

# *Saint Paul's Messenger*

January 2021

*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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*Established 1893*

Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

## **Rector's Report from Fr Larry Ort**

Christmas is past and we are in the season of Epiphany which will end on February 14<sup>th</sup>. During this season, it is appropriate that we recall a poem by T. S. Eliot. Eliot wrote this poem shortly after his conversion to Christianity (the Anglo-Catholic form of the Anglican Church). The poem represents the spiritual journey from death to life; it contains some wonderful imagery pertaining to the cross and to death, e.g., "three trees on the low sky," and "an old white horse."



### *Journey of the Magi*

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.'  
And the camels galled, sorefooted, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling

and running away, and wanting their liquor and women,

And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.



Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.

Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information, and so we continued  
And arriving at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you might say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

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<https://allpoetry.com/The-Journey-Of-The-Magi>

For further information on T. S. Eliot's faith commitment, see *T. S. Eliot's Extraordinary Journey of Faith* by Barry Spurr ( <https://www.abc.net.au/religion/ts-eliot-extraordinary-journey-of-faith/10101092> ).

Hopefully this Epiphany will call you to new realizations, to manifestations of, and encounters with, the Divine. As preached last Sunday, may you answer, "Here am I," or in Hebrew, "*Hineni*." After Epiphany, we move more deeply into the Church Year, and into our faith, with the observance of six weeks of Lent, followed by Easter on April 4<sup>th</sup>. I am always struck by how rapidly the time between Christmas and Easter passes.

Lent from Ash Wednesday, Feb 17 to April 3. Easter is on April 4.

You may have heard that we are organizing a committee to address the reality of our declining attendance. Please note that we are not unique in this regard. Declining church attendance is a national trend. We welcome your willingness to serve as a member of this committee, and we encourage you to let us know of your availability. The function of the

committee will be to provide insight and leadership. We are all responsible for sharing the gospel with others. How do we do that? By telling our story and inviting others to share the love we have discovered and are living into. What we have at St. Paul's is too good not to share, and our sharing will in no way diminish what we have.

Hopefully the Covid-19 vaccine will soon be readily available for all. Please continue to stay safe!

Blessings, Fr. Larry

## Lent (from Episcopal Church)

Early Christians observed "a season of penitence and fasting" in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265).



The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning "spring," the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days.

Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, p. 265).

# St. Paul's Vestry Minutes January 18

## Rector's Report (Fr. Larry Ort):

- Fr. Larry will be attending a workshop, Assessing and Addressing Congregational Vitality, on Jan. 27.
- We received thank-you notes from Salvation Army, Humane Society, Bienvenidos a Brookings, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding South Sudan through Education, and the Brookings Food Pantry. We also received a thank-you letter from Bishop Folts on the occasion of his annual visit.
- Fr. Larry has filled out his portion of the Parochial Report and has passed it on to Bob Klein for the Treasurer's portion. Annual reports are due.
- The opening balance of the Discretionary Fund was \$1659.08. Disbursements included a reimbursement to Fr. Larry for 319.85 and a gift of \$500 to a family in need. Deposits of \$650 brought the current balance to \$1489.23.

## Senior Warden's Report

**(Lynn Hublou):** Barbee Hovelson supplied the Youth Group with materials for card-making during the holiday season. In a motion made by Lynnette Taylor (2<sup>nd</sup>, Janet G.), the Vestry will purchase a \$40 gift card at JoAnn Fabrics for Barbee as a thank you.



## Junior Warden's Report (Lee Krachtovil):

Nothing except the writing of the annual report.

## Treasurer's Report (Bob Klein):

Bob sent out statements about 10 days ago. There are 16 pledges in. \$22,000 was spent out of capital improvements (primarily the windows and a new water heater). The report was accepted in a motion made by Lee Kratochvil (2<sup>nd</sup>, Carol Ann Klug).



## Old Business:

- Janet Gritzner moved (2<sup>nd</sup>, Lynnette Taylor) that we carry forward the 2020 budget to 2021 with the exception of the Diocesan pledge, which will be increased to \$16,822. Motion carried.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the Zoomed church service, which will be Morning Prayer. Fr. Larry will send out the agenda next week.



Annual Meeting 2020. Above 24 attendees, Below Fr Ort presides.



## New Business:

We need a chairperson for the Altar Guild. Discussed possible members for a growth committee.

**Next Meeting:** February 15, 2021, at 5:30 via Zoom, Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Klein, Clerk of the Vestry

## St Paul's Year in Review as Reported in the *Messenger*

<b>Jan</b>	<b>Messenger on hiatus</b>
<b>Feb</b>	Annual Meeting Feb 2; <i>Messenger</i> Editor Chuck Berry, Fr Larry's message – Rectory work; poem titled "On Love" by Kahlil Gibran, Book club reads "Healing the Gospel" with leader John Taylor; Vestry minutes for Jan meeting, New Bishop Jonathan Foltz, Clark baptism (son of Laura and Tim), new Visual Arts Show, Peace Pole news from St Paul's 6 <sup>th</sup> St. garden, Evolution Sunday, St Paul's in <i>Brookings Register</i> about Dakota Day of Giving.
<b>Mar</b>	<b>Services Canceled!! No Vestry Meeting</b> , BP Curry's Virus Prayer; Purple for Lent; Babies in Church; Fr Larry Ort's Message; February Vestry Minutes; Nutrition Site Duties (Meals on Wheels); Church Window Progress photos; Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday; New light in Sanctuary; Pancakes and Alleluia; Lenten Meditations and ERD' Tulipolusa garden blooms
<b>Apr</b>	<b>Services on-line</b> including most of Holy Week Services (24 families on line for Easter Services); Ort's Message, March Vestry Minutes from past; Church Window Progress; Earth Day is 50 years old; St Paul's during the "Stay-at-home time"; Historical gathering photos;
<b>May</b>	Fr Larry Ort's Message with poem by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin; Sign up for patio Communion; April Vestry; Coral Bonnemann RIP; Rick Holm Wisdom RIP; Sixth Street Construction; Letter to <i>Messenger</i> from Alice Hauan; Tasi for School Board; Fr Larry's <i>Register</i> column; Viral poem gone viral; 6 <sup>th</sup> St garden in bloom as construction begins.
<b>June</b>	Fr Larry Ort reminds Parish about Covid safety, Larry and Judy in Denver; June Vestry, 6 <sup>th</sup> St. photos, St Paul's "Stay-at-home"; President Trump at St John's – the rest of the story; Early St Paul's history; Bishop Foltz's car; Family Back to School Project; Episcopal 101

