

Saint Paul's Messenger

March 2017

As faithful stewards of God's Grace, our mission in Christ is to foster community through spiritual growth, witness, and service in the Episcopal tradition

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Messenger Editor, Janet Gritzner

MARCH BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

2	Aaron Hovelson
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13	Teadon Seaboy
15	Theresa Kratochvil
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FROM OUR RECTOR - FR LARRY ORT

February raced by and we are now in our observance of Lent. Hopefully you have picked up one of the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten Meditation 2017 booklets available at the church. One of the contributors is The Venerable Paul Sneve, Vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Vermillion. I hope you find these meditations helpful as we make our Lenten journey.

Traditionally, the season of Lent has been a time of preparation for baptism. Throughout Lent we will consider various aspects of our baptismal vows: renunciation of evil, turning toward Christ, putting out trust in Christ's love and grace, and

following and obeying Christ as Lord. I like the closing words from the Invitation to a Holy Lent in the Book of Common Prayer: "I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word (p.265). Let us commit to observing a holy Lent.

Mark your calendars! Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12th, at 2:00 AM. Yes, feel free to "leap forward" on Saturday night! If you wait until Sunday morning when you wake up, you will likely miss Mark and Patty Kratochvil's rendition of Morning Prayer. Judy and I will be vacationing next week in Indiana and Michigan. Mark and Patty have agreed to conduct Morning Prayer. If necessary, you can contact me via phone (605-231-0978) or e-mail: larryort5@gmail.com.

Bishop John Tarrant will visit us on March 26th – another reason to mark your calendar! We will have at least one baptism, a few confirmations, and a couple of receptions. Our traditional "Bishop's Visit Potluck" will follow the service.

And here is another reason to mark your calendars. The Ecumenical Wednesday Lenten Lunch and Worship services will begin on Wednesday, March 8th and end on April 5th. The

SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS

By Chuck Berry

services will be conducted by Father Terry Anderson (St. Thomas More Catholic Church – March 8th), Pastor Wade Miller (First United Methodist – March 15th), Pastor Michael Mortvedt (Ascension Lutheran – March 22nd), Fr. Larry Ort (St. Paul's Episcopal – March 29th) and Pastor Dave Schoeld (First Lutheran Church – April 5th). On March 29th I will need a few additional people to help with set-up and takedown. The meal is served from 11:30 AM – 12:10 PM and is followed by 20 minutes of meditation and worship. This is a great way to observe Lent and to meet old friends and make new friends.

As some of you may be aware, I have been somewhat involved in working to defeat some anti-Muslim resolutions and legislation. A couple of weeks ago I traveled to Pierre and testified against Senate Confirmed Resolution 7 which was soundly defeated. Later today I am traveling to Sioux Falls to speak at a press conference against Senate Confirmed Resolution 15. I am opposed to resolutions or legislation which singles out specific racial, religious, or ethnic groups on the grounds that they promote racism. Let's remember that our baptismal vows call us "to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your [our] neighbor as yourself [ourselves]" and to "strive for justice and peace among all people," and to "respect the dignity of every human being." I was pleased to work toward, to speak on behalf of, and to witness the adoption of, Resolution 17-022 (A Resolution Reaffirming Brookings Values of Inclusion, Respect, Tolerance, Equality and Justice, and the City's Commitment Toward Action to Reinforce These Values) by the Brookings City Council on February 28th.

Here is looking forward to a holy Lent and a glorious Easter.

Fr. Larry

The new Vestry has gathered and begun our work for St Paul's. I want to make sure that we address the following subjects that came from the Annual Meeting, with particular attention to continuing our Ripples Outreach Program – it's what we do!

Rector:

retain present programming,
further develop "On Pilgrimage" program at SDSU,
further develop indigenous peoples worship service;
more training of acolytes and lay ministers
new educational opportunities via A/V system.
Faith survey

Jr Warden

Bell tower
Remodel back stairs closet

The following have been tabled or are under discussion (pulleys for banners, back door entry improvements, paint interior, repair kneelers and book racks, refinish floor and assess/clean windows in sanctuary, monitor widening of 6th street – relates to front landscaping and proposed low wall)

Sr Warden

Ripples outreach, ongoing support of TEC and Sisseton Mission
Encourage financial committee to meet and report
Remodel Sacristy
Complete landscaping for conservation
Develop a walking tour guide of grounds
Centennial celebration planning

FEBRUARY VESTRY MINUTES

Rector's Report: Fr. Larry discussed a possible spiritual growth measure for St. Paul's called "Renewal Growth," sponsored by Forward Day by Day. This program measures, among other things, where people are in terms of spiritual growth. It is one of the programs available that Fr. Larry would like to implement, since the Mutual Ministry survey we conducted was over two years ago.

In addition, Fr. Larry will start a Wednesday Evening Prayer service during Lent, to begin at 5:45 before soup supper. This would begin on March 8. Fr. Larry brought the vestry up to date on the confirmation class, with confirmation occurring on March 26, the Sunday of Bishop Tarrant's visit.

Another group that Fr. Larry has been working with is On Pilgrimage, St. Paul's young adult group. He recently hosted four SDSU students, and he continues to work on recruiting more. Fr. Larry will also be speaking on behalf of the Ministerial Association regarding the Brookings' City Council's resolution on inclusion. He also spoke out in Pierre against SB 7, the Council of Islamic Affiliation. The road toward holding Native American Services is still open; Fr. Larry will attend a meeting this coming Thursday to that end. And finally, Fr. Larry distributed brochures for the Abbey of the Hills, the former Blue Cloud Abbey, and he indicated that the Abbey might be a destination for a variety of things for St. Paul's parishioners, such as a day trip, a retreat, and so on.

Senior Warden's Report: Chuck brought forth information about Momentum Publication Advertising, a glossy, city magazine-type publication produced by the *Brookings Register*. Chuck thought that with St. Paul's upcoming centennial celebration that this would be an opportunity to advertise for that and to include some of St. Paul's history at the same time. Cost for a full page is \$400. Jean moved that St. Paul's purchase a full page advertisement for \$400 for

the forthcoming publication. Peg seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chuck also addressed the Outreach Ripples and Review and Brochure, and he said a paragraph Fr. Larry wrote had reminded him of our outreach goals, namely with the Sisseton Mission. This discussion was deferred.

Junior Warden's Report: In Lee's absence, Fr. Larry noted that the wire baskets in the rectory dishwasher are shot. It would cost \$240 to replace them. Chuck moved to replace the rectory dishwasher, and Jean seconded the motion. Motion carried. Fr. Larry will research dishwashers and come back to the vestry with costs for various models, hoping to find a good one on sale. A discussion of remodeling the sacristy came up, citing an assortment of things on a wish list for it, one being the ability to use it as a meeting room; it is a decent-sized room, which could be put to better use as a gathering place and for storage.

In a more urgent item, Fr. Larry said that the rectory utility bill this past month was \$741; last year at this time it was \$600. Fr. Larry would like to investigate the possibility of converting the furnace to gas during the winter months; the heat is terribly unevenly distributed, requiring small space heaters on the main floor. Along with that, the possibility of insulating the exterior walls came up, a move that would further aid in providing more comfortable and less expensive living. When Lee is feeling better, Fr. Larry and he will investigate. Chuck also suggested we obtain some quotations on remodeling the sacristy.

Treasurer's Report: The possibility of contributing money to TEC arose, but this was not budgeted, and there was no further discussion. Bob presented the Profit and Loss Budget Overview which matches that presented at the Annual Meeting. Motion was made and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business: Fr. Larry reported that starting the process to install the columbarium would mean that St. Paul's would make an initial deposit of half the cost, \$6631.70. This amount would not

include the concrete work for the footers, which Fr. Larry says we could do ourselves. Motion was made and carried to pay half the cost now, in the amount of \$6631.70.

New Business: Fr. Larry presented the Parochial Report for 2016 for submission to the Diocese. Motion was made and carried to accept the Parochial Report.

Fr. Larry noted that St. Paul's needs to submit and ECW payment of \$300. Jean thinks the amount is instead \$3 per woman in the parish, and not a flat \$300 amount. This discussion, along with the discussion whether to activate St. Paul's chapter of ECW was tabled.

Jean said that St. Paul's will be the featured church on the Diocesan Kalendar [sic] for 2018, and we need a good picture of the church by the end of May, a picture that satisfies certain criteria laid out by the publisher of the calendar.

And finally, Fr. Larry and Judy are leaving on Sunday upcoming for a week with grandchildren in Michigan. Because Fr. Larry will be absent on March 12, we will have Morning Prayer.

The next regular vestry meeting is tentatively set for Monday, March 22, at 5:30.

NATURAL CATHEDRAL COMMITTEE

By Chuck Berry

Spring is a busy time for our Creation Care Committee. Every month of the spring season offers an opportunity to bring the Creation Care message into the liturgy and other church activities.

March 1 Ash Wednesday
April 9 Palm Sunday
April 22 Earth Day (April 23 Earth Day Sunday)
April 25 Rogation Day
May 21-23 Minor Rogation Days (before Ascension Day)

I wanted to highlight Ash Wednesday because I have been studying so much on the meaning of "stardust." Long story short, I have been taking an online course from Yale Divinity School that educated me about a new Universe story. – the story of the big bang and evolution of the universe. <https://storyoftheuniverse.org/>.

Everything we know has come from elements resulting from generations of exploding stars. Our Solar System and everything in it developed from a shimmering cloud of stardust elements resulting from a supernova explosion. Thus we, too, are made of stardust elements.

I always thought of the Ash Wednesday dust as the "dust to dust" cliché, but now I think of the dust as "stardust" and the ceremony has a certain "wow!" factor since I can place the ashes in a larger context: the context of the entire universe and its amazing 13.8 billion-year history.

After billions of years, thanks to the divine Mystery living and acting in our world and in us, stars formed and died in the process of bringing Earth to existence. I became part of this blessed creation. I am connected to all life and have a role in this sacred story!



