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THE EPISTLE

OF SAINT PAUL'S PARISH—K STREET

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Bread for the Journey

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The metaphor of journey is one we find throughout Scripture. For example, Abraham journeyed to a far country in obedience to God's call. The children of Israel journeyed through the wilderness for forty years to find the promised land. Christ journeyed from Galilee to Jerusalem on his way to the cross. Paul journeyed throughout the Mediterranean with the Gospel. Journey is a central motif both in Scripture and in our spiritual lives.

However, every journey requires nourishment. One would not get far on a journey without proper provisions. We need food, both physical and spiritual, along the way to keep up our energy and give us the strength we need to continue.

This year, we are embarking on a parish-wide journey of formation. Our formation program on Wednesday nights this year is called "Bread for the Journey." We will have five different terms throughout the year: Michaelmas (in October), Advent, Epiphany, Lent, and Eastertide. Each of these terms will have a different theme. For Michaelmas, our theme will be church history. We will look at major events and people in different eras of church history. In Advent, we will explore spirituality and the arts, considering visual arts, poetry, and iconography as possible expressions of our spirituality. In Epiphany, we will look at theology, particularly the theology of our Creed and the "I



THE REV'D SHAWN STROUT

Believe" statements. During Lent, we will look at the history of the liturgy both in the West and the East. Finally, in Eastertide, we will delve into ethics, how we live our Christian faith in the world.

Each of our sessions will take a multi-faceted approach. We will begin in worship with Evening Prayer at 5:45 and Mass at 6:00 pm. We will then enjoy a Simple Supper from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. (If you would like to volunteer to help with a Simple Supper, please contact Linda Wilkinson (ljkilkinson2@gmail.com).) Then, we will have a presentation from 7:00 to 7:45 pm. Along with many talented speakers from our own parish, we will also have a number of guest speakers from area seminaries and universities. We will then discuss the presentation through tabletop discussions from 7:45 to 8:15 pm. Finally, we will end with Compline and leave by 8:30 pm.

ST. PAUL'S PARISH SEEKS TO RESTORE ALL PEOPLE TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER, THROUGH SACRAMENTAL WORSHIP AND CHRIST-LIKE LIVING.

THE EPISTLE

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Here are the topics for our Michaelmas and Advent terms:

Michaelmas

10/5/2016: St. Athanasius and the Divinity of Christ by Dr. Ryan Danker

10/12/2016: Christianity in Muslim Lands: The Early History by Dr. Robert Lewis Wilkins

10/19/2016: John Wesley and the Evangelical Revival by Dr. Ryan Danker

10/26/2016: Embracing Eternity: F. D. Maurice and the Kingdom of Christ by Dr. John Orens

Advent

11/30/2016: The Visual Arts as a Means of Prayer by Peggy Parker

12/7/2016: The Icon in Prayer and Contemplation by Tom Xenaxis

12/14/2016: Praying with Poetry for the Advent Season by Dr. Kathleen Staudt

You can find brief biographies of all of our guest speakers on our website (www.stpauls-kst.com).

Do-It-Yourself – Bread for the Journey

Perhaps you are disappointed that you cannot make it to our Bread for the Journey series on Wednesday evenings due to other commitments. Have no fear! I would encourage you to try a Do-It-Yourself Bread for the Journey. All of the presentations will be videotaped and uploaded to our website, along with any handouts and discussion questions used for tabletop discussions. So, an idea could be to gather a couple of friends in your home. Begin with Evening Prayer, have a potluck dinner together, watch the video of the presentation, discuss the questions and conclude with Compline — all in your own home!

There's no need for you to feel left out of this formation journey. Take it with you — wherever you may go! It could be a wonderful way to introduce some friends and neighbors to our faith who are not quite ready to come

to church yet but are more than happy to come to your home for a potluck dinner and discussion.

In whatever way that you enter this journey, I hope that you will find it enriching and motivating. We are all on a spiritual journey of some kind or another. We might wonder, though, if we are getting the nourishment we need for our journey. Please consider our Bread for the Journey formation program as one way to receive that spiritual, and physical, nourishment.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Faithfully,

Fr. Shawn
strout@stpauls-kst.com



150
SAINT PAUL'S PARISH
This Month in St. Paul's History

October 10, 1943
First Episcopal Mass conducted in Chinese in the U.S. by the Rt. Rev. Yau Tue Tsu, Bishop of Kunming, attended by the Chinese Ambassador and Vice President and Mrs. Henry Wallace.

October 24, 1923
First annual rummage sale, sponsored by St. Paul's Guild.

October 28, 1866
Initial meeting to organize a new church under the name St. John Baptist, which would become St. Paul's in the next year.

Generations of Generosity: Building on 150 Years of Stewardship

Preston Winter, Chair,
Stewardship Committee,

As we celebrate at the Feast of Dedication, the month of October marks the beginning of St. Paul's 150th Anniversary celebrations. As your 2016 Stewardship Committee thought about our parish in this context, we were moved by the fact that we are also celebrating all the years when faithful stewards saw to it that the worship, mission, formation, and ministry of St. Paul's continued to blossom and flourish.

The Psalms often speak of God's faithfulness from generation to generation, and Psalm 145 in particular captures the spirit of passing on the gifts we have been given.

Psalm 145: 1-7

1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

2 Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

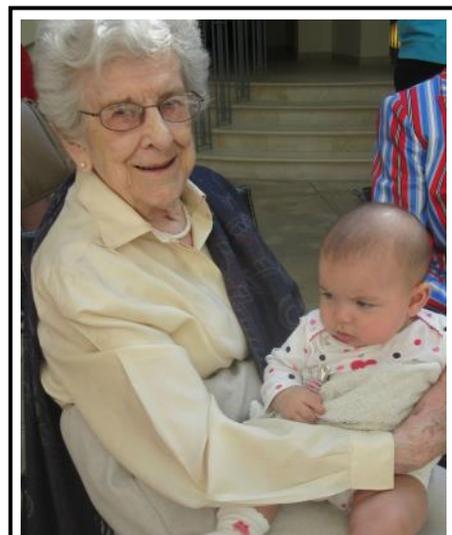
6 They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

7 They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

As we think about the ways in which each of us give of our time, talent, and treasure to enhance God's work in and through St. Paul's, I would encourage you to remember the incredible gift we have been given by

those who have come before us. Their financial gifts built the beautiful structure in which we worship and have helped to maintain and expand it over the years. Moreover, the ministry of worship and sacraments that has defined the core of parish life at St. Paul's has transformed the lives of so many people through the years. This transformation has then led us out into the world to bring love and hope to all who we encounter and those whom we serve through mission and outreach.

In this month of October, we have the opportunity to refresh our sense of being part of this line of faithful stewards. We can think and dream about what we can bring to newcomers and future generations who will worship at St. Paul's. We can look deep into our hearts and recognize all the ways St. Paul's has given us joy and helped us to share that joy with others. And we can look at our priorities and find a way to be yet another generous generation.



St. Paul's Generations—Mary Brown and Sofia Mui Welch

God Has Called You Here for a Reason



THE REV'D RICHARD WALL

Dear Friends,

I began my letter exactly one year ago with sage advice from an elderly rector: take no vacations in October!

His words were sheer prophecy — for October is a month where mission and ministry not only come to life, but demand the best each of us has to offer — our time, our talent, our treasure. So as you wade through the pages of this edition, and as you digest all that we seek to be and do over the month ahead, please remember that God has called you here — at this time — for a reason. Ask how He calls you to be faithful—called to take your own part and place in this journey we share.

October 2nd is our Feast of Dedication — the Sunday we adjust Mass times to allow us to gather before the altar as one parish family. This Sunday — October 2nd — will see one Mass only — Solemn Pontifical Mass at 10:30 am.

This worship will — I hope, pray, and believe — be St Paul's at our very best. I am very grateful to Bishop Nathan Baxter for agreeing to preach and preside that morning. Bishop Baxter is known to many of you in his

former incarnation as Dean of Washington National Cathedral. He is also one of the finest preachers and spiritual leaders in the Episcopal Church today, and I am overjoyed that he is willing to give us a weekend of his time.

