



An upcoming special Sunday...

Sunday, October 4, we will celebrate St. Paul's diversity, one of our cherished values in saying "All are WELCOME"

We shall give thanks to God for the richness of the tapestry of our various lives and for the community that embraces us in God's love and grace.

A potluck luncheon will follow the 10:15AM service.

Blessing of the animals Saturday, October 10, 10AM...

St. Paul's will once again temporarily become St. Paws (and Claws) on October 10, when it hosts the Blessing of the Animals. This annual festival takes place on the Saturday closest to the Feast of **St. Francis of Assisi**, the patron saint of animals.

The ceremony will be held in the Labahn Park, behind the parking lot, at 10AM and then everyone will adjourn to the Community Room where



refreshment suitable to both two and four-legged guest will be served.



Changes at St. Paul's... both inside and out

Have you noticed the new look to the Great Hall and the History Wall? The painting of the Hall and the updated Wall are the final projects of the Interiors Committee's use of the funds raised by various events during 175th Anniversary year. The cabaret tables in the Great Hall are gifts of individual donors.

And, St. Paul's has a new look at its front entrance. Victorian style street lamps have been installed to provide greater night time illumination.

The members of the Interiors Committee are **Carrie Barbie, Suzy Brennan, Joanne Filmanowicz, Mary Beth Haubrich, Steve Sanders and Rand Schmidt**. Several individuals contributed to this project. The Committee is grateful for the donors:

- ❖ **Gerald and Elaine Mainman** – Victorian lights
- ❖ **Rand Schmidt** – Great Hall painting and improved lighting, angel pictures, cabaret tables
- ❖ **Suzy Brennan and Brenda Purnell** – cabaret tables
- ❖ **Paul and Mary Beth Haubrich** – History Wall

Adult Education Forums for October from Terry Zimmer

❖ The first hand-written, illuminated bible produced in several hundred years was the millennial gift of Saint John's Abbey and University to our civilization. Written in English and elegantly illustrated, the bible was exhibited at the **Chazen Museum** in Madison last winter. *The Illuminator* is a remarkable forty-nine minute DVD concerning the creation of this bible in Minnesota and its principal calligrapher, **Donald Jackson**.

Jim and Sarah Gramentine will briefly introduce the DVD before it is played at our adult forum on **October 4**.



❖ On **October 11**, **Jane Raymer** will share the work of Eastside Senior Services connecting area older adults (60 and better) to volunteers to help them stay independent. They offer rides to grocery stores, doctor appointments, etc, as well as daily phone calls, seasonal chores for homeowners, in-home companionship, information and referrals, and advocacy as needed. They do not charge for their services! Jane's organization is part of the Interfaith Neighborhood Outreach Ministry, that serves in neighborhoods throughout the Greater Milwaukee Area.



From the Rector...

On Festival

Sunday the sermon I preached focused on the church at large, or maybe I should say the church shrinking. For decades the mainline church has been in a decline. I don't think that's a startling statement. Some of you have noticed and raised concerns. As I said on that Sunday, we need to be concerned and pay attention. I am also optimistic and confident in the church's future. Some churches will close within the next decade. They bury their heads in the sands of the past, hoping people will join them if they can do what was successful back then. They figure they just need to try harder at what they've done before.

I have been through the evolution of various tactics, programs and strategies that promise to revitalize the church. I have used some of them. I consulted with churches interested in the organizational health cycle model. Nothing is really working, or at least not for long. As **Alan Roxburgh**, senior consultant with *The Missional Network*, says, "the problem is we are trying to fix the church. We are 'church centered,' and we miss where God is beyond the walls of the church."

To paraphrase Theologian **Paul Tillich** from years ago, people are not so much turned off to God as the way the church has represented God. Sadly, many get their information on the church from the media – who have to sell news and information. Judgmental people with insensitive comments and diatribes that exclude those not like them, capture the cameras. Several never hear of the good that many church people do: feeding the hungry; providing support and pastoral care; building houses; giving clothes and supplies; sending monies to assist those in need throughout the world.

New in the Library (located in the Community Room)...Two pieces from **Tom Montgomery-Fate**, whose work has been aired on National Public Radio, and has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Boston Globe* and many other journals:

❖ *Steady and Trembling: Art, Faith and Family in an Uncertain World*

❖ *Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild*; You don't need to be either a suburbanite or a dad to appreciate this work.

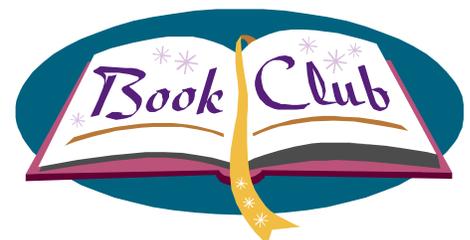
The **Book Club** will meet at 7PM on Tuesday, October 13, in the St. Paul's Library Room to discuss the first eight chapters of *Strange Glory* by **Charles Marsh**.

I am unlike those who wring their hands with despair, or insist on burying their heads in the sand hoping people are going to start coming back. After a number of decades unraveling, we need to sound the trumpet of hope, reimagining what church can mean as we move further in the 21st Century, and realize God is in the world and meet God there. Then, is the church of the future irrelevant or unneeded? No, the church will remain vital to God's mission. The form may change. We will always need to worship God corporately, not alone. People still need a center from which to be formed and go to the world around us, not because we are so good, but because we are God's, and so are people out there. We are one – God's. What we do inside is vital for being formed in the life we live for God in the world.

I invited any who were interested in talking more with me, or learning more, to let me know. If you are, we will do some reading together, so we can put some practices in place: *Listening* to scripture, each other, and our neighbors. We shall practice *Discerning* where we sense God is at work in our neighborhood and neighbors, both St. Paul's and your home neighborhood. We shall practice *Testing and Experimenting* to see if our discernment is well founded, and experiment by reimagining how we can engage people these days where they are, not to fix them, but love them. *Reflecting* on our experiences is another practice, followed by *Deciding* an opportunity for the larger parish to where what's been done, learned and what are next steps.

We are on a good path with our VIVA program to improve how we communicate and live our values and message. That is one part of the equation. The other is the God question. What is God doing, and will we join Him? I hope so. Let me know if you want to try. As I said, what do we have to lose?

Blessings, Fr. Steve+



Festival Sunday fun...

Festival Sunday, September 13, was the kick off of the beginning of St. Paul's programming year. Music was provided by our Artists in Residence the Milwaukee Children's Choir and a celebratory party in the Church's courtyard garden followed the 10:15AM Eucharist There was no 8AM service. It was a perfect day and the Courtyard was in full Fall bloom.

The event was coordinated three members of the Parish Life Committee: **Ruth Bauman, Sandra Halgerson** and **Mary Beth Haubrich**. St. Paul's members who volunteered to assist with the set up, food preparation and serving were: **Eric Dawson, Bill Fry, Seth Heithaus, Greg Kostka, Terry Zimmer, Susan Bellinger, Cynthia Kartman, Margaret Schumacher, Carrie Barbee, Azikiwa Okoro, Julie Okoro, Melesa and Erik Skoglund, Laura Rooney, Steve Filmanowicz, Lily Filmanowicz, Patrick Gillingham** and **Joel Richter**.



The photos are courtesy of **Lee Matz**.

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SUNDAYS

8AM, Holy Eucharist

10:15AM, Holy Eucharist with music

Nursery service available at 10AM

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30AM, Eucharist

12 Noon, Eucharist & Lectionary Study

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.



**Saturday, November 7,
is the last opportunity for
St. Paul's members to
volunteer this year
at the Gathering...please sign up
in the Information Center**

Continued from page 1...

❖ Planning funeral arrangement in advance provides the grieving family a number of benefits. But it is something we often don't talk about. On **October 25**, our resident Funeral Director **Steve Sanders** will speak to us about how we can feel more at ease with this rather uncomfortable subject.

❖ *And still in the planning stage* – details about a presentation on the Haiti relief project, tentatively scheduled for **October 18** will be posted in an upcoming Sunday announcement bulletin.

