

PARISH NOTES

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO



Per Gov. DeWine's *Stay at Home* order, our church building is closed. The Parish Office is also closed and calls are forwarded to a staff member's phone. St. Paul's has suspended public worship and cancelled all non-essential church gatherings until further notice. Make sure to read all pastoral letters and updates from Bishop Hollingsworth. Our Diocese and clergy colleagues are engaged in a comprehensive decision-making process to determine when and how we can safely return to in-person worship and programming.

Prayer for a Pandemic

by Cameron Wiggins Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love during this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbor.

Amen.



Look for updates and links to all of our "Stay Connected" resources on the homepage of St. Paul's website: www.stpauls-church.org.

CLERGY REFLECTION

I miss being with you!

Dear Friends,

In a recent meditation posted online, I talk about the duality of joy and pain in our faith. Through Christ, we know joy in unconditional love and the hope of new life. And, we know pain in empathy with the suffering in this world.

Now is a time of great suffering, with illness and fear and anxiety. Like you, I am carrying sadness. At times, I don't realize how much I am holding until I am triggered, perhaps listening to another news story, and then the tears start flowing. Now is the time to grasp hold of our faith, to open ourselves to the simple joys in our every day – a child's curiosity, an infectious laugh, the flowers in bloom, the kindness of a stranger – the wonders of God's creation grants us courage on the path to healing and new life.

Please take a look through this *Parish Notes* to see the many ways we are staying connected. At this time, we don't have enough information about the course of COVID-19 to set a date for returning to in-person worship and programming. However, we do know that we will continue to be a community seeking God, loving and caring for one another, engaging our creativity to offer worship, formation, outreach and fellowship in these unprecedented times.

You are in my heart and prayers,



The clergy and staff have been offering video Meditations twice weekly during the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home order. You can find all of them, plus weekly Morning Prayer services on St. Paul's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/stpaulsch

Giving to St. Paul's

Many of us offer gifts by pledge payments and other contributions on Sunday mornings. During this period of suspended in-church worship, we encourage you to mail in your support or to make gifts online through the St. Paul's secure giving portal accessed through our website www.stpauls-church.org.

Please contact Pam O'Halloran with any questions about online giving or if you would like to discuss your pledge. We understand that this pandemic has taken a financial as well as an emotional toll. She can be reached at pohalloran@stpauls-church.org or at (216) 403-1854. Thank you, and stay healthy!

Cover Photos: Robin Vanlear and Story Rhinehart performed a butterfly dance on St. Paul's lawn during David Osburn's carillon concert on Easter morning, St. Paul's staff meets weekly via Zoom, Betsy Hockey delivered homemade masks to employees of Bremec's on the Heights Garden Center, and a certain "BAbe" wished everyone a Happy Easter from St. Paul's! (Photos: Kaneala Nelson, Brian Wilbert, Betsy Hockey & Jessie Dodson)

VESTRY UPDATE

From the Senior Warden



While the world as we know it has been upended in so many ways, rest assured that St. Paul's remains in good hands.

The staff has been working tirelessly to adapt, innovate and

maintain connections during these unusual times. The Vestry continues to meet (via Zoom) and its members have been lending their multifaceted talents to tackle the challenges and opportunities that this time presents.

Navigating the current landscape and managing uncertainty requires careful stewardship along with thoughtful planning and prioritizing. St. Paul's is fortunate to have a deep reservoir of expertise upon which to draw. Together we will continue to support each other and the church. We hope you are finding ways to stay connected to our church community.

Please know the Vestry would love to hear from you at any time. You can contact me at lizpat12@gmail.com.

As our youth have proclaimed, "Love Lives On."

— Liz Patterson, *Senior Warden*

Memorial Garden

The new Memorial Garden, on the Coventry Road side of St. Paul's nave, is showing signs of spring! We hope to dedicate the garden as soon as gathering restrictions are lifted. At that time we will install a plaque acknowledging individual gifts of \$1,000 or more, and all gifts by St. Paul's members collectively. If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with a gift, or would like more information about the garden, please contact Pam O'Halloran by May 31 at pohalloran@stpauls-church.org.

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Important Staff Updates

Dear Parish Family,

As we near the end of the program year, I want to offer my thanks to Hannah Koby and Kelsey Ferguson, our Interim Co-Directors of Children’s and Youth Choirs. I am grateful for their passion and creativity. It is a pleasure working with both of them. Highlights of the past year include Evensong at Trinity Cathedral, Advent Lessons and Carols, the Sacred Choral Music Festival at Washington National Cathedral, and TrebleFest. Currently, through the wonders of technology, they are working on a virtual choir piece. Stay tuned for more details!

Hannah has an exciting opportunity in front of her. She is currently in formation as a deaconess through the Lutheran Diaconal Association. In August, she will be leaving for Germany for a one-year internship with the Wittenberg Centers of the Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She will assist with many aspects of ministry, including planning seminars, hosting guests from around the world, and being a ministry presence in the town of Wittenberg. We wish her the best of luck. Fortunately for us, she will be around this summer, and if we are able to return to in-person worship, will play the keyboard at the outdoor 9 a.m. service.

I am delighted to announce that Kelsey has agreed to stay on for another year as Interim Director of Children’s and Youth Choirs. This additional year gives me time to discern the best staffing for our music programs. Kelsey is dedicated to honing her craft. She has been accepted into the 2020 Directors Course at the National Cathedral to be held in July. In collaboration with the staff, Kelsey will plan, administer and direct the music program for our children and youth. Karel Paukert is looking forward to playing the organ at all of our services.

Please join me in offering our thanks to Hannah and Kelsey, and all our music staff – Karel, Steve, Lois and David – for a great year.



With sadness, I must announce that Kim Fry, our Director of Communications, will be leaving St. Paul’s at the end of May. Kim and her husband, Doug, will be moving to California in early June to be closer to their daughter and her family.

I know this is a bittersweet decision for Kim, who is excited about being near family, but sad to leave her friends and work at St. Paul’s. Over the past 13 years, Kim has transformed our print and digital communications from Parish Notes, the Annual Report and stewardship materials, to local media ads, email newsletters, our website and social media. She has left an indelible mark on our parish and will be hard to replace.

The staff will miss her expertise, kindness, friendship and collaborative spirit. We are happy for Kim and sad for St. Paul’s. Join me in offering best wishes to Kim and Doug as they settle in their new home!



Our former curate, the Rev. Brian Bechtel is currently serving two churches in the western part of the Diocese of Ohio. The Rev. John Drymon, rector of Trinity, Findlay, reports that they are very much enjoying Brian’s work as Curate there and are grateful for the formation he had at St. Paul’s. Brian also serves as Deacon-in-Residence at St. John’s, Bowling Green.

Act II Shop Relocated!

We are enormously grateful to Heidi Schinko, our Act II sales associate; and Janet Reuter, volunteer extraordinaire, for working tirelessly to relocate the Act II Shop from the church basement to the former preschool space in the west wing. The renovations of the wing were completed in February, removing a wall between two of the classrooms to create one large shop space. The third classroom was turned into a storage and sorting room. New floors were installed, all surfaces repainted and the bathroom renovated for ADA accessibility.

Since March, Heidi and Janet, in masks and gloves, have moved merchandise, sorted and priced donations, painted cabinets and shelves, created window displays, and transformed the space into a beautiful retail establishment. Please stay tuned for news of the reopening of the Act II Shop. *Donations of household items in good condition are accepted Mondays between 10 a.m. and noon. Please, no clothes at this time.*

Lent UTO Boxes

During Lent, we partnered with the United Thank Offering (UTO) for outreach and asked parishioners to place offerings into UTO mite boxes. Please send your offering directly to UTO. Count up your offering, write a check payable to DFMS with UTO in the memo line and send it to:

United Thank Offering
DFMS – Protestant
Episcopal Church U.S.
P.O. Box 958983
St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

Thank you for your generosity!

www.stpauls-church.org • www.facebook.com/stpaulsclevelandheights
www.youtube.com/stpaulsch • www.instagram.com/stpaulscle
www.flickr.com/stpaulsclevelandheights

STAYING CONNECTED WHILE WE'RE APART

Video, Email, Telephone, Text: How to Find Us!

