



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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**Office Hours -
Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday
9am- 12noon**

Issue 9

September 2020

Number 1

Morning Prayer in the Parking lot

I'm pretty sure that before last March I would never have put the above words together. But now I am thankful that I can. We have started to have in-person Sunday morning worship in our parking lot at 9:00 am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. I believe that it has been a good experience for all who are able to participate.

We have gathered for scripture readings, prayers, a sermon and music provided by Steav Bates-Congdon. Jane Kilpatrick has provided a message for the children. We have enjoyed being together in community and everyone has done an excellent job maintaining a safe "social distance".

We will continue worshipping in this way as long as the weather allows us. If you join us please bring a chair, wear a face mask and keep 6 feet between people of different households. The restrooms will not be open so please come prepared for that.

Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

We will also continue to stream Morning Prayer every week on Facebook Live. Because the outdoor service will begin at 9:00 (so that we still have some shade), the Facebook service has moved to 7:30 am. If that is too early for you, it will be available to watch on our Facebook page at any time that is convenient for you.

Giving thanks for auditors

Pat Finn and Donna Dudley have completed our 2019 audit. This is a n arduous task that is required every year. Once completed the results are sent to the Diocese. I would like to thank both Pat and Donna for the many hours that they devoted to this task. It makes my job a lot easier knowing that I can rely on them to complete this ministry.

-Sally Franklin

Christian Education - Children & Youth

Ahhhh, September! Opportunities are Knocking - and we need them!

September has always seemed to me an opportunity to reflect on pre-summer life and what improvements and changes I wanted to make. In some ways, this September may not bring quite the opportunities I had hoped for but I am looking on the bright side, thinking *different doesn't mean better or worse; it just means different and normal (especially new normal) doesn't always feel good*. If nothing else, we have opportunities to normalize what we have thought of as our new normal.

When we think about it, *normal* is always changing. There is the normal we have before and after the normal we create when we implement a lesson Jesus provided us. The normal we have before and the normal created after a child is born into a family. Normal changes when someone in our family develops food allergies, when someone in our family becomes ill and certainly when a loved one dies.

I must say that most of the time I have had to recreate *normal* I resist the change. Why? Fear. Grief. I don't know what to do, how to do what needs to be done, and afraid I will do something wrong. Even if I wasn't comfortable with the way things had been going, I was at least familiar enough with that *normal* to know what to expect. Add to those, I am already tired and I just don't feel like it. With a lot of prayer and support I begin to *make the best of a bad situation*.

This September we begin with the opportunities to recreate *normal* but these will be within confines that have lessened the flexibility we have known before. I read a piece of advice from General McCrystal than seems unexpectedly appropriate for our current situation - "Fight the battle that is in front of you; not the one you want," and Mister Rogers says, "Find the helpers." God is our #1 helper, instructs us to "pray without ceasing," to, "love your neighbor as yourself," and always remember that the most important thing is holding on tightly to "...the greatest of these is love."

Most every cliché has an equivalent in the Bible. God has provided us with the opportunity of choice, his commands and sayings to encourage us when we need to accomplish the difficulties in life. The choice of how we employ these is what will turn the washboard dirt lane we find ourselves on into the narrow, but paved, two-lane and beyond as we choose.

Put into action as much as you can, whenever you can. When it is too much, just do your best to pray and be kind. Collectively things will improve for us all.

Pick your opportunities and enjoy! To God be the glory! Amen.

To All Who Made a Decision Regarding the Education of a Child - Congratulations! I am so happy for you. Stop for a moment and bask in the victory of this decision AND, forget anyone who told you what they thought you should do or made any negative statement or judgement about your choice. And keep at bay those gut wrenching feelings, sleepless nights, and frustration trying to encroach on "the thrill of victory," which has already conquered the, "agony of defeat."

Parents' Beverage and Book Club - *Bless This Mess: A Modern Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World*

Beginning September 19 at 8:15pm - Parents, with your favorite beverage in hand, pull up a comfy chair and gather around your screen to join your comrades in messes and chaos for a 45 minute of light-hearted, constructive parents' time. You can find a group conversation guide on their website www.theblessthemessparent.com.

We will add a short insight for the children and youth during the first and third Sundays when we worshipping in the parking lot. Please bring the children and youth as I am looking forward to seeing them, and you, during the service.

