



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

August – Mid-September

A Publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church
201 East Church Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158

Sunday Worship Services

10:15 a.m. Church

4:00 p.m. Zoom

St. Paul's Staff

The Head of the Church, Jesus Christ

The Bishop, The Right Rev. Betsey Monnot

Senior Warden, P.J. Colbert

Parish Administrator, Michael Bayne

Pianist, Andrew Thelen

Priest in Partnership, The Rev. Richard Graves

Junior Warden, Nick Lindborg


Organist, Sharon Morriscal

Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço

Email: stpauls50158@msn.com

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsmarshalltown

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



May you see in what you do
the beauty of your own soul

May the sacredness of your work bring
healing, light and renewal
to those who work with you ...
to those who see and receive your work....

May you be present in what you do....
May the day never burden.

May you go into the night blessed sheltered and protected
May your soul calm, console and renew you

John O'Donohue



Walking the High Wire

Remember the Flying Wallendas? The Flying Wallendas were a family, who, into the 1970's, fascinated millions with their high wire circus act in circuses. When performing, they never used a net.

Many, even today, remember the tragic accidents which meant death and disability to family members. After one accident where one member was killed and others seriously injured, a reporter went to interview the father of the family, Karl Wallenda, who was known as the "Great" Wallenda.

When the reporter arrived at the circus on the morning after the accident, which killed and injured others of Wallenda's family, he was told that Mr. Wallenda was in the circus tent practicing. The reporter had to yell him down from the wire and then asked, "What are you doing? Your family is in mourning over a death not 24 hours ago, and you are up walking the wire. When are you going to give this up?"

The Great Wallenda looked at the reporter and said, "To be on the wire is life, all else is simply waiting."

Jesus says in Matthew, "Anyone who finds his life will lose it, and anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt. 10:39)

Walking the high wire is not here equated with “finding life” in service to the Kingdom of God, with discipleship. The element of risk, however, is! How many people sit on life's bank, shivering, afraid to jump in - - not knowing that they are colder on the bank than they would ever be in the water?

How many people do you know who have built the perfect lifesavings security in a bank book, but who have never really lived because they have played it safe, avoided taking even the slightest of risks? How many people do you know who have found a religion, but never a relationship?

We hold a mistaken image about the boomerang. Ask anyone, and they will tell you that a boomerang is something you fling out to the right of you and, properly thrown, will make a full circle in front of you and land at your feet. That might be the way we use the “wham-o” one we buy in the toy department, but that was not its intended use. A boomerang is for hunting. If you hit your target, you made a catch. Only when you missed your target did the boomerang come back to your feet.

How many of us have, at one time or another, thought of extending ourselves in service to others, only to miss the target on the first try – then to have said, “forget it” -- and then have allowed the extended hand to pull back, quickly, until both our arms are wrapped around ourselves with the pledge that we will never get burnt like that again?

Much of ministry involves prying loose our hurt and frustrated arms from around ourselves– and entertaining that we, yes, we, again risk reaching, loving, caring –risk anything of significance for crying out loud! --until the life promised by the Kingdom is found.

Mark Twain said, “Go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is.” We are told the fruit is tasty, but we fail to step toward it.

When a sudden gust of wind came up while Karl Wallenda was walking the high wire in Puerto Rico at the age of 73, falling awkwardly to his death, I was silent with quiet and shock as the image flashed on the television screen. But I did not shed a tear.

Instead, I remembered the words of a man who inspired me and many others, the one who said, “To be on the wire is life; everything else is simply waiting.”

Blessings, Fr. Richard



June was a challenging month for our endowment - our Sagepoint account lost \$9,000 in value during that period, bringing our total investment loss for the year to \$23,000, or about -11%. Compared to the markets (DOW -9%, S&P -9.8%, NASDAQ -25%), we are probably doing as well as we can in the current economic climate. The vestry will continue to review the status of our funds monthly. On the plus side, we still have not had to withdraw any monies from this account this year to apply to operating expenses.

So far this year our pledges have increased somewhat from last year and are very slightly exceeding our budget - you have pledged over \$23,000 this year compared to our budget estimate of \$20,500.

We recently received a quote from Procrafters Roofing to make a number of needed repairs to the church roof. The vestry agreed to transfer the \$1,990 required from the Vestry Discretionary account to the Operating account to pay for the repairs.

One curious bill we received this month - the water bill from Marshalltown Water Works. The bill noted that we used so little water during the past billing cycle that the meter registered zero use. The bill totaled \$175. A call to MWW revealed that this amount is the minimum charge for a commercial building. Even though we had no water going down the drains, they wouldn't even waive the sewer fees. Just another challenge in the daily operation of St. Paul's.

