

# Saint Paul's Messenger

## April 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*

726 Sixth Street, Brookings SD  
[www.saintpaulsbrookings.com](http://www.saintpaulsbrookings.com)  
605-692-2617



Messenger Editor, Janet Gritzner

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Laurie Carruthers
- 6 Tom Taylor
- 7 Mollie Hublou
- 10 Jean Lacher
- 13 Chase Crawford  
*Al & Lynn Hublou*
- 14 Jeremiah Kline
- 17 Charlie Berry  
Carson Vanduch
- 19 Claudia Hovelson
- 20 Laura Woodard Clark
- 24 Cindy Appelt  
Christopher Appelt  
Chuck Woodard
- 25 *Ryan & Emily Braun*
- 26 Mya Chatman  
Charlie Clever
- 27 Erika Klein  
Patty Kratochvil
- 29 Aric Hovelson

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

I hope that everyone had a good Lent and a wonderful Easter. St. Paul's looked rather resplendent on Easter morning. Everything had a nice shine and a warm glow due to some deep cleaning accomplished by several volunteers. Thanks so much for your efforts! It was a joy to

see several families who were visiting and to welcome some newcomers to our church. Getting to know some of the extended family is one of the benefits of having been here for a few years. It is always good to see them visit and to watch the grandchildren participate in the Easter Egg hunt.

We now begin the season of Easter which leads to the Ascension (May 10<sup>th</sup>) and the day of Pentecost (May 20<sup>th</sup>). During this period, our youth (middle and high schoolers) will participate in a Sunday School program which focuses on the book of Acts and the birth of the Church. If any youth need transportation, please let us know, and it will be provided. Tasiyagnunpa Barondeau (along with some able help from Ben) will be conducting these classes. As Acts deals with the birth of the Church, we hope to involve more youth in our services!

Earth Day Sunday will be celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and Rogation Sunday on May 6<sup>th</sup>. "Rogation" is a Late Middle English term which derives from the Latin 'rogare,' "to ask." It is a time of fasting and reciting the Litany of the Saints in advance of Christ's Ascension.

Announcements! Over the years I have watched many churches struggle with how to handle announcements. They somewhat go in cycles – we say something then things improve for a while, until the announcements slowly begin to take more time. Lately we have been reaching

the upper limits and have received some comments. Let's strive to have most of our announcements on the back of our Sunday bulletin. This means we may have to do a bit more planning to get a printed announcement to me or to Peggy Whalen, but it will make the passing of the peace and the announcements less of a "half-time show." When we do make announcements, let's agree to limit the announcement to what is truly critical and omit extraneous comment. Even I am sometimes guilty of this!

And speaking of Peggy, for the past ten years Peggy has provided a wonderful service to our congregation as she has prepared our worship bulletins and assisted with wedding and funeral programs. Peggy would greatly appreciate someone else taking over, or at the very least, taking certain Sundays each month. She has things down to a science; she would be happy to train/assist someone. Who would like to work on this as part of their ministry at St. Paul's?

Chuck Woodard has raised some good questions about soup suppers and coffee hours. I like the idea of rotating pairs for soup suppers. Also, we can do with far less food for coffee hours. The coffee hour should not be an alternate lunch. Some cheese and crackers, coffee cake, or cookies would work just fine. What we really need to feast on is the fellowship!

On a more personal note, Judy and I had a great time visiting Brendan and Allison in Phoenix. One of our favorite spots is the Desert Botanical Gardens in Papago Park, Tempe/Phoenix. We are now planning a trip to Fresno, California to visit Barb Murra and some of the National Parks in Utah and California sometime from mid- to late May.

Please continue to pray for those on our prayer list. Suffice it to say, the need is great. On the national scene, I am encouraged by what I see taking place among our youth. I believe what is happening will bode well for our democracy! Pray that they may continue to lead by their example.

Blessings to all, and thanks for all you do for our congregation!

Fr. Larry

## SENIOR MOMENTS

By Lynn Hublou



*Fig. 1. Lynn Hublou in her "senior moment."*

A column from the Senior Warden seems appropriately titled "Senior Moments." I have plenty of them. It's pretty easy to blame age on forgetfulness, tiredness, lack of ambition, or what have you. Call it my scapegoat--it's just an easy fall-back.

I tend to fall back on excuses for lots of things. I beg off responsibility when I think I don't have enough time, enough money, enough smarts, or enough of you name it. "Let someone else do it," or "It's not my problem," or "Why should I care?" become mantras. Maybe this sounds familiar to you. I found plenty of excuses for myself when first approached in December about taking on the role of Senior Warden for the 2018 year. More often than not, though, I discover that the effort to do something, to become involved in some way, to take on the challenge, rewards me. I surprise myself sometimes that something just wasn't as hard as it seemed, that I was foolish to think otherwise, that I might even grow as a person in the process of challenging myself. Again, maybe this sounds familiar to you.

Last month I wrote my column about extending ourselves a little more in the greeting category, by signing up to be a greeter, to welcome newcomers and visitors both during the service and at coffee hour. Nope, it isn't hard.

That's one small challenge we can charge ourselves with, but it's not the only challenge we at St. Paul's face. St. Paul's has a number of needs here and there within our parish. One of those is serving as the person responsible for weekly service bulletins. Peg Whalen has generously performed this task for over 10 years, mostly without assistance or without a break. Can you see yourself taking over Peg's role? Would you be willing to relieve her of those duties on a regular basis or even occasionally? What are your mantras when faced with a challenge you don't want to take on?

If you're like me, there are plenty of excuses to go around when some opportunities arise, but I'll end the same way I ended last month's column, with a thought to combat excuses for turning down opportunities or avoiding them altogether: It takes a village.

### **March Vestry Meeting**

Rector's Report: Fr. Larry continues to work on the Church Directory, which is missing some email addresses yet.

The website revisions item continues to be on hold; Ginger Thomson is transferring all information to another platform.

The Big Event is looking for places for volunteers. St. Paul's has a pile of dirt in the back that volunteers could move; there might be opportunities with the garden as well.

The campaign to assist the poor and Table 229 will be addressed as they arise.

Fr. Larry provided the Vestry with a list of the discretionary expenditures for the past month. Tiffany Heyduk provided the application for gas vouchers from Schoon's (Fr. Larry and Bob Klein will fill out the pertinent information). A discussion ensued regarding the fact that the police won't sign off on vouchers unless the person has proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. Fr. Larry will bring up the possibility of liability with the Ministerial Association.

Janet Gritzner was present on behalf of Chuck and Mary Lou Berry on a matter related to the centennial. In an effort to make available various artifacts for public viewing, the Berry's would like to remove the tall bookcase across the landing from the elevator and replace it with a lockable antique glass-fronted cabinet to display such things. Chuck would build attractive bookcases to be placed on the south wall of the church hall to replace the tall bookcase and to provide a more uniform look. The Vestry liked the suggestion; no action was taken.

Senior Warden's Report: Lynn Hublou gave a brief report on the greeters (hopefully people will sign up on a monthly basis), and also mentioned that she had contacted Preferred Mechanical regarding the furnace issue at the rectory.

Junior Warden's Report: Since Ben was absent, Fr. Larry shared a plan to remove all the unwanted items from the sacristy through the back window. The water softener has been installed in the women's bathroom.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Klein presented the treasurer's report for January-February 2018. He noted that income in January is up because some people pay their pledges in January.

Old Business: Columbarium: Fr. Larry noted that all columbarium monies will go into a separate columbarium account (maintenance, an additional columbarium, etc.). After discussion on the policy, the Vestry agreed on the following motion: The charge will be \$1,000 per niche (2 persons per niche), and the deceased's survivor(s) will be responsible for engraving. Fr. Larry suggested that the Vestry go through the policy line by line at the next meeting. We will schedule a blessing of the Columbarium on a date to be determined later.

Directory: We will decline to advertise in the United Online Business Directory.

Acolytes: Fr. Larry has scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm with the parents

of our parish youth to talk about what they want for their children and what they are willing to do. This will also include a discussion of acolyte scheduling and duties.

**New Business: Annual Audit:** The last annual audit was perhaps 8 years ago; the Diocese no longer provides that service, which would cost approximately \$3,000 to hire out. Bob Klein has signed up to be part of the new diocesan program, which would set up a committee for non-compensated individuals to audit church books for parishes other than their own. Fr. Larry will contact Barney for additional information.

**Stationery:** Jennifer Lacher-Starace provided stationery samples to update the look of St. Paul's stationery prior to sending out Centennial correspondence. The Vestry selected a style and included some suggestions.

**Bulletin:** Peg Whalen would like to give up the responsibility of the weekly bulletin. The Vestry appreciates her dedicated service to the parish and will set about finding a replacement.

