



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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Issue 11

November 2020

Number 1

Worshipping during the Pandemic

One of the most difficult tasks I have had in over 26 years of ordained ministry is to lead this congregation through this pandemic. I know that you all miss seeing each other. I miss seeing you too. Each night, I watch the nightly news to see how this disease is spreading and to note potential sources of infection. My greatest concern is to keep us all safe. I believe this is our calling from God. Sometimes this calling asks that we make sacrifices. I know that most of you are making sacrifices. And I appreciate that. During this time, I ask for your patience and understanding. Please know that, with guidance from the Diocese, the vestry and I are making the best decisions that we can.

For November, we will continue our current worship schedule. Our digital service of Morning Prayer will be at 8:00am on Facebook live. Then at 10:00 am, we will hold an in-person outdoor service of Holy Eucharist in the parking lot. If there is rain that day, the service will be cancelled. For more details about this service, see the weekly E-info email.

We are still evaluating plans for December. Please email the Church office to let us know if you would be willing to come to a service in the parish hall. If we meet in the parish hall, the windows and doors will have to be opened to provide for proper ventilation. We will turn on the heat but it will probably still be cool. We will still have to remain socially distanced from those not in our households. I have talked to some who are anxious to be indoors. I have also talked with some who do not want to be inside. Therefore, I need to have an idea of how many people are really willing to come to an indoor service. If we have enough people who want to worship inside, we will develop and submit a plan to the Diocese for approval. Attendance will be limited, so we will have to develop a way to sign up for services. As plans develop, we will keep you updated.

During this difficult time, I really do appreciate the support of all of you! We are all walking in unknown country. I am trusting that our Diocese and our Bishop are doing their best to develop guidelines for our common life. Please know that the leaders of your parish are doing their best to implement these guidelines and to make our common worship and life possible.

Faithfully in our Lord Jesus Christ,
-Sally Franklin

Christian Education - Children & Youth

Sunday Thoughts will continue through November and we will Zoom with the children from 8:30 to 9:00. I will open the site around 8:15 for visiting. How we spend this time together will vary. The reason for this change is to provide an opportunity for the children and I to see and hear one another, share and have God-time. This will also give you time to worship as a family in the church parking lot at 10:00. There will be time for the children during that service, as well. The what, how, and why may vary slightly, but the goal is for your children to connect with one another and learn that there are more ways and places where God can be found than we imagined.

Youth Group - we will have a *S'mores and More* gathering in the parking lot around the fire pit this month. Planning is underway. Details will be provided next week.

Parents Beverage and Book (not required but discussion welcome) **Club**. Join us Wednesday evenings. Waiting room opens just after 8:00. Prayer at 8:15 and we will close at 9:15pm. Our **format is flexible** during these unusual times as we remind ourselves of God's presence and support one another through **judgement-free fellowship**.

Prayers for November

All Saints' Day: November 1: Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen (BCP p. 250)

Election Day, November 3: We pray for the candidates; those we vote for, and those we vote against. We recognize the challenges they have accepted by putting their names forward for public service; that by doing so they have been heavily scrutinized and criticized for every questionable decision or out-of-context comment; that they have opened their personal and private lives to the public both in this campaign and into the future; that some have endured attack ads and mud-slinging campaign tactics, and that some have engaged in the same. We pray for the candidates who will win this election for the first time, for those who will win re-elected seats, and for those who will not be elected: may they remain faithful to a life of humble service. [Laura Marie Piotrowicz](#)

Thanksgiving, November 26: This is a day for *thankfulness*. A day in which we see or hear or feel the wonders of the other moments of the year. This is a day for *time*. A day in which we think of pasts that make our present rich and future bountiful. This is a day for *joy*. A day in which we share a gift of laughter - warm and gentle as a smile. Above all, this is a day for *peace*. So let us touch each other and know that we are one. For these and other blessings, we thank Thee, God. (Daniel Roselle, *Graces*)

Advent I, November 29: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever, Amen. (BCP p. 159)

For Mothers: Dear God, recently there was a *New York Times* article entitled "Mothers are the Shock Absorbers of our Country". We don't have to tell you that our springs have sprung, the rust has built up, the hydraulic fluid has leaked, and the ball bearings have seized. The vehicle those shocks must support is low on gas. The oil needs changing as the cloud of grey smoke is telling the world that we are burned out. The power steering fluid needs to be topped off because it is becoming more and more difficult to turn around. Thank you, God, for being our lifetime guaranteed shock absorber. Thank you for analogies, a sense of humor, your love, friends, family, blessings, prayers, and the beverage in *our* sippy cups. Amen. (Jane Kilpatrick)

Be in Touch!

Jane Kilpatrick, Director of Christian Education and Family Ministries
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Financial Information

Giving in 2020 During the Pandemic

Through September, 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 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 even in a "normal" year. As detailed elsewhere, pledging members will be receiving interim contribution statements.

