



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle

February 13, 2019

New and Notable..

Thoughts from Lori

We finally had our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, having postponed it twice due to severe weather. About 30 of us shared a covered dish lunch before discussing the business of the church. Several handouts were distributed (and are still available in the narthex), including a proposed budget.

Special thanks go to Jim Lukas who rotates off as senior warden, but continues as chair of the finance/endowment committee. Jeff Zabor, who served as junior warden last year, is now our senior warden. Beth Lukas was elected as the new junior warden. Others elected were Rick Carlstedt (to a three-year term) and Kathy Biggerstaff (to fill an unexpired two-year term). Carol Toft continues as Clerk of the Vestry and Bill O. Lang, as Treasurer.

Ministries and accomplishments of the last decade were recalled as a way to celebrate our life together and keep that spirit going. The Rector discussed options for the future, both hers and the parish's. As the endowment fund dwindles, St. Paul's will need to consider how to continue its mission and ministry on pledge income alone. There may be possibilities to create partnerships with other small parishes in the area, all of which will be explored as we proceed.

The meeting closed with a prayer for St. Paul's. Please add this to your daily prayers:

*Merciful and loving God,
We hold before you this parish, our beloved St. Paul's, and ask you to bless us with the
courage to preach and live the Good News of your love, your healing, and your
forgiveness.*

Guide us

*to be SEEKING you in all that we do;
to be SERVING others in your name;
and to be GROWING in your image.*

Give us, we pray, open hearts, open minds, and open doors to receive and welcome all who come here, that we may be as Christ to them as we are Christ to one another. All this we ask in the holy name of Jesus.

Amen.

Faithfully,

Lori



Annual Meeting - February 10th



St. Paul's Welcome Committee Hosts Lenten Labyrinth Walks

St. Paul's will hold weekly Labyrinth walks to members of our community during Lent. The Welcome Committee members will act as docents to members of the community as they walk the Labyrinth. The committee has identified several community organizations and churches that may find walking the labyrinth beneficial and will use social media and word of mouth to publicize this event. There is no cost to walk the Labyrinth. There will be a special Labyrinth Walk following the 10AM service on Sunday, March 10th for St. Paul members. Details will follow.

Catherine Carroll of St. Mary's, Crystal Lake will be conducting a Labyrinth Workshop on Saturday March 2nd at St. Paul's. Members of the Welcome Committee, vestry and members of St. Paul's will participate in this workshop. Space is limited to 12-15 people. Catherine is St. Mary's labyrinth expert and has given workshops at other churches.

SO, WHAT IS A LABYRINTH?

The labyrinth is a spiritual tool that has many applications in various settings. "It reduces stress, quiets the mind, and opens the heart. It is a walking meditation, a path of prayer, and a blue-print where psyche meets Spirit." The Reverend Dr. Lauren Artress, Creator of The Labyrinth Project and President of Veriditas. A labyrinth is not the same as a maze. With a labyrinth, there are no decisions to be made, no tricks, no dead ends, and its whole is always visible. A maze, on the other hand, is a puzzle with many possible routes. Mazes are meant to disorient the seeker. A labyrinth has only one path that leads the seeker into the center and back out again. Each walk is a different experience for each person. Labyrinths have been in existence since before Christ. For more information about labyrinths please go to: www.veriditas.org.

Please contact a member of the Welcome Committee with any questions you may have. Members of the committee are Carol Toft, Kathy Biggerstaff, Ray Bishop, Charles Sterbis and Jim Lukas.



Mark your calendars!

Shrove Tuesday Taco Dinner

March 5th, 6pm - 8pm



ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6th

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Noon and 7pm

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...

Vestry - Thursday, February 21, 6:30 pm
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, March 2, 8:00 am
Shrove Tuesday / Taco Dinner - March 5
Ash Wednesday - March 6

Lessons and Hymns for this Sunday, February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Jeremiah 17:5-11. This passage condemns those who put their trust in humans instead of the Lord. **Psalms 1** says those people are happy who put their trust in God. **The Epistle:** I Corinthians 18:12-20. Here, St. Paul relates the importance of the Risen Lord to faith in Jesus. **The Gospel:** Luke 6:17-26. Here, Jesus shares the beatitudes with his followers.

THE HYMNS:

Proclamation: No. 656. "Blest are the pure in heart." John Keble wrote this hymn based on the Beatitudes in 1819. William John Hall abbreviated it from 17 to 4 verses in 1834. The tune 'Franconia' is taken from a setting by Johann B. Konig and lends itself to the words that call forth the mercy and blessing of God.

Sequence: No. 691. "My faith looks up to Thee." This is Ray Palmer's first hymn, written in 1830, when he was teaching in New York, shortly after leaving Yale College. It has been in the Episcopal hymnal since 1834. Palmer was an ordained Congregational minister and this hymn, which reflects the soul-searching heart of a person of faith seeking closer ties with God, is certainly appropriate to be sung as we receive Holy Communion. The tune "Olivet" was written for this hymn by Lowell Mason and is best sung deliberately and prayerfully.

Presentation: No. 410. "Praise my soul the king of heaven." The composer of this hymn is Henry Francis Lyte, who was born in Scotland in 1793 and was ordained an Anglican priest in 1815. He served as a curate in a small fishing village in Devonshire and the 1951 Hymnal Companion (from which I have gleaned most of the information I have used in this series) says, "The rigor of the work in this small fishing village, among the people who failed to appreciate his delicate and sensitive nature, undermined his never robust health." Lyte died 1834 at 39 years of age. The tune "Lauda Anima" was composed by John Goss (1800-1880) and deserves to be sung majestically and with spirit. The servant nature of Christ is emphasized in the third verse of this hymn. "Father, like He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in His hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes."

Communion: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer." This is a Taizé community musical paraphrase to a psalm (102:1-2). It was set to music by Jacques Berthier (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. 494. "Crown Him with many crowns." This hymn was written by Matthew Bridges, an English poet and author who lived from 1800-1894. The hymn has been tampered with many times during the years, but remains very popular among Anglicans and Episcopalians. The entire hymn tells the wonderful benefits and results of God's love in the Incarnate Christ. Hear these words from the second verse: "Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest." The hymn is set to music by George Job Elvey, for many years the organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, England. The tune reflects the majesty of God and is intended to be sung with spirit and movement!

Servants for February 17th

Terry Jaworski, Don Jaworski - *Ushers*

Michelle Wiejaczka - *Lector*

Terry Jaworski - *Intercessor*

Barb Moriarty, Jeffrey Zabor - *Eucharistic Ministers*

Judy Robel - *Vestry Person of the Day*

Antania Pecoraro - *Children's Crucifer*

Ashley Pecoraro - *Altar Guild*

Ashley Pecoraro, Carol Toft - *Flower Guild*

From the studio of William P. McLemore



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