

# Saint Paul's Messenger

## March 2018



*As faithful stewards of God's Grace, our mission in Christ is to foster community through spiritual growth, witness, and service in the Episcopal tradition*

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Messenger Editor, Janet Gritzner

### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

2	Aaron Hovelson
4	Donald Norgaard
10	Karissa Hubbard
13	Teadon Seaboy
15	Theresa Kratochvil
16	Natalie Quin
18	Andrea Woodard
20	Jennifer Lacher-Starace
25	Haylee Hovelson
26	Ben Taylor Sue Hoffman
27	George Gehant
31	Lynn Hublou

### **FROM OUR RECTOR - FR LARRY ORT**

If you are looking for a good book, we have one for you. Our Sunday morning discussion group led by John Taylor is now beginning to read Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World*. This is a very readable and very practical book which discussed how we live and practice our faith – each chapter focuses on a practice, some of which include waking up to God, paying attention, walking on the earth, getting lost, encountering others, living with a purpose, saying 'no', feeling pain, and being present to God. We still have a few copies available at the bargain price of \$10.60! Don't wait, and don't be late – the group meets at 9:00 AM in the Thorbern Fellowship Hall. The group just finished Brian D. McLaren's *The Great Spiritual Migration*. Come

enjoy the coffee and the fellowship and learn a bit while you are at it!

The Lenten Lunch and Worship Series continues at the First Lutheran Activity Center on Wednesdays at 11:30. The meal is served from 11:30 – 12:10 and is followed by a brief worship service. Pastor Theta Miller (First United Methodist) will speak on March 7<sup>th</sup>; Fr. Terry Anderson (St. Thomas More) will speak on March 14<sup>th</sup>; and Pastor Michael Mortvedt (Ascension Lutheran) will speak on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to the St. Paul's members who helped set-up, serve, and tear-down on February 28<sup>th</sup> when Fr. Larry conducted the service.

Fr. Larry and Judy will visit one of Judy's sons and his wife who live in Phoenix from March 15<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>. It has been at least two years since we last saw them. Judy is eagerly anticipating a visit to the Desert Botanical Garden.

We trust that you are having a holy Lenten observance. Easter will soon be upon us. Our schedule of services is as follows:

Palm Sunday	Mar 25	10:00 am
Maundy Thursday	Mar 29	7:00 pm
Good Friday	Mar 30	12:15 pm
Stations of the Cross	Mar 30	5:00 pm
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	Mar 31	7:00 pm
Easter Sunday	Apr 1	10:00 am

We look forward to celebrating these services with you!

Speaking of Easter, for several years Chuck and Mary Lou Berry have provided eco-palms for our Palm Sunday service. Chuck recently shared some interesting facts with people in the Creation Care Network of the Diocese of South Dakota. With his consent (and the proper attribution) I share these with you:

#### Promote Social Justice

Harvesting palms is an important source of income but gatherers receive a low price.

Gatherers will receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

#### Promote Environmental Stewardship

Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.

Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

#### Why a "Fair Trade" Palm?

To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.

To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

#### Did You Know?

Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the United States in 1998.

Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars/year.

A congregation of 1,100 to 1,500 members will order approximately 700 palm fronds for Palm Sunday services.

Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.

At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.

Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.

We are hoping that more churches in the Diocese will use eco-palms if they are not doing so already. Once again, Chuck and Mary Lou, thanks for this contribution and for all you do for the Creation Care Network.

It is good to see the daylight hours lengthening and the thermometer creeping upward just a bit. It has been a long winter and we await the resurrection!

Blessings,  
Fr. Larry

### **SENIOR WARDEN, LYNN HUBLOU**



After a several-year hiatus from actually serving on the vestry and instead serving as clerk, I'm back. I can honestly say I'm really happy to be serving as Senior Warden. Thank you for your confidence in me.

In thinking about the year ahead, it's also somewhat natural to look back. Chuck Berry ably served as Senior Warden for several years, laying out the Outreach Ripples, the impacts St. Paul's creates locally and beyond. I want very much to continue with those goals and even increase them, if possible.

