

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

(In Exile in the Parish Hall 11.7 - ?)

**WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE
AND PROGRESSIVE
COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

Who, led by the Spirit, are guided to
provide a safe harbor
for those on their spiritual journey.

And who work to bring God's loving justice into our world in need.



**November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent**

This Sunday's Ministry Team:

Episcopal Priests: The Rev. Kathleen Kingslight & the Rev. David Dinkins

Vergers: The Rev. Declan Jarry III

Vestry Greeter: Sue Ahrens

Lay Readers: Jennifer Laris, Philip Fryer & Don Moon

Altar Guild: Scott de Lessart & Mollyshannon Neel

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR RECTOR

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Good Morning, I trust that everyone had a wonderful time with friends and family these last few days! Our celebration of "**THANKSGIVING**" has been fraught with misinformation that most of us swallowed in elementary school. For my family, we used some of the materials and books that I've been studying on indigenous history as table conversation about the truths and history of this day. Though my sermon for tomorrow continues proving in the proving oven, but I

may use our table configuration as a means of conversation tomorrow as part of our worship.

As you may have seen in the Prayer Vine, our sister and companion on this spiritual journey **Lorene Leider flew into the loving arms of Jesus this morning** at 8:45 11.27.

Allow me to say yet again how **I'm proud of how everyone is doing!** This is a challenge for all of us, and I've been impressed with your flexibility. Thank you! When this is all done we will have a renovated, water free sanctuary, and a newly floored parish hall. Alleluia!

As usual please make sure that you sign in for contact tracing, wear your masks, and we will continue to be the church... maybe in exile to the basement, but still St. Paul's Episcopal Church by the Salish Sea.

SEE YA IN THE PARISH HALL ON SUNDAY!
Mother Kathleen+



**NEWS &
INFORMATION**

from the OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

"Dear Ones ..."

**Bishop Rickel's Statement on the
Kyle Rittenhouse Verdict**

[Click here to read the statement](#)

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OUR MINISTRY TO THE WORLD: We will continue to offer our services online even after the pandemic recedes. So to do that, and while making the experience seamless, we need to upgrade! We are in conversation with Ellis Pro-Media and will keep all of you in the loop with what's happening.

We have been offered a **matching donation of \$5000 to update and equip the church for this our video ministry to the world.**

WE have surpassed our goal! and received the matching funds. But with the chaos in the sanctuary, we may still need to wait a bit before moving forward with our plans for upgrading the system.
THANK YOU!!!!



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Every Perfect Gift

 *Thanksgiving Day: The Gift of Blessing*

We live wonderful lives. This is as much a practical statement as it is a theological one. I am not suggesting, by any means, that we do not suffer, that everyone lives with the same opportunity or freedom, or that we do not have personal and societal trials that we must endure. We all suffer, we all participate or live in systems of oppression, we all have hard times. But in the cosmic scale of time and place, our lives are full of moments of connection, tears of joy, kindnesses from others, occasions of celebration. We are rich with blessings.

Thanksgiving Day is a day to recognize the blessings we share, no matter the simplicity of our table, or who is gathered or not gathered around it. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that no amount of regret or worry can add to our lives, today is not a day to enumerate unfulfilled wishes. It is a day to consider how God takes care of us. Jesus invites us to consider the sparrow, the grass, the lilies – all who live their lives giving glory to their Creator without anxiety about accumulating or adorning. We, like those lilies, grasses, and birds receive blessing out of proportion with our input. We are blessed because we are God's, created to love and to be loved.

Is the gravy lumpy this year? Did the Detroit Lions lose their annual game? Are the sweaters that Mom makes us wear to dinner today itchy? Worry not. You are richly blessed. You who gather in body or in spirit share a meal and good conversation. You are loved by an audacious God who cares for you without measure or equal. After the meal, as you contemplate a second slice of pie, I invite you to reflect on how you might love as abundantly as God does. How might you ease the anxiety of others, sharing from your abundance? How may you be a blessing to others as God has blessed you? | TENs.org



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Does your Thanksgiving Tradition include a time to reflect on the blessings you have received in the year? If it doesn't, what would it be like to incorporate such a practice in the ritual of your meal?

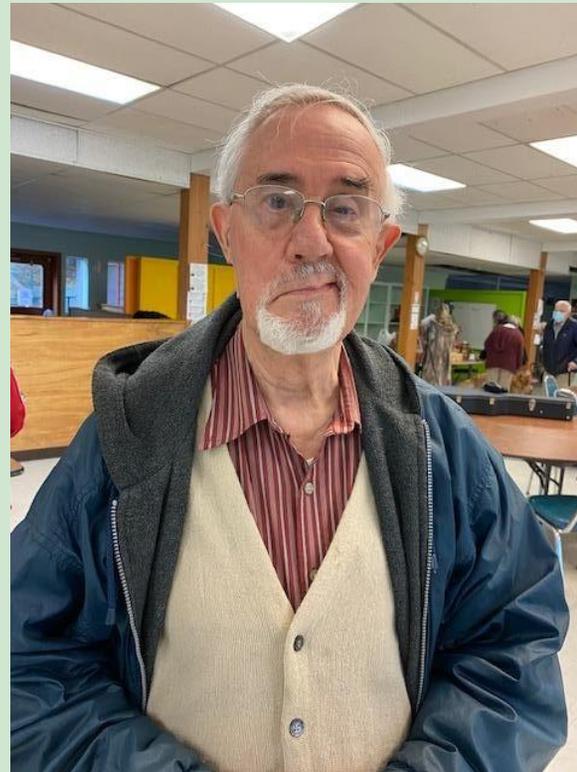
A Message from Stanley Hess:

Dear friends,
At the request of Mother Kathleen, I shall try to explain a bit of what is happening with me medically.

Some have wondered if I have had a stroke. The answer is no. What I have developed is Bell's Palsy, a condition that causes temporary weakness or paralysis of the muscles in the face. In my case, it causes paralysis on the right side of the face as well as dry eye and dry mouth. As you may have noticed during my reading last Sunday, it does affect my speech. It also affects my eating, primarily the placing of food or drink in my mouth with the partial loss of lip control.

According to the literature, the causes are unknown. In most cases, the weakness is "temporary" but can last for months or even years. The onset of the condition was brought to my attention at a dinner during a visit of my brother David and his wife Evelyn and their son Jeff for David's CKHS Class of 1953 reunion. Jeff asked if I had had a stroke. That shock set the ball rolling to seek medical attention. As some of you know, COVID has greatly impacted medical services on all levels. Scheduling appointments, doctor's vacations, unfamiliar doctors, etc., have impacted the rate of seeking attention and services. Early tests seemed to rule out stroke and confirm Bell's Palsy. Currently, I am receiving physical therapy, first on my neck, and now on my face, trying to stimulate and re-educate the face muscles to function. I ask for your prayers and understanding. I am not patient in wanting to see immediate improvement.

Stanley



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Ballot	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Here's a little pre-Thanksgiving quiz about St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bremerton:

- Are we going to have a choir, with a music director?
- Are we going to be able to offer a consistent Christian education program?
- What's the status of our rector, Mother Kathleen Kingslight? Is she half-time? Three-quarters time? Can she be full-time?
- What other ministries can we offer to parishioners and the Bremerton community?

These questions and more will be answered in the next couple of week as parishioners turn in their pledges for 2022. Once we have those pledges in hand, the executive team and Vestry can review finances and propose a budget based on what we can afford.

St. Paul's is an independent parish. We get no operational money from the national Church or the Diocese of Olympia. Whatever money we want to spend, we have to raise that money from within the church, and most of that comes from pledges and offerings.

The parishioners and friends of St. Paul's have been extraordinarily generous since the pandemic began in early 2020. Still, the need to close the church, interrupting or even halting all that was going on within its walls, has had a dramatic effect. We've been able to pay our full expenses through the pandemic thanks only to proceeds from a land sale and the federal government's COVID Paycheck Protection Program.

But our expenses are falling steadily because we have less money to draw on. We'd love to reverse that trend, to be able to hire a music director, pay our rector for full-time work, keep up with basic expenses.

Can we? The answer will come soon, from our parishioners.

Thank you so much for your support these past years. Please continue to help as we use our parish and its gifts to fulfill our mission: To worship and serve Christ from a safe harbor for everyone on their spiritual journey.

— Richard Horn, stewardship co-chair

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Please join us for a powerful night:
A virtual viewing of the film **Since I Been Down**, followed by an impacted panel
of speakers.

Since I Been Down spotlights prisoner Kimonti Carter and follows his efforts, as well as a wide group of prisoners, as they break free from their fate and create a model of education that is transforming their lives, their communities, our prisons, and our own humanity. Kimonti is currently serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. And yet, he devotes himself every day to educating and expanding the perspectives of his fellow prisoners. Carter is a member of the #BlackPrisonersCaucus and started the prison led education program, T.E.A.C.H.

Date: November 30th

The screening will start at **5 pm**, followed by our panel at **6:45 pm**.

Our panel will feature:

- Family Advocate, Ginny Parham
- Formerly Incarcerated Leader, Eugene Youngblood, C.A.R.E. Coordinator (Freedom Project)
- Formerly Incarcerated Leader, Rep. Tarra Simmons, Elected Representative of the 23rd District

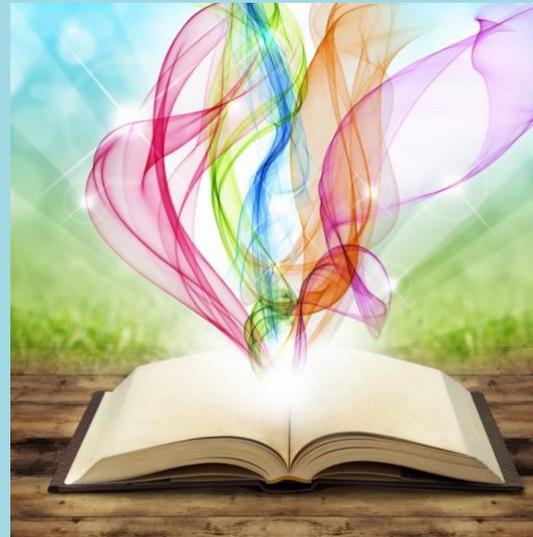
[Click here for more information and registration](#)

