



A VOTE OF THANKS for these happy, exhausted volunteers running the election polls Nov. 3. They raised funds for St. Paul's, working 14 hours (5 a.m. to 7

p.m.). From left are Dona Simon, Dave Abernethy, Jeff Reinhard, Dick Breithaupt, Bobbi Bishop, Quincey & Fr. Tom, Rich Shea and Jack LaRose. See story Pg. 3

Market opens, cautiously

By Lee Barron

Under cloudy skies with a heavy dampness in the air, our first Farmers' Market for the season opened on Saturday, Nov. 7. Peter Lund and Dick Emerson had worked diligently in a short amount of time to acquire and select those few vendors we were able to present under the current CDC guidelines.

Of the several they had secured, only five showed. It was 8 a.m. and the merchants were set up spaced far apart for the safety of any crowds, and our St. Paul's volunteers were in place. Yours truly was at the main entrance putting last-minute touches on the fall display ready to greet those coming by car, bike, on foot, or even pogo stick!

The clock ticked...8:15...no one... 8:30...nothing. Was the threat of rain keeping folks away? Was it Covid-19 issues? Was this sadly all for naught? I started to pray for God's help. 8:35, looking up, could it be? A car? Yes! Then another! By 9:30 there was a fair stream of them. I wanted to yell, "Blessed

Continued on Page 2

Christmas at St. Paul's

8:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, carols prelude with masked choir of four and congregational singing *sotto voce*. "Midnight Mass" 9 p.m.

Christmas Day, 9:45 a.m. Christmas music, 10 a.m. liturgy

Sunday, Dec. 27, 9 a.m. Carols and Lessons

All will be streamed live on our YouTube channel,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdc6lx-U_N1X26tkZ7TQ8-A

(or search "St Paul's, Naples" at youtube.com)

Inside

Big toy drive!.....	3
Fire in the belly.....	4
Igniting that fire.....	5
History.....	6
Lee's new creation.....	7
Lagniappe.....	8



Charlene Connolly, left, and Elizabeth Neopolitan greet market visitors at Lee Barron's welcome display

Opening day jitters at market

Continued from front page

shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out!" (Deut 28:6). Instead, they were greeted with a warm welcome and handed a flyer with Covid-19 guidelines for staying safe and healthy while with us. Elizabeth Neopolitan, who had so kindly come to the front entrance to take her place as official greeter from last year, informed those arriving that the market featured produce and Capt. Ken's Seafood.

Folks asked for the "Book Man," the "Honey Man," the "Watch Battery Man," and the "Flower Guy." Elizabeth, in her friendly, kind, and calm manner assured them that those suppliers, as well as others, would be added each week as the season progressed.

Fr. Tom mingled among the buyers, sellers, and St. Paul's volunteers to be sure that everyone was

okay and to see if everything was going smoothly.

Greeters and parkers were kept busy by the visitors coming and going. It was estimated that we

You won't buy leaf
what a big dill our
Farmers' Market is!!

had over 100 cars, as we had run out of flyers by 11 a.m. Everyone was tired, but agreed it had been a successful "soft" opening. The following Saturday, Nov. 14, was not much different, except the cars started coming in earlier and in a steadier stream. The requested missing vendors from the first week were there, which gave our visitors more options, and no doubt resulted in more purchases by browsers. It looks as though we are off to a good start, only to

continue as the season progresses with more vendors and more Snowbirds arriving.

Despite the weather and the early hour to arrive (7:30 am), the only cars that did appear between then and 8:35 were those wearing our Farmers' Market orange shirts — members of our congregation who felt it their mission to come to help make the day a success. So many volunteers came that first day, there were more than needed. Some directed cars, some spoke with visitors, others relieved other volunteers of their posts so a break could be had, or they offered one another a cold drink. It was no different the next weekend. The volunteers came again— no complaints, just smiles, concern for one another, and a "thank you" to each other for being there. That is what makes St. Paul's such a wonderful community of loving, caring neighbors and friends.



Toy drive a big success

Due to all the kind-hearted people of St. Paul's we collected 100 toys for needy children. Jeff Page was just amazed at the number of toys he delivered to a fire station for the kids. We filled his van from the back to the front with the donated toys. He was so amazed he just kept saying you still have more, more and more every time stuff was brought to him.