However, as your new Senior Warden, I have concerns I would like addressed as well. First, I want to comment on the ministry of the youths of St. Paul's serving as ushers. I love

seeing the young people feel a part of the service, and it's been wonderful to see the kids become more adept at their task. The prodding from able adults may at times be necessary, but that's just part of learning.

My concern, though, is that since we no longer have adults as ushers, we've lost something that used to occur: ushers also used to serve as greeters, distributing bulletins at the back of the church prior to the start of the service. I would like to start having greeters once again. The greeters would hand out bulletins, help newcomers with the prayer book and hymnal, and in general make those visitors/would-be members feel welcome.

Secondly, I am anxious to see St. Paul's begin conducting lay-Eucharistic visits to those who cannot, for whatever reason, attend church. These visits could occur once or twice a month or more, whatever we decide is do-able.

And finally, I have a concern regarding the rectory. Some of you may have kept up with this through reading the minutes of vestry meetings. One issue that has surfaced several times is the furnace situation in the rectory; to be specific, the distribution of heat is terribly uneven. Judy sometimes has several space heaters going on the main floor in order to get the temperature to a somewhat livable point. Further, the cost of paying for heat in the rectory is exorbitant, sometimes exceeding \$600 a month, clearly an outrageous amount.

No matter what the future of the rectory is, whether it always remains part of St. Paul's property, or sometime down the road if it becomes private property, the problem has to be addressed. I would like to see this problem solved before Fr. Larry and Judy have to endure another winter with uncomfortable temperatures and with such costly monthly utility bills. Both Fr. Larry and Judy have been quietly patient, but Judy did address the vestry recently, highlighting the need for a solution.

All of the things I've outlined above are at present in the thinking stage. At least one idea would be quite costly. The other two involve outreach to each other from within our parish, at no cost to anyone but their time. I'm ready for the challenge these present, and I'm ready to entertain ideas about these and any others you have. As you know, it takes a village.

## **FEBRUARY VESTRY MEETING**

Tasi Barondeau expressed concerns about our youth programming, which she helps facilitate; her concerns could be met with increased parental involvement, an emphasis on exploring the Bible, and perhaps addressing transportation options as well as the meeting time on Wednesdays. She also would like to see St. Paul's attract more people in Brookings' manufacturing area.

Fr. Larry will pull together names and gather a group to discuss ways to facilitate improvements to our youth programming.

### Rector's Report:

- The Directory is nearly done!
- Fr. Larry has compiled *My Church/My Pledge* form and it will be in the *Messenger*.
- Ginger Thomsen is working on the website and has a mock-up that includes Google analytics.
- Fathi Halawesh and Fr. Larry are pulling together a study group, using the book *The Islamic Jesus*. This may eventually lead to a community-wide seminar.
- The Vestry will look over the new "Poor People's Campaign" to determine if this is something for which St. Paul's could provide leadership in Brookings.
- Fr. Larry said that the Lifetree Café was cost-prohibitive, with a monthly fee of \$200; however, he provided a hand-out about Table 229, "a dinner church centered around connection, authenticity, and shared leadership" that a group from

St. Paul's could visit in Mendota Heights, MN, sometime when the weather is nicer.

- After reviewing the Discretionary Expenditures (expenditures of \$390.15; balance of \$89.01), the Vestry decided to tighten expenditure management through a voucher policy.

#### Senior Warden's Report:

- The Vestry decided to eliminate the Service music for Rite One.
- Lynn H. addressed the issue of welcoming newcomers. Since we don't have adult ushers as people come into the church, we are missing an opportunity to make a positive impression as we hand out a bulletin and perhaps the St. Paul's brochure. We also need people to be more welcoming at coffee. The Vestry decided to have parishioners sign up to be greeters (perhaps with name tags) and to sit with visitors as well; this information will be included in the monthly schedule.
- Lay Eucharistic visits were discussed.
- The furnace in the rectory WILL be fixed!

#### Junior Warden's Report (Ben Leigh)

- Under the Back Stairs Remodeling Update: the closet is painted; the Friends of the Pancake would like to put the griddles on the shelves.
- The new windows have been installed in Charlie's Porch.
- The rectory doors will be installed when it is warmer. Bids are being gathered.
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#### Treasurer's Report

- Motion was moved and approved to accept the financial report for 2017 and the 2018 budget.
- Bob provided a list of events and special offerings. He asked that the vestry reauthorize or modify these lists. He also recommended that organizers of events get vestry authorization and approval of fund

uses as part of the planning process for the events. Bob's recommendations were tabled until next month.

#### Old Business

- Stewardship Campaign: Everyone will be contacted by March or April.
- Columbarium Policy was discussed. We have the prices from First Lutheran to get an idea of the price structure.

#### New Business

- Youth—Tasi Barondeau
- Acolytes—no action
- Parochial Reports were signed.
- Average attendance went up by two people in 2017.

### **ALL GOD'S CREATION IS GOOD** **By Natural Cathedral Committee**

Creation is Good was the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer observed in Brookings on March 2. About 40 people attended. World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Church Women United on the first Friday of March.



St Paul's delegates to Church Women United are Carol Klug and Helen Town. Carol is the Chair of the Brookings group. The World Day motto is "Informed prayer and prayerful action."

*The prayer part* of the program happens worldwide in about 96,000 services held in 113 languages, with attendance of about 1.7 million persons.

*The Action part* of the program comes from money collected to empower women and children through education, theological formation, mentoring, shelter, food programs, trauma counseling, hospital care, orphanages and prison visitations..

This year's program was written by the women in Suriname who lift up their voices to remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation! How good is God's creation? That is the question to meditate and respond to with a personal commitment to care for creation.

Why Suriname? Duh! It's a WORLD Day of prayer. The inclusion of all countries is the unique aspect of the program that was originated by Christian women in the mid 1800's. Women gather to pray with women from a different country and to learn about other cultures.

*"We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us."*

Those early Christian Women wanted mission boards made up of women to support women's issues. They organized the mission boards in spite of strong resistance from the all male mission boards.

The organization has a cool symbol (can you see arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity?)

The women of Suriname hope that individuals make a personal commitment to care for creation. In the USA, where we have raging debates about government environmental policy, some people say that changing our own personal habits are micro-solutions that won't help the big problems of Creation Care.

We need both. Doing small things is good because 1) little acts can and do add up, 2) little acts educate and engage people in the issue, and 3) little acts are one way we can show our personal interrelationship with God and our stewardship of His Garden.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rev. J. R. Kittenger - 1949  
Rev. F. L. Carington – 1949-1953  
Rev C. C. Hand – 1951-1953

By Douglas R. Dunn, 1978

Immediately following was the incumbency of the Rev. J. R. Kittenger, described by some as 'that renegade one.' Father Kittenger had a turbulent ministry of eight months in Brookings, and eventually moved to North Carolina, where he had a most successful ministry.

Father F. Louis Carington arrived in Brookings in July of 1949. He had been retired and was brought out to help smooth some ruffled feathers. He was "born on the Rock of Gibraltar," and his mother taught him Greek." His delicate health problems notwithstanding, "he had a very strong will, and he just expected everybody to do as he wanted and they did." His authority was so great and his dignity so great you wouldn't think of going against him." Time and again he is remembered as "a true Anglican, steeped in tradition; he knew all the things in a church that liked tradition." For others, Father Carington was "a 200-year-old man; he spoke very softly in the that terrible accent that he had."

Well, Father Carington was an older man, and after two years of a soothing influence, the Rev. Chester C. Hand was sent to St. Paul's. Father Hand was 'the smooth sort of a clergyman that you would expect to see in the wealthy parishes in the east.' He had, in fact, come from the east; a young man just recently graduated from seminary. Though considered a good man, good administrator and good organizer, some felt that "he was just not cut out to be here." He was a personable fellow who could to the local work-horses, "I want to get to Heaven, too! But again the age versus youth problem that had been

around since Father Johnson raised its head. “Like Carington, they were all 250-years-old , or else they were just right out of school and had to keep looking at their notes.

