
◆ News and Views From St. Paul's ◆

Vol. 12 Issue 1

January, 2009

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4: Sunday, II Christmas
9 AM, Worship
10:30 AM, Adult Forum
- Jan. 6: Noon, Daughters of the King
- Jan. 7: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship ⇒
- Jan. 11: Sunday, I Epiphany:
The Baptism of our Lord
9 AM, Worship
10:15 AM, Church School
10:30 AM, Adult Forum,
New Hope Update, p. 9
5 PM, Vespers & Light Supper, p. 9
- Jan. 14: 12:10 PM, Wednesday Worship
- Jan. 16 & 17: Vestry Weekend Retreat
- Jan. 18: Sunday, II Epiphany
9 AM, Worship
10:15 AM, Church School
10:30 AM, Adult Forum,
Medicare Update for ⇒⇒
Seniors & Caregivers,
- Jan. 21: 12:10 PM, Healing Service & Eucharist
- Jan. 24: Daughters of the King,
Prayer Bead Workshop, p. 3
- Jan. 25: Sunday, III Epiphany
9 AM, Worship
10:15 AM, Church School
10:30 AM, Adult Forum
- Jan. 27: Noon, Daughters of the King
- Jan. 30: Celtic Dinner

Looking Ahead

- Feb. 1 Installation of Daughters of the King
Feb. 24: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
Feb. 25: Ash Wednesday

Wednesday Worship New Time 12:10 PM

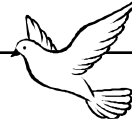
The new time for the weekly Wednesday Worship will be 12:10 PM. The change will take effect on Wednesday, January 7. The Healing Service will continue to be held on the Third Wednesday of each month.

This change will alleviate driving in the dark, many times in inclement winter weather.

All are welcome to join in this weekly worship. Bring a bag lunch and join in a community luncheon every Wednesday.

Senior Health Insurance Seminar Sunday, Jan. 18 Adult Forum

On Sunday, January 18, a special educational seminar will be conducted at the Adult Forum. Conducted by professional agents from the Benefits Group, the event is aimed at seniors and caregivers, as well as those interested in the new Medicare provisions. Topics will include Parts A, B, C, and D of Medicare, and an in depth look at the types of insurance supplements and prescription plans that work with the federal program. Medicare recipients, their families, friends, and caregivers are encouraged to attend. The seminar will begin at 10:30 AM in the Parish House, immediately following the 9 AM Worship.



January 2009

My dear Friends,

Christmas 1939 was a dark time across the world as the forces of darkness and fear again had driven nations to the precipice of another world war. The shadows of the Great War still lingered in many countries, which had lost two generations in that conflagration. Many nations were still crippled by the Great Depression and its aftermath.

Amid the gloom, King George VI of England resurrected a tradition his father launched: an annual Christmas message. This was a brave decision for the King who spoke with a marked stutter. However, in those dark days his speech would go on to be famous for its inspiration and message of hope and reassurance. The address, broadcast across the globe, was made famous by his use of a poem by an obscure poet*:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness,
and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'

We stand again at the gate of a New Year. Dark economic, political, and social clouds have cloaked us in darkness and anxiety. The daily news becomes more and more gloomy. The very fabric of our aspirations of safety and security seem to be torn asunder.

At St. Paul's we stand at the gate of a New Year. As a pilgrim people we made our way to Christmas reading and reflecting on a series of scripture passages of the Prophet Isaiah and the words of our patron St. Paul.

Isaiah was writing to a dispirited, depressed, and dislocated Jewish community in bondage in Babylon. The Jerusalem they had built had been conquered and destroyed. All they had built and valued had disappeared. Isaiah writes to them of their release and return to Zion, Jerusalem, and the promise of God's presence and care. Place your hand into the Hand of God.

In his letters to the small and fragile community of Christians in a hostile world, Paul wrote letters of inspiration and assurance. Place your hand into the Hand of God.

On Christmas the pilgrims at St. Paul's heard the words of God's messengers: "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people...." Place your hand into the Hand of God.

We stand at the gate of a New Year --- 2009. Place your hand into the Hand of God.

Charles A. Cesaretti

*Minnie Louise Haskins, "The Gate of the Year," in **The Desert**, 1908.

From The Senior Warden

The Vestry continues to work through the many facets of a search process. We will tackle these issues in depth during our annual retreat, scheduled for January 16 and 17th. Decisions must be made-- part time or full time, rectory or housing allowance, and of course, the best proper allocation of our future resources.