A Feast of Dedication is, of course, more than a moment of thanksgiving — it is a time to commit — to re-dedicate — ourselves to the work Jesus calls us to do. Please reflect on what first carried your feet inside this place, and what inspired you to return. I imagine many answers will boil down to the sheer beauty of all that God has entrusted to us — this marvelous edifice; the beauty of our ceremonial; music and incense lifting hearts and souls to the gates of heaven. Perhaps rather than *finding* a church you were filled with a sense of finally being *found*. Please reflect on these questions: for our collective experience is now our message and our mission to this city — a place, I believe, that urgently needs the beauty of holiness and the transformative grace of this our catholic faith.

Bishop Baxter preached at St Paul's to mark the beginning of the last Capital Campaign — giving perfect symmetry, as we prepare to launch our 150th celebrations, and 2017 stewardship season. You can read more about each elsewhere in this edition — but I'm sure, like me, you see how perfectly the three align. As we rededicate ourselves, we celebrate 150 years of catholic mission and ministry, knowing that we have to understand where we have come from in order to understand our work and personality today and tomorrow. But moreover, secure in this rich tradition and deep history, we can re-dedicate ourselves to standing strong in the present moment.

I'm so grateful to Ann Korke and the Sesquicentennial Committee for their hard work, dedication, and vision.

I hope 2017's stewardship launch that day will not be dismissed or even simply tolerated as some kind of hidden price tag, amidst the glories of a pontifical Mass and the following parish lunch. There is, of course, a real and earthy side to our talk of stewardship: the fruits of our annual campaign shape the form and content of our mission and ministry over the twelve months ahead. Put bluntly, we can only make possible that which we can afford. And while we may have many expectations of this place — liturgies, programs, music — God has many expectations of all who would call themselves disciples. We must find ways of closing the gaps between our expectations and our giving. Thinking about stewardship on our Feast of Dedication is one way of bringing together the call of heaven and the demands of earth — the sacred and the secular — as we are challenged to dedicate and commit the entirety of ourselves, and give back to God the first part of all that we receive. I remind you once again: stewardship is not the means to church life; it is the end and the goal of all life itself.

I began by writing that October is no month for clergy vacations. And I end by reminding you that I will, in fact, be disappearing at the end of October for just under a fortnight, joining a parish group on a pilgrimage to Israel. Also traveling will be some parishioners from my former parishes, some random clergy — and my parents. Never before have I traveled with a parish group; never before have I visited the Holy Land.

I have little idea of what to expect, but look forward to sharing something

[W]hile we may have many expectations of this place —liturgies, programs, music — God has many expectations of all who would call themselves disciples.

of this time when I return. Until then, I hope in the heat and dust of Israel, walking the paths our Savior trod, to be reminded all over again that beneath strategic plans, church budgets, and stewardship campaigns — beneath all our noise and joy and squabbling — is a stark reality: a lonely man, God's Word made flesh, who lived and suffered, died and rose, to reconcile the whole world to Himself. Away from our K Street busyness I hope to be reminded of the primacy and simplicity of his clarion cry: love one another.

For this man continues to walk,

now alongside us on the lakesides of our lives. He shares the weight of our crosses, and takes our hands as we face whatever Calvary might mean for us today. And He promises to raise us to be with Him, to a glorious place where we might continually dwell. Much will be asked of each of you in the months ahead — countless committees, activities, ministries, programs, as well as your financial commitment. But as your priest I want nothing more than for you to know this man, to allow His love to consume your hearts, and, in this love, to be transformed. The man who walked

the paths of Galilee now fills our hearts and souls, and lives and reigns here on his Tabernacle Throne. I look forward to seeing you all in church, and joining with me in our duty and joy of adoration.

This comes, all always, with my love and prayers

Fr. Richard



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Preston Winter, Catechist

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), St. Paul's formation program for children ages three to twelve, resumed on Sunday, September 18 after a summer hiatus. CGS is a Montessori-based approach to children's religious formation, rooted in a conviction that God and the child are already in relationship. The role of the adult is to protect and nurture the child's loving relationship with God. The catechist and the child are students together of Christ, our only Teacher.

In CGS, children work in an "atrium," a classroom full of materials that help children focus on key scriptural passages and liturgical moments. It seeks to foster the child's loving relationship with God by introducing core mysteries of the faith in ways that respect both the rich traditions of the church and the development of the child.

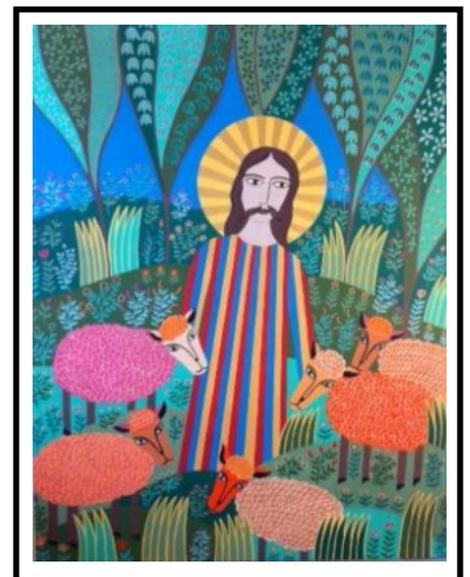
This year, two CGS atria will meet each Sunday. Three- to six-year-olds meet in the Level 1 atrium during the 9:00 Mass. Josef Simpson and Allison Winter are the catechists for this group, assisted by Megan Murton, Janet Wamsley, and Lindsay Raffetto.

We welcome first through sixth graders into our new elementary atrium, which will include work from CGS Levels 2 and 3. Preston and Allison Winter are the catechists for this group, also assisted by our wonderful volunteers.

We are also looking forward to starting a new atrium for toddlers (18-36 months) later this year during the weekdays as a way to serve the neighborhood and wider community.

CGS is a labor of love for the catechists and the many people who support them, and needs the support of the whole parish. We would also wel-

come any new volunteers and are happy to answer questions.



St. Paul's to Mark 150 Years

Ann Korky, Chair, Sesquicentennial Steering Committee

In October 1866, an initial meeting was held to discuss the establishment of new Episcopal parishes, offshoots of St. John's Lafayette Square, to serve the growing Foggy Bottom/West End area of the nation's capital. By June 1867, the parish was ready to elect its first Vestry, call its first Rector and hold its first Eucharist using the name "St. Paul's Parish." Our sister African American parish, St. Mary's, was set up at the same time, as was our neighboring Roman Catholic parish, St. Stephen Martyr.

Over this past summer, a planning committee met to develop recommendations to the Rector and Vestry about how our community today might mark this milestone anniversary. The Committee's report was welcomed by the Vestry at its retreat in August. The report proposed an October – June calendar of events, and we are about to hold the first one of these celebrations on Sunday, October 2 when Bishop Nathan Baxter will join us for the Feast of the Dedication. (More schedule details next page.)

Underlying our sesquicentennial commemorations is a Trinitarian approach, to

- Celebrate the past
- Recommit to Anglo-Catholic worship and witness today, and
- Embrace the future.

Our hope is that by viewing ourselves in the context of the faithful people who preceded us in this holy place, worshipping God and seeking and serving Christ in others, we may find new inspiration now and for the future. To that end, the Vestry approved a "Sesquicentennial Fund" to receive cash gifts in honor of our anniversary. Ten percent of the total

donations will be "tithed" to an outreach/mission activity beyond the parish. The rest will be used to fund one or more tangible gifts to St. Paul's.

Fifty years ago, parishioners' gifts were used for the roof top bell that still calls us to worship. Possible uses today include replacement frontals and vestments for ones approaching the end of their useful life, updated signage and the like. The Vestry will make the final decision when we know better what the Fund is likely to yield.

Fund raising efforts will run in tandem with the annual Stewardship Campaign, and both will be kicked off at the lunch following the combined 10:30 AM Mass on October 2.

The Sesquicentennial also offers an opportunity to raise St. Paul's visibility in the neighborhood and beyond. Look for an outdoor banner with the anniversary logo and catch phrase, "Celebrating 150 Years of Anglo Catholic Worship and Witness." A group of parishioners is working actively in the archives to develop historical content for use in parish publications, our social media presence, and displays in parish buildings. In addition to Bishop Baxter, we will have other distinguished visitors over the October-June period, including Bishop Mariann Budde for our Patronal Feast on Sunday, January 22 and for-

mer Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold for Candlemas on Thursday, February 2.

