St. Paul’s Epistle
May 1st, 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,

We have some good news; Onondaga County has been extremely successful in reducing the spread of the corona virus. To the best of our knowledge, none of our members has become sick. At the same time, we face an extended period of physical distancing. During this period of physical distancing we strive to stay spiritually and socially connected. Here are two ways we are staying connected:

1. We will be publishing two short newsletters each month to help our members stay in touch. We are calling our new publication *St. Paul’s Epistle*. We are sending printed copies of the newsletter to our members, except for those who have told us they prefer to read it electronically. In order to be able to mail *St. Paul’s Epistle* with a single stamp we are keeping each issue to just 12 pages. We hope you enjoy this first issue of the *Epistle*.

2. We encourage our members to participate in a small group, via video conferencing. During April some of our ministry teams, such as Vestry and Finance Committee have continued to meet via video conference. We also moved some of our regular activities to a video conference format and created a few new opportunities. Responding to the need for social connection, *The Feast* and *Science & Spirituality* have increased the frequency of their meetings. I’m very grateful to Adrienne and Sue for leading these gatherings. In May we are adding two new small group opportunities: *SPC Readers* and *SPC Gardeners*. Please read about these new opportunities on the next page.

One of the reliable, old-fashioned ways to stay connected still works: your telephone. Please feel free to call me anytime, but especially Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. I am attempting to take Mondays and Fridays as my days off, but if you leave me a message I will return your call.

I hope you are well. Please take good care of yourself. I miss seeing you in person!

Fr. Philip
SPC Readers

Please consider joining me for a discussion of Marcus Borg’s “Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time.” We’ll be meeting via Zoom, discussing one chapter of the book each week. Borg’s short book (six chapters, 140 pages) applies Biblical scholarship to our life of faith. If you’re sure you know what you believe about Jesus – this book is for you. If you’re not sure you know what you believe about Jesus – this book is for you.

The book is available for order through Amazon or for download as an ebook. I also have eight used copies which are available for a bargain price of $4. Let me know if you need one. Our first conversation will be Wednesday, May 6th at 7:30 p.m. In order to keep the conversation easy and open, the group is limited to eight participants. If you are interested please contact me at kscorley@aol.com or 315-422-7914.

—Rev. Kathy Major

SPC Gardeners

Join us to for conversations about gardening! Whether you’re a lifelong gardening veteran or a newbie with a black thumb, this is your chance to share the in joys and foibles of growing plants, flowers, and food. Bring your questions, share your experiences. Join us via Zoom every other Monday at 7:00 p.m. starting May 4th. Please RSVP to Jessica King at singingstovepipe@gmail.com.

Readings & Service Sheet ‘Button’

We send out the service sheet and readings through the E-blast each Wednesday. You can also find them on the front page of our website next to the link for the Sunday Worship Service. Click on the link and you can even print them out if you would like. Look for this ‘button’. 

CLICK HERE
For Readings & Sunday Service Sheet
The Senior Warden’s Report
— By Betsy Elkins

It is wonderful to see many faces in boxes at our Zoom coffee hours after our streaming services and to hear how and what everyone is doing “in isolation.” I encourage all our members to consider partaking of the varied activities offered each day of the week:

Monday at 7 p.m.: SPC Gardeners! A new Zoom group, led by Jessica King. See pp. 3.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.: Yoga with Amanda. I actually never particularly enjoyed yoga, feeling that I couldn’t get myself into those positions. But Amanda has a wonderful way of allowing you to participate as you are able and as you wish. And no one can see what you are or are not doing.

Tuesday at 2 p.m.: Bible Study. You don’t have to do any preparation. We’ll be happy to see you!

Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.: Compline - Short and focused, a great way to end your day quietly!

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.: SPC Readers. A new group, led by the Rev. Kathy Major. See pp. 3

Thursday at 4:30 p.m.: Fr. Philip’s Neighborhood. Especially for children!

Thursday at 7:30 p.m.: Compline – With organ and a small choir leading the music. Beautiful!

Friday at 5:30 p.m.: The Feast and Science & Spirituality take turns meeting on Friday evening.

It is so good to remain connected to each other at this time. We are physically distanced but not completely socially apart. Please check stpaulsyr.org for the latest updates. Thanks to Judy, our website has never looked better or had more current information.

We have created a telephone tree to be able to contact our members quickly. The Vestry and other leaders have each been assigned 4-6 people to contact as needed by text/email or in some cases by phone. You may receive a test message from a fellow parishioner in the next week to be sure we have set this up correctly and have accurate contact information for everyone.

Stay strong, stay patient, stay well everyone. I miss seeing you in person.
May 3rd, 2020 ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Hymns: 304, 645, 296
Psalm 23, BCP p. 759

May 10th, 2020 ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Hymns: 525, 487, 410
Readings: Acts 7:55-60, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-4
Psalm 31:1-16, BCP p. 622

May Birthdays For May 1 through 15th
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,
Harold Brown III 5/12, Mary Powell 5/14, Eva Lewis-Mulvey 5/15

---

When I think of upcoming First Friday dinners, I think of greeting you all with a feast of thanksgiving. Today, in quarantine because of the coronavirus, as I bake pumpernickel bread, it reminds me that bread is only useful when it is broken.

My weeping cherry tree blossomed before Easter. It snowed on it. It still blossoms, today. I’m sure a lesson is there waiting to be learned.

I hope you are all well, safe, and have found interesting activities to occupy your time. Since the virtual Easter Vigil and listening to Dick Pilgrim beautifully chant the scripture lessons, which added meaning for me, I am chanting morning prayer. My voice cracks and creaks along, but the stories are wonderful. I look forward to breaking bread with you at a First Friday, soon.

—xoxo Carol
May 1st THROUGH 3rd

Sunday, May 3rd: 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, May 3rd: 10:00 a.m. Worship- Live Stream
Sunday, May 3rd: 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, May 3rd: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers– Zoom

May 4th THROUGH 10th

Monday, May 4th: 7:30 p.m. Yoga- Live Stream
Monday, May 4th: 7:00 p.m. SPC Gardeners– Zoom RSVP with Jessica King
Tuesday, May 5th: 2:00 p.m. Bible Study- Zoom
Tuesday, May 5th: 7:30 p.m. Compline w/ Words for Inspiration- Live Stream
Wednesday, May 6th: 7:30 p.m. SPC Readers- Zoom RSVP with Rev. Kathy Major
Thursday, May 7th: 4:30 p.m. Father Philip’s Neighborhood- Zoom
Thursday, May 7th: 7:30 p.m. Compline w/ Words for Inspiration- Live Stream
Friday, May 8th: 5:30 p.m. The FEAST- Zoom RSVP to attaberrya@gmail.com
Sunday, May 10th: 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, May 10th: 10:00 a.m. Worship- Live Stream
Sunday, May 10th: 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, May 10th: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers– Zoom

May 11th THROUGH 17th

Monday, May 11th: 7:30 p.m. Yoga- Live Stream
Tuesday, May 12th: 2:00 p.m. Bible Study- Zoom
Tuesday, May 12th: 7:30 p.m. Compline w/ Words for Inspiration- Live Stream
Thursday, May 14th: 4:30 p.m. Father Philip’s Neighborhood- Zoom
Thursday, May 14th: 7:30 p.m. Compline w/ Words 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: 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour- Zoom
Sunday, May 17th: 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers– Zoom
Talk Music: Heart
—By June Bisson

When I talk about my heart operation, it's heart to heart.
When I talk about my heart operation, it's her heart, too.
Her heart that made my heart beat again. It's not only mine anymore.
Mine beat with a different rhythm, offbeat, uneven, not upbeat.
Changing beats that seemed far away. I met quiet, and I lived.
I had to come to know how to learn the way. I'm not the same-nor is she.
It's not the same heart she gave back to me.
There is now! I am more than I was. I will be more than I am!

Commentary by Debbie Bogan on June Bisson’s poem

In these challenging times, June Bisson finds solace in reading and writing poetry. June wrote the poem "Talk Music: Heart". She was inspired by my sister’s heart transplant operation. She asked me to share this poem, as she feels that it has relevance today with COVID-19.

These words in June's poem have special meaning to me. "Her heart that made my heart beat again." makes me think about the dedicated medical professionals on the frontline, who give their hearts and souls, in caring for their patients.

"I met quiet, and I lived." makes me think about how we are on pause now, living alone, away from family and friends. Yet, we are surviving, as we find new ways to connect with and help each other.

I spoke to June about her poem. "I had to come to know how to learn the way." June feels that we can be changed by this COVID-19 experience. She said it is important that we consider learning new ways to live.

"I am more than I was. I will be more than I am!" June feels that we can grow from this painful experience. She noted that we are more related to each other, and it is more visible that we are.

June and I hope that this poem can have meaning for you.
The 2020 amount from this Fund — $5,235.99 — 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

Once these projects have been received, a small committee from the Women of St. Paul’s will review them carefully. Full details of the projects chosen will then be submitted, first to the membership of the Women of St. Paul’s, and then to the Finance Committee, and if passed, to the Vestry for their final approval.

Once again we are very grateful to the Dorr family for their generous gift. This endowment is ongoing and next year we will have more money to spend.

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.

Many thanks to all those who sent cards, emails, ecards and phone calls. I was totally amazed at the outpouring of congrats and birthday cards. It felt so good especially during this difficult time of isolation. I’m honored to be a part of this community of ours! —Jim Potts
The Women’s Retreat Dates Have Changed
—By Laurie Sanderson

We have changed the date from mid May to Thursday, October 8th at 4 p.m. thru the noon hour on Saturday the 10th. It will be at the same location-St Margaret’s House in New Hartford. The Rev. Kathy Major will be our leader!

"Wild Nights Are My Glory Thriving in the Storms of our Lives" is our planned theme and we will all have much to share on the storms of our lives and how to thrive! The cost will be $175. Stay tuned for more information.

Feminist Theology Meeting by Zoom
—By Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology will meet via zoom 5/19 and 6/16 at 7:00 p.m. On May 19th—we will be sharing books that have inspired us. On June 16th, "Where the Crawdads Sing".

All Faiths Food Pantry
—By Laurie Sanderson

All Faiths Food Pantry located at St. John the Evangelist on the North side is where we have been taking all of the pantry collections. They continue to serve but since churches aren't meeting, supplies run short. If you would like to make a cash donation, checks could be sent to All Faiths Pantry 406 Court St., Syracuse, NY 13208.

Thank You for the Palms

We received a telephone call from Christine, a senior resident of the Downtown YMCA. She expressed her thanks for the palms, which she picked up from outside of St. Paul's on Palm Sunday. Thank you St. Paul's for putting palms outside for parishioners and downtown neighbors.
Dear sisters and brothers,

It is with sadness that I tell you that John Pizzi will be finishing his work with us as our building manager on May 31st. John is a beloved member of our community. He cares deeply about our members.

John is also one of the most highly skilled individuals I have ever known. Working all over our complex of historic buildings, John has put his expert skills to good use for 16 years, cleaning, maintaining, building and repairing everything from a sink drain in the kitchen to broken toilets to the main door on Montgomery Street.

During the six weeks since the closure of our building John has undertaken the largest project of his time at St. Paul's. John has repainted the entire painted portion of the floor in the nave. The floor looks gorgeous. We've attached photos of the newly painted floor to our e-blast. This task required several weeks of work on the floor ‘cutting in’ with a small paintbrush around the pews and other fixtures. Every time I look at that floor I will think of John, on his hands and knees, wielding a paintbrush with expert hands.

One of the griefs of the present time is that we cannot gather together to thank John in person for all of his service to St. Paul's. We can hope to hold such a gathering in the future. At this time, I encourage you to express your thanks by writing to him at his home address: 4862 Roberts Road, Cazenovia, NY 13035. I also encourage our members to contribute 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.

I know I speak for many of our members when I say it will be difficult for me to come into the building and not have John somewhere nearby, tackling a messy job while singing the theme song to a favorite show. John Pizzi is a man of tremendous skill, but even more a man of grace and wisdom. He has a tremendous heart. I will sorely miss his sense of humor and his kindness.

Fr. Philip
Helping the Samaritan Center
—By Betsy Elkins

Meals at the Samaritan Center at this time are being served as take-out and the need for volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up has changed accordingly. St. Paul’s had been scheduled to serve dinner (lunch) at the Samaritan Center on Sunday May 17 and Sunday June 21. We will need 5 people to help rather than the 25 volunteers to work on those days.

If you are interested/able to do this please contact me and I will pass this along to the Samaritan Center. Please consider sending some money to St. Paul’s to cover the meals for these days for which we are responsible. No cookies, no food prep, just some money. You may send a check to St. Paul’s with a note “for the Samaritan Center May 17/June 21.” The Samaritan Center has always been an important part of our Ministry at St. Paul’s and while much has paused around us at this time the Samaritan Center continues to serve our community and needs our help doing that.

Thank You John for your 25 years of service to the St. Paul’s & the Diocese.