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THE EPISTLE

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“MY SOUL GLORIFIES
THE LORD AND MY
SPIRIT REJOICES IN
GOD MY SAVIOR.”

LUKE 1:46-47

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Rector's Corner



"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Luke 3:4-6

Friends,

A happy and holy Advent to you all...In each of our weeks of Advent themes emerge to spiritually guide us into a deeper relationship with Jesus as we prepare for His birth again at Christmas. John the Baptist recalls and fulfills the words of the Hebrew prophets calling us to pay attention to our path to and relationship with Jesus Christ. I invite you to ponder these themes during Advent: **Promise, Prepare, Proclaim, Praise.**

We are reminded of the **Promise** of God to Abraham and we, his descendants, that God will be with us, guiding and keeping us, for all our days. As Christians, we are benefactors of the promised messiah coming into the world to be with us and overcome sin and death. In Jesus we have a home forever.

John the Baptist calls us again to **Prepare** our hearts and our world to receive the messiah again each year. We are called to work with God to clear a path and create relationships where the Gospel lives in us and blesses others through us. This is the Christian life we are called to live, loving God and neighbor.

Our lives, our priorities and relationships **Proclaim** who we are and what we believe. We live our testimony each day, easy or hard, rich or poor. If at the beginning of each day we thank God for what we have and at the end of the day we seek forgiveness for our failures and ask God's help to live like Jesus tomorrow, we will begin to resemble our Savior more and more and our testimony will be clear.

Praise is the byproduct of knowing we are beloved of God. If we lack praise we lack that basic understanding that God loves us more than we can ever imagine. What blocks our ability to praise God is our clinging to things, to people and to a false sense of control. Things and people will go away and disappoint us. Our sense of control of our own fate binds us in a constant cycle of measuring ourselves and others by an artificial yardstick and coming up short every time. Let go of your own judgements and ask God to give you a glimmer of how much you are loved. You'll soon find yourself filled with praise for that love and better able to love others...This is the true spirit of Christmas!

We will be taking these themes up in our Thursday Evensong services the first three weeks of Advent. I pray you will take the time to come sing and pray and join in simple food and fellowship. Your presence will be a blessing to all and you will be blessed as well. Each of you are in my heart as I pray this Advent and I ask you to pray for me as together we prepare to receive Jesus again into our hearts and lives.

God's Every Blessing,
Sarah+





From your Sr. Warden...

Welcome Winter! Said no one ever!! Well maybe a few. The temperatures have fallen as has a few snowflakes. I must admit the big snowflakes are soooooo pretty to watch, and to see how God has decorated our area of the world in white. It always looks so pretty when we look at the beauty from the warmth of our homes...but then the driving isn't quite as fun. And yet we always get through another winter just fine.

November has brought the thoughts and memories of our Veterans, both those who have given the ultimate sacrifice, and those that we honor that are here with us. Thank you to ALL Veterans for your service to keep us free. The Harvest Dinner was a huge success. The food was excellent as always. Nothing like filling ourselves to the brim (and then some) twice in one week. Awesome!! The women that came to speak at the dinner about the Soar program opened my hardened heart to those who were criminals, and made my heart hurt for those who had been involved in human trafficking. I think their testimonials touched all our hearts. I sincerely hope that our church can get involved with their cause.

Our Security Committee is moving right along. We had approximately 30 people attend the Active Shooter Training on November 3rd. Trooper Travis Fletcher presented a program that should have opened our eyes to what "might" happen and gave us tools that can help us take control of any situation if it occurs. We used the new security cameras, along with 3 people who had radios and walked the premises to keep everyone safe during our Trunk & Treat Halloween night. I was involved and felt that all went very well for the first time of actual use. We do have some small things to work on, but I felt it was a success.

The annual St Nicholas Party will be Dec 2nd after the 10:30 service. Kyle will be gracing us with his take on the story of St Nick. We are in hopes of having extra children from the Get Real Program, as well as friends of our church kids.

The ECW group met at Rev Sarah & Dee's home on Nov 10th. We had Cathy Filter join us and present a program in which we can help with the "Little Dresses for Africa". It was very interesting to all. Of course we had great food. We thank Rev Sarah & Dee for their hospitality. It was fun to see 'the boys' come see who was in their home. And, of course, it was a treat to see Audrey Hepbunny. The ECW has also got the nuts in. This year Sandra thought we could sell Advent calendars. I believe they are going well.

The upcoming month of December will be our busiest month as we go into Advent with our simple suppers and Evensong on the 3 Thursdays of December as we prepare to meet our newborn King.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!! Please be safe this winter and while being with loved ones during this holiday.

-Sue Hammett
Senior Warden



From our Jr. Warden...

I have been your Junior Warden these past few years. My time as a vestry person is expiring as of the end of this year. I hope and pray the effort of my time and talent have shown you positive results. Although I will not be far removed from the day to day activities, I feel a commitment to support the next vestry person to become Junior Warden. Depending on the structure of the 2019 vestry I plan to continue being involved with Buildings & Grounds, reporting as required by the vestry and Rev. Sarah. I pray the Jr. Warden position will not be laden with the B&G committee but reach in new directions being the “people’s warden”. Finding the stray sheep of our parish and the community at large. Working with Reverend Sarah closely promoting the ongoing vision of our parish. I believe we have lacked the energy of a vestry position dedicated to developing a continued effort reaching out to people in need.