Our recent employee hires, Kim Curley and Andrew Thelen, are working out well. Kim is keeping the church well cleaned, and having Andrew play on alternate Sundays is a nice addition to our services.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bayne
Parish Administrator



**Welcome Our New Church Pianist
Andrew Thelen***

I was born and raised in northwest Iowa, in a little town called Estherville.

I started playing piano by ear at 8 years old and at age of 16 started professional lessons. I took mostly piano lessons and a few organ lessons in two years before my piano teacher said he had no more to teach me.

Since then, I have tried to excel at the piano to the best of my abilities while playing for churches, funerals, concerts, weddings events and even for the Bill Riely talent show my senior year of high school.

I currently live Marshalltown with my boyfriend Casimir and work for the athletic department in the roundhouse doing custodial and laundry work.

I'm so very happy to be a part of this new church family :)

*In the above picture, Andrew is on the left.



- **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** occurs every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The Scripture for the study and the zoom link are emailed prior to each meeting. For more information, please contact the Church Office.
- The **VESTRY** is scheduled to hold a special mini retreat on Saturday, August 20, so board members can engage in substantive conversations about Parish life. The regular business meeting of the Vestry is slated for Wednesday, August 24, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. If you have anything for the agenda, please contact the church office.
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** will be delivered on August 31 – thanks to the ministry of **GLEN DAVIS** and **SHERYL READOUT**.
- **PARISH POTLUCKS, 6:00PM CONFERENCE ROOM:** We will gather on **August 4** to enjoy pulled pork sandwiches from the kitchen of **THE DEMEYER FAMILY**. Then, on **September 1**, **JANE AND ROGER HALLECK** will be serving ham balls. Please bring salads and sides to share.
- **ST. PAUL'S** is hoping to form a facility-sharing partnership with a not-for-profit to better serve our community. If you know of any group that might be interested, please speak to **FR. RICHARD** or **MIKE BAYNE**.
- **ARTS@ST.PAULS:** Plans are in the works for an Organ and Guitar Hymn Sing at St. Paul's, a production of our Artist in Residence, **HUDSON LOURENCO**. Currently, we see this Sunday afternoon concert happening in late August or sometime in September. Joining **HUDSON** will be Guitarist **MICHAEL GABLER** and this largely sing-along program will be comprised of hymns, both traditional and contemporary.



Let us pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

Orlin & Sally Klinkefus, Colleen & Ellis Harmon, Ruth Davis, Scott, Eleanor Stegmann, Dan and Carroll McInroy, Bob & Nancy Petersen

We pray for all those celebrating birthdays during the month of August through the middle of September, especially Chris Hull, Colleen Harmon, Dennis Brown, and Mike Bayne. We also pray for those observing anniversaries, especially, David and Sheryl Thomas, Chris and Laurie DeMeyer, and David and Mary Jane Oakland.

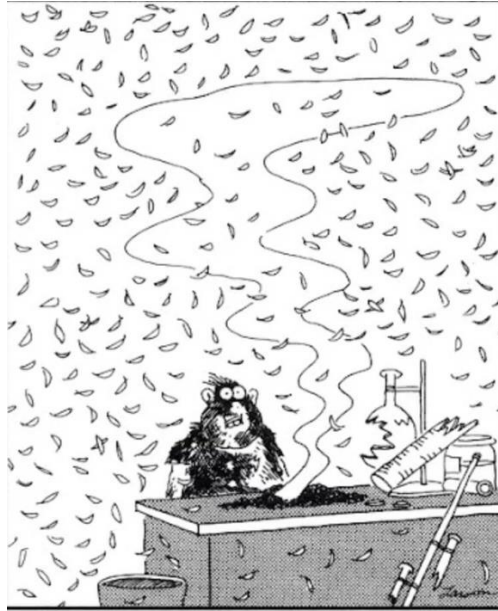
We pray for the clergy and people of every parish in our diocese. We also pray for our companion dioceses of Nzara and Swaziland in Africa, and Brechin in Eastern Scotland.

We pray for all who suffer under the weight of this pandemic and strength for those who labor for our health. We pray for leaders in every community and nation, especially for Joseph, our President and Kimberly, our Governor, that they might seek justice, promote unity, and care for all those they serve.

We offer this meditation for the people of Ukraine: "The Spirit helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray as we ought—and sometimes the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words." We pray for peace, but maybe we don't have the words. We pray for a just peace, but maybe we don't have the words. We pray that the lives of innocents, and the lives of any human child of God, will be spared. We pray that our leaders will find a diplomatic way—a nonviolent solution. But we don't know how to pray as we ought, and so the Spirit must intercede for us at this time."

~ **Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

The Lighter Side



God as a kid tries to make a chicken in his room.



