



The Epistle

April 2020

The Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway

A community growing in Christ, called to worship, learn, and serve.

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From Fr. William Heisley

Transition: What Does It Mean?

I have never stopped thinking about what transitions mean, are, call us to be, in my more than three years at St. James on the Parkway as Transition Priest. And that thinking becomes ever more complex.

January was extremely busy with meetings and liturgies shared with St. Mary's and St. Luke's, our annual meeting, the special ECMN Convention to elect a new bishop, many conversations, planning, and writing. At the end of the month all of this screeched to a full stop, at least for me. I had an abrupt transition to my recovery from surgery. And then in March the novel coronavirus changed everything. Suddenly all of our transitions were overshadowed by a meta transition which we cannot control. It causes every one of us to transition – or in the case of thoughtless people, to resist transition – into a new age of care for each other and ourselves in ways that we never thought would be necessary. Into a new era of quarantine and isolation.

I don't like hand sanitizer. It feels funny and it smells bad. But I use it. I do wash my hands often and thoroughly, so I haven't needed to make much of a change there. And my introverted side loves staying at home days on end. So I deal with all of this transitioning by staying clean and staying away. And wondering what's next.

What was next was last Sunday, March 22. (I'm writing on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation – Christmas is just 9 months ahead! – this afternoon Governor Walz will call for even more staying at home, washing hands, not

gathering with others, etc.) Back to last Sunday. 43 of us, including the week old Margaret Ann Athorn, met, a number that is not extraordinary at St. James these days. Except that the meeting was online. Zoom. Carefully planned, thanks to Beth Harvey, Rosemary Caspar, Kerry Nelson, and, of course Liz and Cliff Athorn. But the service was a cause of much tension in me before it began on Sunday morning. Worship means people gathering together, not turning on the computer. Would it work? Would I look like a fool, or worse yet, inept? I never have these feelings at services in a church building. But online?

The upshot: we gathered together through our computers and telephones and shared a holy liturgy together. Not that the words, the text, made it holy. God's presence in each of us, calling us to listen and hear and speak across miles filled us with a soaring holiness that I believe every one of else felt. It was an extraordinary time.

God's presence in each of us, calling us to listen and hear and speak across the miles filled us with a soaring holiness...

And so shall each of the Sundays in our near future be. We will continue using Morning Prayer as our form of worship, and we will continue opening our hearts in

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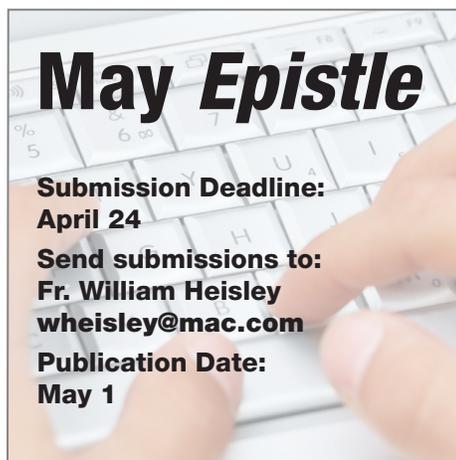
Transition: What Does It Mean?

an extended period of prayer for all sorts and conditions of people, even ourselves.

But in spite of this there remains the fact that we are in the process of saying goodbye to the building in which our community has been formed and nurtured, a collection of great transitions under the tent of our frightening meta transition. A proper goodbye involves mourning and laughing and storytelling and embracing and tears and well wishes and challenges. Now, most of these things must happen in ways that we are only beginning to explore.

I have formed a Heritage Committee (Greg Fedio, Louis Hoffman, Jeanne LaBore, and me) to set a path to June 30 when we plan to close the doors of our building, but not the doors of our history or our future. We will seek to engage the entire congregation in ways that we haven't yet planned, not having yet met at this writing. The committee's purpose is to call all of us together in whatever ways will be good. Will be holy. Because the holiness of God that filled us in Sunday's communal worship, that empowered our mutual prayers and consolations and joys, will continue with us through the duration of these transitions and through all our days.

Yet another new thing is happening. Can you not see it?



