

KTF September 4, 2025 Commemoration of Bishop Paul Jones

Dear Ones,

I had been at the church in Brownville Junction for a couple of years when I received a letter from the daughter or granddaughter of Paul Jones. She wanted to share some letters and documents they found, and tell me the story that went with them. Paul Jones was elected Bishop of Utah in 1914, where he had particular ministries to the Native American reservations, and the railroad and mine workers. He might have gone on to the relative obscurity of many bishops of the time, were it not for his outspoken opposition to World War I, and war in general. He was a pacifist, who believed it was unchristian to participate in war. He took a public position of support for some people who had been arrested for their pacifist position. He was hauled before special committee of the House of Bishops to address this. Initially, they were willing to let him go back to his ministry in Utah, but a second committee, called by then-Presidenting Bishop Tuttle, “encouraged” him to take a leave of absence to reconsider his opposition to government policy. Instead, he resigned. The Bishop of Maine at the time was a friend, and invited him to serve a little mission congregation that served the families in a little railroad town called...Brownville Junction. He was there for a few years until he found a new ministry, working with the Quakers to form an organization which would eventually become the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. (www.episcopalpeacefellowship.net) He was committed to social justice issues we continue to address today. He died on September 4, 1941 in Ohio, and was added to the Episcopal Church’s calendar of lesser feasts in 1994. Members of his family visited us in Brownville Junction soon after I received that life-changing letter.

This was 2003. I was learning all about him just as we as a country were entering into the Iraq War—an action I vehemently opposed. That part of Maine is pretty conservative, and most of the people I knew were in support of military action. I took a lot of comfort in knowing that I was *literally* standing in the same place he stood, holding onto the wood of the pulpit for support as I challenged the prevailing thought, standing at the same altar to prepare the Eucharistic feast for people whose politics I could not support. I didn’t have to agree with them to feed them.

He isn’t one of the ‘greats’ in the church’s calendar of “lesser feasts,” but I will always have a special place for him, not just because he challenged The Episcopal Church to become more loving, but because he was a companion in faith during one of the great challenges of my early career as a priest.

In the meantime....*keep the faith*,
Nancy+

THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS

Jeremiah 18:1-11 * Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 * Philemon 1-21 * Luke 14:25-33

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Malaikah Mulandi 9/10 * Br. Matthias Tanner 9/11 * Peter Bickford 9/11

CREATION CARE TIPS

Jesus answered, “If you drink from Jacob’s well, you’ll be thirsty again, but if anyone drinks the living water I give them, they will never be thirsty again. John 4: 13-15

Sunday’s readings, music, and sermon all mentioned water.

Yes, we’ve been in a drought here in the southern half of Maine for weeks. My gardens are letting me know that, and the lawn is showing more brown than green. But the water that can refresh them is also the water that we drink, cook in, bathe in, and clean with. So we water the gardens stingily, and hope the vegetables will recover with the coming rains.

Water is one of the essentials of life. People consume more water now than two or three decades ago. We've finally realised that water is actually good for us! We carry water bottles with us, we sip or chug while we work, while we drive, and while we watch the evening news. And for the most part, that's good. But two stories I heard last week reminded me that water can be more than just water. And that's not always good.

Someone at church told me about a friend who was not feeling well; another friend suggested that she drink more water. The more water she drank, the sicker she became. Then the helpful friend asked her if she ever washed her water bottle ... the answer was not encouraging, but after washing it thoroughly, and filling it with good, clean water, her recovery was complete. The hard lesson that was learned won't be forgotten.

And someone who dragon boats with us spoke of a person who used a "Camelback" water bag while adventuring – whether hiking, jogging or biking, I don't know. The personal water supply had not been cleaned in a very long time. And when it was, some long, black stringy stuff poured out. My guess is that it was algal or fungal in origin – neither option sounds healthy!

These two stories brought to mind something one of my biology profs told us long ago: If he were in need of water, and saw crystal-clear water with nothing growing in it – no pond lilies, no crayfish, no minnows, no millfoil – and then saw some green-ish swamp-ish smelly water, he would take the green stuff. Why? Because if nothing is growing in it, it may be poisonous. The smelly water might make him sick, but the other might have killed him.

These three examples of water with life in it – "living water," are not what Jesus spoke of. We know that Jesus was talking about more than just water. He was speaking of faith, of the Holy Spirit, of eternal love from God. This kind of living water is good for us. It's pure, clean, and life-giving. So if you carry a water bottle with you, and drink from it often, please make sure it doesn't have bacteria, algae, mold, fungus, or other microscopic forms of life floating in it.

– Patty Watts, Christ Church Earth Keeper

Hurt not the earth—neither the sea—nor the trees. Revelation 7:3

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Picnic and DRAGON BOAT Ride September 7 Immediately following church Sunday! (Weather permitting) Bring a picnic lunch and join us down by the lake (behind the big blue building on the right).

Let's Talk About: The Nicene Creed the Thursday morning Zoom book group has invited Jim Christoph to lead them in a discussion about the Nicene Creed on September 11th. ANYONE is invited to join in! Speak to Br. Matthias Tanner for more information and the Zoom link.

THANK YOU to the team who worked on the gardens last weekend: Jen Lehr, Jill Cunningham, Allan Mulandi, and anyone else whose names we don't know.

School Supplies In past years we have collected school supplies in the late summer, to be given to one of the local schools. We can do that again, but I suggest we extend our collection time into the fall so that they have a 'second harvest' just as the things donated for beginning of the year have run out.

Cleaning and Sorting Choir, Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte Robes Someone has volunteered to organize this—now we just need a few people to take on the job of washing them! Can you take a bag home and wash them? We can even provide hangers!

Bishopswood Fund We would like to build this fund back up. Please consider donating toward this fund. Checks should be made out to Christ Church with "Bishopswood Fund" in the memo line.

For ongoing and up-to-date information about diocesan activities and news, as well as news from other congregations, sign up for **the DioLog**. <https://episcopalmaine.org/newsletter/>

MINISTRIES LIST

PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE CHANGES FROM PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED LISTS

	<u>This week:</u>	<u>Next week:</u>
Lector 1:	Bruce Watts	Peter Bickford
Psalmist:	Bella Long	Mary Bickford
Lector 2:	Nancy Mering	Jason Long
Acolyte:	Patty Watts	Bella Long
Euch. Minister:	Michelle Christoph	Tom Knight
Shepherd:	Sue Glines	Jason Long
Usher:	Janet Harvey	David Mering
Altar Guild:	Jen Lehr	Jen Lehr
Coffee Hour:	Allison Long	Jose & Carolee Garcia
Counter:	Mary Bickford	Carolyn Tanner
Closer:	Jen Lehr	Tom Knight