

## Traditional Shrove Tuesday dinner and fun planned for members of all ages

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Shrove Tuesday/Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras potluck dinner February 9, beginning at 5:30PM in the Great Hall.

Those attending are asked to bring especially decadent desserts and a beverage. Traditional Episcopal fare for Shrove Tuesday of pancakes and sausages will be served. No sign-up is necessary. The event is sponsored and prepared by the Vestry.

Following dinner the children will parade to the tower and banish the Alleluias. The Alleluias will remain there until Easter Sunday.



## Lenten plans for St. Paul's Church

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on February 10, this year. On that day there will be three Eucharists, with the imposition of ashes, at 7:30AM, Noon and a 6PM Family and Choral Eucharist service.

Once again, St. Paul's will host Lenten Suppers on Tuesday evenings, February 16, February 23, March 1 and March 8. Dinner will be served in the Great Hall at 5:30PM, and at 6PM there will be a half-hour program. More information on the program can be found on page two.

## Lent madness: a novel addition to your Lenten devotions

Welcome to Lent Madness!

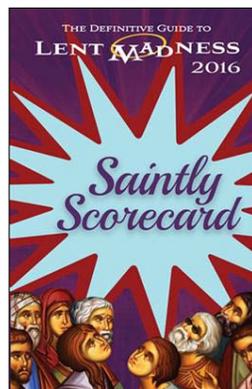
Inspired by the close proximity in time of March Madness to Lent each year, Lent Madness is the brainchild of self-professed sports fanatic the **Rev. Tim Schenck**, Rector of St. John the Evangelist Church just outside Boston; it first appeared in his blog *Clergy Family Confidential* in 2010. The idea was to develop a Lenten devotion that was an entertaining way to introduce Episcopalians to the holy men and women the church recognizes. As the Lent Madness website explains:

“The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time, and people vote for their favorite saint. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.”

So how can you, a St. Paul's parishioner, get in on the action? It's easy. First, go on the website (just Google “Lent Madness” and it pops right up) and register to participate. Start looking at the biographical data for this year's slate of saints. The online voting begins on Thursday, February 11, (the day after Ash Wednesday, unofficially name Bracket Thursday henceforth).

At St. Paul's, there will be leaflets available entitled *Sainly Scorecard*; pick one up and take a look (they're free). Also, look for the Bracket Poster in the Great Hall and watch the progress of the saints toward the Golden Halo.

You can also follow Lent Madness on Facebook and Twitter; the website has all the details.





## From the Rector...

I recently checked, because Easter comes early this year. The earliest date it can be is March 22.

The next Easter Sunday, March 22 will be in 2285. You may have as good a shot at celebrating that day as winning the Powerball. The latest Easter falls on April 25, which came in 1943 and returns in 2083.

I write this because Shrove Tuesday is just around the corner, with Ash Wednesday to follow, February 10. Easter will be on March 27. That means it's time to get ourselves ready for Lent.

What do we do in Lent? The word means "Spring," which may be confusing as early as Ash Wednesday comes in Wisconsin this year. We might need to call it "Winter." Lent was established as a season to prepare for Easter. For 46 days (40 days, if you exclude Sunday) the church traditionally suggests fasting, taking on a discipline, denying ourselves something, engaging in more prayer and scripture reading. In our day that can even be limiting time with TV, the internet or Facebook. Some prepare by serving food to the hungry; sending a note to someone; doing a study; helping a neighbor. What you choose to do in Lent isn't as important as doing something that will take you out of your normal routine to reflect on God's love and grace, the meditating on stories of this season, preparing for Holy Week and recalibrating priorities each day.

Some of the recent studies of the church I read indicate that the church's importance in society is diminishing. Decreased membership and attendance are signs. I am not sure what all the reasons are. I suspect the church in general needs to pray and reflect on how it is accomplishing its mission and to whom. Perhaps we can begin to think together about this phenomenon, and what God is saying to us in these times. We can brainstorm and think outside the box. Try some crazy things. Participating in the V.I.V.A. discussions and surveys as we move into Year 2 may help you do that, both letting go of other plans and redirecting your time to conversations with others as well as worship.

We will have an exciting Lenten program this year, lasting four weeks: writing a *Rule of Life*, an offering from our Episcopal monks, the Society of St. John the Evangelist. That begins on Tuesday, February 16, with a group discussion and workshop format at the church, including a simple supper prepared by members. If you wish to participate individually, please read the sidebar. Regardless of the format you prefer, you will go through a combination of readings, videos, and guided questions, spending the weeks of Lent discovering what a *Rule of Life* is, as well as cultivating relationship with God, self, others and creation. You will be able to continue growing your spiritual life beyond Lent.

The Invitation to a Holy Lent in the Prayer Book says we are invited "to the observance of a Holy Lent, by

self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." That's the Ash Wednesday invitation. Maybe if we take such moments in the Church Year seriously, devote ourselves more fully to the worship of God together, do something in these six weeks to reconnect more deeply to God, we will find our spiritual life renewed. Together we might even find renewal and new vitality as St. Paul's Church.

Blessings as we enter this Holy Season of Preparation and Celebration for all God is doing,

**Fr. Steve+**



In this series, we focus on God as the Chief Gardener of our souls, and we seek out ways to grow into the fullness he desires. Just as stakes and lattices nurture the growth of young plants, so too can spiritual disciplines support the flourishing of our whole being. This series uses a tool from monastic spirituality called a *Rule of Life* to explore and cultivate our relationships with God, Self, Others and Creation. This is an exciting opportunity to dig deep and dream big about ways to live into a more abundant life with Christ.

This series is designed for both individuals and groups. For groups, facilitators will guide the growing process as participants discuss and learn together. For individuals, daily videos and reflections will lead them through the same process. For information on individual study go to [ssje.org/growrule](http://ssje.org/growrule). Ultimately each participant will create a unique *Rule of Life* or 'Garden Plot' to sustain and expand beyond the class.

Participants will be able to:

- ❖ Design a balanced plan for growing into a deeper relationship with God, Self, Others and Creation.
- ❖ Celebrate areas of their lives that are thriving and explore areas that need extra nourishment.
- ❖ Tune their sensitivity to the rhythms of nature to help them in keeping a *Rule of Life*.
- ❖ Grow in fellowship with other participants and support them through the growing process.

# LENT IS COMING.....VERY QUICKLY

from Jon Barsanti

As mentioned earlier in this issue, Ash Wednesday is February 10. Perhaps you have already begun to think about your personal Lenten discipline for 2016...What will I give up? What will I take on? In the February-April 2014 issue of *Forward Day by Day*, **Scott Gunn**, Executive Director, suggested, "Perhaps you will decide to set aside some money each day of Lent and then make a generous gift in Eastertide."

Members and friends of St. Paul's have been doing this since 2002 thereby adding over \$27,000 to the St. Paul's Outreach Endowment Fund. We encourage you to join us this year.

All accumulated contributions will be collected on Easter Sunday and permanently invested in the Outreach Endowment Fund which will provide needed funds for our Outreach Committee each year forever. Please consider giving a gift that will keep giving.



## Adult Education Forums for February

ALL SESSIONS BEGIN AT 9AM  
IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

❖  
On **February 7**, St. Paul's Deacon **Sheila Scott** will tell us about *Christianity in Romania under the Communists*. Sheila is a native of Romania and grew up there during the rule of the dictator **Nicolae Ceaușescu**.

❖  
On **February 14**, **Barbara Brown Lee** returns with *My Love Affair with Art*, telling stories behind selected art from the Milwaukee Art Museum where she served for 50 years.

❖  
**February 21** – No Program; Committee Meetings

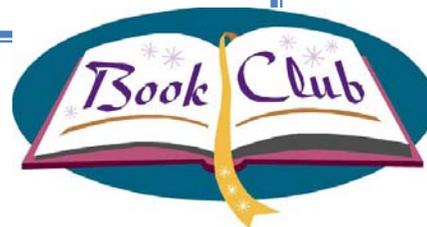
❖  
On **February 28**, after a week off so that committees can meet, we welcome guests from Nashotah House Seminary. **Rev. Dr. Steven Peay**, Dean and Professor of Homiletics and Church History, and **Rev. Dr. Andrew Grosso**, Research Professor of Systematics will present us with *Three Issues I Wish You Would Be Thinking About*.

❖  
You are encouraged to bring guests to enjoy the wealth of insight and perspective in each session.



## Needed... a few good men!

Traditionally the men of St. Paul's are the chefs for the Easter Sunday breakfast served between services. The Paris Life Committee is calling for volunteers for this year's event. If you can help, please contact **Bill Fry** at [williamlawsonfry@gmail.com](mailto:williamlawsonfry@gmail.com).



**St. Paul's Book Club**  
will meet in the library  
on **Tuesday, February 9, at 7:15PM**  
to discuss the book  
***Christianity After Religion***  
by **Dianne Bass**

# St. Paul's Adult Formation Schedule

All Sessions are held in the Community Room on Sundays at 9AM

**PLEASE POST THIS PAGE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR REFERENCE!**

## FEBRUARY

- 7 ***Christianity in Romania under the Nazis and the Communists*** – **Sheila Scott**  
Rev. Sheila Scott, a native of Romania, serves as Deacon at St. Paul's.
- 14 ***My Love Affair with Art*** – **Barbara Brown Lee**  
Barbara Brown Lee is Chief Educator Emeritus at the Milwaukee Art Museum where she served for 50 years.
- 21 ***Parish Committee Meetings*** – **No Program**
- 28 ***Three Issues I Wish You Would Be Thinking About*** – **Andrew Grosso** and **Steven Peay**  
Rev. Dr. Andrew Grosso is Research Professor in Systematic; Rev. Dr. Steven Peay is Dean and Professor of Homiletics and Church History...both are from Nashotah House Seminary.

