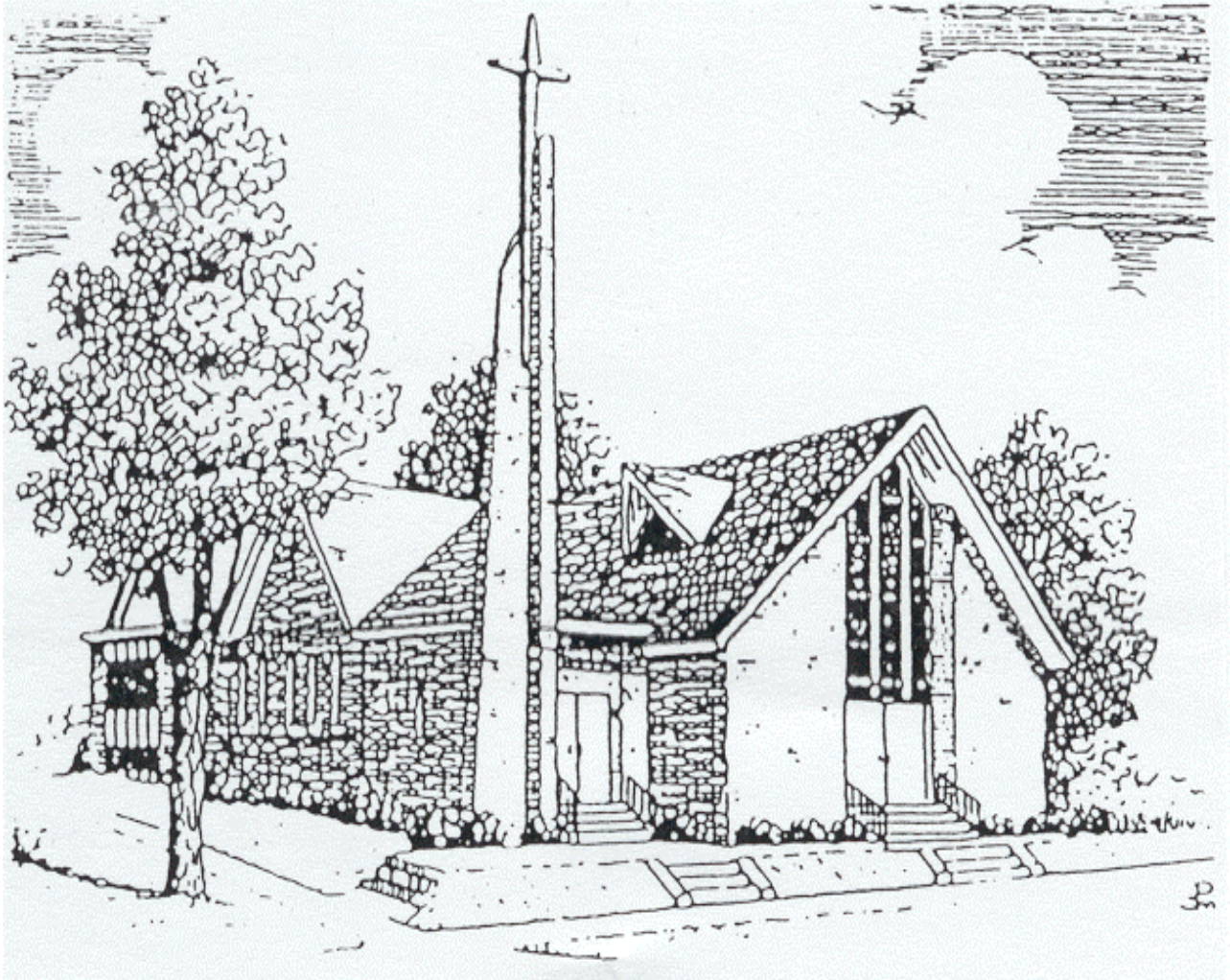




St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Good News



**Aug. Sept. Oct
2020**

Sunday:
Rite I: 8:00am

Sunday
Rite II:
10:00am

Office Hours:
Tues., Wed., Thurs.
10:30 - 2:30

Good News Editor
Sandy McEwan
Office Manager
Sheri Hall
Priest in Charge
Rev. Kristen C. Foley

Office Manager Hours
Tue, Wed & Thur
10:30 - 2:30

Clergy's Corner

August 1, 2020

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends in Christ,

Doing a quick search on Amazon reveals piles and piles of decorative objects with Biblical quotations. There are door knockers that read, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." There are plates that assure, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Not surprisingly, there are numerous items with the following quotation from Jeremiah: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). This seems to be a favorite verse for journal covers, pens, and especially calendars.

In this verse, God promises all people that our future is held in divine hands. No matter the surrounding circumstances, God has plans for our welfare. God knows that our future is already marked by holy hope.

During this strange and anxiety-producing time, it is hard to hold on to Jeremiah's assertion of the goodness of God's plans. Planning anything feels nearly impossible, especially when our plans are dependent on infection numbers, community spread, and other factors largely out of our control.

In other years, this would be the time for making plans and filling calendars. In other years, we would be finalizing details for our favorite Fall events. This year, the church calendar is largely blank.

As individuals, how can we hold on to God's promise of a future filled with hope? As a community, how can we faithfully plan a future we pray is pleasing to God?

Maybe this year, God is calling us to trust the divine plan more than our human plan. Maybe this year, God wants us to stretch our belief in divine goodness.

God's holy plan is rooted in a holy desire for holy goodness for holy people. Even with a largely empty church calendar, let us know, trust, and believe God's words to the prophet Jeremiah: that God desires our welfare, even in this anxious time.

In Holy Hope,

Rev. Foley

Happy Summer! I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the sunshine in a safe and healthy way. It is important that we all stay positive and continue to stay in contact with each other.

St. Paul's is moving along with our reopening process. Together with Rev. Foley, groups consisting of Vestry members and parishioners have been meeting via Zoom to complete the plan mandated by the Diocese. Hopefully, we will soon be able to congregate (using all CDC precautions) for Sunday morning services.

We are in contact with representatives from AA, ESL and the Women's Group about the procedures necessary to be able to welcome them back to Rennell Hall. We will be providing them with the "Rules for Outside Group" as well a "License Agreement". The groups will also need to provide us with their plan for contact tracing should it become necessary. I'll keep you posted.

To the many in our church family that are keeping in contact via Zoom meetings and phone calls with each other and offering a helping hand when needed thank you. A special thanks to Rev. Foley for all her spiritual guidance, hard work and efforts to keep us connected through the many Zoom meetings each week.

During the month of June, several of the LOU volunteers provided Bag Lunches in the church parking lot. One of our members put flyers up around Bound Brook and also spoke with some of our regular LOU guests. Besides a healthy sandwich, the bags contained chips, cookies, granola bars, water and a piece of fruit. Unfortunately, we only had 32 guests over the 4 week period so we have suspended the plan until September. Depending on the progress of our reopening, we will either go back to Bag Lunches or the full hot meal we previously provided. Thanks to all those that participated in this Outreach program.

Thanks to Rita McQuilkin for taking over the LOU program. Please give Rita all the support and encouragement that you afforded me. This is going to be a work in progress and she will need our cooperation.

My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone in this difficult time.

Irene Parker, Senior Warden

Silent Auction

After much prayer and discussion with volunteers, I have decided that we will be taking a break from the auction this year. There is so much unknown about what will happen with the Covid virus this fall. The auction involves hands on basket making and food prep and distribution. I just don't know how we could safely do all that is necessary and have distancing and masks and calling of numbers. It is sad, but I believe, the safest decision. Prayers that next year this will all be behind us and we can get back to some semblance of normal.

Prayerfully submitted by
Kim Rollinson

Sunday School

This Corona Virus has thrown a glitch in all our lives. Sunday School is not happening at St. Paul's. But... Rev. Foley provided me with a link for on-line Sunday School through the Diocese. I was able to forward this information to the children by way of their parent's email. I have encouraged them to take advantage of this opportunity.

Before the virus intruded on our lives, the Sunday School children were invited to participate in a Lenten caring project. Instead of giving up something for lent, the children were asked to do good deeds. Helping others, making cards and sending them to grandparents or elderly neighbors, helping a younger sibling or their parents, or bringing food or toiletries in for the Food Bank were some ideas offered. The children were supposed to write their kindness on a flower petal and bring it to class to attach to a growing "Kindness" flower in the hallway. When we do return, we will work on decorating the flower and talking about their efforts.

Prayerfully submitted,
Kim Rollinson

In/Out Reach

Due to the restrictions imposed by the diocese and the safety measures proposed by St. Pauls, there have been a number of problems arising regarding the rummage sale that is scheduled for the fall.

Many of our dedicated workers have expressed concern about Covid 19 and it's impact on social gatherings. We therefore find it necessary to cancel all plans for this popular yearly fund raiser.

Blessings, Judy Conrad and Cathy Ferris

LUNCH ON US

Greetings to all! As of September 2020 I was asked to coordinate the Lunch On Us ministry and I accepted. Because of Covid-19 we have not been having the usual sit-down lunches for our guests. During the month of June, however, we provided bag lunches that were distributed in our parking lot. Going forward, after we open up our church building again, decisions will have to be made as to how to handle the program.

In the meantime I will be contacting all our current volunteers to find out who will be willing to continue serving in this Outreach ministry. After that I will create the schedule. If there is anyone new who would like to participate in this ministry please contact me through St. Paul's.

Thanks to all for your continued support. Keep safe.

Rita Noel McQuilkin

TREASURER'S REPORT

Although we will not meet in person for the foreseeable future, please remain faithful in your financial commitment to Saint Paul's by mailing your regular offering to the church office:

214 Church Street, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

There will be an online giving option soon through Vanco.

The new playground equipment has been installed

Art Hoffman

Calendar

Calendar dates will be announced once we are able to utilize the church building again. Everyone is welcome to join in online for many opportunities to share and worship together. Please check the St. Paul's website www.stpaulsbb.org for all of the dates and times.