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The Book Group Of St. Paul's meets every Monday evening at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

We are currently reading: *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World* by Brian D. McLaren

McLaren uses the metaphor of great religious leaders crossing the road to converse about key matters of faith. Yet he seems to make the strongest case for fostering tolerance of other religions, while implementing Christian doctrine and maintaining Christian identity, through a single personal story. His brother offers to move some furniture into his new apartment and decides to play a practical joke, flooding the bathroom with several hundred balloons. McLaren must enlist the help of a neighbor boy to invite a virtual parade of children into the apartment to carry away the balloons. The resulting friendship between the Christian author and the Muslim boy provides an essential life lesson about loving our neighbors and tolerating their differences. McLaren makes additional valid points about the need to accept others and their various faiths while not compromising on Christian identity, but this particular anecdote leaves by far the most lasting impression. For Christians on the fence about whether to accept others and their faiths, or to insist that only Christianity can adequately serve, this book provides important insights. —Susan DeGrane



Come and Join Us!

Read the book and join us on Zoom. I found the book hard to put down and a great read.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85253008185?pwd=U0dVUjYrTHBtSnFIUIZaa2Z2UURDZz09>

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Meeting ID: 852 5300 8185
Passcode: journey

Our **Family Christmas Project** is an exciting way to tangibly show youth experiencing homeless that they are loved. Youth participating in The Coffee Oasis youth programs fill out gift request forms. Then community partners like you "sponsor" youth so their gifts can be purchased. \$50 will provide Christmas presents for one youth!

Would you consider partnering with us for this year's Family Christmas Project?

We will have a digital partner packet available with video, slides, posters, fliers, and bulletin inserts! Enclosed is a link if you would like to receive our monthly pastors' newsletter, [These City Lights](#). We share upcoming events that churches may be interested in, interviews with local pastors, and current prayer requests. If you have prayer warriors in your congregation, we would love to be on their list!



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Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 1st at 9:30am in the Oliver Room. We will discuss the readings for the following Sunday. The readings are:

Malachi 3:1-4

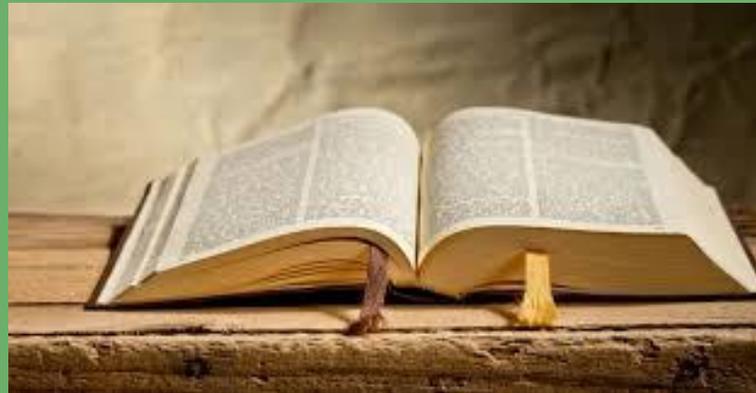
Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

All are welcome! Please contact Sue Ahrens at 360.471.2139 with any questions.

See you on Wednesday!



From the Lord's Neighborhood Diner:

We need volunteers!

St. Paul's and the Lord's Neighborhood Diner are supporting the Salvation Army by preparing dinner **on the second Saturday of every month** between 2:30 and 5:30pm. It is a safe environment, and you can park behind the Salvation Army for free. Temperatures are checked at the door, everyone wears masks, and gloves are provided in the kitchen. We prepare 45-70 dinners and put our delicious cuisine in containers that the



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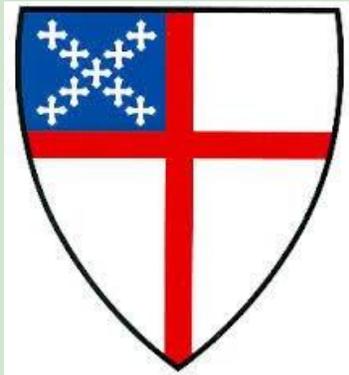
Salvation Army staff distribute to the hungry folks. You will only be working in the kitchen and will not have direct contact with the diners.

Please let me know if you are willing to work the upcoming date of:

Saturday, December 11th.

Thank you to all those who have previously volunteered: Sue Ahrens, Jim Manlove, Tara Chambless, Bonda Lewis, Mary Jo Melia, Jennifer Laris, & Joseph Hayworth.

Blessings,
Jackie King
Jackie_king@comcast.net
(206) 849-2803



**Church office hours:
Tuesdays - Thursdays
10:00am - 2:00pm**

**If you require assistance, please call Philip
at 360-377-0106 or
email stpaul700@gmail.com.**

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