



St. Paul's Beacon

ST. PAUL'S BEACON
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
16457 Old Frederick Rd.
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771
410-489-4411

August 2021

Jesus' Upside-Down World

What is called the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel (5:1–7:29) is called the Sermon on the Plain in Luke's Gospel (6:20–49). What we call in Matthew the Eight Beatitudes, we call in Luke the Blessings and Woes (four of each). Let us look at the four blessings. Blessed are you who are poor, for the reign of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Human One. (Luke 6:20–22)

In this chapter of Luke's Gospel, Jesus has just chosen his twelve disciples on the mountain. These are the very first words recorded that he says to them and to the great crowd that gathered, so they must be important. I think he's describing what the world would look like if people really followed him. He's giving us an upside-down version of reality that turns middle-class morality on its head.

Blessed are you who are poor. What a strange thing to say! Does anyone really think today that the poor are blessed? I don't think so. Most of us are enthralled by capitalism and think it is the rich who are blessed. We have even turned the Gospel into a "prosperity" message—that if we have enough faith, God rewards us with financial success. That sure doesn't sound like what Jesus is saying here! Scholars teach that Luke was talking to a poor community, and so in this passage Jesus is affirming the poor directly. He doesn't soften things like Matthew does for his more well-off community by saying "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Blessed are you who are now hungry. Jesus seems to be teaching that we need to choose at least a bit of dissatisfaction—which is the human situation anyway—so that we long for God. God alone is the One who will finally satisfy us.

Blessed are you who weep now. Weeping doesn't sound like a very positive thing, but people who have gone through major grief often tend to be more

Mark Your Calendars

Sundays, in August
9:00 a.m. 1st, 3rd.
Sundays at St. Paul's
– for 2nd, 4th & 5th. it
is suggested that you
worship with St.
Andrews, Glenwood
Service via Zoom and
Facebook from St.
Paul's.

compassionate, more forgiving and understanding. Somehow, grief softens the heart.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Human One. Talk about an upside-down universe! I'm not happy when people hate me—and some people do hate me. Jesus is saying that we must find our happiness somewhere other than in people's opinions about us. If we don't, it's just up and down, constantly assessing, who likes me today?

If we want to build our life on a solid foundation, we need to base it on God who loves us unconditionally, constantly, and without exception. Then we don't go up and down. We know who we are now and forever.

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Please add your own intentions . . . Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, "What the World Would Look like If Jesus' Worldview Was in Control," homily, February 17, 2019.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for St. Paul's parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

College for Congregational Development

Having attended the College for Congregational Development for a week in June, I would like to share with you some of what I learned. First of all, the definition of Congregational Development:

Congregational Development is the development of congregations of all sizes, locations and conditions into more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith that are

- *focused on and faithful to their unique reason for being and primary task as congregations, which are local expressions of the body of Christ:

- *connected to and expressive of their unique ecclesial tradition, ethos, and character:

- *self renewing and responsive to the challenges and opportunities before them:

- *sustainable, or working toward greater sustainability, in terms of a fit between the elements of their organizational life (e.g., vision for ministry, leadership, culture, size, property, finances, and so on); and

- *fostering a culture of transparency, collaboration, courage, flexibility, and forgiveness in which the congregation and its leaders have a greater sense of choice.

(The fourth bullet point spoke to me in regards to St. Paul's)

We were taught many models that we can use in meetings with our congregations, and I will plan to share some of them with you in the coming months.

Last year, there was an abbreviated Zoom meeting in which Kathleen and I participated, and many members of St. Andrews did as well. The first project that we planned was a joining of the St. Andrews and St. Paul's CCD teams, for the purpose of pursuing possible collaborations. The second project was to introduce the two vestries. We have much work ahead, but many promising possibilities. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, I'd like you to ponder one of the models from my week at CCD. The model is called Sources of Transformation. Spend a little time thinking of what in your life has transformed your heart, mind, or actions, to live your baptismal identity and purpose. The model may look complicated, as it has many parts, but I will post it on the bulletin board, and you can put a sticky note with your comments on the part that applies to you. The center of this model is Prayer and Worship. Connected to the center are three sections: Study and Learning, Life in Community, and Action. It'll make more sense when you see it! Anyway, it's a chance for you to experience a bit of what I learned, and I'll be anxious to see some of your post-its! Wendy Gahm

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

Regathering Information

Given the recent increases in the positivity rates around the State and the many unknowns regarding the Delta variant, the Diocese has once again recommended mask wear in church buildings (except for fully-vaccinated speakers and singers while speaking/singing). They are also mandating mask wear for all who are not fully vaccinated while in the buildings.

Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members, St. Paul's will once again be requiring mask wear in the church building (to include the parish hall and Thrift Shop) until positivity rates decrease and the guidance from the Diocese changes. This change takes effect immediately.

Thanks for your continued patience and support! Jeff Spaulding, Sr. Warden

St. Paul's Summer Service Schedule

Many churches modify their worship offerings in summer. This year St. Paul's will be holding services as indicated below. We also encourage all of our members to join us at one of St. Andrew's services on the 2nd. and 4th. Sundays in June, July, and August.

Worship at St. Paul's 9 a.m. 1st. & 3rd. Sundays of the month

Worship at St. Andrews 2nd. 4th. & 5th. Sundays of August

8 a.m. Union Chapel

10 a.m. Parish Hall

Memories of our friend

Our dear beloved Joanne Honsberger, 88 died on Monday, June 28th. She was a member of St. Paul's for many years and always supported church events. She was part of the coffee hour team, served on the altar guild, was an usher, an oblationer and worked in the Thrift Shop. At our Holiday Bazaar and the Bazaar of the Churches, she would hand out samples of our homemade cheese on a cracker for anyone to taste. Joanne always brought many friends to our lasagna dinners and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers. Joanne will be greatly missed.



Grant to Joanne eternal rest and may light perpetual shine upon her. Well done thy good and faithful servant.

Linda D. Barnes

St. Paul's Feast Day

Every year, St. Paul's would have a birthday party and picnic to celebrate the church's founding on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, June 29th. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, nothing was held in June 2020 to celebrate our 137th birthday. This past June again nothing was done to celebrate our 138th birthday, because of restrictions. If you would like to celebrate our birthday with a gift, please see the list below.

Needed Birthday Items – Please NO Styrofoam

Paper 8 ½ X 11 (20 lb.) white and colors

8 ½ X14 (20 lb.) White

Business envelopes # 10

Trash Bags 13 gal. with drawstring

Hot cups 8 oz.

Cold cups 8 oz.

Sugar

Powdered coffee creamer

Sturdy paper plates – small 6-7 inch
medium 8-9

Paper Napkins

Paper Towels

Liquid Hand Soap

Dish Soap

Tissues – cube size

Toilet Paper – 2 ply please

Storage/freezer bags - all sizes

Plastic ware – white – forks,
knives, spoons

Disinfectant spray/wipes

Bring your gift to church during the week – Monday-Thursday 9-12 or on Sunday, August 1st, Sunday 15th or any time in September when we will be having services.

Information regarding Sunday services will be in the newsletter.

Donations of money and gift cards are welcome to help buy any large items needed.

Even though we could not have a party and picnic, we can still give thanks to God for the past 138 years and for the future of St. Paul's and our parish family

Linda Barnes

Scrip: Gift Cards

Good News! We are stocked up on gift cards. Therefore we (hopefully) have any cards you need.

Do your part to help St. Paul's thrive. You can. It is so easy. Buy Scrip – Yes Gift Cards.

We all shop. Groceries, gas, summer gear, clothes, shoes, eating out, and the drug of choice – Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts, etc. You know your passion.



Plan ahead. Make it a habit to purchase gift cards for all of your shopping needs. There is no extra cost to you, yet a benefit to St. Paul's. A wonderful, painless contribution to the ongoing ministry of St. Paul's. Peter McIntosh

Stewardship

During this time of transition, it is important to pray for our ongoing vitality and continued presence in this community.

God has blessed St. Paul's with many talented members (and their families and friends). Repairs are done by our handy men and women. Hospitality abounds here. All of this help our bottom line however, there are bills to be paid, outreach commitments, diocesan assessment, and other ongoing expenses. Your financial support is St. Paul's most important and necessary asset. Please keep your pledge up to date. Remember those special events you may want to recognize by way of a donation, in loving memory or thanksgiving. Together we can do the work God is calling us to do.

St. Paul's Thrift Shop

Our Thrift Shop is open, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Donations are being accepted. The donation shed is open all the time for donations. Come shop and support the ministries of St. Paul's.

Remembering our Parishioners

Each month St. Paul's would like to honor a parishioner with notes and or calls. For August Al Yeater has been selected. Please let him know that we miss him and are praying for him and thinking about him.

Mr. Alan Yeater
6770 Runkles Rd, Mt. Airy, MD 21771 301-831-7538

Congratulations to:

Jensen Christine Ritter, great niece of Linda Barnes, graduated on Friday, June 4th from Oakdale High School in New Market. She is a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall, she will attend Monmouth College in New Jersey. Besides her studies, she will be swimming for the college swim team. Jensen was in a Frederick Swim Club, where she broke some records and won some medals. Good luck Jensen in all that you will do. I am so proud of her and proud to be her great aunt.
Linda D. Barnes

Pastoral Concerns

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office, (410) 489-4411, email: stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

Traveling Mercies

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, to work or for leisure; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP)

Prayer List

Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier; Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm; Dave Lawson; Bryan Landry; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley; Jaxon & Nathan Buckley; Chris Tuel; the Gallagher family; the Harrington family; John Michael; Al Yeater; John Tuel; Polly Moore; Joe & Eileen; Clair & Kevin Murray; Inez, Bertyl Girod, Ayana Fenton, Eduardo Acevedo, Andrea M, Josie and persons, who have died from Covid-19 and their families.

Prayer for Healing and Comfort

I'm coming to you today as your child, longing to hear from you and asking for your divine healing. There's so much I don't understand about life. But I do know that with one touch, one word, you can make me whole. Please forgive me of my sins, cleanse me of my unrighteousness, and begin your healing from the inside out. Amen



We have no Birthdays listed for August. If we have missed yours please let us know.

Happy Anniversary to:

William Toole & Phyllis Heffner
Aug 25



Vestry Officers & Members

Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden
Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden
Treasurer: Linda Sharp
Registrar: Nancy McIntosh

Kathleen Alexander	Stephen Jones
Suzanne Bourg	Phyllis Weston
Ron Alexander	Wendy Gahm

**St. Paul's
"A Shining Light
In the Community"**



MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is: To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word deed and to help all people experience God's presence in their daily lives.



August 2021~ SERVICE CALENDAR

	August 1, 10 th . Pentecost Green	August 8, 11 th . Pentecost Green	August 15, 12 th . Pentecost Green	August 22, 13 th . Pentecost Green	August 29, 14 th . Pentecost Green
	9:00 A.M.		9:00 A. M.		
		Please visit St. Andrews at 8 or 10 a.m.		Please visit St. Andrews at 8 or 10 a.m.	Please visit St. Andrews at 8 or 10 a.m.
1 st Lector	Stephen Jones		Ron Alexander		Fr. Mark will be the celebrant at St. Andrews today.
2 nd Lector	Helen Tuel		Lee Hajek		
Psalm	Lee Hajek		Dick Wilcher		
Prayers of the People	Jeff Spaulding		Kathleen Alexander		
Cup Holder	Pete McIntosh		Jeff Spaulding		





AS YOU START & END
YOUR DAY, BE THANKFUL
FOR EVERY LITTLE
THING IN YOUR LIFE.
YOU WILL COME TO
REALIZE HOW BLESSED
YOU TRULY ARE



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Note to self...

God knows what He is doing in
my life even if I don't
understand what He is doing.
He promises to be with me
and never leave. He is working
even when He seems distant
or silent

Photo by Jeffery Alexander for The Rocker Member by Devlin Jay