It’s just politics, or is it?

We are officially in the midst of the political season. For swing states, like ours, it comes with an onslaught of ads, name calling, and not enough truth telling. It is tempting to get caught up in all the emotional energy around political arguing or to avoid it at all costs. With either of these extremes we can lose our Christian witness because of the way we do or don’t engage. Below are a few things I have found helpful in political engagements.

First, Christians are linked together by baptism. This fact makes the Baptismal covenant, found on page 302 of The Book of Common Prayer, a great starting point. Our right to vote is an extension of this covenant and one way we can live out our faith. But, if we allow our voting to be the only or primary way you live out this covenant we will be missing the point of the covenant. The baptismal covenant that informs our voting, is not a voting covenant. Furthermore, when we put too much focus on voting we become disconnected in non-election years and fail to live up to the daily justice and our Christian vocation.

Second, research the candidates. Which candidate’s values and policies best fit with the baptismal covenant and with scripture? If you are overwhelmed with the thought of knowing scripture, breathe deeply and rely on what you have heard read every Sunday. As you settle on a candidate look for those places where their policies and actions do not fit with your baptismal covenant or scripture. No candidate is perfect, and we must know what compromises we are making in voting for a candidate.

Third, remember that we are Christians, not Biden-ians or a Trump-ians. The church has a long history of division, but a longer history of love. Most of Paul’s letters are written to guide churches through divisions by getting them to bring their focus back to Jesus. Paul tells the divided church of Corinth, “these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” When we focus on Christ we are naturally guided by our love for God and are more able to love each other, even as we engage politics. By focusing on Christ and his love the church was and is able to come together for worship and reconciliation.

Fourth, it is inevitable that we will end up in heated political conversations at some point. When this happens return to that baptismal covenant again, especially the part where we say we will, “Respect the dignity of every human being.” This includes the candidates and those that will vote differently than you will. Sometimes in these heated moments, the best thing we can be is curious. Ask question like, “How might someone come to a different conclusion than you have? How do they see their vote supporting their faith, and vise versa? Are you more concerned about being right or loving the other person? How can I tell this person about the truth that I see that differs from theirs?” Loving others does not mean we don’t speak the truth or give our opinion, it does mean that we are fully aware and respect the other person when we do share our opinions.

Finally, and most importantly, know that the way you love others is the most powerful tool you will ever have. You can be smarter than others, but intellect does not change minds the way love does. You can be louder than others, but volume does not impact others the way love does. We need to each ask ourselves several times a day, “What would love do?” and return to our baptismal covenant over and over again.

Peace, Matt+

(continued on next page)
Do you believe in God the Father?  
I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?  
I will, with God’s help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
I will, with God’s help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?  
I will, with God’s help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?  
I will, with God’s help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
I will, with God’s help.
Services Bookmarks: to help you follow along during outdoor services. Just cut them out and place in your prayer book. (**Note: Ministry roles are noted on the bookmarks.**)

While praying one day, a girl asked, “Who are you, Lord?” He answered, “I am.” “But who is I Am?” she said. And He replied, “I am love, I am peace, I am grace, I am joy, I am the way, truth and the light. I am the comforter. I am strength, I am safety, I am shelter, I am power, I am the creator. I am the beginning and the end. I am the most high.”

The girl, with tears in her eyes, looked toward Heaven and said, “Now I understand. But, Lord, who am I?”

Then God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered, “You are mine!”

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**Sept. 6**
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40 (BCP 766)
Romans 13:8-14

**Intercessor:** Bev Hart
**Reader:** Bernadette Earhart
**Altar:** Bernadette Earhart

**The Holy Eucharist:** Rite Two

- The Word of God [BCP 355]
- The Collect of the Day [BCP 232]
- The Lessons (Track 2) [See above]
- The Sermon [BCP 358]
- The Prayers of the People [BCP 383]
- Concluding Collect [BCP 394]
- Confession of Sin [BCP 360]
- The Peace [BCP 360]
- The Holy Communion [BCP 361-366]
- Eucharistic Prayer A [BCP 377]