As we approach the new year, we recognize that there is uncharted territory ahead. We stand at an amazing time--one focused on growth, community, and the future. Yet, we are well aware that much is uncertain --the economy, our next rector, and how St. Paul's lives into the mission to be an open, welcoming, and affirming parish.

Decisions will be made during the Vestry retreat as we live into the future. Thank you to those that have committed themselves, emotionally, physically, and financially, to this parish. Your commitment drives the budget and our programming.

On behalf of the vestry, thank you for your prayers, support, and input as we move into 2009!

Happy New Year,

Rachel

Christmas Coat Project at St. Paul's a Great Success

The Coat Project at St. Paul's December 17-19 under the direction of John Finlon was a great success. John was joined by a number of parishioners for the three-day distribution. John reports 322 coats, 67 hats, 7 scarves, 5 blankets, and 3 coveralls were presented to individuals and families from across Susquehanna County. Our thanks go to John and his hardworking crew.



Anglican Prayer Beads



Anglican Prayer Beads, which are also known as the Anglican Rosary, is a relatively new way of using beads to pray. From earliest times people have used beads or pebbles or knots on a string to keep track of prayers offered to God. Virtually every Major religious tradition has some form of prayer beads: two examples in Christianity are the Roman Catholic Rosary and the Orthodox Jesus Prayer Rope.

Church School Update:

The Scholars have been very busy in December! Early in the month, we discussed the light that Jesus has brought to the world and ways that we could share that light during Advent. The children were given a "Gift for Giving" by Mrs. Washo. Every child received an envelope to give away as they wanted. It was another opportunity for the scholars to see how much of an impact they can have in the lives of others, particularly in our local community. Later in the month, the children enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Welden and her granddaughter, Veronica. The children learned a bit about where wool comes from, what it feels like, and then how to card wool and twirl it into thick yarn. The scholars liked it so much, they have asked for Mrs. Welden to come back to class in January!

The children enjoyed leading the services at St. Matthew's and again on Christmas Eve. It is a great leadership and stewardship opportunity. The musical talents have shone through and they have become solid junior choir members. Many thanks to Mrs. Washo for her expertise and dedication and to Mrs. Dewitt for her fabulous accompaniment! The children asked that any offering collected at St.

Matthew's or St. Paul's during the two children's services be kept local and used to help our local Trehab Food Bank and Interfaith. The children recognize the wonderful outreach of both of these organizations.

The Church School Spring calendar follows. We are thrilled to welcome several adults in for Special Sundays. Many of our lessons will center around music and worship. As in the past, we will include a variety of lessons designed to appeal to all senses and learning styles. As our program grows, our church school parents have become incredibly generous with their time and talents. They are always willing to lend a hand as needed and to make the experience the very best for the children. Many thanks!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Rachel

Children's Sabbath Sunday, January 25

On Sunday, January 25 will be the next Children's Sabbath at St. Paul's. This monthly event brings forward our Church School Scholars as lectors, greeters, ushers, and choristers.

As St. Paul's observes the Year of the Child, our Church School Scholars have stepped forward to take their part in the active worship life of the parish. We have all witnessed the outstanding leadership they have displayed at the Vespers Service, the Advent/Christmas Service at St. Matthew's, and the Christmas Eve Service.

We are thankful for the outstanding mentoring of Rachel Barton, Dawn Washo, and Mary Ann DeWitt.

Please join the Scholars for the Children's Sabbath Celebration on Sunday, January 25, at the 9 AM Worship



Date	Time	Plan	Contact
Jan 4, 2009		No Church School	
Jan 11, 2009	10:15 AM	Wooling with Mrs. Welden	
Jan 18, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL-Music Mapping	
Jan 25, 2009	9:00 AM	Children's Service	
Feb 1, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL-Hymn Story	
Feb 8, 2009	10:15 AM	Music with Mrs. Chandler	
Feb 15, 2009		Off-President's Day Weekend	
Feb 22, 2009	9:00 AM	Children's Service	
Mar 1, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL-Cooking Apple turnovers	
Mar 8, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL-The Church Year	
Mar 15, 2009	10:15 AM	SS-Wood Project with Mrs. Leigh	
Mar 22, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL--Psalm Bingo	
Mar 29, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL -	
Apr 5, 2009	9:00 AM	Children's Service--Palm Sunday	
Apr 11, 2009	10:00 AM	3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt	
Apr 12, 2009	9:00 AM	Easter Worship	
Apr 19, 2009	10:15 AM	SS--Drawing with Mr. Chandler	
Apr 26, 2009	9:00 AM	Children's Service	
May 3, 2009	10:15 AM	WFL--Come, Now is the Time to Worship	
May 10, 2009		Mother's Day	
May 17, 2009	10:15 AM	Walking with Mr. and Mrs. Schwab	
May 24, 2009		Memorial Day Weekend	
May 31, 2009	9:00 AM	Children's Service End of Church School	

TBA Church School Picnic and Activity

Year of the Child

A Prayer/Pledge of Responsibility for Children:

We pray (accept responsibility) for children

who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray (accept responsibility) for those

who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who can't bound down the street in a new
pair of sneakers,
who never "counted potatoes",
who are born in places we wouldn't
be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

We pray (accept responsibility) for children

who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions,
who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money.

And we pray (accept responsibility) for those

who never get dessert,
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
who watch their parents watch them die,
who can't find any bread to steal,
who don't have any rooms to clean up,
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
whose monsters are real.

We pray (accept responsibility) for children

who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and
pick at their food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
and never rinse out the tub,
who get visits from the tooth fairy,
who don't like to be kissed in front of the car pool,
who squirm in church or temple and scream in the
phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and
whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray (accept responsibility) for children

whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move, but have no being.

We pray (accept responsibility)

For children who want to be carried, and for those
who must,

For those we never give up on and for those who
don't get another chance,

For those we smother and for those who will grab
the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

Adapted from Ina Hughs

The Literacy Crossroads

Some very interesting things are happening in education these days and I would like to share them with you. I believe that “the powers that be” are finally “getting it”!

As some of you may know I have just completed my student teaching assignment at Tunkhannock Area School District, and will be soon seeking gainful employment within a local school. I had to make a trip this week to visit Marywood University's teacher certification officer to arrange for my paperwork to be handled by the PA Dept. of Education (PDE), and had a brief but informative conversation with her regarding the state of affairs within the Commonwealth of PA's school system. I had been having trouble finding a few keys pieces of information on the PDE website and asked her if she knew why. She replied that there are sweeping changes happening in the area of teacher requirements in our state and others, too.

The class of 2013 will be the first group of teachers certified under new regulations approved recently by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The state Attorney General's office still needs to review the regulation for legal issues, but no problems are expected.

Teacher certification will change from its current N-3, K-6, 7-12 and K-12 special education certification for all grades, to pre-K-4, 4-8, 7-12 and a mandated dual certification for special education teachers in Pre-K-8, reading or a content area of secondary education. All teacher education students will need to complete nine additional college credits (or 270 hours) in adaptations and accommodations for diverse learners and three additional credits (or 90 hours) in English language learning. A grandfather clause in the legislation states the changes will not affect teachers who currently hold teaching certificates in Pennsylvania. The guidelines include a fast-track provision for students interested in a second certification.

The new regulations are motivated by research showing that skills needed to be an effective teacher vary depending on students' ages and levels of development; the regulations recognize the importance of preparing all teachers to work effectively with diverse learners. Since the new certification does not go into effect until 2013 and there will still be many K-6 certified teachers working in schools throughout the Commonwealth for years to come, it will be a long time before anyone will see the effects of the new legislation on public schools. One preliminary concern, based on other states that have tried similar plans, is the potential lack of interest in the 4-8 certification which could result in a shortage of teachers in grades 5 and 6. Lets hope this doesn't come to pass in PA.

The use of current research to enact this recent reform shows great wisdom on the part of our state legislators. I think we can remain hopeful and very optimistic about the future of our children.

See you at St. Paul's,
--Mike Shingler

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.

Bill Vaughan, an American columnist and author



Susquehanna County Interfaith
17 Public Avenue
Montrose, PA 18801
278-1776

Dear Friends:

Words cannot express how much we appreciate each of you. The generosity of all of you is overwhelming to us. With your support of the Christmas Bureau, we were able to put a smile on over 615 families and over 850 children this year. Just when they thought that Christmas was not going to happen for them this year, we were able to help them with a holiday meal and gifts for the children.

Even though the times are tough we see that people still are able to reach into their hearts and give to others in need. This project is so big that it takes everyone doing something to make this a success.

Some would say I just gave a toy, others would say I just gave an item of food and still others have given monetarily. As you see it takes each one of you doing your part to make it all happen. When everyone does something we are able to reach so many in need. Together we serve!! Many thanks to each and everyone of you.

Abundant blessings for your Christmas season
and a prosperous New Year,

Brenda Loubet

Brenda Loubet and
The Christmas Bureau Team

*Thanks for your generosity
to our programs.*



**Vespers at St. Paul's
Sunday, January 11
5 PM**

The monthly community Vesper Service will be held at St. Paul's on Sunday, January 11 at 5 PM.

The Vesper Service brings together worshippers from the Montrose area. The service is conducted by laypeople from the Montrose Churches. This month Connie Page is the reader. Sarah Bertsch and Mary Ann DeWitt provide the organ and piano music.

A light supper is served at the conclusion of the evening worship in the Parish House. On Jan. 11, Tom Follert will be the chef, with volunteer servers from the various parishes.

All are invited and welcome to the Vespers Service and the Supper.

**Update on Kajo Keji
Sunday, Jan. 11**

On Sunday, January 11, Mr. Charlie Barebo will be the guest speaker at the Adult Forum. Mr. Barebo is the chair of the New Hope Campaign of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Significant work has been accomplished in Kajo Keji, our companion diocese in the Southern Sudan. Mr. Barebo will present a special slide show of the work on the various projects supported by the New Hope Campaign.

All are invited to the Forum, which is held at 10:30 PM immediately following the 9 AM Worship.

HYMN STORY:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Hymn 66)

Charles Wesley wrote seventy-five hundred hymns (Encyclopedia Britannica) -- roughly a hymn every other day for fifty years. I find that amazing! It would be amazing if he had written one verse every other day, but most of his hymns have several verses. I can scarcely imagine how he managed to do anything else -- but he was a great preacher as well as a great writer of hymns.

The hymn, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," looks forward to Jesus' Second Coming. It begins, "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free." Wesley looked forward to the time when Jesus would come again to set us free from fear and sin.

Wesley knew what it meant for people not to be free. When he was about thirty years old, he traveled to America on a mission, where he saw slavery in its rawest form. He recorded in his journal that he had seen parents give their child a slave to torment. Wesley was so shaken by the evil of slavery that he nearly had a nervous breakdown. It wasn't long before he returned to England.

Some would criticize Wesley for not remaining in America to join the fight against slavery, but Wesley's weapons were his sermons and his hymns. For the next several decades, his sermons and hymns lent their power to the efforts to make people free -- free from slavery -- free from fear -- free from sin. He was blessed to live long enough to see America put an end to slavery.

You, God, Joe, and Me

Last year at this time I made a new year's resolution to read the last book of the bible, Revelation. Good choice. But I'm not nearly done yet. Yes, I've read the book, but I have not READ the book ... Lectio Divina style ... slowly and thoughtfully.

My main book for reference will be the one by Steve Gregg entitled *Revelation, four views, a parallel commentary* (528 pages). He started teaching the bible in general and Revelation in particular in the early 1970's. He began teaching college courses on it in the early 80's and wrote his book in 1997. The main feature of the book is that it has explained the strengths and weaknesses of the four major perspectives, *historical, preterist, futurist and spiritual*. Reviewers of the book are impressed, and none of them can figure out which of the four views the author subscribes to, That says a lot for Gregg's integrity that he can express a detailed discussion of a topic so well that the reader can't tell his proclivity. He makes no bones about the fact that he is evangelical. Good for him!

Balancing Gregg's book will be Rev. Frederick W. Schmidt's book, *Conversations with Scripture: Revelation* (119 pages). There is a quote in the front of the book by Rev. Canon Anne E. Kitch, of the Diocese of Bethlehem (Yep, that's OUR diocese.) in which she says, "An exciting new resource (2005) in the area of Adult Christian Formation, Frederick W. Schmidt's *Revelation* is smart and accessible. The sidebar definitions, suggested resources and accompanying study questions provide clear guideposts into the not often entered world of apocalyptic literature. With a keen sense of Anglican theological heritage, Schmidt creates a welcome mat and friendly companion on the road to a more intimate knowledge of God's revelation through scripture." She likes it.

The adult forum on Sundays after services has taught me another thing. Different translations can give different perspectives of the same passage. So, I will have the perspective of reading chapters 1-5 in several different versions. My main translation will be the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version), but I'll get into the NIV, KJV, NKJV and MSG ... maybe even the NJB. See me on Sunday and I'll tell you what those mean.