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 in October

As mentioned in prior Epistles, interim contribution statements are being mailed to pledging members in October. They will include contributions through Sunday, October 26. If you pledged for 2020, you should receive a statement by the end of the first week of November. These interim statements are a reminder of how your year-to-date giving compares to your 2020 Pledge with 2 months left in the year. Please refer to these statements to insure you fulfill your 2020 pledge. Doing so is critical to St. Paul's. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Reuille or John Connor.

2020 Collections & Offerings

2020 through September

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Statement of Mission</u> | <u>2019 through September</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Loose Offerings | 818.00 | 2,976.00 | 3,106.00 |
| Members & Guests | 130,272.00 | 140,858.00 | 112,865.00 |
| Non Pledge Members and Guest | 10,069.00 | 16,261.00 | 23,580.00 |
| Total | 141,159.00 | 160,095.00 | 139,551.00 |

Ways to Serve at St. Paul's

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

Even though it has been Halloween in my surrounding neighborhoods for about a month, I am still having trouble believing that November is already here! Holiday season is actually almost upon us. Some of my friends celebrate Thanksgiving all month by taking time each day to identify and meditate on one specific thing for which they are thankful. When I have participated in this practice, I have found it very meaningful and spiritually refreshing. Being consciously grateful for my many blessings makes it easier to deal with whatever else may be going on in my life. In many ways these are strange and unsettling times for all of us but much more difficult for some than for others. I hope that we can each find inside ourselves a well of gratitude from which to dip out some measure of God's love to share with those of our sisters and brothers who may be feeling most in need of it.

Bethel Men's Warming Shelter

A number of you have suggested that we provide **shelter meals** more often than once a year, Because the need does seem so great right now, we have committed to take food again on **December 14**. We will be offering the same menu as last time (ground beef and macaroni casserole and salad) except for substituting cupcakes for banana pudding. If you offered help after the slots were filled for the last dinner, I hope you will consider offering again this time. **The SignUpGenius will be available on November 8.**

With colder weather on the way, the shelter will also be accepting **clothing donations**. If any of you should feel moved to contribute in this way, good quality socks are always especially welcome along with underwear (sizes S – XL). The men are also needing large heavy duty backpacks for carrying their belongings. For other ideas, including how to make a cash donation, please go to <https://bethelmensshelter.org/> or check out their Amazon wish list. We will be setting up a table in the parish hall for any donations you might wish to bring to the church for us to deliver to the shelter along with our meal.

Angel Trees

Unless you have been involved in organizing our parish Angel Trees in the past, you may not realize what a huge undertaking it is. In past years Mary and Peggy Artello-Kneidel have made this ministry look easy, and they deserve a tremendous "thank you" for all they have done. This year, however, they have retired and are taking a well-earned rest. Peggy will be sharing her expertise as a consultant while our committee attempts to fill their shoes. Due to COVID our 2020 ministry will have different procedures in place for your participation. (1) Barbara McQueen coordinating (2) We will only be serving two families. (3) Tags for gift and Christmas dinner food items for one family will be available at the church. (3) Gift and food items for the second family will be pledged using SignUpGenius. **Tags and SignUpGenius will both be available as of November 8.** Gifts and food items must all be brought to the church by December 6. *Watch your email for more information coming soon.*

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.

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS continued

Fort Mill Care Center

Sadly food insecurity continues to be a serious problem in our area, made worse by the current pandemic. As you shop for your own holiday meals this year, please remember those who are struggling to provide even basic nutrition for their families. Your generosity has steadily filled our grocery cart through these past months. Please continue to make it a priority. The Care Center suggests that you keep the following items particularly in mind: ***stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, rice, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie mix.*** ***Turkeys*** are also needed for the holiday season, but *please contact Jan Arnold before bringing one to the church.* The grocery cart remains on the covered porch outside the church office for your convenience.

Attention Knitters and Crocheters

If you have made any items such as scarves, caps, or mittens but 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

The Mission and Outreach Committee wishes each of you a joyful Thanksgiving celebration.



Collects and Readings for November

November 1: All Saints' Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

November 8: The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

November 15: The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

November 22: The Last Day of Pentecost

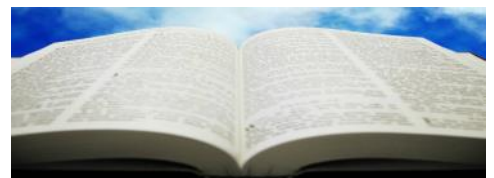
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

November 29: The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37, Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and 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, Pete Addison, Bill Bates-Congdon, Dick Adkins, Sally Beyer, Henry Carter, Mark Hawes, Marie Treadwell, Carole Finn, Eric Allegretti, Barrett Yattko, Haines Maxwell, Libby Griffin and Gene Toyota

Deaths of Family and Friends

Arlene Bibza (Aunt of Ellen Frank)
Rt. Rev. Charles Duvall

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 - November

Happy Anniversary

- 3- Ruth and Rick Smith
- 4- Janice and Chris Hage
- 10- Sabrina and Buddy Wade



Happy Birthday

- 2- Pat Hunter
- Mary Mack
- 3- Dennis Edwards
- 4- Alice Lawrie
- 9- Daniel Ranucci
- 10- John Arnold
- Alexis Verastegui
- 15- Anne Close
- Rebecca Munday
- 25- Robin Barschow
- 29- Lucas Hawes

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

November Calendar

November 1: All Saints' Day

Morning Prayer on Facebook live at 8:00am

Sunday Thoughts on Zoom (for those under 18) at 8:15am

In person Holy Eucharist Service St Paul's parking lot at 10am

November 2: All Souls' Day We remember those we love but see no longer.

