

Common Ground offers health insurance

From Pat Ruttum

As you know, St Paul's has been a member of Common Ground since almost the beginning, eleven years ago. One of the biggest achievements has been forming and running a Healthcare Cooperative despite challenges every year. This year, for the first time, the Coop is paying out \$18.8 million in premium rebates to its individual members who paid premiums for CG health insurance in 2018. The average premium is \$370. It is the only Wisconsin health plan in the individual Marketplace paying rebates to its members this year.

Do you, or any of your family, need healthcare insurance? Do you want to change your present plan? 2020 Open Enrollment period starts November 1, 2019, and closes on December 15, 2019. The Coop serves 20 counties in eastern Wisconsin.

More information at: <https://www.commongroundhealthcare.org/>

Book of Remembrance available in November...

As is the tradition at St. Paul's, throughout the month of November, we will pray for and with the dead.

A Book of Remembrance will be placed in the church so that we may add the names of those loved ones who have journeyed with us on our earthly pilgrimage.

The book will be processed with the gifts each Sunday until the Feast of Christ the King so that they may stand with us around the eucharistic table of the God's eternal banquet.

Their names will also be included in the Evensong at Forest Home Cemetery on Sunday, November 3, at 4PM.



Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

On Wednesday evening, November 27, at 6PM, we will celebrate Choral Thanksgiving Eucharist in the church. Come celebrate calm, center and gratitude in preparation for Thanksgiving Day.

Library News

From Kathy Thome

St. Paul's Library, located in the Community Room, keeps growing. Every time I stop in to straighten the shelves, I see new publications by noted contemporary religious writers as well as new editions of classics.

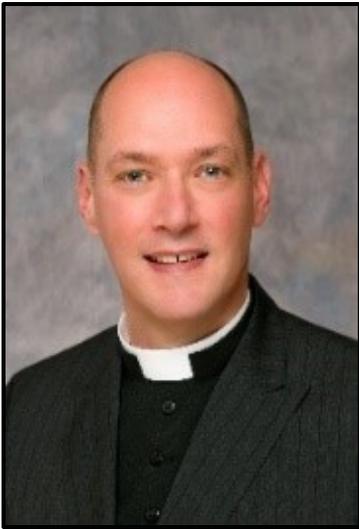
This is a zero-budget operation. It thrives on the generosity of St. Paul's members who love to read, then donate their books.

Check out the areas of theology, diversity, church history and prayer/spirituality. Bibles and commentaries are available in the « old library next to the coat room. CDs and books on church music are there as well. It's strictly an honor system – just sign the clipboard when you take a book.

Soon books that enrich your Advent season will be featured.

Day light Savings is November 3; adjust your clocks!

From the Rector...



November is my favorite month. It always has been. It is perhaps the most transitional month of the year. Daytime seems easily overtaken by night. It is as if nature is proclaiming aloud: “from fullness to emptiness.” It is the gloaming I love most intently. It is that time of dusk when the sky is translucent and earth is dark and lights are appearing. The world is on the edge of night. Mystery surrounds me, inviting me in.

If the garden was not empty, the garner would not be full. If the light outside was not fading, the flame of fire and candle would not fill the room. If the trees were not bare next month, they would not have been decked with color now. If the yard was not absent a cookout, the kitchen would not be saturated with the savory aroma of comfort. Fullness and emptiness are partners working together to create the reality that allows us to know life in its totality. We name that experience “God” – presence and absence – the reality of Being. The fullness of life and the fullness of death are not in opposition. They run parallel until together they bring us into the one reality of God.

*If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me and the light around me turn to night,”
Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike. Psalm 139*

It is time to lay the table, to gather around and celebrate the presence of others that dissipates our sense of isolation. It is the season we celebrate gratitude and thanksgiving because it is at the core of our being. And it is this time of year we can feel so vulnerable and alone that leads us to seek the presence of others. It is the season of the soul and of all souls.

I offer you the words of two souls that always give comfort to mine:

There is no leaf that is not in Your care. There is no cry that was not heard by You before it was uttered. There is no water in the shales that was not hidden by Your wisdom. There is no concealed spring that was not concealed by You. There is no glen for a lone house that was not planned by You for a lone house. There is no man [or woman] for that acre of woods that was not made by You for that acre of woods.

