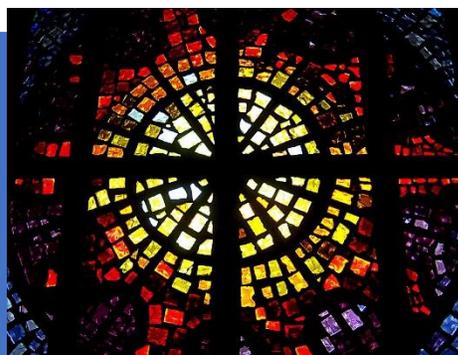


THE VENITE –JUNE 2020

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The church office is closed at this time, and we are working from home. Church email is being checked daily but *we are unable to check the church voicemail, please DON'T leave voicemail at the church number.* Diocesan news is available on their website at indydio.org including their newsletter.

**But, remember the church isn't the building,
it's all of us! So what are you doing today??**

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VESTRY:

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Cristi Adams	Christian Education & Formation		
Shelly Bell	Parish Life		
Rachel Foyst	Congregational Development		
Bill Garber	Buildings and Grounds		
Vicki Gust	Worship		
Win Morris	Evangelism, Communication, and Marketing		
Teresa Woods	Parish Life		

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For Everything There Is A Season

(Transition: Letting Go and Change: Moving On) by The Reverend Kathy Thomas

* The following is more a short story with a sermon at the end rather than an article. While it is my recent experience of transition and change, it is relevant to the life and journey that St. Paul's finds itself in today. I hope if you take the time to read it that it will give you a point of reference for reflection on this transitional time in the world and what it means for each of us personally and as a community of faith.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ..." Eccl. 3:1

Some of you may recall that several months ago in the early months of 2020 B.C. (Before Covid-19), I presented a forum on "transition" vs. "change". Transition we learned was a process, while change was the product of the transition. Transition involves "letting go, and change involves "moving on" and embracing the new. At first you might not fully appreciate the subtle difference, but lately as I have been preparing and packing for the move from my home of the past 30 years (how did that happen!) to our new home, the difference has not been lost on me. Transition is a disruption of what is familiar, what we know. It makes us anxious. Change on the other hand often gives us a sense of growth and renewed energy and excitement. The problem is we have to journey (might we say "walk through raging waters") to get from the old to the new.

My current state of transition actually began almost three years ago when I decided to retire not just from my parish in Fort Wayne, but from active full-time ministry. Being a "second career" priest I found that which I had longed for and worked towards for a very long time was quickly coming to a close. I would still be a priest, of course, but for me that also implies being a pastor or having a congregation. A lot of reflection, prayer, and conversations took place prior to my final decision. What dreams had been fulfilled? What was I being called to now? (I could feel it. After nine years it was time to return to my home and my husband, and it was time for Grace and me to take whatever lessons we had learned from our life together and write the next chapter of our stories.) Where was I going? What new ministry did God have in mind for me? Here was the BIG, SCARY question mark of transition because I really had no idea. I had always had a sense of purpose and goals, and here I was adrift.

"Turn, Turn, Turn, to everything there is a season." The 2 1/2 years since my retirement have been an extension of that period of transition. For awhile it seemed like I had come home so that I could be available to either officiate at or have time to attend funerals. A cousin in Cleveland died, but not before I had a chance to go see him. I officiated at his funeral. A neighbor died. Since he was not churched, I told his daughters if they needed someone to help with a service that I would be honored. They took me up on my offer. Then 3 highly involved parishioners at Grace died within a year of one another. Several months went by and I was called to serve from March through June of 2019 as a part-time interim at St. Christopher's, Carmel which had been my home parish. It was a time of respite as I became reacquainted with people who had been an integral part of my journey to the priesthood. But even here I ended up officiating at the funerals of two people I had known 28 years ago when I served as their Christian Education Director. One of the funerals was for the 31 year old son of a former senior warden who was killed in a freak accident. So even here, transition followed me.

Finally, the "deal" which had been hanging like a shadow over us all this time was finalized. Our neighborhood (31 brick ranch houses built in the mid 1960's) was sold to a developer. It had taken about a year to come to an agreement. This bucolic neighborhood surrounded by farm fields and woods with lots that boasted some 100 year old, and hundreds of feet tall maple, oak, and ash trees was now boxed in by a parking garage, a road

running through the aforementioned fields, a bridge spanning the upgraded US Highway 31, and soon to be built St. Frances Orthopedic Hospital. Where once we looked out from our back patio to a tree farm with cows and llamas grazing, now after nine years of tearing down woods and houses and paving over what had been cornfields and grasslands, we looked out onto the top of a Mormon Temple and a commercial area replete with a grocery store, a McDonald's, a Get Go gas station, CVS, several restaurants, and various other stores. The transition while not complete has left the area very changed from what it was 30 years ago.