November 3: Adult Bible Study on ZOOM at 11am

November 4: Dessert and Conversation on Zoom at 7:pm

Parents' Club on Zoom at 8:15pm

November 5: EfM at 7pm

November 8: Morning Prayer on Facebook live at 8:00am

Sunday Thoughts on Zoom (for those under 18) at 8:15am

In person Holy Eucharist Service St Paul's parking lot at 10am

November 10: Adult Bible Study on ZOOM at 11am

November 11: Dessert and Conversation on Zoom at 7:pm

Parents' Club on Zoom at 8:15pm

November 12: EfM at 7pm

November 15: Morning Prayer on Facebook live at 8:00am

Sunday Thoughts on Zoom (for those under 18) at 8:15am

In person Holy Eucharist Service St Paul's parking lot at 10am

November 17: Adult Bible Study on ZOOM at 11am

Vestry meeting at 7pm

November 18: Caregivers Meeting at 11:30am

Dessert and Conversation on Zoom at 7:pm

**This will be the last time we meet for Dessert and Conversation. We will begin Advent Evening Prayers on ZOOM December 2 at 7pm. Stay tuned for more info.

Parents' Club on Zoom at 8:15pm

November 19: EfM at 7pm

November 22: **THANKSGIVING LITURGY**

Baptism??? Morning Prayer on Facebook live at 8:00am

Sunday Thoughts on Zoom (for those under 18) at 8:15am

Holy Baptism Service St Paul's parking lot at 10am

November 24: **ADULT BIBLE MEETING???**

November 25-27: CHURCH OFFICES ARE CLOSED Happy Thanksgiving

No Zoom groups meeting until December 1

November 29: Advent Begins

NOVEMBER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Sunday Morning at 8:00 Join us on Facebook live for Morning Prayers

Outdoor In-Person Parking Lot Services Every Sunday Morning at 10am

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

For the month of November, we plan to hold an *outdoor service* every Sunday morning, weather permitting. Our outdoor worship services will be **Sunday, November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29th at 10am**. The services will include a modified Holy Eucharist. Please plan to come worship with us. The services are 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. If you have difficulty walking from the street, we do have space in the parking lot for you to park. You will need to wear a face mask when you are not seated and stay six feet apart from those not in your family. Dress for comfort and if needed bring a lap throw for added warmth and remember to bring a comfortable chair with you. If you do not have a chair, one will be provided for you. Restrooms are now available but must be used one at a time.

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. I know we have people in the parish who are more proficient than I am with the various platforms. I was hoping 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.

Dessert and Conversation

A group of us have had a good time catching up on Wednesday nights on Zoom. We will however end this offering following November 18 so that we can start a new Advent worship service. If you would like to join us for the last few gatherings, please do. We meet on Wednesdays at 7 pm. Click this link to join us:

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 what we hear in God's word as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year our annual parish meeting will be held virtually on Zoom. We are still making plans for this meeting but will get you details soon.

Diocesan Convention

Like so many events this year the annual convention of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina will be different this year. The convention will be meeting on-line on Saturday November 7. Your delegates to this convention will be present through their computers. Our delegates include Lizann Rex, Carolyn Line, Ed Reuille and Ginny Arthur.

NOVEMBER EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *continued*

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 11:00am - <https://zoom.us/j/96307466940> Meeting ID: 963 0746 6940. We will finish our current book, *Original Blessing* on Tuesday, November 10. On Tuesday, December 1, we will begin with a new book; **Holy Envy** by Episcopal priest, author, and educator **Barbara Brown Taylor**.

Throughout *Holy Envy*, Taylor weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been complicated and renewed by connecting with people of other traditions—even those whose truths are quite different from hers. The one constant in her odyssey is the sense that God is the one calling her to disown her version of God—a change that ultimately enriches her faith in other human beings and in God. (Amazon review)

Download the study guide at smallgroupguides.com and search *Holy Envy*. Contact Jane Kilpatrick stpalseducator@gmail.com with questions. We look forward to you joining us.

The Vestry would like to recognize for the month of November **Ron Farley and Dana Wilcox** for the endless hours of work on the last ***More Than Bricks*** project. They have spent many hours planning and connecting with the architect and getting the plans approved with the City. They helped prepare the grounds by clearing out debris, trimming trees and digging holes for new trees. They have spent the last 6 months monitoring the work being done and making sure that it was what we expected. Now they are making trips once a day to water the grass and make sure we have grass where there was never been grass before! We do appreciate their hard work and can't wait for the kids to use their patio and the parents to use the new patio to the playground and someone to use the new coveted parking spaces! Thank you Ron and Dana for all that you did for the Church!

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:

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.

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



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