



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

Issue 5

May 2020

Number 1

In this issue:

Cover - *From the Rector*

2 *From the Rector*, cont'd.
Christian Education

3 A message from our
Senior Warden

4 Ways to Serve

5 Financial Info

6 April Collects & Readings

7 Prayer List & Milestones

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

501 Pine Street
Fort Mill, SC 29715
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From the Rector

Alleluia, Christ is Risen

Welcome to the second week of Easter! Many people think that when the day of Easter is passed, Easter is over. But for us Easter last for fifty days. The New Testament tells us that there were fifty days between the day of Jesus' resurrection and the Day of Pentecost. During this time Jesus appeared to his disciples to strengthen them, to guide them and to offer them hope. The same is true for us. Even in the midst of our current crisis, Christ is risen. Our God is stronger than death. And he is here among us, offering strength, guidance and hope.

On Sundays, we continue to worship the Lord with a liturgy streamed live over Facebook. We still will not have an 'in-person' service at the church as Bishop Waldo has extended the suspension of in-person worship through May 15. But we are worshipping together each Sunday. It is not ideal. I miss seeing all of you. But we are fortunate that we are able to connect through technology. Each week, our live liturgy begins at 8:00 am. After that, a video is available for you to watch. You can find both by going to www.facebook.com/stpaulsfortmill/.

We are also restarting our Weekly Bible Study, however, it will not be at the Church. We will meet each Tuesday at 11:00am on Zoom, an internet-based connection service. We will be continuing our Study of the gospel of John using the book Drawn into the Mystery of Jesus through the Gospel of John by Jean Vanier. If you would like to be a part of this study, let me know and I will send you instructions on how to connect.

I know that during this time, many are feeling cut off from their Church. We are making an effort to contact people in various ways. If you would like to have someone call you weekly, please let me know and that will happen. We don't want anyone to feel that they are alone.

Many have asked about ways to serve. We are building a resource list. If you are able to help others, please let us know and we will add your name to our resource list. For example, you may be willing to pick up and deliver groceries for those who should not be outside of the house, even for necessities. If

From the Rector, cont'd

you would like to add your name to this list or would like the list sent to you,

please contact Kim Eaddy, our parish secretary, at 803-547-5968 or stpauls@comporium.net.

All the leaders of St. Paul's continue to be here for you. If you need us, please let us know. You may contact the wardens and vestry members of the parish if you have questions or concerns. And you may certainly contact me if you need anything. Please email me at revscfranklin@yahoo.com or call me at 803-517-2832.

In the Gospel for the second Sunday of Easter, John 20:19-31, the resurrected Jesus appeared among his disciples and assured them with the words, "Peace be with you." Now he offers us

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Sally Franklin



Christian Education - Children & Youth



Be in Touch. Jane Kilpatrick, Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries

704-968-2902

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26 NRSV)

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 832)

Don't Forget the Church!

A message from our Senior Warden: David Dudley

For most of us, Covid-19 is a major inconvenience, but some of us are impacted far more than others. Odds are that a few of us have the virus or we know someone who does. Another way of looking at this pandemic is how vulnerable we are to the effects of this infection. Like many of you, Donna and I are in that category that suggests that, if infected, we should avoid buying green bananas. But none of us can avoid considering the future, and I'm guessing all of us are frustrated by the conflicting messages we hear on the news media, from our government, and through social media.

The nature of our technological culture, the idea that marketing insists that we provide everything to everyone, every position on any topic, and the idea that our institutions be all things to all people, has left us devoid of any collective rational thought. Yes, it is politics, but it is more than that. It is tribalism, and the one place where we still see some semblance of being able to address all facets of these divisions is the church, especially the Episcopal Church. The church still practices and advocates for Christian values, and though churches disagree on some points, we generally agree on the values passed down to us by Christ and his disciples. We may never agree totally, but if we would just focus on where we do concur, a basis for going forward exists. But going forward implies that we consider the future.

I liken our problems in the church today with having long-term disability insurance. We hope we never need to use it, but we sleep better at night knowing we are covered in the event of a major health crisis. When the pandemic is over, what will be left? Most of us will still be around to express a collective sigh of relief. But I am reminded of a phrase popular during the Cold War, "Survival is not all it is cracked up be." Will our institutions survive? Will we come together with a new sense of purpose to rebuild, to plan for the next global infection? or will we continue to argue about whether to use the *King James Version* of the Bible or the *New Revised Standard Version*?

I realize that what I have written is somewhat melodramatic, but I want to make the point that we need to protect our religious institutions from being a victim of this disease, the disease of unintended consequences. We need to remember that the church represents the last best hope for unity among all people, and that Christ's message in Matthew 28:19 is our mission, "Go ye therefore...."

Please remember the church in these troubled times because we will need a strong, viable, and relevant institution to cope with what lies ahead. We are instructed to keep the faith, even though we are unable to do so at this time in the sanctuary.

[Please continue your giving to the work of Christ by mailing your offerings to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, P O Box 753, Fort Mill, SC 29716.](#)

David Dudley

Ways to Serve at St. Pauls'

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

He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor . . . release to the captives and the regaining of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19

That these are trying and uncertain times pretty much goes without saying. In many ways life seems to have gone on hold. Certainly it has for our Mission & Outreach Committee. As you know, following the Coronavirus response guidelines made it impossible to hold our much anticipated Rise Against Hunger event last month. We were also unable to hold our committee meeting on March 22 when we had hoped to further develop plans for 2020. While we anticipate eventually returning to normal activities in a month or so, it seems that the most useful thing we can do is to avoid getting sick and further taxing our already highly stressed healthcare system. Even though we are encouraged to stay home and avoid personal contact with others as much as possible, there are still ways in which we can serve our neighbors. Loneliness and anxiety may increase among those who are socially isolated; and economic hardship is sure to intensify as jobs, hopefully only temporarily, disappear. In the next weeks we can each stay in touch with family, friends, and neighbors. Check in on a regular basis via the telephone, Skype or Facetime, email, snail mail. Share entertaining and encouraging videos, memes, etc. online. If you are healthy and able, offer to help with needed shopping or other errands. Continue to donate food and other necessary items to the Fort Mill Care Center, either directly or by means of our parish grocery cart (which is still available outside the door to the parish hall). Consider donating a ham before Easter, delivering it directly to the Care Center on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday morning. Make financial donations to service agencies, e.g. the Care Center, Bethel Men's Warming Center, Episcopal Relief & Development, Food for the Poor, etc. Give blood. Contact the American Red Cross. Think creatively about how you can continue to support local small businesses that you may normally patronize (over-tip your pizza delivery person, pay in advance for several haircuts, etc.) and not least, Pray!

During this 'fallow' time, please take note of any needs you may become aware of in our community and share them with our committee. For now, we wish you and your family and friends good health and a joyful Easter. ginnyarthur@yahoo.com

Others ways to serve:

Contribute to Kanuga Conference Center. Kanuga, a long time Episcopal Institution, is facing a financial crisis in the midst of the pandemic and they need our help. If you can, please contribute. I know many of you have been blessed through the years by the ministry of Kanuga, both the camps and the conference center. Make a contribution to the Episcopal Relief and Development Pandemic Response effort. You can donate at www.episcopalrelief.org Make a contribution to the Food for the Poor Emergency Appeal. You may remember that Food for the Poor is a ministry to those in Latin America and the Caribbean. A priest from that organization spoke to us last fall. They need help to aid the vulnerable in those countries.

*As always, if you have questions, comments, or suggestions,
please contact any member of the committee or me at ginnyarthur@yahoo.com.*

Financial Information

May Finance Commission Meeting - The Finance Commission will not have its monthly meeting in May. Anyone with an interest in St. Paul's finances is welcome to contact Ed Reuille (547-6559 or edwardreuille@gmail.com).

Contributions during the Pandemic

With the help of technology, St. Paul's is able to continue providing worship opportunities during these uncertain times. Please keep St. Paul's in mind and mail contributions to the church as you can. The Church will continue to have expenses and bills that need to be paid so your continued financial support during this period is as important as ever. One way to keep giving and make your life a little easier is mentioned in a note from Ellen Frank below:

Greetings parishioners!! I hope y'all are staying safe and healthy during these crazy times.

An email conversation I happened to have with Ed Reuille reminded me that many of us can use our bank checking accounts to create our checks for St. Paul's general fund. It was so easy to write a check to drop in the collection plate, or even drop in cash in an envelope. Now of course, we can't drop cash in the collection plate. We can write a check of course, and find an envelope to address and a stamp to mail it. We also have another option. Most banks and credit unions offer some type of 'bank by mail' product tied to a checking account. This is normally a free service offered by your financial institution. If you do not currently use this 'bank by mail' service at your financial institution to pay other bills, go online to your institution's website or call the customer service number and ask about the service. The financial institution will print out and mail the check (no looking around your house for stamps !!) for you, based on the delivery date and amount you designate. Here is the address to use when you set up your 'bank by mail' account for St. Paul's: **St. Paul's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 753, Fort Mill, S.C. 29716.**

Everyone take care, stay home and wash your hands :-)!!! Looking forward to seeing everyone again when we return to a new normal!

