

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me,
and I mean to be one too.

from "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"



Dear Friends,

You will have noticed that there is an election coming. You may also have been asking what your faith has to do with your politics. I hope you have also noticed that I avoid politics in my preaching like the plague. Nevertheless, I have a responsibility to offer some help here, and this is it: before you adopt any political position, make sure you have checked on your ethical, Godly, center. Christian ethics first, politics second, and only as a consequence of what God has shown you to be true. That's it.

Well there is a little more. We have a particular tendency to forget ethics when we take sides and our indignation becomes the fertile source of multitudes of enemies, most of whom exist only in our imaginations.

I'll give you an illustration from British politics in social media, specifically from some of my old soldier friends.

A couple of days ago a friend of mine posted a picture of a young man holding a megaphone, he had a little bit of color to his skin, and was shouting to a crowd. The caption, referring to Brexit, said something like, "The older generation has deprived us of our European future." Then, underneath the offending picture were photographs of the World Wars I & II and the sacrifices made by two generations of veteran service men and women. The implication was clear — there would be no Europe without their sacrifice. The older generation gave you Europe; it didn't take it away; you ungrateful, probably foreign, young, upstart, wretch.

November 11th, Armistice/Remembrance/Veterans Day, is fast approaching and people are wearing poppies, preparing for memorial parades, and my friends, who are proud of their service, can be goaded into taking offense at this time of year.

The photo, of course, is a set up. In reality the young man pictured said nothing about veterans, or oldsters. Words were carefully invented and attached to the picture, designed to produce a predictable reaction amongst certain people. It's not unlike those fanciful conversations in our minds, when we make perfect retorts to the words we place in our adversaries' mouths. How witty and righteous I can be in my own imagination. We volunteer for this stuff and are willing dupes.

All of this is the product of self-righteous ego. Nowhere is the phenomenon more visible than in politics. We love it and it sends little thrills through us.

But it is not love, or justice, or mercy or service. Go back to your ethical center, then, before you vote, say your prayers, and do not forget what has been shown to you of God's holiness and humility. Then in conversation, and in your prayers, bear with one another in love.

Your friend in Christ,
Michael +

Senior Warden's Report

The Vestry of St. Paul's has been busy with many activities and projects around the church and our community over the last months. We are preparing for many upcoming events and activities in November and December here at church. We are excited to share this time with you.

We recently had a great turn-out at our Fall Fun Night. The food was delicious, the company was exceptional, and the games were entertaining for everyone. We look forward to doing this again soon.

We have discussed the renovation of the retaining walls and landscaping near the glass doors. This has eroded due to usage of sidewalk salt in the winter. Julie Conlin has gotten some preliminary estimates on repair of this area as well as addition of an outdoor seating area and/or memorial garden. This is a very exciting project and we would love to hear your thoughts. Please speak to any Vestry member about this.

Blessings to you and yours!
Gretchen

Help Needed Sundays!

CHOIR

Choir will begin rehearsing in November for Lessons and Carols, which is December 16, as well as Christmas. If you have ever thought about choir this would be a great time to give it a try. Please give Kathy a call if this is something you'd like to do.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

If you would like to help out on Sunday, please talk to Kris Warehime. We especially need lay readers, chalice bearers, and ushers.

What Can I Recycle?

A Refresher



Metal Cans



Plastic Bottles & Containers 1-7



Glass Bottles & Jars



Paper, Magazines, Newspapers
Phone & Hard Cover Books



Flattened Cardboard &
Paperboard



Dairy & Juice Cartons

Cleo's MEWSings

Hope you got outside the last couple of days and did some fall color walks. It has been lovely but by the time you read this, it will be cold and windy. It is Minnesota, you know!

And maybe you finished up your yard work and clean up after our September tornado! Lots of trees down in Owatonna but no one hurt. Jenni Brittain had a mess, as did Betty Kristo. Lisa and Don Boutelle had a tree down on their back porch and Jack and Diane had a backyard full of trees and branches. Heard Duane Wallin also had damage to his house including holes in his roof. Hope all are back to normal. Lots of St Paulite's were without power for 24, 48 and even more hours! Roger Warehime didn't get much sleep for a few days! (He works for Owatonna Public Utilities.)