**Morning Prayer**

- Opening Sentence [BCP 78]
- The Confession of Sin [BCP 79]
- The Invitatory & Psalter [BCP 80]
- Psalm Lesson 1 [BCP 675]
- Canticle 12
  - (Invocation, Part I, Doxology) [BCP 89]
- Lesson 2
- Canticle 15
- Gospel
- The Apostles Creed
- The Prayers
- Prayers cont.
- Blessing & Dismissal

**Post Communion Prayer:**
Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

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**Sept. 13**
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:8-13 (BCP 733-734)
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

**Intercessor:** Janie Webster
**Reader:** Randy Speer
**Altar:** Bernadette Earhart

**The Holy Eucharist:** Rite Two

- The Word of God [BCP 355]
- The Collect of the Day [BCP 232]
- The Lessons (Track 2) [See above]
- The Sermon
- The Nicene Creed [BCP 358]
- The Prayers of the People [BCP 383]
- Concluding Collect [BCP 394]
- Confession of Sin [BCP 360]
- The Peace [BCP 360]
- The Holy Communion [BCP 361-366]
- Eucharistic Prayer A [BCP 377]

**Morning Prayer**

- Opening Sentence [BCP 78]
- The Confession of Sin [BCP 79]
- The Invitatory & Psalter [BCP 80]
- Psalm Lesson 1 [BCP 675]
- Canticle 12
  - (Invocation, Part II, Doxology) [BCP 89]
- Lesson 2
- Canticle 15
- Gospel
- The Apostles Creed
- The Prayers
- Prayers cont.
- Blessing & Dismissal

**Post Communion Prayer:**
Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

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**Sept. 20**
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8 (BCP 801-802)
Philippians 1:21-30

**Intercessor:** Marcia Webster
**Reader:** Pattee Kuzma
**Altar:** Bernadette Earhart

**The Holy Eucharist:** Rite Two

- The Word of God [BCP 355]
- The Collect of the Day [BCP 232]
- The Lessons (Track 2) [See above]
- The Sermon
- The Nicene Creed [BCP 358]
- The Prayers of the People [BCP 383]
- Concluding Collect [BCP 394]
- Confession of Sin [BCP 360]
- The Peace [BCP 360]
- The Holy Communion [BCP 361-366]
- Eucharistic Prayer A [BCP 377]

**Morning Prayer**

- Opening Sentence [BCP 78]
- The Confession of Sin [BCP 79]
- The Invitatory & Psalter [BCP 80]
- Psalm Lesson 1 [BCP 675]
- Canticle 12
  - (Invocation, Part II, Doxology) [BCP 89]
- Lesson 2
- Canticle 15
- Gospel
- The Apostles Creed
- The Prayers
- Prayers cont.
- Blessing & Dismissal

**Post Communion Prayer:**
Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

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**Sept. 27**
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32
Psalm 25:1-8 (BCP 614-615)
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

**Intercessor:** Bill Young
**Reader:** Pattee Kuzma
**Altar:** Bernadette Earhart

**The Holy Eucharist:** Rite Two

- The Word of God [BCP 355]
- The Collect of the Day [BCP 232]
- The Lessons (Track 2) [See above]
- The Sermon
- The Nicene Creed [BCP 358]
- The Prayers of the People [BCP 383]
- Concluding Collect [BCP 394]
- Confession of Sin [BCP 360]
- The Peace [BCP 360]
- The Holy Communion [BCP 361-366]
- Eucharistic Prayer A [BCP 377]

**Morning Prayer**

- Opening Sentence [BCP 78]
- The Confession of Sin [BCP 79]
- The Invitatory & Psalter [BCP 80]
- Psalm Lesson 1 [BCP 675]
- Canticle 12
  - (Invocation, Part II, Doxology) [BCP 89]
- Lesson 2
- Canticle 15
- Gospel
- The Apostles Creed
- The Prayers
- Prayers cont.
- Blessing & Dismissal
Getting to know your Vestry

Kay Klein
Clerk

I grew up in the Lutheran Church. I remained active as a young adult. When I married an Episcopal priest, I was received into the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Ohio. At the end of his ministry, my now ex-husband served as the Interim Priest at St. Paul’s in Fremont. “We” ministered here from the middle of 2002 until early 2004. It was during that time that I grew to love this parish. When my marriage was ending, I returned to St. Paul’s where I felt that I could ask for prayers for both my husband and me. I felt the prayers! I’ve been at St. Paul’s ever since (2007), gladly driving almost 30 miles each way to be with my beloved church family.

