



The COMMUNICATOR

**St. Paul's Anglican Church
Crownsville, MD
Summer 2019**

Urgent message from Cathy Gates, Senior Warden

As many of you already know, Fr. Tom suffered a hemorrhagic stroke Sunday, August 11 before church. He was ultimately airlifted to Shock Trauma University Hospital in Baltimore where they performed surgery Sunday night. Linda and both sons, Matt and Steve have been at Fr. Tom's side non-stop.

As of Friday, August 16, Fr. Tom is awake and knows everyone and is responsive. In his attempts to talk some words are clear and understandable while others are gibberish and he gets very frustrated.

On the next page is a copy of the letter I received from Bishop Grundorf authorizing Fr. Wesley to perform all Priestly Sacramental Functions at St. Paul's. Fr. Eric will continue as Assisting Priest, and Fr. Thomas and Fr. Dennis will continue their duties as Deacons.

Many of you have asked what you can do. At this point prayer is what is needed. Down the road I'm sure there will be help we can give Linda and Fr. Tom, but for now continue to pray for Fr. Tom's recovery.

Cathy Gates
Senior Warden



Diocese of the Eastern United States
Anglican Province of America

The Most Reverend Walter H. Grundorf
Bishop Ordinary, Presiding Bishop
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Oviedo, FL 32765

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August 16, 2019

Mrs. Cathy Gates
2606 Running Wolf Trail
Odenton MD 2113-3642

via email: chgates1949@comcast.net

Dear Senior Warden Gates:

This letter is to authorize, by my Episcopal Authority, for the Reverend Wesley Walker to perform all Priestley Sacramental Functions at St Paul's Church, Crownsville, Maryland, beginning immediately.

Father Walker is a validly ordained priest, ordained in another jurisdiction, by a valid Bishop and provisionally licensed by me, pending his completion of our transfer process.

Under the unfortunate circumstances of the Rector Father Tom Burr's incapacitation, it is necessary to provide the above authorization to assure all the needs of the Parish are met. In addition, it is your responsibility as Senior Warden to assume the role of Administrator of the Parish.

We continue our earnest prayers for Father Tom's recovery and for the peace and comfort of his wife Linda and the family. All of the APA join in prayer for the St Paul's Church family for strength and courage during this difficult time.

Faithfully Yours,

The Most Rev. Walter H. Grundorf, D.D.
Bishop of the Diocese of the Eastern U.S.,
Presiding Bishop, Anglican Province of America

Cc: The Rev. Fr. Wesley Walker, Curate
The Rev. Fr. Eric Holle, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Mr. Thomas Houghton, Deacon
The Rev. Mr. Dennis Ryan, Deacon

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...



And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that *holy fellowship*, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in. (From the Prayer of Thanksgiving, BCP p. 83)

According to a recent Gallup Poll (2016 to 2018), 77% of Americans claim a religious identity but only 50% say they belong to a church or religious body. These percentages are down drastically from Gallup's 1998 to 2000 poll when 90% claimed a religious identity and 69% said they belonged to a church or religious body.

As church membership and attendance decline, our nation has experienced a severe negative change in our ability to live moral lives. Determining whether society's ever plummeting moral standards has caused this decline, or if lower attendance has caused the drop-in morality, is a question for others to decide. Whatever the cause, it is apparent to all that we have become polarized on many fronts to the extent that kindness for the good of all has become rare in our government, in our schools and to a degree, even in our churches.

In the midst of what seems like an age when more and more people discount the importance of God; and seeking wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit and practicing the love of God are rare; there is good news. The Traditional Anglican churches are growing in membership; and, St. Paul's is benefiting from this growth. Since the 1st of January, we have gained 20 new members and there are at least half that many more who are now regularly attending services but have not "officially" joined. And, I am truly excited about the tremendous opportunity for even greater growth among the younger families and individuals in our community through the efforts of our dynamic Curate, the Rev. Wesley Walker.

This demonstrates that while we cannot have much impact on the national statistics, we certainly can improve our area of the world by continuing to seek new folks and by the way we minister to them after they walk through our doors. Ministering to all visitors begins with a proper Christian welcome overflowing with the love of Christ. (i.e. Fr. Eric often greets new folks with the words "Welcome Home.") The Spring Communicator article addresses this topic in detail, so I will only add that warm greetings should be shared with everyone, not just the first-timers, and especially to those who are fairly new to our congregation.

After our new people are properly greeted, which is everyone's responsibility, the onus shifts to the clergy and all the lay ministers who prepare the altar, read the lessons, serve as acolytes, sing in the choir and administer the consecrated wine. Cathy Gates touched on this subject in her synod report during the announcements at all three services recently. When we repeat Christ's words, "Do this in remembrance of Me," during the Holy Communion services, we are expressing His desire for us to make Him present in our hearts, our minds and our souls.

In fact, that is what our Liturgy does; it makes our Lord present in the House of God we call St. Paul's. When we worship God giving Him reverence and glory and acknowledging his holiness, followed by preaching on the unchanging word of God, all of us, including those who are worshipping with us for the very first time, will feel His Presence. This is not new; our worship is

modelled after the first century Church; it is modelled after the Worship of the Apostles. This is what it means to be “Anglican.”

Being less formal during announcements, and a little levity during the sermons, can enhance a spirit of fellowship, which is also critical to church growth. Our recent “Worship in the Park” followed by our parish picnic gave proof to the power of fellowship, and the great benefit of having many members from each of our three services join in a common meal. Many of the record 118 who attended acknowledged the love and Christian joy that we shared by suggesting that we do this more often. (It has been said, “If you feed them, they will come!”)

Our next opportunity for joint fellowship will be September 8th at our “End of Summer Pot Luck. We are having just two services; Holy Communion at 8 and 9:30 am. The Pot Luck Luncheon will begin about 11 am in the parish hall.

This is a wonderful way to share a meal with friends who attend a different service, to make new friends, and especially, to welcome and grow closer to Fr. Wes, his lovely wife, Caroline, and their adorable son, Jude. I urge all to attend this time of fellowship so you can experience the many ways we have been blessed through our relationship with each other and through the addition of the Walker family to the St. Paul’s family.

God’s peace, love and blessings to all,

Fr. Tom+

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN, CATHY GATES...

“Grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 1:3)

I am humbled to be elected as the new Senior Warden at St. Paul’s Anglican Church. It is not a job I take on lightly and pray that God will give me the wisdom to lead our Parish down the path God has planned for us.

I want to introduce you to the new officers of the Parish. Pictured from left to right are, John Schulte-Jr. Warden, David Smith-Secretary, Cathy Gates-Sr. Warden (yes, I’m short!), and Johnson Waite-Treasurer.



This is an exciting time to be a member of St. Paul’s. First, your new officers and Vestry are excited to continue the good work done by our retiring officers. Second, Kathi Terlizzese-our Stewardship Chair, has given us a challenge to increase our membership from 258 to 300 by April 30, 2020. We’ve already gained 17 new members!

As you've heard or read, we have a new Curate, Fr. Wesley, joining us. He gives us the ability to develop additional educational programs for our teens, expand our adult education, increase our worship opportunities, and more. We are truly blessed; so, hold onto your hats we're moving forward for Christ!

My husband Dwight and I were privileged to attend Synod and I wanted to share some of my take-aways. Bishop Grundorf selected the theme "Working Together Reclaiming the World for Christ." Based on this, many of the presentations focused on meeting the needs of our current congregations while reaching the unchurched and bringing them into our church family. Following are some of the various ideas that were discussed at Synod. I think many of them we already do well, but we can always improve and develop additional ministries to serve our congregation.

Synod Summary

- The purpose of Synod is Worship, Business and Fellowship. I can't tell you how moving it is to participate in a meeting where Worship is at the core of everything we do.
- Four Keys for Sustainability

Liturgy – We must celebrate our traditions and faith. We must do everything with excellence, showing reverence for God in all things. This includes giving people the opportunity to prepare for worship in quiet and reverence.

Christian Education – In addition to knowing the Bible, it is very important for us to know our history and traditions – why we worship the way we do.

Spiritual Direction – means looking for God in all things, finding the image of God within us, and helping everyone have a heart yearning for God.

Fellowship – We are a community sharing life together. The keys to developing a church family are:

- Communication – making sure everyone knows what's going on and when.
- Community – making sure everyone feels they belong to our community and that their presence and participation is important to us all.
- Communion – assisting everyone to participate in the liturgical aspect of the church.

The APA is sponsoring a Holy Land Pilgrimage February 11-20, 2020. There are flyers on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall providing basic information and a website that will give you the details of the itinerary. If you want to touch the Sea of Galilee, ascend the Mount of Transfiguration, celebrate the Eucharist everywhere and pray Morning and Evening Prayer daily, carry a cross along the Via Dolorosa to Calvary, and simply walk in the footsteps of our Savior, then this pilgrimage is for you.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you" (1 Corinthians 16:23)

Cathy Gates, Sr. Warden

Welcome Fr. Wesley Walker, wife Caroline and their son Jude:

On August 4th, over 150 parishioners were in attendance to welcome Fr. Wesley at his first “official” services as St. Paul’s curate. Caroline and Jude will join us on Sunday, August 18th and we will gather to provide them a most warm welcome.

Fr. Wesley has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biblical Studies from Liberty University and is pursuing an STM (an advanced Master of Theology) from Nashotah House Seminary in Delafield, Wisconsin, which serves the greater Anglican Communion. Prior to coming to St. Paul’s, he served nearly three years as Curate at Christ Our Redeemer Anglican Church in Lynchburg, VA. He also co-hosts the popular Anglican podcast called The Sacramentalists.

As many of you know, he is warm and friendly, and an excellent communicator. He will be the preacher at all three services on August 18th so be sure to be present to hear his excellent message and to greet Caroline and Jude.



God has truly Blessed us,
Fr. Tom

FALL CONFIRMATION CLASS(ES):

Each year we offer confirmation classes for adults and/or children. If you would like to know more about our Anglican faith (even if you have already been confirmed), or if your child/children are ready for this class, please see, call or email Fr. Tom, or add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the nursery.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Every Sunday at 10:45, starting September 15th, Adult Education classes will be held in the Sunday School building behind the back parking lot of St. Paul's. In the past, topics have included Bible 101, early church history, spiritual gifts, and more. Suggested topics for this fall include, the study of angels, comparing the acts of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament to the New Testament, Bible 101, and a repeat look at spiritual gifts. The class leader is Anne Evans. She is open to suggestion. If you have a particular topic you would like to delve into, simply call her at 410-353-4659 or email ladyannem@mindspring.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE PREVIOUS SENIOR WARDEN, JACK WYATT

BISHOP COADJUTOR ELECTED AT 2019 APA, DIOCESE OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES SYNOD



The 51st Synod of the Diocese of the Eastern United States (DEUS) of the APA met in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 15-19, 2019, and was a resounding success. In an historic moment for the DEUS, the Rt. Rev. Chandler Holder Jones, was elected as Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese on the morning of July 18. Bishop Jones was elected Bishop Suffragan in 2010, while continuing to serve as Rector of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church, Dunwoody, Georgia. Once again with the election of a Bishop in the DEUS, a spirit of solidarity prevailed as prayers and good wishes for the election process were answered. Great camaraderie was shown by all present during the entire synod and the election. During the Synod Eucharist, Bishop Grundorf, Ordinary of the DEUS, gave a special blessing to Bishop Jones as he embarks on this new challenge in ministry. The 51st Synod was hosted by St. Alban's Cathedral, Oviedo, Florida, where the Very Rev. Ralph Waterhouse is Dean. The synod coordinator for this year was Mrs. Nancy Lloyd, a member of St. Alban's.

Bishop Jones has visited St. Paul's on a number of occasions and we look forward to his continued visits. We pray for his successful ministry and congratulate him on his election.

Jack

END OF SUMMER POT LUCK

**SEPTEMBER 8th after the 9:30 service. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW :)
BRING APPITIZER, SALAD, OR MAIN DISH. PLEASE BRING FOOD TO THE PARISH
HALL BEFORE YOU GO TO CHURCH. CHURCH WILL SUPPLY COFFEE, TEA, ICED
TEA AND A LARGE SHEET CAKE FOR DESSERT.**

THIS WILL BE A TIME TO ENJOY OTHER PARISHIONERS!!

CHOIR

Choir practice will resume September 11, at 6:45. Looking forward to some exciting and new performances with the choir this Fall! See you all soon, August always seem to fly by quickly!

