
November 2023

St. Paul's Journal

**St. Paul's Richmond: A welcoming, inclusive community
seeking to serve God and all God's creation.**

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MISSIONAL MINISTRIES GROUPS

Dismantling Racism
Deb Johns
Mindy Wilson
Co-Coordiators

Food/Feeding
Jean Weigle
Barbara Hameetman
Co-Coordiators

Community Outreach
Heather Proctor
Emily Parks
Co-Coordiators

Community Partnership
Sharing Space and Ministry
Dwight Cass
Co-Coordinator



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Richmond, Indiana:**

*A welcoming, inclusive community
seeking to serve God
and all God's creation.*

A Reflection from our Rector November 2023

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher



These are two of my most favorite pictures of Sandy and me. The top one is from our rehearsal dinner, and the bottom one is as we were waiting at the Tidewater Inn for our escort to Trinity Cathedral for our wedding. I share these pictures as a visual representation of the love and commitment that both of us have which led to that moment in time, and as a reminder of what has continued to grow over the last ten-and-a-half-years. Our love is, indeed, holy and sacred in the eyes of our Creator God.



That day and event were possible due to the ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that made same-gender marriage legal throughout the United States. Neither Sandy nor I thought this Sacred Sacrament of Marriage would ever be possible in our lifetimes, but it is. Today, our heart aches at the political climate that is once again allowing such to be threatened. If you think that this concern is not necessary, please remember what has happened with the vacating of other rights so granted by the Supreme Court.

I have brought political concerns to your attention before related to legislation brought forth against the LGBTQIA+ community. I also, as you well know, have appeared at legislative sessions in opposition to laws being put forth that threaten the health, safety, and sanctity of our existence. I feel a need today to ask you once again to keep your eyes, ears, and hearts open. Please lift not only Sandy and me in prayer as our lifestyle, the sanctity of our marriage, and our sense of safety and security feels threatened by the election of a person to a place of authority who believes our love and commitment to each other to be “abnormal.”

As we enter the election “season,” please know that I would never tell you for whom – or how – to vote. This reflection is a reminder to be diligent in your research of candidates – and to be sure that anyone who receives your vote supports your personal integrity and is a true reflection of your beliefs.

A Message from the Senior Warden

George Eastman, November 2023



As I sit here at my desk and gaze out of the window and take in the beautiful Fall colors, I am reminded of All Saints' Day and the coming Season of Advent and the birth of the Christ Child.

It also reminds me when I decided to attend the All Saints' Day service with Snook and Jennifer. I had been active at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church as a member and an Elder. This was the church I was raised in and returned to when we moved back to Richmond. Snook returned to St. Paul's, the church she was raised in.

For me, attending the All Saints' Day service was a moving and spiritual experience I had never experienced before. Right then and there, I knew St. Paul's was going to be my new church home. I became active as Eucharistic Minister and Lector. Later, I became a Verger and served on Vestry and the Rector Search Committee. Since then, I have become active in the Diocese, serving on the Bishop Search Committee, the Diocesan Standing Committee and the Reunification Team for discernment of the possible reuniting of our two Dioceses.

All this brings me to the point I want to make. I have always thought of the people of St. Paul's as family, my church family. We have seen the best of times and the worst of times, but we have stood as a family.

Our Missional Ministries are taking shape. The Blessing Box is serving our neighbors and the Computer Lab is available for use. We are glad to welcome several new people, as well as, students from Earlham, ESR and Bethany Seminary to our Sunday Worship.

My hope, as Advent approaches and beyond, is that we will continue to love one another as God has asked us to love.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Richmond
Stewardship Campaign 2024

**With the Eyes of Our Hearts Enlightened:
Perceiving the hope to which we are called...**
Ephesians 1:15 - 19



PROJECTED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2024: \$176,819

Pledge Goal: \$116,819

Endowment Draw: \$60,000

Blessing of the Envelopes: Sunday, October 29, 2023

Blessing of the Pledges: Sunday, November 12, 2023

Friday, October 27, 2023

As we look back to the 2023 Stewardship Campaign, and the continued blossoming of our four Missional Ministries during 2023, there is much to celebrate. There are blessings which indicate that God continues to guide us on our journey of fulfilling these Missional Ministries to which we are called. As we continue walking out our calling, let us each pray for God's guidance in pledging our faithful stewardship for 2024 of our time, talents, and financial support for St. Paul's Episcopal Church Richmond and our presence within the community of Richmond.

As with any parish in today's world, St. Paul's has experienced some growing pains with the arrival of a new Rector after four years of not having one; new and adjusted ministries and community outreach opportunities; and, new members bringing a fresh spirit into St. Paul's. But, God's presence among us continues to give us the courage and vision to lean into this moment of transition and regrouping. Our Sunday attendance remains stable, our finances continue to match the 2023 budget, and we continue to welcome new people into our services.

