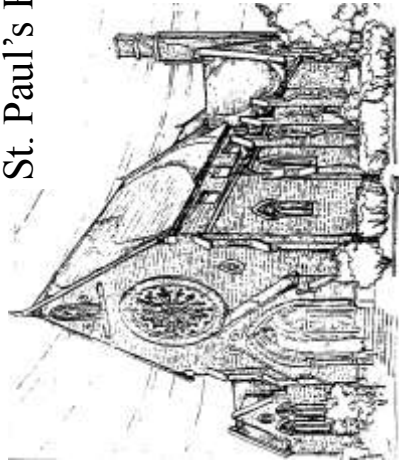


St. Paul's Episcopal Church—Monthly Newsletter



The Epistle

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July 2010

Volume 10, Issue 7

"Working hands, accepting hearts and the welcoming love of God."

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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July Events to note:

- July 2-3: Art Fair BBQ Luncheon & Treasure Sale, parking lot fund raising
 July 16-17: Bike Time parking lot fundraising
 July 20: Vestry 6:00
 July 21: Youth Retreat 9:00
 July 21: **Epistle Deadline** (Wednesday)
 July 22: Church office closed for organization of Finance office
 July 31: Kids' Summer Singers

Please Note: The Organizational Leaders Meeting scheduled for July 14 has been postponed to a to-be-announced future date.

Every year on July 3rd or 4th National Public Radio broadcasts a reading of the Declaration of Independence. NPR can be heard on WBLV and WGVU. If you'd like to listen to the broadcasts of past years, go to NPR.org and type "Declaration of Independence" into the search window.



Parish Picnic

Everyone is invited! Mark August 22nd on your calendar; Peggy Matrone is again opening her home and yard for our annual Parish Picnic this year. Last year 85 people attended, LETS TOP THAT THIS YEAR! Young and old are welcome. Hot dogs, condiments and lemonade will be provided. Bring a dish to pass and a folding chair if you can. There will be games for both children and adults. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship!

St. Paul's Staff:

Dr. Thomas C. H. Scott: Rector
 Laura Elliott Masters: Parish Musician
 Marianne Case: Parish Administrator
 Scott Bartoszek: Sexton



Dr. Tom Scott

Rector's Note

Dear friends,

In a recent sermon, I echoed our Senior Warden's assessment that we need to have a general engineering survey of our buildings that will lead to replacing the aged roof on our church proper. This is only part of a necessary building repair program for St. Paul's.

But far from believing that this is a burden, I believe that we have a blessed opportunity to make St. Paul's "the greenest church in America" while maintaining our essential architectural structure and configuration.

Oh, boy. That's a big deal and a tall order. Our recent success with the clerestory windows shows that a clear description of the issue combined with a commitment to keep what we can for the purpose of worship and ministry can work.

What's the first step? As the Wardens and Vestry say, we need to gather information on the state of our buildings. Next, we will develop a critical path for the project (the best order to do things in). As we go along in this we have the opportunity to learn how to do what we need to do to become "the greenest church in America".

At this point, we are at the beginning of what we know in our hearts is a major undertaking. The project seems huge, let alone the added dimension of being "green".

It's—daunting! The whole thing is expensive! demanding! exhausting!

At the Episcopal Divinity School, my generation of clergy had a professor of parish ministry who was the former archdeacon for the diocese of Bethlehem (Pennsylvania). His name was Ed Stiess. He was as tough and practical as the coalmine district he served. He made two major points again and again.

First, as new clergy we were entering parish service at a time when congregational life and leadership were changing (how right he was back in the late 1970's!).

Second, as new clergy, we needed to accept our responsibility for leading discussion about the repair and renovation of the thousands of church buildings that would hit the century mark in the 1980's and beyond.

For us at St. Paul's, coming together across our generations (we have four generations here!) in a common commitment to preserve what is good and add what is essential is a big motivation for our building project.

The idea of becoming “the greenest church in America”, being undertaken by an historic congregation in Western Michigan is actually a very practical and hopeful proposition.

We are located in a state and region that is full of research facilities and builders who are interested in figuring out exactly what we need to work through:

- a) historic buildings needing to be made energy efficient and using energy from alternatives to coal, gas, and oil;
- b) historic congregations that have ministries and spiritual commitments to central urban environments;
- c) historic congregations that are non-profit entities that rely on local voluntary sources of financial support and want to use all those resources to maintain their physical structures, which have value and purpose beyond simply being buildings.

My conviction is that we can find help to accomplish our purpose from people and organizations and industry because what we are doing is going to be of general interest.

It will be exciting to a company or a donor or an organization to be a part of preserving the space and “feel” of an historic building while reworking the systems and environmental footprint.

Think of what we offer: a chance for a company or individual or organization to say that they know how to help historic buildings be green and retain their identity. That is already getting us “buzz” among people in the general area of “green” technology and utilities. I believe it will turn into partnerships and contributions that will help us give glory to God in our space and our worship, accomplishing our goal without emptying our pockets.

Before we do anything, of course, there will be general conversation and participation invited from everyone, and the same will be true all along our way.

God's peace and joy,
TCHS



From the Sr. Warden



Summer in Muskegon—time for the annual Treasure sale—the Barbecue luncheon—renting of the parking lot for downtown activities—ice cream social—kids going to camp—9:00am services in the courtyard—music drifting across the lake from Heritage landing—the roar of aircraft from the air fair—Art in the park—A time to welcome back our summer time residents—and not least of all, a time to rest , take life a little easier, and recharge. And so.....my message will be brief.

First let me say Thank You in advance for all of the parishioners who have organized and worked on the activities associated with Summer Celebration. Without them we would not be taking advantage of our opportunity to expose St. Paul's to the wider community brought about by Summer Celebration. Secondly, for those who have not already noticed, there are two large (4x8) samples of what the new roof for St. Paul's could look like located in the court-yard—be sure and take a look and share your thoughts with a member of the vestry, myself, Fr. Tom, Nelson or Greg Borgman.

Finally, we still need financial sponsors for the youth of St. Paul's to attend Episcopal Summer Camp. I think we have eleven or twelve kids who have expressed a desire to go in August, and so far we have funded approximately half of them. Some money will be set aside from the annual Treasure Sale for that purpose and perhaps some from the parking concession and various other sources. You can help as well by sponsoring all or part of the cost to send one child to camp. See Norma York-Bremer for details. Have a great summer !!!!

Yours in Christ,

Jim Reynolds



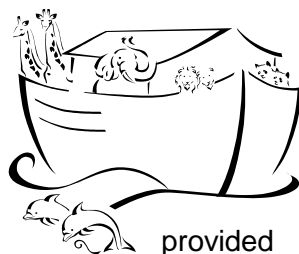
Kids' Summer Singers Workshops

Is summer boredom hitting your household? St. Paul's will have a singers workshop for young people, 1st-12th grade. It will be a chance to

participate in the service and have a special activity this summer. The Kids' Singers Workshop will be held on Saturday, July 31st from 9 until noon. During the 3 hour workshop the children will learn a youth choir anthem to sing on the next day (Sunday August 1st). They will also have musical fun and refreshment. There must be at least 12 children signed up for the program. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board, or call the office. Friends and neighbors are welcome. --Laura Masters, Parish Musician

Sunday School News

Many thanks to all who helped make the Sunday School Picnic a success. The games provided by Becky and Evan Johnson were great, as was the music by Jeff and Dave Closz. And of course, the food! Next year we will be sure to schedule this fun event before Memorial Day weekend!!



provided

Many people are working this summer to make next years Sunday School program the best it can be for you and your families. Changes may be coming so stay tuned! And speaking of changes, do you have suggestions you would like to make? Of course it is always a challenge to make a schedule and program that fits all, but we are really trying to make the most of our time together at St. Paul's, and we do welcome your ideas.

As this is written, our Treasure Sale is almost here. The profits from the sale are what we use to finance what we do for our young people. As you read this there may yet be time to bring in items or sign up to help during sale hours. It really is fun to work together. As of today, no one has offered to give church tours. Maybe you would like to do that. People coming to the sale are always so interested in the church itself.

Enjoy a beautiful and safe summer!

Muskegon Area Episcopal Youth Day

Summer Fun and Planning!

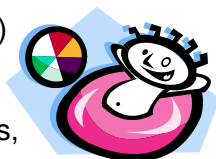
When: Wednesday, July 21 (Rain Date Wed. July 28)

Where: Lily Marx' Cabin on the Manistee River

Time: Depart from St. Paul's at 9 am; Return 9 pm

Activities: Tubing (for those who'd like to go), games, planning for next year, cookout and more!

Look for details in your email or on Facebook!



Supper House

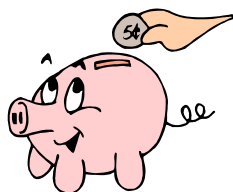
Parishioners and Guilds have been very supportive in underwriting the monthly distribution to Supper House of \$120 for January through June. We are now seeking help for the remaining six months. Any support in any amount is most welcome. Please make checks out to St. Paul's-Supper House.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Ministry at St. Paul's is in the process of getting a slightly new look. It will be headed up by Deacon Lily. We will be looking at the various types of pastoral care that we provide at St. Paul's and how to effectively meet your needs, as well as those of your extended family. Pastoral Care includes phone calls, cards of support, bringing flowers or meals, transportation, visits and bringing the Eucharist to you. If you feel a desire to do any of these kinds of things or one of them specifically (like meals) please call Lily at 231-670-5911 or email her at marxlily@yahoo.com. Also call her if you or someone in your family has pastoral care needs.