“Turn, Turn, Turn, to everything there is a season...”

Two and a half years after returning to my home in Carmel, I find myself in this third phase of transition. Once the “deal” was finalized, the house hunting began. We had almost given up finding anything when the week after Thanksgiving we found our new home. It is very different than our old home. Our old home has a huge fireplace and hearth in a paneled family room. It is what we have called our lodge home because at Christmas it is just like being at a lodge. However, much of the time it is also dark in that area of the house. Our new home is our summer lake home. It has lots and lots of light (2 skylights), and the property backs up onto a small lake. The new home is truly a gift from God. Still, I find it bittersweet as I say good-bye to our home, hearth, and trees. As I empty drawers with stacks of cards kept from birthdays, anniversaries, thank-you's, condolences, congratulations, etc. I am reminded of all the living that has gone on here. But it is time to go. It is time to embrace the change.

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“Turn, Turn, Turn, for everything there is a season.”

In the midst of the current pandemic, the whole world is in transition. Listen to the language as journalists talk about a “new normal”. This, what we are doing now, is not it. The “new normal” will be the change that results from this shift, this transition in our worldview (more people are more aware than ever of our need for one another, that we live on one planet, and that all things are connected.) We know what the “old normal” was (those of us born before 9/11 remember it being normal to meet people at the gate at the airport). However, we adjusted to the changes before and we will again after a period of transition. We know that what's going on now in this period of transition (wearing a mask in public all the time, social distancing, increased hygiene, massive unemployment, etc.) will have an end. What we don't know is exactly what is next. I personally believe that the masks will come off, we will hug one another again, we will sing in church and we will receive communion. I also hope that some of the change that comes as a result of the pandemic is universal healthcare, a sustainable wage for all workers, and a more just and equitable society as we remember that we are all in this together. We already know that these past few months are changing how some people work, how we school our children, and the kinds of jobs that are being created. There will be much change, and this change can bring renewal and excitement to every area of our lives. Including CHURCH!

“Turn, Turn, Turn, for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

There is NO GOING BACK. For whatever reason (I like to believe that God has brought us all together for some reason), here we are, each of us called to be a part of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Columbus, IN, a band of Christians caught in this huge global and societal time of transition. Sometimes we may just want to go back to how it was in the 1950's and 60's or 70's and 80's. I believe, as in all periods of transition, being periods of upheaval, there are many unspoken questions for us as a faith community just as there are for us as individuals when we go through transitional times. Who are we? What is our purpose as a community of faith? Why do we exist? Who would miss us if we ceased to be tomorrow besides ourselves? How are we

different from other charitable organizations? What do we have to offer new people? What do we care about (what are our core values) and why? Can we answer these questions for now, and not for what was true in the 60's, 70's, 80's, or 90's. Do we even know anymore? We thought we knew, but things are so different now.

We can't go back. We have grown and changed individually, and since 2008, our society and the world have changed radically. And now in just a few months we find ourselves in the midst of a transition that has the potential to bring about even greater change, for better or worse. The decision is ours. ***We will need to reinvent the wheel, possibly numerous times.*** We will need to risk failing and starting again and again and again. To not change means that one is dead. Change is difficult, but not impossible, because what does not change is God, and as we know "all things are possible with God." On this weekend before the Feast of Pentecost, we are reminded of the great change that took place in the disciples as God's Spirit was poured into them. Having endured the "letting go" of who they thought God was and what they thought God wanted from them, the followers of Jesus "moved forward" to share the good news that God's light has come into the world and that the darkness will not overcome it. This is still what followers of Jesus are called to do, albeit we have many more ways to do it today. It is our turn to "let go" of old notions that we learned about God that may keep us from sharing the good news. It is our turn to "let go" of the limitations we place on ourselves so that we can "move forward" and share God's light wherever, and whenever we can. It is our turn to wholly embrace that through the Holy Spirit we are called to dream dreams as never before.

"Turn, Turn, Turn, for everything there is a season and a time for everything under heaven:..." Eccl. 3:1 and Pete Seeger

Outreach News

Although the end of year party for Schmitt Book Buddies was cancelled this year, the tradition of presenting the students with a chapter book continues! Each year every Book Buddy Student is presented with a carefully chosen chapter book personalized with their name as a gift from St. Paul's. Elizabeth Monette instituted the process ten or so years ago, when she worked at the Bartholomew County Library, and for the past four years we have been working with Beth Stroh at the Columbus Bookstore Viewpoint to select and supply the books.

While Viewpoint was closed, we contacted Beth on line and using her BCSC book fair experience, she came up with a list of new titles that the students were less likely to have read, or have at home. A few were part of a classic series like the Hardy Boys (Bug Napped), but other titles like: The Binder of Doom, Trouble at Table 5 (Busted by Breakfast), Didi Dody Future Spy (Recipe for Disaster), are all written to appeal to the 6 to 9 year old age range and for readers at 2nd to 3rd Grade level. Books were separated into boys and girls books, and Gretchen Tregoning the Book Buddy Coordinator assigned them to a specific student. Each book was delivered in a small red plastic bag, tagged with a name, and a small button on the outside of the bag. The buttons were a gift from Viewpoint, girls had a Unicorn button, and boys a space one.

So with the added complexity of the Pandemic Shutdown, delivery delays from the publisher etc, the books reached Schmitt on May 19th. Thanks to everyone involved in the Supply Chain and especially Beth and the folk at Viewpoint.

St. Paul's Outreach.

St. Paul's Garden

The garden is looking pretty this summer. The Irises are in bloom and a joy to behold!



St. Paul's Receives A "Connect Through Tech" Grant

At last month's vestry an ad hoc committee presented a proposal for a "Connect through Tech" grant that was offered by the Center for Congregations. Committee members included Ken Erickson, Michelle Farnsworth, Andrew Goldsmid, Win Morris, Patrick Schumacher, John Settle, and The Rev. Kathy Thomas.

The purpose of the grants were to help parishes purchase technology that will help with communications within parishes. St. Paul's grant included requests for several new microphones, a camera to use for streaming, a computer that will be used for both the rector's office and to zoom from the sanctuary, and several music licenses. The total grant request was \$4,400.00. While the parishes were asked to pay 10% of the total cost, the Diocese of Indianapolis will contribute that amount to each parish that receives a grant.

This past week, we were informed that St. Paul's grant was accepted. Once the money is received we will be putting together a team to help us learn how to use the new equipment. If you consider yourself "tech savvy" and know about streaming or know someone (maybe one of your young adult children or a teenage grandchild) who does, please contact Win Morris and the Rev. Kathy Thomas

Congrats to the Grant Team on their great work!



Service Schedule

During this time, we have scheduled **Lectors** to read and lead prayers. If you will be unavailable, please find a sub, and then email Kathi right away (stpaulscolumbusin@gmail.com) Thanks!

Date	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Prayers of the People
June 7th 10:15 AM	<i>Sian Goldsmid</i>	<i>Nick Firestone</i>	<i>Chuck Boddie</i>	<i>Nancy Morris</i>
June 14th 10:15 AM	<i>Cheryl Paronavitana</i>	<i>Ken Erickson</i>	<i>Andrew Goldsmid</i>	<i>John Settle</i>
June 21st 10:15 AM	<i>David Thompson</i>	<i>Chuck Boddie</i>	<i>Nancy Morris</i>	<i>John DeLap</i>
June 28th 10:15 AM	<i>Ken Erickson</i>	<i>Nick Firestone</i>	<i>Andrew Goldsmid</i>	<i>Frank Guthrie</i>
July 1st 10:15 AM	<i>Melissa zur Loye</i>	<i>Sian Goldsmid</i>	<i>David Thompson</i>	<i>Cheryl Paronavitana</i>

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

June 7th	June 14th	June 21st	June 28th	July 5th
<i>Roxie Garber</i>	<i>Patrick Schumacher</i>	<i>Nancy Morris</i>	<i>John Settle</i>	<i>Roxie Garber</i>

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 st	Ann Ellis	11 th	Betsy Larson	27 th	Matt Swope
7 th	Marilyn Wools	18 th	Mitchel Schumacher	29 th	Melissa zur Loye
7 th	Rebecca Fenske				

June 4 th	Axel & Melissa zur Loye
June 10 th	Gary & Teresa Woods
June 18 th	Bob & Rev. Wendy Manley
June 24 th	Ken & Carol Erickson
June 27 th	Nick & Marilyn Firestone

St Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
May 12, 2020

Present: Rev. Kathy Thomas, Cristi Adams, Shelly Bell, Rachel Foyst, Bill Garber, Vicki Gust, Win Morris, Patrick Schumacher, John Settle, and Melissa zur Loye. Absent: Teresa Woods
The meeting began at 6:35 with prayer.

Vicki moved that the approved April vestry minutes be entered into the record. John seconded and the motion was approved.

Finances: John Settle

The figures for April are looking good. People are continuing to fulfill their pledges. We have a bank balance of \$64,000. The payroll protection loan money is in the bank account. Mike anticipates spending most of the money we were loaned. Any remaining money from the loan will be returned in July or paid off over time if it is not forgiven.

A motion to enter the finance report into the record was approved.

Old Business

1. Goals and objectives for May through July: Patrick Schumacher

The decision was made to table further discussion of goals and objectives until Patrick has spoken with Canon Kristen.

2. Committee Brochures:

Given that St. Paul's is in a period of transition, and because going forward from the experience of the pandemic many things will be different, it was decided that rather than simply rework the old brochures, the Marketing Committee will create new brochures using the information submitted from each program committee.

