

# The Messenger

**St. Paul's**

*A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.*



*May*

*2023*

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## **Discernment for 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation of Mutual Ministry** *by Kris Mowafy*

Over the course of two months, a discernment team has met with Sue Ray, who led us through a focused process of identifying gifts and traits that we see in people of our congregation. It was our intention to have at least one team member who felt they knew everyone in the congregation well enough to recognize the traits that would indicate a fit for one of several categories. We were looking for presiders, deacons, preachers, and coordinators of outreach groups. This process is intended to be on-going, as we continue to get to know new people and witness their gifts and discover gifts in those we have known for a long time. We will also be identifying other outreach groups that will be specific to St. Paul's. Those people who were identified and who accepted the invitation will now form a Covenant Group, that will meet frequently over the next couple of years to complete an instructional program. At the end of that process, these folks will be ordained or commissioned. This process has shown a light on how extremely gifted and generous the people are that fill our pews. We are so very blessed to be a part of this community.

## **May Outreach Ministry Focus is the United Thank Offering**

*by Arlene Gordanier*

UTO is a way to practice gratitude and change the world. In 1889, two Episcopal women envisioned a way to collect small thank offerings as a personal expression of gratitude, and from this, our modern day United Thank Offering (UTO) was born. Today, through daily personal gratitude, these thank offerings are given in grant funding to missions and ministries seeking to live Jesus' way of love. UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. The figures from 2022 show that more than 5,300 grants have been awarded by UTO (for a total of \$140 million) to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. The 2023 Grant Recipients will be announced soon.

Several congregations in our diocese have received UTO grants through the years. Among our early grants was work for the Women's Center and domestic violence. The Women's Center was then located at NMU. St. Paul's is blessed to have been able to support this ministry and its Founding Mothers. A more recent UTO grant to the diocese is for the project Walking Together: Protecting Our Common Ground, which will strengthen relationships by collaborating with our Indigenous neighbors to address the most pressing earth care issues as identified by the five Tribal communities located throughout the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

As we focus on gratitude, UTO encourages people to notice the good things in life and give thanks for those blessings. It also encourages people to make a small offering for each blessing using one of the Blue Boxes. 100% of what is collected from the boxes and offerings add up. Funds are distributed to projects supporting new approaches to ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. UTO Boxes and envelopes are available on the desk in the sanctuary.

Checks can be made out to St. Paul's with UTO on the memo line. Thank You, for your continued support in this vital ministry.

## Liturgical Leaders

Sundays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
May 7*	Easter 5	Rayford	Rayford	Mary
May 14	Easter 6	Bob	Bob	Coralie
May 21	Easter 7	Marna	Marna	Pat
May 28	Pentecost	Jim S.	Jim S.	Mary



\*Bishop Ray's annual visit to St. Paul's

## Summer Quarter Schedule

The usual display of July through September schedule and associated activity rosters will be posted on the sign-up bulletin board in the chapel hallway from **May 14** through **June 11**. You may use the schedule to sign up for specific role(s) on specific date(s). You may use the appropriate roster to tell me when not to schedule you or to increase the activities in which you are willing to participate. Be especially sure during this period of summer vacations to indicate when you expect to be away. I am especially in need of more folks to serve as ushers, welcomers, and coffee hour hosts.

Completed schedules will be distributed beginning **June 18**. Questions—ask Bob Railey.



### May Birthdays

Julie Frazier	1
Karan Hendricks	10
Jeff Hendricks	10
Sandra Howes	12
Judy Britton	17
Sam West	17
Chris Franz	17

## The Messenger Team

**Editor Meg Goodrich**

**Reporter - Bob Railey**

**Copier - Sierra Larson**

**Copy Editor - Jane Ryan**

**Lay-out - Jim Edwards**

## Team Brownsville by Sue Micensky

When Team Brownsville volunteers greet refugees at our Welcome Center in Brownsville, Texas, we don't discriminate based on their countries of origin. Recently there have been increasing numbers of men from China and Russia. Team Brownsville has faced some criticism from the media because we provide the same hospitality and services to them.

Many of the men are trying to escape harsh policies in China where protesting and activism are not tolerated. Because of travel restrictions between the U.S. and China, they follow indirect routes through several other countries to reach our southern border. Often, they walk through the treacherous jungle of the Darien Gap between Columbia and Panama. Currently they are much more likely to be granted asylum than people from Latin American countries, but new immigration policies could disqualify anyone who passes through another country without requesting protection there.

We have also seen people arriving from Russia. The men do not want to fight against Ukraine but also do not want to spend ten years in prison for refusing. A few of them are accompanied by their families. They are also more likely to be granted asylum.

There is a new CPB One app being utilized by the Department of Homeland Security to register and schedule appointments to request asylum. It requires a newer, faster phone, familiarity with technology, and high-speed internet. For the most part, people from China and Russia have money to stay in hotels or apartments where they can use this app to acquire interview appointments. In the encampment in Matamoros most of the poorer people from Third World countries are living in makeshift tents with older phones and do not have electricity or dependable internet access. Getting an appointment is a rare cause for celebration.

***Wherever they come from, we welcome them!***

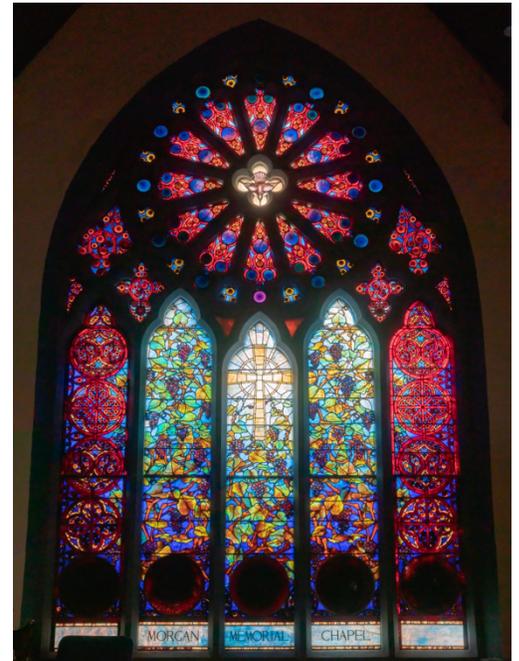


**The deadline for the  
June edition of  
**The Messenger**  
is Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

## It's Eastertide!

Thanks to St. Paul's for the Easter vespers/vigil service. I love the candlelight service in front of the Gothic style Tiffany window.

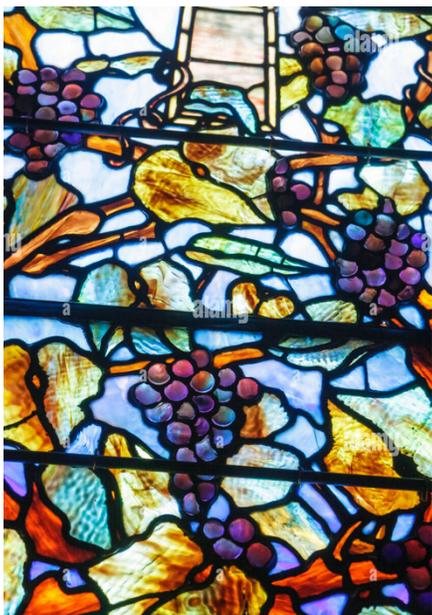
So, Charlie played guitar, Peter Goodrich read about the escape from slavery in Egypt, Jim Edwards read about the Valley of Dry Bones, while I tried a slide show of Georgia O'Keeffe paintings (My slides were all mixed up, oh dear!), Marna blessed the baptismal water and Tricia Slotterback read a remembrance of our vows. The stained glass back lit by twilight sunset was stunning as we lit a candle from the Paschal Candle and shared it around. I remember the vivid colors of stained glass and the softness of candlelit faces, anticipating Easter morning.



*Much love and thanks, Margie and Charlie*

## Community Meal Continues *by Bob Potrzuski*

As Covid concerns lessen and as food assistance goes away from emergency status, some members of St. Paul's are restarting the community meal the last Wednesday of every month. Wednesday, **May 31**, hosts Arlene Gordanier and Peter and Meg Goodrich will serve soup and



look for other members of the congregation to provide bread, salads and desserts. Though it has been great to get together as a congregation for these meals, we will be extending invitations to the residents at Pine Ridge, our nearby neighbors with many residents who are receiving food assistance, in the hope that they will join us.

We will be setting up at 5:30 p.m. on the last Wednesdays, with dinner being served at 6 p.m.. *Going forward, at least two persons (from different families) will be required for each month; these members will announce the menu for the parishioners' contributions.* Look for ways to sign up. Let's continue our ministry together and put on a great community meal!