## MARCH

- 6 ***Secret Stories in St. Paul's Windows*** – **Paul Haubrich** and **Mary Eagan**  
Paul Haubrich, PhD is St. Paul's historian; Mary Eagan is a specialist in medieval art and literature
- 13 ***Facing the Challenges in Milwaukee Faith-on*** – **Steve Filmanowicz**  
Steve Filmanowicz, Jr. Warden, and the outreach team explore St. Paul's involvement in the community.
- 20 ***Palm Sunday*** – **No Program**
- 27 ***Easter Sunday*** – **No Program**

## APRIL

- 3 ***The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Family: Changes, Choices, Challenges*** – **Kristin Zersen Selear**  
Kristin Selear is a Master's Level Social Worker in the Child Welfare System, Washington County.
- 10 ***Three Issues I Wish You Would Be Thinking About*** – **Garwood Anderson**  
Garwood Anderson, PhD, is Professor of New Testament and Greek at Nashotah House.
- 17 ***Parish Committee Meetings*** – **No Program**
- 24 ***Education Options in Milwaukee: What's Best for our Children?*** – **Pat Luebke** and **Ken Robinson**  
Pat Luebke, PhD is Interim Dean of Education at Alverno; Ken Robinson is a retired educator.

## MAY

- 1 ***The Biblical Vision of Marc Chagall: An Illustrated Pilgrimage*** – **Deirdre Dempsey**  
Deirdre Dempsey, PhD, is Associate Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Marquette University
- 8 ***Surprising Meanings Behind our Worship Practices*** – **Father Steve Teague**  
Rev. Dr. C. Steven Teague, Rector of St. Paul's, helps to personalize the Episcopal Liturgy
- 15 ***Parish Committee Meetings*** – **No Program**
- 22 ***How St. Paul's Members Help Solve Milwaukee's Social Problems*** – **Robert Connolly**  
Robert Connolly is Staff Director for Common Ground, identifying and finding solutions for local social problems.
- 29 ***Are Christian Views of Non-Violence Still Relevant?*** – **David Zersen**  
Rev. Dr. David Zersen explores alternative Christian views to war on Memorial Day Weekend.

**Join us every Sunday as we gather to learn from our presenters  
and from one another!**

## How do you wish to receive the *Apostle*...changes may be available

For years, the only way you could read the *Apostle* newsletter has been to receive a copy in the mail or pick one up at church in the Information Center. For the last few years it has also been available through St. Paul's website.

It has been proposed that you will now have a choice as to how you would like to receive your *Apostle*. Please review the questions below and cast your preference then clip this form and return it to the church. You may mail your form to the Church or place it in a collection plate on a Sunday. The form will also be available on the website...[www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org](http://www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org)...and in the Information Center.

I would like to continue receiving the *Apostle* in the mail

I would like to receive the *Apostle* by email

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

I will read the *Apostle* on the website and/or print it out

Please print...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

 PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

### People of the Way:

### Renewing Episcopal Identity

A Workshop...Saturday February 27; 9AM to 3PM

Nashotah House with Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile

Once the Episcopal Church was grounded in its identity as the church of the elites, the de facto "national church" of the United States. Those days are gone. But if the Episcopal church is no longer the church of the establishment, what is the heart of Episcopal identity and Mission?

Scholar and Episcopal priest Dwight Zscheile will help the participants to reflect on this massive shift and cultural change in the religious landscape and to ground themselves in Scripture, recalling how God has acted among and through God's people in other times of change and struggle. He will offer stories, tools and practices for vital and collaborative work of reimagining what it means to be an Episcopalian in America today, thus carrying forward the best of our heritage while adapting to connect with new populations and generations.

Participants will receive a copy of Zscheile's book *People of the Way*. For further details and registration information please contact the church office.

Have you noticed the new art pieces in the Great Hall?



Thank you to **Rand Schmidt** and **Steve Sanders** for the donation of eight new framed-photo pieces of art in the Great Hall.

The two large photos were taken by member **Joel Richter** and titled *McWay Cove*, found at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park in the Big Sur, and *Camp Woods*, in northern Wisconsin. The six botanicals photos, titled *Cultivated Beauty*, were taken by Rand.

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*Rector*

Rev. Sheila Scott, *Deacon*  
Carrie Barbee, *Sr. Warden*  
Steve Filmanowicz,

*Jr. Warden*

Gerald Mainman, *Treasurer*  
**VESTRY**

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Theresa Castor,  
Michael Gauger,  
Sandra Halgerson,  
Ben Johnson,

Margaret Schumacher,  
Erik Skoglund,

André Williams, Terry Zimmer  
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Sarah Gramentine, *Copy Editor*



**SUNDAYS**

8AM, Holy Eucharist

10:15AM,

Holy Eucharist with music

Nursery service available at  
10AM

**WEDNESDAYS**

7:30AM, Eucharist

12 Noon, Eucharist & Lectionary  
Study

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*We are a community of faith being  
transformed through Christ to  
embody the  
healing presence of God's  
love to one another, our city  
and the world.*



A festive luncheon,  
hosted by the  
African-American Members  
of

St. Paul's to celebrate African-Heritage Month  
and the diversity of our congregation,  
will be held in the Great Hall on February 28,  
following the 10:15AM service.  
Everyone is invited to bring a dish or desert,  
perhaps of one's ancestral heritage.