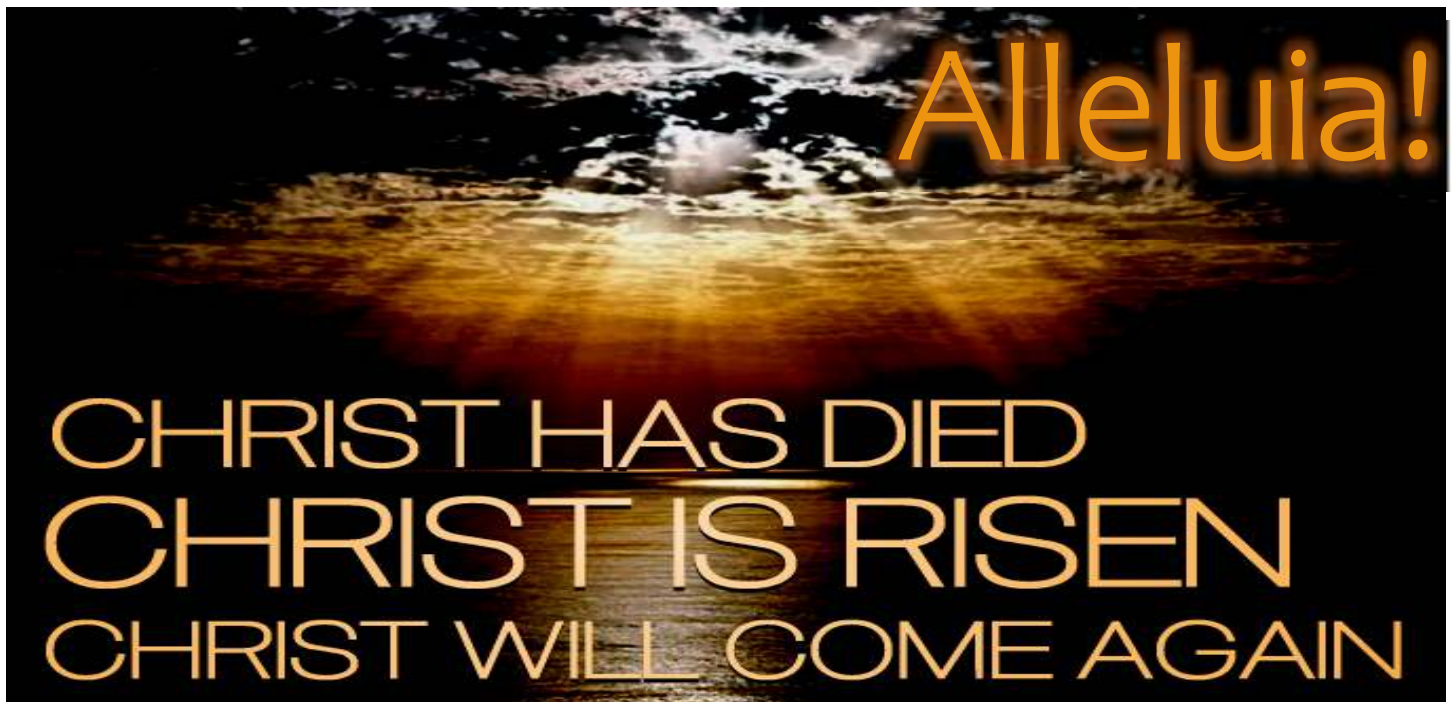


Welcome to the April 2021 edition of St. Paul's Apostle. During the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to make an abbreviated version of the monthly newsletter to keep members in the loop via email about our church's virtual activities and the spiritual resources available to us all. We sorely miss 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.



## From the Senior Warden

Members have received Fr. Brad's email and the Wardens' support and recognition of his plans to take the call as Rector of Christ Church, Lake Oswego, Oregon. While Sherri and I will personally miss Brad and his pastoral care, I wish him well in his new role.

The work of discernment by all members and the search for a new rector, although not easy, can be rewarding for all. This is the time when we can evaluate the successes and shortcomings of St. Paul's. Through the Search Committee, which will reflect our membership, we will develop a Self-Study and Parish Profile that will be presented to candidates interested in becoming Rector.

