday morning I delivered the gifts you donated to new moms and babies to First Way Life Center in Johnsburg. The center offers pregnancy counseling, education and family support free of charge. They have a full "store" where parents can shop (at no cost to them) for necessities they need to care for their newborns. The counselors were overwhelmed with St. Paul's generosity. It took three trips to unload the car! I accepted hugs and thanks on your behalf for the cases of toys, clothes, blankets, diapers and other gifts. It's nice to know that these gifts will go to our neighbors here in McHenry to help these families get off on a good start. Well Done!

Pam Dietmeyer

In case you missed it...



Our overflowing baby baskets, thanks to your generosity!



Our own precious baby, Jacob Zabor, zonked out after church!

The usual fare...

On the Calendar...

Vestry - Wednesday, January 16, 6:00 pm
Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, January 20
Shrove Tuesday / Taco Dinner - March 5
Ash Wednesday - March 6

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, January 10, 2019
The First Sunday after Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord -(Year C)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1-7. The prophet reminds Israel that they have been redeemed by God who is always with them. **Psalm 29.** "The Lord shall give strength to his

people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace." **The New Testament:** Acts 18:14-17. Peter and John lay hands on the Samaritan Christians since they hadn't yet received the Holy Spirit. **The Gospel:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. This is Luke's account of the baptism of Jesus.

THE HYMNS:

Processional: No. 381. "Thy Strong Word." This hymn was written by Martin H. Franzman (1907-1976), a graduate of Northwestern College and later studied at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served on the faculty of Northwestern College; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; and finally traveled to England where he served as a tutor at Westfield House, the theological college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England until his death in 1976. The tune, "Ton-y-Botel," was composed by Thomas John Williams (1869-1944), organist and choirmaster of two parishes in Llanely, a village in southeast Wales. The melody is moving and stately and perhaps one of the most sung at the heavenly banquet – every Christian should be able to sing this with spirit and joy.

Sequence: No. 529. "In Christ there is no east or west." This hymn was written by a traveling businessman named William Arthur Dunkerley. He began writing novels and songs as a diversion with the penname, John Oxenham. This particular hymn reflects his deep theology from visiting countries all over the world embracing a God whose Son Jesus Christ brings together East and West, and North and South. The tune, "McKee," was adapted from an Afro-American spiritual by Harry T. Burleigh, a choir member of St. George's, New York City, and is named in honor of his Rector, Elmore McNeill McKee.

Presentation: No. 448. "O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High." The author of his hymn is generally believed to be Thomas a' Kempis, born near Dusseldorf in 1379 into a peasant family. At a young age, he was sent to a pauper's school run by a religious order in which he later became a member and was priested in 1413. He is portrayed in the woodcut with this article. The tune "Deo Gracias," is a 15th English ballad melody 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. 295. "Sing Praise to Our Creator." This three verse baptism hymn is new to the 1982 Hymnal and the author is listed as Mark Evans, born in 1916, and his hymn copyrighted in 1962. I was unable to find anything further on Mark Evans, however. The tune "Christus," is an old hymn melody attributed to Mechoir Vulpius (1560? - 1616). The last verse sums up the import of baptism: "And praise the Holy Spirit poured forth upon the earth, who sanctifies and guides us, made strong in our rebirth."

Servants for January 13th

Bill Lang - *Usher*
Rick Carlstedt - *Lector*
Judy Robel - *Intercessor*
Pam Dietmeyer - *Eucharistic Minister*
Judy Robel - *Vestry Person of the Day*
Antania Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*
Beth Lukas, Nan Patnaude - *Altar Guild, Flower Guild*



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Phone Number - 815-385-0390
Fax - 815-385-3936
St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net
The Rector's Email - lorilowe@stpaulmchenry.com

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