



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

February 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 2
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mike Kyle
Lay Reader - Sam French

FEBRUARY 9
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Don Kiefer

FEBRUARY 16
HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Mike Kyle
LAY READER - Kate French

FEBRUARY 23
MORNING PRAYER
Lay Reader - Ruana Gladfelter

A Message from the Bishop's Warden



January flew by, especially with no services two Sundays in a row with snow and ice. We are starting February off with a bang with our **Annual Meeting and Potluck on February 2!** The following weekend I will be at the Diocesan Council/Standing Committee joint yearly retreat. A lot of planning goes on at that meeting. Bishop-elect Amy Meaux will be with us so she can be involved. I am sure we will be hearing much more about the Congregational Vitality Assessment we will all be doing. There is a **meeting at the Cathedral on February 22** with Bishop Skelton who designed this program. If I am supposed to be there, I will be attending. I ask you to prayerfully consider if perhaps you **feel moved to go with me**. I really would like someone else to understand this with me.

....Important news continued on next page

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

Dear Friends in Christ,
I am reading Luke, and in Luke 9:46-48, I read words that smacked me in the face. The disciples were arguing on who was the greatest, and Jesus **“took a little child and had him stand beside him. Then he said to them, ‘Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.’”** Children were among the marginalized back then. They didn’t hold a place of much value. As did the widowed and orphaned, other marginalized groups Jesus often tells us to love.

This is a message of love and caring we hear throughout scripture. And it is a message we certainly hear in our baptismal promises. While widows and orphans and children in general are not necessarily the marginalized anymore, we have many single parents and young children who can be marginalized if they are poor, lacking money for food or housing security, and aren’t receiving the help they need to thrive. How we are to treat those with whom we share this world is certainly addressed in our baptismal covenant when we are asked and answer:

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will with God’s help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will with God’s help.

In Luke 9:51-56, Jesus calls us to forgive— the story was something else that jumped out at me. Jesus and his disciples had been rejected at a Samaritan village, and as they left, James and John asked, **‘Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?’ But Jesus turned and rebuked them.** Obviously revenge and punishment was not what Jesus wanted. But too many times it is what some in society go after.

Bishop Diane brought these words from Matthew 22:37-40 to our attention in her recent letter. **“Jesus said, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and**

with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

All this has made me think. Life does get us thinking, doesn’t it? I am sure God wants us to think as we go through our lives and not just be on autopilot. Surely He want us to think about how He loves us, and how we can reflect His love in all we do as we reach out into the world around us. May we be the hands and feet of Christ to all who need loving support.

Love in Christ,

Kate

UP COMING CALENDAR DATES:

February 2 – Annual meeting and potluck

February 22 – Meeting at the cathedral on Congregational Vitality

February 24 – Fr. Mike’s surgery

Fr. Mike’s birthday -- We pray he has the gift of a successful surgery!

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Bishop Diane will be here for a noon imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday

March 16 – Bishop Diane’s Annual Visitation at 10:00 AM

Bishop Diane’s Central Deanery reception at St. Paul’s from 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

Eucharist followed by a party.

We are responsible for plates, silverware, and drinks, and any decorations we wish. Sheryl has graciously agreed to head this up for us. The diocese will provide meats, mac and cheese, and veggie and fruit trays; attendees will bring potluck dishes, including desserts.

May 3 – Consecration of the IX Bishop Diocesan Amy Dafler Meaux of the Diocese of West Missouri at the cathedral. Time to be announced as planning continues.

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PRAYER LIST:

Healing: Fr. Mike, Augustus Hockaday, Keith, Ruana, Kitty, Tina, Don, Linda White, Kathy, Steve Sheline, Olivia Lim, Sidney Harrinton, Gail C., Cathy S., Mark, Connie Scott, David Scott, Katie

Cancer: Heather C., Christy, Pat, Michael, Cindy McAvoy, the Rev. Jenny Ketner, Debbie M., Suzanne

Comfort, Strength, and Peace: Gail Cloutte, Pat Decker, Ruth Kindall, Doug Johnson, John, Christy and Diane, Kathy and Mike, Christopher, Connie and David, Steve Sheline, Zaha in Israel, Becky Tarver, Donna Brashears

Departed: Judy Mason Edwards, Darla VanWinkle, Donna Sheline

Others: Peace in the world, those affected by national disasters of hurricanes and flooding, those affected by the wildfires in California, those affected by gun violence, those facing personal challenges

Thanksgiving: Family, friends, God’s many blessings in our lives, including Christy’s labs

CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY:

Be gathering your thoughts on the eleven areas. How do we 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.

BIRTHDAYS.	ANNIVERSARIES
11-Linn Gretzinger	none
24-Mike Kyle	
29-Becky Tarver	