

Vestry: is 12 too many?

A funny thing happened on the way to the Vestry...

Over the years many members of the vestry fulfilled their terms and some were re-elected. Others resigned before their terms were completed. In time, with no negligence or intrigue, this patchwork of terms brought confusion of when some terms ended.

Late last year, as we began to plan vestry elections, I asked the vestry which members were finishing their terms and who was eligible and willing to stand for re-election. There was a surprisingly amount of confusion. I then spent a fair amount of time researching the minutes of past annual meetings and discovered that we had two members whose terms expired last year!

Currently we have 11 members of the vestry (one seat was open this year) which raised the question among the vestry of whether 12 people are needed or whether nine would be enough. Consulting our bylaws we noted such a decision involved an amendment of our bylaws. Amendments must be

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Bible Study Under Way

Fr. Tom makes a point about the Gospel of Matthew, the subject of the current series offered on Wednesday evenings or Sundays between the services. Read Chapters 1-3 to be up to speed and join in the discussion at the library in Serson Hall. Six-thirty Wednesdays, 9 a.m. Sundays.

Pledges & amounts are up!

Many thanks to those who have pledged their gifts to St. Paul's during our Stewardship Campaign – SHINING OUR LIGHT. Your gifts of treasure will enable our vestry to prepare the budget for the coming year and ensure the sound financial operation of our parish.



We are pleased to report the average pledge has increased by \$422 (from \$1,814 to \$2,236) and the median pledge has increased by \$300 (from \$1,000 to \$1,300), as compared to prior years.

Eleven individuals/families are new pledgers! If you did not offer a pledge on Consecration Sunday, there is still time to do so and help us finish the budget plan. Pledge cards are available in the narthex on Sundays and from the office.

Thank you for your continuing support of St. Paul's Church and our ministries and missions!

—Linda Connelly
 Stewardship chairperson

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Eventful years as senior warden

As this will be my final report as senior warden, I thought it might be interesting to review a few of the events in the life of St. Paul's that have occurred since I became senior warden.

1. A reasonably non-traumatic transition from Fr. Tara to Fr. Bill.

2. A fun year-long 50th anniversary starting with the entire congregation being outfitted in anniversary t-shirts to welcome the bishop, continuing with monthly celebrations (can you ever forget the altar being surrounded by home-made pies and cakes) and ending with a celebration at Trinity-

by-the-Cove, our founding congregation.

3. Installation of storm windows in the church.

4. A bus load of parishioners hearing our presiding bishop speak at the 50th anniversary of our Diocese of Southwest Florida.

5. A successful search leading to the arrival of Fr. Tom.

6. The start of the Birthday Club to allow us all annually to make small but significant gifts to our endowment fund to help ensure Saint Paul's will survive future downturns.

7. The renewal of our rectory.

On a more personal note, the position allowed me to teach my Roman Catholic friends that although the Episcopal Church had wardens, we did not have any prisoners. We are all here voluntarily. I was also able to persuade my wife to join God's Gardeners and create some beautiful gardens around the church. As a result of classes at DaySpring, I learned many lessons useful in both my personal and my spiritual life.

While I was senior warden, the church operated at a profit or break-even for all the years except 2019. To try to prevent more deficit years, we have started a program to inspect other churches in the



Dick and Diane Briethaupt at the 50th anniversary of St. Paul's gala

diocese at the request of our insurance company and also to adopt-a-precinct in Collier County. We start with the presidential preference primary on March 17. The precinct we will be staffing is located at the Humane Society on Airport-Pulling Road. The other elections this year will be in August (primary) and the general election on Nov. 3. If you can work the August primary, please let me know as we will need additional volunteers for that date. Neither of these programs will raise large amounts of money, but every little bit will help.

Thank you for all your support over the years. It has been my pleasure working with you for St. Paul's. I am sure that the next senior warden will also have your help in ensuring the continued success of St. Paul's.

—Dick Breithaupt

12 too many?

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put to the parish for a vote.

In December, the vestry unanimously approved a resolution to present an amendment to our bylaws before the annual meeting on January 26, 2020:

Article Seven: Vestry

Section 1 will be amended from reading:

[The Vestry] "consists of the Rector and twelve members elected as provided below."

To reading:

[The Vestry] "can consist of the Rector and nine members elected as below."

Depending on the will of the annual meeting, we may move to a nine-person vestry which will change our need for nominees to be considered at the annual meeting. There are members of the vestry eligible and willing to stand for re-election. Final announcements regarding our nominees will be made after our January vestry meeting which will take place on Jan. 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

—Fr. Tom



Upcoming Events

Bible study Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.
& Sundays 9 a.m.

Gift shop bazaar Jan. 25

Annual meeting Jan. 26

Trivia Sunday Feb. 9

Parish dinner! Feb. 13

A no-pressure, positive invitation

I have always admired and even been a little jealous of those who know what God has tasked them to do in this life. How do they KNOW? How did they get started?

Countless times I've asked God to show me the way, to send me a message, to give me the courage to do something great. I'm not hearing his audible voice but the one place I do know where to look for his words is in the Bible.

In the past year I have been slowly reading the Bible so I can absorb as much as possible. One message is repeated; we are to spread the word of God. A couple of verses that spoke to me are:

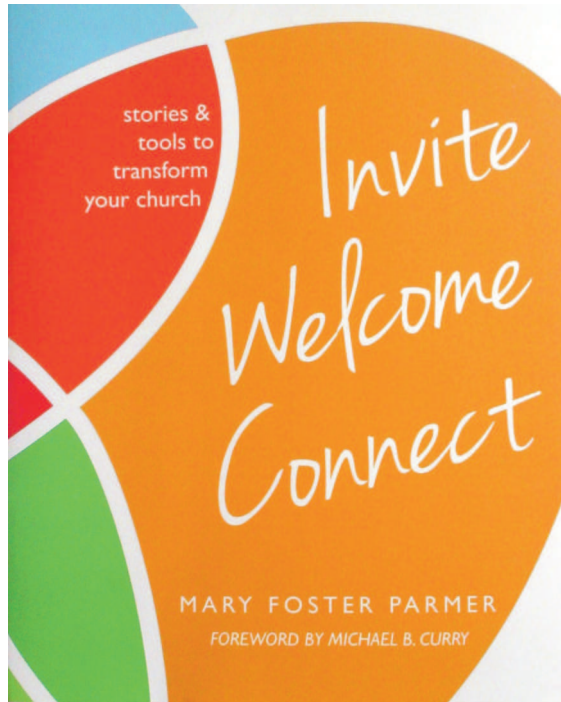
Mark 16:15 NKJV "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'

Matthew 28:19 NKJV Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

I'm not good speaking in front of a large group so it's unlikely I'll ever start an evangelical movement but I am still able to make a difference. We are all able to make a difference.

One small gesture can change someone's life. It can start with something as small as an invitation. I realize inviting someone to church can be awkward. No one wants to be seen as judgmental or pushy and you may not be sure how to start the conversation without making the other person uncomfortable. But ask yourself "Is it really their discomfort that is keeping me from asking...or my own?" Truth be told it is my own.

So how do you ask the question? Keep it casual but ask if they have a church they attend. If they say yes the next part of the



Editor's note: Laura and a few other parishioners are reading the book, *Invite Welcome Connect*, which inspired her to write this article. She said, "I do believe the concept of inviting people to church is the biggest hurdle most of us have. It doesn't have to be a negative situation."

conversation is easy. You can just say, "Great, I am glad you have a church to attend, which one is it?" This celebrates the church they belong to and you don't seem as if you are trying to recruit them. If they say no, follow up with an invite. "If you are ever looking for a great place I go to St. Paul's, I would love to see you there."

This leaves it casual, friendly and without pressure and the decision is theirs if they decide to come or not. If they don't engage further then leave it at that. If they do have a question or two that signals they are open to hearing more and you can share your own experiences with the church and

how attending there has helped you by strengthening your faith, allowing you to help others or just how comforting it is to be a part of the welcoming community we have at St. Paul's.

I'm going to ask that all of us try to extend an invitation to someone. If you have someone you would like to invite but haven't because it seems awkward, or you're not sure how they will take it; just take a breath and ask.

The positive definitely outweighs the negative by asking that one little question. What if God has touched their heart and is waiting for you to invite them? What if they are in pain and find the healing they need at church?

Perhaps they will commit their life to Christ and make a change in someone else. If you can be the instrument that brings one person to Jesus you will have made a difference.