The next Vestry meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **OBJECTIONS TO CREATION CARE ON EARTH DAY SUNDAY**

**By Chuck Berry**

As a member of St Paul's Natural Cathedral Committee, I will give a short Earth Day Sunday homily on April 22 during coffee hour. Yes, our Earth balloons will appear again this year (photo).



There may be some who dismiss the Creation Care message thinking “if God is in control, then nothing bad can happen,” or “God gave us dominion over the earth, so we can do whatever we want,” or, “the earth is going to end anyway, so why does it matter?”

There may be some who agree that we are polluting the earth but think that the solutions will ruin the economy or South Dakota jobs, or the issue is being pushed by godless environmentalists, or environmental regulations mean expanding big government and control people's lives.

We've heard all of these objections. Discussing each objection is for a longer essay or Parish meeting. We try to appeal to the heart by using reasoning that the Episcopal Church Bishops used in their Pastoral Teaching document in 2011.

They wrote “The mounting urgency of our environmental crisis challenges us to confess our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our waste and pollution of God's creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us (BCP, p. 268). It also challenges us to amend our lives and to work for environmental justice and for more environmentally sustainable practices.”

“We know that . . . we are now demanding more than [the earth] is able to provide. Science confirms what we already know: our human footprint is changing the face of the earth and because we come from the earth, it is changing us too. We are engaged in the process of destroying our very being. If we cannot live in harmony with the earth, we will not live in harmony with one another.”

In 2007, the South Dakota Diocese passed a resolution that encouraged Parishes to use a 3-step process when traveling the Creation Care path. Action. On Earth Day Sunday, we'll present educational materials. It is for you to reflect and act.

Biblical scholars say that all in God’s Creation – nature, animals, humanity – are linked to one another. We cannot love our own dimension without caring for the others. We must return Creation’s service to us with service of our own.

*Footnote: A Life of Grace for the Whole World* (2017, www.churchpublishing.org), is a guide to the House of Bishops’ Pastoral Teaching on the Environment.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Rev. F.M. Thorburn - 1953-1969  
Part 1

By Douglas R. Dunn, 1978

On one of his several return trips to South Dakota, Father Johnson mentioned that there was a priest in Sioux Falls who would make an excellent rector. Thus in September of 1853, The Rev. Frankl M. Thorburn became the second rector of St. Paul’s. As Bishop Roberts said, “He’d fit like a glove in Brookings. And he did. For sixteen years, the church folk recollect that it “was a very happy time for everybody, especially for us.” Love flowed to and from this man whose unofficial motto was: “The minister is a servant who serves his people.”

Under ‘Father T’s direction, a Sunday School program was begun. “When we started out, we had four classes in the church basement, just huddling in the corners.” He had a short devotional time with the children before the service for the adults upstairs. That service would begin, at times, with the sermon, and when Sunday School kids came in, they went on with the service. Abby Thorburn recalls. “It was real good, because it stopped the sermon if it got too long.” Also under the tutelage of Father T, the annual Christmas Pageant was begun.

Another of Father T’s projects was the ever-present Canterbury Club. For sixteen years they

met on Sunday nights in the Rectory, and Abby would cook for them. Attendance was now and then a problem. “It was always better in the fall through January and February. When spring came, why the love affairs started and away they went.” It was a good social gathering, with volleyball and croquet played in good weather, and bridge lessons and games played in foul.

For years, Father T held services in Flandreau and DeSmet, beginning in Brookings with a 7:30 am Sunday service, driving to Flandreau for a 9:30 service at St. Mary’s Church. He’d return to Brookings for an 11:00 service, and would drive to DeSmet for a 2:00 celebration that afternoon. Back in Brookings, he’d have an hour respite at home before the college students showed up, and they would sometimes stay until 11:00 that night.

For many of those sixteen years, the clergy family would host a coffee hour following choir practice. The character of St. Paul’s is narrated in Abby’ description of their “political arguments.” I thought the roof would leave. I didn’t see how they could speak to each other the next day, but they all had a good time and it never bothered them a bit. I never thought I would live through the first presidential election.”

## MEMORIES OF EASTER FUN



Fig. 2. We think Clark is saying – “time to sample the wares.”



*Fig. 3. Jonathan and Jack are having a serious Easter egg discussion.*



*Fig. 5. Now you can take our picture.*



*Fig. 4. Yeah Easter. I think Jack hit the Easter egg bonanza.*