



# St. Paul's Epistle

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

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## FROM THE RECTOR

Six years ago, my friend, Gary, and I made plans to go to New Mexico and ride our motorcycles. Gary's son had major surgery that year, so our trip was postponed. We tried again to go in 2020, but that didn't happen because of the pandemic. This year we finally made the trip.

We rode through six states averaging nearly 300 miles a day, avoiding interstates and staying somewhere different each night. It was the trip of a lifetime! When asked what was the favorite part of my trip I was at a loss for an answer. The Guadalupe Mountains were gorgeous and Carlsbad Cavern was amazing. The colors and rock formations in the New Mexico desert were awe-inspiring and the views in the Rocky Mountains were as well.

Reflecting on the trip I finally know my answer: the ride! The time on my bike gave me ample opportunity to pray and reflect as I rode through God's creation. Time for quiet reflection is difficult for most of us to find. Even in the midst of a pandemic and social isolation, many of us have managed to fill our days and evenings with projects and activities that kept our minds busy with thoughts of what we have done and what we have left undone.

My trip reminded me that listening to others and to God is a spiritual practice. One of the greatest challenges of listening is worrying. It fills our minds with clutter and given the hours upon hours I rode; I was able to let go of my concerns about the church and my family and listen.

I didn't come back with any earth-shattering revelations, but I did find peace. My experience

reminded me of the Lord appearing to Elijah on Mount Horeb. Elijah has fled and is hiding in a cave from Queen Jezebel who wanted to have him killed. Then, in 1 Kings 19:11-13 we read:

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him . . .

Elijah finds the Lord in sheer silence. Finding God in the silence was what happened to me on my ride. It took me more miles than I like to admit before I ran out of things to worry about – but when I did, when my mind was silent, I felt God's presence. God sends Elijah back into the world, he has more to do – and so do we. The pandemic has challenged us as a church. Many of us have been living in fear, like Elijah we have been hiding.

God is with us; God has not deserted us. Now, I believe, God is calling us to look to the future and reconnect with one another. What is God calling us to do? We need to focus on mission, on what we were doing before the pandemic. We need to find new ways to serve others. It is time to come out of our cave and "go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

Blessings,

Jim+

# ALL HALLOWS EVE

St. Paul's will be giving out candy for Main Street's celebration of Halloween on Saturday, October 30th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, or until we run out of candy. If you'd like to help, please contact the office. Then on Halloween, our kids have been invited to join First Presbyterian Church for its Trunk or Treat from 3:00 to 3:30. At 3:45 their bus will take youth from both our churches to the River Haunt for our own tour of the haunted house. Watch for more information in the St. Paul's Messenger (the new name of our Weekly Announcements).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### JOHN & SUSAN DEMPSEY

The time is near for our St. Paul's family to bid farewell to long-time members John and Susan Dempsey. Having lived in Batesville for 23 years, they are moving to Frisco, Texas where their son Chris, daughter-in-law Amy and three grandchildren live. "We have absolutely loved living in Batesville and will miss our friends and St. Paul's family so, so much," Susan stated. During our recent front porch visit, I asked Susan for some background information for the Epistle article.

#### JOHN DEMPSEY

Born in Pasadena, California John grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma and graduated high school in Ashdown, Arkansas. John earned a BS in Zoology from the University of Arkansas, where he met and married Susan Benton. He received a master's degree in Broadfield Science while living in Texas.

John was a teacher and administrator in New Boston, Texas for 30 years before moving to Batesville, where he continued in his profession teaching at Midland, Batesville High Schools and at UACCB.

John has been an avid gardener, tinkerer and reader. He is an animal lover especially reptiles, amphibians and birds. He has a real talent for landscaping as evidenced at their home at 661 Bates Street. The couple has also enjoyed traveling through the years.

#### SUSAN DEMPSEY

Married to John for 55 3/4 years, Susan also attended the University of Arkansas. She majored in Marketing and holds a master's degree in Elementary Education. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Susan grew up near Salem, Arkansas with three brothers (one deceased) and one sister. Their mother, Betsy will be 100 years old this year and still lives in Salem.

Susan also taught school in New Boston, Texas where she was a fifth-grade teacher for 28 years. After moving to Batesville, she substituted and also worked at Randall's Two and Heritage House gift shops. The couple became members of the Episcopal Church while in Texas and were confirmed at St. James in Texarkana, TX.

Susan's interests include reading, working in the yard, decorating and traveling. When asked to name some of the places the couple has traveled, her list included many historic places in Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Mount Rushmore, Grand Teton National Park. Overseas trips featured London, Windsor, Bath, Oxford, the Lake District and Yorkshire in England.



The Dempseys have been involved with Lyon College through the International Students program and they were avid Scots Basketball fans, even travelling to many out-of-town ballgames.

In addition to their son, they have a daughter, Jennifer Dempsey who has settled in Batesville where she teaches English at Batesville High School. She plans to remain here. Although they hate to leave Batesville, John and Susan are thrilled to be near their grandchildren, Connor age 20; Camryn, age 17 a high school student and Caden age 12, a middle school student.

I know the Demspeys would love a card, call or text before they pack up the moving van at the end of October. They will be missed dearly.

## **ST. PAUL'S HISTORY**

### **THE KEALER FAMILY OF ST. PAUL'S**

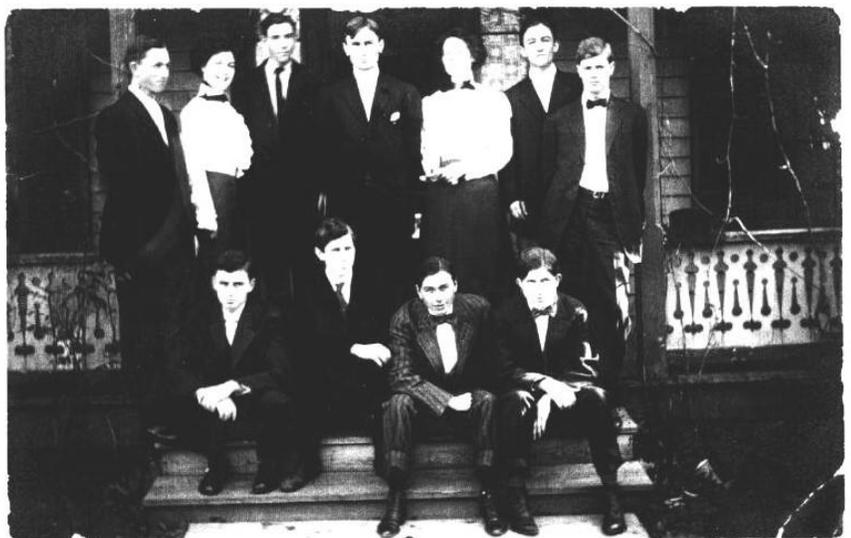
The family of George H. Kealer has played a large part in the history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mr. George Kealer, a native of New York, moved his wife and three children here from Little Rock in the year 1888. He opened a machine shop and eventually became part-owner of the Batesville Iron Works. The family also, for a time, operated a boarding house in the former E. M. Dickinson home on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Boswell Streets. Later, son Fred Kealer and his wife lived on Sidney Street and he had a very successful career with the U. S. Corps of Engineers.



The Kealer Family – Front row – Barbara Ann 'Annie' (Bluerock) and Fred Kealer. Second row – George, Anna Mae, Rose, Louis, and Fred, Jr. (Peck)

In 1893, George Kealer's wife, Anna Mae, and daughter, Cora, were baptized by the Rev. Keeble. Anna Mae and Cora were confirmed as members of the church in 1896. Followed by confirmation of son, Fred Preston, in 1900, son, Charles Ernest, in 1904, and finally George H. Kealer was baptized in 1905 and confirmed the following year.

After Mr. Kealer's death in 1915, his widow, Anna Mae, moved to California. Daughter Cora and son Charles Ernest also married and moved away. Children of son, Fred, who remained communicants of St. Paul's for more than 100 years after the family's arrival are Anna Mae Kealer McSpadden, Rose Kealer Dozier, and George B. Kealer. Anna Mae McSpadden survived until June of this year, 2021. Louis Kealer, Sr., who was active after his return to Batesville passed away a month later in July of 2021.



1910- Group of Arkansas Boarding Students in front of George Kealer's home at 7<sup>th</sup> & Boswell. Cora Kealer is second from left in the standing row. (Note: James & Hugh Robertson, uncles of Nelson Barnett, are seated on the left end of first row)



L-R- Fred Kealer, Louis Kealer, Sr. & Louis Kealer, Jr.

The contributions of the Kealer family to St. Paul's are many and varied. They have held numerous offices, and the baptism, confirmation, marriage and death records are countless in the history of the church. The silver breadbox which was placed in the church was dedicated in memory of Fred and Annie Kealer. Descendants of the family who are still active in St. Paul's are Jacqui and Scott McSpadden, Allen McSpadden, Julie and Tim Dozier, and Danny and Kathy Dozier.

After the death of Louis Kealer, Sr., Father Jim McDonald found a spot in the cement that was poured on the side of the rectory where Louis had placed his name, making him forever remembered. If you get a chance, go look at the sidewalk- The Kealer family history is engrained here at St. Paul's Episcopal.



Fred Kealer at his retirement from the United States Corps of Engineers. To his left is son, Louis.

## HAVE YOU HEARD THE GREAT NEWS?



Melissa Taverner has been named interim president of Lyon College after W. Joseph King's resignation. Melissa is an active member of St. Paul's and her husband David serves on the Vestry. Congratulations Melissa!!

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Good News! After a summer hiatus, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will resume meeting in October. We are very excited to kick off the calendar year on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. Beverly Grigsby will be the first to host at her new home at 260 Cedarwood Drive. All Women associated with St. Paul's are invited to attend.

We will be trying something a little different this year. All our programming will be based on our study of Michael Frost's book; Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People. Copies of the book are available free of charge for anyone who wants to participate. We hope ECW meetings will be a time when we may socialize and check-in with one another as well as a time for us to learn new ways to be the church in the world and to be more aware of others needs.

The first activity for ECW will be Father Jim's blessing of the new Prayer Tree in conjunction with the St. Francis Feast on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm. See you then! -Terri Crawford

## **CAMP MITCHELL**

### **COMING BACK TOGETHER**

The camp Mitchell Board of Visitors hosted the Coming Back Together event on September 25<sup>th</sup>. This event was a fundraising opportunity to support reopening Camp Mitchell. Twelve of St. Paul's members attended and numerous more donated toward the goal of reopening Summer 2022. This event raised over \$100,000 and St. Paul's members were praised for our participation! The money will be used to hire staff to get the camp up and running again.



## **ST. PAUL'S MEN'S GROUP**

St. Paul's Men's Group will be selling smoked turkeys again this year!! They will be cooked on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and available for pickup Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the church office or you may purchase a ticket from any member of the Men's Group. Ticket prices are yet to be determined, please check the *Weekly Messenger* for ticket price updates.

## **UNITED THANK OFFERING**

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. United Thank Offering boxes will be distributed to parishioners in September. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace a daily discipline of showing gratitude by dropping money into the box to acknowledge the blessings we all receive.

One hundred percent of what is collected will be to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion, according to the UTO website. The boxes can be picked up in the Narthex or mailed to your address upon request. Please make checks payable to 'DFMS' with 'UTO' in the memo line.

The fall in-gathering is planned for All Saints Day in November. For more information contact Ellen Massey.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE**

The vestry has approved an update to our software that Tymina uses to make posts on our community Facebook page. She is very excited to be able to make daily engaging posts focusing on our church community and daily devotionals. Please, if you haven't already, like us on Facebook @stpaulsbatesville. If you have any events, information, or updates you would like shared with the St. Paul's community, please email Tymina and let her know. Our goal is to have more engagement among our members via social media when we can not be together in person.

## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE**

<b>3<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	<b>8:00-</b> Nikki Bittle	<b>10:30-</b> Paul Hance
<b>10<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>8:00-</b> Cameron Gillespie	<b>10:30-</b> Roger Christiansen
<b>17<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>8:00-</b> Mike Schmidt	<b>10:30-</b> Laura Hance
<b>24<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>8:00-</b> Dave Allen	<b>10:30-</b> Gary Perkey
<b>31<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>8:00-</b> Ardis Gillespie	<b>10:30-</b> Danell Hetrick

## **USHER SCHEDULE**

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Bill Olson & Lee Conditt  
**10<sup>th</sup>:** Mike & Rhonda Mundy  
**17<sup>th</sup>:** Ardis & Cameron Gillespie  
**24<sup>th</sup>:** Pat Mulick & Pam Baxter  
**31<sup>st</sup>:** Brenda & Nikki Bittle

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Nelson Barnett  
**10<sup>th</sup>:** Bo Boykin  
**17<sup>th</sup>:** Mike Schmidt & Sally Fittsizer  
**24<sup>th</sup>:** Donna Fagan  
**31<sup>st</sup>:** Steve Massey

## **COMMUNITY MEAL TEAMS**

**6<sup>th</sup>:** Team Dore  
**13<sup>th</sup>:** Team Wray  
**20<sup>th</sup>:** Team Bumpers  
**27<sup>th</sup>:** Team Reynolds/Kipfer



## **CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Bumpers (10/3), Angela Wilcoxon (10/3), Finn Dore (10/4), Jacqui McSpadden (10/5), Pat Jones (10/7), Sandy Barnett (10/08), Isabelle Tenace (10/8), Nelson Barnett (10/11), Hayes Olson (10/16), Jake Vangrouw (10/18), Page Sevier (10/19), Sally Fittsizer (10/21), Kim Stalker (10/22), Allan McSpadden (10/25), Josephine Davidson (10/26) and Scott Stalker (10/30).

## **CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY**

Kirkland & Michelle Warden (10/5), Brenda & Nikki Bittle (10/6), Al & Vicky Crouch (10/19), Donald & Theodora Manley (10/23), and Jacqui & Scott McSpadden (10/30).



If you have a birthday or anniversary, you would like added to our list, please contact Tymina Howerton at [stpaulsbatesville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsbatesville@gmail.com)

## **EPISTLE STAFF**

Jo Cargill-Krug, Editor  
Tymina Howerton, Layout & Design  
Fr. Jim McDonald, Publisher