



We're Back *(Conditionally)*

After a three-month prohibition, we are cautiously beginning to assemble again in church.

Fifty-seven persons are now allowed in, one-fourth of capacity, for what perhaps will be a long stretch while the nation and world battle this little-understood viral threat, Covid-19.

Safety dictates the several rules for gathering. First among them is your own apprehension. If you are feeling uneasy about venturing out, stay home and experience the mass on your smart phone, computer or television set. Join the St. Paul's YouTube page; worship begins at 9 a.m.

Those coming to church must be masked, of course, and maintain the six-foot physical distancing, using only designated pews.



A recent coffee hour on Zoom

A website worth visiting

St. Paul's website has some new features that make it a valuable resource not only for visitors to the area looking for a church, but for parishioners as well.

A donations page is now live, where you can donate immediately or set up a recurring payments plan to keep your stewardship offerings up to date from the comfort of your own home. It isn't so safe in these times to pass an offering plate or handle objects from person to person.

Another feature is a Facebook-like page where we share stories and photos. It's a politics-free zone where we share the love instead of the noise, called *Family Ties*.

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Church leaders mull, 'what's next?'

Our church is not closed and we are not practicing social distancing.

Wait! What?

Buildings are closed; but we are the Church. We maintain *physical* distancing, but not spiritual or social distancing. This was the message Saturday, May 2, of Bishop Dabney Smith, speaking via Zoom to more than 300 lay and clergy leaders of the 77 churches in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. The annual vestry retreat, for the first time not held in a packed Day-Spring, the camp owned and operated by the diocese as a retreat center summer camp for children, and the site for the offices of the bishop and his staff.

Several members of St. Paul's vestry, which includes the rector, heard from Canon Anne Vickers, Deacon Martha Goodwill and Canon Richard Norman. The theme of the day was, "What's next?, and why?"

Before the meeting photos depicting how several churches were conducting services during the pandemic were shown. The show included a shot of Fr. Tom behind the St. Paul's altar.

Most of the day centered on the health of parishes, all making the point that the dedication of leaders, working with the diocese and communities prove that perhaps the most important resource is the relationships that connect us.

Here are some reactions of those lay leaders from St. Paul's who "attended" the vestry retreat, gathered by Ken Eastlack for *Pathway*:

Charlene Connolly, senior warden:

"I think 307 other vestry members loved attending this year's retreat at DaySpring because there was no

driving involved. It is a two hour drive from Naples to Parrish Florida where our vestry would sit as a group.

Bishop Smith said to us, "Our diocesan clergy are doing well to keep active; every congregation is open for the weeks to come. Say your prayers." The bishop shared that when vestry members ask him questions during the session; others hear it and often apply part of it to what is happening at their churches.

This year's vestry retreat discussed financial sustainability in an unprecedented time. Bishop Smith and Canon Richard Norman, canon to the ordinary, addressed "Make the life of the Spirit within and among us the center of all we think, say, and do." At the end of their talks they suggested that we read The Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs which can be downloaded and read for free. The Episcopal Church advises us to use these materials to help a vestry make decisions. Since we have a Farmers' Market and AA groups and other faith groups using our property as well as receptions in Trinity Hall we learned from the talks to have a Shared Use of Facility annual review.

The Episcopal Church offers a course called Safe-guarding our children, older people and each other. Groups using our property should understand and abide by these standards.

Dave Abernethy, treasurer:

The meeting was more informational than inspirational, even with the prayers. In the morning session, they talked about doing a liquidity analysis, which we do every month in our financial reports.

They felt strongly about each parish having an endowment program, which we do with our Society Of Saint Paul (SOSP).

In the afternoon session, they talked about purchasing processes, which is something that we need to improve. They talked about gift acceptance policy, which we have. They talked about downloading the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs.

Anne Vickers did an excellent job on instructions and presentations.

Joyce Cashin:

Bishop Smith opened the meeting with a quote from the bible of Do not be afraid, which pertains to what is going on now re Corona virus, and opened us in prayer.

The first three items discussed were the clergy discretionary fund, records management, and legacy, capital and operating funds.

It was mentioned that all but seven churches have an endowment fund and the diocese would like all churches to have one.

Dick Emerson:

The on-line vestry retreat was an excellent presentation in addressing the relevant issues and concerns which vestries are facing at this time. It provided us with a good insight into practices vestries should develop—some of which we already have in place, and a few we can further strengthen. My major takeaway from the meeting is that we are extremely fortunate in Southwest Florida to have such strong diocesan leadership!

Lee Perry:

I continue to be very impressed with Zoom, which they used. Very impressed with our bishop and his staff. They all did an excellent job.

Our coffee mate: *summa cum laude*

By Lee Barron

If you are looking to the skies for a brilliant star, look no further than the kitchen of Trinity Hall during our Sunday coffee hour. There you will find a gentle young fellow, Garnel-Marc Guerrier. He sets up the room, makes drinks, displays the snacks and when we're finished, cleans up and puts everything away for us. Garnel graduated from high school this month, and there is much to know about this fine chap.

Like our refreshments, he is one smart cookie! This bright, friendly senior graduated *summa cum laude*. That means he graduated with a +4.0-grade point average. In fact, his GPA is 4.8! Not only that, he is graduating with Outstanding Achievement in Economics honors and has been in the National Honor Society since middle school!

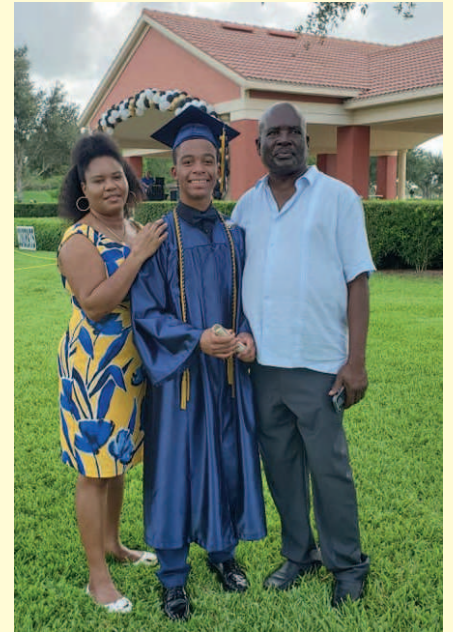
His preferred classes were science, biology and anatomy; math being his favorite. Why those subjects? The challenge each presented: the uncertainty of a problem put in front of him—to understand the issue, discover and dissect the problem down to its basics, work on theories and application of them towards an answer, find a solution, and then enjoy satisfaction, relief, and the confidence it brought him.

He is considering majoring in finance or investment banking but with his interest in the sciences, he is not leaving out the idea of sports medicine.

His talent goes beyond studies—he is a great tennis player as well, and clearly enjoys it, despite the hot weather. He has played on middle and high school intramural teams and the varsity tennis team all four years! In fact, he has won a full Academic Scholar/Athletic Award Scholarship to attend college in the fall. He will be attending the



Garnel, and with his parents, Magareth and Fr. Panel



University of Florida in Gainesville. As though his talents were not enough, he has volunteered at the Salvation Army Summer camp for a couple of years assisting counselors, working with children 4-13.

What has St. Paul's meant to him? Helping others, kindness towards others and that extended to him, along with the spirituality of the church and understanding of being closer to God has been important to his personal growth. He attends the Haitian community services here "on his own accord." Curious as to why he would say that, he divulged he is the son of Magareth and the Rev. Panel Guerrier, the priest to our Haitian population here at St. Paul's!

Fr. Panel and his wife are proud of Garnel and the hard and long hours of study to accomplish as much as he has as a young man. Garnel's sister, Rose Meggie, is also a former coffee hour attendant. She and her older brother, Nel-Marc, are working and going to college. Coming from Haiti with so little, their parents wanted their children to achieve and benefit

from the education, opportunities, and the freedom to go as far as one can and aspire even more so than they were afforded in their youth.

Garnel's parents encouraged him from the very beginning to love, be kind, work hard, to put his best foot forward, and have good morals.

Fr. Panel also thanked St. Paul's for extending the love, kindness and opportunities to him, his family, and the Haitian community to worship and grow with God here. He feels our church has helped to round out Garnel's life giving it balance between work, play and worship. What a great dad (and mum!), and what an inspiration Garnel is to us all!

Should we be able to have our Sunday coffee hour again before the end of August, please do take the time to talk with Garnel or send him an email via Fr. Panel's email: Pmguerrier@yahoo.com to thank our own shining star for his help and wish him a bright future. You know he will do well in whatever he chooses in life.

Wondering how the 12 kept in touch

By Ken Eastlack

I tend to identify somewhat with the apostles and their relationship with Jesus. I try to envision myself as an average person among the throng of ordinary people present during those last days leading up to the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension of our Lord.

At the moment I'm dwelling on Jesus' ultimate departure from the twelve, and the days months and immediate years that followed.

