St. Paul’s Epistle
October 15th, 2020

No Matter Who You Are, Or Where You Have Been, There Is A Place For You At St. Paul’s

www.stpaulsyr.org
Dear sisters and brothers,

Two months ago I suggested four themes for us as we make our way through this long, middle portion of the pandemic:

1. Follow a process for staying healthy.
2. Create new ways to engage in worship, mission and work.
3. Stay connected with each other.
4. Support individuals who have not been heard or seen.

This month I want to consider the second theme in depth: creating new ways to engage in worship, mission and work. The Christian journey is a continual process of returning to God. Before COVID we returned to God as we returned to St. Paul’s for worship each Sunday. We returned to God as we volunteered or worked, seeking and serving Christ in all people.

In the past 7 months the patterns we create to return to God have been disrupted. The disruption of our patterns of engagement with God is one of the reasons we are in distress. So we have created new ways to engage in worship, mission and work.

Thanks to our members and lay leaders, each week you can find at least six or seven opportunities for worship and fellowship on our church calendar and website. As we move into an especially difficult November and a most unusual Advent and Christmas season we are creating additional ways for our members to return to God in worship. Almost all of our new and existing worship services will be accessible through our livestream.

However, I also encourage you to come to St. Paul’s for worship whenever you feel it is safe for you. When I walk into our worship space, light streaming in through stained glass windows, I feel I am coming back home, to God’s house. When I sit in stillness, listening to the organ, I feel the rough edges of my heart soften, and I am opened to God’s love and grace. When I see the faces of our
members near me, covered in masks, I see the love and faithfulness of God in each person’s eyes. I am strengthened in the realization that we are not alone as we make our way through this wilderness time. It is different to be in a worship service, in person.

We, at St. Paul’s, have the greatest resource to make it safe for members to gather in person during a pandemic: we have enough space for worshippers to be twenty or even thirty feet apart, as they choose. We have a good sound system. We have many doorways so we can use one way traffic patterns.

Each of our members has their own risk factors to consider; I completely respect the decisions of each member regarding what is safe and essential for their well-being. At the same time, I know we will be in this in-between place, waiting for the distribution of a vaccine and taking precautionary measures, for at least another six months. Whether we choose the new ways, Zoom meetings and live streaming and listening to services on our telephones, or the traditional way of in-person worship, I encourage each of us to return to God who journeys beside us during these difficult times.

I have never felt more blessed to be your rector than during the past seven months. More than I ever expected, our members and staff have been willing to try new things in order to engage in worship, ministry, fellowship and pastoral care. Especially as we move through this difficult time, I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

Fr. Philip
Racial Equity: a 21 Day Challenge
—By Betsy Elkins, Senior Warden

At a time when we are seeing countless examples of racial inequity, many of us have been struggling with what we can do about the racial inequity in our country that is clearly a systemic problem. I have been trying to come to terms with my white privilege and how I am part of this problem, whether I know or believe it or not.

On October 1st, the United Way of Central New York started “CNY 21–Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge.” This initiative provides an opportunity for participants to personally examine this topic in a very intentional way for 21 days. Once you sign up which you can do from the United Way website, you receive an email each day with some activities to challenge your perceptions and thoughts. Each day you are offered various options from which you may select: articles to read, videos to watch, or self-tests to take to open your eyes and to challenge you. Each day’s challenge includes thought provoking questions to ponder.

The topic for day one is racial identity and began with this quotation to stimulate thought:

“Not seeing race does little to deconstruct racist structures or materially improve the conditions which people of colour are subject to daily. In order to dismantle unjust, racist structures, we must see race. We must see who benefits from their race, who is disproportionately impacted by negative stereotypes about their race, and to who power and privilege is bestowed upon – earned or not – because of their race, their class, and their gender. Seeing race is essential to changing the system.” - Reni Eddo-Lodge

On day two the topic is Understanding and reflecting on our own bias. The activities for day two provided time to uncover some of our own biases and reflect on how to take control of these unconscious constructs.

Day three’s topic is What is Privilege? Privilege is our unearned position due to these factors: whiteness, social-economic, Christian, gender, heterosexual. A “how privileged are you?” self-test was an eye opener. A short talk by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, the author of White Fragility
(waiting on my bookshelf for me to read) was extremely helpful as she spoke of deconstructing white privilege. I learned that I am indeed privileged and consequently racist!

