



ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit ..."

John 15:5

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Betty Allegretti
~Stewardship Chair

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ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

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Issue 1

January 2021

Number 1

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Paul's,

We are concluding a challenging pandemic year with limited attendance at church during one of the most beautiful times of the year in our Christian calendar, Christmas. Through the many months of being apart, we have managed to stay connected. Our Facebook live Sunday worship sessions have become a staple. We are cautiously trying in person worship with limitations on attendance inside the Parish Hall. Through it all, our groups within the church have learned the intricacies of Zoom to stay connected. Family has never been more important. Our church family has remained connected for which I am grateful.

I hope I am one of the first to wish you all a Happy New Year, filled with hope and success in all you do over the coming year. I have high hopes for 2021. Every new year promises a fresh start, but 2021 has that promise like no other in recent memory. The promise that comes with vaccinations means we will be together again. When we do, we want to be ready to meet the financial needs of our church. Our pledge campaign continues as we ready the church to meet the needs of the coming year.

Jay and I started pledging in earnest while our family was still growing. To be honest, we could not pledge a lot. But a pledge represents to us a promise and commitment to our church and a testament to our faith in God. We know he watches over our family all the time. A commitment of our time, a sharing of our talents and material resources strengthens that faith for us. Our children are now grown, but we need the strength that God gives us just as much now. A life of generous giving is one of the most wonderful things we can experience in our life of faith.

Many family's have seen a change in their circumstances this year. Give as you are able. We understand if you must reduce your pledge. And please let Reverend Sally know if you are struggling through this difficult year. Remember that you have a church family that is willing and able to help. You just need to let us know.

Since we are not all together on Sunday's, many folks have not yet sent in their pledges. Please contact Ed Reuille or myself with your pledge amount for 2021. You may also mail your pledge card or drop it by the office. Please remember to put your name and address on the back of the pledge card so we can note your pledge for our records. If you lost your pledge card, there are extra ones outside Reverend Sally's office.

As we conclude this tumultuous year I'd like to share the following Stewardship Prayer from Thomas Merton, posted by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington:

"Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us; our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen"

Good health and happiness in the coming year,
Betty Allegretti `Stewardship Chair

Worship Plans for January

In January we will continue the worship schedule that we had in December. We will offer an indoor service of Holy Eucharist in the parish hall at 9:00 am. Attendance will be limited to 25 at any indoor service and will be on a first come, first served basis. This liturgy will also be streamed on Facebook live. It will be available for you to watch by going to www.facebook.com/stpaulsfortmill/ . We will also continue to offer an outdoor service of Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am each Sunday. If it rains or if it is too cold, that service will be held inside the Parish Hall. We will continue with this outside service as long as people are willing to come.

When we are inside, we observe safety measures. We will open windows and doors in the parish hall to achieve sufficient ventilation. Though we will run the heat, it will still be quite cool in the parish hall. I suggest that you wear plenty of layers. We will also all be wearing masks for the entire time we are together, including those leading worship. And of course, we will ask you to keep a social distance of eight feet from those not in your household and to sanitize your hands.

Faithfully in our Lord Jesus Christ,

-Sally Franklin

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS: MISSION AND OUTREACH AT ST. PAUL'S

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to take this last opportunity to thank everyone who helped us have such an amazingly productive year in spite of the obstacles presented by the Covid pandemic. Because of your generosity and participation we were able to meet our Classroom Ready goals, provide “Angel Tree” gifts and meals to two families, and feed the homeless at the Bethel men’s shelter not once but **three** times. We can all have a merrier Christmas knowing that we have shared God’s love so meaningfully throughout 2020.

As this issue of the Epistle “goes to press,” the committee is taking a well-earned break and will not meet again to plan for next year until January. You can be assured that we have high hopes for 2021 and are looking forward to working with everyone to fulfill our mission of *Inspiring and enabling the people of St. Paul’s to share God’s love by participation in God’s mission of empowering social justice locally and abroad.* Meanwhile we wish everyone at St. Paul’s a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

*As always, if you have questions, comments, or suggestions,
please contact any member of the committee*

Financial Information

January Finance Commission Meeting

The monthly Finance Committee meetings will be opened up to anyone interested in St. Paul's finances when it is appropriate to do so. In the interim, if you have any questions about St. Paul's finances, please contact Ed Reuille

Final 2020 Contribution Statements

Final 2020 contribution statements will be mailed to 2020 contributors by the end of January. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Reuille

2020 Collections & Offerings

	2020 through November		2019 through November
	Actual	Statement of Mission	
Loose Offerings	823.00	3,564.00	3,823.00
Non-Pledging Mem- bers & Guests	10,244.00	19,645.00	25,085.00
Members & Guests	156,307.00	169,360.00	146,719.00
Total	167,374.00	192,569.00	175,627.00

Ways to Serve at St. Paul's

Fort Mill Care Center

Thank you for your continued support of the FMCC. Churches are the backbone of the Care Center. Without your continued support and prayers we would be struggling to help those in the Fort Mill community who are struggling. During the first 11 months of this year St. Paul's has donated 1372 pounds of food. During the month of February, please donate **grits and oatmeal instant or regular**. Thank you, Jan Arnold

Attention Knitters and Crocheters

If you have made any items such as scarves, caps, or mittens and are not sure what to do with them – or if you are looking for a new project – we would love to have them. Just bring them to the designated table in the parish hall and we will see that they find happy and grateful homes through the Bethel Men's Shelter, the Angel Trees, or the Paradise Community Center! Also, the Historic Paradise Foundation is collecting winter coats in all sizes for middle and high school students. If you have any to donate, bring them to the church as well. We will be glad to deliver them.

Finally

Please do remember that cash donations are always welcome at the organizations we help to serve:

<https://bethelmensshelter.org/>

<https://www.fortmillcarecenter.org/monetary-donations/>

www.FoodForThePoor.org

www.SAMS-USA.org (the Vivanco Family)

The Historic Paradise Foundation, 1001 Steele Street, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Happy “Not 2020!”

I was in the Kids’ Corner room last week and, once again saw the bottle of Formula 409 sitting on one of the tables. It has been sitting there for many months, as you can imagine, and it is time to put apply it as its developer originally intended.

A gentleman by the name of T. H. Palmer was both a poet and a proponent of education in the 1800s. He wrote a poem, “Try, Try Again” that is said to have been included in a manual for new teachers. I just recently learned this information and it has answered a question I have had since childhood. Why was my mother always saying, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again,”? It makes sense now as there were many educators in Momma’s family including her own mother.

I remember more than once rolling my eyes when Momma would say, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” Of course, she said this after my pronouncement, “I can’t do this or “I’ll don’t think I will ever figure out how to do this.” Yes, I wonder if Momma rolled her eyes, too.

With the arrival of the cleaner Formula 409, we seldom heard Momma say the *try, try again* phrase. The true story is “The Formula 409® name is actually a tribute to the tenacity of two young Detroit scientists hell-bent on formulating the greatest grease-cutting, dirt-destroying, bacteria cutting cleaner on the planet.” Momma did not buy her first bottle of Formula 409 for its intended purpose. Any time the whine of frustration was heard, she simply placed the bottle in front of us. There is little satisfaction in rolling one’s eyes at a bottle of “the greatest grease-cutting, dirt-destroying, bacteria cutting cleaner on the planet.”

The bottle of Formula 409 originally appeared on the table in the Kids’ Corner Room for the same reason it appeared on the table in front of me. I told the story of Formula 409 to the children before using it in that manner. I am happy to say that most of the time the kids smiled when I put it on the table later learning that their smiles were because it reminded them that I had needed a bottle of it in front of me when I was young, too.

Then came March 2020. We were never taught in grad school how Christian education was to be accomplished during a pandemic. I heard myself thinking, “I don’t think I will ever figure out how to do this.” Now that bottle of Formula 409 is on the table, again, for me. The children have been my supporters and teachers and we are all happy that it has not taken me 409 times to find ways to bring God to them through a computer screen and/or by social distancing.

I think I have gotten the message my mother intended and am looking forward to using it in the manner that the two scientists intended. I will use it to prepare for the, hopefully soon, return of the kids. There is still plenty for me to learn in that room.

God works in mysterious ways, never whines about how many times it takes me to get the formula and even knows it will be more than 409 times. I wouldn’t blame him if he’s rolled his eyes.

To God be the glory. Amen.

[Be in Touch.](#) Jane Kilpatrick, Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries

Collects and Readings for January

Second Sunday After Christmas January 3

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a Matthew 2:1-12 Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

The Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Sunday after the Epiphany January 10

Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11 Psalm 29

The Collect

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 17

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51 Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Conversion of St Paul January 24

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 Psalm 62:6-14

The Collect

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Psalm 111

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer List & Milestones

St. Paul's Prayer List

May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to His heavenly country; where He lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Members and Friends

May Hennessy, Will Close, Gene Meyer, Bill Bates-Congdon,
Dick Adkins, Sally Beyer, Henry Carter, Mark Hawes, Marie Treadwell,
Eric Allegretti, and Vicki Hall

Deaths of Family and Friends

If you are a member of St. Paul's and have a family member or friend who needs to be added to our Prayer List, please contact the Parish Office so that we may add them to the list. Names of friends and family members currently enlisted and serving in our Armed Forces will gladly be added also.

Giving Thanks for Milestones - January

Happy Anniversary

3 Jan & John Arnold
16 Kay & John Wakefield
18 Jennifer & Kyle Vickery

Happy Birthday

1 Mark Hawes	25 Gene Meyer
3 Julia Smith	Andrew White
5 John Connor	27 Jan Arnold
7 Lizann Rex	Kathy Covington
11 Diane Wilcox	Sarah Keenen
14 Grey Kneidel	Macy McKee
15 Susan Sellheim	Elizabeth Vickery
16 Mary Ann Saint	Kay Wakefield
18 Adair Yatko	29 Amanda Arnold
19 Leah Abraham	Spencer Arnold
Debbie Close	30 Pat Finn
Andrew Condon	31 Sam Krafft
Sally Weymouth	
21 Bobby Howland	
24 Frank Luzzi	
Zach Nastiuk	



*If you have a milestone which is not listed, please let us know. We wish to celebrate with you.
Thank you!*

January Calendar

January 3, 2021– **The Second Sunday after Christmas**

9am Indoor Morning Prayer/Facebook live service w/ Ed Reuille

11am outdoor Morning Prayer w/ David Dudley

Reflection on Scriptures Jane Kilpatrick at both services

January 5- Adult Book Study, *Holy Envy*, resumes on Zoom at 11am

January 6- [Parents Time w/Jane at 8:00pm](#)

January 10- **The first Sunday after the Epiphany**

Rev Sally returns

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II live on Facebook and in parish hall @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 11am in Parking Lot

January 12- Adult Book Study, *Holy Envy*, at 11am on Zoom

January 13- Parents Time w/Jane at 8:00pm

January 14- Mission and Outreach Meeting on Zoom @ 10:30am

January 17- **The second Sunday after the Epiphany**

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II live on Facebook and in parish hall @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 11am in Parking Lot

January 19- Adult Book Study, *Holy Envy*, at 11am on Zoom

January 20- Caregiver's Meeting

Parents Time w/Jane at 8:00pm

January 24- **The Third Sunday after the Epiphany &**

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II live on Facebook and in parish hall @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 11am in Parking Lot

Commissioning of the Vestry will be at both the 9am and 11am services

January 26- Adult Book Study, *Holy Envy*, at 11am on Zoom

January 27- Parents Time w/Jane at 8:00pm

January 31- **The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:00am

Holy Eucharist Rite II live on Facebook and in parish hall @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite II @ 11am in Parking Lot

January EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Every Sunday Morning at 9:00 Join us on Facebook live and in the parish hall
for Holy Eucharist**

Outdoor In-Person Parking Lot Holy Eucharist Services Every Sunday Morning at 11am

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN THE SERVICES WILL BE MOVED INTO THE PARISH HALL

Help with Facebook Live on Sunday Mornings

I still need your help. It would be greatly beneficial for me to have a team of people who would be responsible for the internet set up on Sunday mornings and rotate being present on Sunday mornings to manage the streaming of the liturgy. This would take a great load off my shoulders. Please contact me – Rev. Sally – if you are willing to help.

Adult Book Study

On **Tuesday, January 5 at 11am**, Tuesday Book Study will resume with **Holy Envy** by Episcopal priest, author, and educator **Barbara Brown Taylor**. Download the study guide at smallgroupguides.com and search *Holy Envy*.

Contact Jane Kilpatrick stpaulseducator@gmail.com with questions. We look forward to you joining us.

Parents Time with Jane

Parents Time with Jane will be on Wednesday's at 8:00pm. A Zoom link will go out every Wednesday morning.

Sunday Thoughts

This is a Zoom gathering for all those under 18 years old that will continue through the month of December. The site will open at 8:005am for supervised chatting amongst the children. How the remaining half hour will be spent will vary week to week. A link will be provided before Sunday morning in an email blast. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Vestry Recognition of Ministry

The vestry would like to recognize the outgoing vestry members who have rotated off vestry the end of 2020. Chris Kraft, outgoing Junior Warden, Catherine Lindgren, and Megan Moore. We wish to thank these three people for their tireless work over the past 3 years. Each of these individuals has contributed countless time and effort to further the development of our parish. Thank you for all of your help and contributions.



**PLEASE DRIVE
THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT IN THE CHURCH
NEIGHBORHOOD.
OUR NEIGHBORS *THANK YOU!***