The brochure preparation serves several purposes.

- Focus the leadership on our parish profile as we look to describe who we think we are as a parish, who we really are, and who we want to become.
 - Allows newer members and long timers to collaborate equally on answering those questions by creating new brochures.
 - Each brochure should contain answers to who, what, where, when, why, and how. We are beginning with "what" as we develop committee mission statements in the meetings called last month and this month. Should have some coherence among the brochures. Pictures would be nice. Should be on the website also.
 - **Action: All vestry members.** Look at other parish websites for inspiration AND send any information on your committee's answers to the above questions to Win (vestry leader for communications/marketing) by June 9, 2020.
3. **Action: Bill Garber** will communicate with Brendan via email to get further information on what the diocese needs from us about the question of St. Paul's incorporation.

New Business

1. There is a possibility of applying for a diocesan grant which could provide up to \$5,000 for technology to help during this time of church buildings being closed. The application is due Friday. John moved that we move forward with the grant application. It could be used for upgrading our sound system, software for the website, computers and printers, zoom subscription, etc.

2. An Ad Hoc committee was formed to research the technology needs of St. Paul's and to work on the Connect to Tech grant. This committee includes: Patrick Schumacher, John Settle, Ken Erickson, Win Morris, Michelle Farnsworth, and Rev. Kathy Thomas.
3. **Action:** The aforementioned committee will meet on Zoom to discuss their various findings. Following the meeting, each of the team members will forward their information to Senior Warden, Patrick Schumacher.
4. **Action: Patrick** will then write the grant.
5. John and Win have been working on recording and uploading Rev. Kathy's sermons. **Actions: John** will check with Kathi about needed information to permit the uploading. **John and Win** will also look into the camera setup for recordings.

Reports

- Building and Grounds: Bill Garber. Yard being mowed. Bill has contact information for person contracted for mowing and plowing. **Action: Bill** will send info to Kathi. Bill will be in Michigan for the summer but can zoom meetings.
- Congregational Development: Patrick, John, and Rev. Kathy have already met to draw up some questions for Canon Kristen. **Action: Patrick** will communicate with Canon Kristen before the end of this week to see if there is a template or guidelines we can follow to progress in our search for a priest-in-charge and what can be done at the parish level until we can have the Holy Conversations that had been scheduled for this past spring.
- Parish Life: Shelly Bell anticipates the committee meeting every month. The next meeting is scheduled for early June. Shelly is meeting with the Agape group next.
- Formation: Cristi Adams. A small group had the first meeting to discuss the mission of the formation/education work at St. Paul's. Cristi is looking for more members to join the leadership of this group.
- Worship: Vicki Gust. The group has met and the next meeting is scheduled for May 14.
- Outreach: John Settle. The group has not met but Andrew has been very active on behalf of St. Paul's with Love Chapel and book buddies programs. Rev. Kathy asked the group to define the goal of St. Paul's outreach (eg. To help serve people in our neighborhood...).
- Senior Warden: Patrick reported on progress with the new church directory. Reminded vestry members to include their information also. **Action: vestry members** finish making contact with parish members on their lists and submit information to Kathi asap.
- Rev. Kathy noted that we have 5 graduates this year. The vestry moved that the clerk send letters to all graduates congratulating them and asking them to send Kathi information about themselves and their plans to be published in the Venite. **Action: Clerk** will get letters written and sent to Kathi.

Rev. Kathy has received reopening guidelines from the diocese. She is gathering together a team of congregants to work on St. Paul's plan. Hopes to have David and Kelli Thompson, Julie Abedian, Vicki Gust on the team, among others. Bartholomew county will have to be able to show 14 consecutive days of new positive cases decreasing, testing available for all, contact tracing in place. **Action: All vestry members** read the opening guidelines from the diocese and let Patrick and Rev. Kathy know any questions or thoughts you have prior to June 14.

Action: All vestry members. Please send all vestry reports to Melissa by June 6. The clerk will collate reports and send to Patrick for distribution.

The meeting closed at 8:10 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa zur Loye, Clerk



2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
May 31 10:15 am Liturgy of the Word on ZOOM	June 1	2	3	4 11:30 am ZOOM Ladies Lunch 7 pm Parish Life - ZOOM	5	6
7 Pentecost 10:15 am Liturgy of the Word on ZOOM	8	9 6:30 pm Vestry meeting - ZOOM	10	11	12	13
14 10:15 am Liturgy of the Word on ZOOM	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:15 am Liturgy of the Word on ZOOM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:15 am Liturgy of the Word on ZOOM	29	30	July 1	2	3	4 Happy 4th of July

Notes

All on-site church activities have been suspended indefinitely.
 All Liturgies will be held online (ZOOM meeting ID 2912120372)