



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GRACE TO YOU AND PEACE

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1

January 2021

Annual Meeting

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. No further nominations were presented to the nominating committee. Further information about the candidates can be found in this newsletter. Thank you to everyone who agreed to serve and to the nominating committee. We are currently working on the format of the meeting, and how we will vote remotely; when we solve this Gordian knot, we will send everyone our plan of action.

We will also vote to confirm our delegates for Annual Council in 2022. They are: Bridget Pieschel, Tyler McShan and Martha Kirkley, with Ruth Berry serving as an alternate.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Action

This month we will be working with the United Way to provide cleaning materials and supplies to childcare facilities in Columbus and Lowndes County. We will be collecting: gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, bleach, disinfectant spray, disinfectant cleanser, paper towels, and garbage bags. Items may be brought directly to the church office or dropped off at the United Way of Lowndes and Noxumbee, 223 22nd Street N, Columbus, 39701. Monetary donations are also accepted, and checks may be made out to United Way of Lowndes and Noxubee and mailed to the same address; please include "MLK Day of Action," in the memo line. Please know that those who don't feel safe going to the store are not in any way expected to go purchase supplies; monetary donations or online purchases shipped directly to the church or United Way are perfectly acceptable. While we always appreciate and applaud the generosity of our parish, your safety and well being are our primary concern.

Sundays

10:30AM - Morning Prayer, 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 collected 55 gift cards for the teachers and staff of St. Paul's School, a total of \$1375!

We also collected \$1240 for the Golden Triangle Homeless Coalition, as people donated funds normally used for poinsettias.

Stewardship Update

Pledges: 70
Pledged Funds: \$309,017

Vestry Nominees [in alphabetical order]

John Crowell

John and Carol Crowell have been members of St Paul's for several decades. John is a local attorney and Carol works as Director of Training and Education for Wells Fargo Vendor and Financial Services. They have two adult children and grandchildren who reside in Georgia and South Carolina. John has served several terms on the Vestry, as well as Vestry clerk, has taught Sunday School and served on various committees including as stewardship chairman and participated in many other parish functions.

Karen Frye

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of St. Paul's since moving to Columbus in 1992. Since at St. Paul's, I have served on the vestry under Fr. Rob Wood and Rev. Anne Harris, taught Sunday school, worked with the youth, been a member of SPES School Board, am a Licensed Eucharistic Minister, a Congregational Lay Reader, been a diocesan delegate, past ECW president, member of DOK, and acolyte leader. I am married to Kenny Frye and we have 3 children, Kenny Jr., Shelby, and Taylor. Shelby and Taylor were born and raised at St. Paul's where they were active members in EYC and youth diocesan activities. Kenny Jr., his wife Joni, and their son Jackson attend the Catholic Church. As this past year has been filled with many challenges and difficulties, I see a variety of opportunities for our church to serve those in trouble or need; be visible and present in our community; reconnect and engage members of our parish; welcome and invite those searching for a church home; seek ways to be the hands and feet of Christ. I am committed to serving in these areas.

Stephanie Gale

Stephanie McLain Gale is from Columbus and has been a member of St. Paul's since transferring from Trinity Episcopal in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 2002. She has previously served as a Sunday School Teacher for elementary school children and is currently a lay reader. Recently, she has served as ECW president and chairperson for the Spring Luncheon. Stephanie has worked as a family nurse practitioner for 25 years and is the owner of The Clinic at Elm Lake. She has two children - Storm (University of Alabama), 21, and Gunnar (University of Mississippi), 19. Her husband is Todd Gale.

Marian Hazard

I grew up in Huntsville, Alabama, attending Church of the Nativity Episcopal Church. Moving to Columbus in the mid-1970s, I joined St. Paul's, where my children were baptized and confirmed. Over the years I have served as ECW president, worked with EYC, served on Altar Guild as a member and president, joined Daughters of the King and served as president, and served on various committees renovating St. Paul's and its grounds.

One of my treasured involvements with St. Paul's came from serving as an office volunteer. This allowed me to learn and understand more clearly the workings of our church, its needs and how they were met. It allowed me to see and appreciate the contributions of all parishioners, those in positions of responsibility doing their job and those volunteering their time and talents. Clearly the love of our church was evident in each person as they gave of themselves. It is that love that gives me the courage to agree to be Sr. Warden, if elected.

Through 2020 and the divisions, the separations, the isolation, the anxiety, the hate and criticisms, I cling to the unifying message in the Nicene Creed when we, together, say three times, "WE believe...". If we say and focus on that "WE", in agreement as we recite, regardless of our differences, we will work together and rebuild our connections and our church.

Will Sanders

Will Sanders has been a lifelong member of St. Paul's who has served as past Vestry Board member, Junior Warden and President of SPES. He is married to Ginny Sanders and has 2 children, Liam and Kate. Will is currently the Director of the Lowndes County Port Authority. He serves on the Boards of The MS Water Resources Association, MS Ports Council, MDOT Grant Review Board and the Tenn-Tom Waterway Development Council. Will enjoys spending time and traveling with his family. In his off time he enjoys hunting, playing golf and attending Ole Miss athletic functions. He also enjoys cooking and claims to make a fantastic hollandaise sauce.

December in Review

1. Admin tasks; worked on details concerning annual meeting
2. Bimonthly meeting with the Bishop - in-person services are cancelled until further notice; met with Cassie Griffin, who gave expert advice on how to upgrade our present technology and make streaming services flow smoothly and without interruption
3. Admin tasks; pastoral visit
4. Day off
5. Prepared homily for Sunday
6. Sunday service
7. Admin tasks; pastoral visit
8. Admin tasks; pastoral visit
9. Eye appointment; admin tasks; school board meeting
10. Admin tasks; pastoral visit
11. Spiritual direction; day off
12. Prepared homily for Sunday
13. Sunday service
14. Met with parishioner; admin tasks
15. Admin tasks; pastoral visit
16. Admin tasks; prepared for Christmas services; reached out to colleagues with questions about ministering during a pandemic
17. Hospital visit
18. Day off
19. Christmas with Tom; sermon prep
20. Pastoral visit to the hospital; Sunday service; the internet failed again, my phone failed to record, and I scrambled to get something to the congregation
21. Worked with the junior warden to remedy the internet issue; decided the best thing to do, the only thing to do, was to pre-record services; worked on Christmas pageant video; received word that Betty West Land had gone on to greater glory
22. Completed Christmas pageant video, sent it to the congregation; began planning Betty West Land's funeral; prepared homilies for Christmas Eve and Day; found service to post pre-recorded videos onto Facebook, Youtube, and other platforms that we may use in the future
23. Recorded Christmas Day and Eve services
24. Christmas Eve - the first time I've not been in church for service since 1983, when a blizzard kept us home
25. Christmas Day - Rachel loves wrapping paper - the stuff inside is secondary. It was a wonderful, relaxed day; we missed our families
26. Funeral service for Betty West Land; prepared homily for Sunday service
27. Sunday service
28. Jennifer's and my anniversary - three amazing years!
29. Picked up Tom - day off.
30. Day off.
31. Day off.

Our Little Food Pantry

By now you have hopefully noticed the small structure on the corner of the church parking lot (3rd Ave and 4th St). In just the last month there has been a lot of activity around our food pantry, and each item we give is a small act of kindness and love we show towards our neighbors. If you are grocery shopping, we ask that you remember those who are unable to provide for themselves or their families, to remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "For whatever you have done unto the least of these you have done unto me." We are called to serve God, and we serve God through serving others.

From the Rector

The day after Christmas was bright and sunny, with hardly a cloud in the sky. It was cool, but not cold; there was no strong breeze, and it was nice to stand in the sun. As I drove down the tree-lined lane, I saw a parishioner half a block ahead of me walking quickly towards the crowd gathered ahead. I parked my car behind one of several lined up along the lane, pulled the surplice from its hanger and pulled it over my cassock, picked up my service booklet and stole, and began my final preparations for the funeral. I was in the middle of one of those both/and God moments; I was both sad and mournful that she was no longer with us on this side of the veil, but I was glad that she was alive in the resurrection and with Christ. I was also glad to see so many parishioners at a service, in person and not on a screen. After the service was over, I was able to talk to several of them, to stand just six feet away and ask how they were doing, and did they have a good Christmas? I was nearly overwhelmed by things that I had taken for granted for so long; simple acts of catching up, seeing each other, and gathering together as a community of faith.

I miss seeing y'all. I miss church; the energy, the tangible presence of the Spirit, but most of all, the people. When we stopped having face-to-face services again in December I realized how much I missed seeing y'all in the pews. I thought it was hard having you there masked and distanced, and I hated not being able to greet you at the door, pass the peace, or give you communion. But when that was taken away I realized how much worse it was not having you there at all.

Part of growing in Christ is learning to be resilient, to adapt to and overcome the obstacles in our path. Right now gathering together in any group larger than ten people is not an option for us, unless it's outside. We are faced with a number of obstacles; the question is, will we face them and overcome them, or will we let ourselves be defeated? Episcopalians have a tendency to look back at the good ol' days, but we need to fight against our inclination to reminisce and work towards finding ways to be the Church right now. I am working on ways for us to gather as a community while staying within the guidelines given to us by our Bishop, and I welcome any ideas or insights y'all have on how we might do this. As Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." We are equal to this task; we were made for it, and God is with us.

Announcements:

Starting Sunday, January 10, we will be celebrating Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings.

On Tuesday, January 12, we will have Holy Eucharist in the Chapel at 11:30; we can have nine people present for the service (in addition to Father Jason). Anyone who wishes to be there for the service should email or call the church office to reserve a place. This will be on a first come, first serve basis.

Following Holy Eucharist on January 12, Eucharist will be offered to people in their cars from 12:00 - 12:30. Due to ongoing HVAC renovations it maybe that the portico will be blocked; if this is the case, please drive through to the parking lot; Father Jason will be on the look out, and will bring you communion without delay.

We will offer the same services on Tuesday, January 19 and 26, and reevaluate their efficacy before February.

Be on the lookout for online offerings and other ways to gather.

January Birthdays

3 Edwina Williams
4 John Crowell
Jesse Sparkman
5. Vana Brislin
Mary Ellen Sumrall
6 Dawn Barham
7 Margaret Mauldin
8 Kirby Smith
9 Tom Whitaker
11 Dan Bryan
13 Laurel Yaraborough
14 Jeannie Cofer
16 Robert Whitaker
Nan Wyckoff
19 Harriet Doyel
Ann Sparkman
22 Cindy Rood
24 Vagn Hansen
26 Mary Lee
27 Paul Bolton
28 Mary Frances Brady
Eric Dawson
29 Ben Ross
30 Al Benglen
Karen Frye

Intercessions

Walt Russell
Sam
Wink Wright
Judge Jim Beasley
Cathy Hatch
Renee Loftin
Celeste Adams
Mary Kathryn Rhinewalt
Lea Alice Parker
Kala White Wilson
Gina Thompson
Doug Crowe
Saundra "Sam" Chestnut
Peggy Gentry
John Gentry
George Richards
Bill Young
All returning to school
Kim Sanders
Maria Pintado
Nancy Smith
Yvonne
Mallory Caissie
Elizabeth Clemons
Allison Whitaker
Dot Breland
Eddie Mauck
Vicki Smith
Emily Hayden
Marquita
Beverly Lippert
Eugene Blaine and family
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
Jesse Sparkman
Sharon Hunt
Jeana L. Whitacre
S. W.
John Barron
Kathleen Atkins
Lee Ann Dorn
The Rev. Don Chancellor
Carole Knie
Carolyn Fant
Tina Louise
Ann Nietzke
Mark Lewis
Sue Hunt
Bobby Whittington
Mary Helen Waggoner
Dan Waldrop
Debbie Weseli
Bettye
James
Bennett Loganbach
Brenda Caradine
Henry Weiss

January Anniversaries

January 6 Jerry & Kathy Hodson
January 22 Eddie & Janice Mauck
January 28 Bill & Annis Cox

School Report

December was filled with fun and all things Christmas. Our themes for the month were as follows: Jingle Bells, Holiday Around the World, Christmas is Coming, Christmas is Here, and Happy New Year. The children enjoyed hot cocoa, popcorn, and watching The Polar Express in their Christmas pajamas. Class Christmas parties were tons of fun, and we even had a Tacky Sweater Day. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Many have asked what the school needs, so we have put together an Amazon wish list for those that would like to donate. You can access the wish list at the following link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PQ21HKWLJFOG?ref_=wl_share

St. Paul's School

