



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

November 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 3
HOLY EUCHARIST - ALL SAINT'S
The Rev. Mike Kyle
Lay Reader - Sam French

NOVEMBER 10
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter

NOVEMBER 17
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mike Kyle
LAY READER - Don Kiefer

NOVEMBER 24
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Kirsten HOCKADAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

It's wonderful to be home and back with everyone this past Sunday! I feel like we have done so much traveling this fall, and we have missed being at St. Paul's. Our church is so loving and such a support for all of us, and we are so glad to have Fr. Mike back with us. We will all continue to keep him in our prayers that his pain monster stays under control!

While in Colorado, my sister introduced me to a Netflix series *Nobody Wants This*, a romantic comedy where an agnostic podcaster meets a young Jewish rabbi and they begin to fall in love. Their wildly different lives, faith differences, and un-supporting families are obstacles to be overcome. The rabbi gradually introduces her to different Jewish customs. One is Shabbat, the time from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, the Jewish Day of Rest. In a nod to the modern world, he explains that they turn off their phones and concentrate on spending time with their families and those they love as they remember the Creation Story where God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The timing for the end of Shabbat is when the first three stars are visible in the night sky, just after sundown. It is followed by Havdalah, a ceremony that marks the transition from Shabbat to the new week.

I found myself drawn to that idea of turning off our phones and turning to our families and those we love, a time to reconnect and simply enjoy being together. It reminded me of Fr. Jay Sidebotham's column where he quoted a blessing by Swiss poet and philosopher Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881) that reminds us to number our days as life flies by.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

GPS Address: 1837 E Hwy 7 Clinton, MO 64735

Bishop Provisional, The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop's Warden: Kate French, kfrench357@gmail.com

St. Paul's Email: st.pauls.clinton@gmail.com

Life is short and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God be with you.

The blessing starts with the reality-check that life IS short, and it reminds us to live our limited time in loving kindness. And not just to our family members, though we often fall short in our homes and lose our tempers there. We are reminded to extend that loving kindness outside the doors of our homes to those with whom we may disagree or maybe do not like, or maybe with whom we feel we have little in common.

Founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley (1703-1791), had a rule of life that is similar, but even more direct. He said,

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

It certainly all tied together when Fr. Mike reminded us that we are blessed and loved by God, and our job is to carry that love into the world around us, offering love and hope to all with whom we come into contact. We can share the goodness and love of God in our lives, and bring encouragement with us into a world that is sometimes filled with despair. As Teresa of Avila (Saint Teresa of Jesus, 1515-1582) said,

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Isn't it amazing how quotes like these transcend the centuries? And now today we can remember the quote from our own Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, 'If it's not about love, it's not about God.'

May we live in love and live our lives seeking to do God's will,



Kate.

HEALING SERVICE: Fr. Mike will be with us **THIS SUNDAY November 3rd** for All Saints Day. We will also have laying on of hands for healing after the service.

HOME BLESSING: Fr. Mike will also go to Sandy Meier's new home for a Home Blessing after church next Sunday. We are all invited to attend. **Sandy, we are so glad you have moved here and are a part of our church.**

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Kirsten Hockaday, Diane Dungey, Ruana Gladfelter, and Kate French will serve on this committee and bring back recommendations for a memorial gift from the money donated by Fr. Leed's family, and to select a memorial gift for Susan Livingston. **A reminder to contact a committee member if you have any ideas.**

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

ASSESSMENT: The Diocesan Council will be working with Faith X to conduct a Congregational Vitality Assessment survey of all churches. It is looking at where we all feel we are strong and where we could benefit from diocesan support. It is only designed to be positive and a tool for awareness, not to identify congregations that are small and struggling. Many of the churches in our diocese are small but mighty. We are all doing God's work where we are planted.

Please look over the areas the survey will cover. We will rate ourselves on a scale of 1-4 in 1) vision, mission, and discernment; 2) lay engagement and empowerment; 3) context awareness and inclusion; 4) change readiness; 5) dealing with differences and conflict; 6) worship; 7) spiritual life; 8) formation, education, and training; 9) outreach; 10) leadership and organization; 11) stewardship. Be thinking 😊.

CHURCH INSURANCE CLAIM: Some of our siding is coming loose, and we have contacted the Church Insurance Group to file a claim. Don has met with an adjuster and Bill Skaggs, who would head up the work. We will let you know when we hear from them.

SOCIAL MEDIA: Kirsten Hockaday and Diane Dungey are meeting with our Communications Director, Zach Phillips, to see how we can make better use of our webpage and our Facebook page to increase our community presence. Hopefully you will see something posted soon!

GRANT UPDATE: Our property grant has been submitted and we are now in a waiting stage. Fr. Galen Snodgrass and Fr. Tim Coppinger were very helpful in how to do it. It is so helpful to have larger churches willing to help us.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION: The Convention will be held November 8 and 9 at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. It will be live streamed through the Diocesan web site if anyone would like to watch. The election of our new bishop will begin about 10:30 Saturday morning. Don will be representing St. Paul's. When the same person wins a majority of clergy and lay voters in the same round, we will have a new bishop. Those who viewed the MOdiologues (still on the web site) either in person and on-line seem to think all candidates are good. If you have thoughts, please share them with Don. We will see where the Holy spirit leads us. Please keep the candidates and those who will be voting in prayer:

O Creator God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on us in the Diocese of West Missouri and guide us as we discern our call of a new bishop.

O Jesus, be present in our discernment, and lead us to a shepherd who will invite us to live out the Gospel every day.

O Holy Spirit, inspire us with your wisdom, and kindle our hearts with the fire of your love, that we may be renewed as we prepare to welcome the ministry of our next bishop.

This we ask trusting in You. Amen.

PRAYER LIST:

Healing: Fr. Mike, Augusta Hockaday, Kitty, Tina, Don, Linda White, Kathy, Steve Scheline. Tom Clark, Olivia Lim, Sidney Harrington, Gail, Cathy S., Mark, Baby William

Cancer: Heather C. Mitch Meier, Christy, Judy Edwards, Pat, Micheal, Candy McAvoy, the Rev. Jenny Ketner

Comfort, Strength, and Peace: Gail Cloutte, Pat Decker, Ruth Kindall, Doug Johnson, Kathy and Mike, Christy and Diane, Sue Hughes, Christopher, Zaha

Thanksgiving: Family, friends, God's many blessings

Others: Peace in the world, those affected by national disasters, those affected by gun violence, Zaha near fighting in Isreal.

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

15 - Rick Miller