Better yet, **meet** with Joe and me at a Brotherhood of St. Andrews meeting. We'll discuss it there. We started out as eight, dwindled down to three, then Dave moved to Tennessee and Joe and I have been holding down the fort. Maybe something spiritual is happening in your life. Those things tend to happen during recessions. Maybe getting a little closer to "The Boss" would help. Joe and I could explain what has worked for us. You might feel better. You'll meet two committed Christians.

BoSA meeting dates, places and times are somewhat flexible. So give me a call (570-278-0205) and we'll set one up that works around **your** schedule. The main purpose of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews is to bring men and boys to Christ. Works for me.

Submitted by Al Leigh(BoSA) for St. Paul's Jan 2009 newsletter BoSA(Brotherhood of St. Andrew) = f(prayer, study, service)

Investments

After the November Vestry meeting, Communications chair, Maggie Sock sent a memo that touched on a crucial issue: We like to believe that we in this parish talk to each other, but in reviewing Bernie's November 16th sermon, and Dick Schwab's analysis of St. Paul's finances, I've come to the conclusion that a number of very important issues are being bypassed, ignored or simply not recognized.

My primary response to Maggie's memo, then is this:

LET'S BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT ISSUES THAT UNDERLIE THE WAY ST. PAUL'S IDENTIFIES, PRIORITIZES AND IMPLEMENTS IT'S MISSION.

When I began to study Dick's financial report for the November 16th meeting, two things struck me: First, a reminder of our extreme reliance on our investments for parish and mission support.

Second, the almost unbelievable discrepancy between pledging history and pledge support of parish and mission.

About 37% of the one hundred and four 2008 pledges were for less than \$100 per year; those pledges, 37% of the total, accounted for less than three tenths of one percent of the budget of \$204,000.

As I contemplated what I had heard in Bernie's sermon, seen in Dick's financial analysis and read in Maggie's 'communications' concerns, I was reminded of comments and discussions over the years concerning St. Paul's investments. I can recall three more or less distinct thoughts, each of which may account for some of the motivation behind pledging in this parish:

1. The Parish's investments represent a stroke, or rather, many strokes of good fortune, accomplished over the years, which have permitted St. Paul's not only to support itself as an independent parish, but also to support important missions within and outside the parish, which would otherwise have been neglected. Income from investments, in effect, make individual pledges more significant than they would otherwise be, permitting them to be used for non-routine mission projects,
2. The Parish's investments stifle individual initiative and responsibility, providing the illusion that "someone else is taking care of it". The invested funds should be liquidated for the benefit of some current worthwhile projects, and to place responsibility back on the shoulders of individual parishioners. All upkeep and mission projects should be financed from on-going pledge and non-pledge income.
3. The Parish's investments should be sequestered, as has been traditional, and used as a resource for supporting as many maintenance and 'good works' projects as possible. Pledge income should be encouraged not as 'dues' or as a responsibility, but as the individual parishioner's opportunity to be an integral part of the prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come".

I truly believe that we need to establish communication within this parish, concerning what we think our "Mission" is, and what we really should be doing to accomplish it. Our mission can't be accomplished, as in the past, on the shoulders of a few motivated and talented people, but on the backs of the entire parish.

Submitted by Ed Stark

January, 2009 Lay Ministry Schedule

Altar Guild

4: Margie Baker
11: Else Brunner
18: Barb Buffington
25: Carol Marker

Camera and Closing

Ron Chandler

Coffee Hour

4: Else Brunner
11: Carol Lasher
18: Carol Marker
25: The Welden Family

Counters

4: Dick Schwab and Nancy Finlon
11: Ed Ochse and Karen Wolfson
18: Richard Marker and Ed Stark
25: Warren Morgan and Jane Chandler

Eucharistic Minister

4: Brenda Syle and Mary Jane Syle
11: Jane Chandler and Alma Shingler
18: Bob Arnold and Jennie Bowen
25: Margie Baker and Esther Weldon

Greeter

4: Karen Wolfson
11: Alice Wood
18: Rachel Bartron
25: Bob Arnold

Lector

4: Scott Finlon
11: Richard Marker
18: Fraser Moffat
25: Jerry Sock

Usher

4: Bob Arnold
11: John Finlon
18: Al Leigh
25: Richard Marker

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

