



THE ALTON ANGELUS

October and November 2021

The Reverend Cynthia A. Sever, Rector

*The Episcopal Parish of Alton has as its mission:
To live and show Christ in our midst.*



FROM THE
RECTOR



We're Closer than ever to moving back into St. Paul's!

Alleluia was the word of the day in the office here at Trinity Chapel when we heard about all the work going on at St. Paul's right now. I hope you're excited about it, too!

Our historic red front doors couldn't be saved, but exact replicas have been made and are nearly finished being installed. The glass from the original doors has been installed in the new ones, and most of the original hardware will be used. The laborious process of installing these massive doors was worth the end result. The new doors, and all external doors on the front of the building will be painted the familiar Episcopal Church Door Red. By the time this newsletter reaches you, the new doors will hopefully be in use to welcome members and visitors for several hundred years to come.

We have so many things to thank God for as Thanksgiving approaches. I am so thankful to be your pastor and priest! There's no other group of church people I would rather serve than you. I think those of us who've remained a worshipping community have grown much closer together than we were before COVID struck, or St. Paul's burst into flames. We seem to appreciate one another more than we did before, and we appreciate St. Paul's with a new intensity, having almost lost it altogether.

The fire could have destroyed our entire church building, but **seven** fire companies (it was a 7-alarm fire!) came to valiantly do battle with the fire on a scorching hot day. They held the line for us to keep the fire from jumping down into the robing room, sacristies, St. Elizabeth Chapel, and the church proper. Those areas were heavily smoke-damaged, but not touched by the flames.

As I've said before, COVID and the fire have "hit the pause button" for us in a way, giving us the opportunity to totally rethink our ministries and programs, and how our building can help us to accomplish them. That is to say that we're rethinking the way our buildings might be used to assist us in becoming true apostles, (apostle means "one who goes out"), inspiring and enabling us to go out into the world as the Body of Christ. There are so many new ways we can serve Christ in Alton and beyond, and spread the



Gospel far and wide, not just by what we say, but how we live and serve in the world around us in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have many adventures together in service to God to come in the next several years! That is something else to be truly thankful for!

May you have a blessed All Saint's Day and a very happy Thanksgiving!

With love, *Mother Cindy +*

Down to Three for Bishop Spot

The Nominating Synod of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield voted Oct. 16 to nominate three priests for the position of the 12th Bishop of Springfield. Mother Cindy, Tom Wrausmann and Diane Martin(lay delegates) took part in the voting at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. The lay delegates were elected at the parish's last Annual Meeting.

The three are: The Rev. Scott Allen Seefeldt from the Diocese of Milwaukee; The Very Rev. Brian Kendall Burgess from the Diocese of New Jersey; and The Rev. Mary Ann Hill from the Diocese of Oklahoma. Much more information on each nominee is on the Diocesan Website. It took three ballots to narrow the list down from nine.

The Election Synod will gather at the cathedral in Springfield Dec. 11, 2021 to elect the bishop. Before then, the three nominees will undergo further background checks, more interviews and several "walkabouts" in visiting each deanery in the diocese. We are in the Darrow Deanery, which is made up of nearby parishes. Our walkabout will take place Nov. 12 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in O'Fallon. All parishioners are welcome.

Before being consecrated, the final nominee must also go through a "Consent Process" during which a majority of all bishops in the United States must approve the election along with a majority of Standing Committees in the U.S.

The Big Day for the consecration has already been set! On May 21, 2022, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding Bishop, will perform the consecration. Bishop Curry is the primate and chief consecrator of the Episcopal Church USA.

Please keep the nominees and delegates in your prayers. *by Diane Martin*





The Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle, Springfield, IL

Our Prayer List

Please keep these people in your daily prayers:

Larry, Al, Sue, Sandy, Ruth, Anne, Debra, Cheryl, Bill, Richard, Kay, Kim, Marie, Myrnelle, Mother Jane, Barb, Frank, Sarah, John and Boyd.

If you would like to have a name added or removed from our prayer list, please contact Mother Cindy at 465-9149.

Farewell to the Rev. Tim McNutt



It is with both sadness and joy that we celebrate the Rev. Tim McNutt's call to another ministry and his time with us. Tim's been called to the Salt & Light Church near Casper, Wyoming. Tim has ministered with enthusiasm and care for the people of the Episcopal Parish of Alton for several years. We will also miss having Amy and Mary worshipping with us. Tim and Amy are moving to Wyoming, but college student Mary will remain in St. Louis. This is a big, bold move, but Tim has followed God's call to minister to the people of Casper. We will truly miss Tim's enthusiasm, teaching, and service to our parish and to the Diocese of Springfield.



Please keep Tim and his family in your prayers as they make this big move and adjust to a new state, a new family situation, and ministry in a new church. We give thanks for the time he has ministered to the people of our parish. God's speed, Tim and Amy!

By Diane Martin



Casper Wyoming



Sort of an All Saint's Day cartoon theme; Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham & the Church Pension Group

BIRTHDAYS

October 2021

4 Marynell Eastman

9 Tom Wrausmann

12 Alyssa Eagleton

13 Marti LoRusso, Ruth Dague

14 Barbara Admire, Sue Goers

15 Dorothy Wrausmann

18 Amanda Hughes

19 Claire McBride

24 Julie Cook

26 Vivian Monckton

November 2021

3 Angela Donohoo, Lisa Essary

4 Eric Walton, Thomas Harris, Nathaniel Hoffman

5 Dereck Cook

6 Ryan Sever

8 Hank Schmitt

12 Richard DaGue

13 Alberto Caballero

14 Harold Green, Britta Moyer,

Anne Hoagland

19 Kim Lane

22 Dorothy Smith

26 Barb Swany

30 Ron Downey





Book Club

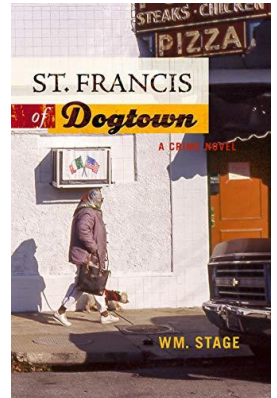
The St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, November 17, at 9:30 a.m. at LuciAnna's on Broadway in Alton. Please join us for a lively discussion and fellowship.

The selection for this month is *St. Francis of Dogtown* by Wm. Stage.

Following is a short introduction to the book.

A RANDOM ENCOUNTER TURNED DEADLY

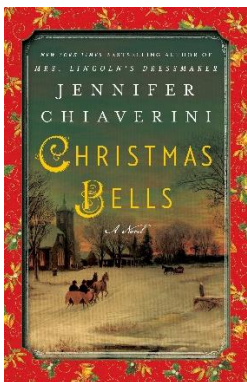
A woman is brutally murdered in a quiet rural subdivision. The killer is just leaving as Francis X. Lenihan, a dogged process server, pulls up. Francis has come to serve papers, but there's no one home—just as the “caretaker” had told him. Francis leaves his card in the door, and two days later, in St. Louis, homicide detectives from two jurisdictions are at his door. Francis helps the police all he can, but they need more. If only he could sort through his beer-soaked memory and recall the vanity plate on the killer's muscle car. Meanwhile he has reluctantly taken the assignment placed on him by Rose, the formidable young woman who has tracked him down to his favorite bar: Find mom's killer and bring him to justice.



Cops and criminals, break-ins and brawls, a killer at large. The idiosyncratic Francis wades through a slew of dicey situations, peril at every turn, his process server wiles put to the test. He has no qualms about grabbing the bull by the proverbial horns. The question is: How badly will he be gored? Maybe he should just stay put in the cozy confines of the local bar where the regulars ply him with drinks for the favor of singing their beloved Irish ballads.

About the Author

Wm. Stage has been a newspaper journalist/columnist for nearly four decades. He is the author of 13 books, the last three of them novels. He has been a Special Process Server in St. Louis since 1998. He is a Vietnam-era veteran of the US Army Medical Corps, and later served eight years with the US Air Force Reserves. He lives in St. Louis with wife Mary and their five young daughters. –



Sneak Peek for December – *Christmas Bells* by Jennifer Chiaverini

News From the Wednesday Night Discussion Group!

As we near the end of our journey through *Walk in Love* by Scott Gunn & Melody Wilson Shobe within the next few weeks, we're preparing for our next selection.

We will be reading and discussing the book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton.

Adam Hamilton is familiar to us from quite a few great study programs we've done in the past, such as *Half Truths*, *Faithful Joseph*, *Moses*, and more.

Unafraid is just the book we need in our unsettled times. It has been described as a "road map for facing our fears with faith." Hamilton draws on scripture and science to help us learn to tame our fears and live with courage and hope.

In these times of uncertainty in our everyday lives the church, our families, and communities, Adam Hamilton gives us the reminder of Jesus' recurring plea, "do not be afraid." Some sources have said this phrase in some form is the most prominent in the Bible!

Unafraid is now available through the St. Paul's Bookstore & Gift Shop in exile for only \$23.75 which includes the tax (the msrp is \$26.00 before taxes & shipping!) The books are in stock now. Please let Diane Martin know if you would like to purchase a copy. Feel free to write a check made out to "St. Paul's Bookstore" with *Unafraid* written on the memo line. This is such a good book and timely topic that you may wish to purchase a copy even if you don't participate in the discussion group. We've experienced so many different trials in the past few years.

If you have questions or comments, or wish to buy the book or see a sample copy, please contact me; don't be afraid! Diane Martin, (618) 225-2676.

