

The Epistle

of St. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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EARLY SUMMER 2024

PARSON'S CORNER

*Who, What, When, Where & Why
in our Liturgy*

The Daily "Office"

While the Book of Common Prayer (and the Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church - our official documents) state: *The Holy Eucharist, [is] the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day [ie Sunday] and other major Feasts...*

It also states that, ... *and Daily Morning and Evening Prayer, as set forth in this Book, are the regular services appointed for public worship in this Church.*

The Daily Office is so-called, because the 'work' the Church is to do in a diligent and responsible manner, like any other 'job' - our Prayer and Praise to and of God. In our Prayer Book there is a full routine of services - for individuals, family devotions, and corporate worship: Morning Prayer (Mattins if the Choir is singing), Noonday Prayers (in the monastery called *Diurnum*), Evening Prayer (Evensong with Choir) and Compline (which I call 'bed-time' prayers, and one of my favorite devotions). So our day can - and should - be circled round and comforted in Prayer.

The "Book of Common Prayer" is so-called, because it was in the earliest days of the Protestant Reformation translated into the 'common language' and into the hands of the 'common folk.' It was the hope and intent of the English Reformers that families would gather at breakfast and read Morning Prayer together, then when returning home for supper, to read Evening Prayer with the 'new' English Bible of 1611 - the so-called King James "Authorized Version."

Come to the American shores as early as Jamestown, there were not many priests in the hinterlands to regularly offer Holy Communion. Even today, as we know in the Northern Tier, there are 6 parishes and only 2 priests. And with the expense of supply priests (there 'ain't' many and mileage) Morning Prayer particularly comes as a possibility for reminding us of our heritage and for me, honoring our lay-people in their ministry of leading worship.

To that end, I will be offering a 'postponed' Lay Worship Leaders' Training for the Northern Tier and West-Branch Convocations on Saturday, 29 June. It is not only for those who wish to lead worship, but an opportunity for you to have some "Continuing Education" and learn more about our history, theology and practice - the "Three Legged Stool of the Anglican Church" - Scripture, Tradition and Reason.

We are grateful to the several faithful of St. Paul's who offer their ministry of leading our worship from time to time. When they do, please offer them your great thanks. And maybe join with them in offering your "Lay Ministry" to our people. And don't ever think that you are 'cheated' out of Holy Communion, but rejoice in wonderful, different experience of Prayer and Praise.

Father Ed

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS
APRIL & MAY 2024

21 April:

- + Sue Erb shared news of the annual Ecumenical Vacation Bible School, asking for St. Paul's to once again be open for rest-rooms, and \$200 to be donated from the "Children's Fund." Vestry approved.
- + Lilace Guignard submitted a request for a donation to Hamilton-Gibson for the upcoming production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream-coat." Bonnie Tranbarger noted the Thrift Shop planned on donating \$200 - which provides St. Paul's free advertising.
- + Plans are in place to repair the Altar with some clarification from the Rambusch firm, particularly regarding liability. We have received a grant from the Packer Foundation for approximately 1/3 of the cost. Other grants are to be solicited for this historic piece.
- + A bid from Kirby Webster for repairs to leaks over the kitchen was accepted.
- + A Discernment Group of 6 parishioners and Fr. Erb has been established for Ramon Segers.
- + Other business included discussion of the parish By-Laws, Church Insurance, and activities such as the community First Fridays

18 May; at its day-long retreat at All Saints' Retreat Center in Brookland:

- + It was decided that an ad hoc committee of Vestry meet with Mr. Rambusch when he comes to initiate work on the Altar to address concerns of liability. An additional \$46,000. following upon the grant from the Packer Foundation will be needed to finish the work.

A Night of Murder and Mayhem in the Wild West!

Saturday, July 20th at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall

\$20 / person, dinner included

For weeks, people have been pouring into the small western town of Deadwood for the biggest poker tournament this side of the Mississippi. From outlaws to marshals and saloon girls to southern belles, everyone has made this small western frontier town THE place to be. This is guaranteed to make for a very interesting evening indeed!



MENU

provided by chef Cathy Horning

*stuffed chicken
spinach salad
potatoes
vegetables
cake & pie*

BYOB

"Fireball" Whiskey for a charge

See Rose, Bonnie or Joan for tix
(must buy in advance)

VESTRY RETREAT
18 May 2024
at All Saints, Brookland

Vestry were given Myers-Briggs Personality Traits for themselves and the parish itself:

<u>VESTRY MEMBERS</u>	<u>PARISH</u>
I(ntrovert) 3	0
S(ensing) 5	0
T(hinking) 6	4
F(eeling) 2	4

So it is determined that this Vestry are both Sensing and Thinking, while the parish is Thinking and Feeling. This necessitates a balancing act within the Vestry, and needs to work with and for the parish in slightly different modes. Something for us to keep in mind when making decisions.

