

# THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER, 2020

## October Thoughts...



There is exciting news for all of us: The Reverend Debra Kissinger has accepted our Vestry's invitation to be our Interim Rector! She plans to arrive in November; Nancy Schuldt has more information about Debra in her Messenger article. It is exciting to know Debra's leadership will guide us into our future.

Recently I received a note from a parishioner describing how disconnected she feels from St. Paul's in these times. What she was describing is true for all of us: we are missing the personal contacts with each other, the sense of God's presence inside our church walls and within our Sanctuary, and the peace that comes from knowing the past and the future are connected through our St. Paul's community. All of this—and more—is missing.

Yes, St. Paul's has been creating a new normal with online services, drive-by pet blessings, and opportunities to be back in the building for bite-sized work efforts. But they are just not the same. And yet, we need to keep going, not knowing how soon we will be able to reclaim our community, let alone bless each other with the "Peace."

Nonetheless, our deep connections are real, and

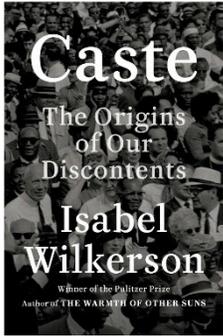
they continue. Several of us have had surgery or medical events during these past weeks—and church has been part of their healing. Also, I have heard about the phone calls between folks who used to sit next to each other in the pews; now there are regular phone contacts to just 'check in' on each other. And I also learned from another that she is in weekly contact with three of our elders who don't have internet, so they cannot view our offered services; she makes sure they have printed copies of the sermons and other email correspondence. Would you like to start a similar phone tree? Or prayer network?

I am grateful for all you do and that you share our faith that holds life together when the going is tough. And I am grateful for the opportunities you make to share your deepest desires with each other and with me. God is blessing us with each other as we take these steps through uncertain times.

Please contact me with ideas about how to move forward! God is good—and asks that daily, we show each other how we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

*God's peace,  
Reverend Barb*

## Evening Bible Study



Since Memorial Day when George Floyd was killed, this group has chosen to read items that can expand our understanding of Racism, and thus we set the Bible aside for a few months. We have been having lots of good discussion.

This month we will meet October 13, via Zoom again, 6:30-8:00 pm. We will discuss the last half of Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. This is one of Oprah's Book Club books, and it is still on the NYT bestseller list.

You are welcome to join us. I am grateful that our group conversations have sensitized me to my own edges and unacknowledged racism. Let me know if you would like the Zoom invitation for the October 13 session.

God's blessings... –Reverend Barb E ([belliott@d.umn.edu](mailto:belliott@d.umn.edu))




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## October Scheduling

First, let me again thank the Vestry for their invitation to serve as the Priest in Charge until our Interim Rector arrives in November. In the meantime, I continue to be available for our St. Paul's community. Overall, these are amazing and challenging times—and now we are into our Fall programming.

Our Fall online programming is underway. You may access these services just as you have these past months (go to our website: [www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org) for the links). The schedule each week is:

Monday: 9 am Reflection and Announcements

Tuesday: 9 am Bible Study

Wednesday: 6 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday: 9 pm Compline with Zoom

Friday: 9 am Morning Prayer

Saturday: 9 am Community Connections (first Saturday of the month)

Sunday: 10 am Services with Zoom coffee hour

### One Special Event:

On Saturday October 3, 11:00 am, we will have our Blessing of the Animals! Read about it on the back cover of this issue.

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## Don't Fall for a Scam



Just a heads-up...the scammers are out. They have discovered that I am the Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's. These last weeks (already!) they have been using my name in emails and texts. They have been at-

tempting to get church members to buy e-Bay items or gift cards that get money from you to them, based on appeals that look like I have written them. DON'T DO IT!!

I will not email or text you for money to help meet an individual's needs. Please, don't respond to these appeals.

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## Opportunities to Expand Your Lay Ministry

Each of us has gifts that we use in our relationships—these are expressions of our ministry. I invite you to think whether any of these possibilities is of interest to you. Let me know if any seem to be calling you.

Our October schedule includes more opportunities for you to be a part of St Paul's online programming. Are you interested to lead Compline? Or Morning Prayer? Several are helping with these services, but there is still room for you to do so as well. Please let me know if you would like to be part of this ministry.

These Prayer Book services do not require clergy leadership; they are written and intended as lay-led prayer services. In terms of your commitment and scheduling, we are pre-recording these services, and then posting them on schedule. If we have many people interested to do this, we can have these services more than one time each week.

I look forward to hearing from you. Contact me with your interest!

God's blessings... –Reverend Barb E  
([belliott@d.umn.edu](mailto:belliott@d.umn.edu))

## From Your Treasurer

Dear Parishioners,

August financials were presented at the September 15, 2020 Vestry meeting. Here is a summary of the July **General Fund** Statement of Activities.

August update of 2020 pledges:

Pledge income received in August 2020	\$ 16,469
YTD 2020 pledge income as of August 31, 2020	\$198,803
YTD budgeted pledge income as of August 31, 2020	\$265,805
Variance of actual to budget pledge income as of August 31, 2020	\$ <b>67,002</b>
YTD 2019 pledges as of August 31, 2019	\$207,438
YTD income as of August 31, 2020	\$313,358
YTD expense as of August 31, 2020	<u>\$292,199</u>
YTD income over expense July 31, 2020	\$ 21,159

The amounts above from the **General Fund** YTD expense do not include \$84,900 of payroll expenses that have been paid from the Payroll Protection Program loan and are recorded in a separate **PPP Fund**. We expect the entire \$84,900 to be forgiven.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me at [natalie@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:natalie@stpaulsduluth.org).



Respectfully submitted by  
Natalie Smith, Treasurer

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### 3 Ways to Give

**Text GIVE to**  
**218-394-3535**

**[www.stpaulsduluth.org/give](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org/give)**

**Mail a check to St. Paul's**  
**1710 E Superior St**  
**Duluth, MN 55812**

**Thank you!**

## From Your Altar Guild



Dearest Altar Guild Members (and all our friends at St. Paul's),

I hope you will enjoy this article I found on the National Altar Guild Association website (<http://www.nationalaltarguildassociation.org/>).

As I read it, I felt a great nostalgia for being inside our sacristy serving along-

side so many of you! My wish is for us all to remember that although we cannot be together at this time, we are always evangelists. And when we are finally able to gather again to prepare St. Paul's altars for Holy Sacraments, let us remember to invite all Episcopalians into our work and joyous ministry! Enjoy and be well,  
*Carrie Miller, Altar Guild Co-Director*

### **SACRISTY EVANGELISTS**

You are evangelists, altar guild folks! You are the preparers and keepers and transmitters of some of the coolest stuff we have in The Episcopal Church. Children and teenagers and the adults whom we are attracting to Jesus Christ through his Episcopal Church are very curious to know more.

When I was confirmed at the age of 12, the little boys wore blue blazers and the little girls wore white dresses and mantilla veils. Yet, as I confirm women and men today in the Diocese of Texas, I notice that those days of yore are largely over. Instead, I am joyfully confirming and receiving people today who are in their 20s and 30s, young folks with tears of joy streaming down their face as I lay hands on them. Our new confirmands tell me: "Thank God I found the Episcopal Church!"

These new Episcopalians are attracted to us because of our timeless worship and ancient traditions. They are attracted by a faith that wasn't invented yesterday and by creeds and prayers that bear the test of time. Our newest family members are attracted by the rich sacraments that we celebrate. Our newest Episcopalians are interested in evangelism from the sacristy.

If you have been a part of The Episcopal Church for some time, it can be easy to forget the curiosity and wonder that newer folks have for our tradition. Each Sunday, I interact with new Episcopalians. They are curious to learn and to question and to grow in their understanding.

I get asked all the time by altar guilds about how to attract younger and newer folks into this valuable ministry. In my opinion, your best new prospects are in our confirmation classes.

Ask the priest in your church if you may sit in on at least one session of confirmation classes. Better yet, offer to your priest to contribute to confirmation classes, giving a short tour of the sacristy and the church to show and tell and to answer questions. Our newest Episcopalians are thirsty to know more about the why and the how of worship practices and traditions. As sacristy evangelists, you are just the perfect folks to share this knowledge.

