



# 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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## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

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December 2020

Number 1

## Advent: A season of waiting

In some ways it seems that all we've been doing this year is waiting. Waiting for paper products and hand sanitizer. Waiting to get tested. Waiting for a vaccine. And now we enter Advent, a season that's all about preparation and waiting, waiting for the coming of Jesus. When I was a child this waiting was so difficult. The weeks of Advent seemed so long. All I wanted was for Christmas to get here. But waiting has its purpose. As we wait, we come to better appreciate what we are anticipating.

This Advent, as we await the coming of Christmas, even in the midst of the chaos that surrounds us, step back, take a deep breath, turn your heart to the Lord, and ask him to prepare you to receive his Son as he comes into our midst at Christmas. You can do this through prayer, by reading scripture and by keeping times of silence. We have resources to help you in this journey. The devotion booklet Forward Day By Day, has daily scripture readings and devotions. We also have an Advent home prayer liturgy that you can use individually or as a family. It can be used at breakfast or dinner as you light your Advent wreath. On Wednesday evenings at 7:00, I will also lead Evening Prayer on Zoom. The connection will be sent out each week.

If nothing else, this year has helped us to realize what is important in life. One of those things is our relationship with God. This Advent, we have an opportunity to draw near to the Lord. When we do, we will be ready on Christmas to truly celebrate the birth of Jesus!

## Worship Plans for December

Beginning December 6, we will restructure our worship schedule. We will offer an in-door service of Holy Eucharist in the parish hall at 9:00 am. Attendance will be limited to 45 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/](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsfortmill/). We will no longer have the Morning Prayer service at 8:00 am. For those who are still hesitant to come inside, we will 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 move inside, we will still be observing 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,

*Rev Sally continued*

we will ask you to keep a social distance of six feet from those not in your household and to sanitize your hands.

We will have music at both services. Soloist will sing but the congregation will not. We will also use the same liturgical form at both liturgies so that our secretary doesn't have to create two full service bulletins. We will use Rite I during Advent, Rite II during Christmas and the season after Epiphany and Rite I during Lent.

I know that constant change in our worship schedule is difficult. We like routine. However, at this time, we need to be flexible. I am scheduling the indoor service at 9:00 rather than 8:00 because there are families who want to attend but who cannot get their children ready by 8:00. I have put the outside service at 11:00 because this is the warmer option. I have told several people that I promise that when this is over, we will return to our "normal" schedule. I ask for your patience and understanding.

Faithfully in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
-Sally Franklin

## **Christian Education - Children & Youth**

Ah, Blessed Advent. Advent means waiting – an experience that is normal throughout our lives, but in this past year an extreme level of waiting has been forcefully added to the forms of waiting we have come to expect in life. This forcefully added waiting has come with levels of exasperation, anxiety, confusion, adversity, and even opportunity, the likes of which we have been ill prepared.

I need Advent...*Now*. A tradition I was taught gave a specific purpose, in a specific order to the four Sundays in Advent. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. I cannot think of a better way to begin a period of waiting than with hope. Sounds like a logical place to begin waiting, but not always the place we begin in our waiting.

The study guide for *Holy Envy*, being read now in the Tuesday Morning Book Club, the first question is, "How would you describe your own relationship with religion to an outsider?" What a timely question. I would begin at this beginning of the Christian year with those four focuses of Advent – Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

Where in my religion do I find these purposes? I find them in Christ, the child from whose life I receive the lessons and examples of hope, peace, joy, and love I will need throughout the waiting in the life I have been given by my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Begin now with hope. Peace, joy, and love are on their way. Blessed Advent. Blessed gift of Advent. Blessed Christ Child. Blessed Jesus.

To God be the Glory. Amen.

[Be in Touch. Jane Kilpatrick, Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries 704-968-2902](mailto:jane.kilpatrick@stpauls.org)

# Financial Information

## Giving in 2020 During the Pandemic

Through October, contributions continue to hold up reasonably well even though in person worship in our sanctuary has been suspended since March. The monthly schedule on year-to-date contributions elsewhere in this Epistle shows that giving is under what the Statement of Mission (SOM) anticipated but slightly ahead of last year. Loose Offering and Non-Pledging Member & Guest giving are suffering the most on a percentage basis. This is not a surprise as both happen most frequently with in-person worship. While Pledging Member giving is lagging behind the SOM, this is not entirely unusual and would not be unusual even in a "normal" year.

With the help of technology, St. Paul's is able to continue providing worship and other opportunities during these uncertain times as it stays connected to its members in different ways. Please keep St. Paul's in mind and mail contributions to the church as you can. Another option is using your financial institution's bill pay feature to send contributions to St. Paul's. Most banks' "bill pay" services are free to both the sender and receiver unlike online credit card payment processors such as PayPal. For those who have pledged for 2020, if there is no indication on a contribution made via "bill pay", it will be applied to your 2020 pledge. If there is another a specific purpose for your contribution, most "bill pay" systems have a Memo field to indicate the purpose.

Keep in mind, St. Paul's continues to have expenses and bills that need to be paid so your continued financial support during this period is as important as ever.

## Interim Contribution Statements

Interim contribution statements were mailed to pledging members at the end of October. Those statements included contributions through Sunday, October 26. If you pledged for 2020, you should have received a statement. These interim statements were a reminder of how your year-to-date giving compared to your 2020 Pledge with 2 months left in the year. Please refer to these statements to insure you fulfill your 2020 pledge. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Reuille or John Connor.

## Monthly Finance Committee Meetings

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 at 803-547-6559 or [edwardreuille@gmail.com](mailto:edwardreuille@gmail.com).

## Support for St. Paul's: Stewardship Packets

We hope everyone got their stewardship packets. Please return all pledges so our finance committee to finalize a budget for 2021. You may mail your pledge in the self-addressed envelope supplied in your packet. You are also welcome to drop off the pledge at the church office, or you may put your sealed pledge in the offering plate at our outdoor service. Thank you for your continued support.

## 2020 Collections & Offerings

	2020 through October		2019 through October
	Actual	Statement of Mission	
Loose Offerings	818.00	3,270.00	3,420.00
Non-Pledging Members & Guests	10,244.00	17,953.00	25,085.00
Members & Guests	144,322.00	155,109.00	126,794.00
Total	155,384.00	176,332.00	155,299.00

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

And just like that, it's Advent! It has been such a long year in many ways, but somehow it is still hard for me to believe that by the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over, and the snowmen and Santa's already popping up in our neighborhoods will be beginning to seem appropriate. This is a busy time of year, but I know the St. Paul's community will not be forgetting to reach out to less fortunate neighbors.

### ***Bethel Men's Warming Shelter***

Although your response to our December 14 meal donation to the shelter has been amazing, there has been a slight complication! We have learned that the shelter has increased its capacity, which means that we must increase the amount of food we deliver. If you are able to donate a pan of macaroni and beef casserole or salad or a dozen or two cupcakes, please go to the Signup Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094FABAB2BA31-mens> The casserole recipe is very simple and will be supplied upon request; and the salad and cupcakes can be "store-bought" or homemade. Many thanks to those who have already signed up! If you should find that all slots are filled, do not despair. You are sure to have another chance before too long.

### ***Angel Trees***

The Missions & Outreach Committee joyfully reports that All of the Gifts & Grocery items for our Christmas Families have been selected!!! Special thanks for making their Christmas Wish Lists come true!! Please return Gifts & Grocery items to the by **December 6. Questions, please call Barbara McQueen at 828-319-5019**

**The Church will be open:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday/ Dec. 1, 2 & 3  
Saturday/Dec. 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Mission and Outreach is not providing a formal Reverse Advent list this year, but you can easily set one up for your family by setting aside one food item for each day of Advent and bringing your collection to the church each week.

The Mission and Outreach Committee wishes each of you a meaningful Advent an a joyful Christmas season. And as always if you have questions, please contact me at [ginnyarthur@yahoo.com](mailto:ginnyarthur@yahoo.com)



## Ways to Serve at St. Paul's

### ***Fort Mill Care Center***

It has been a very busy and challenging year at the Care Center. The most important thing to report is that we accomplished never having to close a day for the virus. Volunteers were stretched tight, but they worked tirelessly for the better good of everyone. As each of you know, every little bit makes a big difference to those who are struggling to eat, pay utility bills, pay for prescriptions, and I hope this never happens to anyone, but to have needed a painful tooth pulled. Thank you for continuing to support the Care Center with your food and monetary donations, which can be mailed anytime during the year to: P.O. Box 1401 Fort Mill, S.C. 29716. 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.

### ***Classroom Ready School Supply Drive:***

The tape challenge was a success!!! Thank you to everyone that brought in tape. We exceeded our number of 300 rolls.

### ***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](http://www.FoodForThePoor.org)

[www.SAMS-USA.org](http://www.SAMS-USA.org) (the Vivanco Family)

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

Several of these organizations also have gift catalogues, offering the opportunity to give, in honor of relatives or friends, life-changing gifts on a wide spectrum of price points: eg school supplies, clothing items, farm animals, sewing machines, solar-powered light kits, etc. This is a Christmas tradition in our family, and we all find it very satisfying to know that the gifts we are “receiving” from one another are truly giving life to people in real need.

### ***Be a Neighbor, Get a Neighbor a message from Cameron and Roberto Vivanco***

Hi my dear Sally and St. Paul's Family

Hope this finds you well and healthy! We have recovered fully and are pushing forward in this strange time. Below is a link to an article that SAMS just put out about our ministry. I wanted to share it with all of you ! Much love from South America,

Cameron

<https://samsusa.org/2020/11/05/be-a-neighbor-get-a-neighbor/>

## Collects and Readings for December

### **December 6, 2020 Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **December 13, 2020 The Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8,19-28, Psalm 126

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **December 20, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

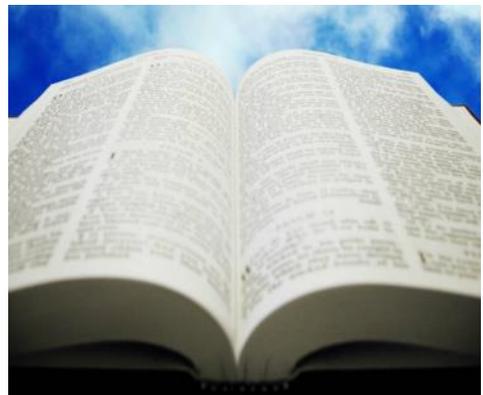
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38, Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **December 27, 2020 The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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, Gene Meyer, Bill Bates-Congdon,  
Dick Adkins, Sally Beyer, Henry Carter, Mark Hawes, Marie Treadwell,  
Eric Allegretti, Graham McQueen, the McQueen Family and Kurt Sellheim

#### Deaths of Family and Friends

Pete Addison

**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 - December**

### *Happy Anniversary*

- 3 Libby & Frank Justice**
- 6 Catherine & Ryan Lindgren**
- 16 Amanda & David McRell**
- 19 Carole & Pat Finn**
- 20 Linda & Frank Stewart**
- 21 Robin & Wayne Barschow**
- 22 Donna & David Dudley**
- 27 Mary & Henry Carter**



### *Happy Birthday*

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ruth Smith        | 17 Ellen Frank          |
| 3 Bob Griffin       | 18 Carole Finn          |
| Libba Mack          | Jack Hennessy           |
| Cory Paule          | Lindsay Stewart         |
| 5 Jim Symons        | 21 Holly Russell        |
| 8 Dorothy Kodzwa    | Mike Warren             |
| 10 Jennifer Vickery | 28 Ellie Abraham        |
| 11 Megan White      | 30 Mary Artello-Kneidel |
| 12 Alice Kirby      | Susan Leighton          |
| 13 Frank Justice    | 31 Linda Shonk          |



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

## December Calendar

December 1: New Adult Book Study Begins on Zoom @ 11am

December 2: [Advent Evening Prayer begins on Zoom @ 7pm](#)

Parents time with Jane begins at 8:15pm on Zoom

December 6: **The Second Sunday of Advent**

**NEW WORSHIP TIMES BEGIN TODAY**

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:15am

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 live on Facebook AND in the Parish Hall @9am

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 St Paul's Parking Lot service at 11:am

Please bring all ANGEL TREE GIFTS to the church

December 8: Adult Book Study Begins on Zoom @ 11am

Annual Parish Meeting on ZOOM at 7pm

December 9: Advent Evening Prayer begins on Zoom @ 7pm

Parents time with Jane begins at 8:15pm on Zoom

December 13: **The Third Sunday of Advent**

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:15am

Holy Eucharist Rite I live on Facebook AND in the Parish Hall @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite I St Paul's Parking Lot service at 11:am

December 14: Bethel Men's Shelter dinner due at the church **by 4:15pm**

December 15: Adult Book Study @ 11am

December 16: Advent Evening Prayer begins on Zoom @ 7pm

Parents time with Jane begins at 8:15pm on Zoom

December 20: **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Sunday Thoughts on ZOOM (for those under 18) @ 8:15am

Christmas Lessons and Readings @ 9am

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 St Paul's Parking Lot service at 11:am

December 23-25 Church Office is Closed

December 24: **Christmas Eve Services**

2:pm Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II St Paul's Parking lot

4:pm Festive Holy Eucharist Rite II Parish Hall

December 25- January 9: Reverend Sally on vacation

December 27: **The First Sunday after Christmas Day**

Christmas Lessons and Carols from King's College.

Hosted by David Dudley on Zoom @ 9am

December 31- January 1 Church Office is Closed

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

## **DECEMBER 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 SERVICE 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.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

This year our annual parish meeting will be held on December 8, at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Before this meeting we will distribute our annual reports through email. The candidates for 3 three-year vestry terms are Heather Hvide, Kay Jaitley, and Libby Justice. The candidates for our 4 delegates to the Diocesan Convention are David Dudley, Carolyn Line, Ginny Arthur and Ed Reuille. Please make plans to join us for this meeting.

### **Advent Evening Prayer**

Beginning December 2, we will offer Advent Evening Prayer on Zoom. We will hear scripture that speaks of the coming of the Lord. And as homily, we will all have an opportunity to share with each other what we have heard in God's word. Please join us as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

### **Adult Book Study**

On **Tuesday, December 1 at 11am**, Tuesday Book Study will begin **Holy Envy** by Episcopal priest, author, and educator **Barbara Brown Taylor**. Download the study guide at [smallgroup-guides.com](http://smallgroup-guides.com) and search *Holy Envy*. Contact Jane Kilpatrick [stpaulseducator@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulseducator@gmail.com) or 704-968-2902 with questions. We look forward to you joining us.

### **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 8:15am 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 and especially thank the MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE this month. They are: Ginny Arthur, chairman and her exceptional committee; David Dudley, Ellen Frank, Caroline Line and Barbara McQueen. They have done an amazing job organizing & delivering dinners for the Men's Warming Shelter in Rock Hill, continuing to collect for Classroom Ready providing necessary resources for the Fort Mill Schools and lastly, the important Angel Tree bringing Christmas joy to families in need. We appreciate all that they do and for our parishioners who have contributed to this committee! Thank you!

## EDUSC CONVENTION by Ginny Arthur

Last November 7 I had the privilege of being one of our four parish delegates to the 98<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. (The other three lay delegates were Dennis Edwards, Carolyn Line, and Lizann Rex.) I was looking forward to this occasion because although I had been a parish delegate from my Anglican church in Canada (where diocesan conventions are called “synods” – and vestries are called “parish councils”, the word “vestry” being reserved for meetings of an entire parish’s membership), I have not previously attended an Episcopal Church convention. In many ways my experience of each was similar: the bishop presides; there is worship; there are reports and presentations from various program committees; and there is business to be transacted, including the approval of resolutions and the statement of mission (budget) and the election of various diocesan officials and board members.

Needless to say, however, my experience this year was also very different in some ways, as it would undoubtedly have been almost anywhere in our Anglican communion. Among the pleasures of synods are the opportunities to explore displays of all sorts, often including the terrible temptation of intriguing books for sale, and to meet delegates from other parishes and through conversation with them to develop a more personal sense of the greater whole of which we are a part. I assume that in normal years diocesan conventions are much the same. Not so in 2020.

This year Convention met via Zoom and voting was done electronically. Although I was sorry to miss the in-person experience, I did enjoy “attending,” masked and physically distanced, with Reverend Sally in the parish hall. I give full marks to the diocese for the implementation of the process. Delegates were given lots of opportunity ahead of time to practice signing in and voting; and while there were a few glitches, they seemed relatively minor. Most of the reporting by diocesan Commissions (Mission and International Concerns; Christian Formation; Ministry; the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion; Congregations; and Diocese) were confined to the Journal, which was sent to delegates by email, allowing us plenty of time to read and digest the wealth of information provided. Elections (to the Executive Council, the Ecclesiastical Board, and the University of the South Board of Trustees) were mostly uncontested, and motions passed with very little discussion. Because opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Statement of Mission (reduced by about 10% from 2020) was provided at Convocation meetings (Zoom again) throughout the diocese well before Convention, it was approved with little debate, which I found quite refreshing, having seldom been the case at synods I have attended. All in all everything proceeded so efficiently that with the announcement of a Convention on September to elect a new bishop on September 15, 2021, and the regular annual Convention on November 5-6, 2021, all business had been concluded by 1:00 p.m. There were a couple of things I found particularly interesting:

Somewhat surprisingly in this time of COVID, parish pledges to the diocese are being paid more quickly than in any of the past 5 years, having reached 77.77% at the end of September which is more in line with previous years’ figures for October.

One of the two resolutions presented was for the conversion of The Church of the Ascension, Seneca, to mission status. This was something new in my experience; and while I thought it sad that this parish found it necessary to take such a step, I also felt heartened that Convention would recognize its value in the life of the community and affirm supporting it through the process of discerning its future. Our parish, along with all others in our diocese, are asked to hold Church of the Ascension in prayer as they move forward, and I hope we will do so.

Finally I would like to mention Bishop Waldo’s address as I am sure his call to Convention delegates was surely intended for all members of our diocese. Bishop Waldo is a story-teller, and he both entertained and alarmed us with the tale of his teen-age exploration of a little known cave with a boy he would not have chosen had anyone else been available. He used his struggle in the dark confines of a constricting tunnel with the help only of a flashlight with a rapidly fading battery and a companion who had lost hold of the rope that connected them as a metaphor for our times. It was, he said, when he stopped struggling that he relaxed enough to wriggle his way out of the tunnel and when he and his companion reached out to each other that they were able to make their way up the steep slope out of the cave. We are, he reminded us, the body of Christ in this place and time. “Life with Christ is an adventure that carries the risk of getting stuck, hurt, and disillusioned.” When we are “stuck in relationships with those whose politics we hate and whose habits annoy us,” we must not forget that they are also “beloved children of God just like we want to be and are.” it is when we go deep, let go of our assumptions, really listen to one another’s experiences and perspectives, and let God show us the way that we can find room for movement and light in our darkness. God is beckoning us to carry God’s love into places that are broken and in need of healing and reconciliation. It can be risky, but it is a risk ultimately rewarded with joy.

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



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