

We are all just



Walking Each
Other Home

Dear Friends,



When Paul (our patron saint) was just a very young man he was knocked off his horse, struck blind, and heard the voice of God. There is some debate about whether there was actually a horse, but no debate about the fire and fullness, power and mystery of the message conveyed all across the Mediterranean by our Apostle.

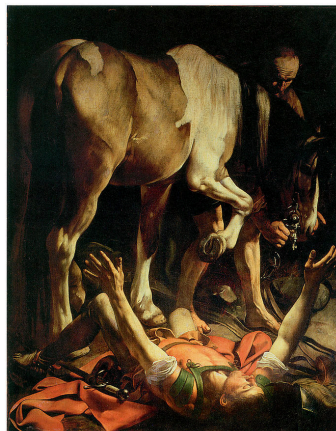
How did he get there, from Jewish/Roman teenager to the most renowned and loved missionary of the 1st Century? I say most renowned and loved because why else would early Christians have gone to such extreme measures to preserve in the New Testament every single piece of writing that could be connected to Paul? Why else would our forebears have named us after him?

Paul's journey with God is fascinating and mysterious, and compelling because:

a) nobody knows the full story, though there are lots of clues

b) these last couple of years have knocked us down once or twice, and the odds are good that God is speaking to us in there too.

We started the conversation when the Bishop came, and during Lent we are investigating these things to see where the Spirit leads us. It will be fun.



*Your friend in Christ,
Michael*

Please make sure your pledges are up to date. St. Paul's is absolutely dependent on your contribution.

Maundy Thursday



Mark your calendars for **Maundy Thursday, April 6th**. This generation of Myrtle's Marauders looks like a great team and we have learned a lot about slow cooking the delicious lamb and beef stews. The vegetarian stew will be there too. ***Please come if you can, and invite friends.***



Sr. Warden



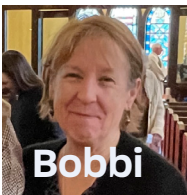
Jr. Warden



Treasurer



Clerk



Bobbi

Vestry 2023



Jenni



Julianna



Shari



Pete



Leanne

Sr. Warden's Report

Dear Friends,

This is our first Leaven since the new year, with a new vestry, and we're already smack dab in the midst of Lent. In January, we had a goodbye celebration for Blessing, Jenifer, and Beryl as they made their way back to India. It's amazing how two adults and one determined and precocious child could impact our relationships with each other as well as our faith and perspective in church. We're grateful for our time together.

Later in January, we had a Wednesday evening visit from our very own Bishop Loya. If you were there, you know that it was an evening of fellowship and laughter (and tasty soup) as well as a conversation about faith journeys, sightings, and callings. Eight people renewed their baptismal promises, and Morgan took that leap of faith and was confirmed by the bishop. Watching Morgan grow the past few years into an exceptional young adult who is ready to both lead and follow, has been a powerful and impactful experience.

In February came the annual meeting, again with fellowship and renewed commitment. This is my opportunity to write as the new Senior Warden and no longer in the position of Treasurer Pro Tempore. I'm thankful for this opportunity and don't take it lightly. As treasurer, I could see the hustle and bustle behind the scenes, people working together and independently to make things flow. There were things I never even realized had to be accomplished at a church, things I took for granted. Some of the quiet work was very powerful and made me appreciate this place as well as other places in my life. When I had the opportunity to be replaced by a much more qualified person as treasurer, as well as hold onto a place within the vestry, observing and experiencing God's work in action, I felt doubly blessed.

So let's talk about Sheryl: numbers, passion, tenacity... it's a gift to me and to all of us to put the position of treasurer back into her capable, astute, and faithful hands. She is prayerfully focused on this endeavor. The rest of the vestry is a delightful mix. It was hard saying goodbye

to Maria and Judy, although we will continue to depend on them. We're thankful to keep Jenni, Bobbi, Shari, and Julianna. Bring in Leanne as well as Mary Parsons, as Clerk with her vast experience with the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, and then a last minute trade deal went our way and Pete has made a one year vestry commitment. Drew agreed to another year as junior warden, which is a huge commitment and encompasses more responsibilities than most of us realize. It's a dream team full of love, commitment, and hope. It's also a team tackling the difficult questions about our path, our future, our finances...the first two can be enlivening conversations, the finances require open and difficult conversations. We're having those conversations and invite you to ask questions. We can bring your questions and ideas to the table at our vestry meetings.

That is a lot for now. As a former treasurer, I must include that it's never too late to put in your pledge and pledges/offerings received earlier in the year help us plan and delay withdrawals from our investments. From a senior warden perspective, I hope you can embrace all that Lent has to offer. We have our Wednesday noontime conversation series. Our Wednesday evenings are following Paul's path with endless curves in the road and a whole lot of contemplation. There's also soup; and everyone in this world loves soup, except for Jenni.

Maundy Thursday is happening and happening in full force. The togetherness we feel on that holy night can be one of the most important and impactful moments in the church year. Please plan on attending. We will have crews working before, during, and after. If you can be part of that, it would be wonderful. First and foremost, we would love to have you share in the experience.

Much love and many blessings to you,

Jody

*After 25 years at
Federated, Mike Weller
retired on February 28.*



A Visit from the Bishop

We had a great evening of food, worship, and making disciples with the Bishop on January 25th. Steve Smith was received, and Sheryl Keith and Morgan Strempe confirmed. A special thank you to all who brought the delicious soups and stews.



Be Part of Holy Week

April 2nd—Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Worship begins with a procession carrying palm branches and singing as they did when Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

April 6th—Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.

A Family Supper and Eucharistic meal as we remember the first Last Supper. Everyone is welcome and the lamb, beef, and vegetarian stews are delicious. Please call or email to register.

April 7th—Good Friday

Afternoon (online) and 6:30 p.m. in person

A simple service recalling the events of this dark day

April 8th—Saturday Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m.

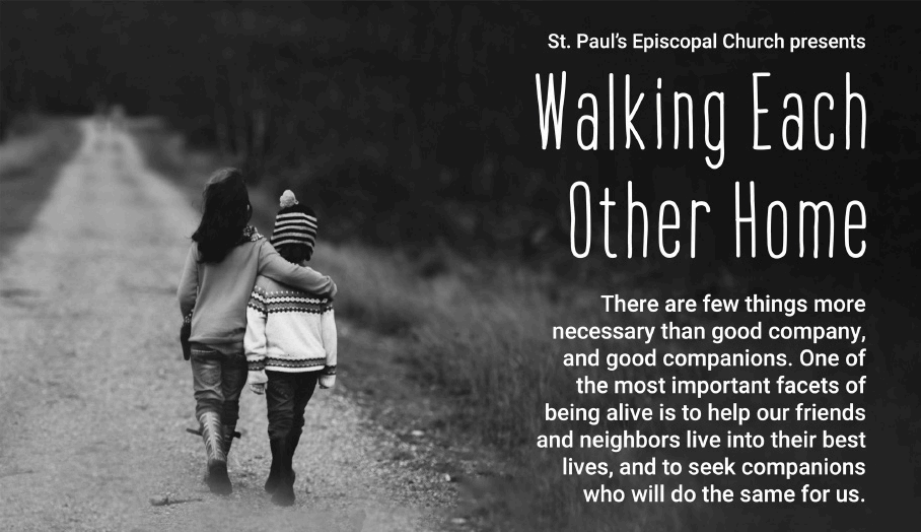
The oldest and most joyful of all the liturgies of the church. Beginning in darkness, we tell ancient stories of salvation, moving to the first Easter light and “Alleluia!”

April 9th—Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m.

The Day of Resurrection—Festival Holy Eucharist





St. Paul's Episcopal Church presents

Walking Each Other Home

There are few things more necessary than good company, and good companions. One of the most important facets of being alive is to help our friends and neighbors live into their best lives, and to seek companions who will do the same for us.

Lenten Speaker Series

March 15th—Rev. Loren Olson

Former Senior Minister of Owatonna's United Methodist Church, now hospice chaplain at Mayo.

March 22nd—Keith Davis

A friend of Fr. Michael's with a fascinating African American, Native American perspective on life.

March 29th—Rev. Michael Tippet

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Owatonna

Coffee

Enjoy treats after the service?

Then please consider helping on a Sunday! Sign-up sheets are in Upper Tanner or talk to Judy Erck or Terri Hottmann.

Cleaning

Help cleaning the church is always needed and welcomed. You don't have to do it all! Drew has written a list of tasks. You can pick up a copy of the tasks and instructions on the volunteer table in Upper Tanner. Or ask Drew!



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

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