Apart from confirmation classes, after church some Sunday, grab a new Episcopalian (and a long-time Episcopalian too) and invite them into the sacristy:

- Open up the closet filled with colorful chasubles and explain the meaning of each color and each season.
- Unlock the cabinet where the silver or pottery is stored and tell stories about the history that they are now a part of.
- Slide open the "junk drawer" (come on, all sacristies have them) jammed with floral tape, a needle and thread, a cheap Bic lighter, scissors and a few dried up palm crosses.
- Set up the vested chalice (the stack) explaining the names of each item.
- Tell funny stories of grace, stories about when something went wrong during the worship service and, yet, how all was forgiven.

Most importantly, tell people that altar guild work is not a job. Tell folks that altar guild work is a ministry, a ministry where you are gifted with a rare window into the majesty and serenity of God. Tell people how you encounter Jesus while touching and preparing holy things. You are an evangelist!

My wife and I have two sons, both of whom are in their early 20s. We raised our sons in The Episcopal Church. The greatest memories that our sons have of growing up in the church are not from EYC or a youth group. The greatest memories our sons have of growing up in the church largely have to do with behind the scenes ministries, with altar guild and acolyte work.

Our oldest son is very tall, about 6 1/2 feet tall. Not a Christmas goes by when he does not recount how, as a teenager, Christmas Eve could not begin until he climbed the ladder and hung the giant wreath above the altar. He still laughs about the annual tradition of him perched on top of the ladder, with the altar guild director down on the ground, guiding him: "More to the left. No, now more to the right. Ah, there you go, it's just perfect."

Our sons can remember sitting in the parish hall next to

## Notes of a Different Kind



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Seven years ago last July, I called my friends Dan and Lois Jaeckel to inquire if there were any church positions in Duluth. Lois told me to let her check into it, and 45 minutes later I received a phone call from Bill Percy. It was a great conversation, and I was intrigued by the idea of doing ministry at St.

Paul's. Even though leaving my younger daughter in Iowa City was the most difficult thing I have ever done, I knew God was calling me to this place. I believe strongly that God was at work in bringing us together. I arrived on August 1 and was very unsure of myself. I was afraid I would unknowingly step on Episcopal traditions. Life was challenging as I was going through separation and divorce from my wife of 24 years, and I missed Meredith terribly. You were so patient as I learned the differences between Episcopalians and Lutherans and as I put my personal life back in order. Thank you.

The day I started at St. Paul's, I sat down at the desk and started reading the lectionary texts, something I had not had to do since 2004 when I left the church in Eau Claire before going to graduate school. It felt amazing, and I knew I was in the right place. From that moment on, we have sung and prayed and celebrated and lamented together. It has been an honor and privilege to direct the fine musical groups at St. Paul's and to lead God's gathered people in

song these past seven years. I will miss all of you very much.

Alas, the time has come for us to part. It is with sadness that I say goodbye, and, along with sadness, I feel deep gratitude for the time we have spent in ministry together. I leave with great anticipation to see what's next for both of us. St. Paul's has a bright future ahead, and God will keep us both in care and love.

My last Sunday will be November 8. I will leave soon after that to attend my daughter's scaled-down, socially-distanced wedding in Boston on November 14. I leave for Berlin the day after with Geoffrey and JJ, my identical (give or take a few pounds) orange striped tabby cats, in the cargo hold.

I have been in conversation with Senior Warden Nancy Schuldt about the future of the music ministry at St. Paul's. You are in good hands.

Peace to all of you,

Tom Hamilton,  
Director of Music



*Continued from page 4*

older ladies with gnarled hands who patiently showed these little boys how to fold a palm cross. Our sons laugh when remembering all the mishaps that can happen when a thurible can never seem to light. They remember teaching a young acolyte how to get that tricky candle on the left to ignite.

Our sons know about Christian worship and traditions because an older adult invited them into the sacristy and treated them as if their gifts mattered. Our sons are Christians partly because of sacristy evangelism.

