

October 2109

## The Gathering back in business...volunteers needed

The new space at Running Rebels, 1300 West Fond du Lac, is perfect for The Gathering, large enough and accommodating for the volunteers and guest alike. Saturday, September 14, was the first luncheon served at the new site, with 55 guests and six volunteers from St. Paul's. This location is expected to see a rise in families over the next few weeks besides the regulars who came to St. Ben's.



The next hot meal St. Paul's is scheduled to for November 9. During October we are requesting donations of toiletries and winter supplies to hand out to guests on this date. To volunteer, please sign up in the information booth or contact [lisaandmelva@gmail.com](mailto:lisaandmelva@gmail.com).

Please plan to arrive at the serving site at 9:45AM to help with preparations, and plan to stay through final clean-up about 1:30PM.

While the volunteer corps is the most important, we are always in need of the following:

- ❖ Coffee. We want to be able to continue to serve our guests second cups of coffee.
- ❖ Cookies! Our guests enjoy a treat of cookies, homemade or store-bought.
- ❖ Fresh milk. We serve powdered milk at all meals; the addition of fresh milk is great.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## Blessing of Animals and Parish Picnic

In the tradition of celebrating St. Francis of Assisi, we will have a Blessing of Animals in the Great Hall following the 10:15AM liturgy on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Stuffed animals are also welcome.

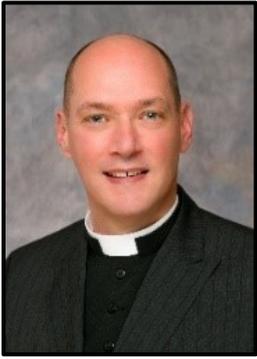
If you have sacred objects that have been part of your journey (crosses, icons, sacred tokens) and you would like them to be blessed, it is perfectly appropriate to include them.

After the blessing, we will celebrate with a picnic meal. St. Paul's will provide the hot dogs, brats, burgers and drinks.

Please feel free to bring a salad or dessert. We will eat in the Great Hall and grill outside weather permitting.

Please sign-up in the information center or contact Lynne at (414) 276-6277 or ([lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org](mailto:lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org)) if you can attend. Guests are most welcome.





## From the Rector Brad Toebben...

I have always loved fields and groves. Any kind. Parallel lines of corn that radiate like rays of sunlight. Pumpkin patches a speckled with dots of fire as vast as the eye can see. Fields of dahlias glowing with rich bright hues. Groves of pecan trees that afford glimpses of the space between each that make so visible the fullness of emptiness. These are the places I've always loved to venture, whether by foot or thought, on a journey with no destination and all the time in the world to arrive. I go there to move through what seems as close to the infinite as I can come. For me they are walks that are not weighed down with ideas or desecrated with words. They are journeys in the sacrament of creation. They are passages through the eternal in time. They are walks in love – a brush with the sacred.

This time of year, I look forward to those excursions with great anticipation. Sunlight has turned amber and comforting. The fields and groves are full of abundance. Fruit and nuts, flowers, leaves and crimson vines all seem to exclaim, "We are complete, we have been made whole." Past the summer of pruning and labor, beyond the measure of right and wrong, a store of treasure lies about silently coaxing me to relax, to lie down and know I AM one with it.

It is not a season that lasts very long. It flees away quickly moment to moment. But, for that brief respite, everything seems so full. As **Rainer Maria Rilke** observed of autumn, "at no other time does the earth let itself be inhaled in one smell, the ripe earth; in a smell that is in no way inferior to the smell of the sea, bitter where it borders on taste, and more honeysweet where you feel it touching the first sounds. Containing depth within itself, darkness, something of the grave almost."

For me, it is a foretaste of all of my life of faith. Each year repeats itself, proclaiming more loudly than before, "It is not over, it is just beginning. Wait 'til next year and see how much more glorious it will be." My prayer is that we may revel in the joy and peace that autumn reveals. May we find calm and nourishment in the abundance that nature offers. Let us as a community of faith and compassion walk with love into the heart of God's creation.

*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing,  
there is a field. I'll meet you there.  
When the soul lies down in that grass,  
the world is too full to talk about.  
Ideas, language, even the phrase "each other"  
doesn't make any sense.*

*RUMI*

## All Saints' Evensong and Tree Planting

Plan to join us in the Landmark Chapel at Forest Home Cemetery on Sunday, November 3 at 4PM for Evensong. The tree planting will be at 3:45PM outside the chapel.

This service is to remember especially those who have died during the past year and to commemorate our friends and family who have gone before us. Names from the Book of Remembrance will be read during the liturgy.

You may add names during the month of October. The Book of Remembrance will be kept under the icon at the hall entrance into the church.





## Welcome newcomers...

*By Lee Coppernoll*

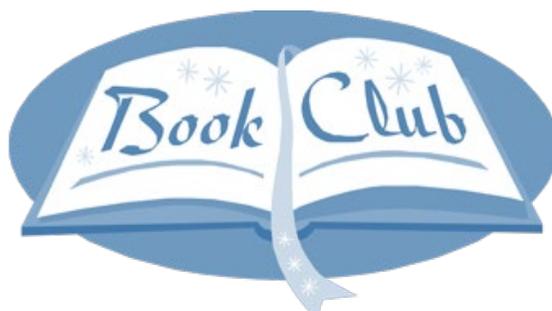
Having just moved from Hawaii to Milwaukee this past January, **Josh Michel** surveyed the neighborhood churches from his apartment window and picked the church with the brownstone bell tower to visit, and made his way to St. Paul's for an 8AM service. When he realized that the early service was made up of twenty-plus souls, a bit more intimate than he'd expected, Josh wondered if he should turn around and go back home. Possibly nudged by the Spirit, he made his way up the aisle and joined in the worship service. The next hurdle he met was an order of worship that he was not familiar with, but congregation members immediately assured him that he could make his way through with their help and the aid of the bulletin. At the end of the service, Josh prepared to depart, but before he could do so he was invited to coffee in the Great Hall, where he was warmly welcomed and ended talking with members until after the 10:15AM service began. Josh continues to attend St. Paul's; his wife **Jessie** has joined him, and they have become regular "8AM-ers."

Josh and Jessie are both from the Pacific Northwest. Josh grew up in Snohomish, an hour northeast of Seattle, and Jess was raised in Portland. They met at Northwest University, an Assemblies of God school in Kirkland, WA. After a couple of years as a student, Josh left school to join the Navy. He served for seven years as a corpsman (medic) in Hawaii and Quantico, VA. As a result of his experiences as a corpsman, Josh decided to seek training to become a doctor. Josh is currently finishing his undergrad degree at Marquette, majoring in chemistry and minoring in criminology. While on summer break from classes he recently started work as an EMT for Curtis Ambulance.

Jessie graduated from Northwest with a degree in English with a concentration in Teaching English as a Second Language. While an undergrad, she studied abroad at Oxford during her junior year, and after graduation, she taught English in Japan for three years. As a result of that experience she became interested in the theory behind language teaching and learning and got her MA in that field from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Josh and Jessie were married in Hawaii and a year and a half into her master's program, Josh was posted to Quantico, and Jessie stayed to finish her final semester before they soon reunited in Virginia.

Both Jess and Josh were raised in large non-denominational churches that they describe as being so large and so stratified by age and interest that there was, surprisingly, a lack of real community and fellowship. They have gone to church off and on over the years since they met but have found it a challenge to find a church home that works for them. They shared that they are drawn to St. Paul's for its liturgy, the genuine and welcoming nature of the community, and its outreach efforts.

We are excited to have these two in our midst - welcome Josh and Jessie.



**The Book Club will meet at 7PM on October 8 in the Community Room to discuss *The Brother of Jesus and the Lost Teaching of Christianity* by Jeffery Butz. All are welcome!**

Phone 414.276.6277

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

[lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org](mailto: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

Christine Krueger, **Clerk**

**STAFF**

Canon Joseph Kucharski

**Music Ministry Director**

Nevenka & Nikola Dedic

**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.*

## From the Senior Warden John Bauer

At the August meeting of the Vestry, we were pleased to note the arrival of our new Director of Music and Liturgy, Dr. **Joseph Kucharski**. His organizational talents have already been directed at organizing the choir room, our music library and recruitment of choir members. (It is worth noting that there were 15 choir members singing for Festival Sunday.)



Discussion around two important topics occupied much of the Vestry meeting, both of which are aimed at strategically improving member engagement in parish life and support. First, the annual stewardship campaign will center around hour-long workshops to be held between services and after the 10:15AM services on October 13 and 20. Structured around the theme, "Walk in Love," the workshops will give members an opportunity to explore what this means in their personal lives and in the life of the parish.

Finally, I'm pleased to share the August financial performance of the congregation and call attention to the fact that our revenues are ahead of budget by almost \$11,000 (due to a planned draw on budgeted endowment funds) and our expenses are about \$4,500. Although pledge receipts are a bit behind, open offerings and other income are still well ahead of the budget. I'd like to thank the many generous members who continue to support this parish and its ministry to the City of Milwaukee.