As many of you know my ability to contribute to the ministry has been diminished since August 22nd of this year. What we, (Laura and I) want to express is our most humbling thanks for all the outpouring of love, prayers, concerns, commitments and donations to us in our time of need. Praise to our Lord, only property was lost and not lives. In times like these, we never realized how much they mean, until it is ourselves, (us) in need. May the blessing of our Lord be upon all of you.

Buildings & Grounds:

We continue to strive in keeping ahead of the needs of our parishioners. We are finishing up the install of cameras around the grounds. This is for security of our property and anyone entering our buildings. Another addition will be a new monitor in the small dining room for Skyping and up-loading other information concerning as needed. We plan to move the old one to the office to enhance the monitor and the security cameras. Plans are in the works for refinishing outside lighting. We are still dealing with interruption of high voltage power, not affecting light switches and such. I have discussed this with Aladdin, our contractor and he is to find the source of the power interruptions, involving “cold church” on Sundays. Also continue working on replacement of old light bulbs with new LED bulbs. Replacement of broken window to begin the month of December. New energy efficient LED fixtures will continue to be installed on the outside of our property this month. Please share your thoughts after installation.

Safety, Emergency, Planning Committee meetings:

This team ROCKS! Many new ideas are on the way as quoting contractors commit to our need, examples. Developing a safer property for us. Replacing the door knobs for certain doors with emergency push bar exit devices. Replacing outside lighting to save energy in outside areas as we continue working on the inside.

-Kyle King,
Jr Warden



A holiday invitation to ALL women of St. Paul's...

You are cordially invited to join us at the Women of St. Paul's ECW annual Christmas luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson on Saturday December 8, 2018 at 12 noon. Please R.S.V.P. on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the glass narthex by Tuesday, December 4 or contact Sandra Kilian or Valerie Rowley for more info.

The cost this year is \$19. Those who have concerns about the cost, please contact Rev. Sarah. If possible please bring a cold weather clothing item such as hats, scarves, gloves, socks or sweaters. All items collected will be donated.

We would love to see you there!



Wayne Frey	December 2
Dr. James Freer	December 7
Dr. John Alipit	December 13
Diane Billingsley	December 15
Rev. Sarah Hurlbert	December 20
Jan Osborn	December 25
Jesus	December 25



Mike & Diane Worthing	December 3
Wayne & Romelle Frey	December 16
Rick & Sally McKinnon	December 30

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW



The November meeting of ECW was held at the home of Rev. Sarah and her wife, Dee. We appreciate their hospitality and opening their home to such a large group. Our speaker was Cathy Filter of Christ Lutheran Church in Michigan Center. Cathy gave a wonderful presentation on a ministry very close to her heart called Little Dresses for Africa. Cathy and the women involved in this ministry alter pillow cases and transform them into dresses for girls in Africa. By wearing decent clothing these girls become less of a target for those who would otherwise take advantage of them. Their ministry has expanded to include fabric purses to transport personal items to and from school.

The St. Nicholas party sponsored by ECW will take place on December 2, 2018. All children are welcome to attend church and learn the story of St. Nicholas and enjoy a party with special treats in Holy Spirit Hall following the service. Donations of individual y wrapped candies are needed. Help is also needed with the food service on December 2.

The ECW annual holiday luncheon will take place on December 8 at the Country Club of Jackson and will take the place of our December meeting. All women are invited to attend this special event. (Please see announcement on previous page for more info.)

We have nuts for sale! Do you still have gifts for our mail carrier? What about your barber or hairdresser? Do you have all the stocking stuffers you need? Do you have a few emergency gifts for those unexpected guests? If not, nuts are the perfect answer! Stock up now! They freeze well too so you might want to buy for that St. Valentine's Day couples dinner you're planning. It's always good to have a bowl at those Koinonia dinners too. See us on Sundays after services.

Please remember all women, regardless of church affiliation are invited to join ECW. Wishing all a safe and happy holiday season.

-Valerie Rowley
Vice President, ECW



Choir News

Advent ChoirFest

A musical celebration featuring the St. Paul's choir along with other area choirs.



Sunday, December 2, 2018
5:30 pm.

St. Mary Star of the Sea
Catholic Church
Corner of Wesley and
Mechanic Streets,
Jackson

The choir is in full swing. We have enjoyed the anthems and the hymns.

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas music for all to enjoy

Anyone is welcome to join in with these dedicated church members.

Genette, Choir Director





United Thank Offering (UTO) Corner



Another big thanks is owed to all of YOU that a total of \$1,308.42 was collected for the UTO Ingathering last month!

UTO Invites you to continue the season of giving by challenging you to practice gratitude each day through the advent season. Here are some ideas for each day of the week...

Sundays: Scripture Reflection - Take a moment to reflect on the scripture readings from Sunday's service.

Mondays: Practice Random acts of Gratitude - Seek out a moment in your life to thank someone who touches your life that you might not know.

Tuesdays: Seek and Give Thanks - Find a small everyday thing to give thanks for. Look for opportunities to give thanks.

Wednesdays: Thank You Notes - Write a thank you note to someone in your life. This can be not just for giving a gift, but to say thanks for being you.

Thursdays: Creative Gratitude - create something that helps you express your gratitude. This can be as simple as taking a photo of something you're thankful for.

Fridays: "Write it Down" - Keep a gratitude journal or write down something you're thankful for as a way to remember it.

Saturdays: Reflect & Recharge—Rest, reflect, and recharge your batteries by appreciating the beauty around you.

** source: *November Gratitude Challenge*: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering>



Mission & Outreach



The hustle and bustle of the holidays are upon us! We wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

We are working with the AWARE shelter and Family Services/ Children's Aid this year for our Angel Tree Christmas giving. There are currently 10 single women, one woman and her young son in the shelter that need to be remembered during this season of giving. There is also one foster person who has aged out of the system but is in need of remembering as well. Their information/ gift ideas will be on our Angel Tree in the glass narthex. We will be collecting gifts until Sunday, December 16th.

Please remember that we are also collecting warm socks in ALL sizes for the Interfaith Shelter and AWARE. You may drop those items off in the office hallway in the bin provided! Socks will be collected until Sunday, December 16, as well. Thank you all so much for all you do for those in need in our community!

We thank all who worked so hard on the November Interfaith dinner! After all that turkey, lasagna, salad and garlic bread were a welcome, warm treat for all!! A special thank you goes to Deanna Leicht, who selflessly organizes, shops and leads the preparation of the meals! You are a ROCK STAR, Deanna!! Our next interfaith meal will be in January. This is a fabulous ministry in which to get involved. We always need cooks and servers. Check out the bulletin board in the glass narthex for our next sign up sheet. We invite you to mandatory fun and fellowship in the kitchen!

M&O and ECW will be partnering with the people from SOAR Cafe and Farms for a fundraiser in the spring for this amazing organization. After hearing the powerful testimonies at our harvest dinner, we hope you will prayerfully consider getting on board with us as we explore ways to be a blessing for women in need. Stay tuned in January for more information.

Mission and Outreach meets the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 in the library. If you are interested in getting involved or are just curious, please mark your calendar to attend a meeting. All are welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara Markowski and Barney Rudolph





**Hanging
of the
Greens**

Come Join us on
Sunday, December
23rd after the 10:30
am service.



OFFICE CLOSED

December 24

December 25

December 26

December 31 (office closes at noon)

January 1, 2019



Special
Worship
Schedule

First 3 Thursdays in December:

December 6th, 13th & 20th

5:30 pm Advent Evensong Service &
Soup Supper

*Please sign up in the glass narthex.

If you need a ride to the church,
please call the office and we will be
happy to arrange one for you.

Note: There will be no Wednesday
Bible Study or Eucharist during
December.



December 24, 2018, Christmas Eve:

5:00 pm Service

11:00 pm Service

December 25, 2018, Christmas Day:

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

December 30, 2018: **No 8 am Service**

10:30 am Christmas Lessons &
Carols



For years St. Paul's members have led 10:30 am Morning Prayer at Heartland Care Center in Jackson on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Our relationship with Heartland dates back over 20 years to the Rev. Deacon Lisa Cole and parishioner Bob Lemmon. Bob Lock is the current organizer and is in need of new parishioners to lead this quiet and simple service for our neighbors. Please prayerfully consider giving of your time to be with seniors in our area who need our prayers and presence with them.

Contact the St. Paul's office as you feel led to volunteer.



If you're looking to give to your community this month and experience the true joy of Christmas through service please think about donations to these worthy causes:

Food Bank :<http://www.jcfoods.org/>

Interfaith Homeless Shelter: www.interfaithshelter.com

Personal Care Ministry at First Baptist Church:

<http://www.fbcofjackson.org/missions/jackson-personal-care-ministry/>

Your generosity truly helps our neighbors!

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						10 am Worship Committee
2 ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAYS	3	4	5	6	7	8
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ St. Nicholas Party 4 pm Get Real 5:30 pm Choirfest	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 5 pm Judson Ctr 6 pm M & O 6 pm Toastmasters	6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Judson Center 5:30 pm Evensong Service & Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		12 pm ECW Christmas Lunch
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 5 pm Judson Ctr 6 pm Toastmasters	6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Judson Center 5:30 B & G 5:30 pm Evensong Service & Soup 7 pm Handbells	5:30 pm FSCA Christmas Party	8:30 am EYSJ
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	5:30 pm Safety Committee 6 pm Knitting & Crafting	10:30 am Bereavement Group 11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	1 pm Brownell Lunch 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5:30 pm Evensong Service & Soup Supper 7 pm Handbells		
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour	5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service OFFICE CLOSED	10 am Holy Eucharist OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Big B/S 6 pm Handbells		
30	31	NEW YEAR'S				
9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am— Christmas Lessons & Carols	NEW YEAR'S EVE *Office closes at noon	OFFICE CLOSED				