



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## OCTOBER 2017

### SERVICES

9:00 A.M. - Sunday School  
10:00 - Worship Services

#### OCTOBER 1

##### HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rev. Eric Anderson  
Lay Reader: Sam French  
Altar Guild: Kate French

#### OCTOBER 8

##### HOLY EUCHARIST

The Rev. Eric Anderson  
Lay Reader: Don Kiefer  
Altar Guild: Sheryl Kiefer

#### OCTOBER 15

##### POT LUCK & BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEETING

##### MORNING PRAYER

Lay Reader: John Tarver  
Altar Guild: Becky Tarver

#### OCTOBER 22

##### EUCCHARIST

The Rev. Canon Bill Fasel  
Lay Reader: Sam French  
Altar Guild: Becky Tarver

#### OCTOBER 29

##### EUCCHARIST

The Rev. Eric Anderson  
Lay Reader: Kate French  
Altar Guild: Kate French

### A Word from the Bishop's Warden

Once again I forgot to write the Warden's message for the news letter.

Fall is here and is probably my favorite season. Now through New Year is the busiest time of the year. It is also when much of the business of the church is conducted. Don and Mark have already gone to meetings that culminate in the annual convention. Each person's faith is theirs alone. Even when they share it that is true. As members of a congregation, a denominations and a Church we also have a communal faith. What this looks like is what is decided at the annual convention. This should always be an amicable process but is not. We all have opinions about how things should be done....be tolerant. We will always have our differences..... thank God for that is what makes us individuals. The thing that holds a community together? Love. We are told "love thy neighbor as you love yourself." So no matter how much busier we get as we go through this season, have love. Pray for Don and Mark who represent us on Nov 3-4 and all others taking part in our convention and others around the world.

The prayer for those participating that is found in the prayer book is:

"Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel [in the convention] for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*'

Wishing God's Peace for All,

John

### CHURCH INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 453 Clinton, MO 64735

GPS Address: 181 East Division Clinton, MO 64735

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Bill Fasel; [fbillnerm@hotmail.com](mailto:fbillnerm@hotmail.com), 816-803-4010

Bishop Martin Field, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: John Tarver [tarverjohn1@gmail.com](mailto:tarverjohn1@gmail.com)

St. Paul's Website: <http://stpaulsepiscopal.diowestmo.org/>

NERM WEBSITE

<http://www.nermwestmo.org/home0.aspx>

### GARDEN PRODUCE

The garden is producing produce for church members and the extra is donated to the Samaritan Center in Clinton.



### DIOCESAN GROUP TO MEET AT ST. PAUL'S

The church will be in use, Saturday, Oct. 7 from 9:30-4:00, by the Christian Formation Commission.

### DEANERY & NERM MEETING

Due to Don being out-of-town, Mark Glatfelter will attend the Central Deanery Meeting in Independence on Oct. 21.

### LANDSCAPE PLANTS

The plants will be sprayed Monday, Oct. 2 in preparation for removal. Hope you got what you wanted!

### CHURCH MAINTENANCE

Repairs done and we have climate control again! Also, yet another plumbing issue has been repaired.



### DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Don will attend the Diocesan Council meeting October 14 in Springfield, MO.



#### BIRTHDAYS

1-**Barbara Crossley** - We miss you, Barbara! Have a Great Day!  
12-Emily Mehan  
17-Alyssa Gladfelter  
17-Greg Etter

#### ANNIVERSARIES

none

### DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2017

November 3 and 4 - Adams Pointe Conference Center, 1400 NE Coronado Drive, Blue Springs MO 64014



## VISIONING THE CHURCH

October 2017

Rev. Eric Anderson

I remember the home church of my youth. It was Saint Paul's Church in Lodi, California. I remember the altar of this church. It stood against the wall where the Pastors had their backs to the parishioners when they did the Eucharist. The altar was white wood and on the front of the altar there were two symbols the Alpha and the Omega; the Beginning and the End. These symbols have been on many altars where I have served as an ordained priest, and they been a constant reminder of my ministry.

It was in this church where I attended the three year catechism program from age eleven to thirteen and was confirmed. My confirmation program was not an easy task because I was a country kid and lived a half hour away from my church. The confirmation program took place every Wednesday afternoon. After the country Junior high school let out I would take a different school bus that brought me into the town of Lodi and I would study my catechism until my dad would pick me up on his way home from work. For my dad this was an extra hour of driving. However, when you grow up as a country kid and something as important as confirmation, one learns how to compromise and still get the farm chores and homework done.