Beginning Sunday, September 16 and following on the first and third Sundays at 10:15, **Sunday Thoughts** (for those under 18) will come to you via the internet.

Be in Touch. Jane Kilpatrick, Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries 704-968-2902

Stewardship and Financial Information

STEWARDSHIP IN THE TIME OF COVID

This time is very challenging as we attempt to find ways to practice good stewardship as an important part of our faith. Our Mission & Outreach committee has been a great source of ideas for us. As we start up outside worship and continue to hold our Sunday worship virtually, there are new ways we can practice Stewardship to help with setting up for these services. There are requests for help setting up for outside services (contact Megan Moore), or just monitoring the live streaming for Reverend Sally as she leads worship every Sunday morning. Checking in on our friends at church is a very important part of caring for each other and our parish.

As we conclude projects around the church, there is a need for your financial help to supplement the "More than bricks campaign". An update from our Jr. Warden, Catherine Lindgren can be read in this newsletter.

As the needs of our parish continue to rise in different ways, our annual Stewardship and pledge campaign is as important as ever. Campaign packets will be mailed out **October 15**. Pledges for 2021 will be due by November 8. So many of us have stayed up to date on our pledges which is appreciated as the daily financial needs of the church continue. If you think you are a little behind on your giving, the fall is a great time to get caught up. As always, thank you for your continued support.

If you have a calling to assist with our Stewardship campaign this fall, please contact me. If you do not have a Parish Directory, you can secure my information through the parish secretary. We could use your help.

I look forward to a time we can all be together again, worshipping in our beautiful parish church. Till then, stay safe.

Yours in Christ, Betty Allegretti, Stewardship Chair

Giving during the Pandemic

Through July, contributions continued to hold up reasonably well even though in person worship had been suspended since March. The monthly schedule on year-to-date contributions elsewhere in this Epistle shows that giving is under what the budget anticipated based on pledges (Pledging Members) and last year's giving (Non-Pledging Members & Guests and Loose Offerings).

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. 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.

Interim Contribution Statements in October

As mentioned in the August Epistle, plans are moving forward to make interim contribution statements available in October for giving through September. Pledging Members will receive these interim statements as a reminder of how their year-to-date giving compares to their 2020 Pledge. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Reuille (edwardreuille@gmail.com or 803-547-6559).

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.

2020 Collections & Offerings

2020 through July

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Statement of Mission</u>	<u>2019 through July</u>
Loose Offerings	798.00	2,278.00	2,084.00
Members & Guests	100,197.00	110,703.00	93,550.00
Non Pledge Members and Guest	6,135.00	12,748.00	20,935.00
Total	107,130.00	125,729.00	116,569.00

Ways to Serve at St. Paul's

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

The Mission and Outreach Committee is delighted to welcome two new members: *Ellen Frank and David Dudley*. Their enthusiasm and insight are already proving to be invaluable gifts to our efforts. Committee membership now consists of Ginny Arthur (chair), Barbara McQueen (secretary), Doug Spreen (chief financial officer), Carolyn Line, Ellen, and David.

Classroom Ready

We continue to be so very grateful to each of you who has contributed to our Classroom Ready campaign. Thanks to you, we have more than met our commitment to provide 350 index cards and as well as to maintain their supply of tape. The latest count (as of August 18) was 374 packs of 4 x 6 index cards and 132 tape dispensers. We also want to say a huge "thank you" to the recent donor of \$100.00 toward the purchase of classroom supplies! Please keep the tape rolls (good quality in a dispenser, *not* refill rolls) coming as the need is ongoing.

Bethel Men's Warming Shelter Dinner

The shelter continues to serve meals every night to homeless men in the Rock Hill area. Our participation in this program has always been generously and enthusiastically supported; now we are asking for your help again. Although we will not be personally serving the meals, we have committed to **providing another dinner on September 30**. The menu we have chosen is pasta casserole, tossed salad, bread and butter, and the ever-popular banana pudding. Now we inviting you to help prepare the food and bring it to the church in disposable foil pans which we will deliver to the shelter to be served by their volunteers and staff members. Please be on the watch for more information to be emailed soon.

Fort Mill Care Center

Thank you, also, to everyone who has been keeping the grocery cart supplied during this time when more people than ever are finding it difficult to feed their families. It requires extra effort to bring in donations when we are not coming to the church; your dedication is very much appreciated. I know it is only September, but my mind is already thinking about Thanksgiving meals. Please donate rice and/or mashed potatoes this month. Thank you. Jan Arnold

The More Than Bricks Campaign

The More Than Bricks Campaign is quickly coming to a close! We are trying to put the final touches on all the projects. However, we have gone over budget by \$8,000.00 by adding the handicapped parking spaces to the plan. We had many people in the congregation request having these spaces added so it would be easier for those that need them.

Please donate what you can to help pay for this addition--the deadline for this is Sept 30th. On the memo line please put "**More Than Bricks**".

There have been a couple of things that the city has requested for the project that we had not anticipated. One big thing is that they want us to plant 4-- 8' trees to buffer our property from the neighbors. I would like to see if we can get 4 or 5 families to donate the landscaping. We are in the process of shopping around for these now. If you would like to help, let me know that you are interested in helping with this project as soon as possible. Please email me: clindgren@comporium.net Thank you all, Catherine Lindgren

Collects and Readings for September

September 6 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

September 13 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35**

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

September 20 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16**

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

September 27 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



Collects and Readings for October

October 4 The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

October 11 The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

October 18 The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

**Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

October 25 The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12, Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46**

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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, Alyia Strickland, Gene Meyer, Pete Addison, Bill Bates-Congdon, Dick Adkins, Sally Beyer, Henry Carter, Mark Hawes, Marie Treadwell, Carole Finn, Ruby Landeau, Eric Allegretti, Pam Centea, and Joanna and Biff Virkler

Deaths of Family and Friends

Pete Schultz (Joanne Edwards brother)
Charles Boyette (Member)
Susan and Jessie Jacobs (Friends of Libby Justice)
Joel Munday (Kim Munday's brother-in-law)
Claire Addison (Member)

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 - September

Baptism

Emilie Edna See

Fiona Rose Riker

Happy Anniversary

7 Gina & David Llewellyn

9 Sue & Michael Craven

12 Kimberly & Greg Moore

14 Mary & Barry Mack

18 Ellen & Charles Frank

20 Stephanie & Chris Krafft

25 Gay & Mike Warren

30 Irene & Don Peeler

Happy Birthday

1 David Llewellyn

2 Mary Carter

4 Betty Allegretti

5 Elliott Krafft

7 Christopher Griffin

14 Chanee Battle

Olivia Battle

Ell Close

Lily Lindgren

16 Victoria Nastiuk

18 Carolyn Line

21 Dylan Battle

22 Logan Hunt

24 Tiffany Lawrie

27 Ron Farley

Polly Weaver

28 Alison Hunter

29 Thomas White

30 Evelyn Verastegui

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

Thank you!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Sunday Morning at 7:30 Join us on Facebook live for Morning Prayers

Outdoor In-Person Parking Lot Services: Sept 13 and 27 @ 9:00

Outdoor in-person Morning Prayer service will begin at 9:00 am Please plan to come worship with us. This service will be held in the parking lot at St Paul's. Plan to park on the street in front of the church and follow the instructions of the setup team. You will need to wear a face mask during the entire service and stay six feet apart from those not in your family. Dress for comfort, shorts are perfectly acceptable and remember to bring a comfortable chair with you.

IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE SERVICE WILL BE CANCELED.

Dessert and Conversation Every Wednesday Night at 7pm

Throughout the summer we will continue to meet for fellowship on Zoom each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. Bring your favorite dessert and beverage to enjoy as we gather to see each other and catch up on our lives. This will be an open conversation with no planned agenda. Our September dates will be 9, 16, 23 and 30. We will not meet on September 2. A link will be provided each week in the Einfo for you to join.

Social Justice Bible Challenge

We will meet through Zoom at **1:00 on Wednesdays**. Please contact me if you would like to participate in this study. I would like to begin on **September 9**. Clare Hawes claredulaneyhawes@gmail.com
What does the Bible have to say to us about social justice and Christian participation in justice? In early March we began to study the Social Justice Bible Challenge but our study was interrupted by COVID restrictions. We would like to restart this study. The book is designed to be read in forty days. Each day has a Scripture passage, a commentary, and questions. The book is available on Amazon.

EfM: Education for Ministry

Our first meeting for Year Two will be **Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.** If we do not have our books by that time, all the reading is available on line. Until further notice, we will continue to meet virtually. I am looking into a new program, similar to Zoom called Google Meet. I may try to get everyone available to log on to Google Meet to see if it is something we can use. The advantage is that, in addition, to less expense, it is compatible with several other Google programs like Docs, Search, Drive, and G-Suite. The Meet application does not require that you have Google, and you can log in to the program with a link provided. For those of you who might have used Google Hangout in the past, Meet is an enhanced version of it. Call, text or e-mail if you have any questions. We look forward to "seeing" everyone on September 10. David Dudley at 704-975-9433 aviddudley2@gmail.com or Clare Hawes at 803-230-7894 clare@monksgroovybeans.com

Adult Bible Study

The adult Bible study will begin on **Tuesday September 15th** with a study based on the book "Original Blessing" by Danielle Shroyer. It will be a 6 week study from 11AM until noon using both the book and a study guide, which can be downloaded from here <http://danielleshroyer.com/wp-content/uploads/>
Contact Doug Spreen for more information. Douglas.spreen@gmail.com or 704.222.1618.

Parents' Beverage and Book Club

Beginning **Wednesday, September 16th** at 8:15pm, get your favorite parent *juice*, pull up a comfy chair and gather online for some discussion, fellowship, prayer, and laughter. You will find the book "***Bless This Mess: A Modern Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World***" provides much needed insight with great humor provided by the authors The Reverend Molly Baskette and Ellen O'Donnell, PhD. This pastor and psychologist duo have written a *real* guide on parenting and faith. You can find a group conversation guide on their website www.theblessthisparent.com.

For Those Under 18: Sunday Thoughts

On **Sunday, September 20th** and following on the **first and third** Sundays in October at 10:15, **Sunday Thoughts** will come to you via Zoom. Parents will receive a letter in the mail with more information.

Announcements Continued:

Parking Lot Tailgate

In July and August our dinner groups met on Friday nights in the Church's parking lot and had a tailgate dinner. We had a great time so we thought that in September we would open it to whoever wished to join us. We will meet on **Friday September 18 at 6:30 pm**. Bring your favorite picnic food for you and your family members. (We ask that people not share food). Bring a drink, utensils, an outdoor chair, a table if you like and whatever else you need to enjoy the party. We will spread out in the parking lot, keeping 6 feet between us, and enjoy each other's company. Also, please wear a facemask when not eating.

Streaming Technology

Because of the advances that have been made over recent years, we are able to continue to worship over the internet during this crisis. That has been a real blessing. However, I need help. I am having trouble being both liturgist/preacher and internet operator. It would be very beneficial for me to have a team of people who would be responsible for the internet set up on Sunday mornings. I know we have people in the parish who are more proficient than I am with the various platforms. I would hope that we could find two or three people to form a team 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.

Introduction to Paradise

No, not that Paradise. Our own Fort Mill Paradise! Many of you surely already know about the Paradise community, but I lived in this area for several years before I ever even heard of it. Others like me may not be aware that Paradise lies next door to the neighborhood that includes St. Paul's. Paradise was born in 1895 with the sale of a tract of land to Bethlehem Baptist Church trustees who developed it into Fort Mill's first organized black community. Settled by former slaves who became teachers, tradesmen, and craftspeople, Paradise became a thriving working class neighborhood. In 1925 Fort Mill's first all-black public school, the George Fish Colored School, was constructed on Steele Street and became the center of the community which boasted a youth baseball team, a band and a variety of civic groups.

When textile manufacturing began to decline in the Carolinas and mills began to close, Paradise, like many other communities, was affected by job loss and economic decline. In the late 1970s the school was shut down. A few years later the building was destroyed and replaced by a Duke Energy facility. The Paradise neighborhood center was gone, and the people began to leave too.

Today Paradise is struggling. Most of its houses are old; and many require electrical upgrades, new plumbing, and other repairs. Most residents are black and aging with only low to moderate incomes, many living on less than \$3,000 a month. As Fort Mill prospers and property values rise, many Paradise homeowners face the possibility of tax increases above their ability to pay. There is also concern that residents will be induced to sell to developers, leading to the loss of the neighborhood's historic identity.

The people of Paradise are our St. Paul's neighbors, and the Mission and Outreach Committee would like to make them also our friends. We are currently exploring ways in which we might come to know them better and possibly work with them to address some of their needs. Please stay tuned for further developments!

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

