

Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of August 23, 2021 | Volume 33

Upcoming Events for the week

- August 25- Noon Day Eucharist at St. Paul's Chapel 601 Union St. Masks required
- August 29- 8 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer at St. Paul's
- August 29- 9:00 a.m. [Sunday Forum](#) in-person and Zoom offered
- August 29 - 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Prayer at St. Paul's
- Sept. 11 - 7:10 a.m. 9/11 Memorial Remembrance at Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue
- September 12- 3:30-5:00 p.m. Special study called "Sacred Ground" begins
- September 19 - 11:30 a.m. Dedication of the Rose Garden

Masks are required in all settings within the church.

"The Singing Sergeant's" sing Hallelujah - Tap on Red Box



Beauty in the Columbia River Gorge

The Trough

by Judy Brown

There is a trough in waves,
a low spot
where horizon disappears
and only sky
and water
are our company.

And there we lose our way
unless
we rest, knowing the wave will bring us
to its crest again.

There we may drown
if we let fear
hold us in its grip and shake us
side to side,
and leave us flailing, torn, disoriented.

But if we rest there
in the trough,
in silence,
being in the low part of the wave,
keeping our energy and
noticing the shape of things,
the flow,
then time alone
will bring us to another
place
where we can see
horizon, see land again,
regain our sense
of where
we are,
and where we need to swim.

TISH HARRISON WARREN

Why We Need to Start Talking About God

This is a preview of the Tish Harrison Warren newsletter, which is reserved for Times subscribers.

Each Sunday in my Anglican church in Austin, Texas, the priest leading the service takes his or her place in front of the congregation and begins by saying the opening acclamation, usually, “Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

What has surprised me since I first attended an Anglican service just over a decade ago is that we begin not with welcoming anyone in the pews but with a direct announcement about God.

It’s a little jarring, even now that I am a priest. We all made an effort to get to church. We woke up early on a weekend, brushed our teeth, wrestled kids into car seats, masked up and found a place to sit. But the service doesn’t start by acknowledging any of that. No thanking everyone for showing up. Not even a bland mention of the weather or how nice everyone looks this week. Instead, I stand up in front of everyone and proclaim the presence of an invisible God

Part of why I find this moment strange is that I’m habituated by my daily life and our broader culture to focus on the “horizontal” or immanent, aspects of life — those things we can observe and measure without reference to God, mystery or transcendence. This can affect my spiritual life, flattening faith into solely the stuff of relationships, life hacks, sociology or politics.

But each week, as a church, the first words we say publicly directly address the “vertical,” transcendent dimension of life. We do not have just an urbane, abstracted conversation about religion, but we speak as if God’s presence is relevant — the orienting fact of our gathering.

Karl Barth, a 20th-century Swiss theologian, is credited with saying that Christians must live our lives with a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other. Barth, who was a leader of a group of Christians in Germany resisting Hitler, understood that faith is not a pious, protective bubble shielding us from the urgent needs of the world. It is the very impetus that leads us into active engagement with society. People of faith must immerse ourselves in messy questions of how to live faithfully in a particular moment with particular headlines calling for particular attention and particular responses.

While Christians and other religious people may wonder how broader culture affects our faith (or why we must hold a newspaper in one hand), others may wonder why faith is relevant to the contemporary world at all (or why we hold a Bible in the other). Membership in a house of worship has declined steadily in the United States over the past eight decades and, [according to a Gallup poll](#), dropped below 50 percent this year.

So we must ask: Is faith worth discussing anymore? In the vast world of subjects that one could read about, from architecture to Zumba, why make space for a newsletter about faith and spiritual practice?

An opportunity to help a former exchange student attend college

I think it is important to become involved at the community level when certain donation requests come forward. I believe Victory Ezeilo's request for money to attend college is a worthwhile endeavor. There are two letters, one written from Victory Ezeilo to Rotary and the second letter is a response by John Geiger to Ezeilo's letter. There is no internal pressure from St. Paul's leadership to respond to Ezeilo's request, so let your heart be your guide. Ezeilo's letter has been edited for length.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Roth

Dear The Dalles Rotarian,

Victory Ezeilo was our inbound exchange student from Nigeria, in 2019-20. He actually graduated from The Dalles High School, which very few exchange students are able to do. Victory's family, indeed, his entire country, has struggled through far-reaching effects of the corona virus. As people were unable to work, poverty ran rampant. Unable to earn an income, many turned to crime, and the entire economy is faltering.

Victory, as some of us remember, went home to begin university studies in nursing. COVID pretty much blocked that plan, so he began exploring U.S. universities where he could get a good, affordable education. He was accepted into John Brown University in Arkansas, gained a good financial aid package, and recently wrote to ask if our club could also help with scholarship support.

I brought this up when we met at the neon museum. John Geiger rightly explained that Victory's request did not fit with our annual scholarship program for high school graduating seniors and that the fund is depleted since there was no car show last year. Following that meeting, one member stepped up to pledge \$1000 in a 1:3 funding challenge to raise \$4000, a meaningful special scholarship for Victory, through our club's Foundation.

Our club asked Victory to write a letter explaining his long-term plans, why he chose this university, and if he has explored financial aid opportunities through the school. He did so, and the letter is attached for each of us to read. He was also told the scholarship money would go directly to the university on his behalf once he was enrolled and had made grades.

Another \$1000 pledge has since been made to the "Victory Scholarship", putting us half way toward our goal before we really got started.

Please consider a gift toward this this young man's future. Donations to the "Victory Scholarship" may be sent to:

The Dalles Rotary Club Foundation
John Geiger, Chair
2745 E. 14th Street
The Dalles, OR 97058

Let's get him into school this fall and on his way toward a nursing degree.

Dear Rotarians,

My name is Ezeilo Victory Onyedika, am a Rotex of the 2019/2020 Rotary Youth Exchange year from Nigeria. I am requesting for a scholarship to pursue a nursing degree at John Brown University, Arkansas.

My Academic and Professional goals: When I was in secondary school, I always dreamed of my life in the university. Being in the university is a magical experience. Being in university means developing the life that we want and creating a pathway to our dreams and future, it means creating your own way of traveling to your dreams and goals.

I admire occupations in the medical field because these [people] save lives. Ben Carson, the American neurologist, is an inspiration to me. When I began to choose my career path, I was determined to become a nurse. Nursing is more of calling than it is to a career path. I primarily chose nursing because I had interests in saving lives and being of service to the community, leaving positive effects on the lives of [future] patients. I knew that there were jobs available in [the nursing] field and I believe nursing is where my interest lies.

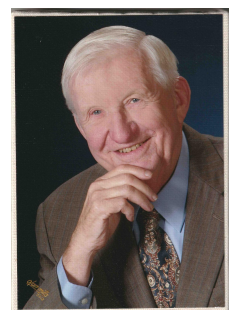
Overall, after experiencing the standard of American education system during my exchange and comparing to that of Nigeria, I decided I must attend college abroad. But this is not a decision I alone made, my parents are supporting me too. Tuition costs for American colleges are seemingly huge, John Brown University offers nursing students about \$21,000 in financial aids and scholarships, but this will not be enough money to cover expenses. The International Students Counselor at John Brown University is currently assisting me in applying for other aids and scholarships.

This scholarship represents to me an opportunity to achieve my objective of becoming a registered nurse. I will strive to be a representative and ambassador of Rotary while at John Brown University and throughout my future career. I thank you for taking the time to evaluate this application and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Victory Onyedika, Ezeilo
PHF.

Make out your Advance Directive ...

Recent events together with the surge in Covid cases in our area prompt me to drag out my old soap box and have it. Folks, all of you, no matter how young, do everyone a favor and make out your Advance Directive AND discuss this with family. If already done, review it in consideration of today's climate. And remember you can stray from the form's limitations or choices. For example with the way Covid is behaving, I've added words to mine that say if I need to be intubated to breathe, if I can't be on my own in 5 days the intubation is to be stopped. You can be as general or as specific as you want – tube feedings? OK *but only with grape jello*. Or whatever, just do it. And while you're at it, don't forget a will, organ donation, and even plan out your own funeral service – last chance for your voice to be heard. "...and as for Betty Schmoodle – NYAH NYAH NYAH" or whatever.



PK Swartz, Co-Senior Warden



A special grandchild having fun at St. Paul's play area. Photo by Ann Marie Woolsey



Beautiful squash from St. Paul's Garden. Photo by Jerry Frazier



A little Lost Lake 'fun' Photo by Marilyn Roth



1400 West Eighth Street
The Dalles, Oregon 97058
541-296-9445 Fax: 541-296-8656

EVENT NOTIFICATION
August 17, 2021

9/11 MEMORIAL CEREMONY
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

ON THIS, THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MID-COLUMBIA FIRE AND RESCUE WILL PAUSE TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE ON THAT DAY, AND FOR THOSE WHO CARRY ON THE WORK. Fire. EMS. Police. Reserve and Active Military.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THOSE PLANNING TO ATTEND PLEASE MEET AT STATION 1, 1400 W. 8TH STREET, AT 7:00 a.m. THE MEMORIAL WILL COMMENCE AT 7:15 a.m. AND WILL CONCLUDE AT 7:35 a.m.

DUE TO THE PRESENT SURGE IN CASES OF COVID-19 TAKING PLACE, MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE REQUIRED.

SACRED GROUND

A 10-week Episcopal study series on race dialogues. Enhance your

understanding on how to be responsive to race and racism.

Study series starts on Sunday, September 12th at 3:30 p.m. and will meet for 90 minutes every other week. Julie Reynolds will lead the study series.

By way of overview, here are some key characteristics of the Sacred Ground Dialogue Series:

- It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which we are pleased to bring you and which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- The series brings participants' attention to various key chapters in U.S. history of race and racism, as well some of the latest thinking by scholars and practitioners of racial healing, racial equity, and whiteness.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes personal story-sharing and deepening relationships.

August Birthday's

22 John Langfeldt

23 Bill Ketchum



Please pray ...

For your prayers:and relief from the Covid-19 virus spread throughout the community and country, and our Nation.

For those who grieve: Sam Woolsey's family as they grieve the loss of Bill Martin and Doug Woolsey, the Betty Hartmann family as they grieve the death of Betty, the death of The Rev. Larry Ferguson and family, death of The Rev. Paul Morton, death of Jenny Curtis' daughter, Rachel McCall, the death of The Rev. Larry Ferguson, death of Oscar Martinez, death of Dee Dickens, (family of the Kerr's), and the death of Ross Hucke and family.

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To submit articles or pictures for the weekly newsletter, please submit them by Friday. Some articles may be held over for the following issue due to immediacy and space. Your articles keep us smiling and feeling like a community. Thank you, Marilyn

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