

Welcome to the February 2021 edition of St. Paul's Apostle. During the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to make an abbreviated version of the monthly newsletter to keep members in the loop via email about our church's virtual activities and the spiritual resources available to us all. We sorely miss gathering in the church for worship, education, fellowship and succor. The Vestry hopes this communication serves as one more way to strengthen our bonds of friendship and faith until we can all be together again.



Lift Every Voice and Sing: St. Paul's African American Heritage Month 2021

This February, we will celebrate African American Heritage Month robustly through a variety of programs and formats organized by St. Paul's Diversity Committee. The contributions of African Americans to a variety of musical traditions will be explored in two special presentations on Zoom as a part of the Sunday Adult Forum offerings, as follows:

February 14, 9 a.m.

"An Encounter with Spirituals: Music and the Spoken Word," with Wallace Cheatham, composer and pianist, and Faye Cheatham, soprano.

February 28, 9 a.m.

"A Passion for Early and Classical Music" -- Choral Scholar Austin Bare will present a videotape of a panel discussion by three African American music students about their love of early and classical music traditions in a society that imposes cultural stereotypes on them.

Additionally, two of the Sunday Zoom Coffee Hours in February are designed to engage St. Paul's members in festive events celebrating African American life:

February 14, 11:30 a.m.

"Let's All Play Black Trivia!" Test your knowledge of African American history and culture. Join in the fun with fellow St. Paul's members in the game emceed by parishioner Kurt Bushman.

February 28, 11:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Annual African American Heritage Potluck. Prepare your meal to enjoy during the virtual dinner. We will share recipes and stories about favorite foods during the dinner.

To enhance and embody this month's emphasis on the tradition of African American sacred music, Canon Joe has identified spirituals and hymns for the Morning Prayer services. The offerings will include a special arrangement of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

The Diversity Committee will also provide information about virtual events being held citywide so that we may participate in them, including events hosted by America's Black Holocaust Museum and Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

From the Rector...

On January 6th, in a period when there seemed to be so little light and so much fright, a young aspiring and in-spirited Amanda Gorman lit a candle in my heart. Her poem *The Hill We Climb* composed in the weeks following the election and completed for the inauguration of Joseph Biden as the 46th President of the United States was a prophetic call for "unity and collaboration and togetherness." The entire work was striking in its message and rhythm. So many lines stood out for me, but none as poignantly as the final stanza:

When day comes, we step out of the shade of flame and unafraid.

The new dawn balloons as we free it.

For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it.

If only we're brave enough to be it.

The bravery of which she speaks is not one of might, but one of sight. It is a prophetic call to oneself to speak from the place of one's created dignity and God's call to go into the world as a herald for all. That voice summons others to solidarity and action which is what makes it so strong and melodic. It invites others to join in the common dance which celebrates life and our being bound with our fellow human beings and all creation in the waltz of life and love that is God.

Our celebration of African American Heritage is such a celebration. The Diversity Committee planning this year's celebration has so aptly choose the theme: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. The theme is focused on the gift of music as an agent and means of healing. The gifts of the African American community to our nation are richly prevalent in all of the arts, yet perhaps none so much as music and the poetry of self-expression it conveys. In songs that speak both of great suffering and great joy, they are never self-laments but offered as invitations to join the human community in re-creation and vision.

I am taking a course this term called "Living Lovingly." Though it is not one of poetry, it is heavily rooted in poetic expression. This is so because poetry is the language that unveils the depths of the human experience so profoundly. All of us our are poets in our living and the story of trial, blessing and redemption to which our lives bear witness.

One of our assignments was to write a poem based on our answers to the following questions:

If you were a _____, I'd be...

- a) Kind of weather
- b) Piece of furniture
- c) Make of car
- d) Kind of food
- e) Kind of font

From the Rector...

The point of the exercise was to express our deepest sense of connection and participation in all of life. The collective reality of that is God, certainly not pantheism (all is God), but panentheism (meaning all in God).

Take some time in these days and reflect on that question. Lift your voice and sing of who you are. Here is my feeble attempt

What would I be?

Possibly a wing-backed chair

That could embrace a smaller frame within,

Clothed in my skin of crimson red, the tone of a cherry that I am –

Both tart and sweet,

Whose flesh is easily wounded,

Yet whose core is solid stone.

I could gaze through the window clear

And see myself falling as rain,

The tears of my pain still offering life

To those on whom I fall.

I would wash the Audi I know I am

When seated within myself,

A vehicle for escape and destination

That still bears the scars of my attempt

To become more whole.

When that moment arrives,

I will know my true self –

A Golden Retriever without care in the world,

Both playful and grand,

As Lucinda Caligraphy that tilts its head

Elegant and long and says,

This is who I AM.

Brad+

Lent at St. Paul's

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Because of the pandemic, St. Paul's will offer a drive-through Imposition of the Ashes from noon to 2 p.m. in the St. Paul's parking lot. Additional information will be forthcoming via email. An Ash Wednesday Evensong service will be available through a Zoom link that will be provided by email and available on our website.

The tradition of Lenten Quiet Evenings, a time of silent reflection on short readings, continues this year. They are scheduled for February 24 and March 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Zoom links will be sent each week via email and will be available on our website.