A great big THANK YOU for all your kindness.

--Joyce Cashin, President of the Episcopal Church Women



A sacred day at the polls

By Fr. Tom Thoeni

Richard Breithaupt came over to the ballot boxes and carefully cut the seals. He opened the bottoms to reveal the hundreds of ballots cast that day. He told us to place them in cases to be securely delivered to the collection site. He told us they just needed to be thrown in the box, they didn't have to be stacked neatly. I am sure he was trying to make it easier on us. We had just spent more than 12 hours working to make sure election day went smoothly and we all wanted to get home. But as I knelt on the floor I found myself compelled to stack them neatly in the box. I thought to myself that in the sacred process of an election, ballots are the sacrament. They are precious. Expressions of people's deepest desires and hopes for our common lives. I had to treat them with respect.

That was yet another example of the awe and honor I experienced working the polls. My job was to stand next to the scanners and discreetly make sure every voter inserted his ballot correctly. Several

times a person paused before inserting the ballot and asked if they could take a picture. Each person



who asked spoke with some sort of accent. It was clear to me that they wanted a record of participating in their first election. Their pride was quite apparent. (No photos can be taken at the polls).

At one point during a young mother came in with her two children, fast asleep in a stroller. They appeared to be about one and three years old. I commented on how fortunate she was that they were both asleep at the same time. She chose to use their nap time, perhaps the only time that day she would have a break in childcare, to vote. After working on her ballot for a few minutes she turned around and asked, "Can any of you advise me about the candidates for judge? I don't know anything about

any of them." Of course, we told her we were not allowed to give her any information but my wife noted she was welcome to take as long as she needed at the booth using her phone to research any candidate or issue. I watched her spend more than half an hour researching before finishing her ballot. When she came to the scanner I thanked her for her diligence. She told me she felt she had to vote but wouldn't vote blindly. Her children were still sleeping as she departed with a seeming spring in her step.

Later in the day I saw a mother with her teenager hovering over her shoulder. He watched her every move as she worked her way through the ballot. He escorted her to the scanner and observed her casting her ballot. I said to him, "Next time it will be your turn." He acknowledged that he would indeed be 18 at the next presidential election. He studied his mother's actions to prepare for that vote.

It was a long day but it was an inspiring day. It was a sacred day.

What is 'fire in the belly?'

By Ken Eastlack

It is a way of expressing the feeling that accompanies the experience of extreme inspiration, "Fire in the belly." It is the sensation that one feels when someone, something, or some incredible event moves you to the highest level of awe-some motivation. It can be stimulated by both positive and negative forces.

Viewing the slaughter of innocent children ignited a fire in my belly that would not be extinguished until I personally took action toward the cessation of the event that caused such inhumanity.

Or, when the preacher spoke of the love of mankind that Christ held in his heart; even as he hung in agony from the cross, I felt a fire in my belly that would burn, seemingly forever, and inspire me to live as He would have me, and continue His ministry of love for the rest of my life.

In my heart I want to believe that everyone has experienced this fire at least once in their lives. If not multiple times for most.

The image of Christ on the cross serves as the catalyst for the message I present in this appeal to the reader. I first felt that particular fire while I was participating in my Curcillo experience some decades past. The event lit and kept burning my "fire" throughout the weekend and remained warm enough to keep me focused on the resolves I adopted for months after.

But as with all fires left unattended long enough, it cooled and in time would have extinguished altogether if I had not remained open and available to occasional stoking and feeding. This only remained possible because I found new ways of having the fire rekindled. Fellowship with souls seeking the same renewal and redirection of the

**And
do
you
have
it?**

desire to continue in His ministry of love. And, too infrequently, from my pastors and church hierarchy; I do remain an Episcopalian, one of the "frozen chosen." You cannot imagine the level of joy I felt when, following several years of going unchurched, I went to the diocese convention and had my first exposure to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry! Boy, did he ever light my fire!