I grew in my spiritual faith in these three years. I read the entire Bible; I asked questions, I wrote essays, I took test, and I remembered what I learned. Confirmation was not about answering question right it was about growing into adulthood in the Christian faith. This was not only a journey about me and God. It was a committed journey of a community, my friends who were on this confirmation journey. It was about committed adults who volunteered every week along with the pastors to run this program. It was also about school bus drivers, parents, and a church committed to rising up children to become adult members in the Christian faith. I truly suffer today with the knowledge that children and youth and their Christian leaders opted out of Church catechism and opted into social media and I-pads.

The Alpha years of my journey built the foundation of faith, I knew God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I knew them as Three in One, and as One in Three. Their love always surrounding, prayers and hymns always being heard and answered. I realized that regardless of where I was I was never alone because my body was a temple for the Holy Spirit and that meant where ever I went She was there with me too, and when I called out Jesus was there to answer. The most important spiritual learning of my Alpha years taught and showed me that God is Love and Salvation is real. As I have matured in the Christian faith the foundation remains sound and solid to support the wiser and deeper spiritual learning and knowledge of Jesus Christ. I can still remember saying throughout my life, "Christ is Risen Alleluia!" These words of faith still sing in my memory and life, and have only strengthened in my soul over time as we journey nearer to the Omega.

I think what made me begin thinking of the Alpha - Omega this month has been all the natural disasters happening in the world in the last few months. In the western United States we have

had the worse fire season in seven of the states. Mexico has been hit by two large earthquakes, once again famines and starvation are at an epidemic level in African nations, Texas and Florida were hit by two very destructive hurricanes and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands were hit by one of the most powerful recorded hurricanes. Then there are wars in the Middle East and rumors of hostilities between in N. Korea and the USA. Real lives have ended. People homes and possessions are lost. Communities, electricity, water supplies, communication and transportation lie in ruin. Nationalism and individualism are setting themselves up as the new message of religion even within the Church as well as in society.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is talking with his disciples about the signs of the end of the Age. Jesus tells his disciples, "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, 'and will deceive many". These people will tell you what the Bible says, they will judge who God accepts and rejects, and they will proclaim false teachings. Jesus goes on and says, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nations will rise up against nations and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All of these are the beginning of the birth pains".

Jesus goes on to state, "Then they will hand you over to be prosecuted and put you to death and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. Because the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold, but the ones who stand firm will be saved. And this gospel will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

As I think of the Alpha - Omega, I see all of us on a journey somewhere on that dash that separates the two from the beginning and the end, or another way to think of this time is to say we stand in the in-between time. I feel these signs have been with us throughout ancient time, but the tick of the metronome in earlier times ticked slower. As a person who studies history and Scriptures, it feels like the tick of the metronome ticks much faster today. We as Christians have a message to share and proclaim with the whole world. A message for those of us who have taken the Holy Eucharist know this message very well; Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

A passage from the Book of Revelation supports what Jesus is telling us in the Gospel of Matthew. In chapter 12 it is written, "And there was war in heaven. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser (Satan) of our brothers who accuses them before our God day and night, have been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short."

The title of this priest letter is "Visioning the Church". The Church of the past as well as the Church of today has failed many through its exclusion of others and in valuing buildings, grounds, salary, bishops' and priests' retirement packages more than in valuing the soul of every individual and preparing people for the cost of discipleship and guiding us on picking up our cross and following Jesus. The message is about the Resurrection and salvation. When Jesus teaches Nicodemus, Jesus says, "No one can see the kingdom of heaven of God unless he is born again." Jesus goes on and says, "I tell you the truth no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he has been born of water and the spirit. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through him." Every day we need to live into our baptismal covenant as though it is new each and every morning.

Even in Jesus' life time his own chosen leaders got His message wrong until they truly received the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Prior to this time their spiritual eyes and ears and hearts were shut. The image of Christ and my ministry follow the passage in Matthew that we read in August. Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion on them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place and the hour is now late; send the crowds away... Jesus said they need not go away." How often do church leaders not act Christ-like with compassion and curing the sick of mind, body, and spirit? How often the spiritually hungry, thirsty, and oppressed are sent away by church leaders without a thought to those needs? Often I have found that the Church's earthly answer to spiritual questions is: send him or her or the crowd away!

Visioning the Church is to recognize it is formed on all our heart and soul through the Scriptures, Traditions, Reasons, and Experiences. The Church is everyone who strives for justice and peace, and respects the dignity of every human being. The Church is to seek and serve the two natures of Christ in all persons, meaning we are to seek and serve both the risen and suffering Christ in all persons. The Church is where we are to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. This means every breath and thought will be spent on proclaiming this Good News. The Church is when we persevere in resisting evil and whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord. The Church is when we continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers. The Church is you and your soul where the Holy Spirit makes Her temple. To vision the Church differently is not to be honestly and truthfully visioning the Church.

In the visioning the Church I like to end with the prayer for Proper 20.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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