This imagining exercise comes easy for me because of the three weeks I spent in Israel about 30 years ago. (Whew, where did they go?) In a very real if not always exact way I walked where He and the twelve walked. I prayed in the Olive Garden (Gethsemane). I stood in the Upper Room; knowing that it was not all that exact, where the Teacher and the twelve celebrated, with the bread and wine of remembrance, what would become the holy sacrament of communion.

To this day I relive those few moments there whenever I receive communion (even if it is from a car in drive-through fashion!)

I dipped my hands in the river Jordan and blessed myself with the sign of the cross, and filled two small vials of the water in which Jesus had been baptized by John. I walked a large portion of the Via Dolorosa.

After Pentecost, the twelve now are without Jesus among them.

I observed the bond between these twelve and their teacher, the love that binds them. But now their charge is to separate and follow their Lord's desire that they bring His truth to the rest of the world, as it was known to them.

And I'm wondering, will they ever see each other again? How will they ever know how each one is



doing in their different corners of the world? Their Teacher had instructed them on how to keep in touch with Him, through prayer and the holy sacrament of communion. But prayer only works in reaching out to the Lord, not necessarily to one another.

I am keenly aware of how much we miss close friends, family, and loved ones when circumstances separate us; even for the shortest time. I know that same longing to breach the gap of time and space confronting the twelve had to have been great. Even more so for them than for you and me now.

In 2020 we have a postal service, telephones, and the internet. We can, "Reach out and touch someone" at will. The twelve had none of this at their disposal. It seems there was no avenue for them to keep aware of where each other was or how they were doing.

We at Saint Paul's annually share the twelves' separation. Every Spring a large portion of the congregation leaves the warm and welcoming confines of our Davis Blvd. sanctuary for the four corners of the North. Unlike the twelve, we have one more means of staying in touch—*Pathway!*

This year's exodus has been all the more pronounced by the "stay safe at home" mandate that separated the entire congregation even before the migration of our beloved

snowbirds began. No farewells, safe journeys, or hugs. No shared prayers of departure in the confines of the sanctuary. Nothing but some one-to-one telephoned or emailed messages between but a handful of us. That wonderful aura of friendship and warmth clearly missing.

However, the *Pathway* team will do its best to reconnect us over the Summer.

We ask our readers to help in the task. As we have done the past two Summers, we are asking that you email your Summer happenings to keneastlack@msn.com This year we are adding comments from our full-time resident parishioners as well as you folk up North.

Remember, we are family in Christ. We really care about one another, and truly want to know how things are going during our absence from each other.

Even a, "Hi everyone, nothing special going on, but just checking in to let you know that all is well." would be so nice to hear.

Now, if I don't begin to hear from you within a reasonable time, I will turn Jewish/Italian mother on you and bombard you with individual guilt memos of, "What, you're too busy to call (email) your mother (*Pathway*)?"

We do wish everyone safe journeys and a Summer full of God's blessings and grace.

Sign up at SaintPaulsNaples.org



Our Website More Useful

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In addition to donations, we've added a section called "All the links," on the home page under "update" at the right. Deb keeps this up to date so you don't have to go looking for the right email from Fr. Tom to join coffee hour or bible study. One click of the link and your browser will launch Zoom and take you to the right place.

The *Family Ties* page will show you the names of those celebrating anniversaries this month, and birthdays this week. In addition, there's a list of those we are praying for, and you can add your name or that of a loved one. (For privacy purposes and because this is a page open to anyone, we are using only first names).

You are encouraged to fill out a profile page and will be prompted in several categories. You can make your profile as long or short as you wish. It will help us learn a little more about each other, our backgrounds, hobbies, etc. And you may learn you have something in common with a parishioner you've never talked with. An occasion for a new friendship, a new family tie. We're in the profile gathering stage at the moment; your webmaster will work on how we get to see one another's profiles.

Donations

As you can see in the graphics at left, it's a quick process to make a donation to your church, or to set up a recurring payment plan in order to keep current with your stewardship of St. Paul's. If you have any problems or questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to call Tom Connolly, webmaster.

Your Name
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Home Worship Leadership Activities Markets

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Your donation to St. Paul's

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Set up donation

Enter dollar amount

Or set up automatically recurring deductions using your credit or debit card

Recurring payment

A convenient and safe way to keep your offering pledge current.

Set this up

or click recurring payment button

Your Name's donation is \$250.00

Pay now

Confirm (or edit) and click button

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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As a new member of St. Paul's, seeing our different buildings and photos of past priests, wondering how the carved doors to the Narthex came to be, asking why there are several bells on the property and learning that there are actually ten acres of church property (That is a lot of lawn to be mowed!), I was curious to learn how our church came to be established.