But there is a greater comfort in the substance of silence that in the answer to a question. Eternity is in the present. Eternity is in the palm of the hand. Eternity is a seed of fire whose sudden roots break barriers that keep my heart from being an abyss

(Thomas Merton, *Dialogues in Silence*)

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand,
And Heaven in a Wild Flower,
To hold Infinity in the palm of your hand.
And Eternity in an Hour.*

(William Blake)

Brad+



From the Senior Warden

John E. Bauer

If there is one value or attribute about St. Paul's that stands out, it is that we are a relational bunch of folks. Nurturing those relationships and welcoming others into that close fellowship is a strategic issue moving forward. Consequently, Father Brad is planning to participate in a series of home visits in which the aim is to get to know members better and more personally, provide opportunities for members to get to know each other better, and listen to your hopes, dreams and desires for this parish. If you are willing to host a small group of members in your home at any time in the upcoming months, please speak to me or Father Brad. We believe this is one important way to build our church from the inside out.



We continue to try to resolve our sound system issues. Thanks to the work of Paul Haubrich, we are taking steps – incrementally – to resolve the interference issues we have been experiencing, without having to replace the whole system.

It is always our desire to be perceived as a warm and welcoming parish. However, we do continue to experience some challenges with people wanting to park in our small parking lot – especially those attending services at Lincoln School across the street. We are looking for a few friendly volunteers who can warmly greet such people and invite them to worship with us – or lovingly encourage them to move their cars if they are not so inclined. If you are willing to serve in such a capacity for 20 or 30 minutes before the 10:15 service, even once per month, please see me or Junior Warden Tom Goode.

Stewardship workshops we held on October 13 and 20, which provided a time of lively – and at times quite loud – exchanges of ideas. They were a way for us to share information with other members about our “Walk in Love” and also to gain a lot of good feedback about how St. Paul's can support us in our life's journey. For those who were unable to attend either workshop, a follow up mailing with all materials, including this year's pledge card, will be sent. I encourage you to take a few minutes and review the materials we used in the two workshops. We will celebrate our commitment of time, talent and treasure on All Saints Sunday – November 3 – in one combined service at 10:15, followed by a grand hospitality hour/brunch.

Finally, with respect to finances, we have reason to be grateful. As you can see from the table below, we took more in than we budgeted, we spent less than we budgeted, so we are thankfully, ahead of budget for the year. Of course, we still have two months to go. But for now, all we can say is “thanks!”

	September Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Pledge Receipts	\$46,465	\$275,659	\$249,750
Open Offering	\$1,461	\$53,778	\$35,500
Other Income	\$5,831	\$75,907	\$72,260
Endowment Draw	\$35,000	\$60,000	\$46,300
Total Revenue	\$88,757	\$447,344	\$403,810
Expenses	\$43,636	\$418,374	\$426,540
Net	\$45,121	\$28,970	(\$22,739)

EVENSONG for the FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

Please join us at St. Paul's Church for Evensong on Sunday, December 1. An organ recital featuring the works of **Gerald Near** will be performed by **Canon Joseph Kucharski**, Director of Music and Liturgy at 3:30PM. Evensong will follow at 4PM, lasting approximately 45 minutes. The service will include music of **Palestrina**, **Thomas Tallis** and **Paul Manz**.

Book Club will meet in the Community Room on Tuesday, November 12, at 7PM, to discuss *What is the Point of Being Christian?* by Timothy Radcliff. ALL ARE WELCOME!



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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.*

BLACK NATIVITY at ST. PAUL'S!

Milwaukee's newest annual holiday musical, *Black Nativity* by Langston Hughes' song play is a testament to the power of gospel music, telling the classic story of the Nativity through a combination of African American scripture, poetry, dance, and song. Directed by **Malkia Stampley**, it features a talented, all local cast and crew.

Please join us Sunday, November 17, at Noon in the Church when the cast will join us for a special preview of this year's performance.

Volunteers needed!

Looking for 12 volunteers to help with The Gathering Saturday, November 9, from 9:45AM to approximately 1:30PM.

Since winter is coming, we are also gathering the following items to distribute that day and looking for your donations: winter items, socks, feminine hygiene products, and tote bags are highly appreciated.

The Gathering location has moved! They are located at Running Rebels 1300 W. Fond du Lac Avenue (corner of 13th and Vine). The site is on a cul-de-sac and there is street parking on 13th Street right next to the building.

If you can help, please send an email to lisaandmelva@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for your assistance! **Lisa** and **Melva**.