Outreach/In-Reach News

Our latest endeavor, the Noisy Offerings, has provided approximately \$559.63 toward sending our kids to the Episcopal Church Camp. The entire congregation can be proud of this effort. The kids donated their change, and adults donated change, folding money, and checks. Thank all of you so much; the children will show us the value of these contributions in the years to come as they participate in our city, state, country, world, and especially in our church.



Our next project will be the parking lot rental during the Art in the Park and Bar-B-Q Luncheon, as well as during bike week. These events will take place July 2 & 3rd and July 16 & 17. All proceeds from these two days will go the camp scholarships. We are close to our goal and hopefully those endeavors will put us over the top.

As a committee, with Vestry approval, we are now supporting the Family Promise Day Center. We are able to contribute food products such as canned meats and canned Spaghetti, as well as personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies.

In August we will be having a "Back Pack Sunday" to help Mission for Area People fill backpacks for those in need. It costs about \$12.50 to provide a filled back pack. Please do not purchase items to fill the back packs. MAP buys in large lots for much less than we can purchase individually. Children will be collecting for this the second week of August.

September will be a Harvest Sunday and October is Crop Walk. This year St. Paul's will be the gathering point for punch and cookies as walkers complete their rounds. We will also be sponsoring a refreshment stop with ice cold water for all walkers. More on these things as the time gets closer.

Remember those in the Gulf Coast who, after surviving Katrina, are suffering with the oil spill. For more information about what you can do to help, see Sally Carmean or any other member of the Outreach/Inreach committee.

In our current economy there is much to be done locally, state wide, and nation wide. Keep all those in need or distress in your prayers.

---With God's Guidance,
Sally Carmean, Outreach/Inreach coordinator

Food Pantry

Thank you again for the ongoing support for our food and hygiene pantries. We are preparing ten 4th of July holiday food and hygiene baskets for local families. When shopping, please remember our pantries with the following items: shampoo, toilet paper, toothpaste, dish soap, and Kleenex, deodorant, Lysol/Pinesol type products, large garbage bags, and toilet bowl cleaner. Thank you again and do not hesitate to contact Fr. Tom, Norma York-Bremer, or Beth Burns with any needs.



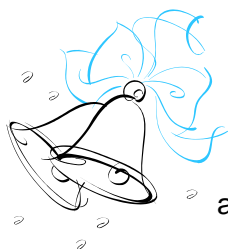


In Sympathy

The family of St. Paul's offers our sympathy to the family of Dale Degner, father of Jane Payne's grandchildren, who passed away on May 24th.

We also remember, in sympathy, the family of Helen Tretheway, who died on May 30th.

Likewise, we extend our condolences to the family of Roy Burley, father of Sue Lumley, who died on June 13th.



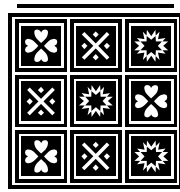
Congratulations

Congratulations to Mark Gorter and Mindy Carlson who were joined in Holy Matrimony at St. Paul's on May 29th, to Debra David and Craig Bechtel who were also married on that day, and to Jason Jaekel and Misty Rankin who were married on June 19th.

Thank You

Dear Women of St. Paul's Muskegon,

Thank you so much for the hand-made quilt. When my dad first told me I was to receive it, I had no idea it would be so beautiful! It truly is the best wedding gift we could have gotten: useful, hand-made with love, and will last for generations. A million thank yous. ---Best, Margo (Scott) Dunn & Brian Dunn



More than 20 parish members, including guitarists Bob Burns and Jeff Closz, joined Dr. Scott at Hume Home on June 24 to deliver anniversary cards to Chuck and Annabelle Stromoski and sing a rousing rendition of Amazing Grace. The excursion ended with a refrain of Auld Lang Syne. Chuck and Annabelle were delighted both with the music and to see old friends.

A special thank you to Jon and Mary Jo Sykes for their work on replacing the office computer. It's greatly appreciated! --Marianne

Donation Requests

The St. Paul's "Office Supply Pantry" is always in need of assorted office supplies, including copy/all purpose paper (20lb or heavier) for the copy machine. A few reams of paper in pastel colors would also be welcome, as would high-quality blue pens, binder clips, black Sharpie markers, and 5160-type address labels. If you would like to donate any such items for the church's use, you can drop them off during the week or leave them on the pew bench outside the office on Sunday with a note indicating they are a donation. If you need a donation receipt, let Marianne know.



Do you have a bookcase that you don't need? The Growth Committee is looking for a nice bookcase, preferably dark wood, 3 - 4 shelves high, 12 inches deep and 4 ft. or smaller wide. This will be used for a planned book exchange in our parlor. Please contact Peggy Matrone @ 744-8232.



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