Father Tom was kind enough to lend me a notebook, *History of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1967-1997* by James Bell McMechan, written as a commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the first service that was held Sunday, Dec. 3, 1967. Additionally, several weeks ago, I (along with two others) was both

surprised and honored to be unexpectedly inducted into the church as a full fledged member by Bill Kling Judy Allen, and Fr. Tom in a quiet private ceremony in the chapel. (Have you seen the chapel? It is lovely and so peaceful!). I received a nice welcome packet which included a booklet commemorating Saint Paul's Jubilee! Celebration of Fifty Years/Five Rectors (1967-2017) that was held January 27-28, 2018. Speak to some of the other members of the

BEGINNINGS



By Lee Barron

church and they will glow as they tell you what a special time that was.

I thought it might be nice to share a condensed history of our church in several editions of *Pathway*.

Naples needed another Episcopal church

It was December 1965, one year after the end of the Baby Boomers, but Naples and Collier County were booming and the following year(s) looked bright: there was little evidence left of Hurricane Donna's damages in 1960. Naples pier, built in 1889, was reopened after extensive hurricane damage, and the long-awaited road connecting Naples to the Miami area was to be completed and open in 1966.

The population of Collier County had increased in five years by 60% to more than 25,000; 7,500 in the city of Naples. It was Florida's second fastest growing area and estimated that the population in the city/county would reach 40,000 by 1970. At Publix a pound of butter cost 49 cents, two dozen eggs 89 cents, and coffee was 49 cents a pound. The first National Bank of Naples offered 4% interest on CDs. Of the few homes that dotted the large barren peninsula known as Port Royal, three new homes there were offered at prices ranging from \$80,000 to \$82,577 but of course,

other homes rising in other areas of Naples were selling at much lower prices. There was only one Episcopal Church, Trinity-By-The-Cove, located on Galleon Drive in Port Royal. It was built in the early 50's by the developer of Port Royal as a community church. Wintering Episcopal priests conducted services until 1954 when the Diocese assumed control of Trinity and the Rev. Kee Harrison was named vicar. It had not attained its desired number of members considering the high prices of homes and, more important for future planning, its location was far from the growing areas of Naples.

The prediction of growth in the Naples area was noted by the then Episcopal Diocese of South Florida. The Presbyterians had already announced construction of a church in the Moorings. Clearly, a new Episcopal Church was needed in Naples. What would be a good location for such a church?

While population projections were studied, most immediate growth was evident in East Naples but

there was also increasing housing being built towards the north; realtors were consulted about land availability and cost; expenses to be incurred were weighed against current and future income.

A final plan of action was determined after many meetings, in 1966: although the mission church would be sponsored by the Diocese of South Florida (and not a parochial mission created by a local church), the support of Trinity-By-The-Cove was sought. The rector of Trinity, the Rev. Richard L. Lambert and his vestry agreed to participate and Suffragan Bishop William L. Hargrave became the liaison for the diocese. A mission would be established in East Naples named for Saint Paul, who created many churches in his extensive travels.

The next step would be to find a site large enough for a church, parking, expansion and a house for the vicar. Thus an expanse of densely scrub-tree covered "jungle" was found on Davis Boulevard. The purchase price was \$14,350, pro-

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Things to do, but not for extra credit

By Barbara Metcalfe

As a teacher of college freshmen, I have the same experience every year. Finals are over, and this plea starts coming in: "Can I do extra credit?" I have to deliver the same heartless reply, "It's too late now!" and go on and give them the D they knew they had coming.

Sometimes I picture myself at the Pearly Gates, facing St. Peter, and making the same plea. He gives me the same reply that I have so often doled out.

Fortunately, thanks to St. Paul and Luther and other Christian

thinkers, we know it's our faith, not our extra credit, that opens God's grace to us.

Just the same, there are some things our faith might motivate us to do during this pandemic, when we are confined to home.

- If we got a government check for \$1,200, we could tithe on it.

- If our manicure (haircut, pedicure, massage) was canceled, we could donate the money we'd put aside for it to St. Mathew's House to help feed hungry people.

- We could take out our Bibles

—when we get to Exodus 8, we'll see those plagues the Egyptians endured, and know things could be worse.

- We could contact people we've lost touch with in our busy lives—a card, an e-mail message or a call might give someone a lift

- We could pray for mercy for all who have been affected by this terrible virus.

