

St. Paul's 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 31, 2021
All Saints' Day (observed)**

This Sunday's Ministry Team:

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

Vestry Greeter: Richard Kelso

Lay Readers: Mackenzie Cahill, Jennifer Laris, Pat Brodin & Richard Kelso

Altar Guild: Scott de Lessart & Mollyshannon Neel

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Every Perfect Gift

All Saint: The Gift of Miracles

"God helps those who help themselves". 75% of Americans think so, according to pollster George Barna. In fact, the phrase topped a poll of the most widely known verses in the Bible. Despite the fact that it's not actually there! But God does help. Let's not forget that fundamental truth, today's Gospel is intended to remind us: the name Lazarus is a shortened form of Eleazar, which is Hebrew for "God helps." And Lazarus is from a village whose name, Bethany, means "House of Affliction."

Names like this are characteristic of John's highly symbolic gospel. Which we can read as a cosmological tale—unconstrained by time and space—about the human dilemma and the persistent love of God.

When the gospel tells us that Lazarus—the suffering one whom God helps—is also the "one Jesus loves," he represents all those whom Jesus loves. Including all of us: we who suffer, die, know the potential for new life, and—when we're stuck—need others to take away the stone that holds us back, and unwind the cloths of our pain.

We are people who can do great things. And we are also people of great need. To use cosmological terms, we could say that all human beings in all times and places need places to gather and worship and dream. We also need skilled and compassionate pastors to encourage and comfort us as people called to do the work of Jesus. And we need money to pay for all of this, which is where our stewardship come in.

God has done, is doing and will do miracles; and we know that God also asks us to participate in the miracles. Sometimes by taking away the stone, sometimes by unbinding a friend, and sometimes even by filling out a pledge card.

Julia McCray-Goldsmith is Priest-in-Charge of Trinity Cathedral in San Jose, California. She often fails to see the stone in front of her or the cloths that bind her, but is grateful to friends who point them out. She lives in a family compound in Berkeley with her husband, married children, disabled sister and the puppy who binds us all together in love and silliness. | tens.org



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. What does the Bible actually say about who God helps?
2. How has your church community "taken away the stone" or unwound the cloth" for you, or created opportunities for you to offer that kind of service for others?
3. Is there a saint or a soul in your story who inspires you to greater service and generosity?



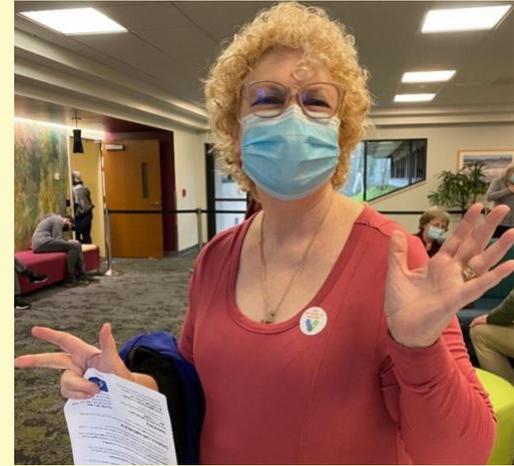
THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

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WORDS FROM YOUR RECTOR

I'm finally back in the land of the living. I had my Moderna booster shot yesterday afternoon, and just like the other two, it took me out for about 18 hours. You may have gone through it all as well: body aches, chills, headaches, sore arm, and fatigue. I'm glad to be back! If what the booster does, is even a TINY bit of what it's like to have COVID, I very clear, that I never want to get this disease!

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!!!!



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. During our service we will bring candles to the altar like we have other years, in memory of all of our loved ones that we've lost. RELATED TO THAT, the banners are pretty well filled up. Are their people in the parish who would like to commit to making another one for the church so that we can get the folks that still need to get on the banner, on there?

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, extra caution about being with people and... and

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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 there seems to be another wave this is hitting WA. 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?

SOME OF OUR HISTORY FROM THE LAST PANDEMIC IN BREMERTON 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, the church 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+

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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! After consulting with Diocesan experts, we've decided upon a system that will cost approximately \$10,000: 2 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 funds 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 \$4,229 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!!!!



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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.

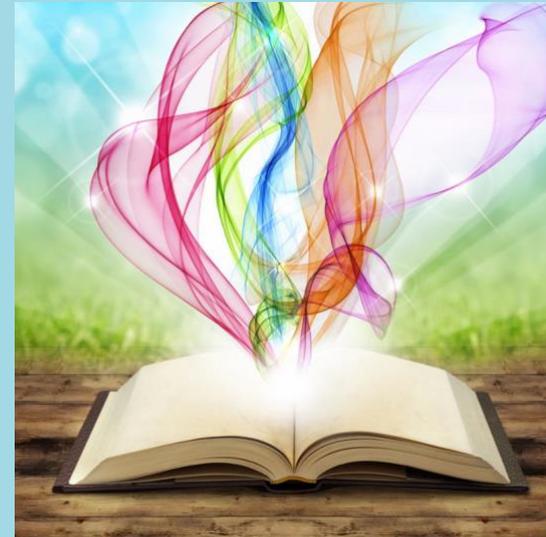
BIG HUGS TO YOU ALL!!!
Mother Kathleen+

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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>

Meeting ID: 852 5300 8185

Passcode: journey

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Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 9:30am in the Oliver Room. We will discuss the readings for the next Sunday. The readings are:

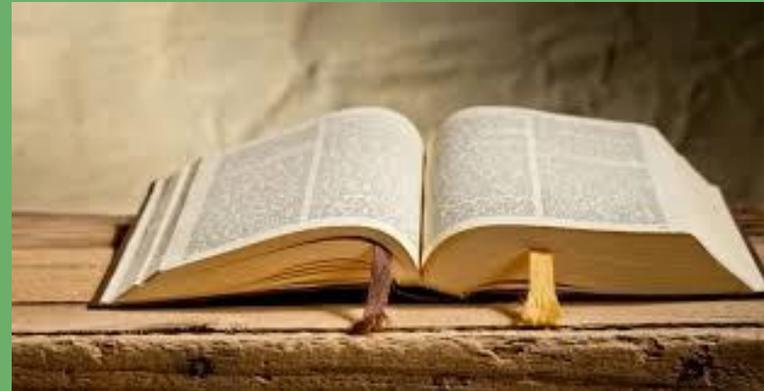
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

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.



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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



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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.

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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

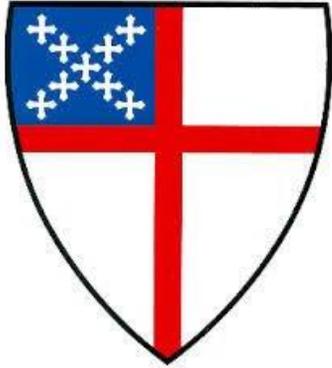
Bremerton Backpack Brigade

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



Read the BBB October Newsletter

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The church office will be closed until Tuesday, November 9. In the event of an emergency, please contact Mother Kathleen or a member of the church vestry. Voice messages and emails will be answered when the office re-opens.

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

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