

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Epistle

March, 2016

Love God. Love others. Help others love God.

We welcome you to join us on our journey as we strive to share the love of Jesus through worship, Christian education, fellowship and service to each other and the community beyond our walls.

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A few months ago while walking the hall at Lourdes Hospital I engaged in a conversation with one of the Vice-Presidents about different sayings of faith and inspiration. It all started because on her whiteboard was this statement, "Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about, so be kind, always! Have a blessed Day." Each time I visit someone at Lourdes now I go by her office to see if there is a new saying on her board, and yes, there is. She often changes them. I find them thought provoking.

My maternal grandmother was one for superstition and old wives' tales. Many you would recognize: don't let a black cat cross your path, don't walk under a ladder, go out the same door you came in, don't cut your nails on Sunday and, don't break a mirror or you get seven years' bad luck. You might even have more. Some of you might even read your horoscope on a daily basis and believe in astronomy. Some have even been to a psychic. I often think of these sayings off and on, some of those sayings I even joke about and yes, even follow at times. It is strange what sticks in your mind from growing up.

Some would say that a person of faith should not believe in superstitions, the stars, and all that which we really have no control over. Some people wait for some of this stuff to come true. Others would say that it might take away our free choice since we look for a way for these things to happen. We might even try to make them happen.

I guess I would say that I do not let these things control my life so I know that I am in control of the direction of my life. I know that God has given me the gift of free will and I have the ability to make decisions to the best of my ability. The problem comes in when we allow these things to control our life and to take the place of God. Nothing should do that.

So back to the original saying. There is so much that we do not know about each other for a wide variety of reasons. The phrase asks us to truly live out our baptismal call in that we respect the dignity of every human being. We are called to a place where we can really live out our call of radical hospitality as Jesus practiced. We are not just nice at coffee hour but that we live out the reputation we have as Episcopalians for diversity and inclusion. That we truly realize that we are all on this journey of faith together, realizing that we are all at different places and maturity. Faith is a journey that does not come to completion until death. I do not have all the answers but together we help each other mature into the reality that God is calling us to be. Hospitality requires being open to the other person and accepting them where they are on this journey.

I hope that your Lent has been one of kindness not only to each other but also to yourself. There is nothing wrong with self-love. Jesus went off to pray and recharge. So must we.

-Rev. John Martinichio +

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Thank you to all from St Paul's who supported the Trinity Canteen on Jan 31 with bananas, salad and brownies. A group from St Paul's lead by Sandy and Dick Schwab fed 82 people with a chicken and dressing casserole. The meal and sandwich lunches were prepared and served by Sandy and Dick Schwab, Lynn and Bill Freeman, Debbie Dieffenbacher, Connie Hess, Mark, Jennifer, Frannie, Joey and Tommy Vallone, Molly Martinichio, Austin Keuter and Bruce Dailey. Thank you all for a job well done!

A BIG thank you to all who made the Shrove Pancake Supper possible. Thanks to Eunice Barton for organizing, Sue Jones for shopping, Eunice, Lorraine Jones, Jennifer Westermann and Barb Dailey for set-up. Thank you to our kitchen crew Bruce and Barb Dailey, Meghan Walton, Kristin Walton, Mark, Aiden and Sanders Browning, Zach Manchester, Molly Martinichio and Austin Keuter. With the Vestry leaving for its meeting, thanks to Michelle Wolf for heading up the cleanup team which included Tommy, Frannie and Joey Vallone, Jordan Jones, Alaina Browning, Jack Wolf, Sarah Evans, Julia Evans, Ben Evans, Barb Dailey, Dick and Sandy Schwab. As you can see, St Paul's had a lot of help as we prepared for the Lenten Season.

The Women of the Church meeting was a super success. Thanks to Dick Schwab, Will VanOsten and Ray Besemer for cleaning up while the ladies learned more about the Sleeping Bag Project.

The Movin' On luncheon was another great success and we have Sue Jones, Jennifer Westermann, Lynn and Bill Freeman and Mary and Will VanOsten to thank for making it so!

Thank you to Aiden Browning and Kristin and Meghan Walton for reading during our Scout Sundays.

Mr. Handyman, Ted Wolf was at it again. Thank you Ted for fixing the elevette door.

We are so lucky to have so many people helping out in little areas all through the week. From setting up communion for Wednesday services to filling in at the office to picking up a broom or a rake while waiting for someone, many, many people help to make St. Paul's the church it is!



Thank you to Bob and Suzanne Pettit, Michelle Wolf and Sarah Evans, Eunice Barton, Karen Cahill and Lynda Helmer for reading during our Lent service of Lessons and Carols.

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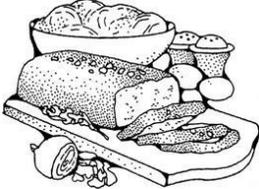
**I know we have all been waiting for this...Spring Forward, its Daylight Savings Time! Be sure to move your clocks forward 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday evening, March 12.**

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Easter Flowers

If you wish to honor a loved one with an Easter lily on Easter Sunday, the forms are now available in the back of the church. There are special flower envelopes available as well. In order to assist the counters, please indicate on your check or envelope **Altar Guild** and place in envelope provided. Orders must be placed by March 20 for publication. Thank you.



Meatloaf Dinner

Saturday, March 5, 5:30PM

With chilly days and freezing nights, warm comfort food is just what we need. St. Paul's will be hosting its 45th almost annual meatloaf dinner. Fill up your belly on Saturday, March 5 at 5:30PM with meatloaf, green beans and mashed potatoes. Stay for dessert and conversation. A free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the food. Please sign up in the back of the church so we can get a count for food. Contact Lynn Freeman with any questions.



Girl Scout Sunday

Sunday, March 6

On Sunday, March 6 we will be celebrating the Girls Scouts of America. If you are or were a Girl Scout or leader, wear your uniform and join us as we give thanks and pray for you and your leaders



GIRL SCOUTS



Lectio Divina

Lectio continues to meet every second and fourth Tuesday at 7PM at Linda Littell's house. Whether you have been coming for a while or you have just been thinking about a way to delve deeper into the Word, you are welcome to join us. Please call the office for more information.



Movin' On Luncheon

Monday, March 14, Noon

The Movin' On group will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day in style with a ham and cabbage luncheon. Widows and widowers, please join us for some fabulous St. Patty's Day food!



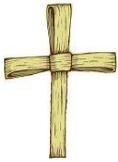
Lenten Program

Wednesdays through March 23, 5PM

Our Lenten Program continues Wednesdays through March 23. The program has been focusing on the Legacy of St. Francis. Fr. Richard Rohr introduces us to an orthodoxy lost to much of contemporary Christianity, an orthodoxy rooted in Franciscan theology and practice, orthodoxy biblically grounded, personally challenging and ultimately liberating. All are welcome to attend any part(s) of the program you are able. The program runs as follows:

- Lent service at 5 PM in the chapel
- Dinner at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall
- Program at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall





Please note, on March 16, we will be making Palm Crosses for the Palm Sunday service. This will replace the Lenten Program for that day only. All are welcome. Not crafty? Don't worry, there will be plenty of people on hand to help you out. If you are able, please bring sharp scissors. Our last Lenten Program will be on the 23rd of March.



The Gethsemane Watch

Maundy Thursday, March 24, 8PM-12 AM

Immediately following the Maundy Thursday Service, members of the community will take part in a continuous watch in the chapel at the Altar of Repose, much as Jesus' disciples remained with him in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest and trial by the Roman and Jewish Authorities. The Sacrament will be under watch from the hours of 8PM until 12, midnight. You are invited to take part in this meditative time as part of your own Lenten Observance.

Members and friends of the parish take turns through the evening spending time in prayer and silence in the Chapel. For many, these moments spent in the quiet of the Chapel are among the most profound and rich moments of the entire year.

To be on a vigil is to be wakeful for a purpose. To the ancient Romans, that could be to stand guard, spy on the activities of a possible enemy, or prepare for a holy occasion. Originally, the desire to take part in the holy occasion is so strong that you can't wait for it to happen, which means you're so full of determination that waiting and getting ready is all you can do, to the neglect of sleep or food. You don't want to miss a second of it; you want to be there even for the preludes or the first sunbeams.

The Gethsemane watch presents us with a superb opportunity to teach faithfulness in prayer and discipleship. "Could you not keep awake one hour?" were the words of Jesus in reproach to his



hapless followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch.

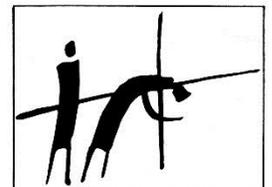
The movement from one place of worship to another recaptures a sense of the journey by the disciples from the upper room to the place called Gethsemane.

A signup sheet is available in the back of the church. Please be mindful of those before and after you during this time. When you arrive to sit watch, please ring the doorbell of the Christian Education building to be let in. Thank you.



Palm Sunday and Stations

There is a signup sheet in the back of the church for those willing to read for either the Palm Sunday Services or the Stations of the Cross. There is still a need for quite a few people. If you are willing to do so, please sign up on either sheet. There is a copy of the readings below each sign up sheet.



Souper Bowl Results

The Souper Bowl was a huge hit this year. With the Denver Broncos leading the pack with 82 cans and \$11 equaling 93 votes, the Carolina Panthers with 28 cans and \$3 equaling 31 votes and with St. Paul's taking in 30 cans and \$26 for a total of 56 votes. With our anonymous one for one match, the pantry is walking off the field with 222 cans of soup and \$40.



Women of the Church

In follow up to earlier meetings, the grand opening for Mercy House (212 N McKinley Ave, Endicott) will be held on Sunday, February 28th from 1-4 p.m. This will be an opportunity to see and learn more about the needs of Mercy House to ensure the comfort of their residents. Also, adequate interest has been expressed to form our own group to make sleeping bags for the homeless in the Binghamton area. Please watch for a signup sheet at the back of the church for those who are interested in participating. Remember, cool nights prevail even after winter, plus we can work ahead to prepare for next winter.

We will not hold a regular meeting in March due to the Lenten Program or in April, due to the extensive time given to the rummage sale. Mark your calendars for the spring rummage/bake sale which will be held on Saturday, April 9th. Items will be moved from storage to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 3rd following the 10 a.m. service. Set up will be on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Donated items may be brought in at any time. Please insure that all donations (clothes, dishes, appliances, etc.) are clean and not stained or damaged. We also need men and women to help with packing up at the close of the rummage sale.

As requested, plans are now underway for workshops to make Anglican prayer beads and mirror ornaments such as those hanging on the tree in our garden. Watch the bulletin for the dates of these afternoon workshops in the spring.

Will and Estate Planning

“The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the wellbeing of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. (BCP p. 445)”

There is one further counsel here. That is, persons making wills or trusts or other instruments of estate planning are not to neglect, if they are able, “bequests for religious and charitable uses.”

Having a will or other estate plan is such an important part of Christian faith and stewardship that it is explicitly addressed in our book of worship. For an adult Christian, having a valid will and estate plan is essential.

Unfortunately, 50% of Americans die without a valid will which allows state courts to distribute their assets however the state thinks best. This removes an important area of choice. We can choose to whom we wish to pass the “temporal goods” with which God has blessed us.

In choosing our heirs, we naturally think first of our families. This is as it should be. But we need not stop here. We might also consider our spiritual family, the church, or other charitable organizations that carry on important work in the world. Our “Last Will and Testament” can actually be a “testament,” an expression of our personal faith and values--an important aspect of our Christian stewardship.

This is a good time to make your will into a testament of your faith and values. For further information or attorney referrals, contact the Rector or Wardens or see www.EpiscopalGift.org, “Write a Will.” Bernice Gould did. Thanks to her and all those who have remembered us with a gift.

Some information was taken from an article by: The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP, Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California.

Annual Meeting Update

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 14. Also, a big thank you to Duncan Finlayson who volunteered to serve another one year term on the Vestry and to Ruthie Koerts, Bob Pettit and Richard Schwab who volunteered to serve on the Vestry, each, for 1 three year term.

Stewardship Thought

Stewardship Thought: We all are aging every day, and some of us will spend our last days in a nursing home. Because we here at St. Paul's want to reach out to those in nursing homes, we visit, hold services and bring communion to both our local church members and nonmembers alike. This reaching out to help change our world is part of our vision, supported by your faithful stewardship. Your personal stewardship and our vision to "worship and serve in Jesus' name," enable me to be sent there. Thank you for your generous offerings and the gifts that make all of this possible.

Rummage Sale Week

April 3-9

The date of the Spring Rummage Sale has been changed to Saturday, April 9. Volunteers are needed for any of the many facets of this sale; movers, sorters, folders, bakers and cleaners. No need to sign up, just show up when you can. The schedule will be as follows:



Sun., April 3, 11AM	Move Rummage to Fellowship Hall
Mon.-Wed., April 4-6, 9AM-Noon	Sort, fold and display rummage items
Thurs., April 7, 9AM-Noon	Drop off baked goods, sort if needed
Fri., April 8, 9-12PM	Drop off baked goods, organize Bake Sale
Sat., April 9, 9AM-3PM	Rummage Sale (1-3 bag sale)

Rummage can be left in room 102 as well as the Rummage Room. Also, if you have any paper or plastic bags, we can use them as well. Thank you.

JumpStart! CNY/Upstate

Saturday, April 23

The JumpStart program exists especially to help churches care for and use our buildings creatively. Watch your bulletins for more information on this exciting opportunity to learn more about where the future is leading our congregations.



Prayers for Our Ministries



Each week a different ministry area of St. Paul's is featured in the bulletin to highlight, encourage involvement and give thanks for the people who make it happen. During the month of March we pray for the following ministries:

- 6- Memorial Fund
- 13- Movin' On
- 20- Music Programs
- 27- Parish Secretary



Flower and Sanctuary Candle Memorials

Many weeks are still available for those wishing to light the Sanctuary Candle or honor a loved one with altar flowers. If you are interested in either the candle or flowers, please contact the office or obtain a form from the back of the church.



Sanctuary Candle Memorials



3/6- The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Audrey P Krska from her loving husband and daughter, Bill and Diana and for Nicholas Buccasio father of Verona Kidder from Verona and Ken Kidder.

3/13- The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Leighton Ryan Kraack from Dick and Sandy Schwab and in loving memory of Gary Powell from Sharon Powell.



- 3/1 Sue Jones, Ginnie Gillette
- 3/4 Rebecca Cole
- 3/10 Mary Foster
- 3/11 Judy Martinak, Ryan Baileys
- 3/12 Ray Besemer
- 3/15 Regina Peacock

- 3/19 Erin McLane
- 3/25 Nancy Boyd-Goff
- 3/26 Mary VanOsten
- 3/27 Richard Parker, Louise Bystricky
- 3/29 Jim Gilmore

3/9 Jewel and David Fenty




- Sun., March 20 Palm Sunday, Services, 8 & 10AM
- Mon., March 21 Holy Eucharist, 5PM
- Tues., March 22 Holy Eucharist, 5PM
- Wed., March 23 Lenten Program
- Thurs., March 24 Maundy Thursday, Service, 7PM
Gethsemane Watch, 8:00PM-Midnight
- Fri., March 25 Stations of the Cross, 12 & 7PM
- Sun., March 27 Easter Sunday, 8 & 10AM
Egg Hunt, following both services





March Liturgical Ministers Schedule

March 6	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Jennifer Westermann	Sue Jones
1 st Reading		Kristin Walton
2 nd Reading	Garvin Alexander	Meghan Walton
Chalice	Chip Kinne	Karen Cahill
Readings		

March 13	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Jack Westermann	Georgia Wilber
1 st Reading		Judy Shannon
2 nd Reading	Bill Dieffenbacher	Judy Doherty
Chalice	Luther Chergosky	Barb Dailey
Readings		

March 20 Palm Sunday	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Jane Parker	Ruthie Koerts
1 st Reading		Zach Manchester
2 nd Reading	Jackie Reece	Kelly Parker-Seeley
Chalice	Debbie Dieffenbacher	Eunice Barton
Readings		

