



St. Paul's Quarterly Newsletter

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worcester Parish
3 Church Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811

Pentecost 2020 edition

Dear Parish Family:

Since our last newsletter, the world has become quite different. For example, wearing masks to do grocery shopping and hoping that we will find paper products on the shelves. One of the biggest changes for us as a Parish Family has been that we have not been able to worship together in the church building.

I was appointed by the Bishop to the Diocesan Task Force to work on issues related to the Covid 19 pandemic. We worked diligently to create guidelines for our Diocese so that we could open up our churches for in-person worship. We were given resources from multiple Dioceses, the Maryland Governor's office, and the CDC. We formed subcommittees to work on various parts of the document and finally presented it to the Diocesan Council and Standing Committee for approval.

This document, in turn, was shared with the clergy. I was able to share it with our Vestry. We took the time to read through it carefully and were given the task of presenting a plan to the Bishop for approval. In this newsletter, you will find the elements of this plan.

Within our Parish Family, we have a diversity of people. I am sure that as you read the plan, there will be a variety of reactions ranging from "Why can't I worship in the church this Sunday?" to "I am not returning until there is a vaccine". The truth is that our Parish Family is composed mostly of vulnerable people and we needed to err on the side of caution.

Please take the time to look over all of the information provided in this newsletter. I think that it covers all the details that you will need to know about how we will be worshiping in the coming months. We will come together soon as safely as we can.

In Christ,

The Very Rev'd Michael D. Moyer OGS
Rector



Timeline for Re-Opening:

June:

Continue current practice with Livestream Service at 10:30

July:

Livestream Service (10:30) with “drive up communion” for an hour after the Livestream ends. Both the people in the car as well as Fr. Moyer will wear masks and use hand sanitizer.

There will be music at the 1st & 3rd Sunday services

No music at the 2nd and 4th Sunday services

August:

Fr. Moyer will prerecord the services that he will miss while on vacation. These will be available as usual on Facebook Livestream. No “drive up communion” on those Sundays.

There will be music at the 1st & 3rd Sundays as well as 5th Sunday

No music at the 2nd and 4th Sundays

September:

Return to “in-person”. This is also the time we will return to two services on Sunday. One will be Livestream and one will be in-person.

1st and 3rd Sundays will be in-person at 10:30 and the 8:30 service will be Livestream.

2nd and 4th Sundays will be in-person at 8:30 and the 10:30 service will be Livestream.

Communion will only be available at in-person services.



General Information about resuming in-person worship:

Sanitizing: We will hire our regular cleaning service to complete our initial deep cleaning before the first in-person worship in September. When we begin in-person worship parishioners will wipe their area upon entry and again before they leave.

We will be purchasing two automatic hand sanitizers.

Social Distancing & Masks: The pews will be roped off to designate seating based on the social distancing capacity. Seating will be on a “first come, first serve” basis.

Until further notice, congregation members will enter for worship by the front door only.

Ushers will be keeping a log of who attends each service in case there is a need for contact tracing.

All parishioners are to wear masks from the time they leave their car to the time they return after the service (except when taking communion). Extra masks will be available.

Books and Bulletins:

Electronic Bulletins will be sent weekly . Paper Bulletin copies of these are to be taken home after the service (not returned to the Narthex).

There will be no books in the pews.

Parishioners who have their own Prayer Book will use them and / or may purchase their own to bring to church. (They will bring books to church and take home)

Additionally we will sanitize our own Prayer Books and will give parishioners the opportunity to take them home for use at this time and return to church in the future (They bring books to Church and take home)

During Worship:

There will be no singing

Receiving Communion one at a time, bread only, dropped in cupped hands (Fr. Moyer will wear mask), people eat the communion wafer when they return to their seat. Fr. Moyer will wash his hands for 20 seconds with hot water and soap. Hand sanitizer used by all. At this time, it will be done at the front of the Nave and not the altar rail.

Other items:

No coffee hours or potlucks until further notice.

Only the Neville Hall bathroom is to be used

We encourage the Parish Family to donate wipes to the Parish.

We will place an offering basket on a pedestal in the church near the Narthex.

Stewardship Thought

We are grateful that as we have not been able to worship together in the church building that many of our Parish Family have continued to support St. Paul's by mailing in their offerings or using the donation options on our website. Thank you for your continued support! It shows that you take seriously your role as stewards of God's blessings.

When Will We See You?

We would like to hear from you about when you will feel comfortable returning to worship at St. Paul's. Will you be there on the first day when the doors are open? Will you wait awhile? Will you be waiting for the development of a vaccine? Send us an email or a note to let us know.

Worshiping Safely...

When coming to worship, please ask yourself these questions:

Have you had ANY of the following symptoms of COVID-19 infection in the last seven days:

Cough (either new, or different than your usual cough), shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?

Fever (either subjective, or measured) or chills?

Sore throat?

*Unusual muscle pain or unusual headache?
New loss of taste or smell?*

Have you had a positive test for COVID-19 infection within the past ten (10) days?

Have you been within six (6) feet for longer than 15 minutes with someone who has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Game Night !!!

During this time in which we have not been able to see one another while we are worshiping through Livestream, we have been using Zoom to have Game Nights.

We do Rebus Puzzles and Mad Libs, we play Name that Tune, we have had Scavenger Hunts, and (of course) there is always BINGO. Consider joining us for an hour of fun!

Fr. Michael sends out the invitations through the Parish Email List.

*The Churches of our Diocese and their Parish Families
are asked to adopt this covenant...*

*Covenant for Regathering
[Shared from the Diocese of Maryland]*

*In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's
help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the
Diocese of Easton for participation in the life of my congregation
according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is
authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.*

*In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304-305),
I will strive to:*

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

*Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church
buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead
worship through an assigned speaking part, and follow public health
guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting*

*Only attend worship and receive communion if am
non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable
disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
Will abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk
due to my own health status*

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...

*Make no physical contact with people beyond the members
of my own household*

*Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the
congregation*

*Respect any requests for distance, masking, and cleaning, to ensure the
safety and comfort level of others*

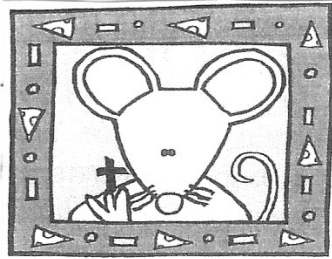
Seek and serve Christ in all people...

*Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and
congregational leaders*

*Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat,
or mail*

CHURCH MOUSE

The Church Mouse has re-opened after being closed for about 2 months. There are major changes in hours, days open and procedures for donating clothes.



HOURS & DAYS

Days Open: Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Hours 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

NEW PROCEDURES FOR DONATING

We are only accepting donations with advance notice. **In addition we can not receive donations at the store.** Contact Helen Wiley 443 513 6655 to set up a mutually acceptable time for you and her. Helen will give you directions to her house, which is right in Berlin. We will not be able to accept any fall/winter clothing, only summer items. In addition as always no damaged items, clothing that needs repairs etc. If in doubt ask. We are always in need of books, but only novels, cook books and children's books. No text books, manuals etc. and not damaged books or older yellowed books. Games and puzzles are always in demand but please make sure all parts are there. It would be greatly appreciated if you tape the box shut. Needless to say, kitchen wares, nick-knacks and costume jewelry are other items always in demand. We

would appreciate smaller amounts and not a large load of items at one time. If you have winter clothing and have room to hold them until fall it would be appreciated. If not we understand, but if taking to other thrift shops check with them in advance. Many like us have limited storage area.

We have implemented strict rules in the shop. All customers must wear masks and due to our small size only 2 persons at a time. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our main source of outreach finds.



OUTREACH

During the past few months our Outreach Donations have gone to the following: Meals on Wheels, Gold Emergency Fund, Operation we Care, Care Packages of Appreciation to health care workers, Jessie Klump Memorial Fund and the Cricket Center. In addition we were able to donate several articles of clothing to a homeless gentleman

Bible Study Reflections

I have been thinking a lot about Paul recently. And not so much his ministry, or writings, but the man: such a complex and misunderstood person Paul is. One reason Paul remains an enigma is that while he continues to be lauded and celebrated, we believers fail to imitate his way of *living* by practicing the many and varied Spiritual Disciplines he practiced throughout his life.

Paul reminds us that even before his conversion he was “far more zealous...for the traditions of [his] ancestors,” traditions that included fasting, tithing, and study (see Galatians 1:14). He knew a lifetime of committed discipline, and upon coming to Jesus, his discipline took on new meaning and purpose.

He asked his fellow Christians to imitate him and “train...in godliness” (see 1 Timothy 4:7), as he was doing, in a way similar to physical training. “Just as with the physical, there is a specific round of activities we must do to establish, maintain, and enhance our spiritual powers. One must train as well as *try*,” writes Dallas Willard in *The Spirit of the Disciplines*.

By making space in our lives to practice some of the disciplines Paul practiced, we can begin to share in the life Paul led – and more importantly, in the life of Christ our Lord. Dallas Willard writes, “People we admit to be far greater than we are – and in the case of Jesus himself, even divine – found it necessary to practice disciplines and engage in activities with which we blithely dispense.” Spiritual Disciplines are merely activities we do to enable us to receive more of Jesus' life and power. As we put them into practice, we will then see our mind turning more continually to Christ.

One such discipline Paul committed to was the study of scripture. His thinking is subordinated to all that God has revealed of himself and his purposes in Holy Scripture. And his relation to Scripture was not that of a student boning up for an exam, but that of a disciple of Jesus *living* the text. We see this in his writings, with countless quotations or references from Hebrew Scripture, or what we call The Old Testament. But it is not only that Paul quotes Scripture, he *inhabits* the story of Scripture. He gives the impression of being on familiar terms with everything written by his prophet ancestors; he is totally at ease in this richly expansive narrative of God's Word.

Scripture has become like lifeblood for me. Not only does it nourish me, but it strengthens me. When I cannot be with my Bible at the daily customary time, I feel disconnected and out of balance. I especially enjoy studying Scripture with others and facilitating Bible Study sessions. I have been leading virtual Bible Study gatherings for the parish, which began relatively soon after the COVID-19 quarantine.

I chose to start with the book of Joel because of similarities that prompted the prophet Joel to speak and our COVID-19 reality. That then turned into a request to focus on the minor prophets. We recently concluded our study of Amos and we will next focus on Hosea. Please join us. While we continue to meet virtually, we have insightful discussions, with enough humor interwoven to keep the discussions lively.

I look forward to inhabiting Scripture with you.

Chris Sabas

Deacon Candidate Intern



June Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Lynch
- 3 Christopher Main
- 4 Franklin Lynch
- 5 Lisa Cook
- 8 Maureen Moore
- 9 Connie Duke
- 10 Gerald Kizina
- 18 Steven Lehman Janice Keys
- 19 Bev Bigler
- 20 Jan Quick
- 24 Susan DeGroft
- 28 Edward Reid

July Birthdays

- 6 Jenny Anderson
- 9 Ann Wheeler
- 12 Kate Patton John Whaley
- 13 Helen Wiley Ella Sullivan
- 15 Pat Diniar
- 16 Jessica O'Neill Ashton Conley
- 17 Maury Wimbrow
- 19 Michael Hooper
- 22 Brandon Lehman
- 23 Donna Main
- 31 Dick Bunting

August Birthdays

- 1 Chris Duke Amanda Hudson
- 3 Leslie Coates
- 4 Bob Vaughan

- 6 Danny Moore
- 12 William Fsham, Jr.
- 18 Susan Mariner Sarah Hooper
- 19 Jim Quick
- 20 Austin Cook
- 23 Mike Facella
- 25 Jerry Freeman
- 31 Mary Moore



June Anniversaries

- 1 Edward & Melissa Reid
- 10 Dick & Ellen Bunting
- 13 Bill & Susan Mariner
- 21 Fr. Moyer, deacon
- 25 James & Mary Hall
- 26 Bob & Betsy Abel

July Anniversaries

- 5 Mike & Helen Wiley
- 22 Mike & Sarah Hooper

August Anniversaries

- 4 Danny & Mary Moore
- 6 Peter & Jenny Anderson
- 9 Steve & Donna Main
- 10 Dave & Patty Hammond

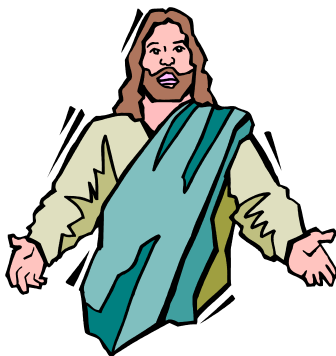
Death

- Keith Keys

St. Paul's
Quarterly Newsletter

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Address Label Here



Mission Statement

*Our Mission is to offer and nourish a
relationship with God in Jesus Christ, our
Lord, through worship, outreach, fellowship,
and study.*

Vestry and Officers

Senior Warden: Ray Coates, Jr., Junior Warden: Jerry Freeman
Treasurer: Susan Wellman,

Vestry Members:	Bob Abel	Phyllis Ashley	Ray Coates, Jr.
Jerry Freeman	Sarah Hooper	Sandy Picella	Deb Ritz