

## Stewardship 2017: Sharing God's Grace Through Our Gratitude

by Ruth Bauman and Janet Tallberg,  
Stewardship Co-chairs

*"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." II Corinthians 9 v. 11*

As we begin this season of stewardship, we are reminded of the generosity of God as it flows through us and allows our gift of generosity to others. In gratitude for the gifts that God has given to each of us, we, in turn, give to St. Paul's Church the ability to spread God's gifts to many. Your contribution fosters the mission of St. Paul's for the fellowship of our members, for the visitors who seek comfort in our presence, and for the community which benefits from our outreach. Your contributions take many forms; an hour spent in making sandwiches for the Gathering, ironing clothing for the Thrift Shop, planting and tending our beautiful gardens, and yes, a contribution of the wealth which God has bestowed upon you.

Our season of stewardship begins with a presentation on October 1. Each member of our fellowship will receive a pledge card for your

prayerful consideration of gratitude. On October 22, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, during which we will have a special opportunity to celebrate our gratitude with the pledging of our gifts for God's purpose. Our season of stewardship continues throughout the year, as we consider our expression of gratitude in the giving of our time and talent to the mission of St. Paul's.

Your contribution to the mission of St. Paul's is a double opportunity for gratitude. You give in thankfulness for the gifts that God has given to you. Moreover, you provide the community of St Paul's to spread the generosity of God to the larger community, causing gratitude in the hearts of the recipients.

*"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" II Corinthians 9 v. 12-15.*



## Festival Sunday



Love. Grow. Serve.

*There will be only one service at 10:15AM followed by a reception featuring representatives of several Outreach and other Ministries.*

**DON'T MISS THE FUN ON SEPTEMBER 10!**



## ***From the Rector...***

*“All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, He spoke to them only in parables to fulfill what had been said through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.” MATTHEW 13: 34-36*

Jesus has been speaking parables for weeks this summer and mostly on the “same day” in Matthew’s gospel. We are afforded a few week’s break with other (usually) more difficult sayings and then we dive back into more parables. They are always about the kingdom of heaven or God offering us a new vision of home and a startling understanding of God’s justice that invites us to consider ways of living very foreign to our accustomed models and assumptions. Therein lies the reason that parable is the only fitting method for Jesus to deliver this “good news” to us: it uproots us in discomfort and invites us to find home and perfect fit in a new way of being – an experience of the grace of God that transfigures Jesus and, if we accept his good news, us.

I have felt transfigured this past month, but not in a positive way. While attempting to be grateful for bed and food and shelter in temporary lodgings, I have experienced a great anxiety of displacement as I wait to move into my new “home.” Yes, I sense the shame even as I admit that. The knowledge that I am at present living far more comfortably than the majority in God’s world and in this city and yet I long to be settled. I try to take comfort in Augustine’s admission that “our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in you.” Why can I not take comfort in my displacement as an invitation to enter the place where so many Christs of this world abide? That is a parable: we are always at home and yet in transition. By the time you read this, I will be in my house. Will I be “at home?”

The house will have closed on August 15, the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin and patron of my former parish. I had nothing to do with the choice of that date but it has provided me with a summer of contemplation and wonder. To leave what we know behind and embark on the unknown is the heart of Jesus’ message in his parables. I could not have done that without the grace of God shown through you. You too left the familiar and invited a virtual stranger to journey with you. What a remarkable gift of new life that is to me and I hope to you. It strikes me as another synchronicity that around that August date last year, you said goodbye to Fr. **Steve and Karen Teague**. That was a deep death for you and the death of Karen’s mother **Catherine Wolf** occurring a year later reopens that grief and reminds all of us of our mortality and our being displaced. That is a parable: the dying-rising of Christ entered into by this Body of Christ. By the time you read this, we will have been together for two months. Will we be “at home?”

On Sunday, September 10, we will celebrate “homecoming” at our Festival Sunday with one Eucharistic celebration at 10:15AM. The choir will make its return and Sunday School will begin a new year of journey. I hope you will be here as we officially welcome new members to St. Paul’s, baptize **Devon Sobek** into this Body of Christ, and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The reception following church will highlight our various ministries displaying and discussing their role in embodying St. Paul’s mission, vision and goals as they manifest Christ’s presence to the broader community of Milwaukee. I trust this will be a rich time of hospitality, encounter and conversation opening-up new avenues for the Spirit’s work here at St. Paul’s. That is the essence of parable: returning to the same familiar place that has been transformed in a year of death and new life and knowing that we will be transfigured again by Christ’s presence and sent out in new ways to bring others home to God. May they choose to be “at home” with us.

***Fr. Brad***



## Help fight the heroin opioid epidemic *from Pat Ruttum*

The City of Milwaukee, CVS Pharmacy, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District Drug Mail

Back program is aimed at the heroin opioid epidemic and is being promoted by the Common Ground Watershed Team. It is the first of its kind in the nation.

How do you participate? There are three easy steps:

❖ Pick up a quantity of postage-free envelopes from any Milwaukee or Cudahy Police Stations

OR any CVS Pharmacy. To get us started you will see a stack of these envelopes in the hallway by the Information Center.

❖ Take an envelope and dump your unwanted medications into the envelope, seal it and drop it in any mailbox. Please recycle the medicine container. These medicines will be returned to the Police Department for incineration. In addition, you will see an instruction sheet inside each envelope.

❖ Spread the word to friends and family. Questions? Call Rod at 414.736.0144

## A little history: St. Paul's Book Club\* *by Donald Noel*



The March 2005 issue of *The Apostle* announced the formation of a book club led by **Father Joe Pagano**. **Suzy Brennan** and **Lela Joscelyn** were charter members and **Don Noel** joined sometime during the first year. Joe and Don were the only males among 14 participants. Initially the members read and discussed the short stories in volume 1 of *Listening*

*for God: Contemporary Literature* and *A Life of Faith* published by Augsburg Fortress in 1994, edited by **Paula J. Carlson** and **Peter S. Hawkins**.

When Fr. Joe left for Baltimore in 2006, participation sharply declined and for several years Suzy, Lela and Don were the book club. Eventually they read and discussed all four volumes of *Listening for God*, featuring stories by authors such as **Flannery O'Connor**, **Alice Walker**, **Garrison Keillor**, **John Updike**, **Anne Tyler**, **Wendell Berry**, **Louise Erdrich**, **James Baldwin**, **Sue Miller** and **Kent Haruf**.

In the fall of 2008, we started reading books oriented to religion, beginning with *Mere Christianity* by **C.S. Lewis** and since then we have read approximately 40 books, **Anne Vogel** joined us in early 2009 and then **Paul Haubrich** and we have continued to grow. Presently (mid-2017) we have 15 regular participants (8 female, 7 male). Almost from the beginning we settled into a pattern of three meetings in the fall and four in the spring. We are a very democratic book club with each of the members suggesting books and all contributing to lively and fun discussions. Usually we meet in the Community room from 7 to 8:30PM, with a usual attendance of about 10-12 on a given night. This makes it quite feasible for all to participate.

*\*This is a reprint of an email Don sent last Spring to the members of the Book Club; they will begin meeting in October.*

## Sunday School to begin in September...

Sunday School is scheduled to start again on September 17! Sunday School takes place during the 10:15AM service and is led by an adult teacher and assistant. During Sunday School, children typically read a child-friendly version of one of the church readings and explore what the lesson means through discussion, art or craft activity, and/or games. There is not a specific age-requirement for Sunday School participation; generally, children from ages 5-11 have participated in the program. We are also looking for adults and teens to assist with Sunday School--if you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher or have questions about the Sunday School program, please contact **Theresa Castor** at [theresa.castor@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.castor@gmail.com) or 262-705-3097.

# PICNIC

On Sunday, September 24, following the 10:15AM service, we will host a picnic for the parish in the playground park next to the church parking lot. Children of all ages, the young at heart, and all who enjoy good food and fellowship are invited to this inter-generational event.

