



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

December 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 1
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Sam French

DECEMBER 8
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mike Kyle
Lay Reader - Kirsten Hockaday

DECEMBER 15
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Don Kiefer

DECEMBER 22
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Kate French

DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE @ 5:00 P.M.
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mike Kyle
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter

DECEMBER 29
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Sam French

A Message from the Bishop's Warden



Happy New Year! The Episcopal Church calendar is starting again with Advent. Once again, our vestments will be in purple (or blue in some churches) as a sign of preparation and anticipation, and we will be lighting candles on the Advent wreath made by Bob Crossley, hearing readings on hope, peace, joy, and love. We join many other faith traditions in celebrating Advent, a time set apart as a season of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of the birth of Christ.

Sometimes it is frustrating not to be singing Christmas carols as the rest of the world does, but our Advent hymns reflect expectation and hope for the birth of the Messiah. We remember the words, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:16,17). We prepare, and we celebrate the birth of this most precious gift to us all.

When Fr. Mike was with us last week we had the wonderful experience of a House Blessing. Fr. Mike tied it all together with some mini-lessons based on the translation of the original Hebrew and Greek words in our scriptures. You may remember that Daniel 12:1 began with "At that time Michael, the great prince (the archangel who does battle with evil)), the protector of your people, shall arise." The words translated **protector** and **shall**

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

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arise are related in Hebrew. Now OUR protector, who is Jesus, has arisen. (Interestingly, the word *arise* in Greek also has to do with resurrection!)

Fr. Mike pointed out words in Psalm 16 for us also to consider. Verse 1 says “Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you.” Protection brings hope, and refuge is shelter, so God provides hope, protecting and sheltering us as we go through life.

Verse 6 says, “My boundaries enclose a pleasant land.” Our boundaries, the “lines” around us, wall in a “pleasantness,” a pleasant land. As Fr. Mike said, a place “we can slip away, a place of shelter and protection.” A home, a place of shelter and protection. What a lovely thought.

At the conclusion of his sermon, Fr. Mike told us that the “blessing of a house is so wonderful as it turns a house into a HOME.” Truly a place of shelter and protection that we can slip away to and escape the pressures of the world. A place blessed by God. We left mindful of the many blessings we have been given by God, and we joined in celebration with Sandy with a beautiful House Blessing with prayers for the entry and for each room. We were treated to wonderful refreshments and a time of fellowship! Thank you, Sandy and Fr. Mike, for an experience we will all remember.

Sandy, we are so glad to have you with us and we look forward to our many years serving together as the “hands and feet of Christ.”

In Christ's love,

Kate

WE HAVE A NEW BISHOP!

The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux was elected as the IX Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of West Missouri at the 135th Annual convention on the FIRST BALLOT. This WAS historic as it has never happened before!



She was overwhelmingly elected by both clergy and lay branches. The Holy Spirit has joined us all together in this selection. We pray for her, her husband, and her three children as they make this transition in their lives.

Amy comes to us from Little Rock, Arkansas, where she is currently Dean and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

There is a livestream on the Diocesan web page. You have to fast forward past the eucharist and election, but you can see the enthusiastic response to the election results, and see and hear her as she joins the convention after her formal acceptance. It was a time of JOY!!

BIRTHDAYS

1- Christy Tumberger.

15-Don Kiefer

26-Tom Carpenter

ANNIVERSARIES

28-Kurt and Linn

Gretzinger

UP-COMING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES:

Mthr Anne is offering a Bible Study on zoom covering the Gospel of Luke. The class is at 6:00 on Wednesday evenings. You can feel free to join in at any time. Please text her at 417-252-1264 and she will send you the zoom link.

Cannon Shirley Bolden is offering another book study as part of the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission. The book is Black AF History by Michael Harriot. I think we will learn new history. It will begin Dec.5, 2024, and continue until Jan. 16, 2025, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM, not meeting on December 26th or Jan. 2nd. Her email is shirleybolden727@gmail.com. Email her and she will send you the zoom link!

We can give thanks for the miracle of technology which offers us these opportunities to meet and study with other people through ZOOM and gives us a chance to see our new bishop-elect greet us at convention!

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

😊. We will begin this after the new year.

HISTORY UNCOVERED:

Sam was working at the Museum the other day and found a picture of our old church and dates connected with it! What a treasure! Thank you, Sam!

Fr. Chandler Jackson, archivist of the diocese, has found evidence of activity in Clinton as early as 1875!! I wonder if we were one of the churches established by Bishop Kemper?

BLESSING OF SANDY MEIER'S NEW HOME

Sunday, November 17, The Rev. Mike Kyle and members of the congregation gathered at Sandy's new house for a blessing. It was great weather and Sandy was a lovely hostess! We joined in the blessing and enjoyed a delicious buffet that Sandy made.



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, Connie Scott, David Scott

Cancer: Heather C., 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, Christopher, Connie and David Scott, 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.