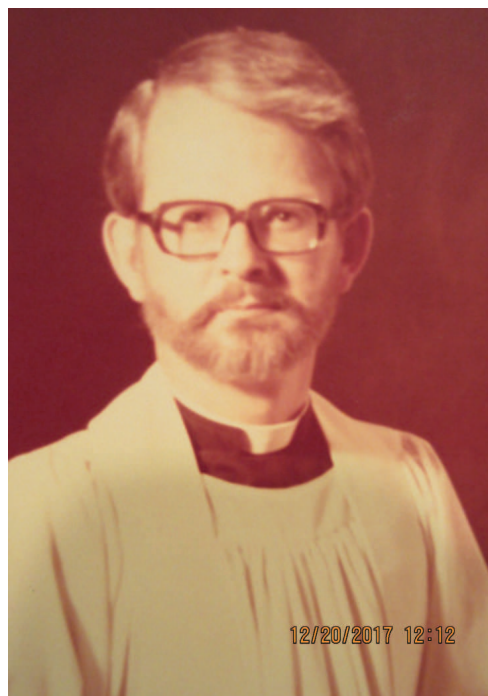
We all pray that St. Paul's will come through this time strengthened in our faith, and rejoicing in worshiping in our sanctuary again.

Naples needed another Episcopal church

(from previous page)

vided by Trinity-By-The-Cove through the sale of 100 shares of E.I. Dupont Denemours & Co. stock and deeded to the diocese in June 1967, signed by Trinity's Fr. Lambert and the senior and junior wardens. Next on the list was providing housing for a vicar: a construction contract for a four-bedroom, single level house was signed for \$22,985. The down payment was provided by the diocese, which much later turned over mortgage payments to St. Paul's. Although optimism was high that building in East Naples was forthcoming, it wasn't apparent around the St. Paul's location as it was beyond any existing water line, although on July 12, 1967, the Collier County Water Management District #9 was established to serve the area, although it would take five years before water lines came to St. Paul's. A well was drilled in 1967.

Bishop Hargrave had little success in his search for a vicar, however one was found by Fr. Lambert at Trinity. During Holy Week in 1967, the Rev. Karl Edwin Bell,



The Rev. Karl Bell

chaplain at Shattock School for boys, an Episcopal prep school in Fairbault, Minn., came to Naples to visit his mother in Golden Gate. He had previously written to Lambert, offering assistance at Easter Week services. When Rev. Bell preached at Trinity on Good Friday, Lambert was so impressed he immediately

offered Fr. Bell the "job of building a new parish." Bell accepted and on September 1, 1967, became vicar of St. Paul's. Salary: \$4,200 a year.

Much had been accomplished in a short period of time since the decision to establish a mission church, land purchase, start of construction of a vicarage, naming the church St. Paul's and now a new vicar. However, the Rev. Bell had his hands full: there was no church building, nowhere to hold services, no congregation, little public knowledge of the new mission, no volunteers to help, and no experience in how to accomplish what was needed to be done.

What he was to accomplish in a mere three months would be truly remarkable.





Keeping a safe physical distance

The 35 or so members who are coming to church on Sunday mornings are practicing measures recommended by our diocese and the CDC. Note re-

cipients of the Communion bread are allowing for proper spacing. Fr. Tom uses a virus-killing cleaner on his hands before distributing the hosts; all wear masks.

*Lagniappe**

Dan Fischer, a native of Long Island, was educated in Catholic schools for 20 years, including earning his Pharmaceutical degree. He was a pharmacist for 40 years, retiring last October. He also was a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church, going through seminary to earn an MA in Pastoral Theology. When Dan turned 50, he was granted dismissal from the clerical state, happy to be an Episcopal lay person.

Shortly after **Betty Lentz** was widowed in 2009, she became a professional actress, doing commercials and even a music video in Nashville, Tenn. Her first photo shoot was in April 2010 with a really big star, but she was not told who it would be for security reasons. It turned out to be Taylor Swift who was about to release her album "Speak Now!" Betty enjoyed her acting profession for several years, until she met her new love, Murray Smith!

Early in **Rich Shea's** marriage to **Jan**, they had three children and his teacher's salary of \$6,800 a year. As a summer job, Rich would drive 45 miles from their home in Vermont to the Quebec border where he was a US Customs and Immigration guard examining people coming into the country. Sometime, ask Rich about the two smuggling moms or the two teenagers on foot caught at midnight at the border in pouring rain, or the VW van full of Hare Krishnas.!

—Carol Tracy

* pronounced lan-yap, roughly means "a little something extra for you."

Parish prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, make our parish of St. Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging.

Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others.

Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen