



The EPISTLE

From Diane & Todd

Dear People of St. Paul's,

Jesus said, "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." (Mark 2.21-22)

These metaphors of Jesus aren't advice to tailors or wine makers. They are illustrations to the faithful, and portray the faith that has been instilled in God's people from the first generation. Why do Jesus' followers not practice the old ways of fasting, like John the Baptist's followers? Because, Jesus says, when the new comes, something new, something different, is expected to happen. Don't expect old (continued on Page 2)

Bench Notes

In a little talk I gave on Choir Commissioning Sunday, I put forward that the hymns we sing and the anthems we hear are stories and statements of our faith, just as what we hear from the Lectern and Pulpit. As we move through Lent, take a moment before our liturgy begins to read the hymns of the day and use those for your opening prayer and meditation. "The glory of these forty days" (Hymnal 143) is especially strong in the stories (continued on Page 3)



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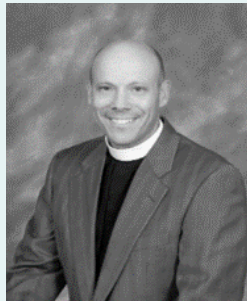
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
a parish of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

From Diane & Todd *(continued from Page 1)*



Rev. Dr. Diane Vie



Rev. Todd Vie

ways of God's interaction with his people, as they waited for God to come and speak, or perform signs and wonders for them. In fact, in Jesus, the kingdom of God is here. Something new has in fact happened, and nothing will be the same.

In the season of Lent, we don't focus on our shortcomings as much as on our potential. We don't focus so much on our lack of faith, as the faith that we seek to increase. We don't focus so much on our spiritual weakness, as on the power of God to reshape us, reform us, more closely into the image in which we were created, which is in the image of God Himself. The reason we intentionally examine our lives, our hearts, our relationships, our faithfulness, our spiritual practices in Lent is because we are constantly in a state of transition, from who we were, to who we are called and gifted to be. We can be so much more than we have become, and we can become so much more than we can imagine. We should not want to remain as we are, which is to remain forever as we were. We should not put a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak. We should not put new wine into old wineskins.

"We can be so much more than we have become, and we can become so much more than we can imagine."

In this Epistle you will find ways to engage during Lent. In addition, parishioners have put together a Lenten devotional booklet that will be available for you to use as you prepare and reflect during this most holy of seasons. Welcome to a Holy Lent.

Faithfully,
Diane+ and Todd+





Bench Notes *(continued from Page 1)*

It tells. Notice In stanza 4, “Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spirits strengthen with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.” I challenge you to discover this hymn’s stories and then read the text, “O sorrow deep!” (Hymnal 173). The pain and anguish conveyed by the hymn writers is extraordinary and only touches the surface of what must have been felt by those who witnessed the crucifixion. But, how can we sing, “Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,” without first experiencing that anguish of, “O sorrow deep!”? And how much more powerful does the Easter Proclamation become when we also plunge into the depths of, “O sorrow deep!”?

We think of Lent as “Forty days and forty nights,” just like the hymn says. We think of “The glory of these 40 days ‘celebrated’ with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed,” just like the hymn says. But, for me, I’m not sure how much that really means. I have, for more years than I like to count, heard the stories about the temptation of Christ in the wilderness and all those other Lenten things which come up each year, and it always felt a little odd. Once we pass Passion Sunday all of that goes right out of our mind, and yet we face temptations (maybe not quite so intense) almost every day of the year. Lent really isn’t just forty days and forty nights, and Easter isn’t just one day. We experience “little Lents and Easters” every day of our lives. The admonition of the Lenten hymn, “Now let us all with one accord, in company with ages past, keep vigil with our heavenly Lord in his temptation and his fast,” is something we should carry with us, just as we carry the joy, “Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,” with us, each and every day.

-Sumner Jenkins



Sumner Jenkins
Organist & Choirmaster

St. Pauls’ Choirs Rehearsal Schedule

Bell Choir
Monday @ 4pm

Adult Choir
Thursday @ 7pm

Choristers
Sunday @
11:45am

Upcoming Celtic Evening Prayer & Communion

(Dates subject to change)

March 3, 2019
May 5, 2019

Reflections on the 100th Convention of the

Bootie Thelin

This year was the second Convention I have attended as an elected Delegate for St. Paul's. They say that anniversaries ending in zeros are very special. This Convention was certainly that and then some. Following are some of the Convention highlights, as I saw them.

The Friday business session opened with Dwelling in the Word by reading a passage from the Gospel of Luke. This practice involves reading a passage of Scripture and listening to others as to where God is nudging us and it is an exercise near and dear to my heart.

There was little business that the Delegates had to vote on this year but, of course, we had to pass the 2019 Diocesan budget. Thank you to our own Deacon Bill Bumgarner and his team for making this painless.

The Festival of Holy Eucharist held at St Andrew's Catholic Church on Friday night, with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as the Celebrant, was a beautiful service. It is the kind of Episcopal service that makes me so proud to be a member of this community. And Friday dinner afterward at the hotel with our St. Paul's delegation was such wonderful fellowship...the real reason why I committed to being a Delegate!

