

Saint Paul's Messenger

April 2020



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

Established 1893

726 Sixth Street, Brookings SD
www.Stpaulsbrookings.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Saintpaulsbrookings>
605-692-2617

Messenger Editor, Chuck Berry

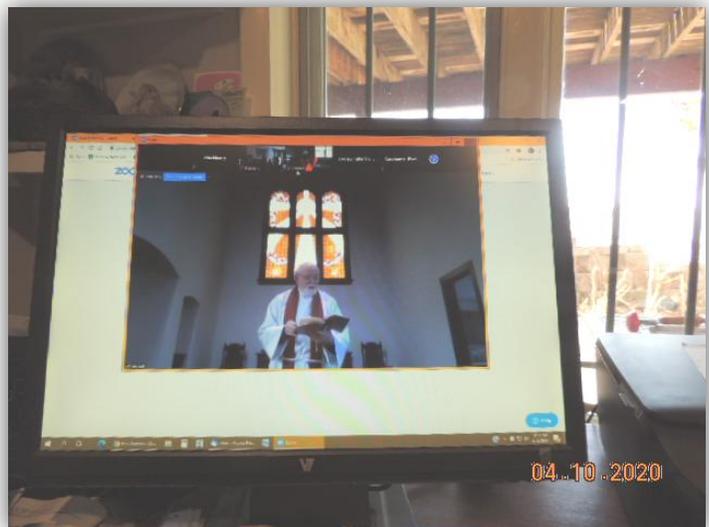
Rector's Report

It has been a very strange month due to the Covid-19 virus! I understand that churches suspended services during the 1918 Spanish influenza outbreak. Unfortunately, St. Paul's Registry of Services does not go back that far. It would have been interesting to see what St. Paul's did during that era. I have made an entry in our current Registry of Services which notes the Covid-19 virus and the fact that we are meeting virtually via Zoom. The Internet and the various social networking platforms are advantages we share today!

Fortunately, we were able to conduct most of our Holy Week services online. We almost made it all the way through, but for some unknown reason, I lost connection to the Internet while in the middle of the Easter Eucharist. As many of you know, we use an extender and patch through the rector's personal account rather than have a separate Internet connection for the church. Most of the time, that works as it should and it save the church considerable money.



Conducting a service with only one or two people in the congregation seems a bit strange. The first time I did it, I recalled Romans 12.1-2: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set



Caption: A computer screen somewhere in the Parish shows Fr Larry leading one of the Easter services.

before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God” (NRSV). I imagined that all of St. Paul’s saints who have gone before us were filling the pews and celebrating with us! It was a comforting thought – perhaps we should consider that more often for when we partake of the heavenly feast; we should remember the Eucharist has a temporal as well as an eternal aspect.

I think most of us are doing quite well with the social distancing regimen. Remember that social isolation is an act of love for our neighbor. I do believe humor helps, and I have enjoyed sharing many jokes from my e-mail file entitled “jokes/humor” on the St. Paul’s Fun and Fellowship Facebook page. A few of you have also shared some humor – I encourage you to do so (just keep it respectable). [Note: I can only use about one out of every three jokes from my files!] One of my favorite memes I encountered while surfing was where a dog asked his owner if, after being cooped up for seven days, he now understood why he chewed the furniture.

We have also initiated a telephone tree and are currently making calls twice per week. We have a suggestion to cut that to once per week, and will likely do so unless, and until such time, as the virus is more widespread. We want to make sure that we are aware of any special needs members of our congregation may have such we can address them as a community.

I encourage you to pray for those who are ill, for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, and for those who are providing truly essential services – the medical profession, police, and fire personnel, and the staff who are keeping our health care centers clean and operational. Many people are out of work and we will receive more requests for financial assistance. I have received a couple of checks for the discretionary fund and am most appreciative. Also, many thanks to those who have sent their pledge payments to Robert Klein.

We will continue to use Zoom for live-streaming services for the foreseeable future. I extend my thanks and appreciation to Amanda Fickes and Jay Vanduch for their assistance in

making this possible. Blessings to all and stay safe! If you would like to talk, or would like a special prayer, please do not hesitate to call me at 605-231-0978.
Fr. Larry

On-line St Paul’s at Easter 2020

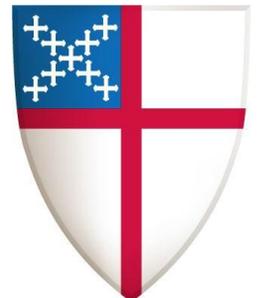
By Chuck Berry

About a dozen parishioners attended the on-line Good Friday Service - more than that (18 members) attended the Easter Vigil on Saturday Night – more than that (24 families) attended the Easter Sunday service - - and we were all sitting at home!

I especially liked the conclusion of the Easter Sunday Service. Our meeting arranger, Amanda, pushed some keys and took us to the National Cathedral to hear Presiding Bishop Curry. What a treat to hear and see him (see photo below).



