



The Good News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chittenango, New York

May 2023

Spring has Sprung

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April Showers bring May Flowers – BOY!! Isn't that the truth. I was in Chittenango today (April 24th) getting a haircut and not only did it rain, it hailed. Just can't seem to make up it's mind. But better weather is coming and along with it, much activity at St. Paul's.

First and foremost, on our Honey Do List, is our Building Fund Campaign. We need to raise money for all the work that has to be done on the building – so much wood needs to be replaced – as we all know, wood is expensive. But we need to maintain our beautiful little gem of a church, so even if you haven't stepped foot inside the building in years, please prayerfully consider donating to our fund.

Blessing of the Bikes is coming up in May!!! It will be May 13th and our very own Fr. Leon will be doing the blessing again this year. He is looking forward to it, as are we. If you know of anyone with a bike, send them our way for a blessing – oh and coffee and donuts too.

Mothers Day is coming, but we will not have a Mother's Day Brunch this year, instead, we will have a Dish to Pass the following Sunday, May 21st, following the service. All are welcome to join us! Place settings will be provided, just bring something to share!

Bread, Butter and Eggs!! Yes! We are starting up that Outreach again. If you cannot supply bread, butter or eggs and would like to help, donations are wonderful!! Someone will go and purchase what is needed and take it to the Sullivan Food Pantry for us!! In gathering of items/money will be the THIRD Sunday of every month. Starting in May!!!

Wash and Share! Coming soon, members of the church will be going to the local laundromats with quarters in hand. One day each month, we will go, and offer to pay for someone's use of the washing machine and dryers. So save your quarters (got my jar started) and drop them off at the church, earmarked Wash and Share!!

Be a blessing and receive a blessing in return!

Thank you to all of our ZOOMERS, YouTubers and Facebookers, who have faithfully joined us each week and have suffered through all of our growing pains. Slowly, we are getting a grasp of all the different issues and slowly, we are rectifying them. Clayton is still getting the hang of the camera, but is doing pretty well!! Pretty soon, he will be telling me what to do!!

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The Mission of our Parish is to be an active community reflecting God's presence in Chittenango

and other communities we represent.

Our Services

Sundays at 9 AM

Join us on Zoom!

Link will be posted to our Facebook page every week

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Chittenango, NY 13037
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stpaulschittenango.net

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Jr Warden
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Val Travers
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Jan Lee
Vestry Clerk

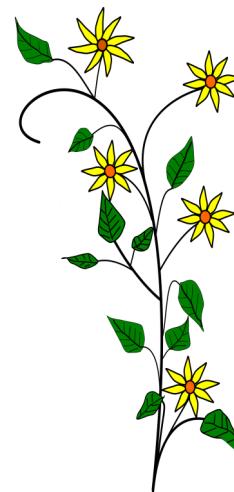
Amy Veator
Newsletter Editor

Prayer List

Ethel Barber, Catherine Carter, The Rev. Charles Grover, Joan Grover, Donna Hoffman, Ed Hoffman, Roberta Kincaid, Patricia Ladd, Betty Lesczynski, Ed Link, Burt Luther, Bob Olmsted, Judy Olmsted, Laleah Parker, Mary Jane Pokorny, Pat Stucker, Ruth Williams.

New Prayer List for April 2023/May 2023 has been posted on the bulletin board.

If you wish to have someone added to St. Paul's Prayer list, please contact Becky Kraus at bak092364@gmail.com / 315-382-9056 or Robin Weisbrod at rdweisbrod@gmail.com /315-655-4321.



If anyone would like a written copy of the weekly lessons/Gospel, Psalm, and Fr. Leon's sermon, either mailed to you or emailed to you - please contact the Church, by phone or by email and let Becky know. She will drop them in the mail to you weekly.

Please email
stpaulschittenango@gmail.com
Or call (315) 687-6304

About St. Paul's

The earliest record of Episcopal Church services in this vicinity was 1816 when St. Stephen's Church of Perryville was incorporated. At that time Chittenango was little more than a gathering of frame and log houses. From 1816-1832 rectors from St. Stephen's held missionary services in Chittenango.

Around 1849 a few gentlemen who greatly admired and revered the beautiful services of the Church, agreed to make an effort to have services occasionally held. By the spring of 1855 services began to be held regularly once a month in the Bethel. St. Paul's was officially organized as a parish on June 18, 1855. St. Paul's church was built in 1865 as a Gothic Revival-style structure. The lot, building, furniture and windows cost \$5000. The building was completed in less that six months. The first service was held in the church on Easter Day, April 1, 1866.

On May 12, 1866 the church was consecrated by Bishop Coxe. It was added to the U.S. National Historic Register of National Places in 1996.

May

Birthdays

16 – Clayton Weisbrod
21 – Betty Lesczynski

Anniversaries

09 – Woody and Jan Woodworth

Ministry Team Schedule

May 7, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

L.E.M.: Judy Olmsted
Lessons: Sue Gerling
Prayers: Sue Gerling
Acolytes: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Vestry

May 14, 2023, Mother's Day

Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Meg Hermann
Prayers: Meg Hermann
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

May 21, 2023

Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

L.E.M.: Robin Weisbrod
Lessons: Claudia Jensen
Prayers: Claudia Jensen
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Dish to Pass Brunch

May 28, 2023

Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Tania Mousaw
Prayers: Tania Mousaw
Acolyte: Ed Hoffman
MIDI: Valerie Travers
Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

Altar Guild for MAY:

Sue Huebler
Becky Kraus

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Just a gentle reminder, even if you can't make the service on Sunday, you can watch it in real time on ZOOM, YouTube or Facebook. You also can watch the video at a later time. Please let us know if you are live or watched the recording – it matters. It counts as attending a service and part of being a member of St. Paul's is coming to church AT LEAST 3 times a year – be it in person or via the internet.

Can't make a cash donation to the church? We can use your presence at one of our Outreach events – Blessing of the Bikes, Oz Fest, Wash and Share, the St. Pauly's Box or the Tag Sale. Any one of those events, always needs an extra set of hands. Plus we

would really love to see your smiling faces.

Also, on a personal note - I would love to Congratulate our Newsletter editor, Amy Dieffenbacher Veator and her husband Mike, on the upcoming birth of their first child. Expected due date is Oct. 4th!!! We are so happy for you!!!

Thank you to all of you, that take the time to read the newsletter, who help out at the church on a moments notice, who do above and beyond the call of duty – it is noticed and appreciated.

God Bless,
Robin Weisbrod
Sr. Warden

April Vestry Synopsis

Balance forward: 29,026.94

Income: 4,117.32

Expenses: 6,016.42

Robin is still looking into Small Church Music, to see if we can bolster our musical selections for the Midi, to make it easier for Judy and Sue to pick out our service music.

The Vestry discussed more about our Laundry Service we will be implementing. We are going to also reach out to Rub a Dub, and see if we can be there once a month, as well as going to the Keep Making Suds Laundromat.

In trying to get back to normalcy, not only are we bringing back passing the plate at the Offertory, but we are bringing back our Dish to Pass. First one scheduled for May 21st, right after Church. Also coming back, our Bread, Butter and Egg drive for the Food Pantry. Going forward, the drive will occur monthly on the third Sunday of the month.

We also are donating to Mother Carrie's Farewell Celebration – for those who are unaware – Mother Carrie will be moving to the Diocese of Maryland and becoming their next Bishop.

We also are ordering more pens and these really AWESOME bags, with our name on them. We will be selling them at Oz Fest, when we have a booth at Tuesdays in the Park and giving them as a gift to anyone who donates \$100 or more to the Building Fund.

Next meeting will be May 18th at 3:00 PM

Life Is a Team Sport, Day of Pentecost (A) – May 28, 2023

Anna Tew

[RCL] Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

It's Pentecost. It's also graduation season. It's a time when valedictorians are crowned. We imagine valedictorians to be on their way to a lot of success. That is largely true, but maybe not in the way that we might imagine. A study came out in 1995 published by Boston College researcher Karen Arnold which found that high school valedictorians don't often grow up to become millionaires or the world's innovators. This study followed 81 valedictorians for 14 years after graduation.

It is true that in those 14 years, 90% of them end up in professional careers, becoming doctors and lawyers, and 40% had already reached the top tier of their fields. However, they did not usually grow up to become famous innovators. The theory expounded upon in the book *Barking Up the Wrong Tree* by Eric Barker is that academic success encourages conformity rather than free thought. Real geniuses, Barker posited, tend to struggle in school.

That may be so, but thank God someone is really good at learning the rules and playing the game well — we would all agree that we need ordinary doctors, and we would all be pleased to learn that our physician was once a valedictorian. We need ordinary doctors and lawyers and accountants and teachers. We need ordinary construction workers and mechanics and plumbers and factory workers and farmers.

Society wouldn't run without all kinds of humans. Life is a team sport. Instead of acknowledging this, we miss it, trying to figure out who's inferior to whom based on a number of factors — academic success being only one.

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.”

Blink twice and you might miss that opening line as if it were some insignificant detail. But then you remember that Luke, the guy who wrote Acts, was probably a physician, and doctors — valedictorians or not — don't tend to give insignificant details. This event was for all of the disciples. No one could be missing.

They all get the same gift — the Holy Spirit — but at the same time, they don't all get the same gifts. They are all individuals, and the Holy Spirit would hit them in different ways. Immediately, they would even begin to speak in different languages, differentiating them from the very beginning.

There's a reason we talk about the Holy Spirit in terms of fire and wind. Fire and wind are not things that we can easily control. Fire and wind are also not things whose form, intensity, or effects always look the same.

It won't take long before Paul will start writing of the fruits of the spirit and the different gifts of the Spirit — not least because differently gifted people start to clash. In 1 Corinthians, a letter Paul wrote to church folks who couldn't stop bickering, he wrote, “Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.”

He'll write to the folks in Rome about how it's the Spirit who makes the church work. It's why we've got folks willing to preach, others willing to teach Sunday school, others who are good at serving others or providing hospitality or fixing things or cutting the grass or visiting people in the hospital or cleaning out the gutters. The Holy Spirit makes this whole messy church thing work. Our differences as humans make the world work.

Life is a team sport.

We often talk about how we are deeply divided as a people. We sometimes seem to occupy completely different realities than our neighbors. A 2017 New York Times article about how we assume, politically, that we are so divided because of filter bubbles and what we call “confirmation bias”: we gravitate towards opinions that are already the same as ours. This article posited that maybe we're conflating confirmation bias — wanting what we think to be

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confirmed — with the related desirability bias — wanting to be told what we want to hear. Confirmation bias and desirability bias usually are the same for us in our politics: what we want to believe is what we believe. But it's not always true of life: quite often we think bad things will happen even if we don't want them to. In other words, a pessimist doesn't want to believe that the world to burn, they just believe it will.

But in order to change your politics, you have to want to believe something different. It doesn't usually matter if the facts presented contradict our beliefs — we cling ever more tightly to the reality that we want to believe. The article was pessimistically entitled, “You're Not Going to Change Your Mind.”[1] But we've all changed our minds on something before, even when it was difficult to do so. We all have things we used to believe strongly that we don't believe anymore. Often, it is because we met someone — somebody who was affected directly by whatever thing we had an opinion about. As Harvey Milk, the first openly LGBTQ elected official, would often say: “They vote for us 2 to 1 if they know they know one of us.”

We are different, and we are divided. We all generally agree that we don't like the state of things. But if anything's going to change, in the church or outside of it, as much as we may hate it, we need each other. We need someone who believes differently and has a completely different experience than we do.

Life is a team sport.

Many will tritely call us all to just talk, as if that would solve things. Talk!? we think sarcastically. Why didn't we think of that?! But you know, maybe things might get better if we stopped yelling at each other on the Internet and over the dinner table and started meet-

ing with a common identity to ask and answer questions we can all wrestle with: Why are we here? What keeps you up at night? What keeps you going? What is precious to you? And finally, after we talk for a while about those things, we can ask: What can we do together?

There are many places this can happen, but it's been happening for centuries in places of worship. Religion has for sure been a destructive force in the world, but it also has a way of helping us get real. It asks us who we are and why we're here and where we're going and it doesn't work if we're all the same.

Life is a team sport.

Of course, it's not easy to do life together. The Holy Spirit is wind and flame: it can be comforting, like a campfire or a gentle breeze — or it can be too hot, even destructive, and highly uncomfortable. The same is true of church. But “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.”

We are here together. You, sitting there, you are part of us, the church, gifted with the Holy Spirit and your own gifts. You have experiences that no one else here has. You can do things no one else can do. And it won't always be easy, but we're here, and we're together. The Holy Spirit has descended upon us all again, making us unique, and making us one. It's good to be on the same team. Amen.

***The Rev. Anna Tew** is a Lutheran pastor based in South Hadley, Massachusetts. She has served a fantastic little parish called Our Savior's Lutheran Church for seven years. Anna was born and raised in Alabama, and considers Atlanta her second home. She graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 2011 and has served in a variety of settings since then, including both parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, CrossFit, and music of all kinds.*



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