

Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of January 18, 2021 | Volume 3

Upcoming Events for the week

- Jan. 20 - Wed Noon Day Prayer - Zoom
- Jan. 24 Forum 8:30 a.m. Zoom
- Jan. 24- St. Paul's Zoom Worship 10a.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Feb. 28



The Right Reverend Bishop Pat will be joining St. Paul's for Zoom Church on February 28, 2021. So put the date on your calendar. It will be wonderful to have Patrick join us both in word and virtual presence.

ST. PAUL'S AWARDED BISBEE GRANT FOR \$1,000

The Diocesan Council voted on Saturday to award the Bisbee Grant to St. Paul's. I am putting a check for \$1000.00 in the mail today.

Lisa Boquist
Diocesan Administrator
Executive Assistant to Bishop Patrick Bell
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

COASTAL SPLENDOR

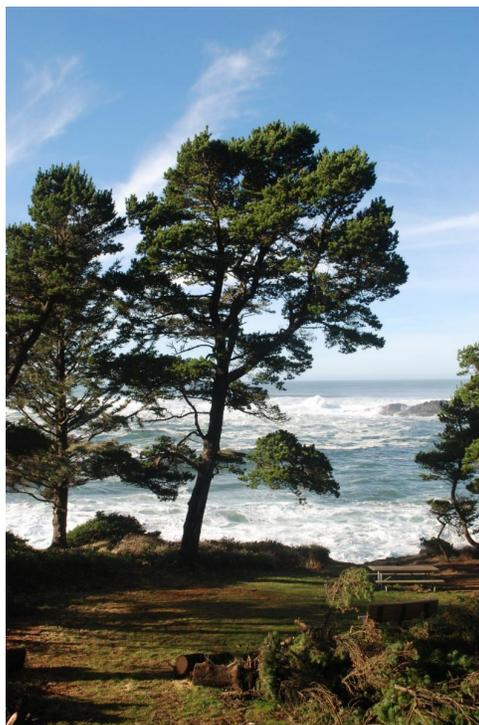


Photo submitted of Depoe Bay by Marilyn Roth

Grace

Jesus chooses to build his church upon Peter's leadership, not because Peter was so strong – strong though he was – but because he was so weak. Peter's brokenness became Jesus' real breakthrough to him. It's not that Peter was amazing; God's grace was amazing. And so it is with us: God's grace being made perfect in our weakness.

-Br. Curtis Almquist

Society of Saint John the Evangelist

Share the Love for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. You can brighten the day for residents of The Springs by sharing Valentine's Day cards. The Neighborhood Team is trying to collect 50 cards by February 5. You may

mail cards in batches to the church office. Or just drop your cards off at St. Paul's and place them in the box located on the table in the foyer. A few minutes of your time will make a difference in someone's day. Share the Love!



Sincerely,

Rev. Gigi Siekkinen

File:Heart left-highlight jon 01.svg: Jon Phillipsderivative work Bagande, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons)

YOUR VESTRY AT WORK

As we sit at home twiddling our thumbs or surfing the web, with the church in lockdown and attending services on-line, it may



seem like the Vestry is also idling in neutral. But not so. Our last meeting (Sunday 20 January) ran about an hour and a half! Our (your) treasurer Jerry Frazier gave an extensive report on the year's activities and our present state – all surprisingly good considering the shut-down. Similarly Marilyn gave a priest's report, also feeling the impact of the virus and the disconnect between priest and parish, and between members of the parish. But her work continues. Chuck Miller gave a report from the Bequest & Endowment Committee charged with management of those - (not insignificant) - funds. He also announced (with regret) the resignation of Verna Browne from the committee of her many years work; and the vestry appointed Julie Reynolds. Jerry Frazier presented a proposed budget for 2021 that was widely discussed. The approved budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting (21 FEB) but if anyone would like to see it earlier get in touch with either me (PK) or Mike Fowler; it's not a secret document. We also had reports from our Evangelism group, a report concerning activities to shelter the homeless, a report of activities of the diocesan Standing committee, the need for vestry and convention delegate nominations, and at least 3 other new business items, all with considerable discussion. So, yes, despite the virus and the need for zoom, your vestry continues its work.

PK, Co Sr. Warden

HELP St Paul's!!!

We need at least 4 people to be a delegate or alternate to the Diocese of Eastern Oregon's Convention in October 15-16 & 17th. Names must be submitted no later than 2-11-2021.

Email either PK Swartz pkswartz33@gmail.com or Mike Fowler mfowler@gorge.net

We are also looking for members to join the Vestry, lots of adventures, travel plus retirement benefits!!! [Just joking!]

Please contact PK, or Mike at the above email addresses.

Blessings

Co Sr Warden, Mike Fowler

St. Paul's Profile Committee Update:

The Parish Profile Committee (Julie Reynolds, Jerry Frazier, Amy McIlvenna) met by Zoom on Saturday with The Rev. Canon Neysa Ellgren of the Diocese of Oregon. Neysa has been assigned to help St. Paul's call a new rector, and the work of the Profile Committee is the first step of this process. Their task is to build an accurate picture of our church for potential priest candidates. Beyond the statistical descriptions of compensation and attendance, this picture will include our hopes for the gifts and skills the new priest will bring, a description of our strengths and what we would like to see for our future. The Profile Committee will be gathering this information through a survey and interviews in the next few weeks. We want to hear your thoughts!

Julie



Julie Reynolds



Jerry Frazier



Amy McIlvenna

St. Paul's Search Committee Members:



Alan Alford



Dewanda Clark



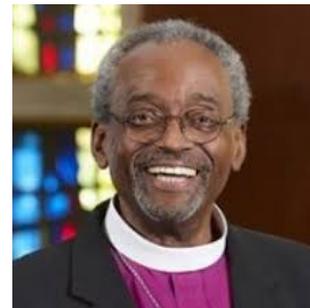
Jeanie Senior



WORD TO THE CHURCH: What shall we be?

In another time of national crisis, another time of danger for our nation, in 1865 on March the fourth, Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address with these words:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.



Lincoln knew in that moment, in the moment of a national crisis, a moment of great danger, that such a moment was a moment of decision, when a nation, when a people must decide who shall we be? What kind of nation, what kind of people shall we be? A hundred years later, Martin Luther King faced the same reality. Who shall we be? The civil rights movement was waning. The great victories that had been won had been won. And yet now questions of poverty and economic despair and disparities raised an awesome specter on the nation. We were at war.

We were at war in another country, but there was war on our streets. The nation was deeply divided. Cities burned. There were riots. Riots at national conventions of political parties. The future of the nation was in question, and it was at that time that Dr. King realized that in moments of danger, a decision must be made. And he titled his last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. I believe as he believed, as Abraham Lincoln believed, as I believe you believe, that we must choose community. Chaos is not an option. Community is our only hope.

The truth is Dr. King spoke often of all that he did and labored for was for the purpose of realizing as much of the Beloved Community of God as it is possible on this earth. He spoke of Beloved Community, the Bible, the New Testament, Jesus spoke of the kingdom or the reign of God. Jesus taught us to pray, and to work, and to labor for that Beloved Community, that reign of God's love in our time and in our world, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth just as it is in heaven. Those are our marching orders from Jesus himself.

I am a follower of Jesus of Nazareth because I believe that his way of love and his way of life is the way of life for us all. I believe that unselfish, sacrificial love, love that seeks the good and the welfare and the well-being of others, as well as the self, that this is the way that can lead us and guide us to do what is just, to do what is right, to do what is merciful. It is the way that can lead us beyond the chaos to community.

Now, I know full well that this may to some sound naive, to others, idealistic, and I understand that. And yet, I want to submit that the way of love that leads to beloved community is the only way of hope for humanity. Consider the alternative. The alternative is chaos, not community. The alternative is the abyss of anarchy, of chaos, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, and that alternative is unthinkable. We have seen nightmarish visions of that alternative. We saw it in Charlottesville just a few years ago when neo-Nazis marched through the streets of an American city, chanting, "Jews will not replace us." That alternative is unthinkable. We saw it in Minneapolis-St. Paul, where a public safety officer knelt with his knee on the neck of another human being. A child of God, just like he was, and snuffed

out the breath of life that God gave him. The alternative is unthinkable.

And we have seen it this past Wednesday, when a monument to democracy, the Capitol of the United States of America was desecrated and violated with violence by vandals. Lives were lost. A nation was wounded. Democracy itself was threatened. My brothers and sisters, this way of love that Jesus taught us when he said, "Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself." This way of love that Moses taught even before Jesus. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, it is the way to redeem a nation, to save a world. It is the way of hope for us all. But do not make the mistake of thinking that I speak of a sentimental and emotional love.

Jesus spoke of love most consistently the closer he got to the cross. This way of love is the way of sacrifice, the way of unselfishness, the way of selflessness, that seeks the good of the other as well as the self. And that is the way of the cross, which is the way of life. And if you don't believe me, ask another apostle of love. Not Dr. King, not Abraham Lincoln, ask Archbishop Tutu. Ask one who has given his life for the cause of God's love in the way of Jesus. Ask him; ask Nelson Mandela in your mind. Ask them what love looks like. They knew that the way of love was the only way that could guide South Africa from what could have become a bloody nightmare and civil war to the way that could build a nation.

And it was not sentimental. Remember truth and reconciliation. They had to face painful truths. They had to do what was just and what was merciful. They had to do what the prophet Micah said, that the motivation and the guide was love. Archbishop Tutu said this:

Love, forgiving, and being reconciled to our enemies or our loved ones is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back or turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness of the abuse, the hurt, the truth. It could even sometimes make things worse for a while. It is a risky undertaking but in the end it is worthwhile, because in the end only an honest confrontation with reality can bring forth real healing. Superficial reconciliation only brings superficial healing.

This is the way of love that can heal our hurts, that can heal our land, that can help us to become one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. So, I would ask you to do two things. I'm asking you to make a commitment, a renewed commitment, to live the way of love as Jesus has taught us and to do it by making a commitment to go out and bless somebody. Bless somebody you disagree with. Bless somebody you agree with. But to go out and bless somebody by helping somebody along the way. Go out and bless somebody by listening to their story and their life. To go out and be an instrument of God's peace, an agent of God's love.

And then I would ask you to pray. Pray for this nation but pray with some specificity. Pray that we may have the wisdom and the courage to love.

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy pow'r.
Crown thine ancient church's story,
bring her bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour

- Harry Emerson Fosdick, God of Grace and God of Glory

With malice toward none, with charity toward all. With firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right. Let us strive to finish the work, the work that we are in. To bind up the nation's wounds, to

care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan. To do all which may achieve and cherish, a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations. God love you. God bless you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

Shared with with permission by the Office of the Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, **The Episcopal Church**, in its entirety. The Most Rev. Michael Curry is the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church and the author of the book "**Love Is the Way: Holding On to Hope in Troubling Times**".

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES ...



January Birthdays:

Nancy Ramsey - Jan. 18
Wanda Hildebrand - Jan. 20
Colleen Schafroth - Jan. 24

Please pray ...

For your Prayers: Peggy Davis, Skip & Carol Fisher, Bobbi Green, Ross & Deb Hucke, Don and Alice, Dale Newton, Jeff Krier, Ginger Crowley, Oscar Martinez, John Langfeldt, Ruth Welle (Carol Yakish's sister), Sarah, Laura Peterson, Barbara Portwood, John Davis, Carol healing from lung cancer, Judith (sister of Sandy Kice), Lorrie (friend of Alan Alford), Clark family, Beverly Sherrill (daughter of Kerrs), Lee Keifer, Rosemary Ross, Mitzi Kenyon, Rule Beasley and family, Alicia (Andrea Booren granddaughter), Melanie from Ascension, Wanda Hilderbrand, Connor (grandson of Janine Dirksen), Helen Elsmore, Chris, relief from the Covid-19 virus spread throughout the community and country, and Our Nation. 01 18 21

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