



EPISTLE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, Ohio

Helping all people find a connection to God's community.

July 2022

Dear Friends,

This will be my final article to you as your Priest. As I announced at the first of June, I have accepted a call to be Interim Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I couldn't tell you where then, but now all the paperwork is signed and the word is out.

I had no idea back in March of 2019 what the next three years would bring, but then that's how it usually happens. We have hopes and dreams, and sometimes some apprehension. I would be naïve to say that it hasn't been a bumpy ride. Actually, it seems more like a roller coaster with its ups and downs and wild turns.

Perhaps the wildest turn was the onset of the coronavirus pandemic at the beginning of 2020. We're still in that even as restrictions have relaxed in this area. But numbers have a tendency to fluctuate. While the numbers of severe illness, hospitalization, and death are low, they continue to point us toward some caution.

These past few weeks have been focused on anticipating what's next even while continuing to do what's needed now. The answer to "what's next?" is, at best, the tunnel on the roller coaster. We may have been on this ride before, but the tunnel seems different.

That difference is in large part due to the ongoing pandemic. Most of the diocesan clergy who remain able to serve as supply priests are in long-term situations. Those who are not live too far away and are not able or willing to come this far from Cincinnati or Columbus. The list of supply priests, which was two pages long in 2019, now fills a half-page.

This means it may be some time before the Eucharist is celebrated at St. Paul's. In the meantime, lay leaders will officiate at some form of Morning Prayer. Pastoral care will be in the hands of everyone, to visit those unable to attend worship, to pray for and check on the sick, to help those in the community who need assistance from time to time. That always has been and is the task of the church as a whole, and not just a few hired hands. We tend to forget that.

One thing to keep in mind. It is in the time of uncertainty and doubt that we often find God is nearest to us. We only need to look with eyes of faith to see that. So, like gold that is tested in fire, as scripture reminds us, may we find renewed purpose and shine ever brighter as the Light of the World fills us with his love.

A Statement of Mission



As Episcopalians in the
Diocese of Southern Ohio,
we commit to:

† Know the common story

Deut. 11:18-21

† Proclaim our common
faith

Matt. 28:19-20

† Pray our common prayer

1 Thess. 5:16-19

† Drink the common cup

Mark 10:38

† Serve the common good

Matt. 25:37-40

In the name of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.

This is our common
ministry.

---Wayne+

SENIOR WARDEN NOTES—JULY, 2022

Hello everyone! I just have a few quick notes that I wanted to include this month. First of all, I want to thank Father Wayne for his good work with us the past 3 + years. You helped lead us through an especially challenging time during the Pandemic and we appreciate your service to us, also your beautiful music. We wish you all the best as you embark on your next journey to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Again, thank you! Also, I want to assure you all that your Vestry members are working very hard during this time to keep everything running as smoothly as possible at our beloved church. We are also in contact with the Diocese and are requesting an expedited search for our next Priest in Charge.

Our services will continue at 9:30 a.m. this summer and we will alternate Morning Prayer and Liturgy of the Word. We will continue to look for any available visiting priests who can celebrate the Eucharist with us. Until then we can enjoy the beauty of the Morning Prayer and Liturgy of the Word Services. We will focus on what is most important in that we continue to worship God together as a loving church family who cares for all our members. Also, we must continue our Christian mission of reaching out to other community members, showing them Christian love, and inviting them into our family to learn more about Jesus and our Christian Episcopal faith. We have been here before when our good Priests have retired or moved on and we have survived. But the key now is to not just survive but to thrive and grow! We can all help with this! Please visit soon if you haven't been here for awhile—we would love to see you! Please invite a friend to attend with you and see if there is anything you might like to volunteer to help with. You are ALL important people in the St. Paul's family and we need to grow this family!

Have a good and safe Summer! See all of you soon!



St. Paul's Episcopal— Outreach Update— Kairos Prison Ministry

So, what happened to our decade - plus long involvement with Darke Country Kairos Prison Ministry?

As you might have expected, the Covid Pandemic of 2020 – 2021 cancelled the Prison visits by Kairos volunteers, including thousands of church family baked cookies, due to the high risk of Covid spreading like a wildfire thru the closed living environment of a prison.

But in early May, our outreach commission was contacted by Mark Brooks, our local Greenville Kairos prison Ministry on-site participant. Mark is also the coordinator with St. Paul's Episcopal and several other churches for cookie baking support to inform us that the Marion IN prison was again opening the prison to this important Outreach on-site weekend visits beginning this Sept. 2022. But the Prison Warden said as of now, no home baked cookies to be brought into the prison for that weekend due to COVID risks. Hard to imagine COVID virus could be spread by Church baked and packaged cookies? Mark Brooks said they are still in conversation with the Prison Warden on this subject. But as of now, no cookie bakes to give out to the inmates during the 3-day weekend this Sept..... what a shame.

Although we imagine the on-site and in-person visit by Kairos volunteers to the introduction of God's love for us and the Christian faith has the most impact to the inmates, we think also that the gift of love thru home baked cookies as weekend gifts, also shows in a perhaps smaller way..... but maybe a bit sweeter..... the message of God's love for all people. So many church people coming together from various denominations to confirm God's love for all... including people who made some serious life mistakes.

We'll stay in touch with Mark Brooks, our local Kairos Ministry contact, to see if there is a change in decision for their Sept 2022 prison visit.

Respectfully submitted, St. Paul's Outreach Commission.

Kim Bohler, Tim Burns, Chris Nelson /06-21-2022

| Date/Proper | Readings | Assistants | Flowers* |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| July 3 Proper 9 | 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 | P. J. Brumbaugh, Officiant Jan Dunwoody, Lector Gary Benesh, Usher | Jan & Chris Nelson |
| July 10 Proper 10 | Amos 7:1-17 Psalm 82 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10:25-37 | Kim Bohler, Officiant Duane Johnson, Lector Richard Mote, Usher | Ed Rismiller |
| July 17 Proper 11 | Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42 | Chris Nelson, Officiant Karen Burkett, Lector Peter Hemer, Usher | Marlene Harvey |
| July 24 Proper 12 | Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85 Colossians 2:6-19 Luke 11:1-13 | Peter Hemer, Officiant Gary Benesh, Lector Chris Nelson, Usher | Judy & Don Fitzgerald |
| July 31 Proper 13 | Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21 | Marty Davis, Officiant Jan Dunwoody, Lector Richard Mote, Usher | Open |

*Please notify the office of flower dedication by noon on the Tuesday before the Sunday listed.

July 2022

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jun 2022</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Aug 2022</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; width: 100%;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 1 | 2 |
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| 3 9:30 AM Morning Service | 4 | 5 Bulletin Information Due | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 9:30 AM Morning Service | 11 | 12 Bulletin Information Due | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 9:30 AM Morning Service Vestry | 18 | 19 Bulletin Information Due | 20 Epistle Information Due | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 9:30 AM Morning Service | 25 | 26 Bulletin Information Due | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 9:30 AM Morning Service | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |