

The Messenger

St. Paul's

A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.



**MARCH
2024**

**Volume 27
Number 7**

Marna's Reflection on the 2024 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was filled with energy and delight. What a scene I walked into, having been delayed upstairs for a bit: all the chairs were filled, the chatting was vociferous, the delicious food was disappearing, and smiles were on the majority of faces. This feeling continued throughout the whole meeting: from the opening prayer and time of appreciations to the approval of the budget.

It is a blessing to be a community together – to BE church.

If you take a wander downstairs into the Great Room, you will find the sticky notes still on the bigger pieces of white paper around the room. There is no shortage of ideas taped to the walls. On closer perusal on Tuesday night by the Covenant group, the observation was made that there is a big desire to get together and do something: whether it be a small study group, a Pokemon party, a Spring Picnic, a Fall Picnic, Caroling in nursing homes and hospice, Dressing up for Mother's Day, a Beer-Fest on Fat Tuesday, etc. etc.

NOW WHAT DO WE DO? How do we harness this enthusiasm and make it happen? Perhaps not all of it, but certainly much of it could happen. WHAT DO YOU THINK? If one thing were to occur each month that we have not tried before, that is 12 new things done as a community together. I think that means that 12 people would step forward and take the lead on something and gather a few people around them to help make it happen. Can we agree that if someone tries something new that we will show up for it?

I will start us off. By the first of March I will create a bulletin board and feedback box to provide a place to get this started. Also, if anyone wants to volunteer to be "New Ideas Captain" to get us organized, that might be helpful. How else do we want to do this? How about grabbing someone (not literally) after church or during coffee hour and ask, "I have some energy for this thing, do you want to do it with me, make sure it happens?"

Congratulations to New Vestry Members: Carol Potrzuski and Dan Rydholm.

Heartfelt Thanks to retiring members Kris Mowafy and Cathy Cole.

Officers: Senior Warden, Jan Edwards; Junior Warden, Fred Cole; Secretary, Arlene Gordanier

Ongoing Members; Margie West, Meg Goodrich, and Treasurer Linc Frazier.

Episcopal Relief and Development

--Focus of March's Outreach Ministries



The shorthand is ER&D and even in shorthand we have set a powerful mission into our world. The Mission of ER&D is one of compassion to the suffering of humanity, and creation. Our baptism calls us to hear and act to seek and serve Christ in all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. ER&D serves by gathering the generosity and abundance we are given and is able to faithfully administer those funds to provide relief in times of disaster, promote sustainable development by looking for the root cause of suffering and planting programs and tools of change.

Three Key Program Priorities:

- **Facilitating:** healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease.
- **Partnering:** with the connection to our Anglican partners and local communities on the ground allows us to work in places where few others remain for the long haul and to deliver life-improving results in innovative and unique ways.
- **Collaborating:** with communities around the world to address three life-changing priorities – Women, Children and Climate – creating authentic, lasting results that can be sustained by the communities themselves.

Responding to Israel-Hamas

- Continues to offer support to Al Ahli Hospital, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in Gaza, in response to the ongoing war in the Holy Land.
- Since the onset of war in the region in early October, Al Ahli Hospital has been performing life-saving emergency procedures, providing first aid, and sheltering displaced people in northern Gaza.
- Al Ahli Hospital has been able to keep operations running by conserving fuel, using generators selectively and relying on solar energy.
- A shortage of supplies caused by blockades previously prevented the hospital from taking in new patients and operating at its full capacity. However, a recent delivery from the World Health Organization (WHO) replenished the hospital's stock of medicines, ICU supplies, emergency drugs and IV fluids.
- As of now, Al Ahli is serving hundreds of wounded people each day, with the majority of cases being severe.
- Please pray for Al Ahli Hospital staff and patients and for peace in the Holy Land.

ER&D continues to support the needs in the Ukraine Crisis.

ER&D responds in the U.S. in emergency and long-term recovery and utilizing asset-based tools and aid. 100% of your donation is used in the responding efforts directly. The office expenses, travel and other financial responsibilities are covered as part of The Episcopal Church budget created at the General Convention every three years.

There are a several ways to give financially to ER&D: Donations, Gifts for Life a catalog similar to Alternative Gift Market. Other ways to give and create lasting change: Raise awareness, stay informed, and newsletters. When I first started serving as a Ministry Partner for the Diocese, my spirit was deeply touched by this statement, "Prayers are the most powerful support we receive. They strengthen us for the good work God has given us to do and for that we are grateful."

You can sign up to be a prayer partner by going to www.episcopalrelief.org and clicking on the heading "What you can do." Scroll down to PRAY and follow to BECOME A PRAYER PARTNER Join today. When there is a disaster or event you will receive an email. This page also has other prayers to be used.

Arlene Gordanier

Liturgical Leadership

Sundays:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
March 3	Lent 3	Bob R.	Mowey	Mary
March 10*	Lent 4	Jim S.	Jim S.	Coralie
March 17	Lent 5	Marna	Marna	Mary
March 24	Palm Sunday	Marcia	Bob R.	Coralie
March 31	Easter Day	Marna	Marna	Mary

*Begin Daylight Time

Holy Week:

March 28	Maundy Thursday	1:00 p.m. Agape Meal
March 29	Good Friday	Noon
March 30	Easter Eve	7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil



Camp New Day Blanket Making

will be held on **March 24** and **April 14**,
after coffee hour.

Please plan to join us.

For more information, contact Carol Potrzuski.

March Birthdays

Harper Carpenter	3
Ted Raymond	7
Ginger Randall	7
Grace Randall	11
Sandy Purrington	23

The Messenger Team

Editor Meg Goodrich

Copy Editor - Jane Ryan

Lay-out - Jim Edwards

Reporter - Bob Railey

Copier - Sierra Larson

Deadline: Friday, March 21, 2024



Carol Potrzuski is hosting Sunday School prior to church on various Sundays.

Please feel free to call her for more information on when it is offered or to help, at 907-738-2274.

FROM BOB RAILEY ...

Spring Quarter Schedule

The usual display of April through June calendar plus the associated activity rosters is posted on the sign-up bulletin board in the chapel hallway through **March 17**. You may use the calendar to sign up for specific role(s) on specific date(s). You may use the appropriate rosters to tell me when not to schedule you or to increase the activities in which you participate.

Many who have reduced their participation at the start of the pandemic have not let me know that they are willing to resume their participation. We welcome your return; our worship will benefit from increased participation.

Completed schedules will be distributed beginning **March 24**. Questions — ask Bob Railey.

Celebrating Together

Palm Sunday, March 24: 10:30 Procession of the Palms followed by Eucharist and Recitation of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, March 28: Agape Meal at 1 pm and Sock collection

Good Friday, March 29: Noon Service in the Chapel and Ecumenical Service at 7 pm at Messiah Lutheran

Easter Vigil, March 30: at 7 pm Outside to light the fire and then in the chapel for telling of stories

Easter Day, March 31: Festive Eucharist.

MORE details to come.

Keep an eye on This Week at St. Paul's

Marna