The Lynchburg Convocation Hospitality Room is always a highlight! This is where all the delegates from our Convocation gather before and after dinner to enjoy each other's company and I always make new friends! Thank you Jim Ackley for coming up with this brilliant idea for the Annual Conventions.

The Saturday morning keynote speakers were amazing. We started with Martha Bourlakas who spoke before her husband, Mark, our diocesan Bishop. She is one powerful speaker and incredibly funny! We are so blessed to have this couple leading our diocese. Bishop Mark followed with an excellent review of the history of the Southwestern Diocese from its beginnings. Presiding Bishop Curry rounded out the group, and he was just wonderful. His stories of becoming a beloved community are so powerful, so much fun and so enjoyable to listen to and become a part of. Our St. Paul's office sent a link to view videos of these keynote addresses. You will enjoy listening to each of these and I encourage you to do so.

Saturday afternoon I participated in the Gainsboro Neighborhood Pilgrimage, a walk led by Bishop Curry. This walk took place in the Gainsboro neighborhood located within walking distance of the Hotel Roanoke. Before we left for the walk, we had an excellent orientation led by Jason Bell of exactly what happened in this neighborhood area from the 1940s through the 1970s. His parents, grandparents, and great grandparents were greatly affected, and uprooted, by all the "racial cleansing" (burning of homes and churches) during that period. Today, there is much work being done to rectify this terrible racial injustice. It was an eye-opening experience and gave me an entirely new view on a still very painful part of our history with the African American community.

The Sunday Revival and Holy Eucharist was all they said it would be and more! I got there early enough to be about 12 rows back - on one side I enjoyed the company of fellow St. Paul's members, Cham, Edie and Lisa Light, while on the other side was an 80 year old couple from Staunton who were not



ST. PAUL'S DELEGATES

2019

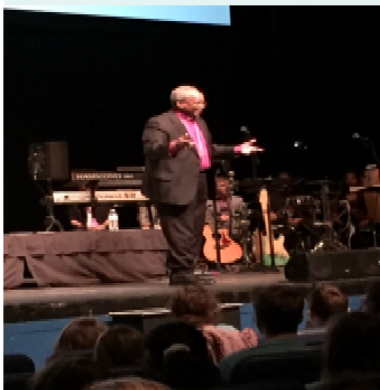
Rod Meek, *Head Delegate*
Jim Ackley

2020

Richard Greene
Anne "Bootie" Thelin

2021

Andrea Bain
Mac Frankfort



Episcopal Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Episcopalians, but came to see what it was all about. The music and service were perfect. Bishop Curry delighted all 2,500+ with his command of the Scriptures and story-telling brilliance. His message of love and how to spread that love will never get old and is something we are all being called to live by. And the icing on the cake was to be served communion twice in one weekend by Bishop Curry. What a treat!

It was certainly another treat to walk around Hotel Roanoke all weekend and constantly run into Bishop Curry...at the coffee shop, at the gym, at lunch and dinner. Just a regular Bishop out and about!

Jim Ackley

It was an honor and privilege to represent St. Paul's as a Delegate to the annual Convention of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia in Roanoke in January. This was a particularly special gathering because it was the 100th anniversary of the creation of our Diocese and afforded us an opportunity to reflect on our past, celebrate our current status, and look to our future with excitement and reinvigorated purpose. In addition to the presence of our dynamic Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, it was especially nice to have former Diocesan Bishops Heath Light and Neff Powell with us for the weekend. This was my tenth convention and it was, by far, the least quarrelsome I've ever attended which is testament to the excellent shape in which the Diocese finds itself.

St. Paul's-Lynchburg got some very good news and recognition when the Diocese confirmed that it, too, finds St. Paul's in excellent shape and, even more exciting, growing! It was exciting to learn that because of our remarkable continued parish growth, the Diocese has increased the number of delegates we will be able to send to Convention from the current five to seven! This will make our future delegations among the largest at Convention and recognizes the successes we've had at St. Paul's. Additionally, throughout the weekend, there was a definite increased presence of St. Paul's parishioners in attendance at Convention activities, which bodes well for our Vestry's responsibility to appoint the additional delegates to future Conventions, as well as to St. Paul's parishioners' active participation on many important Diocesan committees and boards.

A highlight of the 2019 Convention was most certainly the unique Sunday morning Revival held at the Berglund Center Theatre. The revival service used the traditional Episcopal Eucharist service as its base but incorporated more contemporary music and prayers in a very non-traditional atmosphere to the delight of an enthusiastic overflow crowd that included hundreds of non-Episcopalians. Bishop Curry's inspiring, stirring sermon was certainly the highlight of the service which was the perfect ending to a memory-filled weekend.

As the Diocese begins its second century and St. Paul's takes its place as one of the leaders of the Diocese in all aspects, I hope even more of our parishioners will begin to get involved in the many Diocesan activities held throughout the year.

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THE VESTRY

2019

Sue Ellen Inman, *Senior Warden*
Andrew Proctor, *Junior Warden*
Jen Brestel
Mitch Garbee

2020

Andrea Bain
Lee Pat Kelleher
Turner Perrow
Ron Thelin

2021

Mac Frankfort
Kristen Honeycutt
James Peery
Louise Williams

Connie Schieck, *Secretary*

Steve Baldwin, *Treasurer*



Lenten Events

March 5
Mardi Gras(6 PM)
Undercroft

March 6
Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes
& Holy Eucharist
(12 PM and 6 PM)

March 13
March 20
March 27
April 3
April 10
Lenten Program
(5:30 PM)
Lenten Dinner
(6:30 PM)
Undercroft

Financial Update

As reported at the annual meeting, St. Paul's finished 2018 on a positive note with pledged receipts totaling \$399,764 or 100% of budget. Other highlights from 2018 include:

- * Budget surplus of \$26,718 from pre-paid 2019 pledges
- * \$91,904 disbursed to mission projects
- * \$345,377 cash balance at 12/31/18, \$87,096 non-directed
- * \$2,490,396 investment fund balance compared to \$2,681,086 @ 12/31/17
- * Choir loft and Carriage house HVAC replacement completed.

You should have received your 2018 contributions statement by now. If you did not receive or are missing yours, please let us know!

The 2018 Stewardship Campaign has now ended with 126 pledges totaling \$381,045 compared to 133 pledges totaling \$400,779 for 2018. We have adjusted our budget to ensure that it balances, but we are becoming over reliant on other sources of income to cover our expenses. Please consider renewing or starting your new pledge today.

The 2019 approved budget anticipates total receipts of \$689,781 resulting in a balanced budget. Budgeted expenses are rising but do not address our needs in maintaining our facilities. Your inquiries are always welcome.

Parish Snapshots (photo credit: Siobhan Byrns)





History Notes

Blanche Rosalie Slaughter was born in 1876 in Lynchburg and was raised along with her six siblings by parents, John Flavel Slaughter and Mary Harker Slaughter in a home on the present site of St. Paul's church. Ms. Slaughter was later married to George B. Morton, Jr. in 1905, in the current St. Paul's sanctuary.

Earning her medical degree from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1897, Dr. Morton was awarded two of the three honors available to her graduating class. She went on to become a pioneer in the fields of surgery and women's health.

Dr. Morton served in European field hospitals during World War I, receiving nine decorations for her service and later, as chair of the Medical Women's National Association's War Services Committee, lobbied for the equal recognition of male and female physicians in war service.

Dr. Morton organized the first work of the American Medical Association (AMA) for disease prevention and became the first chair of the Public Health Education Committee of the AMA in 1909. In 1912, Dr. Morton became one of the first women faculty members at the New York Polyclinic Hospital and Post-Graduate Medical School and in 1916, she became the

first woman faculty member at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. A humanitarian, Dr. Morton championed the cause of international health and founded the American Women's Hospital in Europe in 1918. She also served with the International Serbian Educational Conference.

Among the recognitions Dr. Morton received over her career were the Cross of Czar Nicholas II, the Joan of Arc medal, and the Conspicuous Service Cross. The AMA presented her with a special award in 1934 for her work establishing the American Women's Hospitals. A tree commemorating Dr. Morton's patriotic service was planted in Central Park, New York and both a street and a park in Belgrade, Serbia are named in her honor. Dr. Morton passed away in Winter Park, Florida in 1968 at the age of 96.

In the coming months, a historical marker will be unveiled on Clay Street across from St Paul's recognizing Dr. Morton's achievements. A brief presentation about Dr. Morton's life and accomplishments will be presented in the sanctuary at St. Paul's prior to the unveiling of the marker. Watch the Sunday Epistle for more information.

Sources:

Changing the Face of Medicine. https://cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_231.html
Faces of AMWA. <https://www.amwa-doc.org/faces/rosalie-slaughter-morton/>
American Women Physicians in World War I. <https://www.amwa-doc.org/wwibios/dr-rosalie-slaughter-morton/>



Easter Week Events

April 14
Palm Sunday

April 18
Lamb Dinner (6 PM)
Holy Eucharist &
Stripping of the Altar
(7 PM)

April 19
Good Friday Service
(12 PM)
Stations of the Cross
(5:30 PM)

April 20
The Great Easter Vigil
(7 PM)

April 21
Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist
(8 AM and 10:30 AM)

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Looking Ahead

For a complete listing of Lenten events, see Page 6. For a complete listing of all calendar events, please visit our website.

March 3	Men Who Cook Breakfast (9:30 AM)
March 3	Celtic Evening Prayer (5:00 PM)
March 5	Mardi Gras (6:00 PM)
March 15	Organ Concert—Diane Meredith Belcher (5:30 PM)
March 21	Vestry Meeting
April 21	Easter Sunday— <i>No Sunday School</i>



The **EPISTLE**

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