



St. Paul's Epistle

JULY 2020

Dear Ones,

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Mt 11:28-30

We still call it "Dad's Camp". He and his teacher cronies built it in the mid 70's on a spit of forested land in Johnson. It was rustic even when brand new. As a kid, it amazed me how many guys could squeeze into a small "deer" camp and survive for a whole weekend. As an adult, I think beer and poker helped make that possible!

As my father aged into retirement, the camp became a sanctuary of solitude. In the last years of his life, other than a couple of dear friends who would visit for a game of cards, Dad spent hours watching "his" birds and other critters. He battled the Red Squirrel back from bird feeders. He was a voracious reader. And he rested. He simply rested.

After years of renting this little cabin in the woods, our tenant moved on. It's been empty since January. A couple of months ago I decided to get to work and clean the place up. I hadn't been inside for years. A wash of emotions and memories came over me. Pure gift for which I give thanks each time I visit. Whether for a day or an overnight, Dad's camp has become a place of sanctuary, solitude, and refreshment for me. There is no Internet or telephone. I too watch the birds. The Red Squirrel are plentiful even without the bird feeders. I too read a lot. And I rest. I simply rest.

As we cross the threshold into July and summer days, how are you? Are you bone-weary? Weighed down by burdens? In need of Sabbath rest? How could you not be?

Jesus' yoke is called "easy." In Greek, the word means "kind." Jesus' yoke will be kind to your shoulders. As we seek to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly, Jesus promises that we do not, must not, carry the weight alone. Hear Jesus call to you to sidle up close to him: Come to me: breath in gentle rest for your soul.

So how will you accept Jesus' invitation to share the load...perhaps even lay your burdens down for a time and plan for gentle rest?

Wayne Muller writes in his book *Sabbath, Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest*, "Sabbath honors the necessary wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species, for example, do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in the spring. If this continues for more than a season, the plant begins to die. A period of rest -- in which nutrition and fertility most readily coalesce--is not simply a human psychological convenience; it is a spiritual and biological necessity. A lack of dormancy produces confusion and erosion in the life force...In a complex and unstable world, if we do not rest...how can we find our way, how can we hear the voices that tell us the [life-giving] thing to do?" (Bantam Books, NY; 1999, p.7)

In the midst of all you do for work, church, your family, community, and world, take time to find rest for your souls. Celebrate what is beautiful and sacred; light candles, sing songs, watch birds, smell your tomato plant, tell stories, stare out across the lake, eat, nap, make love, read lighthearted novel. It is time to rest, to be nourished and refreshed.

May it be so.

With Soap & Love,

Sherry+

Hello people of St. Paul's,

I hope this note finds you all well. Below are a few announcements and updates from our St. Paul's community -

- Our restart team has begun to meet to determine the steps we need to take to begin in-person gathering and, under the diocesan direction, the phases we must go through in order to do this. The restart team is Lenore Morse, Laurie Earle, and Rev. Lucy Pellegrini, thank you very much to each of them for their willingness and dedication to take on this important and challenging work. As you all probably imagine, this is a slow and methodical process involving much study and consideration. All steps outlined by our team must be approved by the vestry then by the diocese before implementing. The congregation will be hearing more about these steps soon from members of our restart team.
- The building & grounds committee continues to make sure our buildings are safe and sound and that needed repairs are completed. The covers have been installed on our new stained-glass windows! The roof over the stairs to the parish hall needed repair and has now been fixed, slate has been repaired on part of the parish hall roof and various door jams have been fixed on several of our doors. Locks will be replaced on the parish hall and office doors soon as they have not been in full working order. We will announce when this is done and make sure everyone who needs new keys has them.
- Our vestry is still in need of a clerk/secretary. The vestry meets once a month, and the responsibility would be to keep the minutes of the monthly meeting and maintain these files. This is a great opportunity to be part of an exciting ministry at St. Paul's. Please contact me or Sherry if you're interested or would like to discuss further.
- It is understood that during these uncertain times it may be difficult for some to keep up with their financial pledge to St. Paul's, however, the bills and financial responsibilities of the church remain. Pledges can be mailed directly to the church mailing address, or you can use the secure online tool created by our diocese found on the homepage of our website, www.saintpaulsvergennes.org. Humble thanks.

If anyone would like a copy of the minutes from the last vestry meeting please let me know. The vestry meets every third Tuesday via Zoom. If anyone is interested in attending a meeting, please contact me for the link.

Peace & Blessings,

Rebecca



Sign recently added to the church garden

How Do I Pray?

Very carefully... irrationally... and in thanksgiving; in pain and in sorrow... in the pure joy of living and laughing. Asking for magic... begging for a miracle. I am seeking, searching, forgiving, repentant; looking for answers for the sick, the lonely, the hungry; looking for direction, asking for mercy; seeking silence and trying to listen, listen, listen. On my knees, in the dark of night; while peeling onions; on my walk, with the Psalms and to the Father.

Those are my Alleluias and my Amens.

–Mrs. Jean M. Hicks

From the book of Women's Uncommon Prayers

VOICES IN THE PARK

JULY 11TH

ROSE ARCHER, A
VERGENNES RESIDENT,
WILL SPEAK OF RACIAL
EQUALITY

Listen
To allow
Knowledge
Wisdom
Change

Saturday, July 11th
Vergennes City Park
4pm - 5pm

Wear a mask
Stand 6 feet apart for SOCIAL DISTANCE
Bring a chair

Continue racial equality education and awareness.
Watch "13th" on Netflix.
Read "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to
Talk About Racism" by ROBIN DIANGELO
organized by Lizbeth Ryan

July Birthdays



1st Solon Coburn
5th Alex Woods
5th Henry Stroup
8th Halle Huizenga
11th Jamison Huizenga
14th Casey Huizenga
14th Helen Vrooman
15th Gordon Sevee

20th Anna White
20th Francis Woods
23rd Margaret Lowe
26th Nicholas Earle
28th Reed Brown
28th David Price
30th Adrianna Earle

Interim Pastor: Rev. Sherry Osborn
revsherryo@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev. Lucy Pellegrini

Sr. Warden: Rebecca Chauvin 578-7312

Jr. Warden: Chris Hale 877-1059

Clerk of the Vestry: Steve Lowe 877-3783

VESTRY MEMBERS:

Class of 2021:

Rebecca Chauvin 877-1370

Nan Guilmette 453-8515

Kim Hatgen 877-6947

Class of 2022:

David Merrill 475-2160

Bo Price 877-2031

Class of 2023:

Chris Hale 877-1059

Jeff Mangini 453-2144

Church Committee Chairs:

Outreach: Mary Gordon 877-3291
romargordon@yahoo.com

Education:

John Stroup 870-3291
stroujit0@gmail.com

Stewardship:

Bo Price 877-2031
boltonprice@comcast.net

Bob Laidman 877-3566
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Liturgy: