

St. Paul's by the Salish Sea Episcopal Church

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.

October 24, 2021
Proper 25

This Sunday's Ministry Team:

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

Vergar: The Rev. Declan Jarry III

Vestry Greeter: Sue Ahrens

Lay Readers: The Rev. Declan Jarry III, Alice Gray & Sue Ahrens

Altar Guild: Scott de Lessart & Mollyshannon Neel

*Will you strive for justice and peace
among all people and respect the dignity
of every human being?
I will, with God's help.*

**Join us for the 111th Convention of
the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
October 29-30** as we attempt to live into
the promise made in our Baptismal
Covenant to strive for justice and peace,
respecting the dignity of all. It will be a
time to gather virtually in community for
workshops and worship, a time to
assemble remotely once more as we do
the work of the diocese. Join us as we
gather together once more as the Body
of Christ - with God's help.



Pray for St. Paul's Stewardship

Every Perfect Gift

 *The Gift of Faith*

Our often fast-paced, frenetic lives get in the way of the north stars that should be guiding us. And trajectories change when, in the blink of an eye, we are blindsided.

My family's blindside happened four years ago. On a Tuesday morning before work, my sister-in-law Jan was on a walk with the kid's five-month-old puppy Peter Paul. A young man speeding hit them head-on, killing them instantly.

Jan was married to my twin brother Jonathan, and they have twelve children, including ten adopted from Texas, Guatemala, Mexico, Russia, China, and Ethiopia. She was also a beloved breast cancer physician with a practice that served the underserved.

Never afraid to love well, Jan was confident in her faith and marriage, leading her and Jonathan to adopt several older children with traumatic histories. They gave these children second chances believing they could thrive in a loving Christian family and a supportive community.

Jan's ministry on earth informed our belief that gratitude increases with faith. She saw with her heart.

In today's reading, we find Bartimeus, a blind beggar with a deep faith in God living on society's margins. He cries out to Jesus as he's leaving Jericho, "Son of David, have mercy on me." Jesus asks, "what do you want from me?" and Bartimeus says, "Heal Me." Jesus heals him and says, "Go, your faith has made you well."

I find a parallel between Bartimeus' story and Jan's life. Bartimaeus' miraculous healing happened because of his faith. He saw with his heart. And Jan, relying on her faith to help her overcome obstacles, inspired her family, friends, and patients to do the same.

Thomas Merton said, "Gratitude is the heart of the Christian life." May our faith continue to increase our gratitude so we, in turn, can live with seeing hearts. | 

Catherine Miller directs pastoral programs and adult formation at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in North Dallas and serves on the advisory board for Invite, Welcome, Connect.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What blindside moments have you experienced in which your faith helped you pull through?

Oct. 24, 2021


THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

WORDS OF WISDOM (?) FROM CHIEF CAT HERDER OF ST. PAUL'S

WE HAD OUR VESTRY MEETING THIS WEEK ON WEDNESDAY: As we have been doing for the last couple of months, we are reading Debby Irving's Book: **Waking Up White**, and discussing the subject of racism at the beginning of every meeting. This is your Vestry and Rector's commitment towards learning all we can about the ungifted privilege each and everyone of us white people has simply because of the color of our skin.

Some of the highlights from our meeting: We are in the process of doing a **parish wide inventory** of all, and I mean all of the stuff in our building. It's proving to be an interesting process. As one Vestry member said last night: "I had NOOO idea how big this church is, and all the nooks and crannies where we have stuff. It made me realize that not everyone has been given a full walk through of this building with all of it's "riches" and accumulations of "junk" no I mean treasure.

There has been a staffing transition in the community. Karissa Kroon, who has been our **sexton** through the pandemic has fallen in love and moved to Iowa to eventually get married. **Marty and Harold Stennett are taking over the position.** In the nearly 30 years that I've been a priest, every male "sexton" loved his title. But in reality the word comes from the 14th century and basically means someone takes care of the church property (as in cleaning), and from the dictionary it continues, "and performs related minor duties, such as ringing the bell and digging graves." So watch out you two, the pandemic isn't over yet!!!!

Hopefully, I will be having **knee surgery in the next.... who knows?** The pandemic isn't over yet.

All Saints will be celebrated on October 31st, and the banner containing the faces of many of our loved ones will be on display starting this week.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO ANOTHER ZOOM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS YEAR? We have another one, written by the same Mennonite pastor that wrote last year's pageant we could do. Vestry members felt that it was fun enough in 2020 to repeat this year. But this year since we are here in person, I think that I'll suggest that we record it in advance, rather than doing it live.

We had a big discussion about how there is lot's of rebuilding to be doing in 2022. We've lost some members in 2020 through attrition, through death, through lack of community, and... I don't really know what. And though nearly every week we are seeing new people come through our doors, and many are staying: our **music program has suffered** because of lack of funds and not being able to have a choir, **our education program has floundered** because of kids not being vaccinated and parents being really careful about keeping them as safe as possible, and because we've moved to one service instead of two on Sundays.

Slowly, scheduled ministries are coming back together, groups are returning to their meetings in the building, and new groups are seeking places to meet here. BUT the pandemic is still keeping some of our members away, and Mu COVID is hindering doing many of our activities of fun, as well as ministries of service. So as we look ahead to 2022, we have a great opportunity, what will we redevelop? What might we drop? Where does our greatest joy as a community and the world's greatest need intersect? Who will we be going into the future?

Pretty much everything else we did is reported throughout this missive, and you'll hear about our finances in the weeks ahead.

But before I close off my ramblings I finally got a chance to look into the **church records from the flu pandemic of 1918-1920**. It looks like the flu hit us in October of 1918. Deaths are recorded showing cause of death as influenza. In 1918 the parish buried: 11, in 1919 - 7, in 1920 there are only three deaths recorded. The records for 1920 seem incomplete and very low. No marriages through that time. Records for 1918 for confirmations and receptions seem to be missing, so it might mean that the church closed. There were 6 in 1919, but then 25 in 1920, then blossoms again after that. 12 Baptisms are recorded as happening at the church in 1918 mostly in the summer, in 1919 there were 2 Baptisms and only one of them at the church. 14 the following year, then everything returns to normal in 1921. No new people recorded in 1918, a few in 1919, and then the records are spotty after that. No "communicants" recorded in 1918, which means maybe no one was receiving communion, or being active in the church, or the priest wasn't recording things well. More next week, on what I discovered about St. Paul's recovery in 1921 and how they handled the Depression.

BIG HUGS TO YOU ALL!!!
Mother Kathleen+

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! After consulting with Diocesan experts, we've decided upon a system that will cost approximately \$10,000: 3 stationary cameras that can shift and zoom in, microphones to pick up the organ, and the congregation, updated mixing board, and an updated computer to manage it all.



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

Will you help us raise the matching \$5,000 to make this a reality?

Please make donations online or with checks with the notation of "**Our Ministry to the World,**" or with cash in an envelope Sunday morning with the same notation. **Our latest numbers show \$3799 toward our goal.** Thank you for your generosity!

If you wonder if this ministry is worth it, here are a few analytics from Facebook for the last month: we have about 566 people who are following us regularly, the Blessing of the Animals got the most reaches of 261 beyond our regular 40 folks in the pews. Most Sunday we boost our "membership" by another 50-100 with those who watch via Facebook. So, yes, we will continue this ministry... let's make sure that we do it well. All together we have 2,180 check-ins. Pretty cool, huh?

THANK YOU!!!!!!



There have been many of you who have expressed either an interest in working, or those interested in participating in the upcoming **COME AND SEE/ CURSILLO** weekend that was supposed to have been at the beginning of December.

For months the team has been working toward that goal, but with the continuing high numbers of COVID, and lots of prayer, we have decided to postpone it until Memorial Day Weekend.

So the weekend will be **May 27-29, at Camp Huston**. Both John and I will be working the weekend, and a few others within our community as well. So I hope that

you'll reconsider and decide yet again to join us for this weekend where we learn more about God's love, and what it feels like in the midst of a wonderful community!!!!

This week has been one of having many opportunities to visit with folks, interact at meals and share deeply in ZOOM meetings. I might not have been in the office all the time, but ministry gets done in a multitude of means and locations! We had our second discernment team meeting, Executive team meeting in preparation for next week's Vestry meeting, and another planning meeting for the May **COME AND SEE/ CURSILLO** weekend for May of 2022.

BIG HUGS TO YOU ALL!!!

Mother Kathleen+

FREE WOOD FOR WINTER WARMTH!

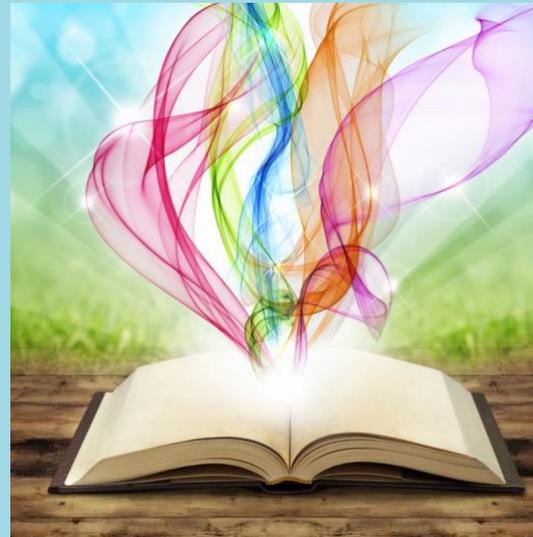
Tara Chambless has a pile of wood to offer to anyone who is willing to haul it away and use it. Please contact her with your interest: tarac117@gmail.com



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>

Meeting ID: 852 5300 8185
Passcode: journey

Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 9:30am in the Oliver Room. We will discuss the readings for the next Sunday. The readings are:

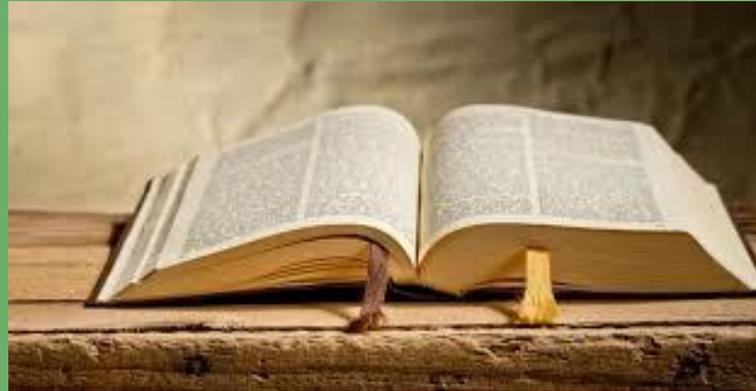
Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34

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



See you on Wednesday!

Do you know any young people that might be looking for part-time work? Canterbury Manor is looking for dining room servers. Requirements for the job include:

- **Passing a State Background Check**
- **Passing a drug test**
- **Having COVID vaccine shots**

Please contact Canterbury Manor at 360-377-0113 if interested.



Promise for the Future 34th Annual Bremerton Central Lions Virtual Auction Event

The fun begins on Friday, October 22nd at 5:30 pm, with a virtual happy hour kick-off event!

Virtually visit with the Bremerton Central Lions officers and learn about the many auction items available for bidding. Bidding happens all week from Friday, October 22, and ends with our auction finale event on Saturday, October 30.

Incredible items available this year including a Holland America Cruise, unique vacation experiences, and more!

This year's Raise-the-Paddle benefits the Olympic College Promise Scholarship.

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



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 5:30 pm. 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 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, November 13, 2021

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

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



SAVE THE DATE

Port Madison Dialogues

Four Part Online Panel Discussions

Suquamish Tribal leaders will share the history of the Suquamish Tribe, current issues facing the Tribe, and the impacts of the sometimes difficult relationships between Tribal and non-Tribal communities.

Tribal members will share poetry, songs, and stories.

Thursdays

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Sept. 23

Oct. 7

Oct. 21

Nov. 4



<https://bit.ly/PortMadison>

Please plan to attend all four sessions.

Sponsored by Kitsap County, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County.

Discussions take place 6:30-8:00 pm on the following Thursdays: Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4. The sessions will cover: Since Time Immemorial - Early History; Tribal Sovereignty and Governance; Current Issues Facing the Tribe; and a Wrap-Up Circle - Grief and Healing.

The events are open to the public and people are encouraged to attend all four sessions.

To learn more and to register in advance (required), click [here](#) or visit <https://bit.ly/PortMadison>.

Hi everyone,

There's lots of news in this month's newsletter, some very important changes in our practices, and some pretty blatant begging for mid-week help (we've absolutely no pride at all when it comes to asking for your help). And it's your fault -- you're all so dang good at what you do!

Check it out and get back to us with your questions. We love you and are bursting with pride at how you have faithfully pivoted, over and over, as circumstances and COVID have required. We are quite a team!

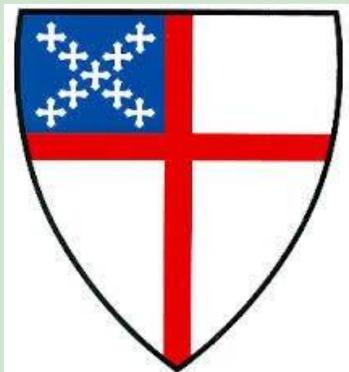
Thank you, xo's,
Myra

Bremerton Backpack Brigade

Serving the first needs of the
child, so that they may learn



Read the BBB October Newsletter



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.**
