

Saint Paul's Messenger

April 2021

*As faithful stewards of God's Grace,
our mission in Christ is to foster
community through spiritual growth, witness, and service in the Episcopal tradition*

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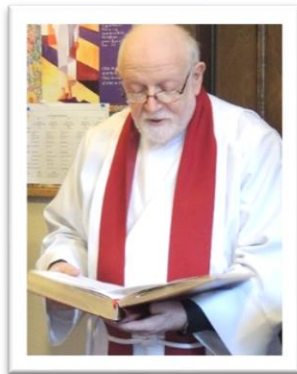


Established 1893

Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

Rector's Report from Fr Larry Ort

Some good news – on May 5th, at 1:30 PM, in Thorburn Hall, we are going to resume our Wednesday afternoon Eucharist. I think most, if not all, of our regular members have been vaccinated. If not, I encourage you to wait until two weeks post-vaccination before attending. For those who may not have attended previously, this service does not include a homily. In lieu of a homily, we have some lively (and frequently humorous) discussion of the Revised Common Lectionary texts for the week. Dessert and a gabfest always follow. We will greatly miss one of our regulars – Dorothy Kratochvil. And that reminds me, they had better serve good, hot, bold coffee in heaven! If not, management has heard about it! Mark your calendars and come join us!



Also, beginning this Sunday, we will resume the offering at St. Paul's. The offering will immediately follow the passing of the peace and prayers for birthdays and anniversaries. During the offering and the setting of the altar, please maintain silence as this is meant to be a time of prayer and preparation for communion. I will stress this or the next few Sundays to restore this habit.



We continue to sort and organize records. I set many old financial records aside so they could be reviewed by Bob Klein, Treasurer. We were able to discard 9 boxes/totes of financial records – they had been saved since 1916! I am currently

Old photo found in
historical papers
(below)



sorting through files of old vestry minutes and purging worthless items. Yes, we have vestry minutes and annual reports dating back to the 1950s. It will be good to have them sorted and

organized! If all goes well, I might have the table we use for midweek-Eucharist clear by May 5th!

Last week (Monday – Thursday), Judy and I attended a clergy retreat at the Abbey of the Hills. It was good to reconnect with so many clergy from the diocese. The worship services

SD Episcopal Bishop
Jonathan Foltz



were excellent, and the music was wonderful.

The music was led by Ronald Braman, an extremely talented Native American musician from Idaho whom Bishop Jonathan met last

year. We discussed lament and hope and were invited to do three things: 1) Identify our worst nightmares – those things that keep us up at night; 2) Ask for help from friends and from God; and 3) Trust in the Lord and dream of what might be. We also had free time to simply relax, walk, read, or take a nap.

On a lighter note, I am pleased to report that Merle, the Squirrel, is back. A few days ago, Judy and I were sitting on the front porch when we were visited. As I fed him a few pecans, he slowly worked his way up to within two feet of us. After eating, he laid out on a branch with a full tummy – a belated Thanksgiving nap.

We have a lot of fun watching the squirrels and the rabbits in our wildlife habitat area. I

shared the story of Merle the Squirrel at retreat and asked the clergy to



promote certification of their church property as a wildlife habitat area through the Natural Wildlife Federation.

St. Paul's Vestry Minutes: April

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 15th meeting were approved in a motion made by Lynn Hublou (2nd, Janet Gritzner).

Rector's Report (Fr. Larry Ort):

- Work on the old records is progressing. Bob Klein helped Fr. Larry jettison 9 totes of minutes, etc., dating back to 1916.
- Fr. Larry and Judy attended the clergy retreat at Abbey of the Hills, where they particularly enjoyed the singing of a talented Native American musician.
- Fr. Larry signed up for a course on the Parables offered through the National Cathedral as part of his continuing education.
- Fr. Larry will be making a second presentation for the Transfiguration Fellowship, which will

Fr Ort and recent confirmation class



focus on mimetic theory; a future presentation will focus on ministry to Native Americans.

He will ask Paul Sneve to participate in this.

- The St. Paul's confirmation class will begin April 29th with Chuck Woodard assisting Fr. Larry. The instruction will continue throughout the summer.
- Fr. Larry noted that the *Essays on Ethics*, a study of the Torah from the Jewish perspective could make a nice workshop for diocesan clergy.
- The opening balance of the Discretionary Expense Fund was \$1932.73. Disbursements included \$400 to St. Mary's (Webster) and a \$75 reimbursement to Fr. Larry for food and transportation for a person in need, bringing the balance to \$1457.73.

- Fr. Larry pointed out that he has not taken a vacation for 21 months because of the pandemic; he and Judy will take two weeks toward the end of May and again in mid-July and early fall to visit family and sightsee.

Senior Warden's Report

(Lynn Hublou): Lynn announced that the first Burgers and Brats potluck will be held on the church patio on June 2nd. We will also use this occasion to invite and get to know prospective members. There will be a baby shower in Thorburn Hall on May 15.



Junior Warden's Report (Lee Krachtovil): Lee received a bid of \$273.17 from Turf Guard for a 3-phase lawn treatment, but he will ask if an ecologically-friendly treatment is available.



A low brick and iron fence accent wall (brick columns only) will separate St Paul's property from 6th St as part of the April Brooks Memorial Landscaping project.

Olson Masonry gave us a bid of \$7,200 for 10 columns on the 6th Street border of the property. Chuck Berry has offered to spearhead the effort. Lynnette Taylor moved (2nd Lynn Hublou) that we move forward with the column and fencing projects and Fr. Larry notify parishioners to see if they wish to contribute to the project. (The \$7,200 will come from memorials, but the entire project will cost an estimated \$8,000.) Fr. Larry will pick a date for spring cleanup and convey that information to the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

(Bob Klein): The treasurer's report was accepted in a motion made by Lynnette T., (2nd Carol Ann Klug).



Bob noted that pledges are currently ahead of the budget because some pledges have been paid in their entirety for the year.

Old Business: Fr. Larry will pull together a committee to work on moving forward with the focus areas of the Congregational Vitality Assessment. He will ask Jay Vanduch to give input on improving our audio-visual equipment and the possibility of using Facebook Live (used at the Cathedral).

New Business: Mid-week services in Thorburn Hall will now be re-instated.

Next Meeting: May 17th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Klein, Clerk of the Vestry



April-May Anniversaries

Al and Lynn Hublou, Ryan and Emily Braun, Aaron and Kayla Hovelson

April Birthdays

Laurie Carruthers, Tom Taylor, Mollie Hublou, Sharon Tjaden, Chase Crawford, Charlie Berry, Berkley Hovelson, Carson Vanduch, Claudia Hovelson, Laura Woodard Clark, Cindy Appelt, Christopher Appelt, Chuck Woodard, Charlie Clever, Erika Klein, Patty Kratochvil, Aric Hovelson.

May Birthdays

Ben Leigh, Chuck Berry, John Berry, Howard Bonnemann, Rosemary Seaboy, Lynette Tylor, Miles Livermont, Jordan Crawford, Diana Christiansen, Emily Malmberg, Peggy Miller, Shawn Kratochvil, Phil Baker.

HyVee employee takes our box of receipts worth \$150,000. As a community service, HyVee will rebate \$1000 to St Paul's. Thanks Mary Lou Berry for your work on this project.



St Paul's during Quarantine-time

Church services in person: OPEN with seating separation, modifications in service, and other safety aspects (no coffee after)

Church services on line; Fr Larry sends a Zoom link and readings for the service

Pledges: - use mail or in person, the offering plate is being passed on Sundays now.

Compline: Wednesdays, 7:30; zoom

Wednesday Afternoon Eucharist, May 5, 1:30

Earth Day Sunday April 18

St Paul's recognized Earth Day with three activities. Our Youth Group Teachers Jen Lacher and Lynn Hublou planned to host the class at the Nature Park where they might reflect on Earth Day and how we can be good stewards of God's Creation here in Brookings. Cold weather prevented the visit but Chuck Berry (Chair of St Paul's Natural Cathedral Comm.) was an invited speaker for the class that was moved to Thorburn Hall. The class took a "field trip" to the furnace room to chat about the kind and source of energy used by the church building. Oh fun!!



God speaks through two books, the written word, and the masterpiece of creation. Hey, Thorburn Hall is a great place, but not exactly where one might gain an appreciation for the wonders of nature. The class was very good at listing things that one person could/should do to care for Creation – recycle, don't litter, turn off lights, etc.

However, they were vague about energy conservation in buildings – insulation, windows, thermostat, etc. I mentioned the new windows in the sanctuary – look good and save energy!

I asked "Why are we talking about conservation in church? This isn't the Sierra Club! No response.

I asked the teachers if it was okay to bring religion into the classroom. Jen's answer was "Well..Duh!" So, I gave them a very short explanation for why church-goers should care about Creation.

*God made all things and called them good,
asked man to "tend His garden" –
keep His commandments*

*God is present in and through Creation –
wonders of nature reveal*

*Creation care is an act of social justice
toward humanity – "do unto others
as you would have them do unto
you"*



Maybe I should have quoted Emily Dickenson

*Some keep the Sabbath going to church,
I keep it staying at home,
With a bobolink for a chorister
And an orchard for a dome*

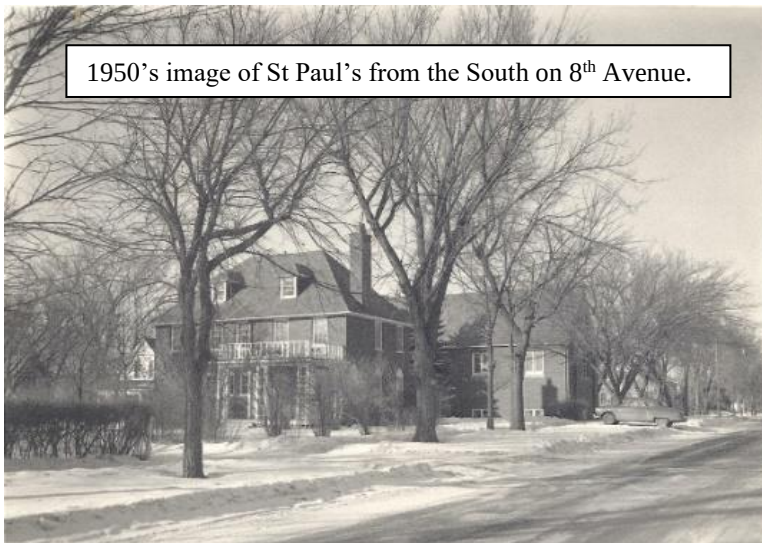
[Not sure how Fr Larry would react to us sitting in an orchard on Sunday morning].

Fr Larry got into the Earth Day spirit by writing an article for the *Brookings Register* on Creation Care. He wrote about the Book of Job as his favorite Creation message. He followed up with an Earth Day Sunday sermon that included a prayer from the BCP. The Sermon started as

follows “It is the third Sunday of the Easter season, the third Sunday of April, the Sunday commonly called Earth Sunday. It is a good time to consider wisdom and reverence as the gifts of our Creator. The Book of Common Prayer contains a Prayer for the Conservation of Natural Resources (p. 827) which reads:

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fr Ort said “We need to pause, to reflect, to ask if our actions are causing others to suffer from our abuse of natural resources, to ask if generations yet to come (our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the generations beyond) will still be able to praise God’s bounty. “



1950's image of St Paul's from the South on 8th Avenue.

First Annual Meeting Records Found Among the Lacher Historical Collection

We now have a nearly complete set of Annual Meeting Records from the time St Paul's Parish was incorporated in 1955. St Paul's Mission was established in 1893, but Parish status wasn't granted until the Diocesan Convention in Deadwood in 1952. Rev Frank Thorburn was called to St Paul's in 1953.

Fr Thoburn wrote in his report to the Parish in 1955: “This is our first venture in preparing written reports in this form for the Parish Meeting. It is a plan that has merit in that we will have a record of the year more permanent than in verbal reports.”

To set the scene at St Paul's in the 50s, the view from 5th street shows an unpaved 8th Avenue, the rectory as it appears today, and the south side of the church without an 8th Avenue entrance.

Inside, the Sanctuary had the choir up front and a curtain behind the cross (instead of today's Sunburst-stained-glass window).



Downstairs, the Men's club has just added “modern tile” to the concrete floor, and a toilet. Abby Thorburn recalled that the new toilet was “a real gift to the rector's wife as previously everyone trotted into her house to use the facilities.”

From that 1955 annual report we learn that St Paul's Budget was \$9500. Fr Thorburn was paid \$3,300. There were 88 communicants and 138 baptized persons in the congregation. Fr Thorburn made 918 pastoral calls (17/wk). He wrote “Statistics cannot show the loyal, faithful, and concreated acceptance of responsibility by members of the Parish on the Vestry, in Church School, in Choir, in Parish organizations, as Servers, Teachers, in other work and activities within the circle of Parish life and it is these

evidences of spiritual vitality and strength that your Rector rejoices and deeply appreciates. *By their fruits ye shall know them.*”

Fr Thorburn presided over the first annual meeting on January 8 1956. The Church School had 30 students and five teachers. The College’s Canterbury Club (about 20 students) met at the Rectory each week. Fr Thorburn also reported on the Missionary support of St Mary’s Flandreau and St Stephen’s DeSmet

In addition to the Rector’s Report, there were reports from the most influential groups in the Parish – the Guilds. Apparently, the ladies of St Paul’s Guild looked down somewhat on the men of the church, at least that sentiment comes through in the writings of Historian Neva Harding. For example, this quote “Men may go down in defeat, but women never,” and this quote - “Voted \$20 for redecorating the church, providing the men failed to do it.”

