
March 2023



St. Paul's Journal

St. Paul's Richmond: A welcoming, inclusive community seeking to serve God and all God's creation.

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May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Barbara Anne's+ Reflections for March

“Are you willing to say so in print? ...Do you care enough to risk it all for this particular cause? ...Think about it.” *Daisy Maryles, publisher, in conversation with Phyllis Tickle, writer = Prayer is a Place: America's Religious Landscape Observed; 2005, page24.*



As we move more fully into the Lenten season, and I commit more deeply to the daybreak hours for meditation, prayer, and journaling, this quote flowed through my spirit as I wrestle with settling into the monthly process of these reflections. The quote is from the second book I read of Phyllis Tickle's – which was the book which led to our meeting, and her becoming my spiritual mentor and dearest friend.

As you know, with the continuing push of the Legislature's focus this year on the LGBTQIA+ community – and the Transgender population specifically – my heart remains

MISSIONAL MINISTRIES GROUPS

Dismantling Racism
Deb Johns
Mindy Wilson
Co-Coordinators

Food/Feeding
Jean Weigle
Barbara Hameetman
Co-Coordinators

Community Outreach
Heather Proctor
Emily Parks
Co-Coordinators

Community Partnership
Sharing Space and Ministry
Dwight Cass
Jeff Gerwig
Co-Coordinators



heavy. Although I cannot, nor will not, tell you how to respond to your representatives regarding how *they* should vote, I believe in the compassion and sanctity of this faith community which called me – and Sandy. I believe fully, if you take the time to read and pray over the legislation being put forward, that your hearts will find God’s heartbeat with regards to *each* bill – and it is with that love each of you will respond in making contact with your elected representatives.

During my time of community engagement this week, God brought into focus the potential of a beautiful relationship for St. Paul’s Missional Ministry of the *Community Partnership: Sharing Space and Ministry*. As the glimmers of a vision are allowed to perk, I would ask for your undergirding prayers as the initial dialogue begins: and, especially for God’s guidance and wisdom for Dwight and Jeff, our Co-coordinators for this Missional Ministry, their Missional Ministry team members, and the Vestry. We hope to have more information to share in the near future, but we are wanting to proceed with due diligence and with proper protocols in place.

While my door is always open for talks and pastoral care, please know during this penitential time of Lent I am available for private times of prayer and the receiving of the Eucharist. Also, I would ask for your prayers on Tuesday evenings as we continue our Soup and Study sessions. With the deeply personal inner dive to which the book calls us, it is also one – as Catherine Meeks reminded us of last evening – which is best made knowing that a “crowd of witnesses” surround us as we journey.

Blessings and prayers,
Barbara Anne+

This space is waiting for **YOUR**
pictures, articles, poetry, prayers...
Submissions for the April Journal
are due by March 20th!

CALENDAR THROUGH EASTER SUNDAY MORNING - DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 5th: 2nd Sunday in Lent - Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 7th: The Night is Long But Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing 2023 Lenten Study Series – Simmons’ Room - Soup @ 6:00 + Study @ 6:30

March 12th: 3rd Sunday in Lent - Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 14th: The Night is Long But Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing 2023 Lenten Study Series – Simmons’ Room - Soup @ 6:00 + Study @ 6:30

March 19th: 4th Sunday in Lent – Rose Sunday- Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 21st: The Night is Long But Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing 2023 Lenten Study Series -Simmons Room - Soup @ 6:00 + Study @ 6:30

March 26th: 5th Sunday in Lent – Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

March 28th: The Night is Long But Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing 2023 Lenten Study Series -Simmons Room - Soup @ 6:00 + Study @ 6:30

April 2nd: Palm Sunday Service @ 10:00 am

April 4th: The Night is Long But Light Comes in the Morning: Meditations for Racial Healing 2023 Lenten Study Series – Simmons’ Room - Soup @ 6:00 + Study @ 6:30

**April 5th: Wednesday of Holy Week - Meditations on the Stations of the Cross
Soup and Salad @ 5:30 pm – Retreat @ 6:00 pm
Eucharist @ 7:30 pm**

April 6th: Maundy Thursday with Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm

**April 7th: Combined Good Friday Service with Reserve Sacrament at 12:00 pm
HOSTED BY ST. PAUL’S
with Bethel AME Church, First Christian Church, and First Presbyterian Church**

April 7th: Second Good Friday Service at St. Paul’s with Reserve Sacrament at 5:30 pm

April 8th: The Great Easter Vigil @ 7:00 pm

**April 9th – Easter Sunday Services:
Sunrise @ 6:30 am – Glenn Miller Park – Roosevelt Hill
Vestry-sponsored Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 am
Easter Sunday Festal Celebration @ 10:00 am**

News from the Senior Warden...

With Spring upon us, just a reminder to “Spring Forward” March 12th. Time to set your clocks forward when you go to bed Saturday night, March 11th. If you don’t, you will be in time for Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 12th.

We have received the Architectural Report for the Parish House from David Inderstrodt, of Maze Design, Inc. The purpose of the architectural study was to determine the allowable use of the second floor of the Parish House. According to the floor area of approximately 2,085 sq. ft., the second-floor area has an occupancy of 21 per State of Indiana building code.

Minor improvements, such as paint and carpeting are considered maintenance and would not require a local building permit. Any other work, such as electrical and HVAC, a building permit would be required. We hope to begin renovations soon to provide usable space for possible missional outreach opportunities.

As you look at the front roof corners of the church you will notice the architectural caps are in a state of decay. These are made of metal and more than 100 years old. The SW corner cap is the worst. We are gathering information to determine the cost of rebuilding and replacing them. Below are pictures of the SW and SE corners.

George L. Eastman, Senior Warden

Southwest
Corner



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

George Eastman 9th

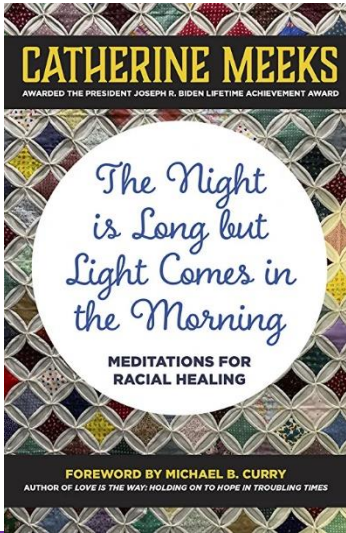
Heather Proctor 11th

Jeanne King 15th

Drake Mujete 23rd

Loni Best-Pollitt 29th

Naomi Felsman 30th



The 2023 Lenten Soup and Study

Tuesdays: Soup @ 6:00, Study @ 6:30 PM
March 7, 14, 21, 28 – April 4, 11

Please feel free to join us for soup and discussion any of these dates!

Catherine Meeks' new book provides daily meditations for continuing our racial healing journey.

Please see Deb Johns, Mindy Wilson, or Barbara Anne+ for further information. This study is sponsored by St. Paul's Dismantling Racism Ministry.

Dismantling Racism: Deb Johns & Mindy Wilson, Co-coordinators

Recently the committee of Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher, Heather Proctor, Pam Miller, Jean Weigle and the co-coordinators have been offering a Lenten Book Study and soup on Catherine Meeks' "The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning". This book study will focus on racial healing. Also, the co-coordinators are participating in an eleven-week racial program call Sacred Ground sponsored by the Indianapolis Diocese. It delves into the trauma created by colonialism in the United States whether it be to Native Americans or African Americans.

Service and Outreach: Heather Proctor & Emily Parks, Co-coordinators



On Saturday, February 25, St. Paul's hosted a blood drive from 9:00 to 12:00. A mini bus parked in the parking lot and was busy most of the morning. We are looking at hosting another summer blood drive later this year. If you have suggestions for other Giving Tree opportunities, please let either Heather or Emily know.

**Food/Feeding Ministry: Jean Weigle and Barb Hameetman, Co-coordinators
Submitted by Barry and Carolyn MacDowell**



The Blessing Box and Inter-connectedness... “It filled my heart to be able to contribute to the Blessing Box in Mark’s memory.”

After a conversation with Carolyn MacDowell, Kathy Simkin, former member of St. Paul’s, was moved to make a monthly contribution to the St. Paul’s Blessing Box. Kathy is doing this in honor of her son, Mark Baxter, a former acolyte at St. Paul’s, who died in 2019. Kim Brant, a former baby-sitter of Mark's, saw a Facebook post mentioning Kathy's memorial and, this past weekend, asked the MacDowells “Can I make a contribution to the Blessing Box in honor of Mark?” The obvious answer was, “Of course.”

This morning, the attached picture was received by text message. A further connection is that both Kim and Michelle Parasio (the other lady in the picture) were extremely close friends of Kevin MacDowell, another St. Paul’s acolyte who died in 1990. A final interconnection is that Kevin was also a former baby-sitter for Mark Baxter.



**Remember to spring forward one hour on Saturday night March 11th
so you get to church on time!!**

The Symbolism of Our LGBTQIA+ Flag

Barbara Anne+ - as per requested

Recently, two questions were referred to me about our LGBTQIA+ Flag. The first question was why it had been taken down, and the second question was about why the new flag was no longer just rainbow colors. The answer to the first question is: A grommet was torn out of the flag during all the winter weather, and we had to order a new one. The answer to the second question is: As there has been an expansion over the years with the original “letters” to be more inclusive of all, there has also been an expansion of the colors on the flag by which to represent each segment of our “community.”

Since it is St. Paul’s ultimate goal to be open, accepting, and inclusive of all, it was decided to update the flag that is out front of our church. This flag reflects to those who are members of the LGBTQIA+ community, that we truly are inclusive – and a safe place for them to belong.

The following is a brief history of the original flag, and an explanation of our new flag. At the following website, you may find an extended article covering much more information: outrightinternational.org/insights/flags-lgbtqi-community.

Flags have always been an integral part of the LGBTQIA+ movement. They are a visible representation meant to celebrate progress, advocate for representation and amplify the demand and drive for collective action. There have been many LGBTIQ+ flags over the years. Some have evolved while others are constantly being conceptualized and created.



The Original Rainbow Flag:

Created in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, the iconic Pride Rainbow flag originally had eight stripes. The colors included pink to represent sexuality, red for healing, yellow for sun, green for serenity with nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony and violet for spirit. In the years since, the flag has been reduced to six colors: the flag no longer uses pink, and the turquoise and indigo have been replaced with royal blue.

Progress Pride Flag: (This is our current flag.)

Created in 2018 by nonbinary artist Daniel Quasar, the Progress Pride flag is based on the iconic 1978 rainbow flag. With stripes of black and brown to represent marginalized LGBTIQ+ people of color as well as the triad of blue, pink and white from the trans flag, the design is meant to represent diversity and inclusion.



Shrove Tuesday Fun!!

