



St. Paul's Epistle

SEPTEMBER 2020

Parker J. Palmer writes:

The poem also gives voice to a simple sabbatical insight I want to keep alive: The most radical thing I can do during this era of intense social and political turmoil is hold to inner peace, as best I can. This isn't the first time I've learned that lesson, but I needed to learn it again.

I'm not talking about shutting out the madness around me: the madness is here and we must respond in life-giving ways. I'm talking about taking it into a quiet center, where my responses can be truer, more grounded, and more sustainable than when I get lost in the madding crowd. I'm talking about refusing to collaborate with the frenzy that weakens democracy by depriving us of reason and cutting us off from our souls.

Frenzy is an old ploy of tyrants. They don't want to resolve civic unrest. They want to whip up more of the same by fragmenting our attention and draining our energies as we try to respond to all the false flags they fly. So I'm registering as a conscientious objector to frenzy and its sponsors in high places.

I'm not abandoning the struggle. It must be won by love, truth, and justice. I'm reclaiming the nonviolent resources that are found within. I refuse to let the powers that be strangle the better angels in me.

Achieving "serenity" is not where the struggle ends.

It's where the nonviolent resistance begins.

Time for Serenity, Anyone?

by William Stafford

I like to live in the sound of water,
in the feel of mountain air. A sharp
reminder hits me: this world still is alive;
it stretches out there shivering toward its own
creation, and I'm part of it. Even my breathing
enters into the elaborate give-and-take,
this bowing to sun and moon, day or night,
winter, summer, storm, still—this tranquil
chaos that seems to be going somewhere.
This wilderness with a great peacefulness in it.
This motionless turmoil, this everything dance.

What's the Latest Buzz... Tell Me What's A Happening...

(Jesus Christ Superstar fans will recognize the reference!)

• **Mutual Ministry Review (MMR)**

The Rev. Angie Emerson has agreed to facilitate the Vestry's future MMR's. Our first one is scheduled for October 20 on Zoom.

The principles of Mutual Ministry are rooted in the New Testament and the church's teaching about baptism. Mutual Ministry is a strategy for congregational development that is committed to the ministry and vocation of all the baptized. When congregations become communities where all members are encouraged to exercise the ministries to which God has called them, they are doing Mutual Ministry.

• **Ministry Discernment Process**

Rebecca and Sherry have met with Canon Lynn Bates to learn more about the Ministry Discernment process. Stay tuned as the Ministry Discernment Committee (MDC) will be formed soon. Are you called to serve on this vital ministry team? To be the chairperson? Please pray about it. Speak with Rebecca or Sherry about your interest. This truly is a call to serve.

The three-fold purpose of the MDC:

1. To study and reflect on the ministries of the congregation, current and future;
2. To discern which model of leadership best enacts and supports your next phase of ministry;
3. To identify the clergy candidate who has the gifts and skills to partner with the congregation in these ministries.

• Interim Pastor's Weekly Hours & Ministry

Other than COVID-19, the greatest transition this community is experiencing right now is moving from a full-time rector to a quarter-time rector. Be not afraid! You have everything you need to live into this reality. God is with us. We will discern together the variety of ways the people of St. Paul's can practice the Way of Jesus more deeply. For now, as Bishop Budde preached, "our most important work is to create as many opportunities as we can for our people to grow in Love." ([Sermon Aug. 30](#))

If you ever wonder what Sherry does with her time (other than Sunday mornings!), here is a brief overview. In addition to monthly details of her ministry, this appears in her report to the vestry.

- Letter of Agreement (LOA) *expectation 16 hours / Actual 25-30 hours*
- Primary Additional hours: Pastoral & COVID19 related and Re-start Ministry Team
- Secondary: Creation of and participation in *every Sunday Fellowship Café*

With the additional diaconal ministry of the Rev. Lucy Pellegrini, St. Paul's currently has over full-time clergy presence.

In order to live into the reality of ¼ interim pastor presence, the rhythm of worship will look as follows: **9:30 a.m. Fellowship Café will continue weekly.** 2-3 times a month, Morning Prayer will be led by trained (licensed) parishioners. 2 times a month, Sherry and Lucy will officiate the morning service.

An October date has not yet been set as to when this rhythm of services will commence. If it is the will of the parish to offer weekly services, it is imperative that we have a team of licensed worship leaders.

How do you sign up, you ask?! Step right up...

MORNING PRAYER LEADERS NEEDED! TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

Diocesan Training and Licensing of Morning Prayer Worship Leaders

September 29, October 6, October 13, October 20

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The Liturgy Commission of the Diocese of Vermont is offering a 4- Session Basic Morning Prayer Leadership Training Course.

The purpose of the course is to increase participation of the laity in liturgical leadership and support and encourage Morning Prayer leaders who are expected to become part of a regular worship rotation in their congregations.

The core tasks are to:

- Develop familiarity with the history of Morning Prayer, the Book of Common Prayer, and Enriching Our Worship;
- To gain understanding of the rubrics and “how to” for planning Morning Prayer worship;
- To develop comfort leading worship by practicing with others;
- To understand the ministry of a worship leader within a congregation.

In addition to the 4 sessions, the training team will be available for one on one consultation and mentoring during the course and for a period of six weeks after the course.

A schedule of these times will be distributed at the beginning of the training.

There is no fee for the course.

Course participants must be recommended by the Sr. Warden and Vestry or Clergy.

Each participant must have access to a computer and internet along with Zoom or other video conferencing system.

Interested? Willing to try it on? Please speak with Rebecca, Lucy or Sherry.

• Communication - Feedback loop with wider congregation

Vestry members and clergy leadership continue to seek ways to better communicate with the entire St. Paul’s community. This is especially important during the season of interim ministry as we discern new ways of being the People of God in this place of Vergennes.