Therefore, invite new Episcopalians into your work and min-

istry by pulling them into the sacristy with you. Involve children and teenagers who are also hungry to encounter God through worship and tradition. Open up the sacristy and open your mouths with the good news that you have met Jesus Christ while preparing his Table.

**You are a sacristy evangelist!**

*by The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher, Bishop Suffragan of Texas*

## On Migration



Bird migrations to the south are in full flight now. Hawk Ridge birding folk are still gathering to view and count species in spite of COVID. Since our house is right on Lake Superior we see some unique bird movements here.

First we have early drifts of tiny greenish warblers gathering to group from the northern woodlands. We have little insect food for them here so they quickly move west. We see many flickers who are in the woodpecker family. They remain a few days stripping red berries from wild mountain ash trees. When I used to walk our dogs on our woodland path in the fall I always found a few bright yellow flicker feathers near a mountain ash. It happened every year. An avid birder friend explained it to me. He said that migrating hawks prey on flickers. Just as flickers eat mountain ash berries. It is all a part of the natural cycle concerning road food or nourishment for the long journeys.

Other family members have reported unique bird sightings while being along the shores or out doors. The men have seen snow geese north of Two Harbors while fishing. Our daughter and grandson saw a flock of white pelicans while dog walking on Park Point. One son saw a large flutter of monarchs driving to work in Superior. Others who were over in Esko harvesting a garden after the first freeze viewed many eagles circling overhead.

Humans have always had some migration movements, too, and still do. Locally many of us move in spring to open

cabins to then take in boats and docks in the fall. Some of us even move to Florida to avoid the cold winters and Minnesota taxes. The COVID virus is causing some more movement, Some people are coming home to care for ill relatives. Some folks have lost Iron Range jobs and now left for Alaska to do construction and drive a snow plow on the winter Ice Road. My family has a granddaughter who lost her job and now her unemployment is ended, so she is migrating here to plan her future. We will take her in, feed and shelter her until she can regroup.

Biblical scripture is full of migration stories. Adam and Eve were banished for eating forbidden fruit. Moses led Israelite people out of Egypt to spend forty years eating quails and manna in the desert. The book of Ruth tells of two lone widow women who travel back to one's homeland in order for them to be taken in by a distant male relative. Boaz then provided for their well being including a male heir who became an ancestor of Jesus. Joseph and Mary journeyed to register before the birth in Bethlehem. Then they later all went to Egypt to avoid the wrath of Herod, the Jewish king.

We humans can trust that the wisdom of God's Creation is with the birds, but we are responsible for much loss of their habitat. As we read and learn of our Christian ancestors we gain courage for our prayers of our own times and relatives.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Rev. Margaret W. Thomas,  
Priest Emerita*



Follow St. Paul's Duluth on social media:



## Rice and Sky

Somewhere on a shallow lake in northcentral Minnesota, there are 300 acres filled with wild rice. Rice stands so thick that there isn't a square foot of open water. Off in a back bay filled with dry falling rice, another pair poled their canoe to this perfect spot, slow and deliberate. We trip over ourselves and happen upon the fortunate spot.

We were awkwardly trying to be respectful in a system we didn't belong to, in an environment we were new to. They might have perceived us as "newbies," but were patient and gracious. They kept their distance and might have even stayed in the area to subtly show us their way. Perhaps they grew up ricing or had generations of knowledge around wild rice.

We entered and made a few passes across the small bay. The subtle variations in the stand's color, height, and even sound as we flailed were amazing. The rice was exceptionally ripe and falling like rain into the canoe; but this was their spot. We left to give them space and find our own path, eager to return.

After an hour or so they poled to a different area, either to explore where we had been or to "give us a go." Did they leave for better rice? Or did they think we knew what we were doing? We will never know. No one spoke, just a few nods and they were gone.

Ricing happens only a week or two out of the year, so whether one has generations of knowledge or has just

started to experience the joy of working hard for a harvest, it is an amazing way to experience being on a lake in Minnesota. So much time for reflections between the rice and sky.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jason Butcher*




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## CHUM Outreach Benefit Dinner and Auction

At this time of year, I would typically be writing to invite you to join Jack and me at the CHUM Outreach Benefit Dinner and Auction at the Greysolon Ballroom. Funds raised are used to support the fine work of CHUM's Street Outreach Program. This program helps those in our Duluth community who are experiencing homelessness. CHUM provides the necessary support to help folks move from homelessness to housed. In these unusual times the event will need to be virtual.

