

Welcome to the January 2021 edition of St. Paul's Apostle. During the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to make an abbreviated version of the monthly newsletter to keep members in the loop via email about our church's virtual activities and the spiritual resources available to us all. We sorely miss gathering in the church for worship, education, fellowship and succor. The Vestry hopes this communication serves as one more way to strengthen our bonds of friendship and faith until we can all be together again.

Lessons and Carols 2020

On Sunday, December 20th, through the wizardry of exceptional camera and editing skills, St. Paul's music ministry presented A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Although the concert was performed and recorded in advance, to many attendees, it felt like a live performance. The concert featured many favorite carols, admirably performed by our nine Choral Scholars, interspersed with readings from the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament revealing "the loving purposes of God." Afterward, over 40 parishioners gathered for the Zoom reception to continue celebrating the season. Thank you to Fr. Brad Toebben, Canon Joe Kucharski, Associate Organist Tedd King, Director of Communications Chuck Werth, and all involved for the many hours spent in preparation for this memorable musical celebration.



Back row, left to right:

Gabriel Olaciregui, Joseph Schmidt, Sam Mullooly, Austin Bare, Tedd King

Front row, left to right:

Mireya Magallon, Danielle Gedemer, Deme Hellwig, Jackie Willis, Sophia Goho, Canon K.butter

St. Paul's Annual Meeting, Sunday January 31

The 182nd St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, January 31st, at 11:30 a.m. Fr. Brad will present his reflections on the ministry of St. Paul's during the extraordinary year of 2020, followed by reviews of the business of the parish, including financial, Stewardship, Endowment, and Senior Warden reports and the results of the Holy Cow! survey. The 2021 budget will be presented for approval, as will the following slate of Vestry candidates:

Candidates for renewal of terms:

Lee Coppernoll, Co-Junior Warden, 2nd One-Year Term

Florence Dukes, 2nd Three-Year Term

Michael Gauger, 2nd Three-Year Term

Thomas Goode, Senior Warden, 2nd One-Year Term

Peter Larson, Co-Junior Warden, 2nd One-Year Term

New Vestry Candidates:

Kurt Bushman, Three-Year Term

Jessie Michel, Three-Year Term

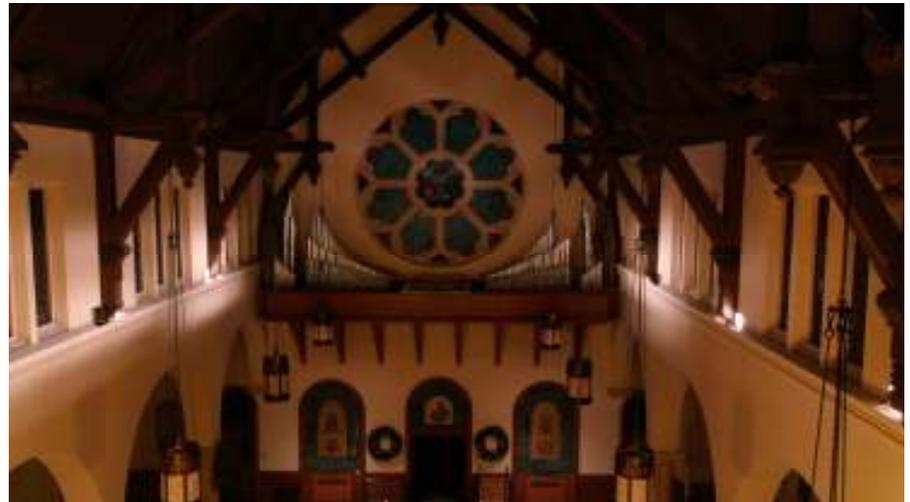
Matt Pamperin, Three-Year Term

The Annual Meeting Program will be sent before the meeting for church members to review. It will include information about the Vestry candidates.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Zoom links will be sent out before the meeting. We will offer online training for parishioners to become familiar with Zoom and our meeting format

Elves Visit St. Paul's

Because of the recording of Lessons and Carols, the holiday decorating of our sanctuary began earlier than usual on December 1st. Elves set up and decorated the tree, draped the greens and placed wreaths, including the Williamsburg wreath that parishioner Rand Schmidt gave to St. Paul's. The elves were Schmidt, Lee Coppernoll, Paul Haubrich, Peter Larson, Suzanne Matenaer, and Steve Sanders, with assistance from Bill Jankowski and Peter Johnson.



From the Rector...

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.*

JOHN 1:1

Since 2003 Merriam-Webster has published the "Word of the Year." In all of those years prior to 2020, there has been one word that rose significantly above others in our public discourse. Not so this year. This year there is not a word, but twelve that express the ebb and flow in which we have been dwelling in 2020. For me, that is a poignant reminder of the origin, life and transformation that is the creation about which the Gospel of John narrates. More than a purely historical account of the life of Jesus, it is a rich theological truth about the Christ who has always been present: before the world, in the world, and beyond this world. John attest to this in the last sentence of his gospel: "I do not think the whole world would contain the books [all the words] that would be written."

As we begin this new year and our search for a word, may we hold John's truth as our guide – one that gives us center and balance as we journey with the Word.

And the Word became flesh and is still among us.

ASK ME (William Stafford)

Some time when the river is ice ask me
mistakes I have made. Ask me whether
what I have done is my life. Others
have come in their slow way into
my thought, and some have tried to help
or to hurt: ask me what difference
their strongest love or hate has made.

I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

Brad+

2020 Outreach and Thrift Shop Allocations

The Outreach Committee met via Zoom on December 19th to determine the year-end allocation of funds in support of longtime partners.

Using the yearly income from the Outreach Endowment Fund, we earmarked \$24,000 for the following programs:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Diocesan Haiti Project | \$2,500 |
| Hospitality Center | 2,450 |
| Interchange Food Pantry | 3,450 |
| Our Next Generation | 2,000 |
| PEARLS for Teen Girls | 1,250 |
| Repairers of the Breach | 2,950 |
| Running Rebels | 2,700 |
| Sojourner Family Peace Center | 2,250 |
| The Gathering | 3,200 |
| Episcopal Relief & Development | 1,250 |

In addition, we approved the release of \$2,000, which was previously approved and earmarked for the enhancement of the parsonage for our sister church in Oforola, Nigeria. The Committee also voted to approve \$700 for food relief for the congregation. Chima Okoro, Ugo Okoro's brother, delivered the funds to Christ Church during a visit to Nigeria over the Christmas holiday.

Thrift Shop volunteers attended the meeting, with the recommendation that the following organizations receive proceeds from the shop from January and February 2020 (the shop then closed because of the pandemic):

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Interchange Food Pantry | \$1,100 |
| Our Next Generation | 720 |
| Repairers of the Breach | 420 |
| Sojourner Family Peace Center | 900 |
| The Gathering | 1,100 |



Chima Ukoro and members of Christ Church welcome the delivery of rice for parishioners purchased with funds from the Outreach Committee.

A New Year's Opportunity to Support Milwaukee Teens

St. Paul's is again supporting the young people of Our Next Generation with our Jesse Tree program. In past years, we picked a name from the tree and made a contribution that provided the youth with sweatshirts to keep warm in the winter.

This year, a \$25 donation sent to Our Next Generation, 3421 W. Lisbon Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53208, will help clothe a young person. Or you can give online at info@ongkids.org and notify Cathy.Simpson30@yahoo.com or shalgerson@hotmail.com so we can alert our partner to your Jesse Tree donation. Thanks again for brightening this time of year for these kids .



Teen participants at Our Next Generation model the sweatshirts they received from St. Paul's donors during the 2019 holidays.



Dean Thome delivers a protein-packed grocery cart to Interchange.

Final Results for Interchange Peanut Butter Drive

St. Paul's Outreach Committee extends a big "Thank you" to parish members who so generously donated to the Peanut Butter Drive in support of the Interchange Food Pantry on November 14th. As reported last month, the drive netted two large bins filled with jars of peanut butter. Along with that bounty, parishioners donated \$5,345 in support of Interchange's efforts to provide high-protein food to our neighbors during the pandemic.

Because of the need, the Outreach Committee is planning a church-wide Lenten drive in support of other longtime community partners. Be on the lookout for an announcement about this effort later in January.

Outreach

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

Chair of Outreach Committee News

After six years of service as chair of the Outreach Committee, including service while he was Senior Warden, Steve Filmanowicz has stepped down from the position. Sandra Halgerson is the new chair of Outreach. The committee is grateful to Steve, for his fine stewardship of the committee over these years, and to Sandra, for her willingness to step into the leadership role.

Growth

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

January Adult Formation Programs

Dana Fritz will lead the following Adult Formation programs in January: Adult Formation programs are presented at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

January 10th: 1 Corinthians 1 -- A Letter of Scandal and of Love

January 17th: Analyzing the Role of Christianity in the Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 24th: Race and Mental Illness in the Media

January 31st: No program

St. Paul's Book Club News

After a lively discussion of the Gail Godwin short story, "An Intermediate Stop," at the December St. Paul's Book Club meeting, the group decided to read two more short stories from the collection entitled *Listening for God, Volume 2*, edited by Paula J. Carlson. We will discuss the stories "Saved" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and "After the Baptism" by Carol Bly at the meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, at 7 p.m., via Zoom. The book might be available on Amazon (ISBN-13 978-0806628448).

The book selection for the February 18th meeting is *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith* by Brian McLaren.

All are welcome to attend! For further information, contact Sandra Halgerson at shalgerson@hotmail.com.

C**o**ntacts

SaintPaul's
CHURCH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Parish email: lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org
Parish web site: www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

8:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Morning Chapel
10:15 am Choral Eucharist

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

First Sundays of October thru May
(November at Forest Home Cemetery)
3:30 pm

Wardens and Vestry

Thomas Goode, Sr. Warden
Lee Coppernoll Co-Jr. Warden
Peter Larson, Co-Jr. Warden
Gerald Mainman, Treasurer
Christine Krueger, Clerk
Eric Dawson
Florence Dukes
Dana Fritz
Mike Gauger
Sandra Halgerson
Paulette Kelly
Malcom Soward-Gatford

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Steven Andrew Miller,
Bishop of Milwaukee
The Reverend W. Bradley Toebben, Rector
The Reverend Sheila Scott, Deacon
Canon Joseph A. Kucharski, Director of Liturgy and Music
Tedd King, Associate Organist
Lynne Fields, Administrative Assistant
Patrice Hansen, Accounting Assistant
Peter Johnson, Building and Grounds
Bill Jankowski, Buildings and Grounds
Nevenka and Nikola Dedic, Housekeeping Staff

Artists-in-Residence

Milwaukee Chamber Choir
J. Mark Baker, Founder and Director