



The **fellowship**
feels holy

Dear Friends,

Since the beginning of the year your Vestry have prayed and talked and dreamed about what happens next. We threw ourselves into Maundy Thursday and Easter hoping to see enthusiasm, commitment and excitement as together we resurrected our most important moments of worship. And we did. Church in the past few months has been profound and wonderful.

But we are being called to change. We know that deepening relationships with God and each other, simple kindness, generosity and humility are the things we prize the most, and we believe God does too.

So how do we do this without money? In 2018-19 we were sustaining the church without drawing from investments at all. But after losing almost 30% of our expected income in 2021-22, it has been difficult to pay bills month by month and our assets have diminished dramatically. So we have been praying hard.

That is why the Vestry sent out a letter last month asking for your commitment, and as you will see elsewhere, you have given us a little breathing space. So thank you. Please keep praying, because God is good, and we are being called to something new.

In the meantime we are continuing to plan out the year and throw ourselves into it. It would be wonderful if you did the same.

Your friend in Christ,

Michael



Senior Warden's Report

We seem to throw around the word fellowship and it starts to feel trite or like a light candy coating, but not really associated with God's plan, faith, service to others, whatever Church is all about. If it feels too fun, can it have anything to do with religion? I can only speak for myself, but fellowship has opened the door (opened the door, put down a welcome mat, and provided a snack) that has helped me grow in those other areas.

Each Sunday when we gather, the sanctuary is abuzz before the service begins with greetings, check-ins, and well wishes. I think that puts our minds in the right place to hear, and really hear, the messages before us. The prayers become more personal. And when the service finishes, the buzz and hum return to cicada decibels. Then we make our way to Upper Tanner to add caffeine and sugar to the mix. Sometimes parts of the sermon are discussed, sometimes it's upcoming trips or visits from children or grandchildren, but the fellowship feels holy. Maybe that's not for me to say. My theology background is limited to...none.

When we lost Bonnie, I was immediately reminded of the impact of fellowship with her: making lefse together, her cracking jokes from the back of the choir, watching the way she engaged with everyone. And when Jan arrived at church with Bonnie's daughter, Jane, the very next Sunday and shared in the barbecue/picnic/celebration meal after the service, it magnified the fellowship. Sometimes the door unlocks and opens with an invitation for fun, and the rest builds from there (which can also be fun).

We have more opportunities for fellowship throughout the summer, starting with another picnic/grill outside on June 25th (tables both indoors and outdoors, whichever you prefer). Wednesday Spiritual Adventures continue along with some themed Wednesday evening series: meal/music/activities planning/fellowship. We'll keep you posted on summer schedules. Fundraisers can be fellowship! It's true. I looked it up. There is a rummage sale July 21-22 with many ways to participate and be in community. We are also working on a short family "church school" about being Samaritans and neighbors. Tentative dates are set for the week following the rummage sale. Watch for more information to come. There's a little something for everyone and lots

of fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth. The advantage of being small is that these activities can be tailored, and we want your input (input always welcome but Wednesday evenings are especially opportune times for putting our heads together). More details to follow as we try to figure out days and times that work for as many as possible. August includes fellowship in the form of fair parking (hopefully). The more volunteers we have, the less stress and the more we can enjoy each other's good company. Please let us know if you have any additional ideas for fellowship or service to others.

Many Blessings, Jody

Grilling Out Again

After Church on Sunday 25th June. (It was so good last time that we had to do it again.) This is not a potluck--please just come and enjoy. The vestry is hosting.



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Annual Rummage Sale

Friday, July 21 & Saturday, July 22

It's time to get ready for St. Paul's annual rummage sale! This year's sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 21st and 22nd, the same time as Owatonna's GEM Days (formerly Crazy Days).

You can start bringing your contributions to church any time now. Tables have been set up in the back part of Brown Hall (basement area). Please place your boxes on top or underneath the tables.

- Make sure your donated items are in good condition and have been washed or laundered.
- Working electrical kitchen appliances are welcome. Please include the instruction manual with it (if you can still find it).
- No clothing please. The only exceptions would be fashion scarves, as those tend to sell well, or knit or crocheted shawls.
- Linens such as sheets, pillow cases, comforters, towels, tablecloths & runners, curtains, etc tend to sell well. Please mark on each item the size/dimension. (This saves us time in set up.)
- We cannot accept older computers, laptops, printers, CD/DVD players, VCR's or camcorders.

If you have any other questions about what to bring or not to bring for the rummage sale, please feel free to contact one of the co-chairs: Mary Parsons at 507-475-2438 or Leanne Alt at 507-390-5751.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to St. Paul's annual rummage sale!!

Mary Parsons & Leanne Alt



Family Church Camp

This summer we are planning to host family camp from July 25–27. All ages are welcome, including parents (if they wish). We will act out and investigate the story of the Good Samaritan and see if we determine who our neighbor actually is. The details of church camp are still being worked out and will depend a bit upon who signs up. Right now the plan is to start with the little ones about 3:30, followed by an early(ish) supper for all, and programming for the teens after dinner. We are looking for volunteers and participants. If you have questions or requests or would like to be involved, call Fr. Michael 507-456-7302.

Scholarships

Two scholarships were awarded this year—one to Devin Maas, Kelly Van Esch's son, and Carol McKernan's great grandson; the other a partial scholarship to Laurice Anderson as she begins a Master's of Divinity program in chaplaincy at Bexley-Seabury Seminary.



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Passings

Mary Leach

October 11, 1930–May 18, 2023

Would you like an example of discernment?

Some of you will remember Mary Leach. She left Saint Paul's for the mountains in the 80's. Her husband David, they say, saved the Church from being consumed by Ma Bell, the telephone exchange that rose to surround us and wanted our corner too.

Mary Levine has some very important memories of her namesake, beginning shortly after she moved to Owatonna. "I remember the tremendous faith that Mary Leach had - and the lovely time we spent together every week in prayer and meditation." Their prayers were often about teenagers, homeless and in trouble. "I was supervising a caseload of teenage girls who left home for a variety of reasons, and ended up staying with young adult men who introduced them to sex and drugs. They couldn't go home and found a place to stay with these young men who took advantage of them. They needed an alternative place to stay. Needless to say, there were young boys in similar situations."

The result? Against all odds Mary and Mary brought "Crossroads" into being, a home for these teens for the next 17 years.

Bonnie Holt

March 10, 1935–May 16, 2023

About a year ago the Rev. Bonnie Holt (and her BFF Jan Langer) started to come to St. Paul's after her retirement from the Cathedral in Faribault. Bonnie brought all sorts of Godly goodness to us. She went from this life to the next on May 16th, unexpectedly. A good number of us went to celebrate her life at the Cathedral, and we do so still.



St. Paul's Finances

Since the Vestry's Call to Action on May 7, 2023, thirteen individuals or families have responded with:

- Seven one-time donations totaling \$8,896
- Five increases in annual giving estimates totaling \$4,420 per year
- Two indications that St. Paul's was included in estate planning, totaling over \$100,000.

Your gifts allowed St. Paul's to catch up on past due bills, maintain our checking account balance, and potentially avoid a third quarter investment withdrawal. But they aren't enough (so far) to sustain us through the year.

The decisions of the Vestry for the remainder of this year and the future are entirely dependent on the results of this appeal.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES				
As of June 15, 2023				
ASSETS			INVESTMENTS *	
	Checking		Pooled Investment Funds (PIF)	136,061
	Checking: General operating	9,198	Scholarship Funds	96,085
	Checking: Scholarship	4,238	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	232,146
	Checking: Other non-operating	1,398	\$20K PIF withdrawn thru June	
	Total Checking Account	14,834	LIABILITIES	6.325

NOTES regarding three categories of giving:

1. One-time donations help us meet operating costs in the current year; we are still about \$20K short.
2. Increased giving estimates (we used to call them "pledges") help meet costs in the near term. We are short about \$50K per year now.
3. Estate planning helps build investments towards St. Paul's longer-term sustainability.

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

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