St. Paul’s Epistle
May 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,

Three weeks ago, I met with several of our Sudanese members via Zoom. This was our first meeting together since the closure of our buildings. We were very glad to see each other's faces, and the energy of the gathering was very high. As usual, they brought insights from the years they spent in the civil war in Sudan, in the refugee camp in Kakuma and in their first years in America to our current situation. As they shared their reflections on the current crisis I was struck by the power and wisdom of their words, so I wrote down some of what they said.

Yuot (Michael) observed, “Pain is another part of life, and something we must move through.” Sometimes we think the pain and suffering we experience is a mortal danger to us. For most of us reading this newsletter, pain is a part of life, not a sign of imminent death. As Yuot has experienced some terrible pain, some of us are experiencing great pain at this time. As it was true for Yuot, we must move through the pain. Keep moving in spite of the pain and suffering; keep moving in such a way that a healthy version of your self emerges from this time of pain and suffering.

Dut (Abraham) recalled, “Jesus Christ did not say, ‘When 200 people are together, I will be there.’ Jesus said, ‘If two or three are gathered in my name I will be there.’” Especially at this time, I encourage you to be part of a gathering of two or three or six or eight, and to let the Holy Spirit make those gatherings sacred. This is a different idea for many of us. Before this time, I usually assumed that more people = better. Through the epidemic I am learning a new truth in Jesus’ words. Some of the most sacred times for me in the past month have been with two or three or four others, standing
outside, ten feet apart, or sharing stories via video conference. Be
together, with a few others, and let Christ be present with you.

Mawut (John) insisted, “We must use this time for awakening.”
God is not calling us to recreate the reality of 2019. God
is calling us to be part of a new creation. The epidemic
is revealing injustice, vulnerability and what we might
call sin, on a scale many of us have never seen before.
We want to be through with this crisis, but we cannot,
and as disciples of the crucified Messiah, we must not
go back to the way things were before. We must use
this time for awakening.

Fr. Philip

A message from Pastoral Care

From a distance, we continue to connect with others
and see how we are all doing. We also send out a
prayer list to our prayer warriors to pray with. If you or a
friend need or have a prayer request, contact Laurie
Sanderson at lascsw3@aol.com or 315-420-1518. Laurie keeps the list and
sends it out to the team. Thank you!

May Anniversaries: Dick & Marilyn Alberding 5/1,
John & Jane Woodman 5/6, Rev. Hal & Jeanne Avery 5/25

May Birthdays: Nancy Schimmel 5/2, Rev. Hal Avery 5/2,
Staci McHugh 5/5, Emma McCloskey 5/6, Hannah McCloskey 5/9,
Grant Dolge 5/11, Hal Brown III 5/12, Mary Powell 5/14,
Eva Lewis-Mulvey 5/15, Rebecca Livengood 5/18, David Webb 5/18,
Mary Buske 5/18, Derek Lane 5/23, Tiffany Miner 5/23, Bob Frye 5/24,
Upcoming Services

May 17th 2020 ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Hymns: 516, 512, 405
Psalm 66 7-18, BCP p. 674

May 24th, 2020 ~ The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Hymns: 636, 635, 460 (v 1-4)
Readings: Acts 1:6-14, 1 Peter 4 12-14; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11
Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36 BCP p. 676

May 31st, 2020 ~ The Day of Pentecost
Hymns: 507, 508, 511
Psalm 104: 25-35, BCP p. 736

Hymnals & Prayer Books
—By Betsy Elkins

If anyone still needs a hymnal and/or a prayer book I would be willing to deliver. Please contact me at 315-949-1222 or eaelkins@esf.edu.

Feminist Theology Meeting by Zoom
—By Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology is meeting by Zoom! We 'gather' once again next Tuesday evening, the 19th at 7 pm. This month we are inviting participants to share a book that has inspired them. Next month we will discuss Where the Crawdads Sing. If you would like to connect, please let Laurie know. She will connect you to the proper Zoom connection through Derina Samuel. All are welcome! Call 315-420-1518 or lascsw3@aol.com
We have our very own VIP—Beverly Bolton. Without her phone calls, taking reservations and collecting money, First Friday would have ceased years ago. She has been indispensable to us; suggesting menus, and letting me know when she heard something that would make First Friday better. Her cheerful presence is a gift to all.

Beverly will celebrate her 98th Birthday on June 7. Her address is Beverly Bolton, 753 James Street, #915, Syracuse, NY 13203. Please flood her with cards, thoughts and kindnesses.

“O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant Beverly as she begins another year. Grant that she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen her trust in your goodness all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen” BCP

Until we meet again, blessings to you all, xo Carol

Join us as we celebrate Ascension Day with other east side parishes, including St. David's, Trinity, Emmanuel, St. Alban's, Grace, St. Peter's and Christ Church. The service will be held Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 p.m. You can access it through St. Paul's website: stpaulsyr.org.
May 14th THROUGH 17th

Thursday, May 14th: 4:30 p.m. Father Philip’s Neighborhood - Zoom
Thursday, May 14th: 7:30 p.m. Compline with Music for Inspiration - Live Stream
Sunday, May 17th: 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 17th: 10:00 a.m. Worship - Live Stream
Sunday, May 17th: 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 17th: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers — Zoom

May 18th THROUGH 24th

Monday, May 18th: 7:30 p.m. Yoga - Live Stream
Tuesday, May 19th: 2:00 p.m. Bible Study - Zoom
Tuesday, May 19th: 7:00 p.m. Feminist Theology - Zoom
Tuesday, May 19th: 7:30 p.m. Compline w/ Words for Inspiration - Live Stream
Wednesday, May 20th: 7:00 p.m. SPC Gardeners - Zoom RSVP with Jessica King
Wednesday, May 20th: 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers - Zoom RSVP w/Rev. Kathy Major
Thursday, May 21st: 4:30 p.m. Father Philip’s Neighborhood - Zoom
Thursday, May 21st: 7:30 p.m. Ascension Day Service - Zoom
Sunday, May 24th: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 24th: 10 a.m. Worship - Live Stream
Sunday, May 24th: 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 24th: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers — Zoom

May 25th THROUGH 31st

Monday, May 25th: Memorial Day Holiday
Monday, May 25th: 7:30 p.m. Yoga - Live Stream
Tuesday, May 26th: 2:00 p.m. Bible Study - Zoom
Tuesday, May 26th: 7:30 p.m. Compline with Words for Inspiration - Live Stream
Wednesday, May 27th: 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers - Zoom RSVP with Rev. Kathy Major
Thursday, May 28th: 2:00 p.m. Cristosal Presentation - Zoom
Thursday, May 28th: 4:30 p.m. Father Philip’s Neighborhood - Zoom
Thursday, May 28th: 7:30 p.m. Compline with Music for Inspiration - Zoom
Sunday, May 31st: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 31st: 10 a.m. Worship - Live Stream
Sunday, May 31st: 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Zoom
Sunday, May 31st: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers — Zoom
Join Us for Zoom ‘Coffee Hour’  
—By Tiffany Miner

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, we have been doing most of our socializing through Zoom. We have attempted to maintain our social bonds and friendships as best we can even as most of us continue to remain in our homes.

We encourage you to join us via Zoom for coffee hour at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. If you tried coffee hour five or six weeks ago, you might recall your tablet or computer screen being filled with tiny images of other members. There was almost no way to have a normal conversation. Now we have integrated a new feature into our coffee hour, called Breakout Rooms. Here’s how it works: When you sign into the coffee hour you will arrive in the normal, large ‘meeting room’. After one or two announcements the host, often Fr. Philip, will split the large group into smaller groups for 15 minute conversations with 3-5 other people. As we found this past Sunday, this makes for more intimate conversations; it is much like being part of a small group in the Brewster room during in-person coffee hour.

You can join coffee hour using the calendar portion of our website: stpaulsyr.org. The password is fayette

May 29th is John Pizzi’s last day of work at St. Paul’s!

Please express your gratitude by writing to John at his home address: 4862 Roberts Road Cazenovia, NY 13035. Please consider making a contribution to a collective cash purse for John.

You can make a contribution by sending a check to St. Paul’s or through our website; either way please write ‘John Pizzi gift’ in the memo line.
As of the middle of May, it seems our journey through the epidemic will be a very long season. Our current situation is like that of a gardener in the winter. Thinking and acting like a gardener in winter is a way of holding onto hope in a harsh, dangerous world.

I encourage you to join with me in being a sort of gardener-in-winter during these coming months. In order to think and act like a gardener in winter you don’t have to grow any actual plants. In order to be a gardener in winter one needs to observe what is happening in the world, take time to rest and reflect, then choose a wise course of action.

For gardeners the first frost brings a rush of activity and chaos. At my house that first really cold night meant two or three hours of work:

1. Gather most of the perishable crops, like cucumbers or bell peppers and find a place to store them for a few days or weeks – in the refrigerator, in the cellar, in the garage.
2. Cover the hardy crops, like lettuce or kale, with blankets, tarps or old sheets.
3. Take special care with the tomatoes. Cut each tomato plant from its roots, then carry each plant into the garage or even into the living room.

The first month or two of our current crisis left many of us feeling like a gardener after the first hard frost of the season. We were exhausted by the rush of activity. Our homes and our lives felt chaotic and disorganized, unprepared for the sudden change to our routines. We felt let down, even depressed, by the sudden end to some of our activities.
The difficult part of our situation, two months into the closure, is that we have many months before this ‘season’ is truly over. The hopeful part of our situation might be that we have made our way through the initial chaos, the great burst of activity required to reorganize our lives. I hope you have been able to settle into a new routine that feels normal and not chaotic. It seems odd to say as the magnolias and crabapples are blooming, but I hope your life today feels a bit like that of the gardener in winter. This is the time when we must trust that spring will come again. This is the time when we pray for strength to make it through this season.

REMINDER: Nan Dorr Endowment Fund 2020
—By Wendy Hoblyn Jones

The 2020 amount from this fund is $5,235.99 – and is now available. This fund was set up in 2011 in memory of Nan Dorr, a much loved member of St. Paul’s. This money is specifically designated by the Dorr family to be used by the Women of St. Paul’s.

We are now asking members of the congregation to submit any project(s) they wish to propose and to send them to me in writing, with detailed specifics of costs, and the name of the person responsible for overseeing the project. We will only consider those items that are special and unusual, and which would not normally be part of the church budget. We also feel that it is important that they should be something that Nan Dorr herself would have liked and approved of. Please submit proposals by e-mail to me at jpjones@syr.edu, and marked Nan Dorr Endowment Fund. The deadline will be Monday, June 1, 2020

If you have any questions please contact me (315) 445 1218, or e-mail me at jpjones@syr.edu—Wendy Hoblyn Jones, Chair of the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund Committee.
Several months ago, I formed a private Facebook group to share stories and prayer requests. The Facebook group is called *St Paul's of Syracuse Community*. Especially since we rarely see each other in person, Facebook is a great way to stay in touch.

Private Facebook groups are different from individual Facebook posts:

1. The only people who see the messages and photos are people who are members of the group. (As of today, there are 54 of us!)
2. The only people allowed to join the group are members of St. Paul's. This helps keep the group safe for everyone.

If you have questions or want to join the group please contact me at tminer2@gmail.com

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**Presentation about Cristosal**

*What’s happening in Central America during the pandemic?*

On Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 we will host a zoom presentation with staff from Cristosal. This will be an opportunity to learn about the 20 years of Cristosal’s work in addressing violations of human rights and the organization’s presence now in Guatemala and Honduras as well as El Salvador. Cristosal has received financial support from our First Friday Dinners for over 15 years.

To register for this zoom meeting (or for more information), please send an email to Doug Mouncey at pkmsyr@aol.com (note in the subject line that it is re. the Cristosal zoom meeting). Details about signing on to the meeting will be sent to individuals who have contacted Doug.
Thank you for your continuing support of the Samaritan Center at this time. While we are responsible for a meal on May 17 and June 21 we will not be preparing food, contributing cookies or helping to serve a meal on these days. Any money you send to St. Paul’s, marked for the Samaritan Center May 17 or June 21, will be passed along to help serve the guests there. These contributions are important as they help those who are the most vulnerable at this anxious time.

I have continued to volunteer each week at the Samaritan Center on Thursday mornings from 6-9 a.m. It is a very different environment at this time. A hot take-out breakfast is served to the guests who arrive between 6 and 8:30 advancing through the line socially distanced and wearing masks. They come in one door, and leave via another. They cannot stay or even use the rest room. There is no visiting, no sense of community in the beautiful space. My job each week is generally to prepare sandwiches for the second meal of the day that the guests return for in the afternoon. It is a lonely job. I am isolated from the guests and the 4 other volunteers and a few staff members who are there, cooking, handing out the breakfast or washing pots and pans. I am wearing a mask and gloves of course; I am facing the guests from the raised kitchen space as they come through the serving line. It is generally hard to recognize my friends and I assume they can’t recognize me as well. But every so often a guest will look up and wave and shout hello. That feels normal and I am so happy to greet them as well. As always the guests are appreciative and comply with these new regulations that we find so different and awkward.

This work continues to humble me. In a time when I sometimes feel sorry for myself because I am stuck in my beautiful apartment I see these folks who don’t have a real home where they can shelter in place to be safe. It reminds me how very fortunate I am and that I am only slightly inconvenienced by this current situation. I find that the mask helps to hide the tears that often well up as I work. I am grateful that I am still able to contribute in some small way as you do by your monetary contributions. Thank you!