



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



November 2022 Epistle

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

Priest in Partnership, The Rev. Richard Graves

Senior Warden, P.J. Colbert

Junior Warden, Nick Lindborg

Parish Administrator, Michael Bayne

Organist, Sharon Morrical

Pianist, Andrew Thelen

Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço-Feld

Email: stpauls50158@msn.com

Webpage: stpaulsmarshalltown.org

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

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



A REFLECTION

Every day I seem to be word-processing something -- writing or replying to an email or composing a letter or a sermon or even an article for our newsletter.

As I poke at the keyboard, I get flagged when I place a space where one should not exist. It's the auto-correct function of the computer program that has alerted me and keeps me from putting in my text a space that doesn't belong.

If only we had some sort of fool proof auto-correct function of our hearts and minds that kept us from putting spaces where they shouldn't exist. Right? It's clear that we don't. We divide ourselves ethnically, racially, regionally, nationally, economically, religiously, and politically.

Moreover, in this world where distinctions are so easily and rigidly drawn, far too often we fail to see that the union that God has knit together includes not just the living, those of us still defined by space and time, but all the faithful of every age who have ever lived or will ever live.

The mystical body of Jesus Christ into which we have been formed includes not just us, but all the faithful who have already gone before us or who will go before us: both the saints of God in ages past and those in years to come.

With the turning of the calendar to the first day of November, All Saints Day, we celebrate our seamless communion with saints of great renown and those who are known to God alone and to perhaps a few others who knew and loved them.

Among these lesser saints are, of course, our own beloved family members and dear friends. We loved them in life, and we miss their physical presence. They taught us right from wrong, inspired us when we had given up hope, believed in us when no one else would, and loved us despite our weaknesses and shortcomings. A tall order, indeed!

These are the dear ones we remember and whose virtuous and godly examples we seek to follow. They're parents and siblings and spouses and children and beloved friends we'll always love and cherish, and they're as vital a part of the mystical body of Jesus Christ as we are.

Yes, their mortal bodies have returned to the dust, and we don't see them as we once did; but their indestructible spirits live on in perpetuity in our hearts.

You might think about All Saints Day like this. In its own way, it provides to our hearts what the auto-correct function of a computer keyboard does to our word-processing. This great Feast alerts us when we wish to place spaces where they don't belong. That is, it reminds us that the God whom we proclaim and truly love in Jesus Christ isn't a God of separation, but of unity and communion.

God doesn't believe in spaces among us, and neither should we.

Do join in praying this prayer not just on November 1 but on each day of November, for we all need its corrective message of unity over division deeply embedded within us.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

~Prayer for All Saints Day, The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

God bless you,

Richard



Spooktacular success!

On Sunday, October 30, members of our parish and community (some in costume!) enjoyed a spookily wonderful concert presented by our Artist in Residence, Hudson Lourenço-Feld, on organ, and guest artist, Derek Shields, on piano.

The program was wide-ranging, as it featured works ranging from Bach and Mozart to Cindy Lauper and Andrew Lloyd Weber. There was even a song sung by those attending that was plucked right out of our 1982 Hymnal, “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.”

Refreshments followed the 45-minute concert, which consisted of candy treat bags, cookies and bars, and hot cider.

We are so grateful to Hudson and Derek for sharing their artistry with us. We are also grateful to those of our parish who baked cookies and bars, and to Parish Administrator, Mike Bayne, for producing the concert program and providing promotional and logistical support.



- **ZOOM BIBLE STUDY** occurs every Thursday at 4:00 p.m. The Scripture for the study and the zoom link is emailed prior to each meeting. For more information, please contact the Church Office.
- The next meeting of the **VESTRY** is slated for **Wednesday, November 16, at 4:30 p.m. in the Conference Room**. If you have anything for the agenda, please contact the church office.
- **MEALS ON WHEELS MINISTRY** is provided by **GLENN DAVIS** and **SHERYL READOUT**.
- **PARISH POTLUCK, 6:00PM CONFERENCE ROOM:** We will gather on **November 3**. Nancy Stone is preparing barbeque ribs. 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**.
- **ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will unfold on **Thursday, December 8, at the Binford House**. The entire meal is being underwritten, so there will be charge. Festivities will begin with wine and cheese at 5:30 p.m. and dinner following at 6:30 p.m. Each attendee should bring a reasonably priced, unisex wrapped present, for the Christmas gift exchange.
- **ARTS@ST.PAULS:** We will conclude our first full season of this new outreach program of St. Paul's with a **Christmas program on Tuesday, December 20, at 7:00 p.m.** This concert will feature our Artist in Residence and organist, **HUDSON LOURENCO-FELD**; pianist, **DEREK SHIELDS**; guitarist, **MICHAEL GABLER**; a to-be-named vocalist; and **SINGERS OF MARSHALLTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**.



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

Orlin Klinkefus, Colleen Harmon, Ruth Davis, Dan and Carroll McInroy, Bob & Nancy Petersen, Alice, Ginny Hunt, Sandra Mason.

We pray for all those celebrating birthdays during the month of November, especially Roger Halleck, Nick Lindborg, Lily Mayo, and Nan Ryden. We also pray for those observing anniversaries, especially Brent and Janet deSilva.

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 the people of the state of Florida as they respond to Hurricane Ian.

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 pray for an end to Coronavirus 19 and for all those working world-wide to care for those who have contracted the virus.

The Lighter Side