Did you stay to see the wrap-up of the service? Hundreds of singers and musicians joined together (while separated) in an uplifting hymn. The computer screen was divided again and again and again to show several hundred images, and ended with the Episcopal shield superimposed over all.



St Paul's Messenger

April 2010: A look back

What was going on at St Paul's 10 years ago? I (Berry) dusted off the April 2010 edition of the *Messenger* and found these tid-bits.



The first item I noticed was about the *Messenger* itself. I wrote this: "Thanks to the four people who signed up for email last month; email list stands at 11 while our snail mail list stands at 79. People who are receiving the e-*Messenger* are getting color pictures, and saving St Paul's a few pennies in copying and mailing costs. Anyone else interested?"

In those days long ago, Fr Ryan Hall was Rector and Judy Peterson was Deacon. Lynette Taylor was Sr Warden and Mary Lou Berry was Jr Warden. Bob Klein was the Treasurer. On the Vestry were Al Davis, Mark Kratochvil, Barb Murra, and Jay Vanduch. Chuck Berry was Messenger Editor/Writer. Peg Whalen and Kay Clever were Co-Clerks of the Vestry.

Vestry business was about the Church Directory (progress lagged); Wednesday night Lenten dinners were going well with good turnouts; Fr. Ryan would do radio ads for Holy Week; accessibility (elevator, chair lift) were being discussed, as was the water problem in Thorburn Hall; the long-range planning committee started; a Hospitality Committee was being organized. In other business, the snow blower was fixed, but the organ repair/tuning was not done (might want to think about a digital organ sometime in the future). The annual review of Fr Hall and the Parish was beginning. The Kratochvils will donate their two stall garage to the church; the Berry's will purchase the old parish garage.

The following photos and captions were published in the 2010 April *Messenger*:

Photo shows Ali Anderson (right) and Madison Vanduch enjoying carrot cake.



Another photo shows carrot cake servers – Eli seems delighted by the recipe!



These days, The *Messenger* is going to 9 snail mail and 84 email addresses. It arrives monthly at about the middle of the month. The *Messenger* will usually contain Vestry minutes and a message from Fr Ort, but please send items and photos. Find more current information on our facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Saintpaulsbrookings>

And check out our website for interesting facts about St Paul's; make sure to click on the Centennial Video under the About tab for entertaining vintage photos.

www.Stpaulsbrookings.com.

Church Window Progress

Last we heard: The new, clear, outer- protective, double-pane windows were installed and one restored colored glass panel had been installed (see photo). The other 7 colored panels were being re-leaded by Studio66 Custom Designed Stained Glass in Watertown.

Update: The restoration of the colored windows is complete. Midwest Glass of Brookings picked up the panels and will be installing them during the third week of April --- ahead of schedule.



April Birthdays

Laurie Carruthers, Tom Taylor, Mollie Hublou, Sharon Tjaden, Jean Lacher, Chase Crawford, Charlie Berry, Berkley Hovelson, Carson Vanduch, Claudio Hovelson, Laura Woodard Clark, Cindy Appelt, Christopher Appelt, Chuck Woodard, Charlie Clever, Erika Klein, Patty Kratochvil, Aric Hovelson

May Birthdays

Ben Leigh, Chuck Berry, John Berry, Howard Bonnemann, Rosemary Seaboy, Lynette Taylor, Miles Livermont, Jordan Crawford, Diana

Christiansen, Emily Malmberg, Peggy Miller, Shawn 'Kratochvil, Phil Baker

April and May Anniversaries

Al and Lynn Hublou, Ryan and Emily Braun, Aaron and Kayla Hovelson



Is this an image a champagne glass for celebrating, or an optical illusion – do you see the faces of the two people celebrating?

St. Paul's Vestry Minutes March, 2020

There was no Vestry meeting in March 2020.

Important notes from the February meeting were as follows: We received thank-you notes from the Salvation Army Bell Ringing Campaign, ERD, and Lutheran Social Services (Drug Court). The Vestry will be assessing the furnishings, etc., in Charlie's Porch with the intent of updating the look to something less cluttered and more welcoming. Perry Electric replaced the motor on the blower in the church heating system. The Endowment Fund draft is awaiting further discussion. Fr. Larry will be submitting a piece to the Speakout Column in the *Brookings Register*. Fr. Larry will order 200 pens (@ .59) that advertise St. Paul's.

Earth Day is 50 Years Old

The secular Earth Day is always on April 22 to commemorate the first Earth Day in 1970 when millions of Americans expressed concern about the condition of the land, water, and air.



They gathered in parks and streets and outdoor venues to advocate for a cleaner environment. Soon, the US government had agencies and regulations that would start the clean-up, and an

environmental policy as a guide (excerpts reprinted below)

“... a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; ...prevent or eliminate damage to the environmentstimulate the health and welfare of men; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources...”

This idealistic statement was a new thing in the USA. As we were transforming the world to a better world, there were some unintended consequences. With our machines and increasing population, we had become a geological force, prizing profits and growth above all while we degraded the atmosphere, oceans, rivers, and landscape.



St Paul's has been celebrating Earth Day Sunday since 2012 when Olivia, Jonathan and Rebekah held the Earth balloon. Our National Cathedral Committee had a plan called the “3-step,” which means “Education, Reflection, Action.” The Committee supplies the Education, and the Parishioners then Reflect and Act. The Committee hopes that after reflection, you decide “Yeah, this is a moral issue for our church turf.” And then you act in a small way (personal acts of conservation) or a big way (political action).

It was said that religions were at fault. Our environmental problems were caused by religious teaching about man's **dominion** over the Earth instead of man's **stewardship** of the Earth. Religious leaders began to see that consumerism and materialism were pushing religion out of

people's lives and also causing pollution and unsustainable use of Earth. Scientists calculated that we needed the resources of two planet Earths to sustain ourselves.

Why should we bring concern for the creation into church mission and ministry? Here are some relevant biblical passages....

1. God made all things, declared them good, and has a covenant with Creation. Genesis 9:8; Job 38-39.
2. God is present in and through Creation. John 1:1-5; Acts 17:24-28
3. Man has interdependent relationship with God and Creation. Rev 11:15; Ps 65.
4. Creation care is an act of social justice (kindness, mercy, compassion) toward humanity. Isaiah 58:10; Matt. 25:31-46.
5. Creation is harmed by human sin which disconnects us from God and his Creation. Numbers 35:33; Romans 8:18
6. Creation is to be restored and renewed in God's plan for redemption. Isaiah 65:25; Rev. 21:1.

Aside from the Bible quotes, the wonders of nature and the unfolding of Universe can be thought of as the “divine liturgy” in which we see the divine through nature. (*Berry's note* – What a coincidence! As Bishop Curry's Easter church service concluded, this red bird perched just outside my window. I was so moved that I sent the photo to friends and testified thusly



“While the preacher on the computer was talking about the sacred book that teaches the spiritual wisdom of the Cross, the visitor outside my window talked to me about the wisdom revealed in nature - the wisdom of the Universe, which tells a story of "a community of subjects, not a collection of objects.”

Now, About Earth Day Sunday:

To draw attention to this new church mission [i.e., concern for The Creation], something called **Earth Day Sunday** (Sunday closest to Earth Day) was created in the 1980's and piggy-backed on the secular Earth Day. St Paul's will be joining over 1,500 other churches across the nation in celebrating Earth Day Sunday. But, for obvious reasons, this will be a weird one. What is St Paul's doing? You have just finished the first activity – reading this information in the *Messenger*. Use the internet

<https://www.faithclimateactionweek.org/>

to read more about what St Paul's is doing. You will read about the connection between this *Messenger* article and the current art show in Thorburn Hall. Since there aren't many people in Thorburn Hall these days, perhaps you might take another look at what the display represents. The show is titled "Revelation."

Reflection – Action. How about this action..... we often hear that we should step-outside to "break the boredom of quarantine." Besides alleviating boredom, our walk outside is supposed to improve our health and spirit. There has been a lot of research on nature's positive effect. The usual findings go something like this...

"...studies have shown that time in nature is an antidote for stress: It can lower blood pressure and stress hormone levels, reduce nervous system arousal, enhance immune system function, increase self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and improve mood."

Also, a step-outside might remind you that "from things that are made, we come to know the maker" (Romans 1:20).



Caption: our mini-Tulipolusa is in its 4th year; we have 4 patches of red tulips that emerged during the last week of March; what the rabbits don't eat might bloom by Earth Day.

St Paul's during the "Stay-at-home"

Remember one of the reasons that we have Mass in the Grass? It is to remind ourselves that we don't need a church building to be a church.

Church services: on line, Fr Larry will send a Zoom link

Pledges: we still need to pay our bills, so instead of putting your treasure into the plate - send it in the mail

Evening Prayer/Compline: Wednesdays, 7:30; zoom link from Fr Larry

Phone tree: stay connected, don't let your branch of the tree break; The Berrys were glad to hear from Tasi, and when we called The Bonnemans, we learned that Diana is giving remote piano lessons. Wow!

Mother's Day May 10

A Creation Care message?, or just a signal that our cross needs painting?



07-10-2019

Your mind is a garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds.
You can grow flowers,
Or you can grow weeds.

Historical photos of “gathering.”



Patio



Church service



Coffee wise men



URC Wednesdays in the past



Depart to serve



Charlie's Porch, Palm Sunday

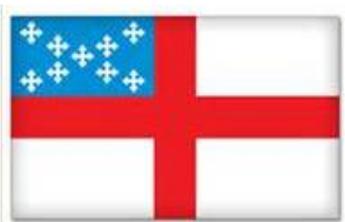
The Messenger

Newsletter of St Paul's Episcopal Church

Church Established 1893
Parish since 1952

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Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

726 Sixth Street,
Brookings SD 57006