Don't have much news this month. Did hear that Mary Levine had a lovely trip to Switzerland and was just home a few days and went off to meet daughter Jennifer and grandkids in Orlando where they had great fun at Disney World. Jack and Diane Spitzack were off for a few relaxing days in Branson, MO. Diane took her Bazaar projects with her—how is that for dedication!

Also traveling is Mollie Gffrerer and Luca and Chloe. They are driving to Toma, Wisconsin and taking the train to Chicago for MEA weekend. The girls don't know it, but they are going to see "Hamilton". It will be a wonderful surprise!

Knitters are busy knitting little scarves for Harry Buerman's snowmen! Check them out at the

Bazaar! And speaking of knitters, do you know Ann Dietz is a wiz at organizing? Janet Dixon's knitting needle drawer will never be the same!

Some of our long time members were interviewed by our history committee recently and filmed by Leann Alt. Watch for a future treat when you can see Betty Kristo, Myrtle Brittain, Angie Parsons and Bernie Reisenauer talk about their memories of St Paul's. Can't wait to see it!

As always, keep our shuts-ins and ailing in your prayers. Mike Weller had knee replacement and is doing well; Maggie Dixon has been in the hospital (before and after she and Pete took a trip to the northeast!) and needs some extra prayers. Her daughter Mindy also had surgery for breast cancer in September so remember her. Also heard that Angie Parsons is having hip surgery in the next few weeks. Our love and prayers to them all.

Our sympathy also goes to the Zinsli family. Marty lost his grandmother recently.

And also heard that Nikki Erickson recently started a new job at Federated Insurance. A new adventure for you. And speaking of new adventures, is it possible that Emma Zinsli is looking at colleges? It was just yesterday that she was 10!

That is it for this month! Get ready for the bazaar! Knit, sew, bake, do whatever you like doing to make the day a success! It is only a couple weeks away.



Church Events

HOUSE OF PRAYER RETREAT NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 2

A Retreat is sort of like a short weekend with friends at the House of Prayer in Collegeville, a very cozy and pleasant place to be in the Fall. There will be good conversation, and some music, and worship in the wonderful small round oratory in the woods.

Tentative title is “The practices that bring us nearer to God.” Let Michael know if you’re interested.

ST. PAUL TEC NOVEMBER 9–11

A wonderful event for 9th–12th graders. Several of us will be there on team. Speak with Michael if you would like to be part of this weekend or if you have a teenager in mind. In over 20 years of TECs, I can count on the fingers of one hand those for whom it has not turned out to be significant (in a good way).

BAZAAR NOVEMBER 10, 9:00–1:00

The name says it all! Sign up sheets are in Upper Tanner. Talk to Diane if you have questions.

COOKIE WALK DECEMBER 15, 10–NOON

We will be selling cookies by the pound. We need a variety of cookies and baked goods to make our sale a success. Sign-up sheets will be available after Bazaar is completed. Please speak with Gretchen, Rebecca, or Nikki if you have any questions.

Community Events

WINTER COAT DRIVE OCTOBER 1ST – OCTOBER 31ST

We are collecting children’s and adult’s winter coats, snow pants, scarves, hats, mittens, gloves and boots that are NEW or SLIGHTLY USED for Steele County families in need.

**Bring your donated items to:
Steele County Clothesline
155-B Oakdale Street
Monday–Friday
Thank you for your support!**

ANNUAL ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS BREAKFAST OR LUNCH. NOVEMBER 20, 2018

**Breakfast: 7:00 AM
Lunch: 12:00 PM
Held at the Owatonna Holiday Inn**

Learn about the problem of homelessness in Steele County and how you can help. Guests will be given an opportunity to make a contribution. Please RSVP at 507-446-9315.

OPEN TABLE FUNDRAISER FOR RACHEL'S LIGHT NOVEMBER 4TH, 4:30–7:00 PM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN

Join us for a humble meal of bread and soup served in a bowl made by local hands. There will be free-will donation basket and a silent auction. Rachel's Light is seeking to become the new women and children's shelter in Steele County.

TREASURER'S REPORT THIRD QUARTER 2018

Compared to year-end 2017:

- Pooled Investment Funds (PIF) are \$2,095 lower, at \$213,552
Unreserved PIF has held steady (22,863 vs. 23,096)
- Scholarship Funds are \$11,275 lower (6,400 paid out plus \$4,875 lost)
- Operating Revenues are \$8,080 less than budgeted,
but Operating Expenses have also been held to \$6,987 below budget

Statement of Assets 3Q2018	Sep 30 2018	Dec 31 2017	\$ Change
UNRESERVED ASSETS			
Checking - Non-restricted	4,231	5,721	-1,490
Undeposited & pledges receivable	20,875	0	20,875
PIF Unreserved	22,863	23,096	-233
Total Unreserved Assets	47,969	28,817	19,152
RESERVED or RESTRICTED ASSETS			
Checking	2,097	2,589	-492
PIF (Pooled Investment Funds Reserved)	190,689	192,551	-1,862
Scholarship Funds	123,027	134,302	-11,275
Total Reserved/Restricted Assets	315,813	329,442	-13,629
CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,207	-636	1,843
NET ASSETS MINUS LIABILITIES (excl. WOSP)	362,575	358,895	3,680

Revenues & Expenses thru 3Q2018	Actual	Budget	\$ Change
OPERATING REVENUE			
Donations - Operating	99,887	106,549	-6,662
Fundraising Revenue	3,501	4,315	-814
Investment Revenue	13,384	13,988	-604
SUBTOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	116,772	124,852	-8,080
OPERATING EXPENSES	109,020	116,007	-6,987
NET OPERATING	7,752	8,845	-1,093
Non-Operating Donations	4,567	2,700	1,867
Non-Operating Expenses	7,699	8,800	-1,101
NET NON-OPERATING	-3,132	-6,100	2,968
NET ORDINARY INCOME	4,620	2,745	1,875
INVESTMENTS			
Scholarship (- 4,875 earned; 6,400 paid)	-11,275	0	-11,275
PIF (5,590 earned; 7,684 drawn + 5,700 from 2017)	-7,794	-3,388	-4,406
NET INCOME (excluding WOSP)	-14,449	-643	-13,806

Your vestry has held down costs, consistently and significantly lowering expenses over three years. And they have added three new fundraisers (Visible Gifts, Fair Parking, Cookie Walk). But we still have a ways to go towards improving our long-term picture, growing our investments towards sustainability. That is a key focus. This year, we are behind budget on annual giving and pledges, so please stay up to date if you can, because we have unavoidable expenses in the fourth quarter that are not matched by budgeted income. And we are keeping an eye on the Scholarship Fund market losses.

Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
Oct 21	Kristin	Mary	Diane	Pete and Maggie	Kristin
Oct 28	Mark	Marion	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Mark
Nov 4	Julianna	Leanne	Maggie	Gary and Marty	Gretchen
Nov 11	Scott	Nikki	Janet	Terri and Mike W	Julie
Nov 18	Nikki	Matt	Diane	Steve and Sheryl	Kristin
Nov 25	Mark	Gary	Francy	Pete and Maggie	Mark
Dec 2	Kristin	Francy	Maggie	Julie and Gayle	Francy
Dec 9	Julianna	Steve	Janet	Gary and Marty	Julie



If you make a schedule change,
please leave a message on the church phone.

Coffee Committees

November

Mary Levine
Mary Wright
Lynn Seykora
Barb Judd
Ann Deetz
Jackie Ostlund
Amy Madsen
Maria Dodd
Janet Tippet

December

Betty Kristo
Gerri Schwenker
Kathy Brittain
Jenni Brittain
Laurice Anderson
Diane Spitzack
Leanne Alt
Bonnie Nguyen
Sarah Brave Heart
Rebecca Krug

Altar Guild

November

Diane Spitzack
Gerri Schwenker

December

Robin McKey
Betty Kristo

Brass Cleaning
December 8,
9:30am

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

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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For more information about
St. Paul's Episcopal, visit
www.stpaulsowatonna.org
or join our Facebook group,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church—
Owatonna.