Andrea Linnell

LADIES GUILD

Greetings and God's Blessing from the Ladies Guild of St. Paul's Anglican Church;

The Ladies Guild is a fellowship of all female members of the church. Our mission to be led by Christ, to love in Christ and to follow in Christ.

As the pictures show, we sponsored a Tea Party in June. It included delicious tea sandwiches and desserts, and wonderful fellowship. We'll do it again next year!

The ladies guild is committed to specific missions and outreach for the church and the surrounding community and has engaged in many activities during this past year. The Ladies guild supports the prayer shawl ministry, the garden fund, the St. Paul's Youth group, toiletries for Hope House, supplying food donations for NECON, sending out cards to those in our parish who are infirmed and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, scheduling the monthly cleaning of the parish hall kitchen, and assisting with coffee fellowship.

The ladies guild also supports the Anne Arundel Department of Health and Human Services, supplying a Thanksgiving dinner for an identified elderly individual and a Christmas dinner and presents for an identified family in need. The ladies guild sponsors the annual St. Paul's Craft Fair in April, the now annual tea party in June and the epiphany party in January, as well as arranging guest speakers to present relevant topics for all members of the church. The Ladies Guild also supports and arranges the bus tour to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster Pennsylvania each fall.

The Ladies Guild will be holding the third annual Day of Reflection at All Saints Convent in Catonsville on September 28, 2019; all women of the church are encouraged and welcome to attend, there is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

The members of the Ladies Guild would like to thank everyone for supporting our work and encourage all women of the church to attend our monthly meetings. The Ladies Guild meets one Saturday each month from 10-11, we look forward to seeing all who are able to attend.

Love in Christ,
Angela M. Mollette, President of the Ladies Guild

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

St. Paul's Prayer Shawl Ministry has been very busy working on shawls, blanket, book marks and our new project prayer squares and prayer shields. To date we have lovingly made well over 300 prayer shawls and blankets and close to 400 book marks. Our latest project seems to have caught the attention of and involved more members of St. Paul's Anglican Church than the other items.

We discovered that there is both a need and a desire for small either knitted or crocheted pieces approximately 5x7 that have a cross worked into the pattern. These particular pieces are made of cotton and bamboo yarn. Wool is way too hot and could cause an allergic reaction to



some. The bamboo is used to help wick away the moisture and synthetic yarn would melt if in the area of an explosion. They are all the same color, which is a beige. Once blessed at one of our church services each Shield is put into an envelope with the printed prayer on the outside which also states where it came from. They are then sent to the Special Forces of our military who are getting ready to ship out to the battlefields. These Prayer Shields will be tucked inside their helmets or into their uniform pockets. They will know that they are supported in prayer by the members of St. Paul's and that we are praying for their safety and guidance as they are in harm's way. We know that several military personnel who have seen them have asked for one so we know that they are giving comfort to those who are risking their lives for the freedom of our country. I think we have some 40 Shields made and ready to go for the first shipment.

If you or any one you know are interested in learning to make the shields please contact Dona Peters 410-747-0221 / petersstation@msn.com and she will see that you get the required yarn, needles and pattern. We want to make sure that all the shields are made alike.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every 2nd Wednesday from 1-3pm in the church hall. However September's meeting will be moved up to the first Wednesday, Sept. 4th. If you would like to join us please feel free to come. We can always use more moral support as well as help cutting fabric, punching holes for the shawl and blanket edges to be crocheted, sewing on labels etc.

If you know of anyone who would like a prayer shawl, blanket, bookmark or prayer square please let Dona or Jan Wyatt or Linda Burr know and we will be sure they get it.

There are several binders on the top of the cabinet under the TV in the parish hall that have photos of the group at work, touching thank you notes from those who have gotten one of our pieces and a book that has just some of the names of those who have received one. We encourage you to stop and take a look.

Fondly,
Dona Peters

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Evening Bible Study Group will study the book of Genesis starting on October 3. Study sessions will use the Life Guide Bible Studies Series and meet at 7-8:30 PM for 26 sessions with a midterm break after 13 lessons. A signup sheet for Study Group Members will be available starting August 25. Study books will be available in mid-Sept. for \$5.00.

If there is sufficient interest the times for our study sessions could be moved from the evening to earlier in the day.