It was during Father Hand’s time in Brookings that St. Paul’s became a parish. “he was here, but it became a parish because of the pressure from Bishop Roberts and Alexanders. Old Mr. (G.E.) Alexander was the leading spirit.” It was a big step to be taking. “We were very fearful; never thought we could do it.” But there was a hard knot of tough-minded people who were embarrassed not to have it be a parish. The actual moment of fruition was between April and June of 1952. “Father Hand announced that it had been decided to petition Convocation for elevation of St. Paul’s to Parish Status. The petition was read by Fr. Hand, then circulated for signature.” In May, 1952, the Sixty-eighth Annual Convocation of the Missionary District of South Dakota met in Deadwood. The petition was read and accepted. In June of that year, Father Hand was instituted as the first Rector of St. Paul’s Parish.

A side note should be offered concerning “old Mr. Alexander’s “method of “pressuring.” His favorite tale regarding this step was: “Two ladies were talking together, ‘The Bishop simply has got to get us more money.’ I told them, ‘That’s not the way I heard it. The Bishop said, “If you don’t get a move on and become a parish, we’re not going to support you at all”

The step had been taken, and in March of 1953, Father Hand joined the others who had “moved east.”

## PROFILES AT ST PAUL’S

### Alan Davis



*Fig. 2. Alan Davis( far right) and family at the baptism of granddaughter, Eleanor, Mar 26, 2017*

Alan Davis and I decided to meet in his office for our interview. His office is remarkable and says a lot about his personality or at least his personal preferences. Alan is a Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Development at SDSU. He is housed in the one-time dormitory Wenona Hall, also one of the oldest buildings on the campus. Wenona Hall has a great deal of historic character; I should know as I had an office in the same building way back when. Alan feels it is a perfect fit. The building is of high quality, solid and I do mean solid construction. It still has most of its original wood work, something that Alan especially values. I especially like the doors in Wenona. They are of solid wood with working transoms. For those of you who have had offices in former dorms, usually you have a lot more space than what the modern buildings supply. Alan likes that aspect as well. He is as we would say very comfortable.

Alan has thoroughly redone his space to his liking. Initially he changed the institution green paint to a pleasant neutral tone. His office is now carpeted, which I don’t remember it being so when I was in the building. He has added an attractive rug as well as many personal artifacts,

several I recognized as valuable antiques. The two most eye-catching articles in the room is a genuinely old, old wheel chair and a working fireplace. Don't worry folks, he meets fire code. The downside of historic buildings is that they are drafty. I remember dragging in space heaters to my always cold upstairs north-corner office; Alan's answer is an attractive electric fire place, cozy and practical.

Now that I have set the stage, let's go on with the interview. Alan was born and grew up in Tacoma, Washington. He is likely the only person currently at St Paul's from Washington State. After high school, he took a few courses at the local community college and then did a two-year stint in the army at Fort Lewis Army Reservation, which Alan informed me is one of the largest on the West Coast. At some point he worked as a cabinet maker. I asked if he still any of that and he told me, not really, but he does a lot of refinishing. He loves the feel and character of wood work. So, of course when he and Jill came to Brookings, they purchased an historic property. If you don't know it Alan and Jill Davis live in the attracting house adjacent to St Paul's on Sixth Street.

We talked a bit about the general state of higher education. He is passionate on the subject and as I determined equally driven about his role as an educator. He noted he was the first person in his family to go to college. Ultimately, he earned a Masters (Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling) and PhD. His first position was as director of the counseling center at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande, Oregon. He really liked the small-town atmosphere and school but thought he would try his hand at teaching. Montana State University at Billings, Montana offered a wonderful opportunity to work in the rehabilitation counseling specialty, wherein he assisted people with disabilities. We talked quite a bit about Billings and his observations on Montanans. The upshot is he finds South Dakotans, at least those of us in Brookings, much more open and friendly.

He loves Brookings and his place at the University. He walks to work, which says has many benefits, from needed exercise to time for reflective thought. Lately he has more to celebrate. Their only daughter, Elizabeth and her husband, Ishmael have moved to Brookings. She works in the adjacent building and joins Alan on walks home. And of course, there is the adorable, Eleanor. She is now two years old with an uncontrollable curiosity. Alan is so looking forward to spring and summer to show her all the new growing things in his yard. Alan is contented. He has a complete family life, a good place to live, and a profession, he loves.