But alas, Bishop Curry remains quite distant to me here in Naples, and I am in the midst of a pandemic where all the familiar kindling to my fire has been taken away; the smiling faces now masked, the sound of voices singing praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, the clasp of hands and warmth of hugs while sharing His peace, presenting the holy chalice to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I know I cannot be alone in my need and quest to keep the fire burning and I am asking if you share my feelings on the subject—if not my verbiage—to answer a few questions:

1. What spiritual stimulation do you seek from church involvement?
2. Do you currently feel that your church experience is adequately stoking the fire in your belly? Stimulating and inspiring you on your spiritual journey?
3. How might the church better meet your need for a heightened spiritual life?

Please understand that these questions are not designed as a criticism of current church offerings but instead view them as an attempt to broaden and further enrich your spiritual journey. We are on this journey together, like the apostles on the road to Emmaus, whose hearts burned with fire.

Next steps:

After reading Ken's piece and those on the following page, ponder the three questions again. Pray about them. In the coming days you will get an email with instructions on how you can make your responses known, so that the conversation can move to the next level.

Igniting a fire in the belly

By Dan Fischer

Luke 2:49 relates the time that young Jesus was lost. Mary and Joseph were probably frantic at the time. Where is our son?!

But there is another way to examine this and that is in the response of Jesus. He calmly replies to his earthly parents, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" I was taught that Jesus said "I need to be about my Father's business." Regardless, we see at an early age Jesus inherently felt the "fire in his belly" to be about his Father's business which was, and is, to save US, you and me and the rest of mankind. That fire in the belly of Jesus led him to continue his ministry and to eventually give His life for us on the cross.

For many of us, the fire in the belly may be in our job, a hobby or a ministry of some kind, perhaps all three. Such fires are often never put out though they may burn more intensely at times.

At a young age my son decided he wanted to play the guitar. Thus began a life-long interest or 'fire', that is still alive today. It's manifested not just by playing but by collecting and building components for his guitars, selling them, trading them and appreciating them not to mention the joy of hearing him play. This is not his vocation but an avocation and 'fire' in his belly that has never waned.

I recall a time in my high school religion class when I was required to do some form of community service or volunteer work. This lit a fire within me that never waned. I started with running bingo at the A. Holly Patterson nursing home.

Later, in college, it was volunteer work in a children's psychiatric ward of a local institution. Much later in life as my kids grew up, I spent time

volunteering in a mission in the Dominican Republic. The fire remains within me though it has taken different forms.

We all have interests, and talents that are often aligned with them. God lights a fire in our belly or soul and we often run with it. You might call

that a 'calling' but in the end it is a cooperation with the gifts God has given us, a positive response to God.

What is the fire in your belly? Is it a spark that needs to be encouraged or a lifelong interest that you are almost compelled to fulfill? Whatever it is, I encourage you to answer the call to serve God.



Christians have agency to heal a fractured world

Three prominent Episcopal clergy agreed that Jesus recruits us—unprepared though we may be—to heal a world full of strife and sickness.

They also agreed that the Episcopal voice has been overwhelmed by those on the extreme right who have tried to change Christianity into a partisan power.

Invited to a panel discussion by our Diocese of Southwest Florida, via Zoom and Facebook, were the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, bishop of Atlanta, the Very Rev. Randolph Hollerith, dean of the National Cathedral, and the Rev. Winnie Varghese, education director and priest at Trinity Wall Street.

They were introduced by the Rev. Ann Dieterle and Bishop Dabney Smith. Expressed were these thoughts:

"The gospel is inherently political, but it is not inherently partisan. To say that Jesus's words do not have political implications—how we organize ourselves as a society, how we treat one another, our values—is to not understand Jesus."

"Jesus is too big to be partisan."

"The Johnson Amendment confused our church to stay in our lane."

"The Episcopal Church has something important to say, about inclusivity and the Way of Love, deeply tied to the gospel."

The one-hour video is well worth watching, and can be seen at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Dioce-seofSWFL/videos/2473449349626587>

Craftsman makes his mark

St. Paul's held its first service on our present location September 1968, in a new building now named Trinity Hall. At the same time there was the opening of a kindergarten group, Sunday School, and gift shop.