Have you been following all the ways to stay connected during our time apart? St. Paul's clergy and staff have been meeting via Zoom to plan a number of ways for us to worship and stay engaged with one another.

Sunday Worship — Since March 15, except for Easter Sunday, St. Paul's has provided a recorded service of Morning Prayer led by its clergy. Karel Paukert and the music staff have provided service music using safe physical distancing.

The services are available on YouTube with links provided on Facebook and St. Paul's website. More recently, we have been sending a dedicated email on Sunday morning with a direct link to the service. You can join us on YouTube in a watch party at 7 a.m., or watch the service anytime afterwards.

Zoom Coffee Hour, 10 to 10:45 a.m. — We miss not being able to see each other each week for worship and fellowship. So, we're trying a new thing! Zoom Coffee Hour is a way for parishioners, staff and clergy check in with one another.

For online community safety and privacy, you must register for Zoom Coffee Hour ahead of time. Contact Pam O'Halloran, pohalloran@stpauls-church.org, to sign up. *You only have to register once; then you will receive email confirmation containing information about how to join Coffee Hour each Sunday.*

Zoom to Church School! — We are currently offering two online Church School sessions on Sundays!

Godly Play, 10 a.m. - Pre K through 3rd grade

Workshop Adventures, 2 p.m. - 4th & 5th grades

Godly Play class hears a story and spends time responding creatively.

Workshop Adventures children are creating sacred spaces from home.

Email Lauren Dockery, ldockery@stpauls-church.org, for the Zoom meeting information.

Other groups currently meeting online: EfM groups twice weekly, Men's Spirituality and Youth Groups. Call the Parish Office to learn more, (216) 932-5815.

Meditations Twice Weekly — Clergy and staff members offer meditations on Facebook and YouTube every Tuesday & Friday.

St. Paul's Carillonneur David Osburn plays a concert at 11 a.m. each Sunday. Watch LIVE on Facebook. If you are in the neighborhood, take a walk and listen to the bells! Please observe proper physical distancing.

Phone Tree: Every Member Connection — Vestry, Stephen Ministers, Parish Visitors, staff, clergy and other parishioners continue reaching out to every member during the pandemic. Look to hear from someone in the next couple of weeks. Call the Parish Office (216) 932-5815, with questions.

Parishioner Pals help us stay connected one-on-one during this time of physical distancing. If you and/or your family would like to be assigned a Parishioner Pal, email Rev. Jessie, jdodson@stpauls-church.org, or call the Parish Office, (216) 932-5815. Pals will be invited to text/call/email/snail-mail each other to check-in and talk, while we do our part to *flatten the curve*.

Sung Evening Prayer May 21

On Thursday, May 21, at 8 p.m., we will celebrate Ascension Day with a sung Evening Prayer service over Zoom. You are invited to light a candle in your home and worship with us virtually! Watch for details in the Thursday E-news. Contact Hannah Koby at hsk54@cim.edu with questions.



Episcopal 101 in a Zoom Room!

Are you an adult who was baptized as an infant but has never been confirmed by a Bishop? Do you want to formally join the Episcopal Church, having grown up in another denomination? In times such as these would you like to make a public reaffirmation of your Baptismal Promises? Are you hungering for some Spiritual Formation from the comfort of your own home? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then Episcopal 101 is for you!

Join the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert for the remaining online discussions covering these topics:

May 11/13: The Book of Common Prayer, Hymnals and Worship

May 18/20: The Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist

May 25/27: The History of the Diocese of Ohio and St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights

We'll meet via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays in May from 7 to 8 p.m.