If you have ideas and/or expertise in the area of communication, please reach out to Rebecca or Sherry. There will be more short surveys as well as Zoom gatherings to learn about the work of the Vestry and exchange ideas for the future. Your voice is needed.

Survey - Gathering to Worship Phase 3

We are eager to hear your thoughts, hopes and suggestions for re-gathering in person for worship and programs. Do encourage any children and/or youth in your household to respond as well. Please take time to complete the survey this week! Thank you for your valuable time and voice!

The Google doc survey was sent via email several days ago. If you have not received your survey by email yet, *check your spam/junk folder*. If it’s not there, please contact Senior Warden, Rebecca Chauvin at rebeccahchauvin@gmail.com or 802-578-7312.

Paper copies will be mailed to those on our “mail only” list. If you’ve received an email survey but prefer a hard copy, please let us know.

Dismantling Racism Book Discussion Group Continues

Please join the Zoom dismantling racism book discussion group, Wednesday, September 23 @ 7:00 p.m. Our third book: **John Lewis' *Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and the Future of America***.

Relatively brief, this extraordinary memoir deserves repeated readings and gives us not just a history of racism from the sixties forward but a real understanding of why Lewis was considered the conscience of the Congress. Contact Lenore Morse at lmorse@anwsd.org if you'd like details and Zoom link.

Outdoor Worship Update

Phase 3 application for in-person, non-Eucharistic, outdoor worship has been submitted, thanks to our Re-Start Ministry Team: Laurie Earle, Lenore Morse & Lucy Pellegrini. Please be sure to thank them for this enormous undertaking.

As we await approval by the Diocese Re-Start Team, we need your help. If you wish to gather for outdoor worship, we need your help to make it happen.

Specifically: Ushers - trained health officers - parking attendants - IT/Tech savvy folk - train to be a Zoom administrator for online worship - read scripture/Prayers of the People - lead Morning Prayer

Phase 3 - Overview

- In-person, non-Eucharistic, outdoor worship allowed; limited to 25 people;
 - Signup for services in advance to limit the number of attendees;
 - Masks and physical distancing required;
 - Music included though communal singing is not.
 - Virtual (online) services will continue throughout this phase.
 - Outside gatherings of other kinds are included in this phase: pastoral, educational, etc.
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Bo Price Participates in Backstory Preaching Training

Bo has been called to participate in diocesan lay preachers training Sermon Camp. Thank you, Bo, for saying "yes" to this commitment and for trying something new on. Who knows where the Spirit will lead.

This virtual camp includes one-week, accelerated introduction to a 5-day process (August 9-13) and continues with weekly instruction for seven weeks (Aug. 17-Oct. 2, 2020). By the end, participants will have established a new process that integrates one's spirituality with practical tools to improve one's preaching.

Be sure to ask Bo about her experience! The Spirit is alive and well as she walks with Bo and her fellow lay preachers in training.

The Harvest is Plentiful!

For the months of September and October, Sherry will be picking grapes for [Snow Farm Vineyard](#). It is a small family owned and run business. Their support of the local community and growing community is remarkable. Not only has it been a joy to work with them, it has been a yearly source of income and ministry over the past four years. As a multi-vocational priest, it is also the only paid gig that has not evaporated since COVID-19 hit. Sherry plans to work two days a week at the vineyard. This simply means that your calls, texts and emails will be attended to more slowly. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Want to stay informed of nuts & bolts of St. Paul's?

Request a copy of past Vestry Minutes & Interim Pastor's Reports.

Boys and Girls Club Snacks

With the planned district school schedule, Boys and Girls Club is providing a vital service for local youth. Previously, a St. Paul's ministry, providing snacks one day a week, has been much appreciated, and staff are delighted we'll continue to do so.

Given safety issues due to covid-19, we will call for curbside pickup, wear a mask and maintain social/physical distance. Staff will be at the club from 8:00 a.m., and snacks should be delivered before 2:30 p.m.

During September we will deliver fruit and cookies/bars for twenty youth, and thereafter, numbers will probably increase. If delivery is a problem or the dates scheduled are inconvenient, a volunteer can call me at 870-7020 or email, lmorse@anwsd.org. Previously, individuals served only three or four times a year.

If you have any questions or are willing to be a new volunteer, please contact me. In advance, thank you very much. -Lenore

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2nd	Anne Sevee	17th	Aaron Seymour
4th	Diane Rooney	18th	Diane Merrill
8th	Megan Seymour	19th	Pete McAllister
11th	Marcia Dunne	20th	Betty Bristol
12th	Elrik Jay	21st	Dave Merrill
14th	Nick Jennings	24th	Tim Jennings
15th	Barbara FitzGerald	24th	Todd Jennings
16th	Elayna Rose	28th	Sarah Cowan
16th	Jennings	28th	Pam Macauley
17th	Jona Tierney	30th	Justin Huizenga

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sherry Osborn
revsherryo@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Lucy Pellegrini

Sr. Warden: Rebecca Chauvin 578-7312

Jr. Warden: Chris Hale 877-1059

Clerk of the Vestry: TBD

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Class of 2021:

Rebecca Chauvin 578-7312

Nan Guilmette 453-8515

Kim Hatgen 877-6947

Class of 2022:

David Merrill 475-2160

Bo Price 877-2031

Class of 2023:

Chris Hale 877-1059

Jeff Mangini 453-2144

Church Committee Chairs:

Outreach: Mary Gordon 877-3291
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Education:

John Stroup 870-3291
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Stewardship:

Bo Price 877-2031
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Bob Laidman 877-3566
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Liturgy: