



ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

St. Aidan's mission: To grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.

JULY 2020 VOLUME XXV NUMBER 7

Dear people of St. Aidan's —

The diocese has announced a significant change regarding our response to the pandemic. Starting July 12, the criteria for reopening is determined county-by-county: if a county has fewer than 50 active cases per 100,000 residents, the parishes in the county will be eligible to open, in limited capacity, for in-person worship.

Currently, we will *just* be eligible to regather. That could change if the number of cases changes. Our goal is to begin to safely offer opportunities for in-person worship, while designing a plan that is both clear and flexible.

With that in mind, below are our tentative plans for the month of July. All plans subject to change!

Starting June 28, our Sunday morning service will be a full service of Morning Prayer, available on Facebook at 9:30am. This will be a longer service than we have been doing, with more readings, music, and involvement from parish members. This will be our Sunday service at least through the end of July.

After July 12, if we are still eligible to re-gather, we will also begin to offer a selection of Eucharistic services. These Masses will be amended to follow diocesan guidelines for risk mitigation, and attendance will be capped. A schedule of services will be announced, and you will have the opportunity to sign up in advance. No one will be permitted to attend a service that he/she has not signed up for in advance. More details about service times and guidelines are forthcoming.

We also plan to offer Eucharistic visitation. The Bishop has made greater allowance for home communion, and the diocese has provided clear, safe guidelines. Enough Bread will be consecrated to ensure that the table of the Lord can extend to your front yard! These will also be scheduled ahead of time.

If you are considered high risk for a COVID-19 infection because of age or pre-existing health conditions, I urge you to take the option of visitation, rather than coming to a service. There is no obligation to choose either of these options if you do not feel comfortable with them - we will continue to offer Sunday morning online worship for the foreseeable future.

Again, even when we are able to regather, the experience will be quite different from what we are used to. However, the changes, which may feel uncomfortable or inconvenient, are precisely what will allow us to even have the possibility to gather in-person! I trust that the people of St Aidan's will continue to show forth their genuine love and affection for one another by honoring the guidelines for modified worship when we do regather.

If things continue in a positive direction, we may have expanded capacity, possibly beginning in August. We will plan accordingly, communicating to you in advance of any major changes. I am excited for these opportunities to gather, even in limited ways, and I am hopeful that they will be a meaningful and useful transitional step toward more regular in-person worship.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Lars

Men's Breakfast

**Saturday
July 4**

Details to follow

First Saturdays
Cooking 8am — Eating 8:30am

"You want
my leftover
bacon?"



Said no one ever.



St. Aidan's
Senior Warden

*"A little bit of summer is what the whole
year is all about."*

— John Mayer

In the new world of COVID-19, it seems I have waited for that 'bit of summer' and the chance to garden, feel the extra warmth of the sun during a long walk, or just sit and watch our *resident* robins splash in the bird bath. So much more refreshing than the previous months – for which I am grateful!

I would like to share some thoughts from an article I read last week in the *Episcopal Church Foundation News* titled "What Happens When Soccer Practice Come Backs?," by Pickett Wall, rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Camden, SC.

In the article, Pickett Wall asks, "**Will our people come back?**" and "What happens when the sports fields are full with Sunday morning games and practices?" or "What happens when the workweek is such a grind that sleep feels like the better option?", these are questions **very much worth our time to consider. We have had a positive response to online morning worship. Even though a view could be three minutes or the entire service, people are joining in -- and equally to Compline services on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. I wonder how many views or participation are from St. Aidan's folks and how many are from neighbors in Hartford or elsewhere; and if so, when we re-open, will they find St. Aidan's? As many of you have asked that online services continue even after the church re-opens, so I, too, wonder will the empty rows be filled again as they were before March 13. Along with these questions, Pickett Wall made the following statement:** "Attendance is the most important pledge you can make to your church. It is the hardest pledge to keep."

Now, that smacked (like the proverbial 2x4), enough so that I re-read the statement several times. Did I really think that time, talent, and resources were more important? What does it mean to attend? And when I come to worship, do I also attend to others? To the needs of St. Aidan's? To the larger Hartford community and beyond? And if so, then, attendance is an important pledge to make to myself and St. Aidan's, whether in the church building or online. Take time this week to ponder these or similar questions you might have as we continue to work through phases of re-opening.

Stay safe and well. Keep current through weekly e-blasts for new online worship services and re-opening guidelines.

Blessings,
Donna Dinco



**Vacation Bible School has been
cancelled for this year.**



*"Whiskers on kittens and
blue satin sashes....."*

If you are like me, you probably went back and read that line a second time but instead, you sang it in your head. Maybe I even inspired you to put *The Sound of Music* on your short list of movies to watch, and how perfect would that be? I say that largely because of the message the story sends, and that is: Even when things are at their darkest, there is still Hope!

That is where we find ourselves today. We need to hold onto those things we hold the most dear, our friends and our family. I know I miss each and every one of your smiling faces each Sunday. It gave me the perfect "reset" to prepare me for the new week, and I long for that day when we are all back in the Sanctuary.

To that end the BC has been meeting with increased frequency to discuss our current state and how best to proceed in our "Grand Reopening." Likewise the Bishop has also convened a committee to determine the best path for reopening and that is what we will follow ourselves.

We will of course let you ALL know more as we learn more so until then my friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ, do not fret over the dog bites, or the bee stings, or even Covid strains but simply know, "this too shall pass!"



Gary Stage
Bishop's Committee

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF



Bulletin Board

St. Aidan's annual mission trip to Grace House in St. Paul, Virginia has been cancelled for this year. Although we won't be travelling down to work at Grace house, the need does not stop. Grace House is asking for donations to cover construction projects or utilities and gas cards for those in need.

If you'd like to donate, please send your donation to St. Aidan's and identify it as specifically meant for Grace House.

Note:

\$400 would fund ½ the cost of a deck.

\$500 it would fund ¼ the cost of an ADA ramp.

Donation tiers for a replacement roof start at \$1,750 and go up to \$7,000.

Linda Weber, Mission Trip Chair

A message from Grace House --



Megan Fairchild and Caitlyn Lenz roofing in Appalachia!

Friends,

We are thinking and praying for you during this great time of need.

*Like so many around the country, **the effects of COVID-19 have greatly impacted Grace House on the Mountain.** Beyond our ministry, the local community around the Mountain and this area of South-western Virginia have been disproportionately impacted by the economic impacts of the pandemic, leaving even greater need. **Many of our volunteer work groups have canceled for the summer, and we have over 70 outstanding projects.***

*As many of you have previously led or participated with a workgroup, you know that **Grace House endeavors to extend the love of Christ by reaching out to the Appalachian communities and showing mercy and compassion through responsiveness by "working with, not for" families.** Our volunteers and donors help local, low income families who commonly struggle with medical issues and live on very low fixed incomes.*

*Instead of coming yourself, **we invite you to consider making a financial gift that would employ a local contractor to build a deck, a ramp, or replace a roof.***

Your support is greatly needed and appreciated, especially in the face of this pandemic. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have questions or would like more information.

*Prayerfully,
Anita Boyd
Director, Grace House*

Grace House on the Mountain is a non-profit organization owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Virginia perched on Sandy Ridge near Norton and St. Paul in Wise County, Virginia. Grace House seeks to be a place of social justice and advocacy for the welfare of the Appalachian people.

ALICE'S RESTAURANT

I had two delightful phone conversations this week, one from the mother of one of my old students to catch me up on something I had done for her years ago and incidentally filling me in on her son whom I knew from the time I taught in Shorewood. We chatted for almost an hour, two moms comparing our children's and our own progress over the past years. At the end of our talk she gave me her son's phone number and I called him a day or so later. What a treat to hear how life has grown and changed for him. I tend to remember those teens I taught in a bubble of time, still in my memory in art class or the drama department. Yet here he is married with children and managing a business in Minnesota that neither he nor I could ever have imagined. It was certainly a good way to put all the current craziness in perspective! There have been any number times over the years that I have looked back and thought, "if you had told me I would be here or doing this now I would have said you were crazy." But here we are, in a time none of us could have imagined, learning to do things in new ways and I hope, finding new appreciation for friends and family and those things we used to take for granted.

This is a recipe that I never would have imagined but turns out to be really good. It's a little sweet-sour but not much and pairs well with both chicken and fish. Be brave! Give it a try.

Rhubarb and....

Rhubarb.

Cut up enough to cover the bottom of your baking dish

On top of the rhubarb add:

1 or 2 spoonsful of sugar

1 or 2 spoonsful of vinegar

Salt and pepper

Top with fish fillets or chicken pieces.

Bake in a 350* oven, basting once (or twice for chicken) until done.

This was the original. Fish took about 7-10 minutes. Chicken about 25 minutes.

I also added fresh thyme the second time I made it. Nice!

Alice Pollock

Editor's note -- It really is good!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Laurie & Mark Lindborg	19	Kevin Paquette
4	Laurie Parsons	20	Dan Koelper
5	Pat Paddon	23	Scott Hefti
7	Steve Putnam		Maureen Martin
13	Leah Daley	23	Bob Talajkowski
14	Katie & Lars Skoglund	25	Kyana Aguilera
18	Nick Paquette	27	Jennifer Olson
	Pat & Fred Paddon	28	Jenna Paquette
		29	John Olson
		30	Sandy Tracy

What is Heavy Turns to Spirit

All that is hard and heavy turns to spirit.

It cannot help but eventually

Become like a cup of ink

That is poured into the ocean.

I do not doubt that for a time

The ink darkens the water,

Obscures and displaces the light,

Leaching out its tendrils

Staining what it touches.

But eventually,

Finally,

The ink must break down into its smallest elements,

And even the stains become only faint shadows

Barely noticeable to the outer eye.

This does not belittle the awful impact of a cup full of shadow.

It is only to say, that in an ocean of goodness,

In an expanse of health and light,

A cup of dark can only prevail for so long,

Until it is overcome and transformed back into spirit,

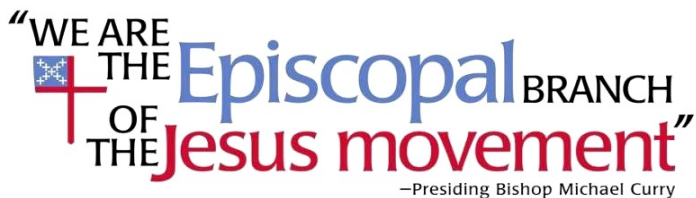
Back into its smallest elements,

Received into one body,

To be made whole

And healed.

Carrie Newcomer



How to reach us —

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Mike Weber, Treasurer

Bishop's Wardens

Donna Dinco

Sandy Koeller

Bishop's Committee

Pat Gardner

Micki Hoffmann

Brian Schunk

Gary Stage

Bishop's Committee Clerk

Linda Weber

Stag and Staff

Newsletter of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

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Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

Phyllis Paquette coordinates the prayer chain for St. Aidan's. If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call Phyllis at 262-397-8549 or the church office.

unless
someone like
YOU
cares
a whole awful lot
nothing is going to get better
it's not
— dr. seuss' the lorax

How wonderful it is that nobody
need wait a single moment before
starting to improve the world.

—Anne Frank
Holocaust diarist
(12 Jun 1929-1945)

WE WILL NEVER
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY GOING TO CHURCH.
WE WILL ONLY
CHANGE THE WORLD
BY BEING THE CHURCH.



A message from Fr. Lars —

Recently, I shared with you God's word to the people of Israel when they were in exile: "Seek the welfare of the city to which I exiled you, and pray for it to the Lord, for through its welfare you shall have welfare." As Christians, we live as exiles - citizens of a heavenly kingdom - but we are to live here and now as if this world was truly our home, working for its good.

For the Israelites in exile, even though they were in Babylon, with a Babylonian king, Babylonian laws, and Babylonian customs, God was still their King. We can easily imagine there were times when the will of the great Babylonian emperors contradicted God's idea about what is good for people and cities.

For example, at one point the great King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that everyone worship an image of him. Three Israelite exiles, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, resisted this order out of allegiance to their true King, and God saved them when they were thrown in the fiery furnace. As the Israelites worked for their community, they still were to live like God was their King, trusting that obeying God's way would be to their benefit, and to the benefit of the city in which they were exiled.

Likewise, Christians, who are also exiles in a land not our home, who are also called to work for the good of the city in which we live, recognize that God's way of doing things will, at times, be at odds with our political party of choice, our favorite news channel, or even our own opinions. The ways that the city, the state, or the country wants to do things will come to contradict God's ways, yet we still believe that what is best is however things would be if God were in charge -- best for us, for our neighbor, and for the cities and communities in which we live.

This means that the Gospel is, and always has been political: the fact that God is King has direct implications for how we organize our common life and how we should function as a society. Christians work to have their own lives rearranged according to God's will and pray and work to make "God's will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" in our cities and our communities.

Another word for this is justice. Justice, in the Biblical sense, is having things ordered the way they would be if God were in charge. Christians, who claim Jesus as Lord, long for justice. Christians work for justice -- because more than anyone, Christians want the world to reflect, here and now, what it looks like when God is King.

What would the world look like if and when God is King? What would our cities and our country look like if things were the way God desires?

In a world where God is King, how would societies treat their most vulnerable members?

In a world where God is King, who would get to use violence, and when, and why? Would anyone?

Our laws, culture, and institutions systematically discriminate against people of color. Is that how it will be in a world where God is King?

In a world where God is King, will we care for the poor, the homeless, the addict, and the prisoner, or will we assume that they deserve their lot in life?

Will we finally learn what it means when God says "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"?

It would be easy for us to pretend like these are complicated questions: as if they were completely inscrutable or up for debate, but, in fact, we know what it would look like when God is King, because God showed us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Justice looks like mercy, grace, and sacrificial love.

And God is already making the world over, in and through Jesus Christ. It is up to us, by prayer and action, to share in the new life of Jesus and join in the work of justice.

As Soren Kierkegaard says:

"The matter is quite simple. The Bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly."

God's peace to all of you.





Casa's Summer Spanish Camps for Kids 2020!

Children are invited to attend one of our week-long fun, interactive Spanish camps with a certified and qualified teacher. Basic Spanish reading, writing, conversation skills and fun facts about Latin America will be taught.

This is a great opportunity to give children a head start in learning a second language!

Cost: \$20 per child

***15% discount for each additional child in the family**

Healthy snacks will be provided during each class.

The camp ends with a piñata and fiesta!

Space is limited!

Register now!

Dates / Times / Locations:

Monday-Friday, July 6-10

First Level Class

5:15-6:15pm: Children Ages 4-11

St. Mary's Church Hall

406 Jefferson St.

West Bend WI, 53090

Monday-Friday, July 13-17

First Level Class

9:30-10:30am: Children Ages 8-11

St. Mary's Gymnasium

406 Jefferson St.

West Bend WI, 53090

11:00-12:00pm: Children Ages 4-7

St. Mary's Gymnasium

406 Jefferson St.

West Bend WI, 53090

Monday-Friday, August 3-7

Second Level Class

9:30-10:30am: Children Ages 7-11

St. Mary's Gymnasium

406 Jefferson St.

West Bend, WI 53090

For more information and to register, please contact:
Casa's Executive Director, Noelle Braun
at 262-306-2900 / noelle@casaguadalupeonline.org
or Casa's Literacy Coordinator, Maria Gutierrez Gurrola
at maria@casaguadalupeonline.org

THE STAG & STAFF

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

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www.staidans-hartford.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Happy 4th of July -- EVERYONE!

JULY 2020 ST. AIDAN'S NEWSLETTER

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 am

