



March 2017  
(#432)

*The newsletter of  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church*



Dear Friends,

I'm thinking about Nicodemus, the pharisee who snuck over to Jesus' house in the dark. Didn't want to risk everything, but was afraid that he might miss out on something. This Nicodemus had a nice life, I think. Position, privilege, probably money to go with it and a comfortable life as a result. But the urge to know God a little better got him out of the house and into the night where he put everything at risk.

Curiosity killed the cat, they say, yet it appears to be essential to a faithful life. Someone who professes to be faithful but does not struggle to know God more deeply is probably not as faithful as they think. This time before Easter that we call Lent is a time for such struggles.

Our Lenten Lunches are about the things we treasure and figuring out what they are. Superficially, it is easy to come up with answers. I love my children, my family, my friends; but determining why life, love and relationship are so valuable is not so easy.

Nicodemus was looking for something beyond the obvious. He didn't get very obvious answers. It's like the wind, blowing where it wills, says Jesus, and you must be continually born and born again from above, says Jesus. One thing is clear – this enterprise is not static or complacent. Our understanding, our faith, our lives are supposed to grow, even if you have to take risks in the dark to get there.

The next time we hear of Nicodemus meeting Jesus it is at the cross, which is where the wind (the same word as spirit in both Hebrew and Greek) has brought him. He must be puzzling over why the holy man Jesus has allowed life and the Pharisees to deal with him like this. What value is there in this death? Nicodemus' Lenten journey has brought him to that point, and now he is clearly changed. In broad daylight and damn the consequences, he takes the body down and places it in a tomb. We can only guess at how his search has changed him, and what he has found that has brought him out of the dark to risk everything on that horrible day.

May your Lent be transformative too, a journey that yields a glimpse of the gift that changes us, emboldens us, and draws us closer to the heart of God, for the sake of the world that God treasures so much that even death is not too great a price.

And if you're looking for a story to travel with then Nicodemus offers some ideas, and courageous, faithful companionship, right to the very end.

Your friend in Christ,  
Michael +

March 2017

## Vestry News

The February Vestry Meeting was a retreat on the 25th at the campus of Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault. Our meeting was held in the newly renovated, beautiful Inn at St. Mary's. Fr. Michael conducted a well planned and meaningful day. Here is a short summary of the activities.

- History of Shattuck-St. Mary's
- Discussed who are we as a group and church
- Discussed sightings of God
- Reviewed the church web site and all applications
- Divided Vestry into groups with different questions for each group.
- Reported back to all, as a way to become a cohesive group
- Looked at list of teens as candidates for St. Paul's Youth Group
- Members picked to create plans to restart St. Paul's Youth Group
- All listed one thing each member would like to complete in next four months.
- All items placed in one of three categories - Worship, People, Place (building and grounds)
- Results-emphasis was on PEOPLE-1 for youth and 2 for children's programs. PLACE-2 for landscaping and 2 for painting
- Looked at church calendar and made note of upcoming evens from Feb.-Sept.

We ended the retreat at the beautiful Shumway Chapel. Fr. Michael conducted a short Eucharist service - very memorable!

Blessings,  
Gary Johnson

## Love in Action

On Mondays and Fridays from 1-3 the lay pastoral team is at Church to be available to those who need help on those days when we are not usually open.

If you would like to be involved (no qualifications necessary) please speak to Francy, Mary, or Mike or call 507-451-5319.

## Lent at St. Paul's

### HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER:

6:30 Wednesdays

### "THE THINGS WE TREASURE"

#### LENTEN SPEAKERS SERIES:

March 15: Rev. Michael Tippet

March 22: Rev. Coqui Conkey

March 29: Tom Walsh

April 5: Hon. Karen Duncan

12:10-12:30pm, followed by optional lunch for \$6. Proceeds benefit the Crisis Resource Center and the Steele County Free Clinic.

### CHOIR NEEDS YOU

If you have ever even thought about singing in the choir, now is the moment to step up and try it out. Join us for Lent and help us welcome Easter with a joyful noise! Choir rehearsal is at 8:45 Sunday mornings. Contact Kathy Brittain if you have questions.

**PALM SUNDAY:** April 9

**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** April 13

Check the website for updated Holy Week service times.

A VOICE OF  
ONE CALLING IN  
THE WILDERNESS:

Prepare

THE  
way

FOR THE

Lord

MAKE  
HIS PATHS  
STRAIGHT

MARK 1:3

## The History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

An Occasional Column Sponsored by the History Group

### THE ALTAR

*The Altar serves as the focal point of the church. Did you ever wonder how it came to be there?*

"Thine eyes shall see  
the King in His Beauty"

*Words carved where people kneel.*

"Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

*Words carved into the base of the altar.*

The altar was a gift of Mrs. James Diment given to the Glory of God.

Mrs. Olive (Kimball) Diment moved to Owatonna with her husband, James Diment, and two children, Winifred and Morton in 1878. James was extremely outgoing in the community, serving as the postmaster, purchasing Dart's Park, becoming a state representative, and serving as a beloved mayor. As mayor James worked 10 hour days and was often seen helping street crews do their work and giving traffic policeman a break by directing traffic himself - all without taking a salary.

Upon his death, it was ordered by Mayor William Zamboni that all businesses and city offices in Owatonna close during the funeral. Mayor Zamboni encouraged all residents to attend the funeral.

While James was extremely visible in the community, Olive preferred to serve Owatonna quietly. She was described as having a motherly disposition and enjoyed being around children. Many children would stop by her veranda on 316 South Cedar Street and visit with

her. Often as she was on her veranda, she would be working on things for other people. Olive donated regularly to many charities, but preferred to do so quietly. She died on July 19, 1922 at the age of 66, just two days after her husband's funeral.

The altar was originally installed so that when the celebrant was blessing the bread and wine during communion, his or her back was to the congregation. In the spring of 1996 it was decided to pull the altar away from the wall so that the priest could face the congregation during communion. Reverend Penny Pfab was very adamant about making that change. "There is no other time in our common life as Christians that we are more united than during this central act of our faith. Jesus and the apostles were never more together as a community than the night they gathered in the Upper Room. On that occasion Jesus converted what was taking place by making visual contact with the apostles. They were able to see with their eyes what our Lord was doing as he celebrated the first Eucharist."

It was a relatively easy fix as there was nothing (not one screw or nail) holding the altar to the wall. Parishioner Jason Terry stained the wood behind the altar in a way that preserved the architectural integrity of the church.

*The History Group is currently researching the history of our church building and its furnishings so that we may appreciate the faith and stewardship of those who came before us. Without their generosity, we would not have this beautiful building which enhances so many of our lives today.*

## Pipe Organ Repair Complete

We are happy to report that the pipe organ repair is all done! At services on Feb.19, during announcements, it was stated that the Vestry would meet after the service to decide on the organ repair issue. We stated that we had an estimate, and that we felt it was reasonable. By the time services ended, very generous donations were made by parishioners! A quick sub-total of donations revealed we had enough to proceed. An announcement was made that the repair was a go. The announcement was met with applause!

The Obermeyer Organ Company, Burnsville, MN, began repairs on Monday, February 27, and finished on Thursday, March 2. We were surprised that it went so quickly - 4 days! Deb Buck has been heard to say that she loves it, since the work included a complete tuning!

We would like to express our gratitude to those that stepped forward with donations to make the repair happen!

Let's keep the momentum going! Our next project is the painting of the south side of the church. For those of you that didn't get a chance to donate to the organ, this could be your opportunity. This repair is badly needed. We will be releasing more details as we proceed with planning of the project. For now, we can bask in the knowledge that our very special, historic organ is back in its full glory! In the mean time - remember - MOMENTUM FORWARD!!

Blessings,  
Gary Johnson

## Are you from here, or did you start out somewhere else?

There are a number of us who began this journey in a different brand of Christ's church. Maybe you are such a one and would now like to know more about what you have got yourself into.

Come meet some of your companion travelers and get some answers to common questions about the Episcopal church. Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Bread, soup and an hour of good company. Please call 507 451 5379 to say you're coming.

## Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers
Mar 19	Kristin	Gary	Mike	Terri and Marty
Mar 26	Julianna	Leanne	Steve	Julie and Gayle
April 2	Scott	Matt	Francy	Mike and Gary
April 9	Jackie	Nan	Diane	Steve and Sheryl
<i>Holy Saturday</i> April 15	Kristin	Mary	Janet	Terri and Marty
<i>Easter</i> April 16	Julianna	Gary	Mike	Julie and Gayle
April 23	Scott	Leanne	Steve	Mike and Gary

## Coffee Committees

### March

Gail Plathe  
Kristin Warehime  
Terri Hottman  
Janet Dixon  
Carol Peterson  
Nan Gjerdahl  
Jody Ruehling  
Deb Carlson

### April

Julie Conline  
Gayle Kozelka  
Maggie Dixon  
Sheryl Keith  
Jan Robran  
Julianna Skluzaceck  
Julia Miller  
Bernie Reisenhauer  
Carol McKernan  
Deb Buck  
Sharon Cramer

## Altar Guild

### March

Myrtle Brittain  
Lisa Boutelle

### April

Diane Spitzack  
Gerri Schwenker

### Brass Cleaning

April 1  
9:30am

## Mark Your Calendars

TEC: March 31-Apr. 2

Confirmation and Reception: May 6

See Father Michael if you are interested in either opportunity.

**LEAVEN** is published monthly to keep the people of St. Paul's informed and united in thought.

This issue of LEAVEN is made possible by the efforts of:

Fr. Michael Tippet  
Kristin Warehime

## **Got News?**

**If you have an item for  
The Leaven, please have it to  
Kristin Warehime by the fifth  
of each month.**

**[kristin.warehime@charter.net](mailto:kristin.warehime@charter.net)**

For more information on events at St. Paul's, visit our website: <http://stpauls-owatonna.wikispaces.com>



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