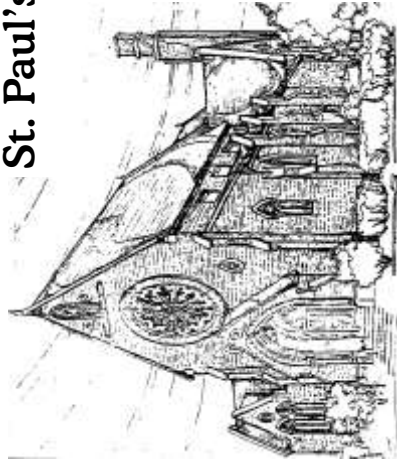


St. Paul's Episcopal Church—Monthly Newsletter



The Epistle

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Rector: Dr. Thomas C.H. Scott



November 2011

Volume 11, Issue 10

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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

Upcoming Events to note:

Nov 2: Film Series
 Nov 6: Harvest Sunday, Family Sunday, All Saints' Day Observed
 Nov 8: FSOC 12:15
 Nov 11: ECW 12:00 @ Coastline Deli
 Nov 13: Bishop's Visit
 Nov 15: Vestry 6:00
 Nov 16: 5th Guilt 12:45
 Nov 18: Epistle Deadline
 Nov 20: Pastoral Care 9:30
 Nov 22: FSOC 12:15
 Nov 24: Thanksgiving, Office Closed (thru Nov 29)
 Dec 3: Quiet Day 10:00-3:00

In order to keep our building secure, we need to account for keys to our doors. Is there someone who would like to accept that responsibility? That would mean keeping a list of those who have keys. It would also involve being the person who distributes keys. See Judy Fleener, or call the church office



The Annual Meeting will take place on January 29th, 2012
ABSENTEE BALLOTS must be requested in writing, or by e-mail, and will only be distributed to those eligible to vote. (See Dr. Scott's letter which explains eligibility.)

ATTN SNOWBIRDS: Please contact the office with your out-of town address before you leave. If we receive a returned Epistle, we will not mail you another one until May. Each returned Epistle costs us return postage at the 1st class rate.

St. Paul's Staff:

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

Rector's Note



Dr. Tom Scott

Dear friends,

Many good things are coming our way in November. All Saints' Day Sunday is November 6th; Bishop Gepert comes for an episcopal visit on November 13th; Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th.

As provided in our parish by-laws, a Nominating Committee has been appointed by the Vestry, (Jon Sykes, Jane Payne, and Norma York-Bremer) and they will open the call for nominations in November. Please remember that to be eligible to stand for office and to vote, one must be at least 16 years of age, have their baptism recorded in the parish records (that means you are a member of record by baptism or transfer or reception), and be a contributor of record for six months prior to the annual meeting.

On this last point, what is meant is that the parish treasurer has a record of your contributions. So anyone who contributes to the parish operating budget by check, a money order, a bank transfer or other means by which we can record your contribution will be recognized as a contributor. If you contribute cash using an numbered envelope provided by the Treasurer's Office, we can have a record also. The idea is that we need to be able to say that we can actually produce a list of voting members (which may not be the same as the list of familiar faces!). I hope this is all clear so that no one is frustrated or disappointed or confused.

I want to thank the many members of the various guilds and committees who have done so much over the last few months. Every part of our parish life and ministry depends upon our volunteers and guild members, and there is a place for you to participate--and I hope you do. Even if you are relatively homebound and have limited means, we have opportunities for ministry for you. For example, we always need people to help with pastoral care ministries, and our committee members make calls, send cards provided by the office, and help in other ways. Speak with Thelma Temple to find out more. Did you know that we have volunteers who collate and tear apart our weekly bulletins? We need greeters--especially late-comer greeters--and we would certainly welcome coffee hour hosts and flower delivery volunteers. The Altar Guild welcomes new members, and so does the usher crew. Singers and bell-ringers may speak to Laura Masters about those opportunities.

Outreach and community service opportunities abound. Our recent participation in the CROP walk is one example of a "once a year" event, and we have on-going work, too. There really is a lot to chose from.

God bless you all, --TCHS



Crop Walk Report

We had five walkers, four of them children. We collected \$691. With the matching funds of \$450, we totaled \$1,141! Not a bad day's work on a beautiful Sunday afternoon!! Thank you St. Paul's!

Christmas Gift Tree

With Christmas right around the corner, St. Paul's will again have its annual Christmas gift tree. The tree will be up in the guild hall after Thanksgiving complete with numbered gift tags. The gifts will go to the "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren" program in Muskegon. Thank you from the Outreach Committee



Food Pantry

Greetings from the food pantry and thank you for the continued donations. We have three exciting "food raising" opportunities on the horizon. Harvest Festival is Sunday November 6th, and we will soon be making Thanksgiving baskets.

For Harvest Festival, Please consider donating non-perishable items as well as fresh produce items. The fresh produce will be available that day to any parishioner. A table will be set up in the Guild Hall. Nonperishables will go to the food pantry for upcoming baskets.

For Thanksgiving and our final outreach with the Christmas baskets, please consider donating seasonal items such as: canned cranberries, yams, box potato and stuffing mixes, jell-o, canned fruit, etc. We also gratefully receive monetary contributions to purchase turkeys and hams.