March 24 Maundy Thursday	7PM	
Lay Minister	Karen Cahill	
1 st Reading	Jennifer Westermann	
2 nd Reading	Jack Westermann	
Chalice	Sue Jones	
Readings		

March 27 Easter	8AM	10AM
Lay Minister	Mary Cermak	Jim Garceau
1 st Reading		Sue Pettit
2 nd Reading	Jennifer Westermann	Bob Pettit
Chalice	Chip Kinne	Sue Jones
Readings		



St. Pauls' Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes, January 12, 2016 Approved
To love God, Love others, Help Others to love God

Rector: Fr. John R. Martinichio

Wardens: Bruce Dailey, Jennifer S. Westermann

Vestry:

Eunice Barton

Lynne Jones

Dolly Chergosky

Robert Pettit

Duncan Finlayson (A)

Karen Cahill

Lynda Helmer

Mary Gilfoyle

Treasurer: Jack Westermann

Fr. John opened the meeting at 7:03 with a prayer, The Eyes of Jesus, from Bless this Space Between Us.

December Minutes: **Motion** made by Lynda Helmer with second by Karen Cahill to accept the December minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Bob Pettit and Jack Westermann

- Gould Fund ended year pretty even but, considering \$132,207 was withdrawn, still pretty good.
- Income – pledges caught up by year's end. Thanks to all!
- Expenses – the year ended with expenses being about \$12,000 less than income so another good thing. **Motion** made by Eunice Barton with second by Lynne Jones to accept Treasurer's report and the Gould Fund report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- Gould Allocation Committee – With Casey Korchynsky resigning as chair of the committee (thank you Casey, for your ten years of service!) the vestry needed to discuss the best way to handle future grant applications. **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann, seconded by Lynda Helmer to create a vestry sub-committee for review applications consisting of two vestry members and one member-at-large with an invitation to current committee members to be a part of the committee and that the Executive Committee will appoint its chair. Motion carried with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes and one person, Bob Pettit, abstaining. Bob Pettit and Eunice Barton volunteered to be the vestry members on the committee.
- Gould Grant application – in light of the above committee being in limbo, the vestry reviewed one application that has come in this year from Hunts for Healing. **Motion** made by Jennifer S. Westermann with second by Lynda Helmer to award Hunts for Healing a grant of \$2,000.00 Motion carried unanimously.

Rector's Report:

- Sacred Sites Open House, Sunday, May 22. The vestry opted not to take part in the tour this year.
- Safe Church – a training will be held at St. Paul's on Sunday, January 24. Notifications were sent to all those who need the training including those whose training is due to expire soon as well as those who have never taken it. It is open to all.

- Dean of the District – Bishop Adams appointed Fr. John as Dean of the Binghamton District.

Wardens' Report: Bruce shared thank you notes from Paula Giroux, Episcopal Relief and Development and CHOW for our donations and support.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education – Jennifer S. Westermann reported that we have 19 students enrolled in our three Sunday School classes but, because of work schedules, could really use another teacher. She and Fr. John have had discussions about the possibility of starting a youth group at some point.

Women of the Church – Karen Cahill reported that the next meeting will be a lunch meeting on January 14 to hear a presentation from Sister Joanna Monticello on the creation of a Mercy House, a hospice facility in Endicott. The February meeting will be another lunch meeting with the program being learning to make sleeping bags for homeless people. The spring Rummage Sale date will most likely be Saturday, April 9th as some of the sale customers who are on public assistance requested it as it will be closer to when they receive their checks. The WoC will not meet in March due to it being the Lenten season.

Other Items:

- The annual Pancake Supper will be on Tuesday, February 9.
- The Wednesday Lenten Series will include a study of the Orthodoxy of St. Francis. The evening will begin at 5:00 with Holy Eucharist in the chapel, then a simple supper at 6:00 and the program starting at 6:45. All are welcome.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. Note: this will be after the Pancake Supper.

Meeting adjourned with Compline from the New Zealand Prayer Book at 9:38 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer S. Westermann, Vestry Clerk