We'll enjoy the beauty of nature and the outdoors. We'll be grilling burgers and 'dawgs' and serving beverages provided by St. Paul's. Those attending are welcomed to bring a side dish (e.g., salad, dessert, chips, etc.). Tables and chairs will be set-up for dining comfort or you may bring a blanket and picnic in the park. In the event of rain, we'll move the party indoors. Please signup for the event at the Information Center inside the main hallway or call the church office to have your name placed on the list. If you have any questions, feel free to contact **Theresa Castor** by phone at 262-705-3097 or by email at: [theresa.castor@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.castor@gmail.com).

## We have two great service opportunities coming up in September!



### ❖ Hot Lunch Meal at The Gathering site

Spend some time getting to know other parishioners while helping to meet a critical need in our community. Please consider joining us to prepare and serve a hot lunch for guests of The Gathering. Our next date is Saturday, September 9 from 9:AM to 1:30PM. The location is at their new site at St. Benedict the Moor's Catholic Church at 924 W State Street. Friends and family are welcome to join in; just include their name(s) when you sign up. Donations of coffee, milk, or desserts are appreciated as well, but completely optional.

### ❖ Bag Lunch Preparation at St. Paul's

Can't make it on Saturday? We will be getting together again to make bag lunches on Friday, September 29 from 5PM to 7PM. (If you can't arrive at exactly 5:00, no worries.) The bag lunches we prepare are then distributed to guests of The Gathering the following

day. Since there is no large-scale meal offered in Milwaukee on Saturday evening, these lunches help individuals experiencing homelessness or food scarcity make it through until the next meal offered on Sunday. Last time we had a great response and a lot of fun.

Sign up for either (or both) of these opportunities in the Information Center or email **Kathee Phillipson** at [katheep@ymail.com](mailto:katheep@ymail.com). You can also call or text 414-412-6909. Feel free to respond with other questions. Carpooling to The Gathering site can be arranged.

Please also keep in mind that The Gathering will be the topic of the Adult Formation session on September 24. **Jennifer Williams** and **Ken Bernoska** will be leading the discussion, and an opportunity to accomplish some tasks for the bag lunch assembly will follow.

## Thank you Layweeders! *from Paul Haubrich*

Thank you LAY WEEDERS! For four weeks the following weeders and trimmers have laid the ground work to improve the quality and look of our gardens: **Roger Payton, John Hanson, Peter Larson, Lela Joslyn, Pat Ruttum, Gerry Mainman** and **Cathy Simpson**. They have done hard work and made real progress to improving our gardens. There will be two more work days, September, 18 and 25 from 9:30AM to 11:30AM to finish all the work. Many thanks and if your calendar permits, we can use your talents. Many thanks for your help.



# Interchange Food Pantry

by Mark Lawson, St. Paul's Outreach Committee Champion

Along with several other churches in our area of Milwaukee's lower east side, St. Paul's, in 1971, founded and still supports the Interchange Food Pantry. The Pantry is housed in the basement of the Village Church at 130 E. Juneau Ave. Interchange receives its food the Hunger Task Force, Feeding America and from food donations from various congregations, including St. Paul's.

As the immediate East side neighborhood of St. Paul's became more affluent, the Pantry increasingly served more patrons from other, nearby areas. Over time, people from these areas became the primary users of the Pantry.

In late 2016, as a new contract was being negotiated with the Hunger Task Force (HTF), the HTF informed the Pantry that it was going to start enforcing its rules regarding service areas of its sponsored food pantries.

Under the agreement with the HTF, Interchange was only allowed to serve patrons from the 53202, 53203 and 53211 zip codes. This presented a serious problem, most of the users of the Pantry were from other zip codes, like 53212. The HTF insisted that their rules be respected, or the food coming from them could be cut off. They did agree to add one more zip code, 53233, the Marquette area.



The board of Interchange is made up of representatives from the churches that lend support to the Pantry. That group has tried to come up with a workable solution to this difficult situation. Negotiations are still ongoing with Hunger Task Force, while the possibility of becoming independent from them is being carefully weighed. In the interim, the Pantry has stopped supplying food to folks outside the four zip codes. Not a good situation for those folks in need from other zip codes.

Over the next few months a difficult decision will have to be made if the HTF continues to limit the guests that can use the pantry. Either to adhere to the zip code rule, or raise the funds and the volunteers needed to become independent of the Hunger Task Force.

What can St. Paul's parishioners do to help Interchange?

- ❖ Donate non-perishable food in Interchange barrels at Saint Paul's.
- ❖ Donate funds directly to Interchange
- ❖ Volunteer: call **George Neureuther**, Pantry Director at 414-276-0988
- ❖ Participate in the upcoming run/walk, **Run for a Reason, on Saturday, September 30 at 9AM**. The event will begin at InStep, 403 East Buffalo Street in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Routes will take runners and walkers to the beautiful Milwaukee lake front. A suggested donation of \$10 will go directly to Interchange. To sign up contact **Mark Lawson** (marklawson@miad.edu)



## Foyer Groups to start again!

"Foyer" is derived from French and means "hearthside"—a source of warmth and hospitality! Within the Episcopal Church, Foyer groups have met to share meals and fellowship since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. St. Paul's Church will be organizing Foyer groups to begin again this Fall. Foyer groups generally will consist of eight to ten people who will meet regularly (every one to three months, depending on the group's schedule and preference) to share a meal or other social activity together. It will be up to each Foyer group to decide on how they wish to spend their time together.

Foyer groups typically involve a regular commitment for a year with a given group. **Fr. Brad** has also promised to meet with each Foyer group!

Sign-up sheets will be distributed in church in September, or you may contact **Theresa Castor**, [theresa.castor@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.castor@gmail.com) or 262-705-3097 if you would like to sign-up to participate in a Foyer group or if you have questions regarding Foyer groups!

# Adult Formation Sessions for the Fourth Quarter of 2017

*All sessions are held in the Community Room and begin at 9AM*

## SEPTEMBER 2017

- ❖ September 3, *Celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*, Rabbi Steven Adam, the Director of Pastoral Care for Ovation Communities leads a discussion on Jewish high holidays.
- ❖ September 10, *Festival Sunday*
- ❖ September 17, *Parish Committee Meetings*
- ❖ September 24, *St. Paul's Involvement with The Gathering*, Ken Bernska and Jennifer Williams, will discuss St. Paul's participation in feeding the hungry.

## OCTOBER 2017

- ❖ October 1, *Great Stories from the Apocryphal Books*, Reverend Michael Cover, Ph.D., an Episcopal priest and New Testament Scholar at Marquette University, explores the continuing value of the Apocrypha.
- ❖ October 8, *Great Teachings from the Apocryphal Books Part 2*, Prof. Cover continues his study with us of the Apocryphal books.
- ❖ October 15, *Parish Committee Meetings*
- ❖ October 22, *Luke the Physician: An Ophthalmologist Looks at Art*, Mark Ruttum, M.D., On the Sunday associated with Luke the physician, Dr. Ruttum helps us see what eyes can see.
- ❖ October 29, *Did Luther Really Say...?*, Reverend David Zersen, Ed.D., discusses contexts for some of Luther's controversial sayings on the Reformation's 500<sup>th</sup>.

## NOVEMBER 2017

- ❖ November 5, *Ways of Remembering*, Jan Van Rens, CEO of Forest Home Cemetery, discusses new ways in which people remember loved ones.
- ❖ November 12, *A Composer Takes Us into His Studio and Shares How He Creates Music*, Timothy Benson, M.Mus. M. Phil.(Cantab.), St. Paul's Director of Music and Organist
- ❖ November 19, *Parish Committee Meetings*
- ❖ November 26, *Women Mystical Writers: Their Wisdom for Today*, Kathe Thome, M.A., who taught literature and religion to undergraduates, shares insightful stories of saints.