Special videos about CHUM's programs will available starting Monday, September 28 and ending Monday, October 26.

You can access these videos on CHUM's

YouTube page, Facebook page or Twitter. Links to these may be found on CHUM's website <https://www.chumduluth.org/>

Donations can be made to CHUM via <https://www.betterunite.com/chumduluth>. Donations can be made now through November 1.

The Annual Silent Auction will begin October 18 and continue until October 24.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jane Jarnis*



## From Your Vestry



Greetings from your wardens and vestry! We continue to work hard on the business of the parish, meeting twice again in the month of September. At our special meeting on September 1, we focused primarily on the calling of an interim rector. Eirik, Barb and I conducted an interview of our candidate, discussing her background and training in interim ministry and proposed approach for working with St. Paul's in our transition. We followed up with a review of several of the references she provided, and recommended the vestry approve calling her to be our interim rector. The vestry unanimously approved this step, and we began negotiations for her contract. At this meeting, we also discussed an idea brought forward by Sue Stromquist, to plan a blood drive as a vital volunteer effort. After further investigation, however, we determined that activity would need to wait until we are further along in our phased reopening, and have more parking available; look forward to more information about that after the first of the year.

We held a special zoom "Rally Day" session on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, with about a dozen parishioners joining Barb, the wardens and vestry members to talk about opportunities to stay engaged with our St. Paul's community – volunteering for Buffy's housekeeping "punch list", working with our youth in Christian Formation, etc. I gave a brief update on the bell tower tuckpointing project, and our progress in calling an interim rector.

At our regular vestry meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Natalie reported on the August financials. Online giving rate is steady, but overall income continues to lag last year's as we have no plate collections. Expenses remain substantially below budget, however. But I will take this opportunity to again urge all who are able to stay current with your pledged giving; it will help us better anticipate and manage our ex-

penses during a time when it is especially difficult to forecast budgetary conditions. The HR committee recently met, and is developing recommendations to the vestry for a different scheme of staffing from what has been our "normal" for recent years. As we gain a more definitive picture of our staffing needs in the short term, we can more confidently address our budget for next year.

After the vestry decision to call an interim rector, Eirik and I (with support from Mark Brown) negotiated the terms in a letter of agreement with the candidate, and after reaching agreement on compensation and other conditions, forwarded the LOA to the Bishop's office for review and approval. And (drumbeat) we can now happily announce that the Reverend Mother Debra Kissinger will be coming to Duluth and St. Paul's in November to begin her transition ministry with us! Please check out her bio and photos elsewhere in the Messenger. As a first glimpse into her approach for transition ministry, I've also provided an excerpt from the LOA that sheds light onto how she will be working with us to review and renew our ministry in this new chapter.

I want to again express my gratitude for how our small but mighty staff have risen to the occasion and kept our music, online services, and day-to-day business humming along. Tom recently shared his plans for wrapping up his ministry at St. Paul's in November, and we will sorely miss his presence and dedication. He has recently taken on video recording/editing duties for our worship services, but I'm already looking for volunteers to learn the trade and help us keep our programming on track...!

Questions, concerns, or ideas for St. Paul's? You can reach me via email at: [ncosta2799@charter.net](mailto:ncosta2799@charter.net)

Peace,  
Nancy Schuldt,  
Senior Warden

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From *The Duluth Minnesotian*, October 30, 1869

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Madison brought up on her last trip the bell and organ for the Episcopal Church of this place. The bell is made of steel composition, weighs 800 lbs, and was cast at the celebrated foundry of Blymyer, Norton & Co., Cincinnati. Its tone is deep, pure, and rich. The bell will be hung and pealed to-day, and will call worshippers together for the first time for the church at the school house on Sabbath afternoon. Its arrival is an event in our history, and will be hailed as an acassion (sic) to our civilization....

## Meet your Interim Rector: The Rev. Debra J. Kissinger

Mother Debra was raised in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Prior to her calling as a priest, she worked in marketing and money managements fields. She has degrees in Business Administration and Sociology from Penn State University (81) and LaSalle University, Philadelphia (88), respectively. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut (92).

That same year Debra began her ordained ministry as a clergy assistant at Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York and then went on to serve as Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Oxford, Connecticut (93) and Rector of Grace Church, Willoughby, Ohio (97) where she discovered her passion for redeveloping parishes and helping lay persons grow in their baptismal ministries.

From 2001-2008 Debra served on staff in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania as the Missioner to Children and Child Advocate focusing on lifelong Christian formation program development; local, statewide, and national advocacy; and child abuse prevention. She was the first paid child advocate in the Episcopal Church and frequented, and led others to, visit the state capitol and Washington DC on various issues to improve the lives of children.

From 2008-2018 Debra served on staff in the Diocese of Indianapolis as the Canon for Transition Ministry and Lead-

ership Development. Throughout these years Debra coached over 30 search committees, vestries, and congregations through the search/transition process. She also mentored countless of newly ordained and new-to-the-diocese clergy through their time of transition as they began a new ministry. She also recruited and oversaw Interims for the diocesan churches.

Debra now serves as an Interim herself bringing her years of wisdom and experience from the fields of transition, parish redevelopment, formation, and baptismal ministry formation to congregations moving through the interim transition from what was to what will be. Debra loves encouraging, equipping, and empowering others to be their very best in Christ's name. Debra also serves the Episcopal Church as a bishop election search consultant, for dioceses searching for a new bishop.

Debra is married to John Oaks who is happily retired. They look forward to exploring the local bike paths on their recumbent trikes and seeing all that Duluth has to offer. But most of all they look forward to getting to know St. Paul's and each of you.




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## Volunteering Back at Church

If anyone is interested in helping at the church, there will be many opportunities over the fall season. We will start with the outside and lower level, then move up from there. This first sign up has some other organizational projects on it, too. It is nice to reconnect with the building, but we will also have opportunity to connect, socially distanced and masked, with other members of the parish. I know from experience that if you are smiling behind the mask, you can see it in the eyes. I would love to see some of you smile as you help keep the church a beautiful place during our temporary absence.

Questions? Email Buffy at [embuffy@hotmail.com](mailto:embuffy@hotmail.com)

Sign up to volunteer at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4FABA82CAAFC1-building>

*Respectfully submitted by  
Buffy Helstrom*



## Transition Ministry

The transition period is seen as a prime opportunity for the renewal, re-focusing and re-energizing of the mission and ministry of St. Paul's. The transition period is an intentional ministry of articulating, exploring the direction of the congregation as defined by the membership of the congregation and affirmed by Vestry; reviewing the past, assessing the present, and envisioning the future. Knowing that each congregation is unique, the Interim Rector strives to discern the tools that are most appropriate for each specific situation. Reflecting on the five Transition "Focus Points" helps the leadership and congregation answer the questions: "Who are we?" "Who are our neighbors?" and "What is God calling us to be and do?"

Reflecting on the five Transition "Focus Points" are the best known and most consistently success way to accomplish this:

1. **Heritage:** Assist the congregation and its leaders to come to a clear recognition, acknowledgement and understanding of the history of St. Paul's, with particular attention to its patterns of relationships with previous clergy.
2. **Missional Identity:** Facilitate the processes by which the congregation and leaders can discover and articulate St. Paul's unique identity and assist the parish in understanding what it is that God is calling it to be and do, apart from previous clergy leadership.
3. **Leadership:** Recognize transition as a time of Leadership Development and often reallocation, deal constructively with the changes in leadership roles that naturally evolve in times of transition, assisting new leaders to emerge and exercise ministry.
4. **Connections:** Facilitate a process to see anew the network of contexts and connections of potential congregational relationships and to be aware of the mutual impact that they have. The outcome being to renew, redevelop and strengthen these ties and relationships so that each may be a more effective resource and support to each other.
5. **Future:** Build commitment to the future, and to the leadership of the new Rector, so that the congregation is prepared to move into the future with commitment, energy and openness to the possibilities of a renewed vision of ministry.

