

The Messenger

St. Paul's

A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.



MAY-JUNE

2024

Volume 27

Number 9

What is Happening this Summer?

A List from Marna's Seat

The Annual Meeting was a few months ago and, as you remember, many ideas were suggested, giving us the picture that we are a vibrant group of people who desire to “do life” together. As we wind up the academic year and prepare for a summer of relaxation and fun, here are a few things that can be on our radar.

1. Clean-up the grounds and have a picnic after church on May 5th.
2. Marquette Pridefest: St. Paul's will have a table – on Saturday, June 8th - who would like to come and be part of our effort to support the LGBTQIA+ community in Marquette? Remember that everyone can contribute to the table through the Amazon Gift list that has been created:
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/113QJSA36AKMF>
3. Visioning for the Diocese: an open meeting to set priorities for the Diocese in terms of projects, mission, resources, etc. Saturday, June 8th 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please sign up on the registration list found on the sign-up table near the back door. If you are a person who has found yourself asking “Why doesn't the Diocese help us with.....?” then this is the place to bring your priorities to the conversation.
4. Aging Resource Fair: Tentatively planned for this Fall, come along and join The Team that is working to curate resources for a full-day gathering...one that helps us see and learn how to access what we need all as we age.
5. September 8th-12th Living Waters Co-operative Conference in Minneapolis/St. Paul's. Come along to join in the conversation regarding collaborative leadership and shared ministry. See the flyer elsewhere in the Messenger.
6. MYSTC Conference: also in September at Garden Grove Retreat Center. The topic will be Discernment. This is a great space to explore what this word means in our own lives and in a community. I hope many will attend.
7. GARDENING: Who wants to garden across the road from St. Paul's in the Diocesan Yard? Once a week for a couple of hours? Who wants to grow some little plants for NMU students to have in their dorm rooms?
8. Contemplative Prayer: every Monday from 11:40 to 12 noon followed by Noonday prayer. It is a wonderful time of silence, listening, and breathing deeply into the restfulness of God.
9. Movies? Picnics? Beach times? Kayaking? Rock finding and painting? What good fun do we want to cook up this summer?

May Outreach 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. In March 2024, the UTO Board was thrilled to announce that UTO will give away \$1,003,283.78 in 2024. A big thank-you to the 66 dioceses that increased giving to UTO in 2023.

These grants support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. The 2024 grant recipients will be announced soon. The focus of the grants in the past Triennium has been focused on Creation Care. The next Triennium will announce the focus for UTO grants

Several congregations in our diocese have received UTO grants through the years. Among our early grants was for the work with 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 will be 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.

The Outreach focus for June has not been assigned yet. June usually is Habitat for Humanity and in the past year our offering is to provide lunches. As of this writing---we do not have confirmation on house building crews and projects. Please watch the St. Paul's bulletin and "This Week" for more details. This offering was well received and appreciated by the work crews. Thanks.

The family of Jim Jajich is grateful for everyone who made the memorial service on Easter Monday a joyful celebration of Jim's life.

Thank you to those of you who extended condolences, attended the service, volunteered your poetic and musical talents, shared stories of your time with Jim, prepared food for the reception, cleaned up afterward.

We especially appreciate those who helped us plan the service- and those who stepped in when Bob Railey was hospitalized: printing the service programs and leading us in the hymns, liturgy, and communion of a beautiful service.

The love and support of all of you continues to be a comfort to us at a most difficult time.

Margaret, Dmitri, and Audrey Jajich

St. Paul's Church

Parish Financial Report

(January through March 2024)

	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>	Total
<u>Financials</u> (as of 3/31/2024)	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Total Income	\$25,349	\$26,750	\$107,000
Expenses			
**Program & Missions	\$28,215	\$28,750	\$115,000
**Bldg. Occupancy	\$11,342	\$12,975	\$44,776
Church Operational Loss	\$39,557	\$41,725	\$159,776
Non-Routine Bldg. Repair Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0
Church Profit (Loss)	(\$14,208)	(\$14,975)	(\$52,776)
	1/1/2024		3/31/2024
<u>Trust Asset Status</u> (as of 3/31/24)	<u>Beg.</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Ending</u>
St. Paul's Trust (Operations)	\$391,990	\$34,411	\$426,401
Shiras Trust (Major Bldg. Maint.)	\$176,404	\$15,486	\$191,890
Imogene Miller Trust	\$0	\$877,907	\$877,907
Total	\$568,394	\$927,804	\$1,496,198

Important Notes:

1. Trust data updated through 3/31/24. The next update will be 6/30/24.

2. The Imogene Miller Trust was gifted to St. Paul's in the first quarter of 2024.

3. We anticipate drawing \$25,000 from the St. Paul's Trust in April 2024 for church operations. That is about 6% . Prudent financial management indicates we should withdraw only 4% to 5% annually if needed.

May Birthdays

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



June Birthdays

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

Bob, we miss you!



Keep on healing!

Love, St. Paul's

Plan Ahead ~

Next Messenger is the July/August issue.

Deadline: Friday, June 21st, NOON!!

The Messenger

The Messenger Team

The Messenger

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Speaking of Being Connected and Safety *by Marna*



MAY is going to be DIRECTORY UPDATE month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The time has come for everyone to correct their email addresses and phone numbers, possibly addresses, etc., for the church directory. This is not the photo directory that Geoff so wonderfully created for us recently, but "just the facts" directory so that we know how to be in touch with each other. Every Sunday in May there will be an opportunity to update information.

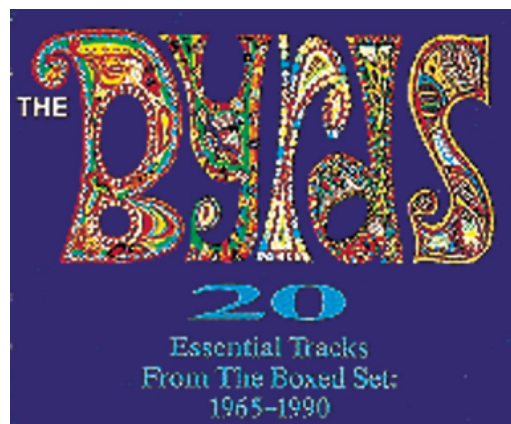
EMERGENCY CONTACTS: We are making optional a place to put an emergency contact or two onto the information sheet that we will be using. THIS INFORMATION WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, but we would like to have it on file in case of an emergency with one of us as we live and work and worship together. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT PRIVATELY in the office unless it is needed. More conversation about this includes how we can be safety nets for one another, but/and this collecting of emergency contacts are one step in that direction.

A Stewardship Thought *by Charlie West*

A couple of years ago, after the whole "Email a Day" thing, you folks gave me a gift card to Yooptone. I went in to use it and bought a Duke Ellington cd – which, disappointment, I got home and discovered was just the case, no actual cd! I took it back and the guy said, "Well, pick another – make sure there is actually a cd this time"! So I got "The Byrds – 20 essential tracks from the boxed set". (I'm counting on you folks to know who The Byrds are/were – "Mr Tamborine Man", "Turn, Turn, Turn", "Hey Mr Spaceman" [won't you please take me along for a ride!], and a some others.) Right in the middle of it is this song "Going Back". I think it's originally a Carol King song. It's got some images of childhood and "a simpler time" and then the line

"Thinking young while growing older is no sin,
and I can (can't?) play the game of life to win."

So which is it – "can" or "can't"? It's not that clear from the vocals. What would you be more likely to say - "I can play the game of life to win", or "I can't play the game of life to win"? And what would you mean by that? (Spoiler – if you google the lyrics, apparently it's "I can"!) But it got me thinking – what is "the game of life," and how do we play it, and what would it mean to play the game of life to win?



At the agape meal last month, we were talking about washing someone's feet and allowing someone to wash our feet and being vulnerable – it seemed to me that whatever Jesus was trying to express there, it wasn't "Play the game to win", at least not in the sense of "Whoever dies with the most toys/money/power wins". I think it must be something more like "play the game to be kind", or "play the game together" or "play the game so that even the littlest and the least are also in some sense 'winners'".

What do you think? And how does that connect with stewardship for you?

The Marquette Male Chorus

Present

Harmonies and Melodies:

Music of Bacharach, Mancini and Mercer



May 17, 2024

7:30 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St.

Marquette Michigan

\$10.00 Suggested Donation