Thank you so much for the ongoing support. Any questions contact Norma York-Bremer or Beth Burns.



Blood Drive

It doesn't seem possible but it already time to "SAVE YOUR BLOOD". Our annual Blood Drive is coming the end of December and your blood is badly needed once again.



Remember, we can save 3 lives for every pint donated. The exact date and time will be announced soon (waiting on the Red Cross to send the final information). We will again be asking for volunteers in two hour increments as we have in years past so keep us in mind.

Festival Of Lessons And Carols

The annual presentation of the Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday evening, December 11th. As is our custom, it will be sung by the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys led by director Scott Bosscher. A reception will follow the 6:00 pm performance.



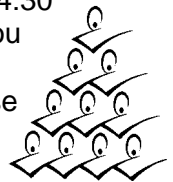
**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

We are still in need of \$300 for the sponsorship of this service, which is traditionally presented as a gift for the greater Muskegon Community. Total costs for the service are \$1,500. If you would like to become a sponsor for Lessons and Carols, please contact Treasurer Norma York-Bremer, or Marianne in the office.

Christmas Service Music

There will be two services again this Christmas Eve. The 4:30 service is traditionally the children and family service. If you have a child who would like to participate in the music for that service, with singing, instruments or handbells, please contact Director of music Laura Masters

musician@stpaulsmuskegon.org



Thank You



"We are so grateful for the caring and support shown to us during this difficult time we've been going through with the loss of our beloved pup, Scott. We've been very touched by the many thoughtful cards and phone calls. The prayer shawls have been wonderfully comforting to us. Thank you so very much."

--Jeff and Lorrie Darwin

Feeding the Soul Of the City

There will be an **extra FSOC Concert on Tuesday, Nov.**

8th. Several years ago, clarinetist Arthur Campbell used the FSOC concerts series as a preview performance prior to recording a CD. The recording, **Brahms: Clarinet Chamber Music**, on the German audiophile label Audite, won the Supersonic Award in Belgium, the Magnifique Award in France, and the Recomendado in Spain. Dr. Campbell has chosen FSOC for his next pre-recording performance. Campbell is booked to release an In Recital disc and an all Stamitz disc with Audite in the upcoming seasons. He will be playing the Stamitz music for us.

Dr. Campbell received the Doctor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Northwestern University, where he studied with renowned clarinetist and pedagogue Robert Marcellus. Campbell holds the distinction of being one of only three people ever to have completed a doctoral degree as a student of the late Marcellus.

Campbell is a Professor of Music at Grand Valley State University where he has built a thriving studio of clarinet students from Michigan and around the globe. Visit: www.ArthurCampbell.net.

On November 22, the Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet returns to St. Paul's.

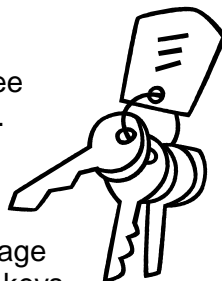
Both concerts will start at 12:15, with lunch available to purchase beginning at 11:30.



Building Security

Church Security is coming to the forefront. If you see something that may cause a problem, please tell Fr. Tom, Nelson Phillips, JD Driver or Sally Carmean. You may have seen the sign on the courtyard door; it doesn't always close tightly, please be sure it is if you use that door. Please see the first page for a volunteer opportunity regarding security of the keys.

This is God's House, we are the stewards charged with keeping his house safe and clean. Treat it as you would your own house. Thank you, --Your Security Group



December Quiet Day

The next Feeding Our Souls With Silence interfaith community quiet day & labyrinth walk will take place at St. Paul's on December 3 from 10:00 till 3:00 pm.

The days grow shorter, darkness comes earlier. With seasons of celebration coming near, for many of us there never seems to be enough time, while for others time hangs heavily on our shoulders. Wherever you are, whatever your circumstance, faith or persuasion, come join with us as we give ourselves the gifts of time and stillness. . . to perhaps look inward for direction, or with gratitude for life's blessings. The times are invitations; come when you can, as your day allows.

Surround yourself with the peace and beauty of candles and stained glass windows. The main sanctuary will be open as well as the chapel where healing prayer will be offered, for oneself or for others, at 11 o'clock and 2 o'clock. Learn more about the ancient labyrinth. A replica of the one found in the Chartes Cathedral in France will be available for walking, in socks or slippers, thanks to the generosity of Central United Methodist Church. There is a room with floor cushions for sitting meditation. Books and informational handouts will be available and comfortable reading chairs found by the fireside. Bring your journal, your favorite book, or the one you never find time to read. We will turn off our digital devices and for a time simply be.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day, as well as a simple soup and bread lunch from 12 noon to 1 o'clock. Reservations are not necessary but helpful in planning. Suggested donation is \$5.00. Please enter through the courtyard across from Hackley Park or the alley entrance next to Hackley Library. If you like, call St. Paul's office, 231-722-2112, or Linda Reynolds, 231-744-0377, with any questions.

In Sympathy



The family of St. Paul's offers our sympathy to the family of John W. "Jack" Erwin, Doug Leybourne's Son-in-law, who passed away on October 10.

We also remember, in sympathy, the family of former St. Paul's member Charles "Andy" Seyferth who passed away October 24.

We offer our condolences to the family of Betty Beahan, sister-in-law of Gay VanVleck.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1006 Third St.
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