VISUAL ARTS MINISTRY By Chuck Berry

There is a new art show to view in Thorburn Hall. This show is an eclectic mix of modern Native American art, ancient religious art, St Paul's history, and youthful works.



We are pleased to have a Paul Goble print on loan from the South Dakota Art Museum. The print is a painting from his children's book titled *Beyond the Ridge*. The booklet and painting are about the cycle of life: "Beyond the ridge we see the Spirit World, the Land of Many Tipis, the place from which we came and the place to which we will return." The booklet will also be available for your inspection.

Thanks to the donors who have helped our visual arts ministry. This show will hang for about 6 months.

St Paul's supports The Episcopal Church program that promotes the use of visual arts (See <http://ecva.org/>). It encourages visual artists, and hopes that art assists viewers in their spiritual journeys, and fosters conversations on the arts, theology, and culture.

NEW MEDIA AT THE ANNUAL MEETING



Fig. 1. New TV shows St Paul events of 2016 (Photo by C. Berry)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Cram and Ferguson Church

By Gertrude Young, 1947

From the fall of 1917 to the opening of the present church structure in 1918 services at St. Paul's were held in the basement of the present public library building. Much has already been written about the efforts of and the success of the Rev. Paul Roberts in securing the present church building.

The land was purchased from William Bell and his wife on June 22, 1915 for \$3650.00. The corner stone was laid, October 10, 1917

In the various accounts of the building there is emphasis upon the fact that the architects were Cram and Ferguson (the Ralph Adams Cram) upon the plan of the rectory and parish hall, with connecting cloisters, upon the old Gothic style of the church with exterior of contrasting Old English and Colonial Hammerbeam construction,

stained brown, light yellow walls, casement windows of plain brown leaded in diagonal panes.

“The Nave will seat comfortable one hundred and twenty-five persons. There is also a small chapel at the side of the chancel. It has an outside entrance from the street. It will seat about twenty persons and will be used for small services in the winter.” The useful “guild hall” basement of the church, the beautifully designed rectory merit detail description. There is still hope that at some time the complete plan of the architects for cloisters and parish hall at the west can be carried out

PROFILES AT ST PAULS

Judy Berger Ort



Judy Berger Ort was born and raised in Tiffin, Ohio. She lived there until she was 18 and married Jim McCarley in 1957. *Yet another child bride at St Pauls!* Jim is the father of her five children – four boys and a girl. Mike, who we all know, is the oldest and was born in 1960 in Bowling Green, Ohio. Her other son, Patrick, was born in East Lansing while Jim pursued a PhD. In Economics. As a side note, Judy actually helped

two husbands earn their doctorates: Jim and Larry. *Poor soul.* In 1965, Jim accepted a position in the Economics Department at Albion College, Albion, MI. They lived there for the remainder of their married life. While living in Albion, she worked in the Math Department at the college and was one of the first people on campus to be given a computer. She is what we call an “early adopter” of technology.

Their daughter, Erin, was born in 1971. She was diagnosed with an acute form of leukemia in 1973 and though she achieved a short remission, the cancer returned and she died in May of 1975. After Erin’s death, the couple had two more children, Brendan and Andrew. But the loss of Erin affected their relationship, which led to a separation in 1990 and, ultimately, a divorce in 1992. Throughout this basically sad time, Judy was finding herself and realizing her potential. Hold on Judy. Happiness is just down the road

Now Judy’s life was about to take a different turn. In the late 1980s she began to do some things for herself. She earned a BA degree in English from Albion College. She found employment at Spring Arbor College as an Academic Advisor in the Adult Studies Program at SAC. She worked at this position for the next eight years. She met Dr. Larry Ort, who had been a faculty member there for 15 years. In October 1995, she and our beloved Fr. Larry were married. She says that she doesn’t know where the last twenty some years have gone. While not all problems have gone away, well you know what they say about having a good man or woman by your side. You can deal with it.

Continuing with Judy’s story, she earned a Master’s degree in 1996 at Western Michigan University. The couple stayed in Michigan until 1999, when Larry accepted the position of Provost at the Russian American Christian University in Moscow, Russia. What a change! Judy had lived up to that time in Ohio and Michigan. In my opinion, it was time for both of them to leave Michigan, but Russia? I know from hearing them

talk that it was an incredible experience. On top of just living in Moscow from 1999 to 2003, they set out to explore Europe, which they are still doing. Note they just completed a second trip to Paris in the fall. They have also visited England, Scotland, Austria and the Czech Republic.

Now how did they come to live in South Dakota? Well, Larry now had some pretty impressive credentials. The University of Sioux Falls was lucky enough to hire him as Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2004. About this time, Larry also became interested in becoming a Priest in the Episcopal Church. He was influenced by Bob Wagner, who was a former president of SDSU here in Brookings and himself an Episcopal Priest.

Timing is everything. We in Brookings managed to bag the pair of them. Welcome. We love having you at St Paul's. So far they like it here. Let's keep it that way. Hey Judy, we love you. Larry's ok too.



Fig. 2. Judy and Larry at Larry's ordination.