As Senior Warden, I want to keep you abreast of the next steps and hope that you can reach out if you have questions. I have been in conversations with Provisional Bishop Lee's schedule coordinator, Fr.

Scott Leannah (of the diocesan Standing Committee), Fr. Brad, Deacon Sheila, the Vestry and Chuck and Ruth Werth. We remain most grateful to the Werths for producing the video worship services that have sustained us over the past year.

We are communicating with supply priests and evaluating the Way Forward Task Force's policy of opening the church. Below are some key dates:

Wednesday, April 21: Vestry Meeting

Sunday, April 25: Fr. Brad's last Sunday

Sunday, May 2: Deacon Sheila to preside

After this Easter, we are in a new place with new life, following God's word.

--Thomas Goode .

*From the Rector...*



*"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road..."*  
 Luke 24:32

Our Emmaus windows are priceless treasures not only by artistic standards, but also as spiritual doorways into the heart of Easter faith. The brilliant and soothing colors emit the comfort and tranquility of the biblical story and the invitation that Christ extends to us to travel on.

The appearance on the road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel is my favorite and most cherished story of Easter. It not only allows the reader to enter the events of that time, it places the reality of the Risen Christ in this time. As the story unfolds, two of Jesus' followers are conversing and debating on the way to a village *seven* miles north of Jerusalem. Translations of the Greek text usually have *while* they were talking, but the Greek text specifies *'en'* or *in* their talking that Jesus appears to them. They do not recognize him. Jesus enquires about their conversation and invites them to tell their story.

Jesus then tells his story expressing his presence throughout all the scriptures. They still do not see him. As they are about to part company, the two men beg Jesus to remain. Jesus stays. He offers the blessing, breaks the bread and gives himself to them as food. Only then in that ritual action and gift are they able to recognize, to *re-cognize* or *re-think* him as the Christ of God. Then Jesus vanishes from their sight. That, however, is not the most remarkable aspect of the story; what is remarkable is that they are not alarmed. Rather the conversation continues not as a debate but as proclamation of how they were transformed and their hearts set on fire with joy and new life. This disclosure explains where they find themselves: Emmaus, meaning "warm." It is not only a physical place but a spiritual destination in God "*seven*" miles from Jerusalem and God's temple. Arrival at such a destination sets the heart on fire and in that passion and orientation makes the Risen Christ present and recognizable.

As I write this it is less than a month from my departure from you. The last four years have been filled with countless experiences of the Risen Christ's presence in this community. Among the many joy and grace-filled moments during those years, there have also been countless experiences of deep grief and tragedy: countless shootings and deaths, injustices excused as lawful and orderly, and a pandemic that has been ignored by so many bringing only further suffering to vulnerable and innocent lives.

## *From the Rector...*

The promise of Easter is not an exemption from pain, suffering and loss. The promise of the Risen Christ is a way through the inevitability of the human condition. If it was possible for two believers suffering inconsolable grief to recognize God seven miles from the Temple, it is certainly possible for us to recognize Christ two thousand years from Emmaus. This is the reality of Easter we are called to proclaim and make real and recognizable in our time and place.

As we celebrate Easter not just for one day but for a season of fifty, we proclaim in community the same realization – Christ is alive and present today just as on that first day. We do not need to beg him to remain. Christ is present! Are we willing to make Christ recognizable to a broken and grieving world? That is the work of the Risen Body of Christ in the world in this time and place of St. Paul's.

Are our hearts burning within us as Christ speaks to us on our Way?

**Brad+**

## *Reflections on Fr. Brad...*



As St. Paul's moves into transition with the departure of Fr. Brad after his service on Sunday, April 25, the wardens and Vestry encourage our fellow church members to join in prayer and reflection. We give thanks for the many gifts that Brad has shared through his ministry with us, and we wait with hope, and some anxiety, to learn what the future holds for St. Paul's.

There is much to do -- securing supply priests for Sunday services beginning May 2; securing an interim priest during the search; considering when the church will offer in-person services; continuing to provide opportunities for members to connect virtually, and, in the summer, perhaps, through outdoor gatherings; and, most significant, initiating and completing a search for a new Rector. The tasks are many, and the Vestry will need your help and support.

As a prelude to these activities, we have asked two church members to provide brief reflections on Brad's ministry with us.

### **Kathy Thome**

Brad leaves St. Paul's with gifts to cherish and remember, for example, his fine preaching and deeply communicated liturgies.

- The importance of silent prayer, reflection, poetry and the people's own planning and implementing a service was conveyed to the parish when Brad initiated the quiet Advent and Lenten suppers.
- Occasional weekday healing services recalled Jesus's own laying on of hands.
- Brad encouraged and supported parishioners' ministries in social justice, diversity, outreach, education and spirituality.

I hope that as St. Paul's ventures forward, the ministries of the people in the pews will be nurtured into an even stronger sense of vocation. After all, the laity are the first order of ministers (BCP, p. 855).

### **Terry Zimmer**

I recall, as a member of the team that first visited Fr. Brad in Eugene, Oregon, four years ago, that I was impressed that we had found the right person to call to St. Paul's for the next chapter of our story in Milwaukee. Although I think I could explain why welcoming him to St. Paul's would be good for us at the time, I did not anticipate all the good we have enjoyed.

I was pleased to serve as a Warden during Fr. Brad's first years with us. I had hoped his ministry at St. Paul's would be longer, but I am grateful for the time. And I am happy for Fr. Brad's opportunity to transplant his gifts and ministry in home soil.

After 10 years, I still consider myself a newcomer to St. Paul's. Even so, I have come to appreciate the momentum and perseverance of this community.

## *Reflections on Fr. Brad (continued)...*

**Terry Zimmer** *(continued)*

"Community" is a word I will always associate with Fr. Brad's homilies and discourse. He used the word frequently in reference to the parish and to the city. It is this community we cherish that is the incarnation of our hope, faith and charity in Christ.

While we can take nothing for granted -- as the results of our last several parish surveys remind us -- it is this community that will once again work together to open a new chapter in the St. Paul's story, moving forward in the richness of our heritage and dedication to service and our witness in the Milwaukee area.

Farewell, Fr. Brad. Thank you for continuing to build on our heritage and helping us keep our witness alive.

## St. Paul's 182nd Annual Meeting

St. Paul's members gathered virtually on Sunday, January 31, to review the many activities and achievements of the last year and to vote on the leadership of the congregation. Fr. Brad and Senior Warden Tom Goode highlighted the congregation's successes in creating new, and strengthening old, ways to worship and engage members amid the pandemic. These efforts include the planning, recording and posting of virtual Sunday worship services and Evensongs; using Zoom to offer Thursday Evening Prayer, Coffee Hour, Wednesday lunchtime conversation, EFM, Book Club, and Lessons and Carols. Treasurer Gerry Mainman reported that the finances of the church remained sound, and that pledges for 2021 were a bit above the 2020 total, which is an accomplishment in a pandemic.

**Vestry elections:** Goode was re-elected to a one-year term as Senior Warden. Lee Coppernoll and Peter Larson were re-elected to one-year terms as Co-Junior Wardens. Florence Dukes and Michael Gauger were re-elected to two-year terms. Three new members, Kurt Bushman, Jessie Michel and Matt Pamperin, were elected to three-year terms.

# Growth

## March Adult Forum Programs

Adult Forum programs for March will be available via Zoom at 9 a.m. Sundays, except the March 21 program (scheduled for 8 a.m.). The topics:

**March 7:** Lent and Its Many Traditions

**March 14:** March 14: Race, COVID, and the Healthcare System

**March 21:** St. Patrick and the Early Church in Britain (8 a.m.)

**March 28:** Analyzing the Collects of Holy Week

## St. Paul's Book Club Meets March 9

All are invited to attend the St. Paul's Book Club virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Recently, we have alternated between short stories and longer works explicitly exploring the Christian faith. This month, our selections are three short stories from the collection Listening to God, Volume 2, edited by Paula J. Carlson:

"Short Easter" by John Updike

"The Rich Brother" by Tobias Wolff

"A Father's Story" by Andre Dubus

For further information and the Zoom link for the meeting, contact Sandra Halgerson at [shalgerson@hotmail.com](mailto:shalgerson@hotmail.com).

# 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](mailto:lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org)

Parish web site: [www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org](http://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