In January 1969, St. Paul's held its first annual meeting. A conservative budget of \$9,260 was set for 1970, including a diocesan assessment of \$96. Over 60 pledges had been received for a total of \$9,486.41, and the vestry agreed to assume the \$200 per month salary for Vicar Karl Edwin Bell which until then had been paid by Trinity-By-The-Cove. A new organ was purchased for \$1,600, though valued at \$2,500, and the previous one was sold for \$600. A choir had been formed in December 1968. Another Spanish Supper was held in January and The ECW continued its fundraising efforts, expanding the gift shop, now called an "Olde Time Country Kitchen Gift Shoppe," offering hand-made and religious items as well as occasionally selling baked goods.

In February, Emelio Galaganza, a Peruvian wood-carver living in Naples, began to make mahogany altar rails to circle the free-standing altar brought from the Chumsky store-front church. They were installed in May. The \$1,650 cost came from a special fundraising effort. Galaganza would later become a major contributor to several architectural features that can be seen in St. Paul's even today, including the cross on the wall behind the altar.

Attendance at services rose rapidly. There were 92 on Palm Sunday and 204 at the Easter services. By June, St. Paul's had 158 baptized members!

That summer Bell took a much needed vacation, flying to a six-week seminar at England's Oxford University while his wife and daughter went to Germany to visit her family. During his absence, the vestry suspended July and August meetings and a supply priest, the Reverent Wayne N. Metz, came from Stillwater, Oklahoma, to conduct services.

1969 was the final year of Naples being part of the Diocese of South Florida. With the increasing number of Episcopal churches, a new diocese was established. The former Suffragan Bishop William L. Hargrave became bishop of the new Southwest Florida Diocese.

By October 1969, the statistics at St. Paul's were strong evidence of the need of the church in East Naples. There were the 163 baptized members, 120 communicants, 66 family units, and 39 children in the

BEGINNINGS



St. Paul's history by Lee Barron

Sunday School. At the second annual meeting, in January 1970, the budget was increased to \$15,811. Bell was given a 15% increase in salary to \$6,600 with \$1,200 for travel. The ECW, with accrued funds of \$1,168.87, pledged \$400 for church operating expenses. Both the senior warden and president of the ECW stepped down and both positions were filled by others. There were soon 205 baptized members and attendance at Easter services was 382 — a 40% gain over the 204 in 1969!

The church benefited once again from the wood-working craftsmanship of Emilio Galaganza. He made and gave St. Paul's a hand-carved mahogany lectern as well as the altar table.

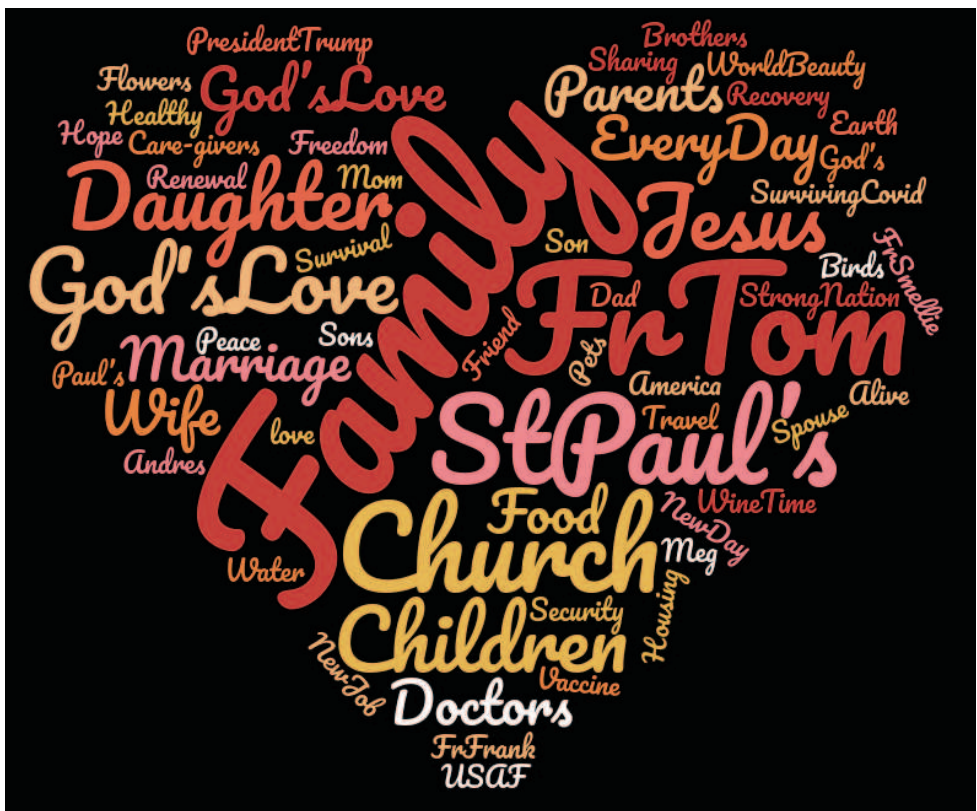
Before Father Metz returned as supply priest during Bell's 1970 summer vacation, the vicar and the vestry, after much consideration, sent an application to the Diocese for St. Paul's to be given full parish status. Recognizing the impressive growth of the church in less than 3 years, approval of the application was given in October at the diocesan convention in Clearwater. Trinity-By-The-Cove then transferred title of both the land, church building, and vicarage to St. Paul's.

At a special Sunday evening service on November 15, 1970, with 160 present, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was consecrated by Diocesan Bishop Hargrave and Bell was installed as rector, but the need to expand already would make future planning of a new, larger church necessary.

Eye candy creator

Leona Barron, known to her friends as Lee, has been dressing up our entryway, much to the delight of those who enter the western driveway (the office side), ever since she joined St. Paul's two years ago. Here she is putting the finishing touches on her Christmas-themed welcome display on Saturday, Dec. 19. She does it all: she designs, builds, paints and assembles her creations.

Thanks, Lee!



We're thankful for family, church & Father Tom

The "word cloud" at left shows the relative importance of the values we hold, as expressed on a bulletin board displayed during the Thanksgiving worship service.

Instead of a sermon, Fr. Tom recited a canticle and Eleanor played the piano while we reflected on what we are thankful for.

For a fuller understanding of how we responded, click on the video on top of the home page of our website, <https://www.saintpaulsnaples.org>



LOVE AND THANK YOU FROM
THE CHILDREN OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Sponsor a child

Please consider sponsoring a child at our Albergue el Buen Samaritano—Good Samaritan Children's Shelter—in the Dominican Republic. This has been an outreach ministry of the Naples Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida since 2001.

Sponsorship is \$275, which helps supply a child with a new uniform, toothpaste, toothbrush and a special party once a month. The annual cost per child is \$900, but with your sponsorship we can help with some extra needs for your sponsored child.

The children started school in November this year and we cannot travel to take individual photos.

The children range in age and classroom from baby, one year old, two years old (two classes), three years, four and five (kindergarten).

Send a check to St. Paul's, with DR kids in the memo line, or donate via our website. Thank you.

—Tom Connolly

An Opportunity

This is the opportunity you have waited for. This is an ambition you want to achieve. This is your time to be the best candidate for St. Paul's vestry!

If leadership is your strength and you like to engage people to build teams where people are fired up to work hard and laugh often, you are nominated!

There are so many reasons for you to ask for conversation regarding your being a vestry candidate in 2021. Three of us are retiring after terms of three years.

In my heart I am sad to be leaving our nine-member vestry. I enjoy being with other Episcopalians working to build the church. It is a pleasure to work with Fr. Tom as we talk through the agendas. You are called today to love, serve and build community. You will enjoy such involvement, too. I promise. Our annual meeting will be held Jan. 31.

—Charlene Connolly, senior warden

*Lagniappe**

The recent passing of the popular host of Jeopardy, Alex Trebek, prompted **Dave Abernethy** to remark that his son was on that show. Here is a photo of young Darren Abernethy with Alex:



Some folks were quite angry at **Lee Barron** when she won that beauty contest. But the story is too good to cut to the size of a lagniappe, so readers will have to wait until the next Pathway...

Peter Lund has been "face to face" with two popes; Pope Paul VI (1971) and Pope John Paul II (1983).

Email entries for this column to Carol Tracy

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