

Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of January 4, 2021 | Issue 1

Upcoming Events for the week

- Jan. 6 - Noon Day Epiphany Service by Zoom
- Jan. 10 Forum 8:30 a.m. Zoom
- Jan. 10- St. Paul's Zoom Worship 10a.m.
- Jan. 10- St. Paul's Zoom Vestry Meeting following 10 a.m. Worship Service - All are welcome to attend.
- **NO NEWSLETTER THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11TH**

I know New Year's Eve is past, but watch this beautiful song and video of Auld Lang Syne.

Click on AULD LANG SYNE

3 smiling kings or is that 3 Princess's?



A thought for the week ~ The life, the love of Jesus is all encompassing, and therefore, all forgiving; there is space enough to falter and not be cast out. And that is space that we can offer to one another. To make ourselves a home with Jesus, we will be making room, making space, making a home for others as well.

-Br. Todd Blackham

City of The Dalles press release on homeless issue

The State of Oregon has the second-highest level of unsheltered homelessness in the country and leads the nation in its number of unsheltered homeless families. In response to both these alarming statistics and below-freezing winter temperatures in the Columbia River Gorge, the City Council recently enacted Emergency Resolution No. 20-025 and resolved to address the homelessness public health crisis and temporary shelter emergency by permitting temporary shelter for its homeless population at a City-owned site, funded largely with grants from our community partners, through March 31, 2021.

We understand citizen and business frustrations with the challenges of homelessness in our area and have dedicated resources to balancing the wellbeing of our homeless community with the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for all who call The Dalles home. While the City intends to continue maximizing available resources to help those in our community manage the often unmanageable stress of unsheltered homelessness during these cold months, our resources are limited: not all who

require the City's temporary shelter site for survival this winter will find space available, and the primary restriction on availability is mandatory compliance with statewide orders and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 guidance limiting the safe number of beds allowed per shelter.

Accordingly, and until the City can fully address this evolving crisis, you may notice unsanctioned and discrete encampments on public property as the City's homeless population is left with no alternative other than keeping warm in a tent or makeshift shelter. You may also notice the City has not enforced criminal and civil laws prohibiting sleeping or camping on public property—the City's hands are tied, like all cities in the western United States, by new federal laws forbidding the City from enforcing such ordinances against its homeless citizens when the number of homeless individuals is greater than the number of available shelter beds. See *Martin v. City of Boise*, 920 F.3d 584 (9th Cir. 2019); *Blake v. City of Grants Pass*, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 129494, 2020 WL 4209227 (D. Or. 2020).

To address this challenge, the City has:

- acquired a grant from the Mid-Columbia Community Action Council to triple our number of shelters as early as next month;
- provided portable toilets at Lewis & Clark Festival Park; and
- offered the Homeless ID Program to assist homeless individuals replace lost or stolen state-identification cards, possession of which is a prerequisite to nearly all employment opportunities.

The City is committed to providing safe shelter to its entire population and is coordinating daily with local partners, property owners, and citizens to ensure our community has the resources we need to protect our most vulnerable this winter.

Submitted by Rodger Nichols

Helen Kochel's 100th birthday celebration



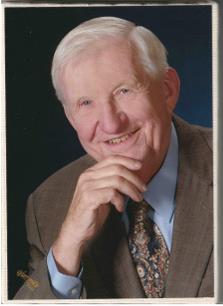
The family thanked Helen's St. Paul's family for participating in her 100th birthday. Helen smiled from the window as her family held up birthday greetings.



Birthday greetings from the street for Helen Kochel. Helen's family said "She was delighted and touched by the many gifts of memories and warm wishes."

A word from P.K. Swartz - Senior Warden

For the last week or so I've been immersed in "The King Must Die", by



Mary Renault, a historical novel about the legendary Greek hero Theseus. Fast paced and a fun read, but it is full of references to the many gods of the era – Zeus, Poseidon, Apollo....plus innumerable priests and priestesses, most if not all no longer worshiped, and I began to muse over the question of why Jesus and not them. Theseus' gods were vain, territorial, vengeful, wrathful, and prone to bribery by sacrifices, promises to build temples, and simple whim.

But last Friday on Saturday NPR aired an interview with Bp Michael Curry. His topic was not that of bribery or any of those other “attributes” but one of love. Not the love of a man for his wife, nor of family, nor of nation, but love of neighbor. Comfort, respect, support, empathy, compassion, not only for ourselves, or just our family, or just our neighbors, but for all. Not just for those of us of one particular race or gender, nor for just those of us American, but for all. Christianity has been here now for over 2000 years, but I haven't heard much cheering for Poseidon in many years. Perhaps there's a lesson here.

PK

Episcopal Relief & Development New Year's hope for 2021

As we bid farewell to 2020, there cannot be many of us who look back on the year with unalloyed joy. By any measure, it's been a tough and tragic year. One could be forgiven for feeling hopeless.

However, the Old Testament prophet Zechariah admonishes us to “Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope” (Zechariah 9:12). The great South African theologian Steve De Gruchy took the concept of hope a step further and once wrote that as Christians “We are called to be midwives of hope.”

As we start 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to test us in ways that no one could have imagined a year ago. The cost—human, economic, social—is huge and continues to grow. It would be easy to lose hope as the toll continues to mount. But as the prophet Zechariah and De Gruchy remind us: despair is not an option.

Not only must we remain hopeful ourselves, we must bring hope to others. We can do this through our own acts every day—with our coworkers, our loved ones and our neighbors, both near and far.

Every day, I see the immense power of hope in our work across the world – whether it's equipping our partners on the ground with crucial support to assist local communities in times of crises, continuing to address gender-based violence alongside faith leaders in countries like Liberia, or carrying on our work to ensure young children have the chance to grow and thrive. By working together for lasting change, we bring hope to those we seek to serve.

As we begin 2021, I am reminded of Emily Dickinson's poem,

Hope is the thing with feathers

“Hope” is the thing with feathers –

That perches in the soul –

And sings the tune without the words –

And never stops – at all –

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –

And sore must be the storm –

That could abash the little Bird

That kept so many warm –

I've heard it in the chilliest land –

And on the strangest Sea –

Yet – never – in Extremity,

It asked a crumb – of me.

Dickinson's poem takes the image of a bird and, equating it with hope, ascribes to it several remarkable qualities:

- **Hope lives in our souls.**
- **Hope never stops.**
- **Hope is undaunted by difficulty.**
- **Hope comes to us freely.**

And yet, in these difficult times, I find that hope can sometimes elude me. Like a bird, it is fragile; I have to search for it; it comes and goes without warning.

And yet, my greatest New Year's Resolution is to remain hopeful.

Indeed, my prayer for each of us is that as we begin 2021, we do so with hope perched in our souls.

Rob Radtke is the President & CEO of Episcopal Relief & Development.

St. Paul's Profile Committee Members:



Julie Reynolds



Jerry Frazier



Amy McIlvenna

St. Paul's Search Committee Members:



Alan Alford



Dewanda Clark



Jeanie Senior



Sam Woolsey



Sean Kimsey

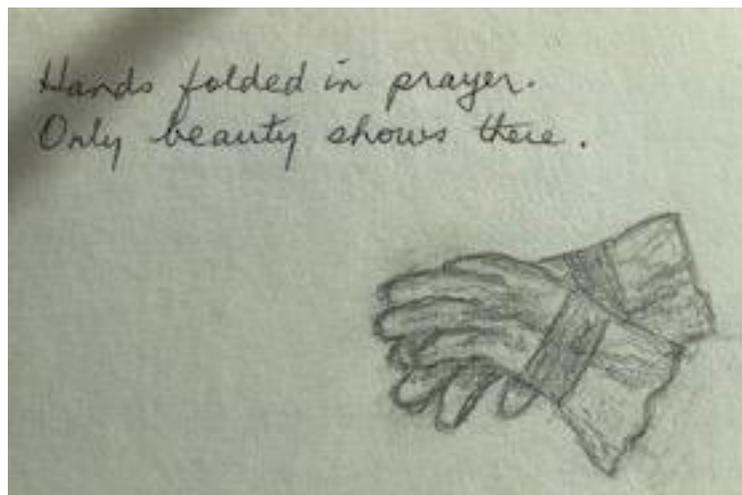


Mike Nagle

A LITTLE COVID-19 HUMOR from Mike and Pat Fowler. Sometimes a person just needs to make lemonade out of lemons.



IT'S THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY ... SUBMIT PHOTOS ON WHERE YOUR SEE, FEEL, AND EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT OF JESUS. Please email photos to Marilyn.roth60@gmail.com



The Old Work Gloves

**Mended, re sewn, mended again,
Threads replace threads, over again.
Once care was taken to hide the new seam.
Now it's impossible. "Life" they have seen.**

Viewed from the back, no one can tell.
There they look fine. There they look swell.
Look at the palm where the tale is told out.
“Been there, Done that”, these gloves really shout.

Now that they’re mended, the gloves feel just fine.
Folding my hands, my fingers entwine.
Where’s the repair work? No flaws can be seen.
Covered are stitches. Covered are seams.

Hands folded in prayer
Only beauty shows there.

The scars of our lives, the wounds that won’t heal,
Though mended and tended , so much we still feel.
The sins that waylay us, our labors, our strife,
God loves us so much, “I’ll mend up your life.”

Folding my hands, my fingers in line,
I feel I am mended with God’s holy twine.
Where’s His repair work? Where are the tears?
He’s covered my worries! He’s covered my cares!

Hands folded in prayer
Only beauty shows there.

~ Carolyn M. Thomas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES ...



January Birthdays:

Turf McCullough - Jan. 2
Skip Fisher - Jan. 6
Jim Foster - Jan. 11
Lynne Gill - Jan. 11
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 Huccke, 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, Guy Moser, 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. 12/22/2020

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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