Mother Debra Kissinger also suggests creating a team of Transition Companions, for the following purposes:

- They allow the vestry and other congregational leaders to continue their important leadership work on congregational life and ministry at a level that maintains the health of the congregation and its' various ministries and involvements, both internally and externally.
- They support the congregation throughout the transition. They help reduce anxiety, build trust, and encourage the congregation's participation in the transition process.
- Transition Companions help the Interim Rector better understand the congregation's heritage, current interests, and the complex array of ministry and worship offerings.
- Transition Companions help the Interim Rector shape the transition process to fit the needs of the congregation.
- Transition Companions facilitate the congregation's engagement in the process, help the congregation understand the transition Focus Points, and share in the planning and implementing of several events designed for the congregation, and signal to the members that the transition process is also the congregation's work.

We will be in close contact with Mother Debra as she prepares for her move to Duluth, and will be seeking volunteers to participate both in this transition ministry process and the search for a new permanent rector. Stay tuned!

*Respectfully submitted by  
Nancy Schuldt, Senior Warden and  
Rev. Debra J. Kissinger*



## To Welcome Our Interim Rector

One of the unique (and obvious) aspects of a minister who specializes in interim or transition ministry is that they move frequently! In our discussions with Mother Debra, we have learned that she and her husband have learned to “travel light” from posting to posting. This saves on time and costs associated with moving, but also means they will need a few basic furnishings for the home they will be renting for their stay with us in Duluth. From our Letter of Agreement:

“Because the Interim Rector’s family travels with minimal furnishings (which lowers the move cost significantly), the parish will furnish the Interim’s Rector’s abode. These furnishings will remain the property of the parish, or those who loaned them, after the completion of the transition period.”

So the call is going out to the good people of St. Paul’s to take stock of your unused household items – maybe something you were planning to donate to the rummage sale! – and let us know if you can offer them for Mother Debra’s use over the next year or so. When her interim ministry concludes, the items can come back to you, or we can indeed put them in the rummage sale or provide them to a family in need. See the following list and contact Rita in the office or myself if you can offer any of the items! Many thanks!

welcome

- Sofa
- Small entertainment center or suitable alternative for a flatscreen TV, DVD player
- Kitchen or Dining Room table and number of chairs appropriate to the size of the table
- 2 bookshelves (unless there are plenty of built-in bookshelves in the house or rector’s office)
- Microwave – 1000 watt preferred
- Male and female dressers
- 2 Table lamps
- 7 Torch/Upright floor lamp (ideally with reading lamp, too)

*Respectfully submitted by  
Nancy Schuldt, Senior Warden*

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## A New Photo Directory?



It’s been a few years since we invited LifeTouch to photograph our members and create a Parish Directory. We tried arranging it for 2019, but LifeTouch no longer served this region. Perhaps we can create our own directory? Would you send me a selfie or any photo of you or your family? Simply email (or snail mail) your preferred image by October

15, 2020 to the church at [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org) and I’ll take care of the rest! If you send it to me right away, then you can avoid getting frequent reminders about it. An up-

dated photo directory would be a marvelous help to our new Interim Rector.

Please keep in touch with St. Paul’s! Let us know when you have a new phone number, address or email. Send us your prayer requests. I am still working part-time Monday-Friday, and I love to hear from you!

Questions? Email [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org) or call 218-724-3535.

*Peace,  
Rita Rosenberger,  
Parish Secretary*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
1710 E. Superior St.  
Duluth, MN 55812



Email for the church:  
[office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)

**Visit our website:**  
[www.stpaulsduluth.org](http://www.stpaulsduluth.org)

## **Blessing of the Animals**

Bring your pet for a drive-by blessing at St. Paul's!

Drive up between 11 am-noon, on Saturday, October 3, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Photos of pets, and stuffed animals, are also welcome. Just drive up to 17th Ave East and Superior St and remain in your car. Each pet will receive a special blessing from Rev. Barbara or Rev. Margaret.



Deadline for submissions to the November issue of *The Messenger* is  
8:00 am, Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Please email items to: [office@stpaulsduluth.org](mailto:office@stpaulsduluth.org)