What do we know about St. Paul's - Quick History

- +Wellsboro itself
- +1st Christian Organization (actually Quakers were first):
Oldest Continuing Church
- Welcoming
- Beautiful - Elegant
- Excellent Acoustics
- was determined by one Bishop as "The Cathedral of the North"
- Architectually "Challenged"
- Steps (in the Chancel) are a problem
- A Wellsboro icon

WHAT IS ST. PAUL'S NOW

How are we seen in/to the Community?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| A "Powerhouse" | Liturgical |
| Force with which to be reckoned | Beautiful |
| Financially stable | Photogenic |
| Welcoming | Traditional |
| (Pet Friendly) | yet Proressive |
| Accessible | A-/Non-Political |
| Our Location on the Green | |

VESTRY RETREAT 2024, continued

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT St. PAUL'S?

The obvious and common answer anywhere

Larger Attendance, Younger members

- + Better Access to Thrift Shop
- + Renovate Kitchen
- + Air conditioning
- + Pew Cushions
- + Removal of Pews in the rear of the Church
- + More/better parking
- + more Contemporary music
- + 5-10 young acolytes (8-18 yo)
- + Better recruiting / Evangelism
- + Redecorate Parish Hall (painting, windows and asbestos floor),
and Church (painting, windows, have a West-facing Communion Table),
update lighting
- + Repair Narthex doors
- + Financial support for seminarian
- + Increase endowment for financial stability and resources to do more
- + Cleaning “Trashy” areas (back hallway, basement work shop)
- + More Coffee hosts
- + involvement / sharing more with Ministerium / Ecumenism
- + Increase salaries
- + Organ project and hiring Organist-Choirmaster
- + Organize or move Sexton’s closet to “Tana’s Closet”
- + Grounds care

later was suggested

- + installing a shower in the current Sexton’s closet, and stalls in the Men’s Room

VESTRY RETREAT 2024, continued

SO . . . WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- 2024 Altar repairs
clean hallway and basement
kitchen ceiling repair
new commercial grade dishwasher
- 2025 re-doing rest room(s)
shower
moving Sexton supplies
water problem in the Thrift Shop
- 2026 gutter guards, paint Parish Hall
- 2027 replace/remove Church carpeting
- 2028 ?
- 2029 begin Parish Profile after June 1st when Fr. Ed retires
- 2030 Search Committee begins



College Grads honored at St. Paul's

St. Paul's parish on May 26 honored two young adults who just graduated from college.

Astrid ("Betsy") Hakvaag, left, earned a bachelor of arts degree in film and media arts from Temple University.

Frank Kewitt, right, earned a bachelor of science degree in cybersecurity from Penn State University and now is headed to officer candidate school in the Navy. Both are 2020 graduates of Wellsboro High.

MEET YOUR VESTRY

Margery Hoffman

I am a life-long Episcopalian. I was born an Episcopalian, being baptized in St. John's, Elkhart, IN, as was my mother. Her parents were born into the Church of England before immigrating to the U.S. I participated in Junior Choir, Junior Altar Guild and St. John's Youth Group.

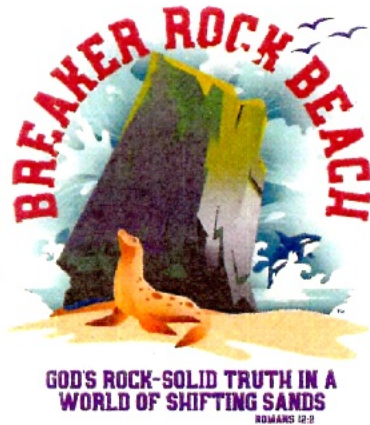
Paul and I were married in St. Mark's in Dayton, OH in 1988, where I attended while working at the USAF Flight Dynamics Lab, Wright-Patterson AFB. He showed up as a Reserve Officer and it off right away. I moved to Horsham, PA where he had a home. He had a PhD from Penn State in Civil Engineering and taught at Villanova University. I completed my Doctorate in Civil Engineering from George Washington University that Fall.

Our son, Hans was born in 1990. We moved to Southern Maryland in 1996 and went to St. Andrew's where I was on the Vestry and Altar Guild and then transferred to Middleham/St. Pete's where I taught Sunday School and was on the Altar Guild. We both worked at the Naval Air Systems Command until our son graduated from the University of Maryland. Two weeks after his graduation in 2014, we moved to Wellsboro where St. Paul's became our new church home. Paul's ashes reside in our chapel, and the young tree on the corner is one his 5 sisters planted in his memory.

I keep busy playing and coaching tennis and running and teaching Pickleball every day of the week, except Sunday, where I sing in the Choir, and serve on the Vestry and Altar Guild.

And Father Ed adds: and is an active voice in the Festival Chorus at Mansfield University, the Wellsboro Women's Chorus, and who knows where else!

THINGS IN & AROUND

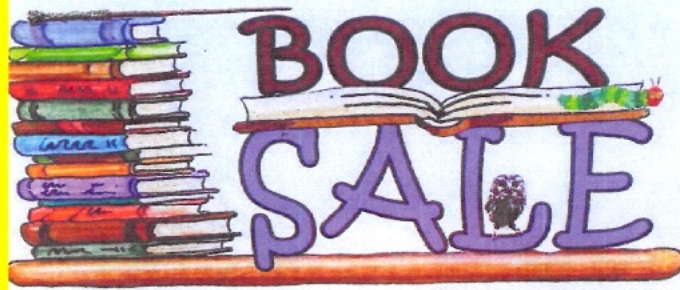


**Mark Your
Calendars and
Register Today!**

**Wellsboro Area
Vacation Bible School
June 17 to 21, 2024,
from 6 to 8 p.m.**

**on The Green
in Wellsboro**

**It's free and open
to children ages 4 to 12.**



Friends of the Green Free Library Book Sale

June 5 to June 9, 2024

**Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center,
next to the library, 134 Main St., Wellsboro**

June 5: Noon to 6 pm

June 6 and 7: 10 am to 6 pm

June 8: 10 am to 4 pm

June 9: Noon to 4 pm (\$5 bag sale)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2024</h1>						1 5:00 Evening Prayer
2 <i>Pentecost 2</i> (Proper 4-B) Fr. Ed is on vacation 8:00 & 10:00 Morning Prayer	3 <i>until Wednesday</i>	4	5	6	7	8
9 <i>Pentecost 3</i> (Proper 5-B) 11:15 Discernment Fellowship	10 L A U R E L	11 F E S T I V A L	12 O N T H E G R E E N	13 A L L W E E K	14	15
16 <i>Pentecost 4</i> (Proper 6-B) 11:00 Community Worship on the Green - (no 10:00 service)	17 V A C A T I O N	18 B I B L E	19 S C H O O L	20 Fr. Ed is on vacation	21 until next Tuesday	22 5:00 Evening Prayer
23 <i>Pentecost 5</i> (Proper 7-B) 8:00 & 10:00 Morning Prayer	24	25	26	27	28	29 Sts. Peter & Paul 9:00-3:00 Lay Worship Leaders' Training
30 <i>Pentecost 6</i> (Proper 8-B) 11:15 Discernment Fellowship	SOME SPECIAL CHILDREN PROGRAMS WILL BE OFFERED FROM TIME TO TIME SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15 - STAY TUNED - ACOLYTE OLYMPICS EXODUS - The GAME and more! WHO KNOWS WHAT? BIBLE JEOPARDY ?					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2024</h1>						
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 <i>Pentecost 7</i> (Proper 9-B) 11:15 Discernment Fellowship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Pentecost 8</i> (Proper 10-B) 11:15 VESTRY	15	16	17	18	19	20 6:00 Murder Mystery Dinner
21 <i>Pentecost 9</i> (Proper 11-B) 11:15 Discernment Fellowship	22 <i>Mary Magdalene</i>	23	24	25 <i>St. James</i>	26	27
28 <i>Pentecost 10</i> (Proper 12-B) 11:15 Discernment Fellowship	29	30	31			

The Calendar in Short

16 June - There will be no 10:00 service as we join with our sisters and brother in the faith for the annual Laurel Festival Community worship on The Green at 11:00. with Pastor Liz Jackson from the Methodist Church preaching.

17-21 June - Ecumenical Vacation Bible School on The Green.

29 June - Lay Worship Leaders' Training at St. Paul's, 9:00-3:00

20 July - A Mystery of a Murder - no, that's a Murder Mystery - at the Deadwood Saloon, no, that's St. Paul's Saloon in the Parish Hall!

WHAT IS Fr. ED up to now?!?

Visiting grandkids (with and without Sue - due to her work and the dog - the cats don't care).

Giving an organ concert in New Jersey ("Hallowe'en in June")

Three times offering Mass at that same Church where one of our granddaughters was Baptized;

Giving (John Leonard's) Scout Troop a presentation on Philmont Scout Ranch as they prepare for their "High Adventure" in New Mexico

And speaking of Scouts - a Vespers service at his former Scout camp in NE PA - when other grandkids are doing their summer camping.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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