Through this year's Stewardship reflection, "With the Eyes of Our Hearts Enlightened: Perceiving the hope to which we are called," based upon St. Paul's letter to the Church at Ephesus, we are reminded what that stewardship call is for God's faithful. Stewardship is not just about the money pledged to pay salaries and benefits, utilities and maintenance, and other essential operational expenses.

It is also about providing the time and talents to *be* the love of Jesus in the world today. It is to have the courage to manifest that which God has spoken into our hearts over the last twelve months, and to live out the “*why*” each of us and St. Paul’s continue to be here today.

The Vestry worked with Barbara Hameetman - our retiring Treasurer, and Dwight Cass - our Interim Treasurer, at the October 22, 2023, Vestry meeting to develop the 2024 Projected Operating Budget. You have received a copy of the 2024 Projected Operating Budget with this letter. The 2024 Projected Operating Budget documents the *projected operating expenses* as \$176,819.

In faith, believing in this 2024 Projected Operating Budget, the goal for the 2024 Stewardship pledges is \$116, 819. This projection allows St. Paul’s to have an Endowment draw in 2024 of \$60,000 for a balanced budget. Please understand that the attached document is a *Projected Operating Budget* since it is necessary to have the pledge commitments in place before a final 2024 Operating Budget can be presented to the Vestry for a vote. The vote for the final 2024 Operating Budget is scheduled for the November 19th Vestry meeting.

Please carefully consider the amount you pledge on the Pledge Card. None of us can carry St. Paul’s by ourselves, but all of us can have a hand in preserving it and its impact on our community. Pledge only what you feel you can honestly maintain. Please complete a pledge card regardless of the amount you intend to give so an accurate assessment of pledging income can be made. It is this figure by which an accurate 2024 income projection can be made to finalize the 2024 Operating Budget.

Blessings and prayers ascending,
Barbara Hameetman, Retiring Treasurer
Dwight Cass, Interim Treasurer
The Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher, Rector

A Prayer for the Right Use of God’s Gifts (Book of Common Prayer - #38, p. 826):
Almighty God, whose loving hand has given to us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TO RECEIVE A PLEDGE PACKET WITH THE 2024 PROJECTED BUDGET AND PLEDGE CARD: Please email or call Barbara Hameetman = bhameetman@comcast.net - 1-765-977-0935

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Petra Mujete - 13th

Emily Parks - 17th

Rebecca Stanley - 21st

John Fitch - 22nd

Matthew Cummings - 24th

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Jennifer & Toby Swafford - 5th



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NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1st – All Saints Service
Service at 5:30 pm

November 4th – Philadelphia Eleven Premier
Bethany Seminary Nicarry Chapel 1:00 – 3:00 pm

November 10th and 11th
Diocesan Convention - Indianapolis

November 5th – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost – Rite 2
Sunday Service at 10:00 am

November 12th – 24th Sunday after Pentecost – Rite 2
Sunday Service at 10:00 am

November 19th – 25th Sunday after Pentecost – Rite 2
Sunday Service at 10:00 am
Vestry Meeting @ 11:15 in Library

November 20th – Gleaners Food Give Away
1st Christian Church 100 S. A St – 9:30 – 11:00 am

November 23rd/24th – Thanksgiving Weekend– Office Closed

November 26th - Reign of Christ Sunday – Rite 2
Sunday Service at 10:00 am

November 29th – Wednesday Soup and Advent Study #1
Simmons' Room = 6:00 – 7:15pm

Dismantling Racism: Deb Johns & Mindy Wilson, Co-coordinators

On October 1st this missional ministry group started a book study on “This Here Flesh” by Cole Arthur Riley, the keynote speaker at the Indianapolis Diocese Annual Convention this November. We had 12 parishioners signed up for this study and we averaged around 8 attendees for the study on Sunday mornings prior to the service. This study was completed on October 29th. Facilitators for the 5-week study have been Deb Johns, Lisa Felsman, Heather Proctor, and Mindy Wilson. Participants also took turns providing breakfast for this study.

Service and Outreach: Heather Proctor & Emily Parks, Co-coordinators

During the month of November we will be assisting the Veteran’s Christmas Dinner held on December 2. Our own Heather Proctor is on the board and they are serving the 10th annual dinner. They are in need of the following items: Plastic forks, knives, and spoons, Solo Cups, Lemonade Mix, Coffee and Coffee Cups, Napkins, Sugar and Creamer Packets, White Christmas Lights, Individual Wrapped Mints, Kitchen Towels, Gallon Size Ziplock Bags, Aluminum Foil, Dish Soap and Hair Ties. They also give out door prizes during the evening and give gift cards (\$25 your choice). Please look for tags on the tree this month and let’s help honor these wonderful veterans and their guests.

Food/Feeding Ministry: Jean Weigle and Barb Hameetman, Co-coordinators

In September we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Blessing Box ministry. It certainly seems that we are being successful in helping to meet the special needs of those in our community facing food insecurity and homelessness...the food disappears very quickly! We are thankful to those of you who have donated food items and given your time to help fill the box. We are also glad to take monetary donations if that is easier for you. We’ve noticed that occasionally others from the community are also putting items in the box. Please continue to keep an eye out on those sale items and donate when you can. If anyone would be interested in helping to fill the box one day a week, please contact either Jean Weigle or Barbara Hameetman. We’d love to have you join us.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: Sharing Space....Sharing Ministry
Co-coordinator: Dwight Cass AND??

THE VISION GOING FORTH INTO 2024:

The vision for the Community Partnership Missional Ministry within the Richmond Community is six-fold

- 1. To offer access to the Internet via up-to-date technology through St. Paul Episcopal Richmond's C-Lab.**
- 2. To offer a gathering space in the Simmons' Room to support the outreach of community groups and missional ministries.**
- 3. To provide to community non-profit groups and ministries not only a place to be, but to provide volunteer support for their work as well.**
- 4. To provide office space to enable a community group to have administrative space to strengthen their ability to succeed at their mission.**
- 5. To expand the utilization of St. Paul's Nave by the larger Richmond community as a venue for musical and artistic events.**
- 6. AND THE BIG DREAM CURRENTLY IN INITIAL STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION:**

Continued envisioning of support by St. Paul's Episcopal Church Richmond to the musical and artistic endeavors of Richmond High School and the larger Richmond arts community through the redesign, restoration, and remodeling of the entire second floor area including:

 - a. Making it accessible to the physically challenged by the installation of a lift;**
 - b. Restoration of the large stain=glassed windows and the other windows as needed;**
 - c. Restoration of the walls, updating of the electrical wiring, new flooring, and painting of the entire area including the stairway;**
 - d. And, restoration and reinstallation of the second floor bathroom.**

NOTE:

Dwight would love to have a second person help him with the co-coordinating of this ministry – especially as it continues to evolve into the fullness of the Sharing Space and Ministry vision!
Please see Dwight to get involved

Who Am I???

I was born in a woods in Louisiana, but lived on the Eastern Shore for over forty years! I have no children, but I am an adopted “Auntie” to a number of nieces and nephews I am what used to be called a cradle Episcopalian. My favorite music was written before the 1700s! Answer in December’s Journal.



Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday, November 4th! We wouldn't want you to be too early for church... Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

Making room at the table

The Story of the Philadelphia 11

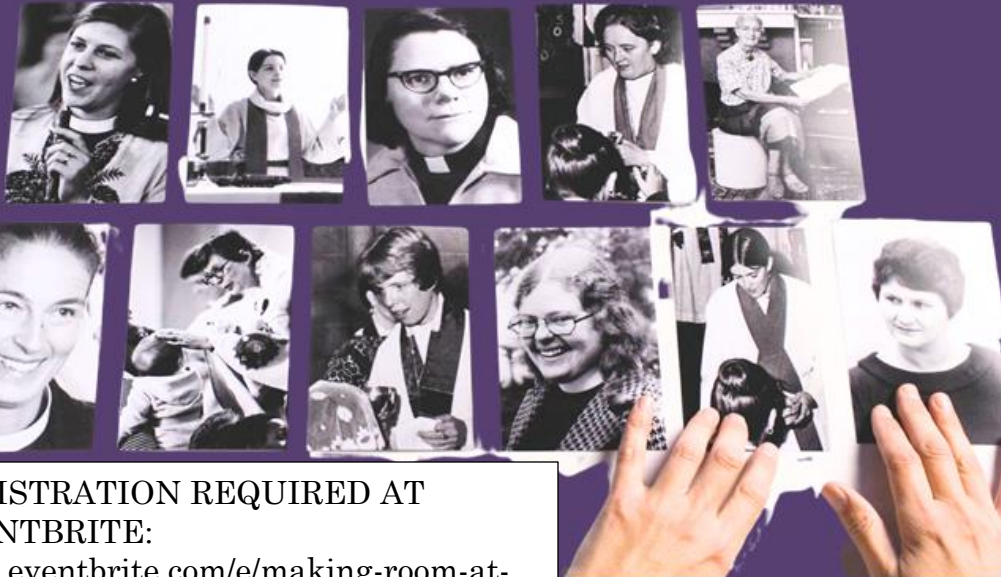
Watch the compelling new documentary film about the first women to become Episcopal priests. Carter Heyward and Nancy Wittig, two of the Philadelphia 11, will be present. They will offer a time of reflection and answer questions about their journeys after the viewing.

WHEN: Saturday, November 4, 2023

1:00 – 3:00 pm (Doors open at 12:30 pm)

**WHERE: Bethany Theological Seminary – Nicarry
Chapel**

615 National Road, Richmond, Indiana



REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT
EVENTBRITE:

www.eventbrite.com/e/making-room-at-the-table-the-story-of-the-philadelphia-11-tickets-721287880467

St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Indiana

St. Paul's Pet Blessing Sunday, October 8th



Donations were taken to
Animal Care Alliance,
Liberty Acres, and
Help the Animals.

Chili Fun! - Congratulations Jean and Heather

