



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 12

December 2020

Annual Meeting Election Time

The nominations committee is pleased to announce the slate for Senior Warden and Vestry 2021. Marian Hazard will be the nominee for Senior Warden, and the four vestry nominees are John Crowell, Karen Frye, Stephanie Gale and Will Sanders. The slate will be voted on at our annual meeting in January. Nominations can still be made by members of the congregation until Dec. 21st. Please make sure you have permission from the person you want to nominate before you contact the office. Thank you to everyone who took the time to send in suggestions, and to the nominees for agreeing to serve. Our delegates for Annual Council in 2022 are: Bridget Pieschel, Tyler McShan and Martha Kirkley, with Ruth Berry serving as an alternate.

The final slate with short biographical information will be published before the annual meeting in January. If anyone would like to receive information regarding duties, responsibilities and obligations for any of the positions or has questions, please contact Helen Pridmore at 425-9122 or pridmorehelen19@gmail.com. Between December 4 and December 20, additional nominations with the permission of the nominee and with a written biography will be received.

Diapers in December

St. Paul's will be collecting diapers again this December to help the smallest members of our community. All sizes and brands are needed, and will be collected outside the church office until December 18 for distribution by Helping Hands. One in three families struggle to buy diapers, which makes it difficult to keep their infants clean, dry, and healthy. Thank you for helping struggling families.



Sundays

10:30AM - Holy Eucharist, Online Only Until Further Notice

All services are recorded and may be found online. The best place to go is St. Paul's webpage, at: <https://stpaulscolumbus.dioms.org/> Links to the videos are on the main page, in an article titled, "A Message from Father Jason and the Vestry."

Office Hours

8:00AM - 4:30PM - Monday - Friday - 662-328-6673

Please Note: Anyone wishing to talk with Father Jason is encouraged to do so; he may be reached at 662-313-0590, or jason.shelby7@gmail.com

Thank You!

Through the generosity
of the parish we were able
to donate 39
Thanksgiving Bags to
Helping Hands.

From Father Jason

Jennifer and I were in the car when I exclaimed out of nowhere, “Oh beans!” Jennifer was taken by surprise and said, “What’s wrong?!” I replied, “I think there was a police officer over there and I didn’t come to a complete stop.” In a calm voice she said, “If you always came to a complete stop, you wouldn’t have to worry.” I was annoyed because she was right. If I had come to a complete stop, I wouldn’t be looking around for police officers and thinking that maybe that Chevy Impala was a police officer and not just somebody driving an Impala. And after that day I decided that I would come to a complete stop at stop signs, and I will tell you, this annoys people behind me to no end.

Driving to my house on Seventh Street, there are eight stop signs. I have been passed at least three times by people who were infuriated that I actually come to a complete stop. Somebody passed me going up a hill after the street to the park; I prayed for that person, I prayed for us both. It’s a small thing, coming to a complete stop, at a four-way stop, and it’s something that once I started doing it, I noticed how many people don’t do it. Holy cow, how many people don’t do it! Clarksdale, Columbus, Jackson...stop signs for a number of people are optional. When I was in high school I remember someone told me the white line around the edge of the stop sign made it optional, and I think a lot of people have taken that to heart.

I bring all this up, because it is a very simple rule that drivers are called to follow. Stop at the stop sign. Come to a complete stop. Not a rolling stop, not a glance to see if anyone else is coming, but a complete stop. It’s there for a reason, to keep us safe, keep other people safe, and keep traffic flowing. It’s hard to keep traffic flowing when you have accidents at intersections. It’s a good rule. And it’s one that makes me feel deeply unpopular with all the drivers behind me. It took a while to get used to it, doing this unpopular thing, to not worry about what the person behind me was thinking. And now I don’t worry. It’s the right thing to do, and now I do it because it’s the right thing to do, not because I’m worried about a police officer. And this is such a small thing.

Jesus says, “Keep awake! Keep awake!” And that first generation of believers, they were certain that Jesus was coming back. Paul was so certain that he said, “Do not get married. It is not worth the trouble.” Which gives some insight into Paul’s marriage. “Do not have children. Why would you bring children into this world, when Jesus is coming back? Do exactly what Jesus said: turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, give to all who beg.” And in that first generation, many Christians did those things. They lived as they were called to live, because they were certain that Jesus was coming back...and Jesus didn’t come back in that first generation, and the second generation slacked off a little bit, and they said, “Do we really need to give to everyone who begs? Maybe not. And I’m going to go ahead and get married. I’m going to have children.” And the fourth, seventh, and fifteenth generation, they each drop a few more things, and with each generation that Jesus doesn’t come back, the gospel gets a little less dangerous, and a lot more watered down.

And so here we are today: is the gospel dangerous? Does the gospel have teeth, does it challenge us, single us out, propel us to live as we are called to live? Do we take a stand? Do the right thing because it is the right thing? Or do we not worry? “He’s not comin’. There’s no police officer at this intersection. I don’t need to follow the rules, because the people before me didn’t follow the rules, and the people before them didn’t, and the people before them...”

Have you ever tried to tell somebody to stop being ugly? Have you ever stopped somebody and said, “I don’t want to hear that right now.” The easiest thing to do is to walk away. The most difficult thing for me to do is to say, “Stop being ugly, that person is a child of God.” And then quickly remind the person you are speaking to that you are sinner, that you are fallen, not holier than thou, not holier than any one. That’s a very small thing that we can do, to tell somebody to stop being ugly.

To give to all who beg, to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, house the homeless, visit those in prison...the gospel is dangerous, it is supposed to be dangerous. The Gospel is dangerous, it is supposed to have teeth. It is meant to disrupt this world that we have created in order to usher in the world that God has created. God created the world and all that is in it and he created us to live in the world. We are created to love and to give all that we are to all who we know and all we encounter.

Stay awake! Stay alert! For you know not when the master is coming. The people I know who do this best don't do it because they are looking over their shoulder, worried that Jesus is going to catch them doing something wrong. They do it because it is the right thing to do, because they feel compelled to do it, and to do otherwise feels wrong.

I brush my teeth twice a day and floss at night, as though it's my religion. After as many cavities as I've had, I've decided that the four teeth that are still mine are going to stay in my mouth. And so I floss! And I brush! And I rinse! And I do these things, almost religiously...habitually. It is part of my routine, and I cannot imagine not brushing or flossing. It's just something I have to do. And at first it started because I didn't want any more cavities, but now it is so ingrained that I can't fall asleep if I've gone to bed without flossing, because there's that voice in my head, saying, "You didn't floss. Hey Jason, you didn't floss. You gonna' floss?"

Which is to say that when we live as we are called to live and we love as we are called to love and we do it habitually, it will become ingrained, in such a way that when we don't do it, it feels wrong. We are creatures of habit. We are designed to do things in the same way, repeatedly. And so let us love habitually. Let us love completely, not because we worried about Jesus coming back and us being caught, but because it is who we are made to be.

November in Review

1. All Saints Day, Sunday Service
2. Admin tasks
3. Worked on November Newsletter; worked on getting quotes for new camera and production services.
4. Admin tasks; pastoral visit.
5. I remembered the gunpowder treason and plot; admin tasks.
6. Pastoral phone calls; day off.
7. Day off; prepared sermon for Sunday.
8. Sunday service.
9. Worked on pledge cards; admin tasks.
10. Lost to the ether.
11. Lost to the ether.
12. Lost to the ether.
13. Lost to the ether.
14. Prepared homily for Sunday.
15. Sunday service.
16. Met with Josh and Lindsay Clemons to discuss fundraising. Clericus meeting; met with parishioner; prepared for vestry meeting; vestry meeting.
18. Admin tasks.
19. Pastoral phone calls.
20. Day off.
21. Prepared sermon for Sunday.
22. Sunday service.
- 23 - 25. Days off
26. Thanksgiving service.
27. Day off.
28. Prepared homily for Sunday.
29. First Sunday of Advent.
30. Admin tasks.

Stewardship Update

Pledges: 29

Pledged Funds: \$129,000

December Birthdays

3. Josh Metzger, Taylor Smith
5. Pam Rhea
7. Shelby Phillips
11. Becky Scott
12. Carol Knie
13. Beth Easterling
15. Rachel George
16. Richard Thomas
17. Pam Sams
18. Mollie Carter
19. Brittani Metzger
20. Sid Caradine
24. Gail Laws
25. John Knie
27. Elizabeth Easterling
29. Marian Hazzard
30. Caroline Clay

December Anniversaries

December 1	Keith & Barbara Miles
December 5	Ron & Kathy Foster
December 8	John & Eulalie Davis
December 14	Frank & Sandy Imes
December 19	David & Sarah Lee
December 28	Jason & Jennifer Shelby
December 29	Tom & Sunny Whitaker
December 31	John & Carole Knie

Intercessions

Trey Atkins
Betty West Land
Cathy Hatch
Renee Loftin
Joe Mauldin
Celeste Adams
Mary Kathryn Rhinewalt
Lea Alice Parker
Kala White Wilson
Gina Thompson
Doug Crowe
Saundra "Sam" Chestnut
Peggy Gentry
John Gentry
Betty Williamson
George Richards
Kim Sanders
Maria Pintado
Nancy Smith
Yvonne
Lynne Oliver
Mallory Caissie
Elizabeth Clemons
Allison Whitaker
Allan and Maureen Wiegman
Dot Breland
Eddie Mauck
Karen Garrett
Vicki Smith
Emily Hayden
Marchita
Beverly Lippert
Eugene Blaine and family
Rocky Craft
B. J. Montgomery
Sheila
Charlotte Sanders

Richard Adams
Beth Thomas
Stephen Shelby
Pat Herndon
Betty Bryan
Julie Ratley
Mike Holmes
Stan Murray
Jamie McCollum
Martha
James & Ann Masinelli
Bill Eakin
Jesse Sparkman
Sharon Hunt
Brantley Foster
Bud Myers
Rosanne Lucia
Jeana L. Whitacre
S. W.
John Barron
Kathleen Atkins
Lee Ann Dorn
The Rev. Don Chancellor
Carole Knie
Carolyn Fant
Tina Louise
Ann Nietzsche
Mark Lewis
Sue Hunt
Bobby Whittington
Mary Helen Waggoner
Dan Waldrop
Debbie Weseli
Bettye
James
Fran Corbin
Bennett Loganbach
Brenda Caradine
David
Henry Weiss

School Report

November was full of learning and lots of fun here at SPES! We started the month off by learning about the Four Food Groups and Recycling, and we ended the month learning about the Pilgrims/Indians and Thanksgiving. We enjoyed some great food and fellowship with our students and their families at our Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you all for your support and donations- whether it be Walmart bags or Christmas Trees!! We are blessed to have such a supportive congregation here at St. Paul's! We are looking forward to all that December has in store, and we hope that you all have a very, Merry Christmas!!

St. Paul's School