A number of the planning committee members have agreed to serve on a Steering Committee to help coordinate anniversary activities. They are:

- Ann Korky — Chair
- John Stowe — Web/Social Media
- Linda Wilkinson — Archival Research

CB Wooldridge, Nancy Work, Susan Granum — Gospitality Events

All interested parishioners are invited to join **St. Paul's 150th Anniversary Committee** to help bring our plans to fruition. We need volunteers with a variety of skills, including:

- producing web content and publicizing anniversary events via -- social media
- encouraging press coverage
- coordinating and assisting with social events
- serving as a liaison to the "Friends of St. Paul's" and former parishioners and clergy, all of whom will be encouraged to choose a date for a return visit to the parish.

Email the Steering Committee at sesquicentennial@stpauls-kst.com if you are interested or have questions.



Saint Paul's Parish Washington, DC
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

Highlights of Sesquicentennial Calendar

Sunday October 2 – Feast of Dedication

Pontifical Mass at 10:30 am with the Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, lunch to follow

Sunday November 20 – Presentation on Parish History at the Forum

Sunday November 27 – Advent I/Lessons and Carols I

Sunday December 4 – Advent II/Lessons and Carols II

Receptions to follow both services

Saturday December 24 – Christmas Eve

St. Paul's claims to be the first Episcopal church in the country to hold a Midnight Mass, a tradition that goes back here to at least 1870. Look for a special service with period music and décor.

Sunday January 22 – Patronal Feast

Bishop Mariann will be with us for a combined Mass at 10:30 am with reception to follow.

Thursday February 2 – Candlemas

The Most Rev. Frank Griswold returns to St. Paul's for Solemn High Mass at 6:45 PM, reception to follow.

Saturday February 25 – “Feast Before Fast” Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday style pancake supper, but held the last Saturday evening before Lent begins to encourage family participation. Wear beads or a costume to lend a Mardi Gras flavor.

March 1 – Ash Wednesday

April 9-16 – Holy Week and Easter

May TBD – Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social

Sunday June 25 (transferred) – Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, our Secondary Patronal Feast

Look for a closing, parish-wide, family friendly event like a barbecue at the church or in a local park.

We need your help to make events a success. Join the 150th Anniversary Committee, and be sure to “save the dates” for these special events.



Generosity of Kiefer Estate to St Paul's Mission Areas

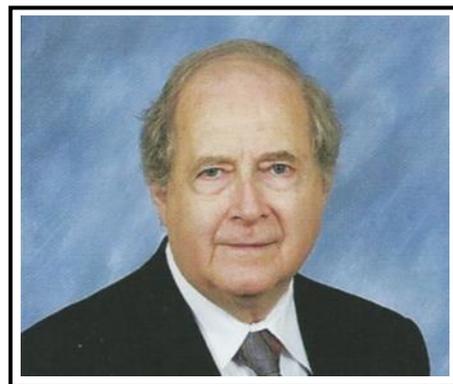
Pattie Kindsvater, Commission on Mission

Our long-time parishioner James Kiefer died in 2015 after a long illness had forced him to move away from the parish to live closer to family. He is buried in the St. Paul's Columbarium.

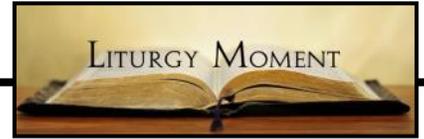
James' sisters Marilyn Cummins, Beth Norris, and Margaret Branson all wanted to thank St. Paul's for, as one sister put it, “the many years James participated in the life of the congregation and found joy, fellowship and God's grace” here.

As a result of their generosity, more than \$17,000 from James' estate has been donated to two of St. Paul's outreach priorities, the Bishop Walker School for Boys (a little over \$10,000) and our Hunger/Homeless Ministry (\$7000). These two ministries have aimed to make the city where we worship a more caring place to the disadvantaged for many years.

We thank the Kiefer family for honoring their brother's memory by supporting God's work in this place.



The Sacrifice of the Mass — Part III



Fr. Shawn Strout

Presider: "Pray beloved that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty."

People: "The Lord accept this sacrifice at thy hands to the praise and glory of his name both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church."

In the last two months, we asked the question, what do we mean by "the sacrifice of the Mass"? We saw that our Book of Common Prayer provides us with three answers: 1) "He [Jesus Christ] made there [on the Cross] a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again." 2) "And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" 3) "And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee."

Two months ago, we discussed what it meant for the Mass to be a commemoration of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. We recognized that the Church has never taught that Christ's sacrifice is repeated over and over again at each Mass, even though that was a misconception both by some traditionalists and reformers. Instead, the Church commemorates the sacrifice of Christ's death on the cross made present in the Eucharist, and we suggested that one way to think about that is eschatologically. Christ's sacrifice is present in his body as he carries the wounds with him. In the Eucharist, his Body is made present and thus his sacrifice is also invariably made present with it.

Last month, we looked at how the

Mass is a sacrifice of "praise and thanksgiving." We considered how the Eucharist, by its very name, is meant to be a feast of thanksgiving for all the gifts God has provided us, especially the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I encouraged us to consider the mass a feast of rejoicing rather than a "dour affair."

This month, we look at the Mass as a sacrifice of our very selves. As Eucharistic Prayer 1 states, "And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee." Of course, we are not talking about human sacrifice here. This sacrifice is not meant to be taken literally but rather metaphorically to signify our entire lives. In all three of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), Jesus tells his followers that if they desire to be his disciple they must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. When we offer ourselves as a "reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice" to God, we are doing that very thing.

Now some of us may begin to think, "Ah! Here is that Anglo-Catholic dourness I dearly love!" Perhaps, you might even have visions of monks flogging themselves with cords, wearing hair shirts, or crawling up steps on their bare knees. After all, the more we suffer, the more God loves us right? No, wrong!!

In order for us to properly understand what it means for the sacrifice of the mass to include "our souls and bodies," we must remember the context. Context is always the key! Both in Scripture and in the liturgy. First, Christ's sacrifice is the one sacrifice that is all that was, is, and ever will be needed for our salvation. As we discussed, that sacrifice is made really and truly present in the Mass. Be-

cause of that sacrifice, our natural response is (or should be) praise and thanksgiving. In offering our praise and thanksgiving, we open our hearts, our souls, our very bodies up to God's love. We offer our very selves as a sacrifice – NOT to try to please God or get God to love us – but rather out of gratitude for the love God already has bestowed upon us!

What does offering our selves as a sacrifice actually look like? That will depend on God's call for each of us personally. Sometimes that call may come to us in big ways, such as through a call to a new career, new relationship, or new living situation. Oftentimes, that call comes to us in small ways throughout the day as we make choices regarding our attitude toward God and our neighbors. No one's offering of themselves to God will look the same as anyone else's. God's call to us is personal based on our own temperaments and contexts. What we can have in common, though, is our willingness to be called – our willingness to offer ourselves to God for service.

Thus, we can see that when we speak of the Mass as a sacrifice, we are not talking about a crude, reenactment of Christ's death on Calvary every Sunday. The liturgy is much more powerful than such crude realism would permit! Instead, the sacrifice of the Mass is the making present of Christ's one sacrifice on the cross, our response to that sacrifice as praise and thanksgiving, and our offering of our very selves as a sacrifice for service to God. What a joy it is to receive such a profound gift from God!

Faithfully,
Fr. Shawn

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Blessings from an Unforgettable Summer Experience in Lebanon

Paul Moberly, Seminarian Assistant



This summer, I visited Lebanon, at the invitation of my friend and Virginia Seminary colleague, Halim Shukair. He and I both participated in an immersion program in Turkey, sponsored by the Washington Theological Consortium (a loose network of DC-area seminaries and divinity schools) and funded through an Episcopal organization called the Seminary Consultation on Mission. I wrote a short article about this in a previous edition of *The Epistle* (July/August 2016). Halim invited me to return home with him to Beirut after the end of the Turkey course, and with the \$50 difference in airfare to add the extra stop, so it seemed too good an opportunity to pass up.

And, indeed, I felt quite privileged to be Mr. Shukair's guest for the week. The Lebanese are famous for their hospitality, and I was the happy recipient of a week full of sunshine, sightseeing, and memorable meals. But more than that, it was a week of learning and unforgettable experiences. I never feel quite so alive as I do when traveling in other parts of the world, and this visit was no different.