You can join in these discussions anytime during the series.

Please email Fr. Brian at bwilbert@stpauls-church.org to sign up. Questions? Don't hesitate to call him at (440) 935-2183.

Where's my St. Paul's E-news?

Since 2009, St. Paul's has been sending a weekly e-newsletter via Constant Contact, usually on Thursdays, to everyone for whom we have an email address. We also send periodic messages from the rector and notices of funerals.

I occasionally hear from parishioners who are not receiving their St. Paul's e-news as they have in the past. Rest assured, we would never remove you from our email lists. We want you to always know what's going on at church!

From time to time, email platforms may change user interfaces or the protocol for how emails coming from marketers or unknown senders are routed. Suddenly, your weekly email from St. Paul's stops arriving in your inbox! Unfortunately, we, the senders, have no control over this.

The first place to look for missing emails is your SPAM or Junk folder. If you find us in there, you can usually right click on the email and direct it to your inbox, or mark it as "Not SPAM" or "Not Junk." Usually this works! *Sometimes, it doesn't!* If your email comes through your internet provider, you may have to contact them for help in getting St. Paul's emails to go into your inbox.

Many parishioners now use Gmail, so they may find St. Paul's weekly e-newsletter under the Promotions tab. All you have to do is drag the email to the Primary tab and answer "YES" when asked if you would like future emails "from this address to go to your Primary tab." That should do it!

And yes, there's always the possibility that you inadvertently unsubscribed from our emails at some point. If none of the above yields results, just contact us and we'll check our records. If we need to re-subscribe you, you'll have to respond to a confirmation email from Constant Contact. Then, you might *still* have to go looking for where your emails end up!

Yes, we just went around in a circle.
Yay, technology!

— Kim Fry, *Director of Communications*

A Long-Delayed Report on the Assembly!

Editor's note: This report was submitted for the April issue of Parish Notes, which was not produced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On February 27, forty St. Paul's parishioners joined 1,000 other members of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) to endorse the establishment of two crisis mental health and substance abuse centers – one on the east side and one on the west side. The purpose of these centers would be to provide a place where family, friends, police, EMS could bring individuals experiencing these crises, as opposed to taking them to jail (unless they have committed a serious crime). The centers would be able to address their needs instead of locking them up with no treatment. Not only would these individuals benefit, but crisis centers have been shown to be cost-effective.

The county officials who were also present at the GCC Assembly endorsed and supported such centers. For those who attended, it was an exciting evening! It was great to have St. Paul's be a part of this growing community of congregations working on important issues.

— Ted Wilson, *Co-chair, St. Paul's GCC Core Team*



Special Thanks for a Special Ministry

My name is Mary Mumbroe and I live in Evanston, Illinois. I received a beautiful prayer shawl from a member of St. Paul's congregation. I was a teacher and Director of Staff Development in Winnetka, Illinois for many years and taught at the Crow Island School designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen.

I was very touched by the gesture when I received the prayer shawl as I was recovering from ovarian cancer. I look at this exquisite shawl with the yarns intermingled and crossed over and it reminds me of the people who have crossed my life's path.

When I wear it, I am reminded that someone has creatively made this shawl. As I drape it over my shoulder, I feel as though it is draped around my soul and embraces me. It is filled with love and prayers for me. The shawl has been warming, comforting and a sacred place of security for me.

Please thank the people in your prayer group ministry for the gift of the prayer shawl.



Sincerely, *Mary Mumbroe*

Contact **Terrilee Petrey** for information about St. Paul's Knitting Circle or if you know someone in need of a prayer shawl, terrileep@gmail.com.



There are 98 signs, like this one in Sally & Paul Bosley's yard, displayed on parishioners' lawns and in windows across Northeast Ohio — sharing a message of hope from St. Paul's Youth!

Youth Stewardship during Pandemic

Our youth have a Stewardship Fund they've been building over the last decade or so, meant to be used to do good works. Nothing in particular has struck their fancy during my tenure, but their response to COVID-19 was immediate. The youth voted unanimously to donate \$400 grants to the non-profits and ministries listed below. Sometimes they started with a desire: "I want to feed homeless people." Sometimes they started with a mission: "I've always wanted to help Doctors without Borders and now they're the ones getting PPE to medical communities." Sometimes they started with an experience: "I volunteered there before and their need is even greater, now." We can be proud that their focus is both global and local, systems-based and humanitarian. Their hearts are big and their arms are open.

In addition to giving money, our youth focused on mental health. They worried about people living in isolation without good support networks. They wanted to send a message of hope to the community. That's where our Love Lives On signs come in. As a group, the youth financed a communal message of hope and, to date, 98/100 signs have been distributed. Thank you, St. Paul's, for sharing our signs of hope with our community! And thank you to our youth for leading the way. They may be in quarantine, but they are more active than ever!

Ministries receiving \$400 grants from the Youth Stewardship Fund: The Boys & Girls Club of Cleveland • Doctors Without Borders • Fostering Hope • The Greater Cleveland Food Bank • Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry • Medworks • Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition • Refugee Response • St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Ohio • Tails from the City • UNICEF • WHO & UN COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund

Congratulations, High School Graduates!

This spring brings upheaval for everyone, especially our high school seniors, who have looked forward to all the rites and rituals of their last year of high school since they entered Kindergarten. No senior skip day, no senior pranks, no prom, no graduation, and yet, somehow, many still have final projects due! Seniors, as you head out into the world (metaphorically for now, at least), please know that we celebrate you and the gift you are to our community every single day. We wouldn't be a church without you and we wish you all the best. We plan to celebrate you as well as we can from a distance.

Friends, please tune in to the Morning Prayer service on Sunday, May 17, to hear a good word from Sophie LeMay and Lia Snyder. Baccalaureate Sunday will go forward, following the tradition of inviting our graduates to speak. We will also post a special program with pictures and biographies of each of our seniors.

Congratulations and all our love to the class of 2020!
 Spencer Glatley • Sophie LeMay • David & Catherine MacGregor • Garrett Roeder • Rosalind Sanders • Xavier Smolin • Lia Snyder • Sam Spaller • Will Young



We held the first-ever online children & youth ministry talent show with 19 performers including some sibling acts!



Youth groups meet via Zoom on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Ways To Help

As followers of Jesus, we strive to be servants of all, providing help for those most in need. The coronavirus has increased the need for assistance in our community. Here are some ways you can lend a hand and live out your faith.

Open Doors Academy — While the stay-at-home order continues, we have an opportunity to build our relationship with the Open Doors Academy (ODA) students who use our building for their after-school program. The ODA administrators have asked us to send encouraging and supportive videos to the students. Here are some ideas for the videos:

- Challenge the kids to a physical competition. The students love to play basketball, football, and anything outdoor sports-related. Maybe challenge the kids to a basketball shooting contest? Or teach the kids how to do a jump shot in a video?
- Record yourself reading a story and say a few words about what the story means to you.
- Compile a short video with motivational words or words of encouragement for our families and kids. A simple message of “we are thinking of you and ODA” during these times would go a long way.
- Have a fun hobby? Record a demo of it and share it with the kids. Things like throwing clay, playing music, or planting a garden would be great.

Please send your videos to Rev. Jessie, jdodson@stpauls-church.org, and she'll share them with the students.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1349 W. 78th St., Cleveland

Mobile Pantry — Community members have access to a drive-through service for fresh produce on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. Volunteers are needed for bagging produce from 2 to 4 p.m. and distribution from 5 to 7 p.m. Physical distancing safety practices will be observed. Contact Deacon Barbara at barmaxwell@windstream.net to sign-up.

Community Meal — St. Luke's weekly Wednesday continues, with a modified grab-and-go format. Help package meals from 4:30-5:30 p.m. or help with distribution from 6 to 6:45 p.m. each Wednesday. Physical distancing safety practices will be observed. Contact Kelcie Dugger, dugger.kelcie@gmail.com, to sign-up.

