

JUNE 2019



Leadership change for The Gathering Outreach Program

from Kathleen Phillipson, The Gathering Champion

We have two new volunteers who will be serving as Champions for The Gathering. They are **Melva Sabatke** and **Lisa Kuhn**. They have a lot of great ideas and are eager to serve the community through this ministry. **Jennifer Williams** will continue to co-lead the bag lunch assembly. I will be leading the bag lunch assembly the next time (June 28) and kind of “training” Melva and Lisa.

WANTED: Volunteers! Please join us on Friday, June 28, to prepare bag lunches for guests of The Gathering. We will gather at St. Paul's from 5PM to 6:15PM. We hope a group of us will go to County Clare after the assembly for fun and fellowship. Please sign up in the Information Center or email **Kathee Phillipson** at katheep@gmail.com. You can also call or text 414-412-6909.

As always, thank you for your continued support!



Thank you to Kathy for serving as Champion for The Gathering Program at St. Paul's. Your years of dedicated service are appreciated by all!

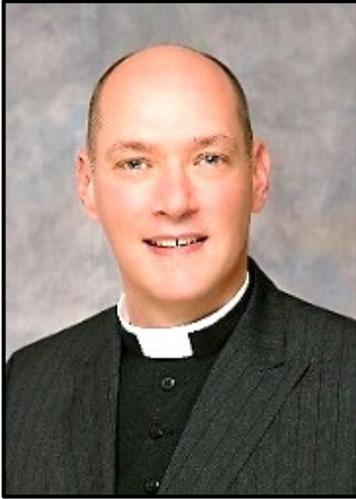


Register for Education for Ministry (EfM) before July 10

EfM is a weekly group study sponsored by The University of the South (Sewanee) as a lay-oriented seminar, with the purpose of developing a richer foundation for our life and ministry together.

We meet every Monday night (except summer) from 6 to 8:30PM for a meal, discussion of readings, shared reflection and meditative worship. For more, please contact **Terry Zimmer** for information at 414-839-9312 or ztleman@gmail.com.

Please consider joining us when we start again in August! Alumni are welcome to return.



From the Rector...

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and enter the longest season of the liturgical year, I am flooded by images from childhood. One of those is the dove symbolizing the Spirit. Yet, the most prominent and foreboding remains that of tongues of fire. I was quite petrified by that image. It appeared violent and threatening.

While I was mesmerized by fireplaces and the sight of flames, they were to be contained, not allowed to jump and explode as from a dragon's nostrils. This is exactly the image I had conjured in my mind of that gathering of disciples. Not until much later did I realize that the tongues of flame spoken of in Acts did exactly as I expected them to. They rested atop the heads of those present as if to cast a warm glow around the enlightened ones. How much more perplexed I became at Christian traditions that claimed my earlier image of tongues of fire.

The embrace of this metaphor in naming a practice of speaking in unintelligible words that expressed one's ability to prophesy seemed to put spitting flames back into one's mouth. There they would leap forth as if to attack anyone without warning. I wonder how different our world, and especially the Church, would be had the image of the dove completely triumphed? An image that suggested calm and security, pureness and peace, restraint of speech and thoughtful transparent language.

We are not living in such a world now. We are not living in such a church now. Rather, it seems that some have chosen a forked-tongue which creates anxiety and fear, desecration and war, and thought-filled vitriol and chaos. Perhaps our real challenge this season of Pentecost is to reclaim our authentic Christian tradition. Perhaps it is to speak as Peter did that first Pentecost citing the prophet Joel:

*In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and you daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men [and women] shall see visions,
and your old men [and women] shall dream dreams.*

Those prophecies are ones of wholeness and healing. Those visions are ones of salvation and inclusion. Those dreams are ones of the way that our world and our common life as Christians can be. If we are to be Christ's risen body and presence in the world, perhaps we would do well for the next several months to listen to the Spirit in our midst. Her voice comes in the lap of the lake on the shore; in the laughter of the child at play; in the silent, streaming tears of the oppressed and violated; in the sigh of those who have given up the will to thrive; in the concern of those who care; and in the stability of those who can be still as those flames were, listening in a language of love that is understandable to all.

*We must love them both,
those whose opinions we share,
and those whose opinions we reject,
for both have labored in search for the truth,
and both have helped us in finding it.*

(Thomas Aquinas)



ADULT FORMATION SESSIONS FOR JUNE...ALL SESSIONS ARE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM AND BEGIN AT 9AM.



❖ June 2: *What Theologians are saying about our Name-sake*; Nashotah House's President and Pauline Scholar **Garwood Anderson** takes us where few Milwaukeeans have been.

❖ June 9 "...and the Glory of Children is their Fathers..." (Proverbs 17:6); St. Paul's member **Florence Dukes** leads a panel remembering dads (pre-Father's Day program).

❖ June 16: Committee Meetings



From the Senior Warden John Bauer...

Notes from the May, 2019 Vestry Meeting

The financial performance of the congregation is described in the brief statement which follows... Suffice it to say that we are blessed through four months to be situated in slightly positive territory with respect to revenues over expenses. We are very thankful for the continued generous support of our members... At the same time, in spite of the extra Easter services, revenues were not sufficient to meet April's expenses. The Vestry will remain diligent in monitoring our performance and will keep the congregation informed throughout the year.

At our most recent Vestry meeting we decided to create a planning committee in anticipation of the 2020 Democratic National Convention to explore ways in which St. Paul's can open its doors to welcome the delegates. Those interested in serving on such a planning committee should contact our Junior Warden, Thomas Goode.



We devoted a considerable amount of our meeting time to discussing two major priorities called out in the congregation's strategic plan: people and money. Our stated goal is to grow our congregation's membership and weekly attendance by 10% per year for the next five years. It is also our goal to increase gift revenue and obtain annual pledges from 100% of our giving units. Operationalizing these goals, assigning responsibility, developing timelines and action plans – these are the challenges facing the Vestry as it strives to "make the plan come alive" in the next months.

Committee work remains sporadic, with some of our congregation's committees lacking members or leadership. We have determined to convene a meeting of all committee heads to discuss how we can clarify, coordinate, cooperate and communicate our work. The Vestry is committed to supporting the work of committees while also providing guidance and direction from our larger strategic objectives.

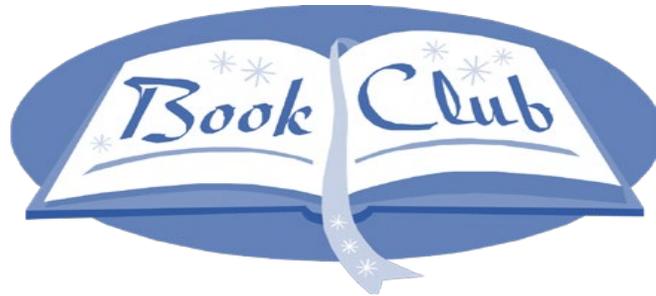
As always, members are welcome to sit in on Vestry meetings, which are held the third Wednesday of every month except July, beginning at 5:30PM.

	April Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledge Receipts	\$23,240	\$104,946	\$111,000
Open Offering	\$1,319	\$40,407	\$20,500
Other Income	\$9,480	\$45,860	\$43,460
Total Revenue	\$34,039	\$194,213	\$174,960
Expenses	\$46,473	\$193,014	\$190,902
Net	(\$12,434)	\$1,199	(\$15,942)



Calling all 2019 graduates...

As is tradition at St. Paul's, we will honor high school graduates and any individuals receiving advanced or technical degrees. Please contact the Church office at 414-276-6277 if you or a member of your family qualifies. All will be honored at a Sunday service in June. Please respond by June 3.



**The Book Club is on Vacation...
it will resume meeting in October...
have a nice Summer!**

Do you have a flower garden?

If the answer is yes, why not put together a large bouquet for in front of the Altar on some Sunday this summer. Or, if you just like to arrange flowers, the farmer's markets in the area offer flowers at very reasonable cost.



If you wish to supply flowers, call Lynne in the church office to be sure no one else has volunteered for the Sunday you desire. You may also dedicate your creation to someone special if you notify Lynne before she puts together the Sunday Bulletin on Wednesdays.

Phone 414.276.6277

www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org
lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org

Rev. W. Bradley Toebben,
Rector

Rev. Sheila Scott, *Deacon*

John Bauer, *Sr. Warden*

Thomas Goode, *Jr. Warden*

Gerald Mainman, *Treasurer*

VESTRY

Lee Coppernoll

Eric Dawson

Florence Dukes

Michael Gauger

Sandra Halgerson

Lela Joscelyn

Paulette Kelly

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Housekeepers

Peter M. Johnson

Bill Jankowski

Buildings & Grounds Team

Lynne Fields

Administrative Assistant

Patrice Hansen

Accounting Assistant



Mary Beth Haubrich, *Editor*
Sarah Gramentine, *Copy Editor*



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.