The political situation in Lebanon has been fraught for much of its contemporary history. Most of us know

about Beirut from the evening news back in the 1980s and 1990s – civil war, terrorists, and bombed out buildings were what I pictured when I initially considered a visit. And, truly, Beirut is a city that bears the scars of decades of unrest and trouble. There are still bombed out hotel towers and government buildings standing next to construction sites of luxury condominiums. Political corruption is rampant – a recent scandal pertaining to trash collection has left mountains of garbage to fester in the heat (thankfully I didn't encounter this, but it has been a huge controversy over the past few years.) The situation for LGBT people in Lebanon has recently deteriorated a bit, though there is a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere in Beirut in particular.

Lebanon is a country of many contradictions. Somehow, it has managed to survive while other countries in the region have been overrun. Its northern and eastern borders are shared with Syria, while Israel is just due south. The influx of Syrian refugees has had a serious impact on the country, quite understandably. Roughly a third of the country's citizens identify as Christian – mostly Maronite Catholics, but there are also Armenians, Syriac Catholics, Syriac and Greek Orthodox, and various smaller evangelical groups. Approximately two-thirds of the country are Muslim, about half Sunni and half Shia. Somehow, all of these groups seem to coexist peacefully – for the most part – at the present time.

The Maronite Catholic influence on Lebanon is quite clear: indeed, the city of Beirut, nestled between the mountains to the east and the Mediterranean on the west, is watched over by an enormous 25 foot statue of the Blessed Virgin atop Mount Lebanon.



Chasuble of St. Maron, 4th Century

This is the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon (Notre Dame du Liban), an important site of Christian pilgrimage and Marian devotion. It is visually quite stunning, especially at night, and I admit I felt a bit acrophobic climbing the circular staircase at the tower leading to the base of the statue to make my own devotions. We visited at 11 PM at night, and it was astounding how many hundreds of pilgrims were there even at that late hour – many of them young people in their teens and twenties. This is not something we Americans typically expect to see, I guess, in these times.

The presence of Shia Islam in Lebanon, though, has presented



Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon

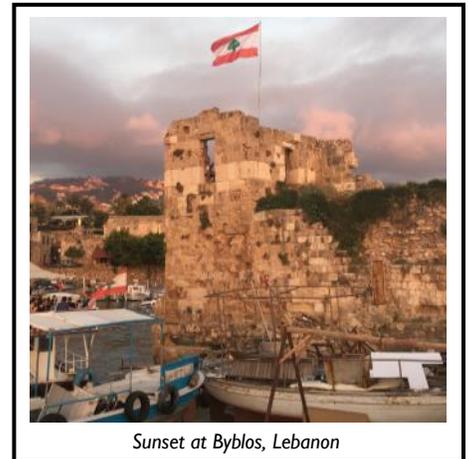
challenges. These Muslims are, by and large, sympathetic to the Iranian Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader. This means there are Hezbollah militants in some neighborhoods south of the city (between the international airport and Beirut's central city – which seems like it could be problematic.) One evening, my friend Halim and I were visiting his sister and her family in a suburb to the south of Beirut, and we didn't have a ride back to Halim's apartment (which is a couple of blocks from the American University of Beirut in the city center) so we took one of the many taxi vans that run throughout the city. They cost approximately 1500 Lebanese Lira (or about \$1) and you just sort of hop in if the driver is heading in your direction. Our particular van was missing several doors, and there was not a seatbelt in sight.

Driving in a car or van in Lebanon is an exciting experience in and

of itself – but this was particularly interesting. The drivers of the vans are often yelling at one another, there seem to be rivalries. Like a good tourist, I felt like I needed to immortalize the experience, so I took out my phone and started filming the bumpy ride through some fairly dodgy neighborhoods. Halim leaned over to me and said, quietly, "Best not to take pictures here, I'll explain later." Only later did I learn that the neighborhood we were driving through was largely Shia Muslim and had a lot of Hezbollah sympathizers – so an American tourist with a camera phone out might draw unwanted attention. Thankfully my guide was looking out for me.

I met some very loving and generous people in Lebanon. I am grateful for my encounter with many Muslims as well as Orthodox Christians and Maronites. A short article cannot even begin to touch on all that I

learned from my travels there, but I know I am very blessed to see parts of the world I might not otherwise have occasion to visit – seminary has offered me the chance to visit places I never dreamed I'd go. I am hopeful that these experiences will go far to help me, in my ministry, to understand the world, its people, and inter-religious relations in particular.



Sunset at Byblos, Lebanon

Introducing Seminarian Assistant David Goldberg



David Michael Goldberg

Dear Friends,

I am so very grateful to serve among you as a seminarian assistant at St Paul's Parish for the next two years. For those of you who have not met me, I'm David Goldberg, a mid-ler (second year MDiv student), at Virginia Theological Seminary. While my sponsoring diocese is Texas, I have

been formed in churches throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Growing up in Fairfield County, Connecticut, my mother began taking me to church regularly as a child. I came to find great solace in my identity in Christ, nourished by the habits of Anglican life, especially through the sacraments, study and liturgy.

Following high school, I accepted a scholarship to read theology at St Benet's Hall at the University of Oxford. At Oxford I also grew in the practice of my catholic faith amid the excitements and anxieties of undergraduate life. Whether it was by singing compline at St Benet's, attending low masses at Pusey House, St. Mary Mag's and St Barnabas, or serving as an acolyte at Christ Church Cathedral, I was nourished on the "daily bread"

so generously given in corporate worship. Indeed, life at St Paul's reminds me of the best of the English parish life I experienced—with all of its graces and quirks!

After my undergraduate study, I received a master's degree in Islamic Studies in London and subsequently relocated to Texas where I worked for a couple of years as a deputy chief of staff at the Houston City Council. However, even amidst the "changes and chances" of my life I am grateful for the opportunity to return again and again to God's altar for sustenance. I look forward to praying, learning and sharing with you in the years ahead.

Warmly and faithfully,
David Michael Goldberg



OCTOBER ON K STREET

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS AT ST. PAUL'S PARISH

2	Joan Miller Sylvia Rortvedt	16	Christopher Heron
6	Aidan Crane David Scott	23	Elizabeth Schnorrenberg
7	Sarah Schnorrenberg Patrick White	24	Patricia Byrd Charles Fletcher
8	Vernon Tancil Olivia Thomas	25	Charlotte Gillespie Wendy Martel Timothy Valadez
9	Benjamin Best	26	Betty Ajueyitsi
10	Alistair Coleman	29	Benton Crane
13	Peter Britton	30	Lydia Taylor Benjamin Kong
15	Kris Brown Coleman Wilfred Keats		



SPECIAL SERVICES/ MAJOR FEAST DAYS

Sunday, October 2: Feast of Dedication

NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE

9:45 am: Morning Prayer

10:30 am: Solemn Pontifical Mass,
The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter presiding
and preaching

6:00 pm: Solemn Evensong & Bene-
diction of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, October 8: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (translated)

10:00 am: Blessing of Animals



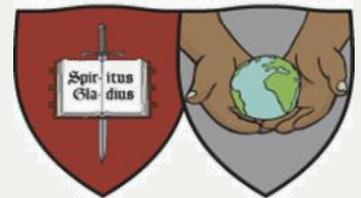
Got an Hour? Give an Hour!

Help us help our neighbors!! Please consider joining us in:
Grate Patrol – Delivery of Breakfast to Washington's homeless population

- Food Preparation: 2.00-4.00 pm every Friday;
- Food Delivery: 5:45am each Saturday & Sunday, Contact Glenn Marsh: gmarsh338@outlook.com
- Bag Set-up: Anytime before 2pm Friday; Contact Tina Mallett (202-965-9324 or tmallett4@gmail.com).

Food Drive for the Foggy Bottom Food Pantry—Cuts in the Federal food stamp program make food pantries even more essential. Cans of fruit, vegetables or other non-perishable items can be placed in the basket near the baptismal font.

SAINT PAUL'S PARISH
COMMISSION ON MISSION





SAINT PAUL'S PARISH

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<http://www.stpauls-kst.com>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Bartolomeo Montagna, "Saint Paul" 1482

**Remember
to
mark
your
Calendar!**

**Sunday, October 2:
Feast of Dedication
Solemn Pontifical Mass at 10:30 am
(single combined service)**