

# The Messenger

*June  
2023  
Volume 26  
Number 11*

## St. Paul's

*A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.*



## St Paul's - A Community of Ministers, Celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Covenant Group

*by Arlene Gordanier*

"All ministry is Christ's; every baptized person is an active participant therein, each according to their gifts. The main arena for ministry is in the midst of daily life." [[www.uepiscopal.org/overview-of-mutual-ministry](http://www.uepiscopal.org/overview-of-mutual-ministry)]

In the May Messenger, Kris Mowafy shared the journey and the mission of the Discernment group. The discernment group invites those identified to covenant for education, and those requirements necessary for ordination and or commissioning. This invitation is an awesome gift to grow in our relationship with our baptismal promises: for our lives, and our communities, and to support all the ministries at St Paul's.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Covenant Group gathered with Marna Franson, our missionary, our consultant and most definitely our guide and partner.

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, we spent time sharing the excitement and awesome gift this covenant group is and will be. The group also began to talk about a covenant - the promises we make as we shape this experience. Those who are ordained and commissioned as the Ministry Support Team will also join with the Covenant Group for education, training, and other opportunities.

All members of the congregation are invited to join this Covenant Group as *members-at-large*. The Covenant Group meets twice a month for 2-3-hour sessions. These meetings are shaped by the curriculum and other study resources and opportunities. Discernment and identifying gifts are a continuing process in this time together. It is anticipated that it will take 18-24 months for the curriculum to be completed. The group has chosen the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month beginning on **Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 5:30.

The Diocesan website has a drop-down menu dedicated to Mutual Ministry and its process. [www.uepiscopal.org](http://www.uepiscopal.org) click on MutualMinistry and it will open to an overview which is very helpful in understanding the steps in the process. [www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/glossary) {find Mutual Ministry} is another resource for terms.

### *St Paul's Covenant Group:*

Cathy Cole	accepted Hospitality Coordinator
Chet DeFonso	accepted Ecumenical Coordinator
Peter Goodrich	accepted Ecumenical Coordinator
Arlene Gordanier	accepted Priest and Preacher
Kris Mowafy	accepted Deacon
Mohey Mowafy	accepted Ecumenical Coordinator and Preacher
Bob Potrzuski	accepted Preacher
Carol Potrzuski	accepted Education Coordinator
Bob Railey	accepted Catechumenal Coordinator
Mary Sullivan	accepted Worship Coordinator

# What is Discernment at St. Paul's?

by Marna Franson

The discernment process at St. Paul's has resulted in a group of people who will be studying together for two years as they prepare for commissioning or ordination. We are calling this group a Covenant group because we are making a commitment to walk through a process of preparation so that we can serve to support the ministry at St. Paul's. In the next couple of years, we will be exploring various canonically required subjects: Scripture, Church History, Liturgics, Issues in Contemporary Society, Ethics, Practical Theology, Diversity, and Anglican Studies. We will also be studying the art of welcome, the art of preaching, spiritual growth and development, pastoral care, etc. Throughout this process we will be getting to know one another, learning to function in a unified way, and fanning the flames of dedication, interest, and ministry.

## *The Open Door to the Covenant Group:*

If anyone in the congregation feels a stirring to dedicate two years to study and learning and to participate in ongoing discernment about serving the ministry of St. Paul's, please let us know. Contact Marna directly. The door is open to anyone in the congregation who wants to embark on this journey with the Covenant group.

## *The Schedule for the Covenant Group:*

The Covenant Group will meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Great Room, beginning June 6th. July we will meet on the second and third Tuesdays because of the 4th of July Holiday. If one is a sunbird or a snowbird, know that there will be a ZOOM in option for joining in.

## *"Praying in" the Covenant Group:*

As a beginning point to this study and preparation, the Covenant group wants to start with a liturgical dedication to each other, to this process, and to this congregation. A specific set of prayers and affirmations was said during church on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.



## **The Button Up Project**

is a fundraising initiative that benefits homeless children of the Upper Peninsula. The project uses the McKinney-Vento Grant definition of homeless children to mean anyone who does not have a stable and/or safe nighttime residence. The project will be holding a rummage sale at the church on Friday afternoon, **June 9**, and Saturday, **June 10**, 2023.

Most donations are accepted and are being stored in the church basement until the sale. Donation exceptions include mattresses, large exercise equipment, and some TVs and computers that would not be accepted at local thrift stores after the sale. For more information on the project visit The Button Up Project Facebook page. For questions regarding the sale, please call or text Patty Kimber at (906) 360-2686.

## Team Brownsville - Title 42 Ends

by Sue Micensky

When Frank and I were at the Welcome Center in Brownsville, Texas over the winter we saw about 50-100 asylum seekers/day. However, in the ten days before Title 42 ended, about 700-1,000 asylum seekers came each day. Because they feared what would happen after Title 42 ended, they arrived at the border either at a port of entry or by swimming across the Rio Grande River. They presented themselves to Customs and Border Patrol and requested asylum. They were met by National Guard troops with assault rifles, helicopters, and coils of razor wire. They were processed and usually sent to detention facilities. After being released to the City of Brownsville they were brought to the Team Brownsville Welcome Center. Such large numbers were overwhelming but volunteers were prepared. Some of the asylum seekers stuffed travel bags, made sandwiches, and handed out clothes. They often do this if they aren't leaving right away to join their sponsors.

Among all the tales of hardship there were also some heartwarming stories. One man, Jose, had not been allowed into the country at the same time as his pregnant wife and when he did enter later he was held in a detention facility for several more weeks. After he was released, Team Brownsville worked with Grannies Respond to fly him to Florida where his

wife had just given birth to their daughter. They sent a picture of the baby wearing clothes provided by Team Brownsville.

After Title 42 ended there was no surge of refugees, no "crisis at the border". Only about 80 are coming to the Welcome Center each day. There are still thousands of people living on the street or in makeshift encampments in Matamoros, Mexico. Seeking asylum is a basic human right protected by the United Nations following WWII and by the US Refugee Act of 1980. However, the already complicated process of requesting asylum is now even more severely restricted by new regulations. Guards in Mexico prevent asylum seekers from getting near the bridge unless they have secured an appointment by using the problematic CBP One app. Officials at Mexico's southern border refuse to grant travel permits to people fleeing across Mexico to the US. If refugees cross between ports of entry, if they don't pass a "credible fear" interview, or if they don't meet every one of the asylum criteria, they are deported back to their home countries and can't re-apply for five years.

When will we open our hearts and our borders and welcome the stranger?

## Update from Outreach

by Mary Sullivan

The Outreach committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Topics of discussion included:

- **Community Meal:** St. Paul's has resumed Community Meal on the *last* Wednesday of the month. Attendance is increasing. *Our concern is that at this point there is no overall coordinator for Community Meal!* The coordinator(s) do not necessarily have to be present at every monthly meal, but he/she/they have to ensure that there are on-site "hosts" for every meal to set up and clean up and that food is provided. Community Meal provides not only food for our neighbors, but community as well. Please answer this call. *Look for sign-up sheets in the parking lot entry or call the church office. Needed: June, July, August coordinators. Wednesday, March 31 hosted by Arlene Gordanier, Kay Payant, Mary Sullivan.*
- **Habitat for Humanity:** this will be our Outreach Ministry of the Month for June. We will be providing three lunches for HH volunteer workers during the summer building season. Jacquey Shellenbarger is working with HH to set dates for three consecutive Mondays. Stay tuned. Other ways to support HH include: financial donations and donating to and shopping at the ReStore, located next to Lafaro's grocery store in Harvey.
- **Team Brownsville:** Sue Micensky reported that even though Title 42 has ended, there are still many barriers to entry into the U.S. and asylum seekers who are fleeing from dangerous countries are living in sub-standard conditions at the border. Financial assistance is needed for supplies at the Welcome Center in Brownsville. Also needed are lightweight jackets/sweatshirts for adults, especially men. Team Brownsville will be the Outreach Ministry of the Month in August.

The Outreach Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 10:00. The next meeting is **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. All are welcome!

## Liturgical Leadership

### Sundays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
June 4	Trinity	Marcia	Bob	Mary
June 11	Proper 5	Marna	Marna	Coralie
June 18	Proper 6	Bob	Judd	Pat
June 25	Proper 7	Jim S.	Jim S.	Judy

## From Bob Railey's pen

### *Summer Quarter Schedule*

The usual display of July-September schedule and associated rosters will be posted on the atrium bulletin board through **June 11**. You may sign up for specific roles on specific dates using the schedule. You may tell me when not to schedule you and/or increase your activities using the rosters. During this quarter of intense vacations, please be sure to indicate when you expect to be away. Completed schedules will be distributed **June 18**. Questions—ask Bob Railey.

### *Season of Creation*

Marna indicated to me that her Seasonal Planning group may decide not to use the Season of Creation this year. I invite your feedback on whether you have an opinion on this matter. This year's dates would be from **August 20** through **October 1**.

### June Birthdays

Bob Railey	4
Emma Wussow	4
Dan Platt	9
Al Raymond	9
Iris Erickson	21
June Davis	23
Anne West	29

# The Messenger

*July/August Summer Messenger Issue*

*Deadline: Friday, June 23, 6 p.m.*

*Please plan ahead to include late summer events and meetings.*

# The Messenger Team

**Editor Meg Goodrich**

**Reporter - Bob Railey**

**Copier - Sierra Larson**

**Copy Editor - Jane Ryan**

**Lay-out - Jim Edwards**

# Grateful – a conversation around the book (Grateful!)

by Diana Butler Bass

6 Sessions

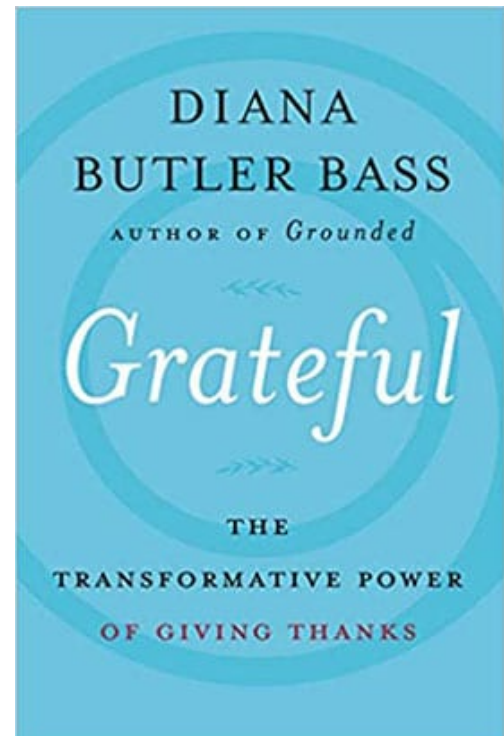
Wednesday nights, starting June 7

5 p.m. (brown-bag/take-out supper)

Contact [Charlie West](#)

## Restful Reflection *submitted by Charlie West*

I have a vision of the Holy Spirit leaning against a tree, or perhaps sinking into her favorite chair, and feeling both exhausted and exhilarated after the day of Pentecost. Rushing wind, fire, tongues, and the many gifts of the Spirit that blast into the world on that day must take a lot of energy, even for God. Much as God the Creator rested on the Seventh Day, I imagine the Holy Spirit must need a bit of a breather after her big day.



This is an appropriate feeling as we look onto the Summer. Half of the year is over, and schools, families, and rectors might be considering or looking forward to summer plans for rest. We need this – time off to recharge and time to pursue our hobbies and personal interests. A couple of days to sleep in, the chance to look at a different landscape, a trip out of our comfort zone, give us the opportunity for new perspectives, new ideas, new approaches.

Rest is so important, that we should require it or at the least remind ourselves to take advantage of it when we can. We are called to offer our gifts to our churches, communities, and families and the gifts we offer will be strengthened if we have had a chance to get new perspective and energy and ideas. Find the ways this Pentecost season to rest up for the challenges that the fall.

Cn. J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS. He lives in San Francisco, California where he works on diocesan staff for DioCal and worships at Holy Innocents in Noe Valley.



# MSTYC

**Ministry Support Teams' Yearly Conference**

**September 29-30, 2023**

**Garden, Michigan**

Join us at beautiful Garden Grove Retreat Center as we explore the *Two Loops Theory of Change* with Tom Brackett, Missioner for New Church Starts & Missional Initiatives in The Episcopal Church.

Brackett reflects, "Our shared vitality depends on having faith communities in all different stages of the life cycle." Our time together will allow us to honor and reflect on the stages of life we find ourselves in as congregations in the Upper Peninsula.

All are welcome! \$75 registration fee includes lodging and Saturday meals. (Financial assistance is available).

Episcopal Diocese  
of Northern Michigan



Tom Brackett