Our Curate, Fr. Wesley, wrote his thesis about Hannah and Ishmael and so will assist us as we study Genesis.

In His service,
Hugh Seborg
410721-2108

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will recommence Friday Bible Study after Labor Day on September 6 at 10am to 11:30. We will be reading and discussing Mere Christianity by C.S Lewis. There is a sign up sheet next to the Nursery. If you need a copy of the book, please note that on the sign up sheet, and I will procure the books needed. Please come and join our lively discussions! **If you would like to know more, please call Fr. Thomas (410-647-1671 or tchoughton@aol.com) for more information.**

Fr. Thomas

ALTAR GUILD

The Ladies of the Altar Guild provide support for the clergy by taking care of the vessels and linens used in the Holy Communion and other services of the church. We have a monthly schedule so that all services (Holy Communion – 8 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; Morning Prayer – 9:15 a.m. – Holy Communion the 4th Sunday) can be covered by one or two persons. The schedule varies each month. Members are generally assigned to a specific service once or twice a month. We would love to welcome new members. If you are interested in being a member of this wonderful group of ladies, please contact Sharon Beard at 410-255-0258.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

St. Paul's helps several local missions, as well as a few foreign ones. One of these is the Good Shepherd Schools and sponsorship program for Dalit children in India, and is supported through our Anglican Province America. Dalit, which means ("oppressed or broken") children belong to the Hindu Backward Caste—the lowest social group in the Hindu Caste System. This group is also known as "the untouchables". Last year APA was able to sponsor twenty Dalit children; the cost is \$30 per month or \$360 per year. The money pays for each child's uniform, books, school fees, transportation, health care, and meals at the school for the year. We have been donating, through our Missions Fund, to this worthy cause, and we hope to continue with your help. These are pictures of 2 of the 20 children that we help sponsor.



We will try to keep you up to date on the schools and these precious children. May God continue to bless St. Paul's and each one of you.

Betty Royer

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION. **Please call Cynthia Garner, - h) 410-247-8106 or c) 443-257-3913 - if you would like to help in this way.**

HOSPITALITY

The members of the hospitality committee will be setting the tables on Sept. 7, for the Pot Luck luncheon, which is being held after the 9:30 AM service on Sept. 8. The members will help placing the food on the counters as parish members arrive for church. They will also have water and iced tea available for beverages during the luncheon. The members who will be helping are: Barbara Phibbons, Cindi DiBenio, Cheryl Lins, Jim Lins, Joan Dodge, Mike Davis, and Lucile Seborg

Lucile Seborg, Coordinator
410-721-2108

YOUTH GROUP

First Youth Group will be September 21, 11:00-1:00. We're going to be writing a program, called "The Storybook," revolving around a group of children being taken back in time through the storybook (the Bible) winding up at the Nativity. We will be bringing back the Bell Chimes during YG. We will also discuss what the group would like to focus on this year during that first meeting.

Andrea Linnell

Thought for the day: While the donkeys and elephants are fighting, turn to THE LAMB for the answers. (From Dona Peters)

CALENDAR

Aug. 20, 21, & 22	Vacation Bible School 6-8pm
Aug. 24	Renaissance Festival begins
Sept. 4	1pm Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting
Sept. 8	End of Summer Celebration – Pot Luck luncheon
Sept. 15	Sunday School and Adult Education classes begin
Sept. 21	11am – 1pm Youth Group
Sept. 28	Ladies Guild Day of Reflection at All Saints Convent
Oct. 20	Last Day for Renaissance Festival

CHECK THE CALENDAR BEFORE SCHEDULING ANYTHING

*We at St. Paul's are a very busy parish. If you are leading a group this fall, please see that your meeting times are on the **master calendar** in the church office. There is a calendar in the bulletin each Sunday with the upcoming events. Take it home and post it.

*Please get any announcements for the bulletin to Jan by Friday morning.

*If you have moved or changed your phone number, cell number or email, please let Jan know so we can keep our records up to date.

Thank you.

Jan



The Rev. Tom Burr – Rector
The Rev. Wesley Walker - Curate
The Rev. Eric Holle – Assisting Priest
The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Loiselle, Sr. – Rector Emeritus
Mrs. Cathy Gates – Senior Warden

**St. Paul's Anglican Church
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