Day four presented more from Robin DiAngelo on why talking about race is a challenge for some. There was an article on 28 common racist attitudes that looked much too familiar.

As I write this it is day five of the challenge which deals with Trauma to Health. Not unlike PTSD, from which many who have experienced a traumatic experience suffer, racism is traumatic for people of color. As they experience racism they may also experience fear and hypervigilance, headaches, insomnia, body aches, memory difficulty, self-blame, confusion shame, and guilt, etc.

While you could spend hours each day on these challenges you can sample as much or as little as you like and as your time allows. The challenges are all stored on the United Way website so you may return to them at a later time as you wish. In just a few days I have quickly learned a great deal about racism and about me and how this is not a problem for others to solve. It is not a problem that people of color can fix. It is something we all have to address beginning with ourselves. The challenge will conclude on October 21st, with “A Community Conversation with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi” presented by The Friends of the Central Library. Kendi is an American author, professor and historian of race and discriminatory policy in America. He is the author of How to be an Antiracist.

I encourage you to join this challenge. You will definitely learn a great deal about racial inequity and about yourself. Perhaps we can have some conversations about this in the months ahead. The information regarding this challenge pops right up when you go to the website for United Way of Central New York: [https://unitedway-cny.org/](https://unitedway-cny.org/) or you may go directly to this page to sign up: [https://www.cnyequity.org/signup](https://www.cnyequity.org/signup)
Prayers in the Sanctuary
—By Father Philip

When I was in college, I had a few turns as a wilderness trip leader, for my fellow college students and for a YMCA program. One of the main things I learned about traveling through the wilderness is the importance of looking ahead, anticipating and preparing for difficult situations.

We are in the middle of our own, unexpected journey through the wilderness of isolation and uncertainty caused by the COVID pandemic. In a few weeks we will enter a portion of our journey that will be more challenging for us; most of us won’t be getting together with friends in the park or sitting on our decks, enjoying the warmth of the sun. The days are getting shorter; the nights are getting colder. We expect the number of COVID-19 cases will rise as people move indoors.

To add to the challenge, we are in the middle of a difficult election season. Almost without exception, democracy in America has relied on candidates for public office affirming a respect for the results of elections and supporting the peaceful transfer of power. Many of us are more concerned than usual that the right of all adult citizens to vote may not be respected and the results of elections may not be accepted by all participants.

The church can play a critical role in times of uncertainty and difficulty, providing a place of prayer, safety and sanctuary for all people. So at St. Paul’s we will be holding mid-week ‘Prayers in the Sanctuary’ on the first three Wednesdays in November. These services will include scripture readings, organ music and a time for you to offer your prayer concerns. Here are the details:

**Dates:** November 4, 11 & 18

**Time:** 12:05-12:45 p.m.

**Attend:** In-person or via the livestream

**Enter:** Through the Fayette St. doors
Below is our prayer list. Please contact Laurie Sanderson at 315-420-1518 or lascsw3@aol.com if you have names to add or change. In compliance with HIPAA regulations we cannot list whole names, but God knows who we are praying for. Thank you!

**Acute Need/Immediate**
Jim, Pamela, Sue, Anne, Jim, Denise, Kate, AnnMarie, Patrick, Eriane, Greg, Pearl, Cynthia

**Continued Prayers**
Valerie, Edna, Kathy, Bunny, Annie, Elizabeth, Laurie, Ali, Tom, Tahiana, Mary, Sherry, Hugh, All Those Living Alone or in Nursing Facilities.

**Recently Deceased**
Nancy Ridings, Richard Apps (9/20/20), The Reverend Hal Avery (9/20/20) The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsberg (9/20/20)

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**Open Doors—Thank You!**
—By Cathy Wolff

Thank you to all of you who were interviewed by Partners for Sacred Places for the Feasibility Study! Forty-four interviews were conducted with a mix of St. Paul’s members (24) and non-members (20). We are awaiting the final report and plan to share the results in the November 1st issue of *The Epistle*.