## DECEMBER 2017

- ❖ December 3, *Thrift Shop Christmas Boutique*, fabulous annual Christmas venue
- ❖ December 10, *Celebrating Orthodox Christmas*, Fr. John Ketchum, Pastor of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, shares holiday traditions of the Orthodox community.

*No sessions on December 17, 24 and 31*

**SAVE THIS SHEET SO THAT YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE SESSION!**

## Doors Open returns to St. Paul's...

Doors Open Milwaukee is Historic Milwaukee's most ambitious project. As a nonprofit organization, Historic Milwaukee, Inc., has been dedicated to increasing awareness of and commitment to Milwaukee's history, architecture, and the preservation of our built environment through education and advocacy since 1974.

The seventh annual Doors Open Milwaukee event will open the doors to over 150 wonderful buildings free-of-charge to the public: buildings that hold hidden treasures and special stories, from churches to office buildings, theaters to work sites, museums to hotels, clubs to universities – all sites of historic,

architectural, cultural, or commercial interest. For details go to their web [www.doorsopenmilwaukee.org/](http://www.doorsopenmilwaukee.org/).

On Saturday and Sunday, September 23 and 24, St. Paul's will open its gracious doors to the public. For the sixth year **Greg Kostka** is coordinating our volunteers, who will greet guests, distribute self-guided-tour brochures and be stationed throughout the church to answer questions. Each year over 700 guests have visited St. Paul's.

Greg says, "Once again I am looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help usher folks through the church to marvel at all of St. Paul's

beauty. Strong participation will again afford us shorter shifts, so please join us for a little fun and to make 2017's tour another smashing success." Greg can be reached at [gregory.a.kostka@morganstanley.com](mailto:gregory.a.kostka@morganstanley.com)



## Meet a Winner: Zoe Plunkett



Can you stomach the fun of playing a video game while learning about science and the human body? Using 10-year-old **Zoe Plunkett's** original game, *The Digestive System*, players learn about each step in the digestive process as they move through each level. With well-executed mechanics and thoughtful graphic design elements, Zoe won the Middle School Scratch category of the 2017 National STEM Video Game Challenge.

At age 7, Zoe learned about Scratch from her mom, and was excited for the chance to easily create her own games. "Through the process of designing *The Digestive System*, I've learned that to succeed, you sometimes have to try many, many times," Zoe reflects. She reminds aspiring designers that when you're developing a new game, it's okay to start with an idea that feels small. "In the end, you'll have created something that's big and great."

When she's not creating new games, Zoe likes to read, write short stories, create stop motion videos, and ride her bike. She plans to pursue degrees in computer science and literature in college. "Eventually I hope to become an entrepreneur, creating websites for people."

A member of St. Paul's Sunday School, Zoe is also a layreader. She is the daughter of **Janese** and **Garfield Plunkett** and granddaughter of **Claudette Christie**; she has a twin brother **Sebastian**.



### Do you have keys?

In our effort to strengthen stewardship and care of our facilities, and because of the increased use of St. Paul's by outside groups, we are considering changing all locks and codes on external and internal entrances and doors. Because we don't want anyone prevented access to their ministries and commitments, we are asking you to contact the office so that we can provide appropriate means of entry.

Phone 414.276.6277

[www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org](http://www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org)

[stpmke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpmke@sbcglobal.net)

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**SUNDAYS**

8AM, Holy Eucharist

10:15AM,

Holy Eucharist with music

Nursery service available at 10AM

**THURSDAYS**

Evening Prayer, 5PM

**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.*

## Adult Formation Sessions for September...

*All sessions are held in the Community Room  
and begin at 9AM*



❖ On September 3, we welcome **Rabbi Steven Adams** to share his insights into the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. You will find this to be a rewarding hour – come with your curiosity.

❖ Members of the Outreach Committee, **Ken Bernoska** and **Jennifer Williams** will engage us in some “hands on” ministry supporting The Gathering. Something involving Trail Mix, they say. Come and find out on **September 24.**

