



St. Paul's Epistle

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"

COME TO CHURCH!

As long as it is safe (determined primarily by the infection rate in Johnston County), we'll be worshipping in person and sharing the Eucharist. While the governor has loosened the state-wide restrictions on some indoor gatherings (including churches), our bishops are cautiously loosening their guidance, allowing churches more local discretion. We will continue to monitor the reports on the state website and making adjustments if necessary to keep everyone safe.

I hope we won't be returning to live-streamed-only worship. It was SO wonderful to see faces in the pews the first two Sundays after Easter Day! Unfortunately, the coronavirus is still around and infecting too many people, so we might have to take a step back for a week or two even if we've been safely worshipping in-person for a number of weeks.

The window to register your desire to come to in-person worship opens each Monday morning. Email cometostpauls@gmail.com and tell us how many people will be with you. You'll get a confirmation email no later than Thursday evening (or an email explaining that we've had to suspend in-person worship, in the event we have to do that). We're tracking who is coming in hopes of giving everyone the opportunity, but it's absolutely okay to request a seat every week—just know that if you've been present for worship and someone who hasn't come to church needs a seat, you'll be asked to defer.

I know we are all tired of masks, social distancing, and not being in church. I can see a light at the end of the tunnel, and I hope you can, too. Getting my second vaccination three weeks ago was a highlight of 2021 for me! We will get back to something more normal if we all hang in there a little longer.

Easter blessings,
Jill+

St. Paul's Search Prayer

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: look graciously upon the people of St. Paul's, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our Search Committee as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to be Jesus Christ's heart, hands, and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith. Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey. Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection. All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name.
Amen.

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR:

JOIN THE GLOBAL 6K (3.7 miles) FOR CLEAN WATER

Did you know

An estimated 29% of world population lacks safe drinking water. That's 2.1 billion people. More than 800,000 people are estimated to die each year from diarrhea as a result of unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hand hygiene.

6K (3.7 miles) is the average distance traveled by someone to get safe water each day when none is locally available

\$25 can make a **BIG** difference in the lives of **four families** when a water filtration system is provided.

You can help! We're joining in the World Vision Global 6K for Clean Water on Saturday, May 22. We'll walk together for 3.7 miles around Smithfield to raise money to make safe drinking water available for people around the world.

A few years ago, a church I was serving participated in a public health project in Guatemala. The cost of a 5 gallon canister with a carbon filter that would last two years was \$25.00. That single canister could provide safe water for **FOUR FAMILIES**.

I'm hoping at least ten people in our parish will join me in this walk for clean water. We can make a difference! If we have five adults and five children/youth walking the Global 6K, we'd raise \$375, enough to provide safe drinking water to more than 50 families for two years! Universal access to safe drinking water is a fundamental need and a human right. The Sustainable Development Goals (which replaced the Millennial Development Goals) call for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water. We take it for granted. Billions of people around the world can not.

Our walk should take around 90 minutes; we'll determine a start time based on the preference of the walkers. The registration fee for the walk is \$25 for children and youth and \$50 for adults. If you can't walk, you can donate to underwrite the registration cost for someone who can. Or you can help us celebrate at the church when we return—we'll be hungry AND THIRSTY! If you want to walk but cannot afford the registration fee, don't let that stop you—we'll make it possible for you to join in.

Please let me know how you'll join in this effort to respect the dignity of people around the world who cannot imagine turning on a faucet like we do.

Grace and peace,
Jill+



NEWS AND NOTES...

Finance Committee

At our April 20 Zoom meeting, Rev. Beimdiek opened the meeting with prayer. Lindy Faulconer reported that Year-To-Date receipts were above budget. The primary reasons were advance payments in full of annual pledges, additional pledges/gifts from the Vestry request in February, and the PPP loan. The PPP loan funds have been deposited in the parish account but are being credited to the budget over a six-month period, at a rate of 1/6th of the funds per month. Monthly income was also enhanced by the receipts from the ECW Chili sale and the Lenten Fish Fry.

The Committee discussed the need for the annual review of the Finance Manual, the mailing of parishioner contribution statements, and the appointment of members to the Audit Committee.

We are seeking volunteer(s) for a committee member and a clerk. No special financial knowledge is required, and the clerk does not have to be a committee member.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Kendall, Chair

DAVID WILEY ELECTED TO THE VESTRY

Thanks to David Wiley for offering to serve the remainder of the vestry term of Sheila Stafford, who resigned due to health conditions. The Vestry formally elected Dave to this unexpired term at their April meeting. Dave will serve through December 2022.

Sunday Worship Via Internet

Our Zoom link for Sunday-morning worship will be posted in our weekly email blast and bulletin. We will not post the link outside parish news due to recent problems with hackers.

Our Facebook link is the home page for the St. Paul's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-Smithfield-NC-130758673995> .

Note: one need not subscribe to Facebook to watch the livestream. Simply choose "not now" if asked about adding an account.

April Vestry Highlights

At its April 27 meeting, the Vestry

- Elected David Wiley to fill an unexpired vestry term through December 2022
- Elected Ginger Levinson as chair of the 2020 Audit Committee
- Discussed the process for the search for St. Paul's next rector

And the exciting news:

The Vestry voted to establish the St. Paul's Legacy Endowment, anticipating an infusion of funds once the Rectory is sold. Establishing an endowment is a strong endorsement of confidence in the future of our parish. Endowments can provide a stream of revenue to meet operating expenses, and are most responsibly used when the principal of the endowments is not touched. That is to say, once we have funds in our Endowment, the interest and dividends that are earned can be taken and applied as operating revenue. The principal (the original funds used to establish the endowment) is not drawn upon. Should that revenue not be needed, the interest and dividends can be left in the endowment.

Starting an endowment is much easier when an organization has a significant amount of cash to invest. While we do not know precisely how much St. Paul's will realize from the sale of the Rectory, the Vestry is confident that this is a responsible decision and a great investment in the future of the parish.

Once an endowment is in place, it's easy for the principal to grow. Parishioners can name the St. Paul's Legacy Endowment in their will, designating a set amount or a percentage of their estate to be given to the endowment.

Attendance and Pledge Obligations 2021

Last Week	Year to Date
4/25/2021	1/1/2021 -4/25/2021
Pledge Payments \$ 775.00	Pl. Payments \$79,931.88
Weekly Pledge Target \$4507.40	Pledge Budget \$76,625.80



Our ECW season is coming to a close with May 15 at 10:00 a.m. being our last meeting until September. During our May meeting, members will be working on an exciting project that you will learn more about next month! Is the suspense killing you? Well if you really want to find out more, why don't you join us?

EVERY woman, at any age, who is a member of St. Paul's, is automatically a member of the Episcopal Church Women. There are no individual dues to be paid, and meetings are usually quick and to the point. Making the best use of everyone's time, projects are relevant and uplifting, the camaraderie is felt by all, and we really try to have a nice time. If you cannot join us in May, please think about becoming more active with our group when we reconvene in the Fall. Many hands make the workload light... and we try to laugh and have fun too. It's not just about soup!!

~ Nancy Gibbs, President

***Recipes are still needed!! The cookbook project is still alive, just tabled for publication until we can worship together again.

PLEASE continue to submit your recipes for our Cookbook Project either by entering them online or by using the enclosed form. We look forward to seeing recipes from any and all who would like to contribute.

To submit a recipe(s) online go to:

<https://www.typensave.com>.

Enter the login: **stpaulsecw** and the password: **pickle213**

To submit a handwritten recipe, please use the form in this newsletter. Mail it to St. Paul's or drop it through the mail slot on the office entry door. Feel free to copy the form for additional submissions.

If you have any questions regarding the cookbook project, please contact any of the following committee members: [Nancy Gibbs](#) (committee chair), [Pat Hovorka](#), [Theresa Rose](#), [Kay Hewitt](#), [Sherrill Weathers](#), and [Jenny Batten-Wiley](#).

From the Senior Warden

As I reflect on the past 13 months, I'm trying to determine the lessons I have learned, if any. So, I thought I would share a few of my findings. To paraphrase a popular book title from 35 years ago... *All I really need to know in life, I learned in Coronavirus quarantine.*

I learned that:

- * Saying "patience is a virtue" and practicing patience are two very different things, and practicing is work!
- * Those choral exercises John Drymon would have us do in rehearsals were not such a drudgery after all.
- * I do not miss Raleigh traffic.
- * I really miss Coffee Hour!
- * Saying "I love you" and "I appreciate you" are more important than ever.
- * Extra walks with the dog are calming to the spirit, and good for the dog.
- * Smiling extra hard from behind a mask is super important.
- * Working from home while sitting on a folding chair and computer on a card table can wreak havoc on your back.
- * Loving my neighbor took on a whole new meaning.

I'm truly thankful for our St. Paul's family. You have been supportive, uplifting, kind, and generous during a time when it would've been so easy to give up. We still have an uncertain journey ahead, but aren't all journeys uncertain? With God's help and with one another, we can accomplish great things in our Parish and in our community.

With much gratitude,
Theresa Rose, Sr. Warden



My Kid's Club

The children of My Kid's Club appreciate these snacks: fruit, lower-sugar or sodium items and bottled water. Meg Scovil will pick up donated snacks and deliver to My Kid's Club. Should you wish to donate these items, simply leave your donations on the bench outside the church office door on a weekday. Mike Hugo will place your donated items in the office hallway and contact Meg. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



The Outreach and Social Justice Committee

meets four times per year.

Co-Chairs: Diane Every and Debby Jenkins.

Contact info: [Diane Every](#): 919-934-5080, [Debby Jenkins](#)

The Outreach and Social Justice Committee looks forward to meeting in person again soon. In the meanwhile, future projects include a possible "little pantry" for the community where we can do a "leave one, take one" code for those folks who want to donate or who need help sustaining themselves with some extra groceries. Watch this space for further news on this project.

The aluminum tabs from cans have been donated to the Ronald MacDonald House in Durham. This is and will be an ongoing project. You may place tabs in a container on the Outreach table in the hallway near the church office. The aluminum tabs are recycled. Funds from your donated tabs are used to offset expenses for families staying at the House while their children undergo treatments at Duke University Hospital.

The committee plans to donate bottled water for San Jose's upcoming Covid vaccination event on May 23. We look forward to meeting again with our church family. Let me know if you have any ideas for future projects to benefit our community.

~ Diane

Stewardship

Corner



After 13 months of serving at an empty building, it's nice to see people in church again, even on a limited basis. (As I write this, we've closed again as the Covid numbers spiked, but we'll be back when things settle down.)

So first I want to say thanks to my fellow stewards who served during the weeks of online services. Thanks to Mike Weathers who put together the live stream we've been watching on Zoom and Facebook and Sherrill who handled altar guild duties. Thanks to Lance and Linda Armstrong, Joyce Kilpatrick-Jordan, and Theresa Rose who served along with me reading Lessons and leading Morning Prayer. Thanks to John Drymon who records each week's music and mixes down individual choir members' voices for the hymns. Thanks to the choir members for providing their voices to lead us in song. And, a very special thanks to Mike Hugo for handling both the office business and putting together the worship bulletins for us to follow. And of course, thanks to Jill for spiritual guidance and our Vestry for making the difficult decisions to keep St. Paul's going. Thanks also to everyone who I didn't mention by name.

Now, as we slowly resume some semblance of normal, what can you do?

A: Get your "Jab". Vaccines are becoming more available for everyone, and I myself am between shots.

B: Come back and get involved again. We're happy to share our duties, and at least an additional 12 people have signed up to read, usher, count, and serve on the altar guild. Interested? Contact Vergers Mike Weathers or Bill Jordan who schedule our Servers.

C: Continue to keep pledges current. If you can, please consider an increase as we still have budget challenges ahead.

D: Pray for St. Paul's. We need God's help as much as ever.

E: Stay positive and remember our Stewardship theme for 2021: **"Together we will grow, serve, and nurture again."**

Let's make it happen with God's love.

~ Curtis Brookshire

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST IS MAY 23

The assigned reading from the Acts of the Apostles on the Feast of Pentecost is always the account of people from all parts speaking different languages and all understanding the other. If you can read another language, sign up to come to Church that day and join in the cacophony as we read this passage together (copies of the reading in Spanish, French, German and Italian will be available).

And although we are limited in the number of people who can worship together, San José and St. Paul's are joining forces that day: Father Samuel Bourbon+ (who is now leading the congregation of San José) will preside in English at St. Paul's 11 a.m. service, and Jill+ will preside in Spanish at San Jose's 1 p.m. service.

Last year, a lot of you wore red, the liturgical color associated with the Holy Spirit, on Pentecost and forwarded pictures to the Office. The newsletter issue with all those pictures was great! Let's do it again!

EASTER DAY EUCHARIST AT THE LABYRINTH



St. Paul's Search Committee Update

The Search Committee began meeting in February to kick off the process of calling a new rector for St. Paul's. Catherine Massey, the Diocesan Canon for Transition, has provided invaluable guidance and direction to the Committee. She has helped us understand that the search process is as much a spiritual process as a hiring process. Our most recent task was developing and publishing the congregational survey.

The Search Committee has received 38 responses for which we offer our thanks. The survey information will go into the preparation of our parish portfolio. That portfolio will be part of the packet of information published for prospective priests to review and determine if they wish to apply for our vacancy.

To keep our congregation as updated as possible, here is a summary of the survey responses:

Q1 - Describe a time when St. Paul's made a difference in your life or in the life of the community.

- ◆ numerous expressions of gratitude for the spiritual impact of St. Paul's presence in individual lives
- ◆ appreciation for outreach programs including Meals on Wheels, Harbor House, My Kids Club, Habitat for Humanity, Help Stop Hunger, collection of school supplies for area schools, and the collection of supplies for the people of Venezuela
- ◆ thanksgiving for support during times of sickness and loss, and for St. Paul's hospitality and welcoming to newcomers

Q2 - Name three things you value most about our congregation.

- ◆ a welcoming, genuine, and joyful attitude
- ◆ congregational values to benefit the community
- ◆ friendship, religious education, worship, diversity, and music
- ◆ the labyrinth, traditions, monthly book club, the healing ministry
- ◆ Daughters of the King

Q3 - Name three traits you most appreciate in a priest.

- ◆ thought provoking and challenging sermons
- ◆ good rapport with children and adults
- ◆ treating others with respect and dignity
- ◆ leadership, integrity, honesty
- ◆ friendliness, diplomacy, joyful attitude
- ◆ compassion and willingness to listen

Q4 - Please describe what, in your opinion, makes a good sermon.

- ◆ is understandable, relatable, and shows how the gospel and lessons are intertwined with current issues in the Church and the present-day world
- ◆ shows how we can see Christ within ourselves and our neighbors
- ◆ proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord
- ◆ does not include personal political views
- ◆ holds one's attention and offers insight into the scripture
- ◆ informs, guides, and helps affirm our beliefs in God
- ◆ has a personal touch
- ◆ leaves one feeling better when leaving than when arriving

Q5 - What, in your opinion, are three things that should be St. Paul's most exciting, energizing, and spirit-filled accomplishments over the next three years?

- ◆ grow the congregation
- ◆ expand outreach to younger parishioners
- ◆ reconnect with local government and civic organizations to partner on community events and projects and become more visible through ministry in the Smithfield/Johnston County area
- ◆ integrate San Jose and St. Paul's in community projects
- ◆ bring back and highlight music programs
- ◆ attract new families and younger parishioners to St. Paul's
- ◆ find ways to partner with other congregations and denominations
- ◆ build fellowship by getting back into the sanctuary for worship, having meals together, and encouraging members to be faithful in pledging and giving

The next major milestone in the search process will be the completion and publication of the parish profile so that interested priests can indicate their interest in becoming St. Paul's next rector. Please keep praying the St. Paul's Search prayer on a regular basis. This provides a powerful support for our work.

Ahoy Chrismon Crew!!!

We are finally setting sail on Monday, May 3, 2021, at 10:00 am. We will meet on the first and third Mondays of each month in Lawrence Hall. COVID rules apply. Bring your masks and, if you want, individual snacks and beverages.

Can't wait to see you all and get started.

Jenny Batten-Wiley

NO FIRST QUARTER CONTRIBUTION REPORTS

We're trying to catch up with technology in the Church Office. With the consent of the Wardens and the Finance Committee, we're not going to send out contribution reports for the first quarter of 2021. Once we get the financial and people databases in sync, creating contribution reports will be much more efficient.

If you have a question about your giving in the first quarter of 2021, call the Church Office and get an update.

VACCINATION CLINIC AT SAN JOSE

Iglesia Episcopal San José will host a Covid vaccination clinic on Sunday, May 23 from 2-5 p.m. in Lawrence Hall. The vaccine is free, and although sign-ups are requested (via the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, 919-805-1607), walk-ups will be accommodated.

While many of us are already fully vaccinated, we all may know some folks who aren't. Getting vaccinated is a beautiful way to love your neighbors, and encouraging unvaccinated people to take the vaccine is a close second. The vaccination rate in Johnston County is lagging the rest of the state, and until we reach herd immunity here, the risk of infection is very real.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Sunday Schedule

11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 3 Chrismon, **10:00 am** (socially distanced in Lawrence Hall with masks)
- May 15 ECW, **10:00 am** (socially distanced in Lawrence Hall with masks)
- May 17 Chrismon, **10:00 am** in Lawrence Hall
- May 18 Finance, **6:00 pm** (Zoom)
- May 25 Vestry **7:00 pm**, Lawrence Hall
- May 31 Memorial Day, Church Office closed