

St. Paul's by-the-Sea

Weekly news & updates

June 18, 2021



June 14 Vestry Highlights

The Vestry convened an in-person meeting at the church on June 14 at 5:30 pm. Tom Shuster gave the Senior Warden's report that included a recap of the congregation meeting held on May 25 with Sandy Cormack in attendance. A discussion of calling a new priest led to the consensus at the meeting that the parish would be best served by calling a full time Priest-in-Charge. The Vestry agreed with that position.

Tom also reported that the officers met on June 6 to discuss how to proceed with completing the Ministry Portfolio needed to call a new priest. The officers recommended and the Vestry approved asking Bob Rothermel and Debbie Shuster to complete the edit of the document. The officers also recommended and the Vestry accepted a starting pay rate to be offered to a prospective priest.

Tom also asked the Vestry to consider how to proceed with the potential uses of the Community Center and church property on Worcester Highway now that Red Doors is not reopening. The Vestry asked Tom to convene a meeting of the Red Doors Work Group to determine if any members wished to be involved in a group to develop other uses for the property. Tom also reported that there will be a baptism of Brooklyn Tunis on June 27 and Gary Cooper's funeral on July 14.

Bob Rothermel reported that while B&G had not officially met, there were ongoing projects that were worth noting. The installation of the exterior lights on the North, East and South side of the property was completed and a grant of nearly 50% of the cost was pending receipt. Final approval of the steps is ongoing and we received the inspection report of the Church and Worcester Highway properties. Bob also reported that he and Tom met with Kathy Phillips of the Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) about their interest in renting a portion of the Community Center building for their headquarters. Bob presented and the Vestry approved a potential lease outline and directed Bob and Tom to develop a lease agreement with ACT.

Paul Rogers presented the Treasurer's Report as of May, 2021. Tom presented an updated worship schedule and indicated he has secured another supply priest for two Sundays in August.

The next Vestry meeting is Monday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at church.
Tom Shuster, Senior Warden

SPBTS Book Club

On June 16th, the Book Club met at Windmill Winery for an afternoon of fellowship, food and drink. It was our first time meeting in-person. We had two party crashers that kept the laughter rolling. We also welcomed a new member, Pat Hipszer, a friend that Patricia Mulcahy brought with her.

It was decided that the group will take a summer break, reconvening in September to discuss *Love is the Way – Holding on to Hope in Troubled Times* by Bishop Michael Curry. Walk the path of love with one of the warmest, most beloved spiritual leaders of our time, and learn how to put faith into action.

The group will meet the third Monday of each month at 4pm. The location of the meetings will be decided as each date gets closer. Two other upcoming books are: *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin (October) and *The Yellow Wife* by Sadequa Johnson (November).

The Book Club is open to anyone who loves to read and talk about books. Join us!



The Parable of the Mustard Seed & Today's Church

Excerpts from Pastor Karen Wamester's sermon on Sunday, June 13, 2021. [Click here](#) to read her entire sermon.

Mark 4:26-34

If you do any looking around on the internet you will find articles about how the church can't survive the current decline in worship. Why young people aren't in church. The rise of the "Nones" who have no religious affiliation, and the church's waning influence.

It seems that the church may be going the way of the family farm. It seems it is not enough to scatter seed. Maybe we need to alter the seed so it grows more easily in any kind of soil, so it produces more, so it is heartier and healthier and more resilient. Some say we need a Gospel that will grow in today's world, so let's create a hybrid. We need a bit more prosperity to go with the Gospel - a bit more glitz and glamour to upgrade this humble Gospel.

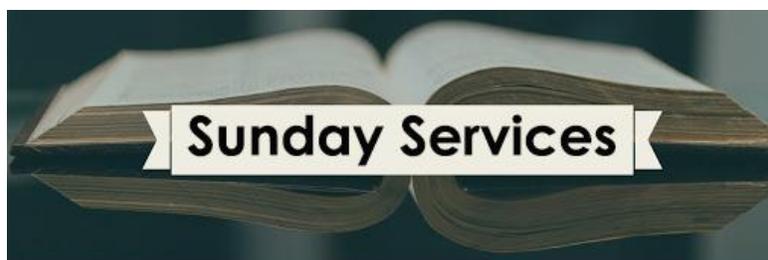
And so we ponder. Changing the seed isn't enough, though. We need to change the soil that the seed grows in. So we think, let's change the worship: more lights, more entertainment. Maybe the Gospel can't grow in thousand-year-old liturgies! We need to till up the worship, break up the unplowed ground of these dusty old sanctuaries.

Sometimes we think all the things we do as a church are in vain. Maybe we believe the soil or the seed has gone bad so the fields will not prosper. We're afraid our efforts and our talents aren't big enough for the harvest we need. We're right: They aren't. The good news, though, is the harvest isn't dependent on our efforts. The seed grows without us, but the seed still needs to be sown. The mustard plant is an annual: it requires renewed sowing, but the promise of its potential life remains in the power of the seed, not the power of the sower.

The harvest is always coming, and it will not be of our own making or doing. On that day we will know just how those seeds we sowed grew in peoples' hearts, sprouted in communities and bloomed across the world. We will marvel at all the ways the preaching and hearing of the Good News brought hope, peace, joy, and love. We will wonder when it happened, how it happened. It may appear different than we thought. New forms, new ways. It may not be as large as we thought.

But then we'll remember that the Kingdom of God is like someone who goes out to sow seed and then sleeps and rises day after day, all the while the seed sprouts and grows. We know not how. And those tiny seeds, tiny like a mustard seed, grow to become the greatest of shrubs. Big enough for all to rest in its shade.

Have hope. Be amazed. But not surprised. Amen



June 20:

IV Pentecost

Rite II Morning Prayer with music, officiated by our Lay Worship Leaders Tom & Debbie Shuster

June 27:

V Pentecost

Rite II Morning Prayer with music, officiated by our Lay Worship Leaders Debbie & Tom Shuster

July 4:

VI Pentecost

Rite II Holy Eucharist service with music, officiated by Fr. Ron Knapp.

[Click here](#) for a PDF version of the 6/20/2021 bulletin so you can follow along.



Church Online



Birthdays

Cami Rogers (6/23)

John Bunting, Jr. (6/25)

To view the June 13th Holy Eucharist service, [click here](#).

Anniversaries

Linda & Lawrence Barrett (6/24)

Worship Leaders Schedule

This Week - June 13, 2021

Officiants: Tom & Debbie Shuster

Reader: Dan Harris

Altar Guild: Amanda Cropper, Kay Ayres

Ushers: Dan Harris, Karen Gordon

Counters: Shirley Aydelotte, Lynda Azar

Next Week—June 27, 2021

Officiants: Tom & Debbie Shuster

Readers: Andy Diaz, Nancy Knotts

Altar Guild: Amanda Cropper, Kay Ayres

Ushers: John & Nancy Knotts

Counters: Amanda Cropper & Amy Rothermel



[Click here to view the Parish Calendar](#)