EDWINS 4 for \$40 — Help support the ongoing mission of EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute by purchasing a “4 meals for \$40” dinner special. Curbside pick-up or delivery is available. Meals go fast, so place your order at www.edwinsrestaurant.org or by calling (216) 921-3333.

Heights “Unity in the Community” Food Drives — Several Heights congregations and Shaker neighborhood associations have partnered together to meet the food needs of our community. Drop-off and distribution locations are at Heights Christian Church and Christ Episcopal Church.

Food *collections* are on Wednesdays. Food *distribution* takes place on Mondays. Check St. Paul's Facebook page to see dates and times of these events. Beans, peanut butter, canned protein, whole grains, and hygiene products are some of the most in-demand items. Grocery store gift cards are also welcome. We expect the food drives will continue throughout this COVID crisis, so watch St. Paul's weekly e-news to learn more.

Loaves & Fishes — We continue to participate in a monthly feeding ministry, and we've modified our practices to accommodate COVID safety recommendations. We're collecting non-perishable ingredients for guests to make meals in their homes. Contact Jennie Kaffen at jennie.kaffen@gmail.com to sign-up and get more information.

Mask-Making — Sign-up to make or receive protective face masks by contacting Marge, mlopresti@stpauls-church.org, or (216) 702-3098. We are currently making masks for parishioners and residents of the Family Promise shelter.

Fostering Hope — Write a handwritten note to foster kids (aged 7-18) living in residential treatment settings. Due to the COVID crisis, these children are even more isolated than normal. Send them a note to lift their spirits. And are you a guitarist or pianist? Consider volunteering your time to lead Zoom piano or guitar lessons to foster kids aged 16-18. Contact hope@fosteringhopeohio.org for more information.

Giving Blood — There's a higher demand than ever for blood donations. If you're able, consider making an appointment to give blood at www.RedCrossBlood.org. Their collection practices are COVID-safe.

Letter-writing to hospital staff — Honor those working on the medical front lines by writing an encouraging letter to employees of The Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals. Address your letters to nurses, doctors, respiratory therapists, housekeepers, patient care nursing assistants and pharmacy techs. Thank them for saving somebody's son/daughter, mother/father, friend; risking their own health and that of their loved ones; doing the work they were called to do. Contact Dr. Hadley Wood, woodh@ccf.org, for information.



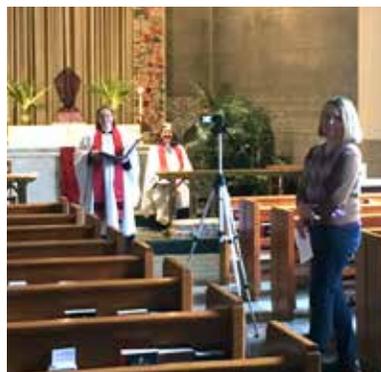
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

PARISH FAMILY PHOTOS

Here's how some of our parish families celebrated Easter this year! Clockwise from top left: Easter service at the Wheatons, dyeing eggs at the Vodreys, Barbara Hoekstra & Jim Stumpf, Fr. Brian & his mom, recording worship during a pandemic, Happy Easter from the Kilroy/Blaser family.



WHO WE ARE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Cleveland Heights, OH 44106
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Brian Wilbert, Interim
Asst. Rector
bwilbert@stpauls-church.org

Pastoral Care

St. Paul's Pastoral Care Team continues its work in reaching out to those parishioners who are normally unable to attend services, as well as those who are now having staying home to reduce risk of contracting the virus. The Team is available for all parish pastoral needs. Please call the Parish Office, (216) 932-5815, if you or someone you know needs pastoral care.

Our prayer list is still active during this time! Call the Parish Office, (216) 932-5815, if you have an addition to the list. Look for a link to an updated Prayer List in each Thursday's e-newsletter.