And if that person brings one person...

—Laura Torrelli

Invite them to Trivia Sunday!
Trivia Fun Sunday, the Farmers' Market, Bible study and other events are good ways to introduce your friends to St. Paul's.

Have you met...

Most of you have seen her at the pulpit on a Sunday morning delivering the homily, but Have you met... **Barbara Metcalfe?**

Barbara began her trek through life to St. Paul's pulpit in Middletown, N.Y., where she was born. However, being a self-defined "Army brat," she was destined not to spend more than a few years there, nor anywhere else, until adulthood. Her dad, George, an officer in the Army Signal Corps, and mom, Florence, moved the family to Yokohama, Japan where Barb attended grade school.

The Metcalfes followed this typical military life pattern throughout dad's tours of duty during WW II and the Korean conflict; George being decorated for his service in both campaigns.

Barbara graduated from high school in Germany and following her father's transfer stateside, started college at Cornell University. However, in her junior year Eros, course changer that he is, brought love in the person of one Pete Suttmeier into Barb's life.

He, an undergraduate student at Dartmouth, saw Barbara at a wedding in which she was a bride's maid, arranged for an introduction yada, yada, yada, and before her junior year was completed, and much to her parents' chagrin, the couple eloped.

The marriage had little effect on Barbara's globe-trotting path to our pulpit. Husband Peter's participation in Dartmouth's "Project Asia" led to yet another overseas move. This time to Hong Kong. During Pete's two-year assignment there, Barbara taught at a middle school. Barb states she was teaching kids "...who couldn't understand a word I said."

4 After they came back from



Hong Kong in 1965, Barbara completed her masters degree at Colgate. Then Pete began his doctorate at Indiana University. Next they went to Washington, D.C. for three years. Her husband finished his doctoral thesis and worked for NASA as an intern for a year. He was the liai-son to the Italian space program. Barb added, "you can imagine how this was received by his New York City family! Italian Space pro-gram?"

At the same time Barbara worked as a trademark searcher. She made sure potential trademarks weren't already used. Her favorite was a dog food called "Postman's Ankle."

Editor's note: The purpose of this feature is to introduce our newer members (2018 to date) to the congregation. If you are new, as defined by this criteria, and not yet been interviewed please contact Ken at keneastlack@msn.com]

Ms. Metcalfe's travels continued including a ten-year period in Clinton, N.Y., where she taught high school. Even then the globe trotting continued with Pete's sabbatical moves to Honolulu, Tokyo and California.

When the couple separated in California, Barbara made a career change and turned to technical writing, first with Atari, then Claris (Apple software), and eventually was recruited by Microsoft as Director of User Education in, as Barb put it, "Gloom City" (Seattle).

Ms. Metcalfe retired in 1999 and came to Florida. In 2010 she felt the need to return to teaching and took her current position teaching English Comp, at Florida South-western State College (FSW).

Barbara grew up in the Episcopal faith. She alternated church attendance with her husband, a Lutheran, between the two faiths. When she came to Naples she briefly worshiped at Trinity by the

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A nice touch of welcome

A nice touch has been added by Leona C. Barron, whose friends call her Lee. She wasted no time in joining with the great God's Gardeners who work Thursdays to beautify our grounds. The left and middle photos show her Fall/Thanksgiving handi-

work, and we have Noel for Christmas in the picture at right. Thank you, Lee!

Haven't yet met Lee? She'll be introduced in an upcoming "Have you met...?" feature in Pathway.

Treasures & Trifles BAZAAR

Saturday, January 25, 2020

8 am to noon

In Trinity Hall (Parish Hall)

Have you met...? *from previous page*

Cove, and attended a Lutheran church in Bonita Springs before joining St. Monica's.

"The best thing to happen to me," cites Barbara, was meeting the Rev. Kathy Schillreff, the rector at St. Monica's. Having completed a four-year religion course called Education for Ministry, the Rev. Kathy, "Encouraged me to become a licensed lay preacher." Barb then

took an additional homiletics course and became licensed to preach in the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

Ms. Metcalfe came to St. Paul's about a year ago and soon after completed her trek from a newborn in Middletown to our pulpit. Quite a journey, wouldn't you agree?

Barbara is also a creative writer

Tumaini fundraiser

The Tumaini Fund has provided help to more than sixty thousand AIDS orphans in Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in Africa. Our annual fundraiser will once again be held at Naples Sailing and Yacht Club Saturday, Feb. 15.

This will be an African themed event & include a professional team of musicians & dancers from Miami All are invited. For further information call Roger Conant (239-260-7091) or Mike Moore (239-216-1816,

of note.

Soon after living in Naples for a few years, she wrote a book about the house guest problem we have in the winter. It's called *Freeloaders*--it won 1st place for adult fiction, 1st place for humor, and best in show at the Florida Writers Association. Barb noted, "...it's funny and it's short!"

—Ken Eastlack

Behind-the-scenes angels

Have you ever wondered how the altar linens are always perfectly white and pressed? Members of the Altar Guild are responsible for maintaining these credence and altar cloths, vestments and supplies needed for the Eucharist.

Every Saturday a member removes the perpetually burning aumbry candle and replaces it with a new one. Oil is added to the candles on the altar. The chalice and host vessel (ciborium) are set out and cruets filled with the wine and water.

If leftover consecrated wine, the blood of Jesus, is to be disposed of, it must be returned to the earth in a special sink in the sacristy, called a piscina, that empties directly to the earth or it can be poured outside onto the ground. Fr. Tom's piety calls for him to consume the elements, so the piscina doesn't get much use these days.

The altar is dressed in fresh linens, including the colors designated by the Episcopal Church, and matching vestments are laid out for the Celebrant. Seasonal banners hand made by church member Nancy Conner are hung in the sanctuary.

Sundays at 7 a.m. Adrienne McGrain faithfully unlocks the sacristy, sets out vessels and linens for the altar and carries the chalice, bread vessel and alms basins (offering plates) to the back of the sanctuary. Adrienne has served on the Altar Guild for more than 20 years and will be moving away in February. She will be sorely missed.

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Adrienne McGrain, framed here in the passthrough from nave to sacristy, is leaving her 20-plus-years stint on the Altar Guild, moving to Texas to be with one of her daughters. Her late husband, William, also devoted much of his life to St. Paul's.



Linda Condren, photo at left, washes the sacred vessels following a Sunday worship service. Jean Hayes, above, finishes the job

Angels behind the scenes *continued from previous page*

*Speak with Judy Allen
to join this ministry*



Joan Menslage places candle, newly filled with oil, on altar

Following a service, the implements for communion are returned to the sacristy through a window below the left of the altar. There they are washed and stored. Linens and vestments are checked for need of washing, dry cleaning, or mending. Every item has a labeled room, closet, cabinet, or drawer for storage.

The Altar Guild takes inventory of candles, oil, wine, bread and other necessities. Deb Avery, our church secretary, orders the supplies. The cost of an aumbry candle or a bottle of port wine can be donated in memory of a loved one.

Judy Allen is the industrious, organized chair of the Altar Guild. Other members for the morning worship services are Peggy Anson, Linda Condon, Van Geoghegan, Jean Hayes, Don McCleary, Adrienne McGrain, Joan Menslage, Nancy Smith, Tootie Steineger, Bev Sweet, and Cindy Tysiak. Two to three members help on Saturdays and Sunday morning services. The guild would appreciate additional church members volunteering to help and learn the procedures, as long-time serving members retire or move.

Altar Guild members for the Sunday evening Creole services are Tashina Cenozier, Rose Meggie Guerrier, and Conceptia Jean.

—Carol Tracy



Our Haitian community, which gathers Sundays at 5 p.m. for worship, holds a special celebratory mass every Jan. 1, marking the independence of Haiti. At left, youths deliver offerings, dancing their way up the aisle. After the service, they feast in Trinity Hall (top)

Put on your thinking caps, and GET READY FOR...



TRIVIA SUNDAY

February 9, 2020

\$17 per person, collected at the event

Includes mulligans for teams (table of eight) Bring your beverages & table snacks. Create a team or join one at random. Fun either way!

Sign up at coffee or at the office

***FunFundraiser for the kids in the albergue
el buen Samaritano, Dominican Republic
(A ministry of Naples Episcopalians)***



Ask anyone who attended last year 's inaugural Trivia Sunday and the response will be something like, "We had a ball," or "Great fun!"