At the 1955 Annual Meeting, Gertrude Young, (St Paul’s Guild) reported 19

meetings in member’s homes with Fr Thorburn’s attendance at each meeting. Fund raising was for 1) the Parish and 2) outreach. Members raised money (\$1,406) from dues (\$6 each), and from events and craft projects. Neva Harding wrote that “they made and sold enough aprons for all of Brookings, and held a May Bazaar, put on plays, sold refreshments, sold cookbooks, held Christmas bake sales, and made handkerchiefs.”

St Anne’s Guild of 17 members had a budget balance of \$433. They served several dinners, a breakfast and a wedding reception. Left overs from their rummage sale were sent to various charities. Christmas gifts went to St

Mary’s, Flandreau. They voted to match St Paul’s guild’s pledge to the Parish at \$300.

The Men’s Club had 34 members and met monthly; Tom Rokeby (President) supervised the construction of a garage at the Rectory (garage built by Industrial Arts students). The men held a white elephant sale, a popcorn sale, and a Parish Dinner. They gave \$20 from the popcorn sale to the Canterbury Club and had \$77 on hand at the EOY.

At the conclusion of the record of our first Annual Meeting, Fr Thorburn wrote that “the reports reveal a fulfillment on the part of members of our bounded duty – may God continue to bless the work taken in His Name.”

Altar Guild Shining the Brass

Jean Lacher did so much for St Paul’s, like being a leader of the Altar Guild over several generations. Fr Larry and Judy have handled the Altar Guild duties during covid times. Mary Lou Berry has volunteered to herd the Alter Guild cats for a while. One of the first to volunteer was Carolann Klug, and she has been learning the Altar Guild craft during April.

Anyone interested in joining the Altar Guild, or reaffirming their commitment, please contact Mary Lou (693-7750).



Fr Thorburn’s photo (and wife Abby) are displayed in Thorburn Hall; photo shows their Son John who is still a member.



In the light of the Sacristy window, Mary Lou polishes a brass candelabra – must be clean and shiny for Easter service.

Oh, that's too political [*Editor's note: not sure who I'm plagiarizing by reprinting the following opinion*]

"I don't know how many times I've heard church leaders shy away from contemporary issues by saying, "Oh, that's too political." And so, churches are silent about impending war, about the abuse of immigrants, about poverty and homelessness, and about the climate crisis. Somehow, a lie has taken hold that Christianity is all about personal salvation, about feeling good, and about eternal truths that never make a real difference in the world. In far too many settings, Christianity is safe and domesticated and irrelevant. That placid form of the church is a travesty.

The Bible is an account of God wading into all of the mess and complexity and the power struggles and the sin and evil of the world. The Judeo-Christian faith is all about the rejection of empire, and the struggle to embody the realm of God, of shalom. It is about justice -- down to earth justice that liberates the poor and the oppressed. It is about judgment upon those who abuse power and exploit the poor or the land.

If we live in the tradition of a biblical faith, we will be fearless in confronting kings and emperors, and even presidents and legislators. We will look at the current headlines and discern where God's purposes are being advanced, and where the promises of God are being denied. We will be bold in naming names when individuals and institutions are in the wrong -- as did Moses and Nathan and Jeremiah."

Well, by now you know that our Bishop Foltz has taken a proactive stance on SD welcoming migrant children. Here's his letter....

Dear Governor Noem:

As siblings in Christ and citizens of South Dakota, we bring our sincere concern about your public refusal to welcome migrant children to your attention. It is our, and every Christian's, obligation to adhere to Christ's commandment to "love God and neighbor above else" (Matthew 22:39) as well as to follow our Lord's example of welcoming the children (Matthew 19:14). Your harsh rebuke of President Biden's administration's proposal to relocate migrant children to other parts of the United States to ease the burdens at the borders is not congruent with Christ's commandment or his public conduct which we are called to follow. Therefore, we publicly dissent.

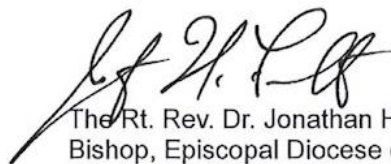
Instead, we urge you to engage in healthy public discourse with President Biden's Administration and our Congressional Delegation from South Dakota about the border crisis and together work to find a resolution that will, on the one hand, ease the burdens at the borders and, on the other, be a living witness to our Christian faith that many citizens in this state confess. We invite you to be in conversation with our respective denominations and other clergy members as we seek solutions to this crisis.

In closing, we leave you with God's own words from Leviticus 19:33-34: *"When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*

Sincerely,



The Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Foltz
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota

The Messenger

Newsletter of
St Paul's Episcopal Church
Church
Established 1893, Parish since 1952

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