Since I’ve been at St. Paul’s, I’ve been blessed to serve in many capacities. A couple of my favorites were filling in for the church secretary as needed and putting together the slides while we used them in our worship. I’ve also served on the Church Health Team; Vestry as a member, clerk and senior warden; and the Intern Committee (who even knew we had one?). I’ve participated in Christian Education and the adult forum and our community meals (most often as the official passer out of trays). Right now, I am on the Vestry (Clerk) and serving as your Treasurer. I find the latter to be particularly challenging.

I encourage all of you to find the ministry(ies) to which you are called. Find joy in them. And serve the Lord! I believe that, if you aren’t serving the Lord with gladness, then you are not really serving the Lord.
Thank you to Beth Hackenburg and Denise Sanchez for their hard working painting the Parish hall.

Thank you to all who donated to our school drive! The items collected will be given to schools or local charities in need.
FREMONT - What started as a way to help feed the hungry in the community turned into a means of connecting with local residents as friends. At St. Paul’s Episcopal Church’s monthly community meal, volunteers don’t just serve the food; they sit down and eat with those who attend.

At least that was the way things were done before COVID-19 made dining together impossible. Now, St. Paul’s is doing the next best thing — offering free carryout meals on the fourth Sunday of every month.

The free community meal ministry was started in 2010 by the late Missy Borer as a way to feed the hungry in Fremont. “Missy had a huge heart, and this was something she took upon herself,” said Beth Hackenburg, a vestry member and sexton at St. Paul’s. “We always say Episcopalians have the need to feed.”

But the Rev. Matt Wahlgren had a dream to turn the ministry’s service into something bigger and sweeter: fellowship. Instead of running the ministry like a soup kitchen, he wanted to offer meals in an environment which felt more like a family dining room. Instead of simply serving meals to those who attend, the volunteers sit down and eat with them.

The impact of that philosophy is felt on both sides of the table. “I would show up as priest and I would pray, and then I would get in line with my family,” Wahlgren said. “We would get to know the people across the table, and some people who came got to know my children by name. There’s something beautiful in that.” Relationships formed as volunteers and attendees ate and talked, allowing barriers to fall within the normal simplicity of a shared meal.

“We were building relationships across these artificial barriers we create, whether they be social, racial or whatever,” Wahlgren said. And as the barriers fell, dignity rose.

“Volunteers hold a bit of power over the person they serve, and sitting down and eating together takes away that power dynamic,” Wahlgren said. “People who don’t have a lot of resources shouldn’t be shamed for not having those resources.”

Sometimes life just happens. We’re all human beings, created in the image of God, and when you give some dignity or a dignifying meal, they have self-worth again.”

When COVID-19 forced the church to discontinue sit-down meals, it still wanted to ensure that the hungry in Fremont were fed. Although the community meals are normally only offered September through May, the church decided to start providing meals through the summer.

“We decided as a group that, because of COVID, there might be a bigger need in the community, so we decided to continue in the hot months,” Hackenburg said. “But everyone in the community is welcome. You don’t have to be at a certain cost of living to come.”

For now, the church is serving prepackaged meals on its front lawn. Because the church’s kitchen doesn’t have air conditioning, and to further ensure safety standards, the meals are catered through local businesses. Hackenburg said the church normally serves about 35 meals but has previously served over a hundred.

The church established a community meal fund within its budget, but donations are welcome to help keep the ministry strong. Hackenburg said local groups have volunteered to prepare the meals in the past and will be welcome when the meals return indoors after the pandemic subsides. Anyone wishing to donate or help can call the church at 419-332-3032.

Wahlgren is glad the church can still connect with locals through the carryout meals, but he looks forward to the time post-COVID when meals can be eaten inside the church, where a shared table can foster friendships and dignity.

“My dream for this was put on hold when COVID hit, but we want to return to Jesus’ way of sitting down together, eating, and building relationships with those who come,” Wahlgren said. “We want them to know they are worthy of Jesus dying on the cross for them. We want to make sure we’re holding up that same love and proclaiming that they are invaluable and loved.”