<b>July</b>	Fr Ort's Message, June Vestry, 6th Street Construction photos; RIP Jean; Me before We or We before Me – a comment on Mt Rushmore; Hey <i>Register</i> writer, you left out Episcopal ERD Program! July 6-17 Meals on Wheels,
<b>Aug</b>	Fr Larry Ort's Message with deep thoughts on Sixth Street; August Vestry Meeting Minutes; Sixth Street Construction news; Clarke Christiansen RIP; Season of Creation weekly devotionals; Mass in the Grass August 30
<b>Sept</b>	Bishop Tarrant's death; property repairs/painting; September Vestry; St Paul's Endowment Fund revealed; Church School/Youth Group news; Season of Creation devotionals; April Brooks memorial; Battery recycling; Mass in the Grass at Dakota Nature Park held inside.
<b>Oct</b>	<b>Church Services resume - controlled attendance</b> ; Fr Ort's Message – trip to Buffalo SD; October Vestry; our Endowments; Church School/Youth Group on-line, Dorothy Kratochvil RIP; Sr Warden's Message of hope; Rebuilding Sudan news; PB Curry's voting message – act of moral agency; Gov. Noem's "Reply"; Kleins and Orts attend Convention Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Nov</b>	Fr Ort's Message (Rabbi Sacks RIP and his writings); November Vestry; Sr Warden's message – spirit of youth group; New windows and energy savings; First Thanksgiving history snit; Thanksgiving; Nov 29 Advent; Fr Larry provides copies of <i>Waiting and Watching: Advent Word Reflections</i> ; history of Enemy Swim Mission
<b>Dec</b>	Fr Ort's Message – invites sharing of faith stories; December Vestry; Hang a Shining Star - thoughts on a Christmas song, Christmas Eve Service via Zoom (as well as very limited seating in the church); ERD Campaign nets \$5,000

Annual Meeting will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the Zoomed church service,



**January Birthdays**

Al Hublou, Adam Hovelson, Barbee Hovelson, Lynette Olson, Bruce Hovelson, Autumn Malmberg, Lee Kratochvil, Mary Lou Berry, James Lurvey, Elias Bonnemann, Tonja Jorenby, Gavin DuBray

**February Birthdays**

Jason Kratochvil, Everleigh Hovelson, Ryan Braun, Derek Clever, Jennie Hublou Mayer, Ian Greer, Rayn Woodard, Tasi Barondeau

**January February Anniversaries**

Bill and Shirley Gibbons, Mark and Patty Kratochvil, Charlie and Kay Clever, Doug and Connie Nelson

**Bishop Visit: What he said...**



Bishop Jonathan Folts began by mentioning current events [Covid, US Capitol insurgency], and our mission as citizens and as a church. He said that “The world is too large for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love.”

He recalled a Leonard Cohan song lyric as follows:

*Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That’s how the light gets in.*

He referred to our concerns for the long-term viability of St. Paul’s. He spoke of our plan

to form a committee for evangelization – said that forming a committee was “very Episcopalian.”

Like most churches, we have seen some decline; most recently that has come about through the death of four of our aged saints. Bishop Folts warned of the dangers of forming a committee – once a committee is in place, those not on the committee tend to think they have no responsibility. There is another adage worth noting: “Where something is everyone’s job, it is nobody’s job.” As he stressed, evangelization, telling our story and sharing our faith, is everyone’s job. Hopefully, a committee will provide leadership and encouragement.

Bishop Foltz lead us in Prayers of the People (IV) which were very appropriate for our Nation’s turbulent times...

*Guide the people of this land, and  
of all nations, in the ways of  
justice and peace; that we may  
honor one another and serve the  
common good.*

**St Paul’s during Quarantine-time**

Fr Larry wrote about the Jan 17 service: “We had a nice crowd in church this morning -- by my count 21 virtual and 18 in the church! It was good to see everyone, and a pleasure to bless Autumn (and Lee) for their birthdays!”

**Church services in person:** OPEN with seating separation, modifications in service, and other safety features

**Church services on line** link for Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83255248573?pwd=NXcweGIRSGxaUklRTXBqVFVOcUJlZz09>

**Pledges:** - use mail or in person

**Compline:** Wednesdays, 7:30; zoom

# *The Messenger*

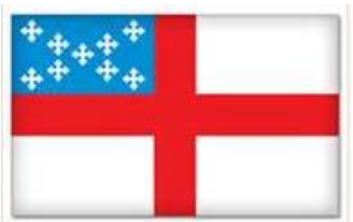
Newsletter of  
St Paul's Episcopal Church  
Church  
Established 1893, Parish since 1952

## *Inside the January Messenger*

Fr Larry Ort's Message  
January Vestry Meeting Minutes  
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St Paul's services  
Lent 101  
Birthdays and Anniversaries (Nov/Dec)  
Bishop Visit Jan 10: What he said

## **Annual Meeting Feb 7**

Part of zoomed church service



**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church**  
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