Also, the Outreach Committee will identify one of its partner organizations to receive goods and cash donations from St. Paul's members during Lent. An email announcing the agency will be sent before Ash Wednesday:

Growth

February Adult Forum Offerings

This month's offerings, including those organized by the Diversity Committee and by Vestry member Dana Fritz, explore and celebrate African American Heritage Month. The Zoom programs at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings are:

February 7: "The Role of Christianity in the Philosophy of Martin Luther King," Dana Fritz, Vestry member and instructor, Department of Philosophy, Marquette University

February 14: "An Encounter with Spirituals: Music and Spoken Word," Wallace Cheatham, composer and pianist, and Faye Cheatham, soprano

February 21: "A Passion for Early and Classical Music," Austin Bare, Choral Scholar

February 28: "Jazz and the Story of Integration," Laura Fritz, special guest speaker

St. Paul's Book Club Meets February 7

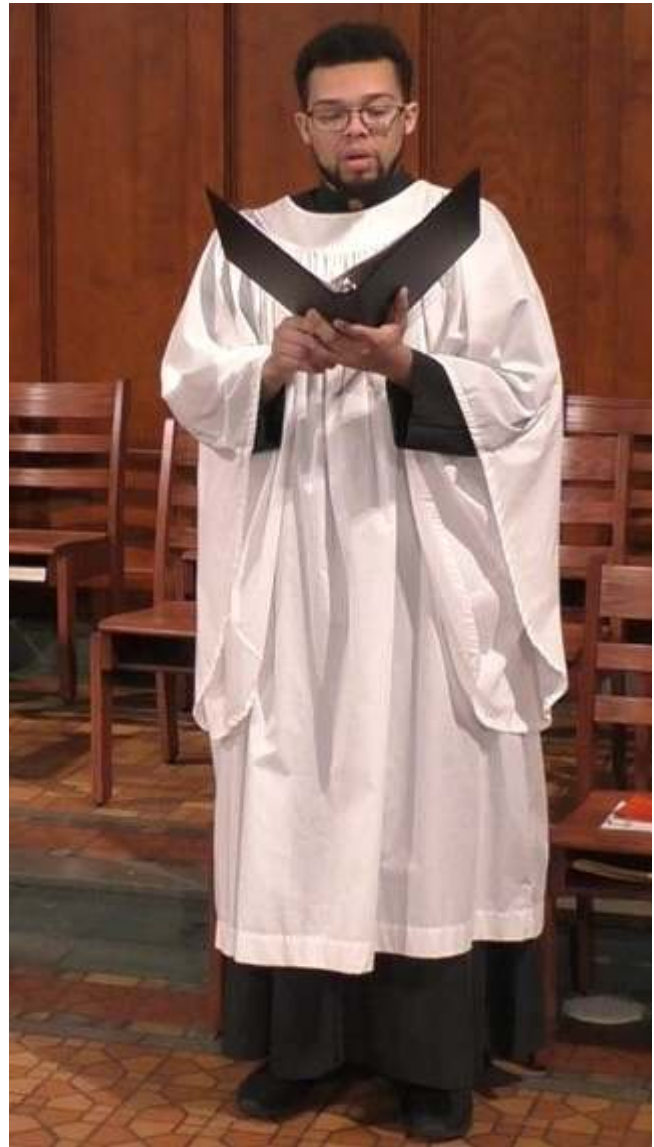
The Book Club will gather via Zoom on Tuesday, February 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for a discussion of *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That are Transforming the Faith* by Brian McLaren. Phyllis Tickle described the book as "a stellar accomplishment, a combination of hard tack fact and unfettered hope . . . in every way, a dispatch from the front." All are welcome to attend. For further information and the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Sandra Halgerson at shalgerson@hotmail.com.

Introducing Austin Bare, Editor, Producer and Musician

On December 1, the Vestry hired Austin Bare to edit and produce the videos for St. Paul's online worship. Ruth and Chuck Werth continue to handle filming and distribution. Editing and production is the process of taking the 12 to 19 individual "raw video segments" (readings, homily, hymns, psalm, anthem, voluntaries, collect, etc.) and merging them into the finished video. Austin's tasks include creating the fades between segments, adding "b-roll"— e.g., additional video footage, still photographs, animation, text, titles, credits or other graphic elements—and delivering the finished video to Chuck for upload to the St. Paul's social media platforms.

Originally from Sauk City, Wisconsin, Austin, graduated with a BA in vocal performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a tenor with our St. Paul's Choral Scholars ensemble. Austin is one of five Choral Scholars who also perform with Aperi Animam, a Milwaukee-based performance ensemble, specializing in sacred vocal music from the Renaissance. Since December 18, 2016, Austin has been in a relationship with Xai Osa, another Choral Scholar and Aperi Animam member.

Chuck Werth



Contacts

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

914 East Knapp Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Phone: 414-276-6277

Parish email: lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org

Parish web site: www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

8:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Morning Chapel

10:15 am Choral Eucharist

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

First Sundays of October thru May

(November at Forest Home Cemetery)

3:30 pm

Wardens and Vestry

Thomas Goode, Sr. Warden

Lee Coppernoll Co-Jr. Warden

Peter Larson, Co-Jr. Warden

Gerald Mainman, Treasurer Emeritus

Janet Tallberg, Treasurer Elect

Christine Krueger, Clerk

Kurt Bushman

Eric Dawson

Florence Dukes

Dana Fritz

Mike Gauger

Sandra Halgerson

Jesse Michel

Matt Pamperin

Malcom Soward-Gatford

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Matthew Gunter,

Assisting Bishop of Milwaukee

The Reverend W. Bradley Toebben, Rector

The Reverend Sheila Scott, Deacon

Canon Joseph A. Kucharski, Director of Liturgy and Music

Tedd King, Associate Organist

Lynne Fields, Administrative Assistant

Patrice Hansen, Accounting Assistant

Peter Johnson, Building and Grounds

Bill Jankowski, Buildings and Grounds

Nevenka and Nikola Dedic, Housekeeping Staff

Artists-in-Residence

Milwaukee Chamber Choir

J. Mark Baker, Founder and Director