Contact correspondent Sheri Trusty at sheritrusty4@gmail.com
We give thanks to God for the following people and we give thanks to them as well.

A thank you to Matt Wahlgren for making the arrangements for August’s community meal. Thanks also to those who helped distribute the meals.

To Carolyn Speer, Chyleen Scott and Rita Bryan for serving on this year’s parish audit committee.

To Beth Hackenburg and Denise Sanchez for all their work in the parish hall & hallway scraping and painting. Such an improvement!

To Chyleen Scott. A donation, for Together Toledo, was made in honor of her mother’s 95th birthday.

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on 9/24/2020 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only $149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a $10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.
Prayers Requested

Susan Bergeman, Joe Binder, Samantha Burgess and family, Carmen Christy family, Ted Goodwin, Richard Graeter, Jacob Hasselbach, Tom Hasselbach, Teresa Ilich, Keith Kuzma, Joseph Margoni, Mary Lynne Moyers, Mary Lou Parker, Lorelai Rife, Megan, Clarice Sayle, Chyleen Scott, Isabel Sweeney and family, Brooke Taylor, Lori Tolhurst, Katherine Young.

In the Diocese of Ohio

September 6, 2020
In the Diocese of Ohio, pray for Our Bishops and Diocesan Staff.
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr., Bishop of Ohio
The Rt. Rev. William D. Persell, Assisting Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams Jr., Assisting Bishop
Ms. Christina Butterfield
Ms. Eva J. Cole
The Rev. Margaret D’Anieri
The Rev. Priscilla R. Grant
Mr. Isaac Hollingsworth
Ms. Janine Johnson
Ms. Betty Kondrich
Ms. Susan M. Leishman
Mr. Kyle Mitchell
Mr. William A. Powel, III
The Rev. A. Bradford Purdom, III
Ms. Jessica Rocha
Ms. Mary Ann Semple
The Rev. Anna Sutterisch
Ms. Antoinette Taylor
The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert

September 13, 2020
In the Diocese of Ohio, pray for the Central East Mission Area.
Trinity Church, Alliance, The Rev. J. Kip H. Colegrove, Rector
St. Mark’s Church, Canton, The Rev. Dr. Paul L. Gaston III, Interim Rector
St. Paul’s Church, Canton
Trinity Church, Coshocton, The Kathryn P. Clausen, Extended Supply

September 20, 2020
In the Diocese of Ohio, pray for the Central East Mission Area.
St. Timothy’s Church, Massillon, The Rev. George R. Baum, Rector
Trinity Church, New Philadelphia
Church of Our Saviour, Salem, The Rev. J. Kip H. Colegrove, Rector
New Life Episcopal Church, Uniontown, The Rev. Dr. Barbara L. Bond

September 27, 2020
In the Diocese of Ohio, pray for the Cuyahoga Mission Area.
St. Barnabas Church, Bay Village, The Rev. Alexander D. Martin, Priest-in-Charge
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Berea, The Rev. David R. Radzik, Rector
St. Matthew’s Church, Brecksville, The Rev. Stephanie A. Pace, Rector
St. Andrew’s Church, Cleveland, The Rev. Sharon Williams, Rector

ICE & SNOWMELT FOR SALE

St. Paul’s has an abundance of SAFETY MELT and has 50 buckets available for purchase at $20.00 per bucket. It comes in 5 gallon buckets and weighs 50 pounds. This product is produced by the Royal Chemical Company and is a quality product. If you’d like to be prepared for next winter, please contact Tina or Tom Hasselbach at 419-463-3480.
The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop, Diocese of Ohio
The Rev. Matt Wahlgren, Priest-in-Charge

Vestry Members: Carolyn Speer (20) Senior Warden,
Tina Hasselbach (21) Junior Warden,
Kay Klein (21) Clerk, Bill Young (22), Chyleen Scott (22),
Beth Hackenburg (20), Mary Bower (22)

Treasurer: Kay Klein
Financial Secretary: Marcia Webster

Church Phone: 419-332-3032
Church E-mail: stpaulsfremont@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours: Monday-Friday (10am-2pm)

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