2020 Collections & Offerings

2020 through February

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Statement of Mission</u>	<u>2019 through March</u>
Loose Offerings	743.00	992.00	610.00
Members & Guests	44,364.00	50,136.00	40,722.00
Non Pledge Members and Guest	4,255.00	5,499.00	5,187.00
Total	49,362.00	56,627.00	46,519.00

Collects and Readings for May

May 3: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Liturgy of the Word:

**Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10;
Psalm 23**

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May 10 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14;
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May 17 - The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21;
Psalm 66:7-18**

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

May 24: The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day

**Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;
John 17:1-11; Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

May 31: The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

**Psalm 16; Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9;
John 20:19-31**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the, Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

April 26 - The Third Sunday of Easter

**Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17; Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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, Alyia Strickland, Gene Meyer, Claire Addison, Pete Addison, Bill Bates-Congdon, Jim Parrish, John Pruitt, Dick Adkins, Sally Beyer, Henry Carter, John Freeman, Sandy Boone, Mark Hawes, Atalaya Perkins, Marie Treadwell, Carole Finn, Dick Cadugan, and Lizann Rex.

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. Include the person's rank and location where serving abroad.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Cindy Symons | 14 Lauren Condon |
| 3 Jesse Kodzwa- Dye | Ellen Condrey |
| 5 Gracie Close | Clare Hawes |
| 7 Jay Abraham | Hunt Moore |
| Frank Van Leer | 15 Denise Spreen |
| 9 William Close | 16 Pam Farley |
| Sarah Meyer | 19 David Shonk |
| 10 Sally Reimers | 21 Frank Stewart |
| 12 Yvonne Howland | HT Thomas |
| David McRell | 26 Sally Franklin |
| | Biff Virkler |

APRIL CELEBRATIONS



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

Happy Anniversary

- | |
|--------------------------|
| 8 Becky & James Traynor |
| 25 Dona & Frank Van Leer |
| 28 Linda & David Shonk |

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, PO Box 753 (501 Pine Street, 29715), Fort Mill, SC 29716
803-547-5968 www.stpaulsftmill.org stpauls@comporium.net FB: St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

Office Hours - 9:00am - 1:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

STAFF

Rector, The Rev. Sally Franklin
revsfranklin@yahoo.com

Organist/Choirmaster, Steav Bates-Congdon
steavwbc@mac.com

Director of Christian Education / Family Ministries
Jane Kilpatrick, stpaulseducator@gmail.com

Parish Secretary, Kim Eaddy
stpauls@comporium.net



VESTRY

Sr. Warden, David Dudley
Jr. Warden, Catherine Lindgren
Betty Allegretti
Ginny Arthur
Dennis Edwards
Chris Krafft
Tiffany Lawrie
Megan Moore
Sally Weymouth

Treasurer, Dennis Edwards
Finance Commissioner, Ed Reuille
Contributions Secretary, John Connor

Pastoral Care

Caring Community Caregivers

At St. Paul's we have a wonderful ministry called the Caring Community Caregivers. These are lay people who have been trained to give pastoral care. This means that they can minister to those who are sick, grieving, unemployed, or have any problem that makes them feel lonely or sad. The ministry of the caregiver is to remind people of God's love by being present with them in the difficult times of life. If you or someone you know needs the ministry of a caregiver, please contact Rev. Sally or one of the caregivers:

Alan Arthur, 803-802-9981; Clare Hawes, 803-230-7894; Joanna Virkler, 704-588-1939; Libby Justice, 803-547-4441

This ministry is in addition to the Rector's pastoral ministry. It does not replace that ministry. As always, if you would like to talk with Rev. Sally or you have an emergency you may call her at 803-547-5968.

Calling Post

St. Paul's Message Delivery System

This is a recorded message that is delivered to the telephone numbers of Parish members. On occasion, we send out messages to remind parishioners about Parish Breakfasts and other special events. If you do NOT wish to receive this service, please let us know, and we will remove your number from our list. **If you are not receiving messages and would like to do so, please let us know, and we will add you to our list.** To listen to the latest *Calling Post* message at any time, call 1-800-925-7443. When prompted, enter the Group ID: 182-072-9807.

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