

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
201 EAST CHURCH STREET
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158**



**MID-JULY thru AUGUST EPISTLE 2023
A Publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Marshalltown, Iowa**

St. Paul's Staff and Vestry

The Head of the Church, Jesus Christ

The Bishop, The Right Reverend Betsey Monnot

Priest in Partnership, The Reverend Richard Graves

Senior Warden, PJ Colbert

Junior Warden, Nick Lindborg

Parish Administrator, Michael Bayne

Clerk, Brent deSilva

Organist, Sharon Morrical

Andrew Thelen, Pianist

Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço-Held

Email: stpauls50158@msn.com

Webpage: stpaulsmarshalltown.org

For further information, contact the church at 641-753-6317.

prayer
Requests 

Let us pray for those who need our prayers: Sharon Morrival, Orlin Klinkefus, Ruth Davis, Dan and Carroll McInroy, Alice, Pat Gourley, Brian DeSilva, Jillian, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Joyce Ring.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

We pray for all those celebrating birthdays, especially Sheryl Thomas (7/18), Don Campbell (7/20), Claire Mayo (7/20), Karen Bursley (7/28), Chris Hull (8/22) and Dennis Brown (8-28). We also pray for those observing anniversaries, especially Orlin and Sally Klinkefus (7/19), David and Sheryl Thomas (8/10), David and Mary Jane Oakland (8/13), and Chris and Laurie DeMeyer (8/14).

We pray for the clergy and people of every parish in our diocese. We also pray for our companion dioceses of Nzara and Swaziland in Africa, and Brechin in Eastern Scotland.

We pray for leaders in every community and nation we entrust with the authority of government, especially for Joseph, our President and Kimberly, our Governor, that they may be filled with the love of truth and righteousness and seek the common good.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that they will soon know justice and peace in their land. We also pray for the people of Sudan.

We pray for all those whose lives have been appallingly ended by the heartless use of firearms.

Dark Is His Path- N. S. Yancey

It is a worthy thing
to hope that God is still that kind
who walks the garden after dinner each evening
ready to talk,

but then the storms come
in the night. We rage as one
till dawn peals over our cries that can't echo
for lack of walls still standing.

Look at this mess, the beams and branches
strewn one across the other.
No stone left on stone, not one square inch unscathed;
tell me, where could Love ever stand now?

Give me a mountaintop, O God, and I will
share my peace, all of it. Pick it up, I'd say,
but mountaintops are so far from these flatlands,
and all that cyclones have for hands is wind.

If God could x, why y? have whirled the questions,
whirled without end. God said:
Till the earth and make it grow; yours is
the dominion, Mine the harvest.

Meanwhile, the dust and dew and geosmin
rise to meet the plow of heaven and dance
through the fields and gravestones and homes. Jesus said:
Follow me.

What maelstroms are made of first and last breaths!
but the center holds. What walls dare stand
when first and last breaths are of maelstroms made
and clay gets a word in edgewise with the Potter?

If God can
speak through a whirlwind,
can crucifixion be
a coronation?
If mud and thunder can
hold it together,
who's to say
you needed shelter from the storm?

Recently our Parish Administrator, Mike Bayne, wrote Bishop Monnot about life here at St. Paul's. He shared both GOOD NEWS and BAD NEWS. Here is his email to the Bishop, which is a wonderful summary of where we stand in our life together, and her response. RWG



Bishop Monnot,

Time to start your week with Good News/Bad News from St. Paul's in Marshalltown. I would like to end on a positive note, so I'll start with the bad news.

Since late last year we have sought construction bids to repair the developing structure problems evident in our church building. Our limestone church was built primarily in 1871, and is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, settling foundations causing cracking walls, leaking roof sections and massive tuckpointing being the primary needs. In November of last year, we began searching for contractors to submit bids for the job - trying to find a qualified contractor who

will actually respond to our requests has been the hardest part of this process. The diocesan office recommended someone they have often worked with (Newmann Brothers) but after a visit here by their staff and total assessment they have been unresponsive to our calls.

We did receive a bid from a local contractor for +\$110,000 to perform most of the repairs, but settled on E&H Restorations from Davenport on a \$26,000 bid to do only the absolutely dire repairs.



Last Friday E&H Restorations was here to install some helical piers under a crumbling buttress but determined that the foundation of the church had deteriorated to the point that the fix was not possible - they are currently trying to come up with an alternative, and definitely more expensive repair. They did say that the building was still structurally sound, but that repairs should be done sooner than later.

Since the diocese is ultimately the owner of the property, we thought you should know the condition of the facility. The vestry has been diligent over the past years in completing repairs and regular maintenance (plumbing, electrical, roof, HVAC), but the scope of these present needs will surely put and strain on our funds that will likely cripple us financially.

We do have a dwindling endowment that would be more than halved should we have to do this on our own. If we could access funds available from the diocese, or jointly work in the repair process we would be assured of continued existence

in our treasured church building. We all know that the Church is not the building, but all of what follows (and more) would be lost should we were not able to retain this location.

Enough bad stuff.



In the past year we built and operate quite a large food box that we stock daily with food, clothing, and personal items. Located in front of our church, it has been very popular with the people in need in the neighborhood.

We work closely with the ISU Extension Service to acquire and distribute food, and receive food donations from local civic organizations and surplus food from local groceries. ISU has told us that we have one of the busiest food boxes in Marshalltown.

Beginning in May, we made space in our building for The Caring Center, a local charity shop. The Caring Center has operated in Marshalltown since 1988, but recently lost their lease and needed to relocate - we welcomed them to St. Paul's. Operating two days per week they supply clothing and household goods to those in need, serving 80-100 families each week. Volunteer staffed by friendly people, they are run the best stocked and most organized donation center I have ever seen. We are blessed to have them here.

In the winter of 2021, we began the Arts@StPaul's concert program. This musical effort hosts a variety of musical artists in the most diverse offering in Iowa. Since inception we have presented the Ames Chamber Artists, a Community Sing, a Halloween Spooktacular concert, Bluegrass concerts, Soloists, Pianists, our master organist, Resident Artist Hudson Lourenco, an exquisite blue-note jazz quartet, The Iowa Classical Guitar Quartet, and extravagant Christmas concerts. On July 9th, your organist, Mark Babcock will perform here. All our concerts are free of charge and are well attended. Without fail, the musicians marvel at the fine acoustic qualities of our church building.

We would like to continue the tradition that St. Paul's has built and developed over the years, but as you can see much of it is tied to the facility we occupy. Sad to say, but much if not all would be lost were we not able to remain here. We are a small community here and would like to work with the diocese in order to help us continue to spread His word and serve our community.

Please let me know how we can proceed.

Thanks for your time.

Mike Bayne, Parish Administrator
St Paul's Episcopal Church
Marshalltown, IA 50158
website: stpaulsmarshalltown.org
Cell: 641-750-9538



Bishop Monnot's Response

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your email, and for the photos that accompany it. You are doing wonderful work with the community of Marshalltown in a variety of ways. I absolutely see the value here.

I am including three more people on this email: Richard Graves, because he needs to be included in any conversation between St. Paul's and the Diocesan Office; Canon Meg Wagner, because she is our congregational development staff person; and Anne Wagner, because she is the staff liaison to the Property Committee and is knowledgeable about what resources may be available for churches in need of repair.

I hope these connections are helpful as you discern the next steps for St. Paul's.

+Betsey

The Rt. Rev. Betsey Monnot (she/her)

Bishop, Diocese of Iowa



In early June St. Paul's was notified that our long-time insurer, Grinnell Mutual, was cancelling our church insurance policies due to the age of our building. They stated that they no longer will insure church buildings in Marshalltown built before 1950. This has required us to find replacements for our Building, Liability, and Workman's Comp policies, by no later than July 1st.

I contacted our present, also long-time agent, Rich Mohon, and asked him to find us new coverage. I also contacted Ken Jacobson from the Church Insurance Agency, an insurer that covers all of the other Episcopal churches in Iowa. They both began assembling quotes for new coverage for us.

Ultimately the Vestry selected the proposal from the Church Insurance Agency. The coverage presented by both parties was similar, with the exception that the policy chosen valued the building and contents considerably more than the other. I have dealt with Ken Jacobson for many years (he has tried to sell us a policy every year since I have been here) and he and his staff have always been very communicative and helpful.

The major drawback to this change is the cost of the policies. All of the quotes presented were considerably more costly than the old Grinnell Mutual policies we had for many years. The insurers are concerned not only about the building's age but also about the increasingly violent and damaging weather we have been experiencing in recent years. The new insurance premium is double what we were paying, and the Church Insurance Agency policy is much less expensive than the coverages we turned down. Our budget will take a major hit from this added expenditure but hopefully we can find ways to save money in other areas. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this change.

On the bright side, Mark Babcock's organ recital in the church last Sunday was quite successful, with great music and great attendance. It's so nice to hear our organ played at 10/10ths! Mark was very pleased that we invited him to play here and really liked the way we have kept our organ in such good shape - he hopes we will have him back next year. We will.

Mike Bayne, Parish Administrator



Parish Notices

FIRST THURSDAY PARISH POTLUCK: Our first Thursday potluck will occur on August 3 and will feature Kentucky Fried Chicken provided by Mary Lou Tappe. Please come wearing appropriate plantation attire, as this is your chance, as Mike Bayne commented, to have “dinner with the Colonel.” Just kidding! We will meet at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room and those gathering are asked to bring a dish to share.

MONTHLY VESTRY MEETING: At our July 12 Vestry meeting, we decided to forgo a meeting in the month of August, as many of our members were not available. The next meeting of our Board is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, following coffee hour in the church. Any members of the church are welcome to stay for this meeting. As always, if you have anything for the Vestry Agenda, please contact Mike Bayne in the Church Office.

JOINT CHAPTER MEETING: On Saturday, August 28, the chapters of the diocese will gather via Zoom with our Bishop and selected staff. The purpose of this meeting is to share best practices and resources and to deal with matters pertaining to the fall Diocesan Convention the weekend of October 21-22. It would be wonderful if as many of our members as possible attended this meeting, so please consider taking part.

IOWA EPISCOPAL CLERGY CONFERENCE: Fr. Richard will be attending the annual clergy conference that will convene on Thursday, July 27 and conclude on Saturday, July 29. This year’s meeting will be held at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque.



Laziness is nothing more than the habit of resting before you get tired. Jules Renard, 19th Century French Author

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11

Just after returning from my week-long visit with family in California, my daughter, Cory, sent me the photo of my new granddaughter, Drew, that appears above. Just 6 months old, Drew's timetable for napping does not always coincide with her mother's desire for her rest time.

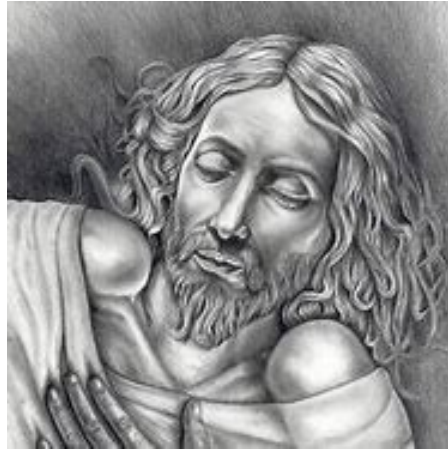
Thus, the pink shirt with the white writing: "If you refuse to nap is that **resisting a rest**," is not only appropriate, but hilarious, since her father, Chris, is a police officer.

But, when I think of the ways I **resist a rest** in my life, the smile on my face suddenly turns upside down. After all, I grew up in a culture where being thought lazy was a felony committed against the gift of life itself.

Our days are numbered and there is no shortage of goals to pursue and needs, my own and those of others, to be met. So, like a computer that is never powered off, I move from task to task, project to project, with little thought of the toll my daily frenzied pace may be having not only on my physical well-being, but on my spiritual life.

Jesus seemed to strike a good balance between action and rest.

Though he was always on the move, he did take time to withdraw to deserted and lonely places.



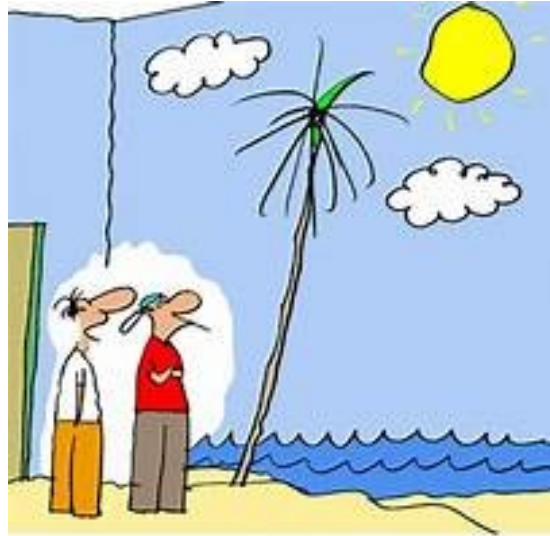
There, I believe, Jesus put aside his “to do list” and just listened and prayed and pondered. And he would emerge from this time of holy quiet renewed and reinvigorated to resume his breathtaking, life-changing ministry.

During this summer season, when things are more typically a little less hectic for us, I do hope you will join me in finding time to rest. Rest in the One who ever bids us, the weary, to come and be refreshed.

Love and prayers, Fr. Richard



On the Lighter Side



"My website keeps me so busy, I don't have time to go on vacation. So, I bought some sand and painted that on the walls."