The Feasibility Study final report will provide important information needed for organizing the Capital Campaign, which will take a few months. Fundraising for the Capital Campaign will start mid-winter.
October Anniversaries:
John Philip & Wendy Hoblyn Jones 10/4
Andrew Besemer & Tim Cassavaw 10/13

October Birthdays: Lexi Greenhalgh 10/7, Anna Wright Doughty 10/9, Hanna Lane 10/9, David Ridings 10/13, Suzanne Hoffman 10/17, John Woodman 10/22, Kira Lane 10/23, Tanya Lewis-Mulvey 10/23, Suzanne Beeching 10/27, Demetrio Munoz 10/26, Kira Dirghalli 10/31

Dear Friends at St. Paul’s,

I want to thank you for inviting me to share ice cream with you. It was so wonderful to see you after this rather long time since the pandemic started. It is so thoughtful of the church to have the little pantry available. It’s so cute! I saw some organic whole grain hot cereal that I took. Thank you for offering the opportunity to check the pantry out. I appreciate it. I look forward to hearing how you are next time there is an opportunity. In His Love, Christine Duttweiler, a neighbor of St. Paul’s

All Saints Memorial Flowers

As is our custom, we create a small memorial booklet for All Saints Day commemorating our loved ones. This year, the booklet will be part of The Epistle.

Beverly will be calling people who have had memorials in past years. If you haven’t had a listing in last year’s booklet, please email the office with the information as to who the memorial is for and who it is from (offices@stpaulsyr.org). If you wish to make a memorial contribution please send a check directly to the church and put in the memo line ‘All Saints Flowers’.
St. Paul’s Calendar October 13-31 2020

Tuesday, October 13, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer- Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste- Zoom
Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers- Zoom

Sunday, October 18, 8:00 a.m. Worship - In Person Service
Sunday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, October 18, 10:00 a.m. Worship- In Person & Live Stream
Sunday, October 18, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, October 18, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers- Zoom
Tuesday, October 20, 9:30 a.m. Open Doors- Zoom
Tuesday, October 20, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer- Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m. Feminist Theology- Zoom
Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m. Gardeners Group- Zoom
Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers- Zoom
Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m. Leadership Retreat Part 1- Zoom RSVP w/Fr Philip

Sunday, October 25, 8:00 a.m. Worship - In Person Service
Sunday, October 25, 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. Worship- In Person & Live Stream
Sunday, October 25, 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, October 25, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers- Zoom
Monday, October 26, 4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting- Zoom
Tuesday, October 27, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study w/Father Philip- Zoom
Tuesday, October 27, 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer- Zoom RSVP w/ Sue Wright
Tuesday, October 27, 5:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Meeting- Zoom
Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste- Zoom
Wednesday, October 28, 4:30 p.m. Communications Team Meeting- Zoom
Wednesday, October 28, 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers- Zoom
Saturday, October 31, 10:00 a.m. Leadership Retreat Part 2- Zoom RSVP w/Fr Philip
The Open Pantry Needs Your Help!
—By Jim Doyle & Others participating in The Open Pantry and The Caring Place

The Open Pantry is now a force downtown for feeding our Downtown neighbors in need of basic food items. Our Downtown neighbors’ food insecurity now is being met in part by the non-perishable food items available in The Open Pantry.

And the need for The Open Pantry seems to grow. Did you know, right now, that 1 out of every 3 households with children in the United States is now food insecure? That’s right, 1 out of every 3 households with children in the entire United States is food insecure. And the need Downtown is significant as well. Oftentimes, the full contents of The Open Pantry are needed on a daily basis. This means that sometimes The Open Pantry must be replenished almost daily.

Up to now, a few members of St. Paul’s have been donating the non-perishable foods to support The Open Pantry. WE NEED YOU! We are asking more members of St. Paul’s to contribute non-perishable food items. There are different ways to share.

If you wish to share non-perishable food items, here’s how you can help:

- On Sundays, you can place donated items on a cart inside the Fayette St doorway marked “The Open Pantry;”
- On Tuesdays, there will be another cart labeled The Open Pantry inside the Montgomery St Entrance—call first to make sure someone is at the church if you don’t have a key.
- When convenient for you, you can place your donated items directly in The Open Pantry;
When convenient for you, if you have a key to the church’s Kitchen door, you can place donated items on the table in the small dining room off of the kitchen.

Whatever you can share will be used by our Downtown neighbors in need.

Also, if you wish to provide financial support of The Open Pantry, please feel free to mail a check to the church payable to St. Paul’s with “The Open Pantry” in the Memo line.

The photograph below shows The Open Pantry. As a reminder, it is located outside the church building located at 220 East Fayette Street, just to the left (east) of the current main church entrance door. The Open Pantry is open to passers-by on a 24/7 basis.

Did you know, non-members of St. Paul’s are donating to The Open Pantry by placing food items directly on the shelves? This means that The Open Pantry is also an effective form of Evangelism – sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

The Holy Spirit is clearly at work through The Open Pantry. All who donate to The Open Pantry are humbled that God has invited us to be a part of this ministry.
Please Take the Survey!

Have you filled out your Fall survey yet? If not, go to the front page of the website and click on the link.

OR scan this QR Code with the QR reader app on your phone.

OR if you prefer a written copy, in the last Epistle you’ll find the survey. Just tear it out, fill it out, and send it in.

Readings for October 18th, 25th and November 1st

Proper 24A: Readings for October 18th, 2020

Proper 25A: Readings for October 25, 2020

All Saints Day: Readings for November 1, 2020
This year’s Blessing of the Animals.
Obituary of The Rev. Harold Dennison Avery

The Rev. Harold Dennison Avery died peacefully at Iroquois Nursing Home on September 18, 2020 at the age of 92. Son of Harold Terry Avery and Anne Pirong Avery, he was born on May 2, 1928. He was predeceased by his parents; his sister, Dr. Patricia Labach; and the mother of his children, Gertrude Gardner Hughes. He graduated from Nottingham High School, Syracuse University, and Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1952. Hal was ordained to the priesthood in 1953. Hal served the Rochester Diocese, primarily at St. John’s, Canandaigua and in the Diocese of Central New York. Hal was the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church and then served within the Syracuse Urban Cluster. He served on various committees within the diocese-from aging to youth, however, his passion was community involvement. He was never able to just attend a committee meeting, he always seemed to have a leadership responsibility. Hal was a “planner” and thrived on working to create new programs. He was on the dream team for the present Interfaith Works, Samaritan Center, Time of Jubilee, Lincoln Elms while serving on the Care & Share Fund, Metropolitan Commission of Aging, Maria Regina College, Coalition for Health and Welfare for Onondaga County, United Way of CNY, Home Aids of CNY, Visiting Nurses of CNY, Priority One of Greater Syracuse, Chairman of Community Issues, and more. He loved serving as the chairman of the Legislative Committee of the NYS Council for Home Care services. He so enjoyed attending Thursday Morning Roundtable.

He also planned his summer vacations in the winter months with the same diligence that he took on committee work. He felt he did not need to travel too far because everything he needed was in the Adirondacks. Each summer had to end with his camping trip to Fish Creek in the Adirondacks. After serving in the active ministry for 44 years-
retiring—was bored after one year—and continued on serving churches as Sunday supply until he was 88 years old. He served All Saints Episcopal Church in Fulton for at least ten of those years. He had a “silly goal” of going wherever God called him to preach and wanting to be at every church in the diocese—some wouldn’t let him go—Grace, Baldwinsville, St Luke’s, Camillus, St John’s, Marcellus, St Albans, Syracuse, Calvary, Syracuse, St. Mark’s, Syracuse, Grace, Syracuse, St Paul’s, Chittenango, Emmanuel, East Syracuse, Trinity, Watertown, Christ Church, Binghamton, All Saints, Johnson City, St John’s, Black River, Grace, Carthage and the list goes on.

He was married to Jeanne Garrison Ives Avery for 35 years. He is survived by his wife; his children, Stephen (Melanie) Avery, Catherine (David) Hallett, Peter Avery and Lucinda Avery; step children, Kathy (Douglas) Chapman, Cyndi Ives and David Crouse and Rodney (Amy) Ives. Hal was always amazed that he had eleven grandsons and two granddaughters, Andrew, Matthew, George, Dennis, Richard, Christopher, Thomas, Kevin, Jacob, Forrest, Tucker, Margaret and Elizabeth and many spouses. But then the great grandchildren reversed and he has four boys with nine girls, Landon, Ivan, Myles and Connor with Aurora, Ariel, Beatrice, Victoria, Adeline, Emma, Ellie, Imogen and Emerson. He is also survived by his brother, Robert (Jean) Avery; and nephews and a niece. The family wishes to express their deep gratitude to the staff of Iroquois Nursing Home for the loving and concerned care he was given especially during this very difficult time of the isolation during the pandemic.
The deadline for the October 31st Epistle, will be Sunday, October 25th.