May Epistle

Submission Deadline:
April 24

Send submissions to:
Fr. William Heisley
wheisley@mac.com

Publication Date:
May 1

From Junior Warden Ted Gerold

Continuing Our Journey In An Uncertain World

As we stay at home and take our work, learning and worship online, God is with us on our consolidation journey. The vestries of St. James and St. Luke's continue to communicate and work together remotely to move our efforts forward. I am in contact with Jay Nord, a real estate consultant hired by the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN) to assist in the transition of our building and property to ECMN stewardship on July 1st. I will be

working with my Junior Warden counterpart at St. Luke's to coordinate our consolidation efforts.

This is a difficult time for all of us. Together we will get through it. We continue to worship, learn and serve together, though we are physically apart. We're planning our celebration in June, when hopefully we can be together again. God is with us. We will get through this together.



Welcome Margaret Ann!

Stacy Athorn and Max, along with Claire and Jack, welcomed baby Margaret Ann on March 10th, Maggie, as she will be called, is healthy and happy, already having attended church, virtually, of course!



COMPLINE
at Seven O'clock in the Evening

All are welcome!

Join us every evening via Zoom
Download the Zoom app (it's free!) to your computer, phone or other mobile device
Create your free Zoom ID
Click «Join» and enter Meeting ID #8516804634

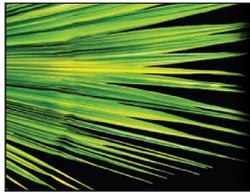

ST LUKE'S
www.st-lukes.net

 **zoom** www.zoom.us

Worship Schedule

Since Sunday, March 22nd's service was such a high point in the current life of St. James on the Parkway, we will be worshipping in similar style for the foreseeable future.

You will receive notification of each of these services by email, which will include a clickable link to join the service via Zoom. If you do not have the Zoom app on your device/computer, simply go to their website and you be able to download it free of charge there.



Palm/Passion
Sunday, April 5th
10:30 AM

Palm Liturgy followed by Morning Prayer with the Passion according to St. Matthew.



Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 9th
7:00 PM

Evening Prayer



Good Friday
Friday, April 10th
7:00 PM

The Good Friday Rite



Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 12th
10:30 AM

Renewal of Our Baptismal Covenant followed by Morning Prayer

Remaining Sundays in April
10:30 AM
Morning Prayer followed by virtual coffee hour

Service at St. James

COVID-19 Crisis – How You Can Help

St. James has a long history of supporting hunger ministries. During the COVID-19 crisis, two of our community partners are working hard to meet the food needs of people in south Minneapolis – the Minnehaha Food Shelf and First Nations Kitchen. An easy way to help is with additional donations. Both organizations are finding that some of their sources of food have shut down or have changed their procedures. Extra funds help these organizations overcome some of these complications.

First Nations Kitchen

First Nations Kitchen is continuing to cook Sunday night meals. They have simplified their meals and are distributing the food in take-out containers from their door. We are scheduled to work the prep shift on April 12th. We need 5 volunteers. This would make a great family activity for Easter.

Minnehaha Food Shelf

Minnehaha Food Shelf is still open on Tuesdays. For the last two weeks they have set up outside, increased their cleaning routines, streamlined the process to serve clients quickly, and worked hard to maintain adequate social distancing. One of the real strengths of the food shelf is its wonderful group of volunteers. Unfortunately, many of those volunteers are men and women who are over 60 and in the high-risk groups.

If you are interested in volunteering for either organization contact Anne Scheible at annebillscheible@gmail.com.





You probably already know that protective masks are sorely needed in our nation. If you are a sewer, you might be able to follow these instructions from Vanderbilt University Medical Center to sew masks to be donated. When you have a supply send Fr. William an email and contact-free pickup will be arranged. Of course, if you can give them to

a medical provider in need feel free to do so!

Note: You should use two different fabrics to make each mask, so people wearing them know which side has been away from their face.

Don't have elastic...[click here](#) for instructions to make an elastic free version.

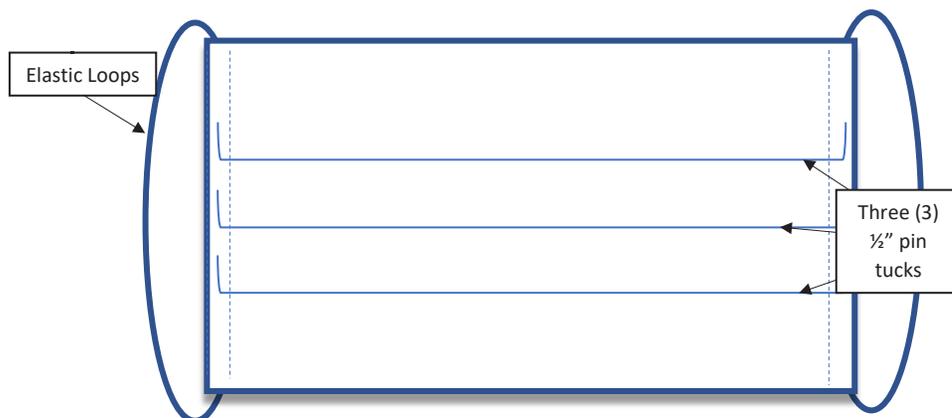
Materials needed

- Tight-weave cotton fabric (i.e. quilting cotton)
 - Fabric must be newly purchased.
 - Wash and dry fabric without fragrance or dyes prior to sewing.
- Rope Elastic, beading cord elastic will work (you may also use 1/8" flat elastic if 1/4" is unavailable).

One adult mask requires two (2) 9"x6" pieces tight-weave cotton and two 7" pieces of 1/4 inch elastic. Therefore, one yard of 44" wide fabric yields 12-15 masks. You need 7.5 yards of elastic for 25 masks (14 inches per mask).

You can make two sizes: Adult or Child. *Adult-sized masks will be the greatest need.*

1. Put right sides of cotton fabric together (Be sure any fabric design is placed horizontally.)
 - a. Cut 9x6 (Adult) or 7.5 x 5 (Child)
2. Starting at the center of the bottom edge, sew to the first corner, stop. Sew the elastic with the edge out into the corner. A few stitches forward and back will hold this.
3. Sew to the next corner, stop, and bring the other end of the same elastic to the corner and sew a few stitches forward and back.
4. Now sew across that top of the mask to the next corner. Again, put an elastic with the edge out.
5. Sew to the next corner and sew in the other end of the same elastic.
6. Sew across the bottom leaving about 1.5" to 2" open. Stop, cut the thread. Turn inside out.
7. Pin 3 tucks on each side of the mask. Make sure the tucks are the same direction
8. Sew around the edge of the mask twice.



From Treasurer John Heintz

Financial Report: February 29, 2020

Balance Sheet

Net cash on hand for current operations (cash-total liabilities) was \$29,888, enough for about 3.0 months of average expense. Cash declined significantly this month as we made various budgeted service payments; will need to watch it carefully and draw from our TD Ameritrade brokerage account and make our budgeted Dahl Fund withdrawals to manage it. Please keep your pledges up to date to help us manage the transition—during the coronavirus shutdown you can mail them in or drop them in the mail slot at church.

Dahl Endowment now stands at \$365,966. Haiti Fund now stands at \$14,211.04.

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	better / (worse)
Pledged Income	\$22,507	\$26,577	\$4,070
Other Income	\$14,162	\$10,404	(\$3,758)
Total Income	\$36,669	\$36,981	\$312
Expenses	\$50,718	\$50,634	(\$84)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$14,049)	(\$13,653)	\$396

Operations

Operating Income YTD of \$36,981 was right on budget in total; however, the coronavirus shutdown is affecting pledge collections significantly since then. Pledge income year-to-date was about \$4 thousand over budget (reflecting the booking of prepaid pledges), this is largely offset on paper by the fact we haven't made a draw from the Dahl Fund yet this year.

Operating Expense \$19,212 is now right on budget in total for the year. I don't see anything unusual in spending just yet, simply normal monthly variation for the most part.

Bottom line

Our current reported operating deficit is \$13,653, which is a few hundred dollars better than budgeted.



The Gospel in a Time of Social Distancing

Click here to link to the article from *The New Yorker Magazine*.

Central Metro Mission Area Gathering Now Being Re-imagined Online for April 18th

This event is being re-imagined, and will still be happening online on the morning of April 18th.

Look for details to come on the Episcopal Church in Minnesota's website. [Click here](#) to link to the Central Area Mission Gathering event page.

St. James...

Let's Celebrate!



Celebration

Big Bash and Heritage Committee

By Louis Hoffman

Plans are moving forward for the Big Bash on the lawn under a tent at 6:00 PM on Saturday, June 27. Subject, of course, to our ability to do so legally and from a public health perspective. It's possible that we won't be able to proceed or proceed as scheduled. So the plans are moving forward slowly and only up to the point where we're ready to go when we can.

We have a list of about nine activities that will need to be done. Beth Harvey is working on a mailing list and Mary Heltsley volunteered to help with invitations, Karin and Steve Spencer and Ted Gerold have volunteered to help with food, Jim Larson is in charge of entertainment and music, and Julie Brauning and Kurt Hall have also volunteered.

There are lots of arrangements to be made for an event like this. So if you can help with beverages and food, entertainment and music, garbage, invitations, a program, setup and breakdown, serving, etc. please let me know at hoffman.louis@comcast.net or by telephone or text at 612-618-7206. We're not ready to go forward. But it'll be good to have some ideas and plans and a core of volunteers when we know it's safe to plan a large event.

Heritage Committee

Fr. William has also created a Heritage Committee of Greg Fedio, Jeanne LaBore, and me. Among the things that it could do are:

- Something with the treasure trove of albums, documents, and photos in the Gallery and those about to be unearthed from the "dry closet" in the Great Hall. Some of these will appear in the *Epistle* and on the television in the Narthex when we have in-person services.
- Short talks, like those done during the stewardship campaign, where people can share their memories of St. James.
- Great Goodbye process separate from the Big Bash to bid farewell to those who won't be joining the new St. Luke/St. James Community.

- Disposition of non-liturgical things that aren't useful to the St. Luke/St. James Community or ECMN, and that have personal meaning to members of the St. James congregation.
- A program at the Big Bash.
- A grand procession by auto, bicycle, bus, or foot as appropriate from St. James to St. Luke's with those items that are moving and their reinstallation at St. Luke/St. James.

We're in uncharted territory and much may have changed from the time I type these words until you read them. The events and things we propose may not happen, may not happen in person, and may need to happen virtually. What would you like to see happen? How can we help you with this transition? How can you help? Please contact one of us.

Onè! Respe! (Honor! Respect!)

News from Bigonet

By Ruth Anne Olson, on behalf of
the St. James Haiti Committee

March 14 — advice and comfort for St. James.

Few people on the planet have experienced life-threatening epidemics as have our friends in Bigonet Haiti. Having learned of the coronavirus threat in the U.S., Bonne Nouvelle's new priest, Pèr (Father) Yves Semé, sent the following message to members of the St. James Haiti Committee:

Good evening my dear friends in the Lord.

I send this note in order to let you know that caution is advised with such a coronavirus disease. one must be cautious and at the same time I ask you to follow government instructions and those of your doctor. for you are very dear to me and to my laity.

May the Lord continue to protect you from this great plague.

Father Semé+

March 20 — bad news for Haiti.

Less than a week later Haiti's government announced that the virus had reached their own shores — through a 31-year-old Haitian who had just returned from Paris and a Belgian volunteering in a Port-au-Prince orphanage. In this densely-populated nation of roughly 11 million people, stopping the virus will be difficult. Within Bigonet itself, few people have sanitation services; no one has running water for hand washing.

2019 had brought Haiti its first year free of cholera, a water-borne disease imported by U.N. peacekeepers that



killed nearly 10,000 Haitians over the last decade. Somehow introduction of yet-another health threat feels like an especially cruel blow.

March 23 — and work goes on.

Yet every day, the people of Bigonet celebrate the rising walls of their new church building. It's a labor of love — virtually all by volunteers. The

Building a church for Bonne Nouvelle.

St. James Haiti Fund still has some money to send — mainly from friends near and far who donated to the GoFundMe site that Sue Maas and Steve Scofield set up late last year. Every dollar we send is spent on construction supplies.

The people of Bonne Nouvelle are in this for the long haul. As are the people of St. James!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm writing with GOOD NEWS!

After the election of a Bishop in any diocese in the Episcopal Church, a majority of bishops and standing committees in the Episcopal Church must, through what's known as the "consent process," affirm that they know of "no impediment on account of which" the Bishop-elect ought not to be ordained as bishop, and that his election was conducted in accordance with the Canons.

As of today, The Episcopal Church has notified us that:

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota has received notification from Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry and Registrar of General Convention, the Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe, that Bishop-Elect Craig Loya has received the required majority of consents in the canonical consent process detailed in Canon III.11.3.

In giving consent to his ordination and consecration, Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction attest to knowing of "no impediment on account of which" Bishop-Elect Loya ought not to be ordained as bishop, and that his election was conducted in accordance with the Canons.

We can now officially move forward with planning for the consecration of Bishop-Elect Loya, which will happen on June 6th. We released information earlier about how our plans for that event have shifted and [you can find that information here](#).

Blessings, and with an eye towards God's Easter promise,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "BN" or a similar stylized name.

The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior
IX Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Transitions

Formal Request Submitted to ECMN

By Ruth Anne Olson,
Transition Coordinator

Through phone calls, email, and text St. James and St. Luke's Consolidation Teams and Vestries have submitted a formal request to officials of the Episcopal Church of Minnesota (ECMN) as follows:

Dear Fellow Members of the Community of Christ:

For many years the people of the Episcopal Church of St. James on the Parkway in South Minneapolis have sought to redirect and revivify their ministries. They have prayed and worked diligently, seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit. On March 1, 2020, following an ever-intensifying process of discernment, the people of St. James decided to work toward a consolidation with St. Luke's Episcopal Church in South Minneapolis. Following numerous interactions with the consolidation team from St. James and internal conversations, St. Luke's has affirmed its shared interest in working toward consolidation.

Therefore, pursuant to Canon 104.6, we the undersigned clergy and senior wardens, request the written consent of Bishop Brian Prior and the ECMN Standing Committee for consolidation of the Episcopal Churches of St. James and St. Luke's, both in Minneapolis. Our new parish will be located at 4557 Colfax Avenue South, the current site of St. Luke's. Real property currently owned by St. James at 3225 East Minnehaha Parkway, will be transferred to ECMN on July 1, 2020.

We understand the great challenge that such a venture presents, but we also believe and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and inspire us as we learn to worship, learn and serve together. This is a point of confidence since, in our discernment we have experienced the truth that our congregations are in many ways quite similar, including but not limited to: worship and music; social services; Christian education and the care of youth; issues of justice and peace. We look forward to bolstering ongoing ministries carried on by both congregations, to edit those that are obsolete, and to walk boldly together into new paths of evangelism and parish life. Of course, these things will happen in support of the broader mission of ECMN.

Signed by Mr. Bruce Boehm Carlson, Senior Warden of St. Luke's; Ms. Kerry Nelson, Senior Warden of St. James; The Rev. Larry Bussey, Supply Priest of St. Luke's and The Rev. Dr. William Heisley, Interim Priest of St. James they pledge that upon written consent of ECMN's Bishop and Standing Committee, the Vestries of St. James and St. Luke's will develop detailed action steps as related to:

- collaboration with ECMN's Bishop, Standing Committee and Trustees,
- worship, ministries and spiritual assets,
- real property,
- personal assets,
- financial assets and records,
- staff,
- governance,
- parish life and communication,
- name of the new parish, and
- approval by congregants.

Members of St. James should watch for opportunities to be involved in these next steps.



**The Episcopal Church of
St. James on the Parkway**

3225 East Minnehaha Parkway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417-1498

612-724-3425

Office: stjamesotp@comcast.net

Website: www.stjamesotp.org

A Community Growing in Christ,
Called to Worship, Learn, and Serve.